



# THE HANS INDIA

• Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Amaravati | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi: RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095 •

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## MF Husain 'Voices' sets new world record with ₹18.47 crore

**New Delhi (IANS):** 'Voices', an artwork by the late artist MF Husain sold for Rs 18.47 crore - the highest price ever fetched by any of the artists creations in a public sale -- during an on-line auction 'Husain held by AstaGuru. This superlative composition (lot 14) was created during a significant phase in the artist's career during the late 1950s, a time when he had become an artist of international repute, and amassed global exposure, with regards to his art practice and philosophy. The work is his largest creation from the 1950s. It was bought by an anonymous buyer at the two-day online AstaGuru auction of 36 lots of the artist's creations, including toys, jewellery and tapestry designed and co-created by the master. The solo artist auction achieved a total sales revenue of Rs 55,92,85,421 (\$7,767,836), celebrating the legacy of India's most celebrated modernist through a collection of the artist's most iconic paintings created during an illustrious career.

## Devotees should not rub Mahakal Shivalingam: SC

**New Delhi (PTI):** The Supreme Court Tuesday took note of the deterioration and erosion of Shivalingam at the ancient Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain and directed that devotees should "do no rubbing" of the lingam. The apex court directed the temple committee to ensure that the pH value, which is used to specify the acidity or basicity, of 'Bhasma' during 'Bhasma Aarti' is improved and the Shivalingam is preserved from further deterioration. Passing a slew of directions to preserve the Shivalingam at the ancient temple, a bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra directed the temple committee to implement the best methodology to prevent any further damage. The top court said it should be ensured that no visitor or devotee rub the Shivalingam at any cost.



## JEE Mains held amid tight Covid norms

**New Delhi (PTI):** The Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Mains for admission to engineering colleges began on Tuesday amid stringent precautions and social distancing measures in view of Covid-19 pandemic. Staggered entry and exit for candidates, sanitisers at the gate, distribution of masks and maintaining social distancing as candidates queued up, were among the scenes witnessed at the exam centres across the country. The exam which has been postponed twice in view of Covid-19 pandemic is scheduled from September 1 to 6.

"Hand sanitisers are being made available at the entrance of the examination centre and inside the exam hall at all times. The usual process of checking the admit cards of candidates has been replaced with barcode readers, which have been made available to the examination centre authorities," said an official of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

"While all the candidates are asked to go to the exam centres with masks and sanitisers, once they enter the centre, they have to use the masks provided by the examination authority. Each candidate will be offered a 3-ply mask at the time of entry and expected to wear the same during the examination in order to avoid any form of unfair means at the time of examination," the official added.

The first shift of the exam began at 9.30 am while the second shift will begin from

2.30 pm. "Before the start of each exam shift and after the last shift ends, all seats will be thoroughly sanitised and the work stations and keyboards will be disinfected," the NTA official said.

Over 9 lakh candidates have registered for the JEE-Mains exam for admission to engineering courses in IITs, NITs and Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs). Increasing the number of examination centres, alternate seating plans, fewer candidates per room and staggered entry and exit are among the steps the National Testing Agency has taken for safely



Students arrive at an examination centre to appear in Joint Entrance Examination (JEE ) Main-2020 amid Covid-19 pandemic, in Gurugram on Tuesday

conducting the crucial exam. While the governments of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have assured students that they will provide transportation to candidates, a group of IIT alumni and students have also launched a portal to provide transport facilities to exam centres for the candidates in need. There has been a growing chorus for postponing JEE-Mains and medical entrance exam NEET amid the rising number of Covid-19 cases.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays his last respects to former President Pranab Mukherjee at his residence, 10 Rajaji Marg in New Delhi on Tuesday

## Loan moratorium for 2 years possible: Centre, RBI to SC

**New Delhi (PTI):** The moratorium period on repayment of loans during the Covid-19 pandemic is "extendable" by two years and several steps have been taken to help the stressed sectors, the Centre and the RBI told the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan was informed by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and Reserve Bank of India, that the economy contracted by nearly 24 per cent in the April-June quarter due to coronavirus-related lockdown and restrictions. The bench, also comprising Justices R S

Reddy and M R Shah, said it would hear on Wednesday the pleas which have raised the issue of interest being charged on instalments which have been deferred under the central bank's scheme during the moratorium period.

At the outset, Mehta told the bench that the Centre has filed its affidavit in the matter. When the court said that it has not yet received the affidavit, he said the bench should look into it and the matter be listed after two-three days. Mehta said several steps have been taken for stressed sectors. "Let the Central government, RBI and bankers should put their heads to-

gether on the aspect of interest on interest," he said. "The moratorium is extendable by two years," he added.

Mehta said that authorities have utilised the time and narrowed down the issue to the point on interest. "There are stressed sectors and national economy has contracted by 23 per cent," he said, adding, "I have filed the affidavit and heavens will not fall if the matter is taken after two-three days or tomorrow". Mehta said this matter was not adversarial and authorities were trying to resolve the issues as the country is facing problems due to the pandemic.

## Kafeel Khan to be freed from NSA detention

**Allahabad (PTI):** The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday quashed the detention of Dr Kafeel Khan under the National Security Act and ordered his immediate release, saying his speech at the AMU didn't promote hatred or violence and gave a call for national integrity.

The bench comprising Chief Justice Govind Mathur and Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh said the Aligarh district magistrate, who passed the order for Khan's detention, did a "selective reading" of his speech, "ignoring its true intent".

The court allowed the writ petition filed by Khan's mother Nuzhat Parveen and said the detention order by the district magistrate is illegal. The petition argued that Khan was granted bail in February by a competent court and he was supposed to be released on bail. However, he was not released for four days and the National Security Act (NSA) was subsequently invoked against him. Hence, his detention was illegal.

Khan has been in jail since January after he delivered the allegedly provocative speech at the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) protests in December last year. He is lodged in Mathura jail.

## Top security brass plans to deal with China

**New Delhi (IANS):** India's top security and defence authorities are currently meeting to discuss the fresh Chinese incursions in Indian territory at Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh.

"A high-level meeting is underway to discuss the ongoing situation and future strategy in Ladakh," said a government source.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Army Chief General MM Naravane and Director General Military Operations Lt Gen Paramjit Singh are holding discussions on the further course of action.

The meeting is happening after Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in a brief skirmish at the southern bank of the Pan-

gong Lake. The Chinese brought in close to 450 troops but the Indian Army said an attempt to change the status quo was thwarted.

Sources said Chinese People's Liberation Army with help of ropes and other climbing equipment started climbing at a table-top area between Black Top and Tshakung Heights at Pangong Tso, south bank.

Hearing the common Indian Army was alerted and swung into action.

Earlier, Indian intelligence agencies had alerted Indian Army about the Chinese's PLA plans to change status quo in other areas along Line of Actual Control. Thereafter, despite skirmishes between both armies things did not escalate. When Chinese troops saw the strength of Indian Army troops, the skirmishes stopped.



## PM's toy talk fails to enthuse Kondapalli artisans

SAMBASIVA RAO

**Amaravati:** The Centre has recently announced stricter quality testing for imported toys and also considering imposing further curbs, making toys a part of the restricted list. It is also looking to increase the import duty further by 60%, over the 100% that was already increased in the earlier budgets. These measures, however, are not meant for unbranded Indian toys.

Among these toys are Kondapalli toys referred to by the Prime Minister which are made near Vijayawada. These toys were once a rage in Telugu households but slowly these got reduced to 'Bommala



Koluvu' - during Dasara and Diwali festivals.

In the latter times these became mere showpieces and got reduced to gift items (usually purchased from Lepakshi stores). Neither the artisans'

lives flourished nor has the art been so popular so as to be passed on to the other generations. Of course, Telugu culture itself took a beating with the influence of the western culture or non-Indian culture

seeping into every aspect of life. Kondapalli toy makers were taken aback with the reference of Prime Minister Narendra Modi last Sunday to their art.

"Does he really mean it? He said toys like Etikoppaka and Kondapalli have to be promoted in a big way. Who is interested in these toys nowadays? Just as our traditional games died, our toys too are forgotten. We now encourage our children to play with gizmos and gadgets. How do they go back to toys which is viewed as a 'very girly affair'," a master craftsman of Kondapalli, Udayagiri Sessa Rao, quizzes. 'Atmanirbhar' is good to hear. But, it should start from our backyard. How does it mat-

ter to us, if we produce a Barbie here instead of buying an imported one? Does it promote our toys", he poses the valid question. Craftsmen explain that as they could not see revenue in this work and hence, they had been encouraging their children to take other professions and employment, instead of passing down the art to the next generation. More seriously, the skilled artisans have been leaving this profession and trying to engage in other works like agriculture, civil construction, etc. They urge the government to extend support to the artisans to keep the age-old art form from perishing.

Continued on Page 5

## Problems because border is not drawn: China

**Beijing (PTI):** Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that the India-China boundary is yet to be demarcated due to which there will always be problems and the two countries should implement the consensus between their leadership to not let differences from escalating into conflicts. He also said that China is ready to manage all issues through dialogue with India.

Wang, who is currently on a tour of Europe, made the remarks during

an interaction at the French Institute of International Relations in Paris on Monday. In response to a question on China's relations with India and Japan, the minister did not directly refer to the latest provocative move by the Chinese military in eastern Ladakh.

His remarks came hours after the Indian Army said it has thwarted a provocative Chinese army movement in eastern Ladakh to "unilaterally" change the status quo on the

southern bank of Pangong lake. It is also the first major incident in the area after the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15 in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed. "China-India relations have recently attracted the attention of all parties. The boundary between China and India has not yet been demarcated, so there will always be problems of this kind. We are ready to manage all kinds of issues through dialogue with the Indian side," Wang said.

At the same time, these issues should be placed in their proper place in bilateral relations, he said, adding that President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi met many times and reached many important consensus. "For example, instead of 'the dragon and the elephant compete with each other', 'the dragon and the elephant dance together', '1 plus 1 is not 2, but 11' and so on. These are all philosophical views," he said. Continued on Page 5

## Kuch Karo Modi ji: KCR on GST compensation

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Expressing deep concern over the Centre's decision to reduce GST compensation and non-payment of dues to the state governments showing it as 'Act of God', Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Tuesday dashed off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention. He urged the Prime Minister to strengthen cooperative federalism in this crisis situation and ensure that the country does not only overcome it but also emerge

as a strong nation.

KCR urged the Prime Minister not to deprive the States of their rightful claim in GST and see that justice was rendered to all States as per the GST Act. He took strong exception to the "unilateral decision" of the Centre to apply 10 percent growth to arrive at the gap in GST revenue for the year 2020-2021.

The Chief Minister had already shot a missile to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman expressing the State's opposition to the Centre's move.



He said the GST council's recommendation to the states to borrow to meet the shortfall in the compensation cess was not acceptable since it was not in accordance with the Act. The best option, he said, would be that the Centre borrows the

money and clear the dues to the states. He said the Centre had violated the provisions of GST Compensation Act by parking the surpluses in the consolidated fund instead of parking them in the non-lapsable compensation fund in the Public Account. The states, CM said, are in the forefront fighting Covid and reviving the stalled economies. States need more financial resources than the Centre during the crisis time.

KCR brought to the notice of the Prime Minister that the states have yielded

more fiscal space to facilitate the introduction of GST which has subsumed over 47 per cent of the gross tax revenue of the states as compared to only 31 per cent of the Centre.

The Centre also resorted to levy of cesses on imported goods and increases the cess on petrol and diesel. The estimated additional revenue from the increase in the cesses on fuels alone is over Rs 2 lakh crore per annum, he said. This has pre-empted the states from increasing the VAT on petroleum products, he added.





# Womenia

TWEET PATROL


**MADHURI DIXIT NENE**  
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Today is the last day of Ganapati celebrations & we all will miss the festivities, especially the food! आमच्याकडे नेहमीच सगळ्यांना मोदक आवडतात Face savouring food Smiling face with heart-shaped eyesमी आज ऊकडीचे मोदक कसे करावे , ही माझ्या आजी ची रेसपी तुम्हाला दाखवणार आहे Enjoy making Modaks at home - <http://bit.ly/ModakFamilyRecipe>



## Getting your kids eat healthy

It's become your least favorite time of the day: eating time. The kids have turned up their nose at the salad and casserole you made. Now they're negotiating for chicken nuggets and macaroni. As you reluctantly put the salad away and tear open a bag of frozen nuggets, you wonder how to get kids to eat healthy. Whether you're a preschool teacher, a child-care provider or a frazzled parent, you need a few tricks up your sleeve for getting kids to eat healthy.

### Offer choices

No one likes to be forced to do something, especially rambunctious toddlers or older kids looking to establish their independence. This principle holds true at the kitchen table, too. Though the choice between apple slices and celery with peanut butter may not seem like much, it gives kids the autonomy they crave, while still keeping you in control of nutrition. Your little one might be more excited to try a new food or healthy dish if they feel as though it was their idea. The little foodie



**Despite your best efforts, you may have a picky eater on your hands. Introduce foods more than once with different preparations as taste changes. Foods should always be offered in a variety of forms and with different seasonings**

in your kitchen might really enjoy meal planning as well.

### Let them make their own plates

Letting your children take control of their own plate is another way to let them exercise

their independence and get them interested in trying new foods. It may take a few tries, but most kids will be more willing to add healthy foods to their plates, if they have the autonomy to choose. Meals should generally include protein, a complex carbohydrate, vegetables, fruit and milk or another

calcium-rich food. By giving your child options within those categories, they'll get to exercise choice while still getting nutritional components they need.

### Include your kids while cooking

Kids are more likely to give a new food a try if they have had a hand in making it. Basic tasks

like measuring ingredients, stirring a bowl or tossing a salad are all great starting points. As they perform these simple tasks, they'll see how full dishes and entire meals come together, giving them a primer for preparing their own healthy meals as they get older. Cooking with preschoolers sometimes means cooking slower and simpler, but the payoff is worth it.

### Don't force it

As we mentioned earlier, choice is a key element to encouraging a healthy diet. Though exposing them to new foods and ways of preparing them can help raise adventurous eaters, it's unlikely that they will love every food. In fact, despite your best efforts, you may have a picky eater on your hands. Introduce foods more than once with different preparations as taste changes. Foods should always be offered in a variety of forms and with different seasonings. Never force or push picky eaters around you, just do what you can to encourage them.

### FASHION KATHA



Actress Sanaya Irani shows us how to do summer dressing right, in this playful kurta and dhoti ensemble from our Katha collection. An ode to storytelling, this collection features hand-drawn motifs revolving around the tree of life converted into print. Designed in shades of ivory, charcoal and crimson with silhouettes spanning from crisps to drapes, it is a statement in luxury and the love of craft. The beauty of this collection lies in the rawness and natural strokes of its motif language. The collection has been designed in muslin silk and linen

## Look fashionable

Fashion is all about dressing according to what is in style. A fashionista is always in search of novelties and is always ready to try what we call "fashion challenges or risks." And this trait just makes them ultra stylish.

Here are some tips to look fashionable:

### Bag it with love

It's all about what you carry and how you carry. Go for essentials with innovative spin. The trend of bucket bag and boxy structured bag are big this season.

### Just one earring

As they say, imperfection is beauty. Express your strength and beauty with just one earring.

### Cat-eye sunnies with mirror lens

The incredible trend of cat eye sunnies with mirror lens makes you feel as though you can conquer the world. They can act as style weapon and undeniably make you look fabulous.

### Distinct edgy shoes

For the ultra-stylish look, go for a pair of shoes that has interesting element in it. Be it blade heels or wedge heel with a hollow, it should immediately catch everyone's eye.

### Jeans and boots

Wondering how to be fashionable or how to be stylish with jeans and boots? Simple! Just tuck your jeans inside your boots. It's an oomph-worthy look.

### Choosing the right necklace

This is one of the best fashion tip for girls. Young girls and women can choose from a number of necklines these days. So the key here is to ensure that you choose the right kind of necklace to go with your top or dress.



## Hairstyles that are secretly damaging your hair

We all love our regular ponytail or our night-time messy bun. But, did you know there are certain party hairstyles or home hairstyles that are secretly harming your hair? I know, it's life-changing. Here are 7 hairstyles you need to beware of and why.



### The loose messy buns

Sometimes we do this to sleep and sometimes to preserve a blowout. While it's okay to wear for a couple of hours in the day, absolutely avoid putting your hair up at night. Pulling your hair back like that, while you sleep, causes a lot of tugging at your hairline. This can cause hair loss. Through the day, and especially through the night, your head moves around a lot against the bed or pillow, which adds to the stress on your tied-up hair. But if you absolutely have to tie it up, make sure it's SUPER loose and you have satin or silk pillow covers that lessen the friction.

### Wet look hairdos

If you don't want to suffer major hair loss or frizz, don't tie up your hair when it's wet. And yes, avoid the wet look. Wet hair is far more prone to damage than dry hair. Products that give you the wet look, also bring them a

lot of damage, causing brittle hair and breakage. Ever try tying your hair when it's wet, and then pulling your hair tie off later? You'll see the amount of hairfall for yourself.

### The usual ponytail or buns

We know it's the easiest way to put your hair up, but switch up your style. Tight buns and ponytails can cause your hair to start breaking because it pulls on your hair. Plus, you start denting your hair in the same place every day, causing shape change and fraying. Try leaving your hair down every once in a while, switch up your hairstyle, and use hair bands with soft, cloth coating.

### Tight braids

This is about those waterfall braids, tight braids, and reverse braids. When you have to achieve a style, you end up really pulling at the hairs to make your braid look perfect. So, save this for a special occasion. Also, after any braided hairstyle, try to use essential oils on your hair to bring back the moisture. After a long day, come back home, open your hair, oil it, and then sleep.



### Super straight hair or bangs

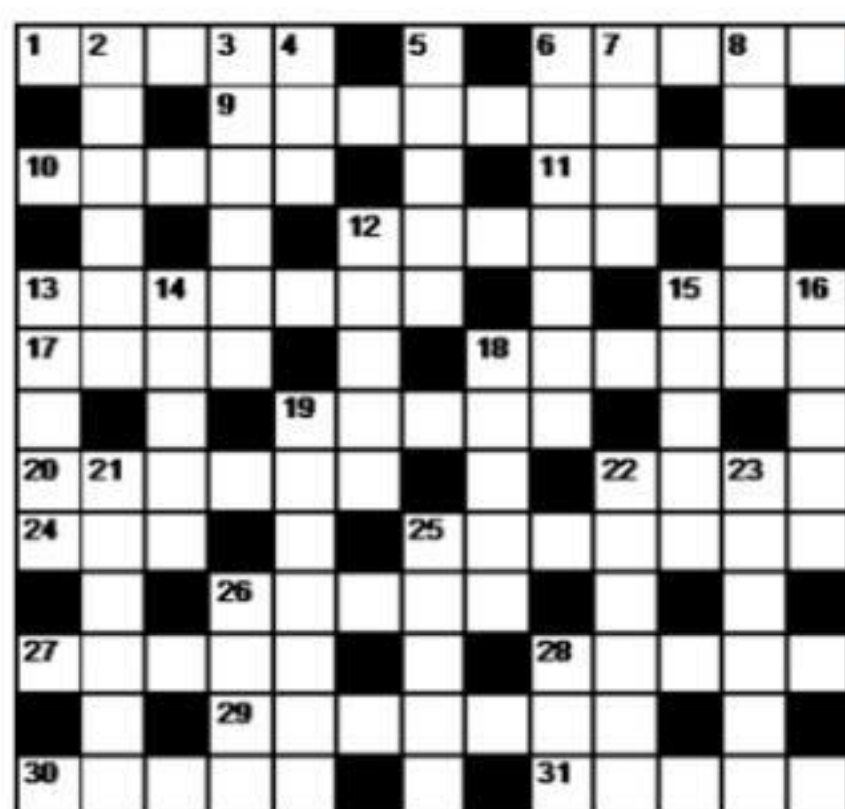
This means you're straightening your hair every day, and nope, there is no way to justify that or lessen the damage it causes. You'll face alopecia, dry hair, and damaged hair if this continues on a daily basis. A little bit of blow drying is a better option (not your full head). If you're going to use an iron every now and then, opt for a ceramic or tourmaline one.

### Extensions

Wearing hair extensions on a daily basis is kind of ironic. It only pulls at your hair, especially with



daily activity, and breaks your hair. This means, your hair will appear even more thin and brittle. If you have a hair loss problem, you might want to invest in a good wig, and visit a trichologist to treat your hair.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 1

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

- 1 Natives of Peru in the ancient times (5)
- 6 Take game illegally (5)
- 9 Lively party (7)
- 10 Resembling prose (5)
- 11 Hard work (5)
- 12 Penned (5)
- 13 Deride (5,2)
- 15 Observe (3)
- 17 One sung in church (4)
- 18 Give ear (6)
- 19 Ethical (5)
- 20 Sailor (6)
- 22 Indifferent (4)
- 24 Inquire (3)
- 25 Quarrelsome (7)
- 26 Lightens (5)
- 27 Language of Iran (5)
- 28 Anomaly (5)
- 29 Bowling pin (7)
- 30 Mythical enchantress (5)
- 31 Shouts (5)

#### Down

- 2 Oslo is its capital (6)
- 3 Allot (6)
- 4 Bashful (3)
- 5 Inactive (5)
- 6 A plait (7)
- 7 A fearsome monster (4)
- 8 A beverage (6)
- 12 Cart (5)
- 13 Capital of Tibet (5)
- 14 Eskimo boat (5)
- 15 Condescend (5)
- 16 Experience (5)
- 18 Hangs tough (5)
- 19 Bollywood's \_\_\_\_ Arora (7)
- 21 Elude (6)
- 22 Evening get-together (6)
- 23 Spread out (6)
- 25 Cults (5)
- 26 To be, for Caesar (4)
- 28 Take to the air (3)

### SUDOKU



### NEWS ROUNDUP

## Manushi Chhillar: Health, nutrition top the chart of things I'm passionate about

Former beauty queen and Bollywood debutante Manushi Chhillar is starting a social media campaign on nutrition. She wants to tell people about the positives of eating right.

"I have been told repeatedly that we are what we eat and we have to be very cognizant about what we intake," said Manushi on National Nutrition Week, which commenced on Tuesday.

She added: "Proper nutrition has manifold health benefits and through my social media, I intend to tell as many people as possible about the positives one can unlock by eating right."

Manushi credits her doctor parents for inculcating the knowledge about how proper nutrition can be a game-changer.

"My parents are doctors and they have always told me that our eating habits define our total health. With this learning, I have been able to lead a very balanced life because awareness about nutrition is key for anyone to understand whether they are planning their meals correctly," she said.

Manushi added that malnutrition can really damage the inside. "I will use my social media to drive home as much awareness as possible through National Nutrition Week."

Manushi shared that she is a big fitness and nutrition enthusiast.





# Public health experts seek graded reopening of schools

**New Delhi (IANS):** Public health experts from three medical associations have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggesting that schools and other educational institutions should be reopened in a graded manner.

The statement issued by the Indian Public Health Association, the Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine and the Indian Association of Epidemiologists stated that the closure has had a significant impact on the teaching-learning system and mental health of the children.

"It is time now to move towards normalcy. The opening of schools and other educational institutions could be started in a graded manner. There should be a pragmatic approach, especially in areas where a sufficient population is already infected," the experts said.

Twenty members of the joint



Covid-19 task force went on to say that schools may be opened with due safety measures with social distancing, alternate work days and with adequate surveillance even in low infection areas.

In the Unlock-4 guidelines issued by the government, schools and educational institutes have been directed to remain closed. The experts said that the impact of school closure is higher on the children of lower socio-economic strata, who

do not have social capital for alternatives like digital platforms.

"Sufficient evidence is available that infected, young children are at an extremely low risk of developing morbidity," the public health experts said.

They requested the government to discontinue the imposition of lockdown as a strategy to control the spread of coronavirus infection and said that limited restrictions should be imposed in epidemiolog-

ically-defined clusters for short periods.

The three health associations said that even cluster restrictions should be imposed only after weighing its impact on the livelihood of the population.

They added that creating containment zones and aggressive testing for Covid-19 offers little advantage in large cities where the infection has already spread wide. "The focus should instead be on preventing deaths from Covid-19 and not containing the infection."

The experts said that containment zones should be revamped with a clear roadmap and timelines for periodic review by an expert committee, with the aim to test all suspects, isolate all infected individuals for proper treatment and that they should be de-contained in 14 days.

Asserting that "pragmatic test-

ing" should be adopted as a control strategy, they said that universal scaling up of testing at the current community transmission stage of the pandemic may not be an optimal strategy and will divert attention and resources from control measures.

"With the availability of sufficient understanding of the natural history of disease and at-risk population, testing should be used with due diligence. Targeted testing of high-risk individuals, healthcare workers, elderly with comorbidities, screening prior to surgical procedure is recommended," the experts said.

The associations further said that it must be assumed that an effective vaccine against the novel coronavirus "would not be available in the near future" and any false sense of hope that this panacea is just around the corner must be avoided.

## 32 of a family found positive

**Banda (IANS):** Thirty-two members of an extended family living in the same locality have tested positive for Covid. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) N D Sharma said. "Forty-four new patients of Covid-19 have been confirmed in the district on Monday evening, including 32 members of the same family living in Phuta Kuan locality of Banda city." Since the family members live in different houses as well as separate portions of the house, they have been quarantined for now. The CMO said that 807 infected patients have been found so far in the district of which eight have died and 360 are still active. He said the remaining 439 have been treated and discharged.



## Daily Covid numbers dip a bit

**New Delhi (IANS):** Fresh coronavirus infections recorded in past 24 hours in India were 69,921. This was on an average a drop of several thousand cases after the numbers regularly inched closer to the 80,000-mark over the past five days. India continues to be the third worst-hit country by the pandemic with a tally of 36,91,166 cases Health Ministry data showed on Tuesday. The death toll climbed to 65,288 with 819 new fatalities in the last one day. The country has been recording unprecedented surge in daily cases of Covid-19 since August 27. On three of these days the numbers were way past the 78,000-mark and almost touching 80,000 cases; while on August 27 and 29 the numbers were above 75,000 and 76,000 respectively. As of Tuesday morning, out of the total confirmed cases, 7,85,996 are the active cases, while a total of 28,39,882 have recovered from the virus so far. With 65,081 recoveries in a day, the recovery rate has increased to 76.63 per cent. Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 7,80,689 cases and 24,399 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh with 4,24,767 cases and 3,884 deaths. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal, and Bihar come next. According to the fresh data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India conducted 10,16,920 tests in a single day on Monday taking the total number of samples tested so far reached to 4,33,24,834. On Monday, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare decided to deploy high-level Central teams to four states -- Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha, which have been witnessing a sudden surge in the number of coronavirus cases and reporting high-mortality. Only the US and Brazil have recorded more cases of Covid than India. While the US lead the board with 60,28,617, the South American nation has 39,08,272 corona cases.

## SAME SEX-MARRIAGE TRIGGERS UPROAR

**Fatehpur (IANS):** A same-sex marriage in Uttar Pradesh has landed the couple in a soup, forcing them to seek police protection. While one of the girls hails from Fatehpur, the other is from Kanpur.

The couple got married last week. Komal from Fatehpur is the 'wife' to Kanpur's Poonam. Komal and Poonam, on Monday, reached the Sadar police station and gave a written application for protection.

A police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that they would assess the threat perception before taking any action. Poonam's mother said that she was ready to accept the marriage and the 'couple' can stay with them. The girls, however, alleged that this is a ploy to take them to Kanpur and then separate them.

# Railways to run more trains

**New Delhi (IANS):** Days after the Centre announced the guidelines for Unlock 4, the Indian Railways said that it is planning to run more special trains and the state governments are being consulted on this.

A senior Railway Ministry official said, "The Indian Railways is in consultation with the state governments."

According to Railway Ministry sources, the national transporter is planning to operate 100 more trains in the coming days.

The Indian Railways had suspended the passenger, mail and express train services from March 25 in the wake of the nationwide lockdown amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Railways started to operate the Shramik Special trains from May 1 to transport the stranded migrant workers, students, pilgrims and tourists. It also began 15 pairs of Special Air Conditioned trains from May 12 and 100 pairs of timetabled trains from June 1.

Last week, the Centre gave approval for the eventual resumption of metro services from September 7, and the return of up to 50 per cent of teaching and non-teaching staff in schools outside the containment zones from September 21.

The government in its new guidelines has said that the states will no longer be permitted to impose lockdowns outside the containment zones without the Ministry of Home Affairs permission.



## Govt buses start operations in TN

**Chennai (IANS):** Government buses resumed operations and temples reopened for the public after a gap of about 160 days, in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday. However, wearing of masks and maintaining social distancing was mandatory. Following the relaxation in the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, the government began intra-district bus

services. Officials said the number of buses will be increased gradually based on the demand.

However, private bus operators did not ply their vehicles saying that intra district transport with restrictions on the number of passengers is not a viable proposition for them. The private bus operators said they should be al-

lowed inter-district operations so that it is financially viable.

The big temples in the state saw devotees wearing masks and maintaining social distance. Chennai Metro Rail will resume services from September 7 onwards and the decision on operating the suburban trains will be taken after a review. Private organisations were allowed to carry on operations with 100 per cent staff strength.

# Pranab cremated with full military honours

**New Delhi (IANS):** Former President Pranab Mukherjee, who passed away here at Army's R&R Hospital during treatment on Monday at the age of 84, was cremated with full military honours on Tuesday afternoon at the Lodhi Road crematorium following a strict Covid-19 precautionary protocol.

His son Abhijit Mukherjee performed the final rites accompanied by a 21-gun military salute. Only close family members were allowed to enter the crematorium unlike previous cremation ceremonies of such dignitaries, and those handling the mortal remains of Mukherjee wore PPE kits.

Following Covid-19 precautionary protocol, President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi led a galaxy of top political leaders who paid floral tributes to the departed soul at his 10, Rajaji Marg residence.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat were among those who joined the rest of the nation in bidding adieu to the 'People's President'. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, BJP President J.P. Nadda, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Shashi Tharoor, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, CPI General Secretary D.Raja, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, and many others paid homage to Mukherjee, who passed away on Monday evening after weeks in



coma following a brain surgery. The mortal remains of the 13th President were brought to his residence from the Army Research and Referral Hospital, around 9.30 a.m. In keeping with the military tradition, the three service chiefs placed wreaths on Mukherjee's body before politicians cutting across party lines paid their floral tributes.

The tricolour that was wrapped around Mukherjee's body was removed and given to his family for the last rites. A man of unparalleled experience in governance, Mukherjee had gone into septic shock because of his lung infection and was hospitalised on August 10 in a critical condition. The veteran Parliamentarian served as the Union Foreign, Defence, Commerce and Finance Minister.

Born on December 11, 1935 in the small village of Mirati in Birbhum District of West Bengal, Mukherjee acquired a Master's degree in History and Political Science as well as a degree in Law from the University of Kolkata. Mukherjee then embarked on his professional life as a college teacher and journalist.

# Charlie Hebdo republishes Prophet Mohammed cartoons

**Paris:** French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, the target of a massacre by Islamist gunmen in 2015, said it has 'republished' hugely controversial cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed to mark the start of the trial this week of alleged accomplices in the attack.

"We will never lie down. We will never give up," its director Laurent "Riss" Sourisseau wrote in an editorial to go with the republication of the cartoons in its latest edition. Twelve people, including some of France's most celebrated cartoonists,

were killed on January 7, 2015, when brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi went on a gun rampage at the paper's offices in Paris.

The perpetrators were killed in the wake of the massacre but 14 alleged accomplices in the attacks, which also targeted a Jewish supermarket, will go on trial in Paris on Wednesday.

The cover of the latest Charlie Hebdo issue shows a dozen cartoons first published by the Danish daily Jyllands-Posten in 2005 -- and then reprinted by Charlie

Hebdo in 2006 -- which unleashed a storm of anger across the Muslim world.

In the centre of the cover is a cartoon of the prophet drawn by its cartoonist Jean Cabut, known as Cabu, who lost his life in the massacre.

"All of this, just for that," the front-page headline says.

Its editorial team wrote that now was the right time to republish the cartoons, saying it was "essential" as the trial opens. "We have often been asked since January 2015 to print other caricatures of Mo-

ammed," it said. "We have always refused to do so, not because it is prohibited -- the law allows us to do so -- but because there was a need for a good reason to do it, a reason which has meaning and which brings something to the debate."

The paper's willingness to cause offence has made it a champion of free speech for many in France, while others believed it crossed a line too often.

But the massacre united the country in grief with the slogan #JeSuisCharlie (I Am Charlie) going viral.

# Mask use may prevent 2 lakh coronavirus deaths in India

**New Delhi:** Widespread mask use and data-driven social distancing measures in India may help prevent over 200,000 Covid-19-related deaths in India by December 1, according to a modelling study which shows the disease will continue to pose a major public health threat in the country.

The study by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington in the US suggests that there is an opportunity to further limit the toll of Covid-19 in India. It highlights the critical need for people to comply with face mask use, social distancing, and other COVID-19 prevention guidelines as advised by the public health authorities.

"India's epidemic is far from over, as a large propor-

tion of the population is still susceptible," IHME Director, Christopher Murray, said in a statement. "In fact, our modelling shows there is a wide range of potential outcomes, depending on the actions that governments and individuals take today, tomorrow, and into the near future. Mask-wearing and social distancing are crucial to mitigate the spread of the virus," Murray explained.

Reacting to the findings of the modelling study, Gautam Menon, Professor, Departments of Physics and Biology, Ashoka University in Haryana said it is certainly true that mask wearing and distancing measures will significantly slow the progress of the disease while protecting vulnerable populations. "My first view is that the

IHME model predicts a peak in infections only by early to mid-December, peak numbers of close to 6 million new infections per day and total deaths of about 500,000 in the 'no intervention' scenario," Menon told PTI.

However, he noted that these numbers appear inflated compared to other estimates and models which suggest a peak that should happen well before mid-December.

"Given that, the estimate of lives saved (in the study) may be on the excessive side," Menon noted. The researchers in the IHME study noted that India's response to Covid-19 has produced some significant successes that highlight the opportunity to limit the pandemic's toll in the country.

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## Worst contraction in India's economy

As expected, India's economy landed in negative territory during April-June period, the first quarter of the current fiscal. But the extent of the economic contraction was much beyond the estimates and projections made by experts and economists. As per data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by a staggering 23.9 per cent in the first quarter as Covid-19 pandemic hit the economy really hard. The GDP at constant prices (2011-12) has been estimated at Rs 26.90 lakh crore in Q1FY21 as against Rs 35.35 lakh crore in the same period a year ago. That means the GDP lost a whopping Rs 8.45 lakh crore or nearly one-fourth during April-June 2020. Reflecting the ground realities, labour-intensive sectors such as construction, manufacturing and mining sectors

witnessed the biggest fall. Construction sector, the second biggest employer after agriculture in India, registered 50 per cent de-growth while manufacturing segment saw 39.3 per cent drop. Agriculture sector was the only saving grace as it clocked 3.4 per cent upswing against 3 per cent growth in the same three months a year ago. The steep fall in key sectors like construction and manufacturing indicates that the total nationwide lockdown imposed by the Central government from March 25 this year to contain the spread of deadly Covid-19 pandemic, took a heavy toll on labour intensive sectors. Private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) growth also collapsed in the quarter as people restricted their spending to essential items. However, this is not the first time that India's economy has contracted. It slipped into negative territory five times since 1950-51 when GDP data was made available for the first time. The GDP recorded negative in 1958, 1966, 1967, 1973 and 1980. But the economic fall in those years was primarily because of rainfall deficit. This time, it's because of an invisible virus that is ravaging the world. But GDP shrinkage in the first quarter is the

worst so far in the country's history and second highest among the major economies during this pandemic, after the United States which recorded a fall of 32.9 per cent in April-June. The United Kingdom is at the third place with 22 per cent fall in its GDP during the same period. With Covid-19 now spreading its tentacles to rural India and the country registering over 75,000 cases daily, the economy will continue to reel under the pandemic's pressure. As a consequence, GDP is likely to register negative growth in the remaining three quarters as well. The State Bank of India's research report, Ecwrap, on Tuesday estimated that the economy would decline by 10.9 per cent in this current fiscal. Its earlier projection was at (-) 6.8 per cent. SBI Ecwrap revised its projections based on the latest official data on Q1 GDP. As fall in Q1 GDP is much more than estimated and coronavirus is still active, the Central government should come out with an additional round of stimulus package to spur economic activity. And it should do it fast. Otherwise, GDP will contract at a much higher pace than estimates made thus far.

# Miseries that haunt Dharavi's slum dwellers

BANJOT KAUR

The eight million residents of Mumbai's Dharavi are not concerned about whether the 'Dharavi model' to tackle the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) was science or serendipity. They would rather leave that to the experts and media.

The people of Dharavi are, instead, more concerned about issues such as job loss, unemployment, hunger and shortage of other basic necessities, which they believe, nobody wants to document.

Job loss and unemployment rocked every part of India as the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded. But it was different for Dharavi, a place known for its billion-dollar economy. Here, job losses and unemployment were caused not just due to the lack of opportunities but stigma — of being Dharavi's residents.

Rupali Veerkar, 31, was a housekeeper till the countrywide lockdown due to Covid-19 began. She is the sole breadwinner in her seven-member family. When we met her in the second week of July, 2020, she had lost her housekeeping job, thanks to the lockdown. She tried for a similar job when things started opening up in July. "I went to a big bungalow in Worli. The moment I said I lived on 90-Feet road in Dharavi, I was refused the job. I had a similar experience in the Prabha Devi area," Rupali told us in front of her home at Block No 4 in Dharavi's Vijay Nagar.

Worse, she spends Rs 200 for commuting to places where she saw a job opportunity. She seemed to be in a hurry while talking to us. We thought the heavy downpour was the cause. But she said her daughter, who is nearly blind, was waiting for her. "I am not able to take her to the doctor for follow-up visits as I have run out of money," she said.

Sunny Mahadeo Gadre, from Dharavi's Ashok Nagar, lost his mother to Covid-19. He also lost his job at a private factory. When he asked why he was not allowed to resume work like most of his colleagues, he did not get a reply. "But my superior told my colleagues that I could not be allowed as I lived in a shantytown, a slum," he said.

These and many other such stories, clearly reveal the inherent contradiction of the 'Dharavi model'. A place which became a model for science and medicine, is also stigmatic for most Mumbaikars. It is just not that people engaged in jobs were suffering. Dharavi is known to be a billion dollar-economy and is home to 15,000 small factories. We found virtually all shut.

Kumbharwada, a hub of small pottery factories, is one of them. We met two potters — Dawood Sulaiman (48) and Deepak Singhadia (25) here. As we crossed several narrow lanes to reach their address, an eerie silence prevailed, a sign of how the



area had fallen prey to the lockdown.

We were shown into a dilapidated room, which was a factory-cum-warehouse. There were a wide variety of pottery products there, including saucers for phirni, a kind of dessert, as well as earthen pots. Dawood Sulaman (left) and Deepak Singhadia (right), both potters from Dharavi's Kumbharwada, said neither the government nor any civil society organisation gave them any kind of help. They are now staring at food shortage.

Minutes into the conversation, Deepak's neighbour Dawood arrived. "We have accepted that Janamashtami and Eid have been ruined, as would be Dussehra and Diwali," Sulaiman said, referring to the festivals when their products are usually in high demand.

His grouse with elected representatives was evident. "The pottery business in Gujarat is well subsidised. During election time, we are also promised subsidies. But now, even as we are facing an existential crisis, not a single public representative has visited us," he rued.

Another big trading centre in Dharavi is its recycling market, situated at Dharavi Crossroads. It is normally dotted with people and estimated to recycle more than 60 per cent of Mumbai's waste.

We found the roads in this market completely empty. Still, a few like AR Malik, who owns a recycling unit, go there off and on. "This market had its share of good and bad days. But we never thought it would come to a grinding halt like this," Malik told us while standing at a tailor's shop outside the market. He gave a ballpark figure that about 10-12,000 employees worked in the market. For men, the salary was Rs 15,000 per month and for women, who according to Malik, worked for lesser hours, the salary was Rs 8,000 per month.

A very direct consequence of this crisis has been hunger. While some families said they never got a grain, others told us that dry ration was distributed by the government and several non-governmental organisations after the initial period of lockdown. But it had since ceased.

"We survived Covid but it is becoming difficult to survive the post-illness period. Whatever food grains we get from ration shops every month, gets exhausted in a week's time. The small shop our family had, has been shut for months now. I have taken loans from most of my relatives and all options seem to have been exhausted," Wasim Ali from Naik Nagar, who has a family of 10 adults and six children, said.

The residents of Dharavi have been forced to cut their children's milk consumption to negligible and their own consumption of meat and fruits. Some have even cut down their number of meals. This might have a serious consequence on the fight against Covid-19 as it could lower immunity levels. This, in turn, might directly impact Dharavi's ongoing fight to keep the novel coronavirus at bay.

We spoke to Dharavi's Member of Legislative Assembly and Maharashtra Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad. She accepted these were two big problems currently. "I have taken it up in the state Cabinet too," was all she could say.

Women in Dharavi have been facing a shortage of sanitary napkins as well. Amina from Kumbharwada and several other mothers whom we met said they have had to force their daughters to use old clothes instead of napkins. Laxmi Kamble, a volunteer with ACRON Foundation, said, "Earlier, when we distributed ration kits, we gave sanitary napkins too. As the kit distribution stopped, so did the napkins."

Mariyam Rashid, senior official of

Dharavi-based SHED Foundation, said condom distribution by government agencies had stopped completely since the lockdown. Some of the women we spoke to, also corroborated. "This will obviously lead to many unwanted pregnancies, especially here in Dharavi and to sexually transmitted infections (STI)," Rashid said.

So, the warnings that international organisations gave about Covid-induced lockdowns — of hunger, domestic violence or unwanted pregnancies — all seem to have been realised in Dharavi.

Education too has suffered. Wasim Ali told us it was becoming next to impossible to give the school fee of his two daughters and he might have to discontinue their schooling, just like Mehrul Nisha of Dharavi Crossroads, who is a single mother supporting four daughters.

Dharavi residents also complained that the treatment of other diseases had taken a beating during the Covid-19 period.

For Akshay Vishwakarma's mother, it was again stigma at play. They live in Naik Nagar. His mother suffered an attack of paralysis on March 20. After being discharged from hospital, the doctor said she would need a speech therapist. From April through July, he found many speech therapists but none was ready to go to Dharavi.

Kailash Gaud, an integrated medical practitioner from Dharavi said the consequences could be more disastrous for TB patients, who are found in large number in the slums.

"All DOTS distribution centres are closed. This will cause a huge impact, especially for drug resistant TB patients whose drugs cost thousands per month in the open market," Gaud said.

(Courtesy: Down To Earth)

to Covid-19 patients. Many doctors have protested in this matter and expressed their concerns about spreading coronavirus due to not having enough PPE kits. In India, there is only one doctor is for every 1,457 citizens. So, there would be big number of Covid-19 patients and one has to deal with them which needs more PPE kits. I appeal to the government to help doctors to fight against Covid-19.

Shahin Ahmed, Mumbai

## Varsities, schools fleece students in times of pandemic

India has been on lockdown for more than four months because of Covid-19 and students from high school to PG had lost most of their academic year. But finally, the government had given permissions for the educational institutions to conduct online classes and move forward with the academic year. After a few days of their online classes, students were asked to pay their school/college fee for the present academic year, and the rate of the fee are as usual which included tuition fee, lab charges, library fees, maintenance fees, game fee, student welfare fee, etc which is costing parents a fortune to pay especially in this pandemic time. College/university students all over the country are protesting against collection of high fees. The government should look into this matter, understand the situation of students and take a decision of reducing the fees and cut down the extra payments as students are having classes online.

K Nikitha Rachel Melissa, Tarnaka, Secunderabad

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## Regularisation of illegal structures

We know that Acts are made and implemented to avert irregularities in respective areas. For example, the Municipal Act is made to do away with irregular constructions, unplanned constructions and constructions with deviations against the approved Plan and the Land Act prohibits the encroachment of government land in any manner. While this is so, what is happening now is something else. Acts are now being passed in the legislative Houses totally against the laid down concepts of the Constitution. Some people are constructing houses against the laid down norms and guidelines. They even do not take any plan approval from the civic body. If at all, they take approval, they just violate the approved plan and go ahead with the construction as per their wishes. One fine morning, the government announces a scheme called 'regularisation of irregular constructions'. They pay the amounts as charged by the civic body and you finally get the approval, whatever high the deviations may be. They need not worry that the government will demolish the construction. Our system of regularisation of irregularities is not only in the above cited case, it is everywhere. Now the question comes:

What is the purpose of Acts? Are the Acts the source of income generation for the government? Can anybody clarify my doubt?

TV Nageswara Rao, Vinayakanagar, Visakhapatnam

## A life dedicated to the service of nation

Sharmishtha Mukherjee, daughter of late former President Pranab Mukherjee, rightly tweeted that, "Baba led a full meaningful life in service of the nation and peo-

## LETTERS

ple'. In spite of his abundant administrative experience and political acumen, this ace Congress leader missed PM gaddi many times during his career. Being 'man of all seasons', as once said by his mentor Indira Gandhi, with his number two position in several Congress governments, Pranabda left his mark in nation's progress. While he was in UPA II government, Pranabda also played a vital role in prevailing upon the Congress leadership to accede the demand of Telangana people for a separate State. It is pertinent, as President, with his assent by signing the Bill, Telangana emerged as 29th State of India. Modi government deserves praises for awarding this great son of India with Bharat Ratna award, during his lifetime.

Govardhan R Jilla, Mumbai

## Provide sufficient PPE kits to Covid doctors



19. Many doctors have lost their lives due to not having enough PPE kits. In this scenario, doctors will not attend

On one hand, relaxation is being made in lockdown, while on the other, there is lack of equipment to fight against Covid-



## NEP 2020 needs to incorporate India's past glory

SANE SHIVA SHANKER

The charter of the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions "creating the education system holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, and aligned to the needs of the 21st century and 2030 Sustainable Development Goals".

From the very look of it, the vision of NEP 2020 is spirited like the 'Preamble' of the Indian Constitution, where the 'soul' of the framework of NEP 2020 has got designed with. Post-colonial writer and the propounder of 'decolonisation', Frantz Fanon argues that in spite of the political freedom achieved by the Third World countries from Britain and at large of European countries, the colonial mentalities do permeate in these countries through the domains of education, media, government policies, and of pseudo-intellectualism.

So as to negate this colonial mentality i.e., the belief that cultural values of the Europeans are inherently superior than those of the Third World countries. Fanon analyses that in order to overcome this "inferiority" of the colonised, he asserts the concept of what is called "decolonization".

In his essay, 'On National Culture', Frantz Fanon says that coloniser without least considering the 'distinct national culture' as well as the 'history' of the colonised, the coloniser imposes colonised people as one of barbaric, degraded and low profile ones. Fanon advocates that to root out such internalised mentality among the colonised people, one needs to reconsider the nation's pre-colonial culture as well as its history.

In this context, NEP 2020, needs to incorporate the very idea of "reconsidering India's pre-colonial culture as well as its vast history. Of course, the NEP 2020 has spoken about Nalanda University model, but did not frame the 'charter' based on the said model so.

It is known that from time immemorial India is the cradle of human civilisation. Well known French author and historian Romain Rolland says, "If there is one place on the face of the Earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India."

Of the fact, it is quite necessary that NEP 2020 needs to consider India's vast glory of Indus Valley Civilisation. So far, of all the national educational policies of post-Independence have been banking upon western mode of education, say, the charter of 'Macaulay Minute' instead of Eastern oriented outlook. As is the case, these policies have failed to look at the models of Vishwa Guru Rabindranath Tagore's 'Shantiniketan' and of 'Tolstoy farm' of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, of whose ideas guided the nation to usher in the freedom.

In Mahatma Gandhi's 'Tolstoy Farm', equal importance has been given to both manual and mental growth of the child. The structural shift of educational ladder from 10+2 to 5+3+3+3+4 is not considered as 'holistic' as being mentioned in the charter of vision of NEP 2020. The reason is that education basically aims at the desirable change of human behavior in accordance to the needs of existing society. And according to the Blooms Taxonomy, there exists three fundamental domains of learning-cognitive domain, affective domain and, psychomotor domain. The educational structure whether it is of 10+2 or of 5+3+3+3+4 only banks on what is called cognitive domain, while the other domains - affective domain and psychomotor domain - will remain dormant in the present framework of NEP 2020.

Swami Vivekananda, the son of the soil, who has beamed the light of Indian culture, once observed, "I would prefer playing to football game in the open ground instead of reading the Bagvath Gita within the four walls". Swami Vivekananda's observation lays stress on 'physical' growth, which is said to be psychomotor domain (skills). And John Dewey, famous philosopher and psychologist of America, introduces the so-called "Learning by Doing" theory. This theory focuses the attention on the interaction of the pupil with the society at large. The knowledge which is being imparted in the curriculum cannot be complete unless and until it is put to practice in the society. This is the concept he says it as "hidden curriculum" which helps the student to acknowledge the 'value of the values' of both the individuals and societies by interacting with the society

Swami Vivekananda's observation lays stress on 'physical' growth, which is said to be psychomotor domain (skills). And John Dewey, famous philosopher and psychologist of America, introduces the so-called "Learning by Doing" theory. This theory focuses the attention on the interaction of the pupil with the society at large. The knowledge which is being imparted in the curriculum cannot be complete unless and until it is put to practice in the society. This is the concept he says it as "hidden curriculum" which helps the student to acknowledge the 'value of the values' of both the individuals and societies by interacting with the society.

Further, the preamble of NEP 2020 in the form of vision, proposes "... and aligned to the needs of the 21st century and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals". In this connection, the road-map is not crystal clear in NEP 2020 towards this direction as is proposed. Mahatma Gandhi envisions India's growth through "rural development", it does not mean that development of rural milieu be transformed into urban milieu. Gandhi believed in, not to destroy natural landscapes for resources for mining and urbanisation. Gandhi believed in setting of educational institutions in rural milieu instead of urban milieu. And with regard to the reference of "Sustainable Development Goals" are concerned, nothing like its spirit is being reflected as such in the NEP2020.

It is said that leaders across the globe will have a monumental opportunity to reduce inequality, end of poverty, protect the environment and promote justice and peace by implementing what are called, "Sustainable Development Goals- 2017". And of all the Sustainable Development Goals, to foster environmental responsibility is the major pillar needs to be given the topmost urgency in the framework of NEP 2020 for the mission of education in 21st century to protect the environment for future generations.



RAGING PANDEMIC

# Death rate under control: Jawahar

- Says the State govt is laying emphasis on reducing the number of deaths
- Notes that while some district record increase in deaths, some are witnessing a fall in fatalities
- Warns private hospital of severe action if they collect excess charges for Covid treatment

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The main focus of the state government is to further reduce the mortality rate of Covid-19 patients, said medical and health department special chief secretary K S Jawahar Reddy.

Speaking to the media here on Tuesday, Jawahar Reddy said that the mortality rate in AP is under control and a few districts registered fewer deaths than earlier. While Nellore, Chittoor, and Prakasam districts registered an increase in deaths, Anantapur, Guntur, Krishna, Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam witnessed a decline.

Similarly, the number of positive cases has increased by 6.26 percent by registering an additional 8139 cases. While districts Anantapur, Guntur, Krishna, Kurnool, and Vizianagaram witnessed a steady decline of cases, Nellore, Prakasam, and Srikakulam districts registered an increased number of cases.

He warned private hospitals against collecting excessive fees for treatment.

He suggested corporate hospitals to follow the rate cards issued by the government and asked the people to lodge complaint against the private hospitals if they violate the rules by charging extra fee.

Jawahar Reddy requested the



Special Chief Secretary, Medical and Health, K S Jawahar Reddy (centre) and Krishna District Collector Md Intiaz (Left) releasing a book *Coronavirus – Mundu Jagrathale Mandu Vaidyam* written by Dr T Seva Kumar (Right) in Vijayawada on Tuesday

public to be on high alert, especially when there are symptoms like high fever, breathlessness, and oxygen saturation drops below 94.

He appealed to the people to contact 104 helpline or local ANM or volunteer either to get shifted to a hospital or home isolation for treatment. He said that the state government had established control rooms at village level and district level for the convenience of the patients and also enabled telemedicine service through 14410 call centre.

He asserted that the public should take up the responsibility in containing the virus and stressed on using masks, maintaining physical distance and washing hands at frequent intervals.

Meanwhile, the state reported 10,368 fresh cases, pushing overall tally further up to 4.45 lakh on Tuesday.

The state's Covid-19 chart now showed 4,45,139 total cases, 3,39,876 recoveries and 4,053 deaths. In the 24 hours ending 9 am on Tuesday, 10,368 new positive cases were detected from 59,834 tests while 9,350 patients got cured and 84 more succumbed.

## Govt hires over 1,350 ambulances

- The ambulances will be used to shift Covid positive patients from one hospital to another or from their homes to Covid care centres
- A call centre has also been set up for each mandal

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** The state government has hired over 1,350 ambulances in 13 districts in order to cope with the workload.

These ambulances will be used to transport Covid positive persons from one hospital to another or from their residence to a hospital or Covid care centre. The authorities have made it mandatory for the district collectors to hire at least two additional ambulances per mandal. If necessary, the collectors have been given the right to hire as many as needed, depending on the workload. In certain mandals, even 5-6 additional hospitals have been hired in order to provide better serv-

ices to the citizens. These ambulances will help the authorities implement the recently introduced 'referral system', as per which, the hospital referring the patient will have to arrange for an ambulance to transport the patient apart from informing the receiving hospital. To ensure smooth functioning, a call centre has been setup in every mandal. The local health workers, doctors and hospitals have been given the call centre number using which they could call for an ambulance.

Commissioner of the health and family welfare Katamaneni Bhaskar said, "We already have one 108 ambulance per mandal but due to the increased workload, in an attempt to decentralise things further, the districts have been instructed to hire at least two additional ambulances per mandal exclusively for transporting Covid positive persons. These aren't critical patients. While the minimum is two per mandal, there is no upper limit. The districts have been given the right to hire as many as needed."



## Minister Peddireddy tests positive for Covid

- Reportedly undergoing treatment in Apollo Hospital at Hyderabad
- He takes part in several programmes in Chittoor dist on Aug 27-28

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Tirupati:** Panchayat raj and rural development minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy has been tested positive for coronavirus. It was learnt that he got positive result a couple of days ago and admitted in Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, where he is currently undergoing treatment.

He participated in various programmes in the district on August 26 and 27. An ardent devotee of Ayyappa Swamy, he used to visit Sabarimalai every year. As the temple was closed this time around due to Covid-19 pandemic, he took up deeksha as usual and presented his offerings (Iru-mudi) at Ayyappa Swamy temple in his native village of Yerrathivaripalle under Sadum mandal. After that programme, he was said to have gone to Hyderabad.

Meanwhile, district collector Dr N Bharat Gupta and Tirupati Municipal Corporation commissioner PS Girisha visited Tirupati MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy at Ruia hospital on Tuesday where he has been undergoing Covid treatment.

Tirupati former MLA M Sugunamma, who tested positive on August 28, returned home from Apollo hospitals, Chennai, where she will be under home isolation for some more days.

According to her family members, her health condition is stable.

## HC tells CBI to submit report on Sudhakar by Nov 16

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Nelapadu (Amaravati):** The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday gave the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) time till November 16 to submit the report on the attack on Dr Sudhakar.

It may be recalled that the High Court had taken up the case suo motu and ordered a CBI probe into the case of Dr Sudhakar, who was suspended for allegedly going to the media

complaining about lack of face masks for doctors.

Earlier, the CBI counsel told the High Court that there appears to be a deep-rooted conspiracy behind Dr Sudhakar's revolt against the government, his subsequent suspension and his strange behaviour on the streets of Visakhapatnam that led to his admission in mental hospital for treatment.

The CBI asked the court sufficient time to conduct a thorough investigation into

## CBI counsel submits to the HC that there seems to be a deep conspiracy behind Dr Sudhakar's revolt to his ending up in mental hospital

Dr Sudhakar's case.

The court, which posted the case to November 16, gave time to the CBI till November to submit its report with all the details and pros and cons of the case.

## Meters to be fixed for farm power connections

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** The state government has decided to provide meters to all agriculture power connection of farmers in the state henceforth. A GO was issued to this effect on Tuesday.

This move follows the decision to transfer money to the farmers' accounts directly to meet the cost of power supply as subsidy. The farmers will be paying their bills drawing from their accounts on their own.

Free power for farmers would cost the exchequer Rs 8,400 crore. This is a part of the Centre's Money Transfer Scheme to farmers.

## COVID QUARANTINE KITS DISTRIBUTED TO JAIL INMATES

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Tirupati:** TUDA chairman Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy has distributed Covid quarantine kits to 54 prisoners in Tirupati Sub-Jail on Tuesday.

The usage of medicines and kashayams in the kit were explained to the prisoners along with the pamphlets on the guidelines.

He assured to supply required vegetables and essential commodities to provide nutritious food to the inmates.

The menu being implemented in Covid care centres will also be fol-

# Speed up works of 30 SDCs, CM to officials



HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy instructed the officials to expedite the work on setting up of 30 Skill Development Centres (SDCs), covering all Parliamentary constituencies in the state, and ensure quality and ambience in their construction works.

During a review meeting held here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the SDCs would be playing an important role in providing high quality skilled workforce and development of industry.

The Chief Minister enquired about the action plan of the SDCs. The officials said that they had identified land for setting up of colleges at 20 places and the search was on for the remaining colleges while the curriculum had been prepared dividing it into finishing skills and alternative employment courses.

The officials informed that a total of 162 courses, classified into finishing skills and alternative

● Reviews progress on Skill Development Centres

● Officials inform land has been identified for 20 colleges and search is on for the remaining ones

● 162 courses, divided into finishing skills and alternative employment courses, will be made available at the SDCs

employment courses, will be made available at the Skill Development Centres. Out of total 162 courses, 127 are for finishing skills while the remaining 35 are for alternative employment.

In regard to developing and designing the Skill Development Curriculum, so far four international institutes, Singapore Polytechnic, Van Hall Larenstein (University of Applied Studies), GIZ and Department for International Development have been partnered with the state government.

For setting up of lab infrastructure in skill centres, 23 reputed organisations including Dell, Tata, HP, IBM, Biocon have come forward for signing MoU with the government and discussions are on with 35 other companies.

The Chief Minister said that there should be continuous chain linking the skill development centres with the companies and also stated that training should be imparted as per the requirements of industry. He directed the officials to speed up the identification of suitable lands for the construction of Skill Development Centres and also ordered to include technical courses related to agriculture, agriculture implements besides training the youth in high-end and construction works.

Minister for IT and skill development Mekapati Gautham Reddy, special chief secretary G Anantharamu, managing director APSSDC Arja Srikanth, APSSDC chairman Ch Madhusudan Reddy and other officials took part in the review meeting.

# Drone Corpn to survey Endowments lands

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Vijayawada:** The endowments department has engaged the services of the Drone Corporation of Andhra Pradesh to conduct a detailed survey of the endowments department lands to clear the 200-odd pending claims of private persons seeking No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for the lands brought under department's fold under Section 22A (1) C of the Registration Act.

Endowments commissioner P Arjun Rao took the initiative with a view to resolve the long-pending disputes with regard to the lands belonging to the department of endowments in different parts of the state.

A team of officials consisting of the department of endowments and the department of survey will assist the Drone Corporation in this regard. The survey is expected to be completed in a month. Following this, the officials of the endowments department from the headquarters will visit the districts to

- As many as 206 applications from private persons are pending with the department for NOC
- The Endowments Department has taken up the exercise of survey to resolve these petitions

conduct a special drive for clearance to issue the NOCs. After completing the whole process, the NOCs will be issued.

The main idea of endowments department is to have a special drive in October to resolve the disputes and issue the necessary NOCs for all the applicants after following due process.

At least 206 applications seeking No Objection Certificates (NOCs) have been pending before the department for a long time. These applicants have approached the department as their lands are caught in various kinds of disputes and that they are unable either sell their lands or execute gift deeds in favour of their kin.

# PM's toy talk fails to enthuse Kondapalli artisans

*Continued from P1*

Decrease in the number of artisans in Kondapalli village is an indication to realise that the interest in the profession is waning. Though the artisans were able to earn around Rs 500, it is no more so.

"This is a world of branded toys, moreover. Who will buy an unbranded toy like ours which has an aesthetic appeal but no market anywhere? Secondly, if we cannot sell out toys in our own State, why would outsiders buy ours?" Sk Khaja, Master Craftsperson (50

asked, adding he entered the profession some 35 years ago. "There were more than 400 artisans actively making the toys but now only 60 to 70 families are into it. "Unless the governments get involved, even the wood is not available due to deforestation," he adds.

His suggestion: Preserve Poniki trees, market toys both nationally and internationally, arrange tours of dignitaries and businessmen, open up of stalls in airports and railway stations and in every State. "We require the latest market-

ing facilities like e-Marketing too. Hope some start-up would look into it," P Shriram, who once thought of encouraging Kondapalli toys through his Art N weaves but dropped out due to lack of interest from the government says.

I V Lakshminadh, Managing Director of AP Handicrafts Development Corporation, stated that the government had been purchasing at least 60 percent of their produce in order to maintain sustainability. He acknowledged that availability of wood had become a major problem for them.

# Problems because border is not drawn: China

*Continued from P1*

"For example, the leaders of the two countries agreed that bilateral cooperation outweighs differences and common interests outweigh conflicts. Differences should be managed and controlled, and in particular, differences should not escalate into conflicts. I think that various departments of the two countries should implement these important consensus," Wang said.

India and China have held several rounds of military and diplomatic talks in the last two-and-half months but no significant headway has been made for a resolution to the border row in eastern Ladakh.



## BIZ BRIEFS

### Zoom posts rise in revenue

**San Francisco:** Zoom Video Communications has posted solid results in the fiscal second quarter which ended on July 31 with total revenue hitting \$663.5 million, a growth of 355 per cent year-over-year as new customers joined the platform amid Covid-19 restrictions. Zoom said on Monday that at the end of Q2 it had approximately 370,200 customers with more than 10 employees, up approximately 458 per cent from the same quarter last fiscal year. "Our ability to keep people around the world connected, coupled with our strong execution, led to revenue growth of 355 per cent year-over-year in Q2," Zoom Founder and CEO, Eric Yuan, said in a statement. Zoom increased its revenue outlook to approximately \$2.37-\$2.39 billion for FY21.

### Samsung unveils Galaxy Z Fold2

**New Delhi:** Unveiling a completely new form factor in the world of foldable smartphones, Samsung on Tuesday introduced its third foldable device called Galaxy Z Fold2 that sports a 6.2-inch cover screen and a 7.6-inch main screen when unfolded. Galaxy Z Fold2 will be available in two memory variants - 12GB RAM+512GB and 12GB RAM+256GB internal storage – beginning with select markets, the company said in a statement. The device in Mystic Black and Mystic Bronze colours will be available in around 40 markets, including the US and South Korea, on September 18 while pre-orders will begin from September 1. The device will arrive in India this month and the price and availability will be announced at a later date. Galaxy Z Fold2 is Samsung's third foldable smartphone after Galaxy Fold and Galaxy Z Flip.

### Novotel adds safety steps

**Hyderabad:** Novotel Hyderabad Airport, in addition to Accor's ALLSAFE global cleanliness and prevention standards, announced adding an extra layer of safety measure for its guests. It introduced an UV cleaning device, which will be used to sanitise the guest rooms. The hotel has procured a specially designed UV trolley that is government approved for sanitising all its rooms. Rubin Cherian, General Manager, Novotel Hyderabad Airport, said: "We are going an extra mile through this initiative to undertake all possible measures to facilitate an ALLSAFE experience for all our guests without diminishing the quotient of warmth and hospitality. The well-being of our guests is our priority and we are all geared to welcome our guests to the hotel."

### Sonalika reports jump in sales

**Hyderabad:** Sonalika Tractors on Tuesday reported a 59 per cent jump in its total sales to 10,206 units in August as compared to 6,412 tractors sold in the year-ago period. Sonalika Tractor beat its sales record in July, registering the highest-ever domestic growth of 80 per cent in the previous month with 8,205 tractors as compared to 4,560 sales in the same period last year, the company said in a release. The total sales, including exports stood at 10,206 tractors in August as compared to 6,412 tractors in the same period last year, it said. "There is an upsurge in demand for tractors and we have been able to meet this growing demand. In August, we have recorded highest-ever domestic growth of 80 per cent with overall sales at 10,206 tractors," said Raman Mittal, Executive Director, Sonalika Group.

# Telecos get 10 yrs to clear AGR dues

SC sets timeline for 1st instalment of 10% by March 2021; Airtel seeks 15 yrs to clear dues

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted 10 years to telecom companies to clear their respective adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues and also directed them to deposit the first instalment of 10 per cent by March 31, 2021. A Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said the instalments should be paid by February 7 of every succeeding year. The apex court also warned the telecom companies that if there was any default, then it would accrue interest, and also non-payment would invite contempt of court proceedings against the firms. It also said it agreed with senior advocate Harish Salve that the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) should first decide whether spectrum can be a subject matter of resolution proceedings.

During the hearing, the Centre said it was fine with the 20 years arrangement to recover AGR dues, as senior advocate Mukul Rohtagi appearing for Vodafone Idea accepted the demand of Rs 58,000 crore AGR dues, and insisted that the only way to pay and honour the top court judgment is to allow Vodafone a 20-year payment period. Later, however, he agreed to a 15-year time period. Even, Airtel sought 15 years to clear the AGR dues. The Centre had informed the top court that the Cabinet

## TELECOM TANGLE

- Assuming an 8% interest rate, Bharti and Vodafone Idea (VIL) may have to pay annually ₹3,900 crore and ₹7,500 crore, respectively.
- With 0% interest rate, it'll be ₹2,600 cr/ ₹5,000 cr respectively



**Positive for Bharti, RIL, as liability of Airtel and Videocon will not fall on Bharti, and RCom will not fall on RJio, who have acquired their spectrum**

has considered the issue and decided on a 20-year period, and it has provided this relief due to the cascading effect on the economy.

#### Vodafone Idea cracks nearly 13%

Shares of Vodafone Idea on Tuesday tumbled nearly 13 per cent, while those of Bharti Airtel rose more than six per cent after the Supreme Court granted 10 years to telecom firms for paying the AGR-related dues to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) with certain conditions.

Vodafone Idea shares tanked 12.76 per cent to close at Rs 8.89 apiece on BSE. During the day,

it plummeted 24.53 per cent to Rs 7.69. The stock went into a tailspin after the order, erasing all its early gains. Shares of Bharti Airtel, however, jumped 6.38 per cent to settle at Rs 546.75. During the day, it rose by 7.99 per cent to Rs 555.05. Bharti Airtel was the top gainer in the Sensex pack. RIL shares also gained 0.43 per cent to close at Rs 2,087.55 apiece after rising 2 per cent to Rs 2,121.75 per unit during the day. The Supreme Court verdict is not as beneficial to Vodafone Idea as it is to Bharti Airtel. Vodafone was looking forward for a 20-year-payment cycle which has now reduced to 10 years.

# India's debt burden rising fast: Moody's

**New Delhi:** Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday said India will be among the large emerging market sovereigns to have highest debt burden by 2021. The coronavirus pandemic-induced deterioration in growth and fiscal dynamics will leave most large emerging market sovereigns with higher debt burdens over the next few years, it said. We expect government debt in the large emerging market sovereigns to rise by almost 10 percentage points of GDP on average by the end of 2021 from 2019 levels, driven primarily by wider primary deficits, although some are likely to see higher interest payments contributing to higher debt, Moody's said. "Debt burdens in Brazil, India and South Africa will rise to among the highest across the large emerging market sovereigns by 2021," Moody's said.

The US-based rating agency said medium-term growth and fiscal challenges pose downside risks as some of these nations



face economic risks and potential revenue shortfalls beyond the immediate shock, given their exposure to commodities, tourism and generally sectors exposed to lasting changes in weak global demand and persistently weaker productivity growth.

"Fragile financial systems and/or contingent liabilities compound this risk for India, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey," Moody's noted. It further said in India, increased stress within the financial system, among banks and non-bank financial companies, raises contingent liability risks to the sovereign.

# Maruti, Hyundai steer sales revival in Aug

**New Delhi:** The top two carmakers in India, Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai, led the recovery in the auto market in August with 20.2 per cent and 19.9 per cent increase in their respective domestic wholesales of passenger vehicles during the month.

"The company continues humbly to contribute to the recovery of Indian automobile industry by registering domestic sales volume of 45,809 units in August with positive growth of 19.9 per cent on a comparative low base of last year," HMIL Director (Sales, Marketing and Service) Tarun Garg said.

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) also saw its domestic passenger vehicle sales grow by one per cent last month, while Toyota Kirloskar Motor witnessed a decline in its passenger vehicle sales, although there was improvement over the preceding months since the gradual reopening of the economy.

"At Mahindra, we continue to see good recovery in demand both for SUVs and pick-ups in the small commercial vehicles segment," M&M Automotive Division Chief Executive Officer Veejay Nakra



said. The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said its domestic sales increased by 20.2 per cent to 1,16,704 units last month, as against 97,061 units in August 2019. The company's total sales grew by 17.1 per cent, an increase at 1,24,624 units in August as compared to 1,06,413 units in August last year.

MSI's sales of mini cars comprising Alto and S-Presso stood at 19,709 units as compared to 10,123 units in the same month last year, up 94.7 per cent. Sales of compact segment, including models such as Swift, Celerio, Ignis, Baleno and Dzire, rose 14.2 per cent to 61,956 units as against 54,274 cars in August last year. Similarly, sales of utility vehicles, including Vitara Brezza, S-Cross and Ertiga, grew by 13.5 per cent to 21,030 units as compared to 18,522 units in the

# India's mfg activity back to growth track in Aug



**New Delhi:** India's manufacturing sector activity re-entered the growth territory in August, driven by a rebound in production volumes and new work, amid an improvement in customer demand following the resumption of business operations, a monthly survey showed on Tuesday.

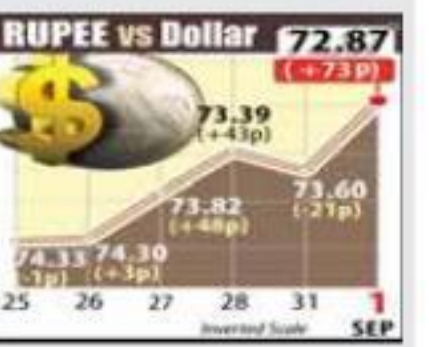
The headline seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from 46 in July to 52 in August, signalling an improvement in operating conditions across the manufacturing sector following four consecutive months of contraction. In April, the index had slipped into contraction mode, after remaining in the growth territory for 32 consecutive months. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction. "August data highlighted positive developments in the health of the Indian manufac-

turing sector, signalling moves towards a recovery from the second quarter downturn. The pick-up in demand from domestic markets gave rise to upturns in production and input buying," Shreya Patel, Economist at IHS Markit, said. Despite an expansion in new orders, job shedding continued in the Indian manufacturing sector. The relocation of employees following COVID-19 pandemic was often linked to the reduction in staffing numbers. "However, not all was positive in August, delivery times lengthened to another marked rate amid ongoing COVID-19 disruption. Meanwhile, employment continued to fall despite signs of capacity pressures, as firms struggled to find suitable workers," Patel said. The survey noted that the decline in foreign exports weighed slightly on overall new orders as firms cited subdued demand conditions from abroad.

## GST collection decline in Aug

**New Delhi:** The gross GST collection in August stood at Rs 86,449 crore, down from Rs 87,422 crore collected in July, the Union Finance Ministry said on Tuesday. The revenues for August are 88 per cent of the GST collected in the same month last year. In August 2019, Rs 98,202 crore was mopped up from Goods and Services Tax (GST). Of the gross collection, Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) is at Rs 15,906 crore, State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) Rs 21,064 crore, Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) Rs 42,264 crore (including Rs 19,179 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess Rs 7,215 crore. The government has settled Rs 18,216 crore to CGST and Rs 14,650 crore to SGST from IGST as regular settlement.

## Rupee soars 73 paise, breaches 73-mark against US dollar



**Mumbai:** The rupee rallied 73 paise to breach the 73-mark against the US dollar on Tuesday, supported by liquidity-boosting measures announced by the RBI. A weak greenback overseas and a positive trend in the equity markets further supported the local currency, forex traders said. At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.18 against the US dollar and shuttled between 72.75 and 73.19. It finally finished at 72.87, up 73 paise from its previous close of 73.60.

# Key indices surge on positive cues

**Mumbai:** Equity indices returned to winning ways on Tuesday after a day's pause, propelled by Bharti Airtel, HUL and Reliance Industries amid a positive trend in global markets. Bharti Airtel was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 6.38 per cent, after the Supreme Court granted 10 years to telecom firms for paying the adjusted gross revenue (AGR)-related dues to the government with certain conditions. A sharp appreciation in the rupee -- which breached the 73-mark against the US dollar -- added to the momentum, traders said. After a choppy session, the BSE Sensex settled 272.51 points or 0.71 per cent higher at 38,900.80. It hit an intra-day high of 39,226.82 and a low of 38,542.11. Similarly, the NSE Nifty advanced 82.75 points or 0.73 per cent to settle at 11,470.25. It touched a high of 11,553.55 and



a low of 11,366.90 during the day. "Indian markets exhibited heightened volatility today following publishing of GDP data and SC ruling in the AGR case for telecom companies. Global cues were positive following Chinese factory data which indicated demand increasing. Liquidity, driven by high FII inflows in August, has provided good support for the markets, in spite of a general concern regarding high valuations in some sectors and stocks.



WITH EYE ON REVENUE

# Govt rolls out new LRS in ULBs

- New LRS for illegal plots in all ULBs, Panchayats
- The regularisation of layouts would help generate revenues required for development programmes in local bodies
- The government also fixes regularisation fee to illegal plots
- Open plots, which are located in lake, water bodies, nala and full tank level of any lake, pond, chervu or kunta and shikam land; lands earmarked for industrial use, open space, recreational in the master plans will not be considered for regularisation

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** With an aim to generate revenues in the corona pandemic, the government unveiled new Land Regularisation Scheme for the unapproved and illegal layouts in all Municipalities including GHMC and HMDA limits and also all Gram Panchayats across the State.

In Municipalities alone, government has identified 1110 illegal layouts. The regularisation of



layouts would help generate revenues which required for developmental programmes in the local bodies. The government also fixed regularisation fee to illegal plots.

According to the orders issued by Municipal Administration and Urban Development and Panchayat Raj departments the scheme will be applicable on open plots in unauthorised and illegal layouts in all Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats.

Only those layouts and sub di-

vision of plots with registered sale deeds existing as on August 26, 2020 will only be considered for regularisation. Applicants should file online applications by October 15 along with prescribed fee amount. The government also announced basic plot regularisation charges in each category.

The open plots, which are located in lake, water bodies, nala and full tank level of any lake, pond, chervu or kunta and shikam land; lands earmarked for industrial use, open space, recreational

in the master plans will not be considered for regularisation.

The order also said that if the developers of illegal layouts do not come forward for regularisation, building permission, regular water supply connection and services like drainage and sewerage would not be extended to their plots.

All the LRS amount will be deposited in a separate escrow account and utilise only for improvement of amenities in the local bodies.

## GADA gets ₹37.5 cr for devpt works

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Even as Telangana is reeling under acute financial crisis, the State Government on Tuesday accorded administrative sanction and released Rs 37.50 crore to Gajwel Area Development Authority (GADA) that falls under the purview of Gajwel Assembly constituency, represented by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. State Finance Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao, in an order, stated that the sanctioned funds would be utilised for various developmental programmes in 2020-21 financial year.

## Govt docs demand ₹50 lakh ex-gratia

**Hyderabad:** The government doctors on Tuesday said that the State government has decided to give an ex-gratia of Rs 50 lakh to doctors and Rs 25 lakh to other healthcare staff in case they die due to Covid-19. A doctors' delegation called on Health Minister Eatala Rajender on the issue. According to doctors, the Health Minister initially told them about Rs 25 lakh ex-gratia to all but they mentioned other States which have announced ex-gratia between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 1 crore. The doctors added that an additional Rs 25 lakh compensation would be given to doctors from CMRF apart from Rs 25 lakh announced for all frontline health warriors. A G.O. in this regard is expected soon, stated the doctors.

## DEMOLITION OF SECTT MOSQUES

# MIM throwing a spanner in AIMPLB protest plan: Cong

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Congress leader and Former Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir has alleged that MIM leadership has been misleading All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and preventing it from launching an agitation against the State government's action of demolition of two mosques in Secretariat.

In a press statement released on Tuesday, the Congress leader alleged that Asaduddin Owaisi's statements were misleading fellow Muslims. He added that the MIM was not serious as its party chief failed to attend the crucial meeting of the Board held on August 16.

It can be recalled that the Board earlier gave a two-week deadline to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao requesting him to take a favourable decision with regard to reconstruction of mosques at the same place.

"The AIMPLB deadline expired on August 31. A day before, Asaduddin Owaisi shared a recorded video stating that he was confident that the State Government would reconstruct the mosques at the same place. He should have specified the basis on which he was making such a statement. Instead of supporting the protest against the demolition,



**Former Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir accuses Asaduddin Owaisi of misleading the Muslim Personal Law Board on the issue of reconstruction of mosques**

Owaisi is still backing the Chief Minister for some cheap personal gains," he said.

Shabbir Ali urged the Board to not to get influenced by MIM leader, and announce its agitation. "Asad is trying to sabotage the movement launched by the Congress and other organisations seeking reconstruction of mosques in the Secretariat. The Board should be clear and should not fall prey to the misleading statements made to prevent them from taking up clear stand on the matter of serious concern," the Congress leader added.

# Wildlife officials at Kawal Tiger Reserve bust smuggling racket, 10 held

- Pangolin has no medicinal and commercial value, says Forest dept chief CP Vinod Kumar
- Warns Pangolin has the potential to transmit viruses to humans

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** A team of 19 officials of the Kawal Tiger Reserve have successfully busted an organised Pangolin Wildlife poaching and smuggling racket after a month-long tracking and tracing the persons engaged in the illegal activity. According to Chief Conservator of Forests, Adilabad Circle, CP Vinod Kumar, the forest and wildlife officials formed into an investigative team after receiving credible information. A team headed by DFO Mancherla and Asifabad, Forest Division Officer, Bellampally and Kaghaznagar, Forest Range Officer of Asifabad and Kaghaznagar divi-

sions are formed teams to investigate the operations of the smugglers' gang. Vinod said that the probe has started a month ago with attempts to trace the accused one after the other. "A total of 20 persons involved in the crime and the members of the smuggling chain are identified," he said.

The pangolin (Manis Carssicaudata) is notified as critically endangered species and hunting and trading of Pangolin are a serious offence that invites a minimum punishment of seven years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of not less than Rs.5 lakhs.

However, the poachers and the middlemen were found engaging in illegal activity due to superstitious beliefs. Also, wrong notions of that Pangolin is useful for medical treatment. The first officials said that they are found while attempting to hunt the pangolin for its scales and make money by selling them to gullible people.

# ACB raids on realtor's office, ₹4 cr seized

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Sleuths from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday conducted extensive raids on a realtor's office in the city and seized the unaccounted cash of Rs. 4.4 crore from his office.

According to ACB officials, the unaccounted cash belongs to the former IMS (Insurance Medical Services) Director, Devika Rani and pharmacist Naga Lakshmi who were arrested in disproportionate assets case and later on released on bail by the special judge for ACB cases.

Devika Rani, with an intention to purchase 6 residential flats and 15,000 square feet commercial space in the western corridor of Hyderabad, paid an advance of Rs 3.75 crore to the realtor and Rs 22 lakh on benamidar's name. Another accused officer Naga Lakshmi also paid Rs 72 lakh. Apart from these transactions additional amount of Rs 2.29 crore was paid through cheque and online transfer through various sources, said the officials.

The issue came to light recently



after a vigilance inquiry was made by the Vigilance department into purchases made by IMS for ESI hospitals in the State and it was found that medicines which were not needed were purchased to favour a few firms and the regular medicines were purchased at higher prices.

Further investigations revealed that all the firms which supplied medicines to ESI hospitals were owned by close family members of Devika Rani and her benami persons. The government of Telangana then ordered the ACB to investigate the issue and after two months of conducting investigations the officials started digging into the case and unearthed the scam which fur-

ther revealed that Devika Rani was involved in it. She was colluding with other officials as they prepared fake invoices, bills and records of purchase of medicines and other medical equipment and cheated the government exchequer to the tune of Rs. 11.69 crore.

Several pharmacy company directors were arrested for involvement in the scam and government officials including three doctors serving in the Insurance Medical Services (IMS), were arrested in the multi-crore scam. They include Director of IMS, Dr Ch Devika Rani, Joint Director, Dr Padma, Assistant Director (store) K. Vasantha Indira, Shamsabad ESI dispensary pharmacist grade-II M. Radhika.

# Keeravani, son donate plasma; Rajamouli could not

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** Music composer MM Keeravani and his son Kaala Bhairava, who were infected with the novel coronavirus and recovered recently, have donated plasma at a corporate hospital in the city on Tuesday. The news of their plasma donation was informed by director and their close relative SS Rajamouli on his twitter account.

Rajamouli, who was infected with coronavirus and recovered after a few weeks, has also tried to donate plasma, but could not. His antibody tests showed lower Immunoglobulin G (IgG) levels than the required.

On his Twitter account, Rajamouli said he could not donate plasma as his IgG levels were

8.62, whereas the required IgG levels have to be above 15 to be able to donate plasma. Rajamouli requested everyone who is cured of Covid-19 to come forward and donate their plasma for treating corona infected patients.

Recently, Rajamouli and his family, who were all recovered from Covid, took part in a plasma donation campaign held by Cyberabad Commissioner of Police VC Sajjanar recently at the police commissionerate headquarters.



# Immersion peaceful as corona confines many to homes

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad:** The effect of corona pandemic was clearly seen on the streets of the city as the devotees bid adieu to Lord Ganesha in a subdued manner.

The colourful Shobha Yatra and processions, which used to be a visual feast for the passers-by, were all a miss this year, due to the decision of the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi which cancelled the immersion procession. The procession routes posed a deserted look for almost half of the day.

Even the Charminar area, which used to be abuzz with serpentine queues of heavy vehicles carrying giant Ganesh idols, was empty with a few police personnel manning the streets. While the Balapur Ganesh reached Charminar at 11 am, auto trolleys and cars with idols with less than four feet were seen along the route from MJ Market to Tank Bund at 4 pm.

The Khairatabad Ganesh Utsav Samithi took out the Shobha Yatra of Maha Ganapati at 11 am. The Samithi used private security this year for the procession and the nine-foot tall idol of Dhana-



- Khairatabad Ganesh Utsav Samithi makes use of private security for procession, immerses idol at 5.26 pm
- Balapur laddu auction called off; Samithi to present 21-kg laddu to CM as prasadam

vantri Narayana Maha Ganapati was immersed in Tank Bund waters at 5.26 pm. The Samithi members installed the nine-foot tall idol this year in the wake of corona pandemic and imposed restrictions on the devotees and provided online darshan.

The Balapur Ganesh Utsav Samithi cancelled this year's laddu auction and decided to present 21-kg laddu to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao as Prasadam. The Samithi members kept aside the years-old practice of laddu auction, which was started in 1994. Last year, the laddu was auctioned for Rs 17.6 lakh and was bagged by Kolan Rami Reddy.

Meanwhile, the city police provided bandobust with 15,000 police personnel for the smooth passage of vehicles carrying idols. City police commissioner Anjani Kumar said that there were no untoward incidents during the procession.

Meanwhile, the devotees, in few numbers had come to witness the procession in their cars, trolleys only after 3 pm. While some of the organisers made arrangements of PPE kits for their association members, others carried messages of social distancing on their vehicles.

"We could not celebrate the festival with joy this year due to ongoing corona crisis. We hope to celebrate it with full enthusiasm next year as we believe that the Lord will end the pandemic," said K Mukul, a devotee.

# Pensioners protest with black badges

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Nalgonda:** Protesting the anti-employee policies of both Central and State governments, pensioners staged a protest with black badges at various places across the district on Tuesday.

Federation of Intermediate and Higher Education Retired Teachers and Employees Associations general secretary MV Gona Reddy stated that as we are passing through the unprecedented corona pandemic, an action programme was organised in accordance with Covid-19 norms. All the members will wear black badges and upload their photos on social media and participate in the 'Webinar through Facebook Live' to ventilate their feelings to the government in a peaceful manner.

He demanded both the Central and State governments to



Federation of Intermediate and Higher Education Retired Teachers and Employees Associations general secretary MV Gona Reddy and his wife wearing black badges in protest against the government's anti-employee policies in Nalgonda on Tuesday

scrap Contributory Pension Scheme; to pay the deferred pension amount in view of the co-

rona crisis; and to implement PRC, which is pending for a long time.

# Withdraw anti-farmer ordinances: Rythu Sangham

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Karimnagar:** Rythu Sangam National Council member Ponuganti Kedar demanded that the Central government should withdraw the ordinances that were issued against the welfare of farming sector present in the country.

The representatives of Agriculture and Farm Labour unions staged a protest programme against the BJP government in Karimnagar on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, P Kedar alleged that both the State and Central governments are totally neglecting farmers and farm labourers present in the State and in the country and adopting anti-farmer policies and ordinances. The ordinance of



Representatives of farmers unions and Rythu Sangham staging hunger strike in Karimnagar on Tuesday

Daily Commodities Amendment Act, agricultural products, sales and business ordinance, fixing of rates, services contract ordinance, all were against the farming sector, he added.

# Nalgonda girl bags PhD seat in Kellogg varsity, Chicago

HANS NEWS SERVICE



Anantula Himani

**Nalgonda:** Anantula Himani from Nalgonda secured PhD seat in the prestigious Kellogg University in Chicago, USA. The university reportedly bear the all expenses till she finishes her PhD.

Himani's father, an advocate Shankarajah informed that his daughter had secured all India rank of 622 in IIT entrance exam and finished her mechanical engineering from IIT, Mumbai and has been working as a research associate in Indian School of Business Management in Hyderabad. Earlier, she worked in Ola cab management for two years.

Himani's mother is working as District Welfare Officer in Yadadri-Bhongir district.

Himani expressed her pleasure over getting PhD seat in one of the top five universities in USA and informed that she will contribute valuable services to the society after finishing PhD.



IPL 13

# BCCI seeks leeway in COVID protocols from three UAE govts

**New Delhi (IANS):** Strict COVID-19 protocols in Abu Dhabi, one of the three emirates scheduled to host the IPL matches from September 19, has hamstrung the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The world's wealthiest cricket board is currently in talks with the governments of the emirates, desperately seeking concessions.

And because of the COVID-related problems in organising the 13th edition of the IPL, the BCCI has not only not announced the schedule of matches, but has also not shared its plans with the eight franchises.

"The BCCI hasn't told the franchises anything yet about the IPL schedule. But for us franchises the IPL is on as of today, because if the IPL was not to happen this year the BCCI would have told us much earlier. The franchises have spent a lot of money on their teams. Positive cases will continue to emerge," a source in a franchise told IANS from the UAE.

"The point is that if the BCCI has to cancel the IPL they need to cancel it today. They can't cancel it after 15 days. The franchises are here in the UAE and have spent so much money on their teams. Also, when we have called our players for the IPL, we will have to pay them as well. In the event of a cancellation, we can't tell the players that since you didn't play matches we wouldn't pay you. All that will have to be taken into consideration. Presently, BCCI officials are talking to the local governments of Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah," the franchise official informed.

Indian Premier League Govern-



## Behind-the-scenes docu-series on RR launched

**Jaipur (IANS):** Indian Premier League (IPL) side Rajasthan Royals will be part of a three-part documentary series produced by Red Bull Media House. 'Inside Story: A Season with Rajasthan Royals' will take the viewers behind-the-scenes with the franchise through their rollercoaster 2019 IPL season. The documentary series available worldwide on Red Bull TV unravels the secrets of the Royals family, including interviews and never-before-seen footage from the Royals camp. Featuring stars like skipper Steve Smith, Ben Stokes, Sanju Samson, Varun Aaron and Riyan Parag, the documentary brings fans closer than ever before to the highs and lows of a season. Rajasthan Royals are one of the leading cricket teams in India. They won the inaugural edition of the Indian Premier League and have been represented by celebrated players like Rahul Dravid, Shane Warne, Shane Watson, Yusuf Pathan, Ajinkya Rahane, and others.

ing Council chairman Brijesh Patel and interim BCCI CEO Hemang Amin are in the UAE and are in talks with the three emirates governments to seek some concessions in the strict COVID protocols for the IPL and then chalk out a workable plan.

Another source said if one is going from Dubai to Abu Dhabi COVID-testing is done at the border and it takes up to two-and-a-half hours. Alternately, one has to produce a certificate of a negative result of a test done within the last 48 hours. "But you do not expect the likes of Dhoni and Kohli to stand in the queue for that long. So, BCCI is trying to get permission to do COVID tests on IPL squad members in their hotels," he said.

At the same time, all franchises have become extra cautious after thirteen Chennai Super Kings (CSK) members, including two players, tested COVID-19 positive in the UAE. Players and coaching staff come out of their hotel rooms only for practice/training/yoga sessions and for some recreational

## Bio-bubble needs to be respected at all times, stresses Kohli

**Dubai (IANS):** India and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) skipper Virat Kohli has urged all teams to respect the Indian Premier League's bio-secure bubble. Speaking on RCB's Youtube show 'Bold Diaries', the 31-year-old Kohli said he didn't exactly miss the game during the Covid-forced lockdown, which brought sporting action to a halt. "Maybe because I was going on day and night for the last 10 years... It was a revelation for me in the sense that my focus was not solely on missing the game all the time," Kohli said.

"We are all here to play



cricket... The bio-bubble needs to be respected at all times for the tournament to happen eventually. We are not here to have fun and roam around and you know say that 'I want to hang out in Dubai'," Kohli said. "That is not the time we are living in. Accept the phase that we are going through and understand the privilege that we have, just to be a part of the IPL. Everyone

activities that a few franchises, like Mumbai Indians, have created. But breakfast, lunch and dinner are being served in their rooms. All that is being done within the established local COVID protocols.

"We are taking all the precau-

tions after the CSK episode. Initially, we had thought that we would take the team out for a few team dinners sometime during the tournament. But that plan has been shelved. Now, it is only bubble, and bubble, and bubble. All

meals are being served in the squad members' rooms; it's only room service now," a franchise official said.

Abu Dhabi has the strictest protocols of the three emirates where the IPL is to be played. It has vir-



## Misbah draws flak for negative reactions during first T20I

**Lahore (IANS):** Pakistan head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq should not have reacted the way he did during England's chase in the first T20I between the two sides, according to former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq.

Inzamam felt that Misbah was giving out negative signals through his gestures during the match in which England chased down a target of 195 with five wickets to spare. "During the fifth over of England innings, when Pakistan were bowling their Powerplay overs and had conceded 40-45 runs, the camera kept showing Misbah and he had his hands on his head, which suggested that something really bad happened," Inzamam said in his Youtube channel.

"There were still 155-160 runs to go, the match could have gone in anyone's favour, but you are sending a message that suggests that you have done something wrong.

"You can have a proper discussion after the game, but if you respond like this during the match, then this will have a bad effect on the team," he further added.

England captain Eoin Morgan and Dawid Malan's 112-run stand for the third wicket is what sealed the deal for England and Inzamam felt that the dressing room needs to give out positive vibes regardless of the situation of the match.

He said that Misbah's reactions were similar to what Inzamam would hear about former coach Mickey Arthur.

"No matter what happens during the match, only positive vibes should go out from the dressing room. It's very important. We are T20 champions. If we're losing in that (format), it's a cause of worry," the former batsman said.

"Whenever I used to go to watch series and talk to players, they used to complain a lot that Arthur's similar antics affected them negatively."

# No Messi as Barcelona return to training

**Madrid (IANS):** FC Barcelona have begun their training under new coach Ronald Koeman but as expected, star striker Lionel Messi was missing.

The Argentinian did not return along with the rest of his teammates for the start of pre-season training on Monday, after he refused to take a PCR test for COVID-19 on Sunday, reports Xinhua news agency.

Messi's decision is another step in his plan to leave the club where he has spent the last 20 years, with the striker and his advisors taking the stance that his contract with Barcelona allows him to leave the Camp Nou on a free transfer this summer.

This opinion is not shared by Barcelona or the Spanish Football League (LaLiga).

In a statement on Sunday, LaLiga supported Barcelona, saying that anyone who wants to buy Messi will have to pay his 700-million-euro release clause. LaLiga is not a disinterested party in this affair, given that the Argentinian is its biggest star and the league has already lost Neymar and Cristiano Ronaldo in recent years.

The possible departure of the biggest name will see LaLiga lose ground to the Premier League (especially if Messi moves to Manchester City) and make it harder to demand high fees for TV rights.

Koeman held his first training session with just 13 first-team professionals and six players



## MESSI URGED TO RECONSIDER EXIT PLANS

**Madrid:** Lionel Messi has been urged to "reconsider" his transfer plans by former Barcelona vice-president Jordi Mestre, who has insisted that "the best player in history does not leave with a burofax". Messi has since failed to show up for first-team training and pre-season medical checks, with reports that he considers his current contract, which is due to expire in 2021, to already be finished. Speculation over Messi's future at Camp Nou has been raging since his decision to submit a formal transfer request on August 25. The six-time Ballon d'Or winner chose to inform Barca of his intention to leave via burofax, a court-recognised service provided by the Spanish post which allows the sending of secure documents.

from the Barcelona B-team, with others such as Sergio Busquets and Ansu Fati reporting for international duty in Madrid.

Ivan Rakitic was another absentee as the 32-year-old Croatian is in Sevilla for a medical ahead of a return to the club that

he left to join Barca in 2014.

Rakitic, who was recently told by Koeman that he was not part of his plans for the coming season, is expected to sign a three-year contract with the newly-crowned Europa League champions.

## US OPEN

## Top-seed Pliskova eases past Kalinina in opening round

**Washington (IANS):** Top seed Karolina Pliskova has reached the second round of the US Open with a clinical win over Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina.

Competing as the top seed at a Grand Slam for the second time in her career, Pliskova on Monday shook off some early rust in a tricky first set before registering a confident 6-4, 6-0 victory over Kalinina in a match that lasted a little over an hour.

"I think this match, especially the first set was in couple of periods," Pliskova said after the match as per the WTA website. "I think I started not really great with the first game, but then I was able to play quite aggressively, and I was making a lot of points."

Pliskova had stumbled last week in her first tournament of the season's resumption at the Western & Southern Open, where she was defeated in her opening match by Russia's Veronika Kudermetova.

But she returned to the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on Monday with renewed confidence, and fired 26 winners and seven aces during the course of her victory.



## You have to start from scratch when playing abroad: Sandhu

**New Delhi (IANS):** Bengaluru FC and India goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu is one of the few from the country to have managed to play abroad and the only Indian to make an appearance in the UEFA Europa League. According to Sandhu, players have to start from scratch to make a name for themselves in foreign clubs.

"I think it made me better by leaps and bounds as a player and in terms of mentality," Sandhu said in an Instagram live video chat with the All India Football Federation (AIFF). "It made me independent. The exposure didn't only help me as a player but made me tougher as a person. It makes you a person who can deal with every kind of situation."

"There are a lot of sacrifices which one needs to make to achieve the desired results.

"I don't want to sugarcoat

things. Some people think that playing in a foreign country is about having a lavish lifestyle, big house, good car. It's not that at all. You have to start from scratch. You have to prove that you are good enough to be on the bench and then in the starting XI. And that's at a smaller club in a smaller league -- unless you're a Messi or a Ronaldo," the 28-year-old custodian explained.

"But for guys like me -- you have to be mentally strong to stay there and work. Many people don't know the reality. If you want to do well, you need to acclimatize to those conditions. Many younger players may not want to make the required sacrifices as they are comfortable in India," he said. Sandhu played for Norwegian side Stabaek between 2014 and 2017 after which he returned to India. He has played for Bengaluru FC ever since.

## Ibrahimovic extends contract with AC Milan until 2021

**Rome (IANS):** Zlatan Ibrahimovic has ended speculation around his future by signing a one-year contract extension with Serie A side AC Milan. "AC Milan is delighted to announce that Zlatan Ibrahimovic has renewed his contract with the club until June 30, 2021," the club said in a statement on Monday. According to the Serie A side, the 38-year-old has re-joined his teammates and coach Stefano Pioli at Milanello Sports Center, where he took part in his first training session of the season. The Swedish champion began his journey with the club in 2010 when he made 85 appearances and scored 56 goals during a stint which also yielded one Scudetto and one Supercoppa. Ibrahimovic returned to Milan in January this year and contributed significantly to AC Milan's return to Europe, netting 11 goals in 20 matches, reaching the 100 appearances milestone with the Rossoneri.

## 2021 FIVB Volleyball Nations League schedule revealed

**Lausanne (IANS):** Volleyball's world governing body the FIVB has announced the detailed schedule for its Volleyball Nations League (VNL) 2021. The 2021 VNL, which is set to start on May 11 for the women and May 14 for the men, will be the third edition of the event, reports Xinhua news agency. A total of 16 teams for each gender will compete in several cities around the world, including Jiangmen in south China's Guangdong province. Over the tournament's first five weeks, the teams will meet in four-team pools to determine the top six that will then compete for top honours. China and Italy will respectively hold the women's and men's final round, which will be played from June 23 to 27 at venues that are yet to be confirmed.

## Infra for tennis should be more accessible in India: Bhupathi

**New Delhi (IANS):** Infrastructure for tennis should be made more accessible to the public in India, said former player and former Indian Davis Cup captain Mahesh Bhupathi. The 12-time Grand Slam winner said that tennis is a sport that needs facilities and being a member of a club is not something that everyone in the country can afford. "In London, for example, you can pay four pounds and play tennis for one hour," said the 46-year-old while talking on the Instagram show 'In the Spotlight'. "That is where we struggle. In sports like cricket or football, you don't need much facilities to play but in other sports like tennis, table tennis or badminton, you need to be a member of a club which is challenging and that's why numbers don't work in India." Bhupathi also spoke about the importance of mental training for athletes, something he said was not talked about too often during his playing career.



## Simranjit finally gets her due reward from Punjab govt

**New Delhi (IANS):** After a five-month long wait, Olympic-bound boxer Simranjit Kaur has finally received the promised cash reward of Rs. 5 lakh from the Punjab government for qualifying for the Olympic Games. But the 2018 World Championship bronze medalist is yet to get the job promised by the Chief Minister before she had qualified for the Olympics. Speaking to IANS, Punjab sports minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi on Tuesday said that he met Simranjit's mother Rajpal Kaur in Ludhiana and handed over the cheque to her. "I personally met her mother in Ludhiana today, and couldn't get a chance to meet Simranjit since she is currently training in a national camp in Patiala. I will also meet her soon. I have handed over a cheque of Rs 5 lakh to Rajpal Kaur and assured her that Simranjit would get a government job as well," Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi said. "Simranjit has done a lot for the nation and especially for Punjab. We will provide all the help to her for future events," he added.