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RAVI TEJA TO **SWING INTO ACTION**

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RAJNATH SINGH LIKELY TO MEET CHINESE DEFENCE MINISTER IN MOSCOW

 $D^{\text{efence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to meet his Chinese counterpart in Moscow, where both are attending a three-day event, government sources the state of the stat$ said today. "We have received a meeting request. A meeting is likely," the sources said. Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghi is believed to have asked for the meeting on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meet in the Russian capital. The Chinese side reached out to the Indian mission for the meeting, said sources. Indian and Chinese troops are engaged in a tense border row in eastern Ladakh since May. In June 20 Indian soldiers died in a clash with

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS: STATES' RANKING TO BE RELEASED TODAY

The commerce and industry ministry will on Saturday release the ranking I of States and UTs in terms of ease of doing business. In the last ranking released in July 2018, Andhra Pradesh topped the chart, followed by Telangana and Haryana. "Steps towards easing the business environment in India: Will release ranking of states based on implementation of business reform action plan tomorrow," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted. The exercise is aimed at triggering competition among states to improve business climate in order to attract domestic and global investors

7 US COPS SUSPENDED IN BLACK MAN'S **DEATH, VIDEO SHOWS HE WAS HOODED**

Seven police officers have been suspended after the release of a video from March showing a hood being placed on the head of a Black man in police custody who later died, roiling the nation and leading to fingerpointing among local officials. On Thursday, amid

mounting questions about why it took five months for the circumstances of Daniel Prude's death to become public, the graphic video with Prude's last words went viral, once again forcing Americans to ask whether tactics used by police are too extreme. With protests and outrage building here and nationwide, the city's mayor apologized Thursday and rebuked the city's police chief, who she claimed did not disclose to her the circumstances of Prude's death.

WIDESPREAD COVID VACCINATION NOT **EXPECTED UNTIL MIDDLE OF 2021: WHO**

AWorld Health Organization spokeswoman said on Friday it does not Aexpect widespread vaccinations against COVID-19 until the middle of next year, stressing the importance of rigorous checks on their effectiveness and safety."We are not expecting to see widespread vaccination until the middle of next year," spokeswoman Margaret Harris told journalists at a briefing in Geneva. "This phase 3

must take longer because we need to see

how truly protective the vaccine is and we

also need to see how safe it is." she added

referring to vaccine clinical trials.



Chinese troops at Galwan Valley.

'Fintech the way forward for Indian banking, payment system'



'Muslims being targeted in UP, framed in false cases'



'29 pc retail investors who had never bought gold now considering it'

TODAY

Month & Paksham: Bhadrapada & Shukla Paksha

Panchangam Tithi: Pratipada: 12:26 pm

Nakshatram: Purva Bhadrapada: 08:51 pm

Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work) **Rahukalam:** 01:47 pm - 03:19 pm **Yamagandam:** 06:06 am - 07:38 am

Varjyam: Gulika: 09:10 am - 10:42 am Good Time: (to start any important work)

Amritakalam: 12:05 pm — 01:50 pm **Abhijit Muhurtham:** 11:50 am − 12:39 pm

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy **Temp:** 34/26 Humidity: 68% Sunrise: 06.02 am **Sunset:** 06.26 pm **Current Weather Conditions** Updated September 4, 2020 5:00 PM

Tourism activities to resume in State

Tourism activities are set to resume in Andhra Pradesh after a gap of five months as the state government on Friday permitted opening up of sites as per Unlock-4 guidelines. Special Chief Secretary

(Tourism and Culture) Rajat Bhargava said all tourist destinations, ropeway operations, boating, adventure sports and tourism-related transport operations were being opened with immediate effect. Similarly, all museums and archaeological sites, including forts and protected monuments, buildings and structures were also being opened to the public, Bhargava said.

"We have issued necessary instructions to the AP Tourism Development Corporation and Commissioner of Archaeology and Museums in this regard, asking them to scrupulously following the Unlock-4 guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Home

Affairs," he said.



Krishna district Collector A Md Imtiaz inspects the designs for the proposed integrated terminal for the Vijayawada airport at Gannavaram on Friday.

New terminal to make Vja airport 'truly international'

Confirming that Vijayawada airport at that Gannavaram will get an integrated terminal that would pave the way for landing of international aircraft, officials on Friday said that work on the expansion of the airport will in all probability begin in the next 10 days

The integrated terminal would be built at a cost of Rs 470 crore with a plinth area of 3.5 lakh sq ft to cater to the

needs of domestic and international passengers.

The new terminal would have six aerobridges, 24 check-in counters, 14 immigration counters and four customs counters, baggage conveyers, baggage handling system with international standards, central air condition, and security measures like round-the-clock CCTV supervision.

Benamis filing PILs without substance, **A-G tells HC**

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Advocate-General Subrahmanyam Sriram on Friday expressed concern over the Andhra Pradesh High Court entertaining Public Interest Litigation petitions filed "benamis" of the TDP and media houses supporting the opposition party.

HC grants bail to **Ramesh Hospital**

executives PAGE 3

AP, TS at loggerheads over 'profitable' routes

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are at loggerheads over running inter-state bus services, despite complete opening of borders as part of Unlock 4.

Thousands, if not lakhs, of people in the two states remain without a public transport option as the two states are locked in a standoff over routes. Private bus operators are

expected to grab the opportunity and exploit the passengers if the stalemate persists for long, it is feared.

The lucrative VijayawadaHyderabad sector has become the main bone of contention between the two Telugu states as Telangana is reportedly insisting that AP forego the

profitable route operations. Though it does not possess adequate number of buses to meet the passenger demand on the Vijayawada-Hyderabad sector, Telangana is said to be adamant on monopolising it.

Telangana is sour that its limited services to Vijayawada from Hyderabad are sparsely patronised, causing a loss to Road

Transport Corporation.

TikTok lovers commit suicide

A love story that began on TikTok ended in tragedy on Friday when the lovers, who got married recently, com-Guntur district.

According to police, P Pavan Kumar (19) and Putala Sailaja (17) met on the video sharing app (banned by the Central Government later), eloped and married against the wishes of their elders on

On Friday, the couple com-Bellamkonda Mandal in Guntur district.

In their suicide note, they described themselves as "love

Bellamkonda sub-inspector S Rajesh said that Sailaja and Pavan Kumar were living in the village for the past one month after they got married district and Pavan Kumar to Mangalagiri town of Guntur

Major Chinese tank, infantry build-up in South Pangong

There has been a major force build-up of Chinese tanks and infantry forces in the South Pangong region of Eastern Ladakh after the Indian Army seized the initiative and gained control of several key heights in the area on August 30. Given the range of their guns, Chinese artillery would be located in 'depth' positions, more than twenty kilometres away from the Line of Actual Control.

Source said that the presence of additional tank forces has been detected not too far from Chinese positions in Moldo in South Pangong. However, the movement of Chinese heavy weaponry continues to be well sighted by the Indian Army which dominates the heights from Thakung to beyond Mukpari." This includes control



Spanggur Gap, a high-altitude pass that spans more than two kilometres in width through which tanks can operate.

The Indian Army has reinforced its own tank formations in the area, and deployed additional forces to shore up the heights that it holds along the disputed Line of Actual Control in the region. By dominating the

L VENKAT RAM REDDY

The differing approaches of

the Chief Ministers of Telugu

States has just spilled over to a

required by the Centre in the

name of power sector reforms.

Centre's diktat with regard to implementing Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for supply of

free power to farmers and got

the measure passed in the cab-

against the Federal spirit of the

to Telangana Chief Minister K

Sources said on Friday KCR

Chandrasekhar Rao.

Jagan's sudden U-turn over

Constitution".

Jagan recently approved the

heights, Indian infantry forces are in a position to engage Chinese armour and troop formations with anti-tank guided missiles, rockets and other weapons. India also operates missile-armed T-90 heavy main battle tanks in addition to upgraded T-72M1 tanks in high-altitude areas in Eastern

Jagan's U-turn shocks KCR,

not to implement DBT in TS

inet meeting held two days sector reforms with ministers ago. He did this despite the fact and officials, but categorically in the power sector, public dis-

It is pertinent to mention

In May this year, the Centre

discussed at length the implica- from 3% to 5% of GSDP, with a moreover the Centre cannot

here that the Centre has ques-

tionably linked power sector

securing additional loans.

JEE, NEET to go ahead; SC dismisses plea of six States

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court today rejected for the second time a request to postpone the engineering and medical exams JEE (Joint Entrance Exam) and NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) on account of the coronavirus crisis. This time, six opposition-ruled states had asked the court to review its earlier order and put off the exams for the safety of lakhs of students.

There is no merit in the petition, Justices Ashok Bhushan, BR Gavai and Krishna Murari said after considering it in their chambers. "No case is made out for reconsidering our earlier decision," said the top court.

30,887 medical posts to be filled within 10 days

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Informing Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy that the State Government has been day on the pandemic, officials stated that the vacant medical posts in AP would be filled within 10 days to give added ammunition to the medical and health department in its fight against Covid-19.

During a review meeting held here on Friday, the Chief Minister was told that the process for filling up of 30,887 posts in the Health Department will be completed in ten days. So far 21,673 posts were filled on contract basis and for the 9,971 regular posts, 4,676 were filled and recruitment is under progress for the remaining 5,295 posts.

The State Government has been spending Rs 10.18 crore per day on Covid-19 care of which Rs 4.3 crore is for tests, Rs 1.31 crore on food for patients and Rs 4.57 crore on medicines. The officials said the State has 138 Covid Care hospitals with 37,441 beds of which 2,462 general beds, 11,177 oxygen -supported beds and 2,651 ICU beds are still vacant and available as on Friday.

Covid tally zooms to 4.76 lakh in AP

PAGE 3

tions of AP's decision on power rider that States, in order to avail Telangana contributes 10 % of critical Covid cases in country

that in June the Andhra stated that this would not influ-

Pradesh had opposed the ence his decision not to imple-

Centre's power sector reforms ment DBT for supply of free

and wrote a letter, saying "it's power to farmers in Telangana.

DBT for supply of free power to reforms to States' entitlement to

farmers has come as a big shock enhanced FRBM limits for

PNS HYDERABAD

It is one thing to crow about recovery rates and quite another to deal effectively with critical cases. For, more than 10 per cent of critical Covid-19 cases i.e. patients needing oxygen or ventilator support or treatment in ICU in the country are from Telangana.

There are 47,699 such critical cases across the country, of which 4,776 are from Telangana. About 12 per cent of Covid-19 patients in the country needing oxygen support are from Telangana. Likewise, nearly 7 per cent of the cases admitted in ICU or on ventilator support are from Telangana.

As per the data released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, of the 8.3 lakh active cases in the country, only 28,437 need oxygen support, while 19,262 are in ICU or on ventilator support.

As per the data released by Telangana Health Department, of the 32,994 active cases, there are 7,246 patients admitted in government and private hospitals in Telangana. More number of critical patients are admitted in private hospitals than in government hospitals.



TS HC: How come 9 Covid deaths daily?

tribution system and ULBs

(urban local bodies). The power

sector reforms mandate States to

implement DBT for free power

KCR has been opposing the

Centre's power sector reforms

tooth and nail right from the

beginning on the ground that

Centre cannot dictate States

what to do as power subject is

usurp powers of States.

to agriculture sector.

raised FRBM limit of States in the Concurrent list and

PNS HYDERABAD The Telangana High Court on

Friday termed the report submitted by the state government on the steps initiated by it to contain the spread of Covid-19 virus and treatment of the affected patients as "incomplete and confusing". A division bench of the HC expressed suspicion over the number of Covid-19 deaths being disclosed by the state government in its media bulletins. Citing the spurt in the number of Covid-19 positive cases in recent times, the HC pointed out that the state government was only showing 8 to 10 deaths every day.

The division bench of the High Court warned of summoning the Chief Secretary of the state if such wrong reports are submitted before it. The Court directed the state government to submit a report revealing the details of the funds allocated for the Public Health Department before March 23, 2020 and after the entry of COVID-19 in the state.

mitted suicide together by mitted suicide in the rented in Tirupati. Sailaja belonged to Kota Gudibanda village of hanging themselves with a house they were living in at rope in Bellamkonda of Machayapalem village under Kalakada Mandal in Chittoor

'Big Boss' Nutan Naidu arrested Tries to pass off as IAS officer to influence Dalit man tonsuring case

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In true filmy style, film producer and Big Boss fame Nutan Naidu, absconding after being accused of assaulting and tonsuring a young Dalit in Vizag, was arrested on Friday at Udupi in Karnataka, but not before he tried to hoodwink the police impersonating an IAS officer. imper-

Nutan Naidu had been at large since the incident came to fore on August 29. He faces charges

of tonsuring a 20year-old Dalit youth Parri Srikanth and also

PV Ramesh, Additional Chief Secretary to the AP government. The CCTV footage retrieved by the police from his home in Vizag, had revealed how the Dalit was tonsured. Nutan Naidu

tried his best to

sonating retired IAS officer dilute the case and protect his wife N Priya Madhuri, police Earlier on August 29, Vizag city police arrested seven

persons, including Priya Madhuri, on charges of assaulting and tonsuring Srikanth on August 28 in Nutan Naidu's house.

he Covid-19 pandemic has been particularly severe on urban India. If one has to live under conditions of restraint in cities, how are localities where people reside to be redesigned?

For this, one has to understand the unique trajectory of India's urbanisation and then apply highly specific solu-

Urban India consists of 'cities in a city', and these have developed through the ages by a process of accretion of settlements. Accretion occurred as a response to invasions, physical expression of new political regimes or ideologies, and regional and political interests. The process of accretion continued during the British

rule, and they added planned areas to cities for Britishers (civil lines) and the military (cantonments or military lines). Cities central to the colonial enterprise were developed much more, like the presidency towns of Mumbai, Chennai and

COVID-19: BUILDING A BETTER INDIAN

Often, higher density in Indian cities is the spatial patterns are visible in result of over-concentration in the indigenous Indian cities - indigenous (e.g. Chandini Chowk in Delhi and Abids in city or unplanned mixing of land uses (I call it "mixed-up land use") in the new ones. The Hyderabad), and the new (e.g. cantonments built the British and colonies built by congestion forces so generated have a negative spiralling effect on liveability housing boards, urban development authorities after independence). In the West,

phenomenon? One uniquely Indian way was championed by Patrick Geddes, pioneering town planner, who visited India during 1915 and 1919, and prepared plans for 18 Indian cities (e.g. Tanjore, Madurai, Balrampur, Lucknow and Indore). His work was commissioned by both British and Indian rulers. Geddes believed in 'diagnosis before treatment' and thus advocated survey as the first step in planning. The survey instrument was developed in civic surveys in Edinburgh and became the model for later surveys.

Geddesian innovations have a contemporary ring to them. For example, reducing the number of paved streets in residential areas and turning the land saved into usable forms of open space, which is somewhat similar to place making. He viewed both cities and human beings as wholes, and he saw the process of repair, renewal and rebirth as natural phenomena of development.

His planning instrument was a diagnostic survey followed by 'constructive and conservative surgery'. The diagnostic survey starts with



an assessment of the nature of growth of the city. The city would seem chaotic to the modern eye trained to a mechanical order, however, there is an underlying order of life in its development.

The method of conservative surgery is different from the typical development of a new grid pattern with 40-feet streets through congested

mon practice in India at that time. Moreover, gridirons, while relieving congestion in some parts of the city, increase it in other parts.

Conservative surgery shows that new streets may not really be required, as existing lanes can be substantially improved by rearranging the artefacts and activities on the streets. Conservative surgery requires long and patient surveys, that too in the field involving hours of perambulation and sketching on different sites. Geddes gave up on the mathematical straight line and aimed at a different aesthetic - one more attractive and comparably cheaper.

Thus, there are two styles — regular and formula-driven vs. individual and free. The former is found in new towns and the latter predominates in indigenous Geddes. Diverse historic styles represent a recognition of varying preferences of house owners.

For example, one person may desire an open balcony, another a closed and projecting one, while a third prefers a decorated window. One householder prefers plain whitewash while another one wants a painted plater house, and a third prefers a blue or a green.
Slowly this is gaining recognition. One of the most

well-known examples is the transformation Shahjahanabad in Delhi. It is street development of Chandini Chowk keeping in view aesthetics as well as the commercial needs of the res idents.

Most important is the involvement of the real stakeholders of the area residents, traders and those in

the tourism business, who are in the best position to contribute to the area's redevelopment in collaboration with governments. This is an exemplar and can be replicated in all commercial localities and housing colonies in

The Covid-19 crisis is an opportunity to rebuild a 'city in a city'. Making operational the individual and free style means reclaiming local streets and transmuting them into social zones.

Unlike traffic zones, social zones combine car and pedestrian movement, children's play areas, social activities and idea of shared space is applied to transform busy traffic intersections. For this to happen, traffic engineers and urban designs would have to work together.

(Author has a PhD from USA and a DLitt from Kanchi University. The article is based on his research and practice and views are



Guv extends Teacher's Day greetings

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan conveyed his greetings to the teaching fraternity in the State on the eve of Teacher's Day on Saturday.

'Teacher's Day is celebrated on September 5 every year in honour of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakarishnan, who served the country as the first Vice-President and second President, coinciding with his birth anniversary. Dr Radhakrishnan was an exemplary academician, scholar, philosopher, author and statesman, who stood for high ethical values in life. Teachers are the architects of society and play an important role in the nation building," he said.

Pavitrotsavams at Prasanna Venkateswara **Swamy temple** PNS TIRUPATI

TTD is organising annual Pavitrotsavams at Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy temple in Appalayagunta will be conducted from September 13 to 16 with Ankurarpanam on September 12. In view of Covid-19 restrictions, the Senadhipati Utsavam, Ankurarpanam and other rituals will be performed in 'Ekantham'. Accordingly, Pavitra Pratista will be performed on September 13, Pavitra Samarpana on September 14 and Maha Purnahuti on September 15. On all three days, the utsava idols of Sri Prasanna Venkateswara and His consorts

VIJAYAWADA **BULLION RATES**

will be given a holy bath.



CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin ₹199 Without Skin Broiler at Farm

EGG RATES ₹/100 **HYDERABAD**

VIJAYAWADA VISAKHAPATNAM 458 RETAIL PRICE

CM committed to providing free power to farmers: Nani

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy is committed to providing free power to farmers on a long term basis and the present changes will in no way affect them while TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, who has a history of ditching the farmers and neglecting the agriculture sector, has no moral right to comment on power sector, asserted Minister for Civil Supplies Kodali Venkateswsara Rao (Nani).

denser, mixed land-use com-

pact cities are more liveable.

However, in Indian cities the

relationship between urban density and liveability is not

consistently positive, partic-

ularly in the indigenous city.

Often, higher density in Indian cities is the result of

over-concentration in the

indigenous city or unplanned

mixing of land uses (I call it

"mixed-up land use") in the

new ones. The congestion

forces so generated have a

negative spiralling effect on

liveability. How does one

address this uniquely Indian

Speaking to the media here on Friday, Nani said that it was YSR, who had brought in the concept of free power and had proved that it was possible and practical and now his son YS jaganmohan Reddy has gone a step forward and is contemplating to generate green energy dedicated for farmers' free power. The pilot project will begin in Srikakulam and will cover the entire state by March

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Oil Palm Plantation

(OPP) plant in Chintampalli

has been adjudged as the

Excellent Energy Efficient Unit at the 21st National

Award for Excellence in

Energy Management-2020

based on its performance

and achievement in energy

The Godrej Agrovet OPP

in Seethanagram was also honoured with the CII

Environmental Best Practices

Award-2020 and recognised

Environmental project for

their efforts in waste manage-

Agrovet, over 99 per cent of

the plant's energy comes from

renewable sources and the

plant sends to waste to land-

fill. All organic waste from

the palm fruit bunches are

either processed and reused

in the plant boiler fuel

(renewable energy) or sold off. Chintampalli plant has

also reduced its specific ener-

The plant owned by Godrei

an

ment last month.

Innovative



and the fruits can be reaped for a long time.

The new scheme is a permanent solution to safeguard the interests of farmers and DIS-COMS and implementing the nine hour free power to farmers scheme in the right earnest unlike Naidu, who has landed in the State capital like an astronaut and started speaking celestial language unmindful of the fact that it he who had ruined the power sector and

OPP plant in Chintampalli

bags energy efficiency award

The Godrei Agrovet OPP in Seethanagram was

also honoured with the CII Environmental Best

Practices Award-2020 area and recognised as

an Innovative Environmental project for their

efforts in waste management

gy by 12 per cent over three

years through various energy

ensure sustainability is at the

core of any new technology

investment. Driven by the

desire to create more inclu-

sive and greener India, at

Godrej, our initiatives are

Nasim Ali, CEO, said, "We

efficiency measures.

 Nani said that it was YSR, who had brought in the concept of free power and had proved that it was possible and practical and now his son YS Jaganmohan Reddy has gone a step forward and is contemplating to generate green energy in order to provide free power for farmers. The pilot project will begin in Srikakulam and will cover the entire state by March and the fruits can be reaped for a long time

hopeless position.

The minister clarified that the State government will not put any additional burden on farmers with the introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of free power subsidy but will bring in more transparency and accountability into the system.

The electricity bills of farmers will be sent to the government and amount will be credited to escrow accounts of farmers, which would be paid to DISCOMs. This is to ensure power subsidy dues are not kept pending as it happened in the previous government, which left a debt of Rs 8,000

left behind huge debts and dues crore and also to make sure pushing DISCOMs into a that farmers receive nine-hour free electricity. It will ensure accountability, transparency

and responsibility, he said. Recalling the Basheerbagh incident, where farmers were killed during the agitation against the reforms and hike in power tariff, he said the then Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had ordered police firing on farmers. After witnessing such a heart-wrenching incident, Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy had promised to provide free power to farmers, which was implemented during his tenure besides waiving the pending bills, despite the opposition by the TDP.

Govt believes in Right to Edu: CM

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has extended his warm greetings to the teaching fraternity on the eve of Teacher's Day, celebrated on September 5, commemorating the birth anniversary of scholar, academician and former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

Teachers impart knowledge and wisdom showing the path for future citizens and play a key role in building and strengthening the ethical and moral foundations of students, he said. "Our government believes in the Right to Education and a level playing field to all students. Teachers should be the torchbearers in our endeavour."



Indo-Russia Naval exercise begins in Bay of Bengal PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The 11th edition of two-day exercise INDRA NAVY, a biennial bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Russian Navy began in Bay of Bengal from September 4.

Initiated in 2003, Ex INDRA NAVY epitomises the longterm strategic relationship between the two Navies.

Whilst the exercise is being undertaken in the Bay of Bengal, Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister of India, is on a visit to Moscow from September 3 on the invitation of Defence Minister of the Russian Federation, General Sergei Shoigu to discuss bilateral cooperation and issues of mutual interest and commemoration of the 75th anniversary of victory in World War II.

This exercise has matured over the years with an increase in scope, the complexity of operations, and level of participation.

The primary aim of exercise INDRA NAVY-20 is to further consolidate inter-operability built up by the two Navies over the years and also to enhance understanding and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations.

The scope of this edition includes wide-ranging and



ile Photograph INS Shakt

diverse activities across the spectrum of maritime operations. Due to restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, INDRA NAVŶ-20 would be undertaken in a 'non-contact, at sea only' for-

The Indian Navy is represented by guided-missile destroyer Ranvijay, indigenous frigate Sahyadri and fleet tanker Shakti, along with their integral helicopters. Sahyadri has been presently redeployed to provide assistance to MT New Diamond, which has caught fire off the coast of Sri

The Russian Federation Navy is represented by destroyer Admiral Vinogradov, destroyer Admiral Tributs and

fleet tanker Boris Butoma of the Pacific Fleet, based at Vladivostok. The exercise is aimed at

enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between the two navies, and would involve surface and anti-aircraft drills, firing exercises, helicopter operations, seamanship evolutions etc. The last edition of the exercise conducted off Visakhapatnam in December Exercise INDRA NAVY-20

will help to further boost mutual confidence and cooperation between the two Navies and would reinforce the longstanding bond of friendship between the two countries.

Kurnool Collector in race for PM's award

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Kurnool collector Veerapandian (IAS batch 2009) has been shortlisted for the prestigious Minister's Award 2020. The much-awaited

list of IAS officers shortlisted for the prestigious Prime Minister's Award 2020 was made public on Friday and it revealed that 12

IAS officers, serving in various capacities in the state. have been shortlisted under various Categories. Among the other IAS officers

shortlisted for the award from southern states are Hari Chandana Dasari, Narayanpet Telangana,

Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu, former Collector of Banda district, Uttar Pradesh, Heera Lal, IAS, who is currently serving as Additional MD, National

> Similarly, KK Nirala, Collector, Ahmedabad district and Dr Rangitabali, Collector, Imphal district, East Manipur. Devensh Deputy Yadav,

Health Mission, UP.

Commissioner, Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh, Dr RK Pruthi, Sirmaur district, Himachal Pradesh. Ranvir Sharma, Collector, Surajpur, Chhattisgarh, Chandra Mohan Thakur, Collector, Anuppur district, Madhya Pradesh.

HDFC housing finance branch inaugurated

HDFC Limited strengthened its presence in the State by opening a new office in the city at Gollapudi. The new office is centrally located and customer convenience was given utmost importance while finalising the new premises, according to

Speaking on the occasion, Renu Sud Karnad, Managing Director, HDFC Limited, said, "Vijayawada is a major trading and business centre of the State. It is hub of processing of agri produce, automobile body building and small scale industries.Real estate market in Vijayawada is witnessing a steady growth due to better infrastructure and decent industrial setup. Lower interest rates have made house buying more affordable.

BJP V-P hails ban on online gambling

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The BJP has welcomed the YSRCP government's decision to ban the online gambling. BJP State vice-president Vishnuvardhan Reddy heaped praise on Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy and reminded that the BJP had written a letter to the government last month demanding a ban on the online gambling. He said that several families

were ruined due to the addiclike Rummy and Poker.

The government said that anyone found playing online gambling would be jailed for one year. "If the same person is found committing the same crime for the second time would be jailed for two years," disclosed Minister for Information and Public Relations Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani).

NASA gears can withstand freezing cold during lunar mission IANS WASHINGTON

low-carbon economy.

A NASA project is developing special gears that can withstand the extreme temperatures experienced during lunar missions and beyond. During NASA's Artemis mis-

broadly classified under

Community CSR initiatives

and Green- Environmental

Sustainability Initiatives. We

are honoured that our efforts

have been recognised and

hope that other companies in

the sector replicate the process and help achieve a

sions, temperatures at the Moon's South Pole will drop drastically during the lunar night. Farther into the solar system, on Jupiter's moon Europa, temperatures never rise above minus 162 degrees Celsius at the equator. Typically, in extremely low temperatures, gears - and the housing in which they are



encased, called a gearbox -- are heated. After heating, a lubricant helps the gears function correctly and prevents the steel alloys

from becoming brittle and, eventually, breaking. NASA's Bulk Metallic Glass Gears (BMGG) project team is creating material made of "metallic glass" for gearboxes that can function in and survive extreme cold environments without heating, which requires energy. Operations in cold and dim or dark environments are currently limited due to the amount of available power on a rover or lander. The BMGG unheated gear-

boxes will reduce the overall power needed for a rover or lander's operations, such as pointing antennas and cameras, moving robotic arms, handling and analysing samples, and mobili-ty (for a rover). The power saved with the BMGG gearbox

could extend a mission or allow for more instruments. The team recently tested the gears at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California where engineers mounted the motor and gearbox on a tunable beam designed to measure the response an item has to a shock, or forceful impact.

Team members then used liquid nitrogen to cool the gears down to roughly to minus 173 degrees Celsius. Next, they fired a cylindrical steel projectile at the beam to simulate a "shock

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Free power to farmers is patent scheme of YSR, asserts Sajjala

Government Advisor (Public Affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy on Friday lashed out at the TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu for crippling the State economy during the TDP regime and left the farmers to their fate, and added that free electricity supply to the farming community is the patent scheme of YS Rajasekhara Reddy.

Speaking to the media here on Friday, Sajjala Rama Krishan Reddy said that the people are aware of the crores of rupees, which were misappropriated in the name of welfare schemes, during the TDP tenure. Naidu crippled the State finances and left debts of about Rs 2.58 lakh crore in addition to the pending arrears of Rs 40,000 rore. At the time of bifurcation the total debts were only Rs 90,000 crore, he

Though

promised to clear all farm loans, he barely managed to clear one-fourth of the promised amount during his rule, he said. Naidu left around Rs 8,000 crore of pending dues to the power sector, it was Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy, who cleared all those pending dues to ensure the continuation of the free-power

Furthermore, Sajjala said that Naidu has a history of Naidu had abandoning the farmers and

scheme, he added.

attacking them. It is Naidu, who had hiked the power tariff dur-ing the TDP rule and ordered firing against those farmers protesting at Basheerbagh in Hyderabad. He said that it was YŚR, who had brought in the concept of free power and has proved that it was possible and practical and now his son YS Ĵaganmohan Reddy, too, toeing his father's line. It is the patent scheme of YSR and YS Jaganmohan Reddy, unlike

Though Naidu had promised to clear all farm loans, he barely managed to clear one-fourth of the promised amount during his rule, he said. Naidu left around Rs 8,000 crore of pending dues to the power sector, it was Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy, who cleared all those pending dues to ensure the continuation of the free-power scheme, he added

In regard to the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of free power subsidy for agricultural connections, Sajjala said that the State government took the initiative on the lines of the Central government draft guidelines of the Electricity Bill, which would benefit the State in future for getting Central government funds. He stated that opposition leaders can express their doubts over the implementation of the scheme

bringing belt-shops and encouraging the consumption of alcohol. instead of politicising the issue with baseless allegations against the government. The Chief Minister with an intention to safeguard the farmers' welfare. is bringing 10,000 MW of solar power plant at low cost with ong term benefits for 30-35 years, which is a kind of permanent solution to implement nine-hour free power to farmers scheme. He assured that the government takes all the responsibility if there is any delay in clearing the bills and make sure that Discoms don't suspend the connections.

'Big Boss' Nutan Naidu arrested

Continued from Page 1

City police chief Manish Kumar Sinha said that their investigation revealed that on August 28, Nutan Naidu made video calls to Priya Madhuri twice from Hyderabad and he also threatened and abused Srikanth using casteist slurs over the phone. On August 29, a person claiming to be retired IAS officer PV Ramesh made phone calls to medical officers Dr Sujatha, Dr Vasudev and the Principal of Andhra Medical College and Superintendent (In-Charge) of KG Hospital PV Sudhakar and informed them to give a medical certificate to six of the seven arrested in the tonsure case to send them to jail and refer one accused Priya Madhuri

to hospital citing health issues. Suspecting something fishy about the phone call, Dr Sudhakar checked with PV Ramesh who denied making such a call. Later, Sudhakar also alerted Manish Kumar Sinha about the phone call. Manish

Kumar Sinha said that the imposter used to set his name in the true caller as Chief Secretary, AP CMO. The phone calls to medical officers pointed the finger at Nutan Naidu.

The police said that Nutan Naidu travelled to Bengaluru from Hyderabad and later Mangalore. He was taken into custody at Udipi railway station with the support of the Karnataka police. The police also recovered four mobile phones from him.

Nutan Naidu tried to throw away one of the four mobile phones while he was being arrested. Investigation confirmed that it was Nutan Naidu who posed as PV Ramesh as the phone number matched with the mobile phones seized from him. The police said that Naidu will be brought back to Vizag city from Udipi.Manish Kumar Sinha said that preliminary investigation has revealed that Nutan Naidu had posed as PV Ramesh earlier also and had cheated some people.

High Court grants bail to Ramesh Hospitals executives

While the Covid-19 infection is exploding across the State, the

recovery number also remains

high with a very minor difference if anything to go by the State government data. When the

infection and discharge number

of a month, between August 1

and September 1 is analysed, as many as 2, 94,628 infection

cases were reported while in the same time 2,63, 262 recovered.

The difference between the

number of infections and recovery in a month differs by 31,000.

The daily report of the State

government shows the difference

is hovering around 1,000-2,000

cases. The positive cases report-

ed in the State was 1,47,314 till

August 1 and it surged to

4,42,244 by September 1. Similarly, the discharge cases

jumped from 73,719 to 3,36, 981.

Covid-19 cases are of the view

that the percentage of people

recovering from Coronavirus

infection in the State is increas-

ing significantly due to the detec-

tion of the virus at an early stage,

which would help in the fast

recovery of the infected persons.

infected with Covid recovered

the current pattern of infection

and recovery. Earlier, people being treated at the hospital

were being discharged only after being tested negative

On Friday, 12,334 people

The doctors monitoring the

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday granted bail to the three executives of Ramesh Hospitals who were arrested in connection with the fire at the Hotel Swarna Palace in Vijayawada on August 9 that claimed the lives of 10 Covid patients. The three executives were identified as Dr Kodali Rajagopal Rao, chief operating officer of Ramesh Hospital, Dr Kurapati Sudershan, general manager and Pallabothu Venkatesh, coordinating manager of the Hotel which was engaged by Ramesh Hospital for use as a

Covid Care Centre. The three executives were

arrested on the day of the accident by the Governorpet police who had registered a criminal case, following a complaint from Vijayawada Central tahsildar P Jayasri.

The case was filed against the managements of Ramesh Hospitals and Swarna Palace Hotel under Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 308, read with 34 (acts amounting to culpable homicide not amounting to mur-der) of the Indian Penal

Code. In the last week of August, the trio had moved bail petiadditional court but were refused bail as they were directly accused in the fire

running closely in State

Covid tally zooms to 4.76L

of coronavirus saw Andhra Pradesh adding over 1.04 lakh fresh cases since August 26 as the state reported more than 10,000 cases for the tenth day in

Infection, recovery cases

The infection positivity rate rocketed to 12.02 per cent much higher than the national average of 8.43 per cent as 10,776 new cases were added in the 24 hours ending 9 am on Friday, taking the overall tally to 4,76,506, the latest Covid-19

Precisely 1,04,867 cases were added in ten days, the fastest

twice and the period was while the positive cases reported was 10,776. This indicates

around seven to 14 days. There are around 1, 02,067 active cases in the State till September 4 when the total cases reported so far is at 4,73, 611. Even if there are over one

The last 24 hours also saw 12,334 Covid-19 patients getting cured and discharged from hospitals, the second highest so far after 12,750 on August 1.

Consequently, the number of active cases slid marginally by 1,634 to 1,02,067, pushing the overall recovery rate to 77.68

The state also reported 76 new casualties, according to the

Two more districts in the state Chittoor and West Godavari went past the 40,000-mark in total Covid-19 cases on a day three districts registered new cases in excess of 1,200 each.

lakh active cases, about 70% people are getting treated at home, or in isolation. This also raises the question of how the health department is confirming the recovery cases so

CM, Gadkari to inaugurate **Durga flyover** on Sep 18

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Principal Secretary (Transport department) MT Krishna Babu on Friday said that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, along with Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy, will participate in virtual laying of the foundations and inaugurations of various projects on September 18.

He said that the Union Minister will be joining the programme from Delhi through a video conference. Bhumi puja will be performed for 16 projects worth Rs 7,584 crore. A total of 877 kms of roads belonging to National Highways will be developed for which the foundation will be laid. Similarly, 10 projects completed at an estimated cost of Rs 8,038 crore will be dedicated to the nation.

Tourism activities...

Continued from Page 1

The closure of tourist sites and facilities, including hotels run by the APTDC due to the Covid-19 lockdown, caused a revenue loss of about Rs 10 crore a month since March. Meanwhile, Rajat Bhargava,

Secretary (Revenue), issued a memo, permitting opening of bars in Class-1 clubs, tourism facilities and also military canteens for liquor sale.

He directed the Excise Commissioner to take necessary action in line with it.

who is also Special Chief

New terminal to make Vja airport 'truly international'

Continued from Page 1

At present, the domestic and international terminals are new terminal would handle both domestic and international passengers. Once completed, it would be able to handle 400 international passengers and 800 domestic passengers at a

The new terminal would

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Leader of the opposition N Chandrababu Naidu on

Friday accused the the YS

Jaganmohan Reddy govern-

ment of failing to take action

against the culprits involved

in the ongoing atrocities on

Dalit and other weaker sec-

Naidu said that in the lat-

est incident, leaders of the

ruling party set fire to the

house of Dalit girl Machcha

Dhana Lakshmi at

Mudinepalli in Kaikalur

area in Krishna district just

because she lodged a com-

plaint with the police against a local YSRCP

leader for misleading and

Further TD politburo

member Varla Ramaiah

betraying her.

tions in the State.

enable passengers to directly access the apron from the

At present, the passengers need to take a transporting vehicle to reach the terminal from the aircraft. District collector A Md Imtiaz, Airport DGM Mohammad Qasim, land in-charge Rajeswar, ACP Venkataratnam, Gannavaram Tahsildar Narasimha Rao went around the airport on

Naidu blames govt for arson

lodged a complaint with

National SC Commission

regarding the alleged arson

attack on the house of the

Dalit girl and sought probe

by a special team into the

coming to know about the

police complaint, the ruling

party leaders burnt the victim's house overnight. He

incident.

attack on Dalit girl's house

Harichandan to participate in Governors' conference

Naidu who has a patent of

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Governor Biswa Bushan Harichandan has been invited by President Ram Nath Kovind to participate in the Governors' conference on the 'Role of New Education Policy-2020 (NEP 2020) in transforming higher education' to be held on September 7 through a video conference. The President spoke to the Governor over phone on Friday and discussed on the issue. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank will be addressing the Governors' conference, followed by inaugural address by President. The conference will be attended by Governors, Lt Governors, Education Ministers and others.

alleged that the Dalit fami-

ly was thrown on the roads

with no roof of their own.

ter said that the police were

supposed to rescue the Dalit

girl whom the YSRCP leader

promised to marry but later

cheated. He lamented that

the girl did not get any jus-

tice while, on the other

hand, she lost her house and

has no place to take shelter.

that in the last 15 months of

YSRCP rule, atrocities were

continuing unabated on

Dalits and other weaker

'The authorities, who

sections across the State.

their rescue, are helpless

spectators to these mis-

deeds," the former chief

The TDP chief deplored

The former chief minis-

30,887 medical posts to be filled within 10 days

Continued from Page 1

The Chief Minister directed the officials to set up help desks with 'Arogya Mitras' at every Aarogyasri network hospital and said that the help desks should also be available at every empanelled hospital.

Implementation of Aarogyasri scheme in network hospitals should be regularly monitored and severe action would be taken against any hospital flouting the norms, he said. Arogya Mitras should have clear understanding on protocol and they should monitor if Arogya Asara (recuperation allowance) amount is being given to patients treated under Arogyasri scheme.

They should take regular feedback on the medical services being provided to Covid patients and submit a report.

The Chief Minister said that new medical colleges would strengthen the health system in the State and directed officials to take immediate

steps for construction of medical colleges and also to focus on construction of urban health centres.

The Chief Minister told the officials to give ratings to the hospitals by taking feedback from the patients on food, sanitation, infrastructure and services of the doctors. Feedback, including Aarogya Asara should be taken from Aarogyasri network hospitals and any discrepancy should be rectified immediate-

The Chief Minister directed the officials to make mock calls to call centres everyday to check their work and record the response. He directed the officials to intensify the campaign on what should a person do and whom should he call if he is tested positive for Covid-19.

Deputy Chief Minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas, Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney, Medical and Health Special Chief Secretary Dr KS Jawahar Reddy were among those who were at the review meeting.

Major Chinese tank, infantry build-up...

The over-all domination of Indian forces in the region, the Chinese Army continue to hold positions on Black-Top and Helmet, two features on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control. Multiple sources sai that both positions are within the range of Indian soldiers who occupy near-by heights and hold ground at the base of these features. In other words, any lengthy maintenance and replenishment of these Chinese posts would be chal-

lenging. There has been adding that "we have underheavy air activity as well along the Line of Actual Control with the Chinese Air Force stepping up its fighter deployment from both the Ngari-Gunsa and Hotan air bases in Tibet. The bulk of the Chinese fighter-flying has been done by home-built versions of the Sukhoi 30 fighter which also happens to be the mainstay of the Indian Air Force.

The situation along the LAC is "slightly tense", Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane said this morning,

taken some precautionary deployments for our own safety and security". "In view of the situation, we have undertaken some precautionary deployments for our own safety and security. These deployments, we undertook along the LAC," Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane said today, referring to the de facto border with China.

"We are sure that the problem can be resolved fully through talks," the Army chief added.

JEE, NEET to go ahead...

Continued from Page 1

The Supreme Court had on August 17 rejected a similar request by 11 students from 11 states.

Maharashtra, Bengal, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Puducherry had decided to request the court to reconsider its decision in the interest of students.

The states had claimed that the top court order failed to secure students' "right to life" and ignored "teething logistical difficul-ties" to be faced in conducting the exams during the COVID-19 pandemic.

They States asked for the exams to be deferred "in a manner that achieves the twin objectives of ensuring that the academic year of the students is not wasted and their health and safety is not compromised.'

AP, TS at loggerheads over inter-state bus services

minister said

Naidu alleged that on have to lawfully come to

Continued from Page 1

As two rounds of talks so far between officials concerned of the states did not break the deadlock, they are now banking on a possible political intervention to end the tussle and get the buses back on roads. AP Transport Minister Perni Venkataramaiah is expected to open negotiations on Monday to resolve the ongoing crisis and ensure the bus services between the states are resumed at the earliest, authoritative sources said.

Post-formation of Telangana in June 2014, the AP Reorganisation Act enabled running of inter-state public sector Road Transport Corporation bus services for five years without any formal agreement or permit. That arrangement ended in June 2019 but no fresh pact was signed between the two states, though there was never a break in RTC bus services till the Covid-19 lockdown came into force on March 25. But as the lockdown

restrictions were eased and operation of inter-state bus services became possible, Telangana sought to seize the chance and put brakes on AP buses. "At the time of bifurcation in June 2014, APSRTC buses were running 3.37 lakh route km to Telangana while the latter operated only 94,000 route km. Over the last five years, Telangana increased its operations to 1.55 lakh route km while AP brought it down to 2.65 lakh km, a top official of the AP Transport said. AP was hitherto running 500 services to Telangana per day, out of which 400-odd were to Hyderabad city only. "Hyderabad services are the biggest revenue earners and Telangana now wants to grab it all. It wants us to cut the route km by one lakh km though we agreed to reduce 50,000 km. We also asked Telangana to enhance its own operations by 50,000 km to bring parity. Still, it has not come forward to sign an agreement and resume interstate services," the Transport official noted.

TDP benamis filing PILs without substance, A-G tells HC

Continued from Page 1

The court agreed with the submission of the A-G that he would file preliminary objections on the maintainability of PIL, and permitted him to file the objections and adjourned hearing for two weeks for the

counter to be filed. Sriram was presenting his arguments in the Advocate-General on a PIL filed by one Kilaru Naga Sravan from Vijayawada regarding advertisements given to media houses and also usage of ruling YSRCP colours in the advertisements.

The petitioner alleged that Sakshi media house, owned by ruling YSRC president and Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy and his family, was being given unfairly high advertisements.

The Advocate-General alleged that the petitioner was a benami for the TDP and Andhra Jyothy and had filed the PIL without disclosing his full credentials.

"PILs are about the purity of the process of the court and not for benamis and ghosts to abuse," he said. Sriram argued that the

petitioner had suppressed the facts that between 2014 and 2019, Eenadu and Andhra Jyothi had gained all the advertisements disproportionately.

The petitioner was perhaps a beneficiary of all these and now comes to fight for Andhra Jyothi and the TDP in court by giving half-baked figures," the A-G

He said files which didn't go to the Chief Minister and were decided by the Information and Public Relations Commissioner were aggravated and pre-

sented in the court. The A-G pointed out that the petitioner had mourned the loss of TDP in the elections and said: Battle is lost. But war is to be won.

"They want to win the war by filing such false affidavits in court for Andhra Jyothy and TDP," Sriram said.

The court agreed with the submission of the A-G that he would file preliminary objections on the maintainability of PIL at the instance of benamis and ghosts of TDP and Andhra Jyothy, before filing the counter on merits of the case.

It permitted him to file the objections and said it would decide on the objections and adjourned the case by two weeks for the counter to be filed.

TikTok lovers commit suicide

Continued from Page 1

Recently, Sailaja telephoned her mother Hemalatha who is in Dubai and informed her about her marriage. Hemalatha could not control her anger at the shocking news and threatened Sailaja that she would be reaching the village with relatives and tak-

ing her back. The suicide note said that Hemalatha warned Sailaja that

her relatives would eliminate Pavan Kumar if she refused to return home. In the suicide note, Sailaja accused her mother Hemalatha of wanting to kill Pavan Kumar and said that this was the reason behind the extreme step.

The police informed the parents and relatives of the couple and bodies were shifted to the government hospital at Sattenapalli for autopsy. Further investigations re on.

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Covid test report mandatory to enter Parl during session

As Parliament is geared up for the upcoming Monsoon Session, the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats have issued detailed guidelines for MPs, their personal staff and parliamentary employees to follow during the period.

The members have been

requested to get their RT-PCR tests conducted 72 hours prior to arrival at Parliament after September 11 onwards. If the tests are not done, then it will be done at the reception and the members will have to wait till the results are out. If the members are found coronavirus negative but symptomatic, then RT-PCR test will be conducted. Till the results are out, home isolation will be

The MPs have been advised to get their personal staff and

family tested ahead of the session. Detailed guidelines have been sent to the members of Parliament for this purpose. If any of the personal staff or family members test positive, then the MPs concerned will have to isolate themselves and follow mandatory government

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has arranged for a camp for COVID-19 tests on Saturday,

where all employees proposed to be put on duty during the session will be tested. Seven counters have been set up for the purpose at the reception of Parliament.

No symptomatic person will be allowed into the House, apart from visitors, during the

Earlier, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had given directions to ensure that proper caution

Centre moves HC for review to publish draft EIA in 22 languages

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre has moved a plea in the Delhi High Court seeking review of its direction to publish the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) in all the 22 languages in the Eight Schedule of the Constitution, saying that official documents are required to be published only in Hindi and English.

The law does not require notifications to be published in local languages, it has contended.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan on Friday issued notice to the environmentalist, on whose plea the high court had issued the direction, and sought his response by September 23.

Appearing Ministry, Environment Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma claimed that the court was "misled" by the petitioner into passing the

June 30 judgement, which had extended till August 11 the date for giving comments and objections to the draft EIA.

It had also directed that the notification be published in all the 22 languages within 10 days of the verdict.

The June 30 order had come on the plea moved by environmental conservationist Vikrant

The Centre had on July 28 moved an appeal before the Supreme Court against the high court decision.

On August 6, Tongad moved a plea seeking contempt action against the ministry for non-compliance of the June 30 direction.

The apex court, on August 13, declined to entertain the appeal at that stage, but granted liberty to the ministry to seek review of the June 30 decision of the high court.

The top court also put on hold any contempt proceedings against the government till its review plea as disposed of.



Delhi doc, associate held for forging **Covid test reports**

NEW DELHI: A doctor and his

accomplice have been arrested in Delhi on the charge of forging Covid-19 test reports, police said on Friday. According to the police, Dr Kush B Parashar used to recommend patients for Covid-19 tests, collect samples personally or through his assistant. With the help of co-accused Amit Singh Dr Parasher used to forge Covid-19 test reports of a renowned diagnostic centre or other labs as per the demand. As the reports were prepared in PDF format on a computer and sent to patients on WhatsApp, it was difficult to detect the forgery. The matter came to light when a person running the business of providing nursing staff to patients asked Dr Parashar for tests on two nursing staff before hiring them. According to police, the doctor charged Rs 2,400 per test for negative/positive report

UP cop shoots, injures

High time UP govt act: NGT on industries in residential areas

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal on Friday rapped the Uttar Pradesh government for not shifting industrial activities from residential areas saving it from residential areas saying it is high time that the State enforces the order if it has any respect for the rule of law.

À bench headed by Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said the State has failed to comply with the order of the Supreme Court passed seven years ago.

The green panel said though the counsel for the State states that steps have been taken, the same are not on record.

"Let further steps be taken expeditiously and the status report as on December 31, 2020 placed on record in the form of an affidavit of the concerned Principal Secretary of the State of UP.

"The Oversight Committee may also give its independent report in the matter. The



reports be furnished before the next date by e-mail," the bench

The NGT said that it appears the State authorities are not giving due consideration to the issue and the affidavit filed on behalf of the State fails to even advert to the issue. The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by UP resident Gopeshwar Nath Chaturvedi relating to the matter of industries illegally operating in residential areas of Uttar Pradesh, more specifically the polluting units at Mathura city.

'Parihar said he would procure drugs on Showik's instructions'

The members have

been requested to

tests conducted 72

is exercised with regard to

health safety. For this, compre-

hensive arrangements related

to health checkups are being

put in place within the

Parliament House during the

Birla had said that all prepa-

rations based on "expert

advice" will be undertaken to

ensure smooth conduct of the

session and prevent spread of

get their RT-PCR

hours prior to

September 11

ment after

onwards

Monsoon Session.

arrival at Parlia-

PNS MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Friday told a Mumbai court that Abdel Basit Parihar, held in connection with the drug trafficking probe linked to actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, revealed that he used to procure drugs as per the instructions of Showik Chakraborty.
The NCB told this to the

court on the day it conducted searches at the premises of Showik Chakraborty, brother of actress Rhea Chakraborty, who is accused of abetting Rajput's suicide, and the late actor's house manager Samuel Miranda in connection with

the drugs probe.
The Mumbai court on Friday remanded Parihar (23) in the NCB custody till September 9.

The NCB said interrogation of another arrested accused, Zaid Vilatra, led to the arrest of Parihar.

While seeking Parihar's



remand, the NCB told the court that Vilatra in his statement had disclosed the name of Parihar as the receiver of

"While Parihar, in his statement, revealed that he used to procure drugs from Vilatra and another person Kaizan Ibrahim as per the instructions of Showik Chakraborty," the NCB told the court.

The agency further said that there are other instances where Parihar facilitated to arrangefor drugsand was in contact with Showik.

"It is clear from the state-



ments of the accused that he was an active member of drug syndicates connected with high society personalites and drug suppliers," the NCB added.

Parihar has given many names and his custody is essential to unearth the main player in the drug syndicate, it

Investigation into the drug angle in Sushant Singh Rajput case is on. It needs to be investigated throughly so as to uproot drug citadel in Mumbai, and especially Bollywood, NCB added.

Kolkata man in quarantine locked up by neighbour

In a case showcasing the apathy of a section of population towards patients suffering from coronavirus and their kin, a man who had selfquarantined after his mother tested positive was locked in his apartment by one of his neighbours in Kestopur.

It took police intervention on Friday to get him out of the locked apartment.

The incident took place at Ghoshpara's Chitrakut Dham Apartment this morning when Sajal Kanti Das, a law clerk by profession, found that the main gate of his flat was locked from outside. He called up the security guard of the complex and office-bearers of the housing complex via Whatsapp. However, no one came to the family's rescue.

"I called up the security



guard and also informed managing committee members. But no one came to open the lock. During the lockdown I tried to help out the poor in our neighbourhood by buying food and other essential items for them. But today, such inhumane treatment was meted out to me by my own neighbours. It is unfortunate,"

Das said breaking down. Finally, Das called up the area police which went to the spot and examined the CCTV

SI, then shoots self BADAUN (UP): An Uttar Pradesh Constable on Friday

shot and injured his senior officer, a Sub-Inspector, and then shot himself. Both the injured men were referred to a Bareilly hospital for treatment Senior police officials reached Ujhani police station where the incident occurred. According to reports. Constable Lalit was upset over denial of leave to visit his hometown. He had applied for 10-day leave but the officiating Station Officer, SI Ram Avatar, refused to sanction leave on the ground that SO Omkar Singh would do so when he rejoined duty. Omkar Singh is undergoing treatment for coronavirus. Ram Avatar said that he could grant Lalit only four-day leave. This led to an argument between the two, following which the Constable allegedly opened fire at the officiating SO. The accused then shot himself with his

Another HC Judge recuses from hearing Punjab ex-DGP's bail plea

PNS CHANDIGARH

Punjab and Haryana High Court Judge Suvir Sehgal on Friday recused himself from the hearing of an anticipatory bail application filed by former Punjab DGP Sumedh Singh Saini in a 29-year-old disappearance-cum-murder case. Earlier, Justice Amol Rattan

Singh had recused from the bail plea case. "We are left remediless in an

anticipatory bail matter," Saini's counsel APS Deol told the media here. Last week, the SAS Nagar

Additional District and Sessions Judge had dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of

The former Director General of Police then



approached the High Court for anticipatory bail in the murder case of former CITCO employee Balwant Singh Multani.

The Punjab Police had on Thursday denied withdrawal of security detail of Saini who, it said, had absconded after leaving his security personnel A spokesperson for the

Special Investigation Team

(SIT), probing the extra-judicial killing case that was converted into a case of murder, denied the allegation of Saini's wife that the ex-DGP's security had been withdrawn, thus endangering his life.

Contrary to what had been claimed by Saini's wife in a let-ter to DGP Dinkar Gupta, there had been no change whatsoever in the security detail and all the necessary equipment, including the security box and jammer vehicle, were provided to the former police chief, who is a 'Z' plus category protectee of the state government, the spokesperson said.The kidnapping case was related to a bomb attack on Saini by the Khalistan Liberation Force militants in

Couple, 3 minor daughters found dead. suicide suspected

PNS DAHOD

A couple and their three minor daughters were found dead at their residence in Dahod town of Gujarat on Friday, police said.

Police suspect it to be a case of suicide. Saifuddin Dudhaiwala (42), his wife Mahejabeen (35) and daughters Arava, Zainab (both 16) and Husaina (7) were found dead in their apartment in Sujai Baug area in the morning, inspector of Dahod town police station, H P Karen, said.

"Preliminary probe suggests that the deceased may have consumed poison-laced water or cold drink sometime between Thursday evening and Friday morning," he said.

Can't say when crowds will return to stadia, says Rijiju

PNS NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday said he cannot give a time-frame for when the crowds will return to stadiums after the government permitted sports gatherings of up to 100 people from September 21 in its Unlock 4 guidelines.

Speaking at the virtual launch of 'enJogo' App designed by Bhaichung Bhutia Football School to provide online training modules to footballers, Rijiju said the COVID-19 pandemic situation has made it difficult to say when the crowds will return to the stadia. India has recorded over 39 lakh cases so far.

"I will not be able to make a call on that (on return of



crowd). I don't know what will be the situation (of the pandemic) in next 1 or 2 months," he said.

"I wish they (fans) are there in the stadia as soon as possible, we are hopeful of that happening. But health and safety of the public is also our prior-

The Union Home Ministry, on August 29, allowed sports gatherings of up to 100 people with effect from September 21, lifting the the total ban, which

August 31.

Former SP minister gets interim bail in rape case I IICKNOW: The Lucknow

official weapon.

bench of the Allahabad High Court has granted interim bail to former Samaiwadi Party minister Gayatri Prajapati for a period of two months. He has heen asked to furnish a personal bond of Rs 5 lakh and two sureties. The court has said that Prajapati will not move out of the country during this period. Praiapati was arrested from Lucknow in March 2017 on charges of rape and has spent the past three and a half years in jail though he was also in a Lucknow hospital for some months. Prajapati was arrested when a 35-year-old woman had accused him of raping her when she met him for a job. The former minister allegedly molested her minor daughter too. He enjoyed immense political clout during SP govt.

Held hostage for damaging iPhone, teen tries to end life

PNS NEW DELHI

Humilated by torture and illegal confinement over damaging an iPhone, a 16year-old boy jumped from the fourth floor of a building in Chirag Delhi. The victim is undergoing treatment at Safdarjung hospital. The victim's family has alleged that he was held hostage by a man after his father failed to pay for his expensive I-phone that got accidentally damaged by the teenager.

The victim's family told the police that a man called Honey asked for Rs 62,000 as compensation for the damage and wrongfully confined the victim and tortured him. The incident happened on Thursday evening when the victim and his his friend were going from his house to his father's shop on their

Obesity may alter immune system response to Covid-19

In a new study on obesity scientists, including one of Indian-origin, have found that obesity may cause a hyperactive immune system response to the Covid-19 infection which makes it difficult to fight the virus.

According to the study published in the journal Endocrinology', obesity not only leads to problems like heart disease and diabetes but also influences the immune system in many ways.

Obesity causes chronic, lowgrade activation of some parts of the immune system.

When someone with this pre-existing condition is faced with an infection, it could lead to hyper-activation of the immune system but in a detrimental way that does not fight the infection.

The Covid-19 pandemic has made us aware of the com-



plex interactions of obesity with infectious diseases and the gaps in our understanding of how chronic health conditions affect our immune responses to acute infection," said study author Durga Singer from the University of Michigan in the

Recent evidence has highlighted how one part of the immune system, the macrophage, may be a culprit in driving severe Covid-19

disease. "Our manuscript focuses on what is already known about the interaction of obesity, macrophages and other infections like influenza," Singer added.

the importance of under-standing how obesity might interact with new drugs or vaccines developed for Covid-19.

"These findings highlight fight the virus.

In this review, the authors described the impact of obesi-

Recent evidence has highlighted how one part of the immune system, the macrophage, may be a culprit in driving severe Covid-19 disease

ty on the immune system. They discuss the irregular immune responses caused by obesity that drive organ injury in severe Covid-19 infection and impair a person's ability to

'We consider that obesitydriven dysregulation of innate immune responses may drive organ injury in the development of severe Covid-19 and impair viral clearance," the study authors wrote.

SC notice on MP judge's plea to quash sexual harassment charges

was earlier put in place till

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice on a plea by a senior district judge in Madhya Pradesh, who is scheduled to retire at the year-end, for quashing of sexual harassment charges levelled against him by a woman judicial officer in 2018. The apex court has also stayed disciplinary proceedings against the district judge. A bench comprising Chief

Justice S. A. Bobde and Justices A. S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian issued notice to the Madhya Pradesh

High Court on the plea. Citing this case where the judge is close to elevation and then something happens, the bench said it is a regular phenomenon in the system, all kinds of things start happening. The counsel representing the petitioner submitted before the bench that his client has an unblemished 32 years of service, and the judge was about



to be considered for elevation to the High Court. He contended that all of a sudden, a 2018 complaint surfaces and an inquiry is initiated.

The district judge moved the apex court seeking a stay on the August 14 order of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, which dismissed his plea at hearing itself holding that there was no illegality in facts or in law in the April 30 final report submitted by the Gender Sensitisation Internal Complaint

Committee (GSICC). The GSICC report favoured further disciplinary action against the judge. This was challenged in the apex court. In June, the top court had asked the judge to move the High Court, which dismissed his plea.

The plea contended that the GSICC began the inquiry under section 11 of the Act, which in law is forbidden to do so, by keeping the conciliation application pending for a long period of five months.



Home delivery of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine 'prasad'

JAMMU: The management of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine said on Friday that it has arranged home delivery of 'Prasad' to devotees throughout the country. Ramesh Kumar Jangid, chief executive officer (CEO) of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine said on his Twitter handle, "Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has introduced the home delivery of Prasad to the devotees in India. "For further details and placing orders, please visit our website maavaishnodevi.org. You can also get your queries redressed through 0-9906019475 from 8AM to 8PM JMD". The shrine is situated in the Trikuta Hills of Reasi district in Jammu and Kashmir. Before the ongoing pandemic, over 2.60 crore devotees from different parts of the country would visit the shrine each year. The shrine was closed for devotees after the outbreak of the pandemic.

Guj extends ban on tobacco products for one more year

GANDHINAGAR: The Gujarat government on Friday once again extended the ban on the sale, stocking, production and distribution of Gutka as well as products containing tobacco and nicotine for another year. The ban on these products was imposed by the then Chief Minister and now Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2012. Nitin Patel, the health minister as well as the Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat, on Friday said "There is a ban on Gutka and Pan masala contain ing tobacco and nicotine in the state, where selling stocking, production and distribution of these products is prohibited. Keeping in mind the health of the public, the government has decided to extend the ban for one more year."

7 women killed in Tamil Nadu fire cracker unit blast

CHENNAI: Seven women died and several others were injured in a firecracker factory blast in Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu on Friday, said the police. The fire cracker unit was located in Kurunkudi village in Cuddalore district and the blast happened in the morning. The explosion killed five women, including the unit owner, instantaneously and also brought down some buildings. Out of the four injured women who were admitted to hospital two succumbed. Police and fire tenders rushed to the spot and carried out rescue operations. Meanwhile Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Palaniswami condoling the death of seven women announced a solatium of Rs 2 lakh to their families. DMK President M.K. Stalin also condoled the death of seven



Hope to see peaceful resolution of decade-long Syrian conflict: India

rights groups.

Mekdad thanked the Indian

government for the timely gift

of 10 metric tonnes of medi-

cines in July 2020 to help Syria

in fighting the COVID-19 pan-

demic as also for the generous

provision of 1,000 scholar-

ships to Syrians under the

Study in India Programme,

besides 90 slots under ITEC

and 25 slots under ICCR

General Scholarship Scheme given annually, the MEA said.

As many as 483 Syrians had

India has conveyed to Syria that it hopes to see a comprehensive and peaceful resolution of the decade-long Syrian con-flict through a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned dialogue, involving all parties.

This was conveyed by Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan in his talks with Syria's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Fayssal Mekdad held through video confer-

The virtual meeting on Thursday provided an opportunity to comprehensively review the bilateral relations and chart a road map for further cooperation in areas of mutual interest, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a state-

Thanking Mekdad for his assessment on the evolving situation in Syria and the region, Muraleedharan reiterated India's hope to see a com-



prehensive and peaceful resolution of the decade-long Syrian conflict, through a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned dialogue, involving all parties to the conflict that takes into account the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people while preserving the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

Nine years of civil war in Syria has left thousands of people, including civilians, dead, according to human

Nine years of civil war in **Syria has left** thousands of people, including civilians, dead, according to human rights groups

benefited from an artificial limb fitment camp organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in Damascus in January 2020 in partnership with the Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BVMSS), Jaipur, the statement said.

The Indian government has earlier provided USD 12 million in humanitarian assistance to the Government of Syria since the conflict broke

Furthermore, India has set

up a bio-tech park and an IT Centre and extended USD 265 million in line of credit for projects in steel and power sectors,

the MEA said.

The MoS for External Affairs, in turn, apprised Mekdad about the steps Indian government was taking to address both public health and socio-economic challenges posed by COVID-19.

There was also a brief discussion on the progress made by India in vaccine research and development, according to the MEA.

India-Syria relations have been historically warm and friendly, which have been nurtured through regular exchange of visits, the statement said.

Syria has been deeply appreciative of India's unwavering support and continued developmental assistance during its crisis years, and has extended unconditional support to India's candidatures for various multilateral and international organisations, it said.



'IPS officers' dedication to service will inspire youngsters to join police'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday greeted the IPS officers of 2018 batch and said he was confident that their commitment towards service will inspire youngsters to join the police service.

Shah's comments came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the young officers, who are cur-rently at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) in Hyderabad, through video conference.

"My best wishes to all these young IPS officers on their Dikshant Parade. May they serve the nation with utmost dedication while ensuring its security & integrity. I am confident that their commitment towards service will inspire our youngsters to join the Indian Police Service," he tweeted.

The home minister said the prime minister's inspiring speech will surely boost the morale of the young police officers and guide them on how to strengthen the policepublic relations.

In his interaction, Modi said the "humane" side of the police force in the country has come to fore during the coronavirus pandemic.

'Muslims being targeted in UP, framed in false cases'

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Friday alleged that besides Brahmins and Dalits, Muslims are being targeted under the BJP regime in Uttar Pradesh.

She also flayed incidents of vandalising idols of B R Ambedkar in the state and asked the government to take appropriate steps.

In the SP government, Brahmins and Dalits were oppressed selectively. Now in the present BJP government, along with them, there is a lot of oppression of Muslims as well. They are being framed in false cases, which is very sad," Mayawati charged in a series of tweets in Hindi.

"Idols of the messiah of Dalits - Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar - great saints and gurus were broken



in SP government, and names of districts and institutions etc. named after them (Dalit icons) changed considerably...In the same way, now, the present BJP government is also running," she alleged. "Now even the idol of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar is being broken. The incidents of Varanasi and now in Jaunpur are extremely condemnable. The government should take appropriate steps in these matters," Mayawati said.

Delhi airport sets up Covid testing facility for select arriving international passengers

Delhi airport has set up a COVID-19 testing facility at the multi-level car parking area of its Terminal 3 for arriving international passengers who have to take connecting domestic flights, its operator DIAL said on Friday.

It will be operational within a few days.

The testing facility has been established by the Delhi Airport International Limited (DIAL) in collaboration with Genestrings Diagnostic Centre, which is currently associated with the Delhi government to test COVID-19 samples.

The Civil Aviation Ministry had on Wednesday said that international passengers who have to take connecting domestic flights after landing in India will have the option of



getting themselves tested for COVID-19 at the entry airports. If the RT-PCR test result is negative, the international passenger will be allowed to board his or her connecting domestic flight and he or she will not need to undergo any institutional quarantine, the ministry's order said. The DIAL's press release said, "Results of samples collected at the laboratory will be declared within 4-6 hours to the incoming passengers. Until the results are confirmed, passengers will be isolated at the waiting lounge or may opt to stay in a hotel."

Constructed in 3,500 square meter area at multi-level car parking (MLCP) of Terminal 3, this is the first such arrange-ment among Indian airports,"

If the RT-PCR test result is negative, the international passenger will be allowed to board his or her connecting domestic flight and he or she will not need to undergo any institutional quarantine, the ministry's order said

it noted. An international passenger who does not have a COVID-negative result certificate from a test done not more than 96 hours prior to the journey, and does not opt for an on-arrival testing facility at the entry airport, will have to compulsorily undergo sevenday quarantine.

Bypolls for 64 seats along with

Another BJP MLA complains to Nadda

PNS DEHRADUN

In yet another indication of discontent in the ruling BJP in Uttarakhand, one more party MLA has written to the central leadership complain-ing about lack of development in his constituency due to bureaucratic indifference.

Close on the heels of Didihat MLA Bishan Singh Chuphal meeting JP Nadda in Delhi to share his concern over lack of development in his constituency, party MLA from Raipur in Dehradun Umesh Sharma Kau wrote to the party president to lodge a similar complaint.

Kau said people have high expectations from him and they are disappointed to see development activities coming to a halt in his constituency.

SC notice on guidelines on senior designations to advocates

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice on the application filed by senior advocate Indira Jaising seeking implementation of the court's guidelines on conferring senior designations. A bench comprising Justices Rohinton Nariman, Navin Sinha and Indira Banerjee issued notice to the registrar general of the apex court, returnable in four weeks, on the application filed by Jaising. The apex court would examine whether the process of designating senior lawyers begin with online interviews in terms of its 2018 guidelines.

In August, Jaising had moved the top court seeking proper implementation of the 2017 Supreme Court judgement, where it laid down the guidelines for the designation of lawyers as senior advocates,



for a uniform and standardised process for conferment of the senior gown on lawyers in the Supreme Court and the HCs.

Applications were invited by the committee for the designation of senior advocates in August of 2018. In March 2019, the first round of senior designations, in line with the new guidelines, finalised 37 applicants. However, in the past two years, applications

have not been invited by the committee and the process has been frozen since then. "Many High Courts have dutifully implemented the judgment of this Court in Indira Jaising (matter). However, by initiating the senior advocate designation process only once, post August 2018, this court has failed to comply with its own judgment and 2018

Cong MLA's mother writes to Yechury

PNS THRISSUR

The 68-year-old mother of Congress legislator Anil Akkara on Friday wrote to CPI-M General Secretary Sitaram Yechury expressing her deep anguish at the way a top CPI-M Kerala leader addressed her son as Satan's son.

In her letter, the mother Lilly Antony said they were not going to lodge any case or a police complaint against CPI-M leader Baby John for his outrageous statement.

"I do not know if I should write a letter like this to a very top leader. But I am doing it because I am deeply pained when my son is called Satan's son. In fact, my husband, a farmer and a driver by profession, who passed away in 2004, and Anil Akkara belong to two different political parties.

Bihar Assembly elections: EC PNS NEW DELHI The Election Commission on

Friday announced that bypolls for the 64 assembly and one parliamentary seats in different states will be held around the same time with the Bihar Assembly polls, dates for which will be announced later. There is a vacancy of 27 seats in Madhya Pradesh assembly also, which means by-elections in the state will also take place around the same time with the Bihar Assembly polls.

The poll panel in a statement said that a meeting was held on Friday regarding holding of by-elections in different states.The Commission said there were 65 clear vacancies because of by-elections in Assembly or Parliamentary constituencies, out of which there are 64 vacancies in state assemblies and one in a



Parliamentary constituency.

The Commission said it discussed the reports and inputs from Chief Secretaries or Chief Electoral officers of many of the concerned states seeking deferral of the by-elections in their states in view of several factors including the extraordinary heavy rains in some places and other constraints such as the pandemic etc. "Considering the General



assembly elections in Bihar are also due and required to be completed before November 29, the Commission has decided to conduct all the 65 byelections and General Assembly Election of Bihar around the same time," the Commission said.

The Assembly elections for 243 Bihar Assembly seats are due this year.

Man travels 1,20 0km on scooter to take wife to exam centre in MP

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Rains and potholed roads were no deterrence for a Jharkhand man who drove over 1,200 km on a scooter, with his pregnant wife sitting pillion, so that she could appear for an exam for aspiring teachers here in Madhya Pradesh.

The tribal couple, Dhananjay Kumar (27) and his wife Soni Hembram (22), travelled on the two-wheeler from Ganta Tola village in Godda district of Jharkhand to reach Gwalior, a centre for DEd (Diploma in Education) exam, required to be cleared by those wanting to take up teaching

jobs.

The wish to see his wife become a schoolteacher inspired Kumar to undertake the arduous journey, covering more than 1,200 km across four states, braving rains and



bad roads in the midst of COVID-19-enforced lockdown.

As trains, buses and other means of transport were not available, we decided to traverse the journey by road on

our two-wheeler, Kumar said. My wife, who is pregnant, was initially reluctant to take this arduous journey. But after seeing my determina-tion, she agreed for this long

journey, he said. The couple arrived here on August 30 for DEd exam being conducted by the MP Board of Secondary Education. The examination will continue till September 11.

As a video of the couple and their journey taken by some newspersons went viral on social media, the district administration stepped in to help them.

If I had hired a taxi for coming to Gwalior, it would have cost Rs 30,000 which was a big amount for me. Whatever little jewellery we have, we mortgaged it to raise Rs 10,000.

So far, we have spent Rs 5,000 on our one-way journey and on a room that we have taken on rent in Deendaval Nagar here, Kumar, who has studied till Class 8, said.

We started off on August 28 morning and enroute stayed a night each in Muzaffarpur (Bihar) and Lucknow to reach Gwalior on our scooter, said

82% back Centre's Health ID initiative but wary of data-sharing

PNS NEW DELHI

A whopping 82 per cent people support the Central Government's new National Health ID, provided it only seeks and stores health-related information and not sensitive personal details such as banking information, sex life, caste, religion, political affiliations, etc.

The National Digital Health Mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech. The ambitious initiative will see the creation of health IDs for every citizen that will enable storing personal medical records and disease history electronically.

The draft of the policy was released on August 26 with a week stipulated for public feedback. However, on September 1, the government extended



the public feedback deadline till September 10.

On the basis of 34,000 responses from citizens residing in 272 districts of India, 'Local Circles' attempted to bring out what the masses feel about the idea of creating a cit-

izen digital health id. In the first question, citizens were asked about their views on the creation of such a dig-

ital health id. Over 23 per cent said it should be created as it could help in faster access to healthcare, while 18 per cent said it should not be created as it could lead to personal sensitive data getting compro-

As many as 59 per cent said it should be created but data sought should be restricted to just health information. The

health ID results of the poll show that 82 per cent support digital health id creation but believe sensitive personal details should not be sought. The main objective of the draft policy has been stated as providing guidance and creating a framework for secure processing of personal

health ecosystem.

data of individuals who are a

part of the national digital

On the basis of 34,000

responses from citizens

residing in 272 districts

of India, 'Local Circles' attempted to bring out

what the masses feel

creating a citizen digital

about the idea of

Terrorist killed. army officer injured in Kashmir encounter

PNS SRINAGAR

One terrorist was killed and an army officer injured in an ongoing encounter in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday, officials said. The encounter started in Yedipora after a joint team of the police and the army cordoned off the area on the basis of a specific information about terrorists hiding there. As the security forces zeroed in on the spot where the terrorists were hiding they came under a heavy volume of fire that triggered the encounter. "One terrorist has been eliminated. Joint operation in progress," army said.



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Will talks work?

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While Rajnath Singh shared a platform with his Chinese counterpart in Moscow, the border is still hot. India must not budge



hina had probably not anticipated that India would continue with its robust defence of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) instead of blinking after Galwan. Or that it would need to pump in more resources and troops in Ladakh, where it has so far used perceptional differences on what should be the border on the ground to usurp land. It certainly had not bargained for India ramping up its border infrastructure and its soldiers meeting it eye to eye in mountain warfare. Or expected its unilateral adventurism to be challenged. But more importantly, it realises that an Asian split between its top two powers would only damage it strategically, politi-

cally and economically. And that its imperial dream of Asian domination would be unrealised if India increasingly gravitates towards the US and the West, pushing the world to unipolarity. Already, the combined Indo-US strategy to challenge Chinese access to their technology market is a precursor of a longer-term hit on its digital monopoly. And if China doesn't have a transactional relationship with India and engages with it somewhat, then it would be difficult for it to convince smaller Central and Southeast Asian nations to accept its overlordship in the region. Already some of these nations are part of the US-India axis in stalling Beijing's designs in the Pacific. Perhaps that explains why the Chinese side conveyed its keenness to have a meeting with India on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) session in Moscow. And following the ban on Chinese applications, its spokesmen struck a reconciliatory note and resorted to soft diplomacy, referring to the cultural assimilation that has seen Rabindranath Tagore, yoga and Bollywood occupy centrality in Chinese life. The SCO provided the platform for Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's first meeting with his counterpart Wei Fenghi after the Ladakh standoff. And though India has emphasised that it would like to settle the border issue within the framework of diplomacy and dialogue, the fact that Chinese troops are still stationed within our artillery range in the south of Pangong Tso should remind us that the dragon still has a forked tongue and can spew fire. Singh, of course, set the tenor at the ministerial meeting itself, saying non-aggression and trust were the key to regional peace and stability. Clearly, the message is it cannot be business as usual.

Perhaps China is hoping that this heavy duty presence and its continued aggressive pile-up along the LAC would compel India to cede some ground at the talks table. Its rhetoric that India is being provocative points to an assumption that its presence there has always been legitimate, though this has never been a point of dispute since the 1962 war. It has now significantly enhanced its presence in the Depsang area, closer to the Daulat Beg Oldie airstrip. This shows that the Chinese will never reconcile to losing the strategic advantage in Ladakh because of the DSDBO road that allows India troop parity in this sector. Besides, China wouldn't want the Indian shadow over the Karakoram, particularly between Gilgit-Baltistan in the west (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir), where China is heavily invested in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and Aksai Chin in the east. So India must stay the course and insist on status quo ante. Post-Galwan, it has already yielded some ground by agreeing to pull back from old observation posts and creating a buffer zone. This would let the Chinese mobilise easily unmonitored. The 1993 agreement signed during the Narasimha Rao-Jiang Zemin era made it absolutely clear that both sides would scale down troops at the LAC to a "minimum level" as a confidence-building measure and strengthen bilateral ties by looking beyond the boundary arc. That has only resulted in our trade dependency on China without any let-up in its hegemonic intentions. India is already more vigilant in the Indian Ocean region, with our Navy watching every movement along the Malacca Straits, a key strategic and economic transit corridor for China. It has got more active in the Quad initiative with US and Japan and begun using its international goodwill as a nation that respects "rule-based order" to build a case against China's "wolf warrior" tactics. And it must add the boundary question to negotiations, insist on marking the LAC on the ground. We must also join the global chorus against Tibet or Xinjiang, something that riles up China no end and could be used as a bargaining chip. This counterweight would work better than just relying on the US, which beyond the point of internationalising an issue, wouldn't stay invested as it is too remote for its domestic concerns. Russia, which wants the SCO to work, so that it can tob off the preponderance of the US and the West, is compromised by heavy Chinese investment in its infrastructure and gas lines. It does need India to counterbalance itself against Chinese heft but cannot force China's hand on the border issue. Already, it has classified the standoff as a matter of bilateral concern between both countries. Russia is keeping itself updated about the sensitivities involved and the fact that Singh decided to attend the RIC meeting and the Moscow Victory Parade despite the COVID pandemic is indication of the strategic depth India attaches to Russia. The latter acknowledges India's insistence on sticking to defence deals despite US pressure. Will it be able to convince China about a need for status quo in the interest of a multi-polar world? A tall order really. India needs to watch out for its own interest.

Mommy time

Motherhood is not stopping today's breed of female athletes. It is an inspiration for all women



n men's tennis, discussions around who is the "Greatest Of All Time", the so-called "GOAT", can become very animated between supporters of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. In women's tennis on the other hand, there is no competition. Serena Williams stands heads and shoulders above players from not only her generation but also the likes of Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova from years past. It would not be a stretch to say that Williams is one of the greatest sportspersons of all time with only the likes of Michael Phelps and Lionel Messi for competition. And keeping her competitive nature going even after

becoming a mother is remarkable. Although the Belgian ace Justine Henin was the first "mother" to win a Grand Slam in the modern era, she did so at a time when for a female athlete, getting pregnant was a signal to retire. But now, Serena, Victoria Azarenka and Tsvetana Pironkova, all post-partum athletes, have marched into the next round of the US Open tennis tournament, the first major post-Covid tournament in that sport, proving that women, just like men, are extending the prime of their careers and even "post-prime" by being more selective about where and how often they play. Our own Sania Mirza won the Hobart doubles title after having a baby. And boxer Mary Kom set new records post-motherhood in a high-performance sport. Gone are the days when women's tennis was about a succession of lissome teenage blondes from the erstwhile Soviet bloc nations. Today's players are older, stronger and will not let marriage (or divorce) and motherhood stop their success.

But as discussed on these pages earlier, how will an increasing number of older athletes staying on in their sports, irrespective of gender and sport, from tennis to even cricket, impact up and coming stars. Of course, the best will still shine through but sports is reflecting the realities of modern life. Model Padma Lakshmi celebrated her 50th birthday recently by announcing that the 50s were the new 30s. This, however, should create opportunities for more leagues and more sports across the board. But we will also see more and more mothers competing in top-flight sports; no longer is having a baby considered the end of any career, whether in movies or in sports. And players like Serena Williams should be an inspiration not just to other mothers but women of all ages.

opanion

Harvest of domination

Humankind has identified progress with mastery over nature. It destroyed and subordinated nature at will. COVID-19 is just one manifestation of this horror



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

ne does not quite know what the shape of the world will be after the COVID-19 pandemic is over. The several informed speculations at hand — including the one that it would eventually be like it was - may or may not come true. The only thing that is reasonably certain is that the virus COVID-19 emerged in bats, infected another animal and, through it, humans. By all accounts, the infection among humans began to spread from a market selling live animals in Wuhan, China. It is also widely known that viruses breed and spread in the unbelievably over-crowded and insanitary conditions in which animals are kept there, with some of them -COVID-19, for example — transmuting themselves and becoming capable of infecting humans.

Two things are important to note. First, COVID-19 is not the only virus originating in animals and affecting humans. Other deadly diseases include Ebola, which belongs to the category of filoviruses or thread viruses and includes three sub-types of Ebola viruses and one known as Marburg. Named after Ebola River, which meanders through northern Zaire in Africa, it first emerged in 1976 in 55 villages near the banks. Fruit bats are believed to be its natural carriers. The virus, which spreads through human to human contact, is a killer; the death rate so far has been 88 per cent of those infected. As the disease progresses, persistent fever is followed by a strange combination of haemorrhaging and blood clotting all over the body, especially in the spleen, liver and brain, in what is known as disseminated intravascular coagulation. Death comes from haemorrhaging and shock.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and West Nile Virus have also originated in animals. SARS coronavirus emerged in China's Guangdong province in 2002. First identified in bats and then spread to other animals like civet cats before infecting humans. There were 8,000 cases of the disease in the 2003 epidemic. which affected 26 countries. Transmitted from person to person, its symptoms are similar to those of influenza — fever, muscle pain, headache, diarrhoea and shivering. Subsequently, there can also be coughing and shortness of breath.

Dromedary or Asian or Arabian camels are a major repository of MERS Coronavirus or MERS-Cov which spreads through human-to-human transmission. Fever, cough, shortness of breath are among its symptoms, as is diarrhoea. Patients often develop pneumonia. Birds, particularly crows, are the natural hosts of West Nile Virus which causes neurological diseases that can be fatal. It is commonly found in Africa, Middle East, North America, Europe and West Asia and spreads though infected mosquitoes biting humans.

Eighty per cent of the people infected by the West Nile Virus do not show any symptoms. About one-fifth of the infected develop fever and headache, body ache, vomiting, diarrhoea and or rash. Less than one per cent of those infected develop illnesses like encephalitis or meningitis involving inflammation of the brain. Apart from the symptoms described above, those seriously ill suffer from stiff neck, tremors, vision and paralycic

Rabies, originating among other species, in dogs and monkeys, and entirely preventable through vaccination, is perhaps the most talked about of the number of zoonotic diseases affecting humans. The question is, how do these come to infect people? While transmission modes may differ, the basic circumstance is proximity to anies concerned. The nature of this proximity is influenced by the way that most humans regard animals, which is that they can be treated any way people like they can be killed for fun as in the criminal activity that goes by the name of hunting, for food, savagely hurt in the name of fun bull fights in Spain, Jallikattu in parts of South India, or cockfights and dogfights in many parts of the world. They are made to pull or carry heavy loads that make them stagger and undergo horrendous suffering in the name of medical experimentation benefiting humans. Of course, animals are not

the only living beings that humans treat horribly. We treat the whole of nature, of which animals are a part, in the most cruel and exploitative manner. The worst victims are plants which are feeling, communicating, mutually caring and benevolent living beings that need to be treated with respect, and forests, which provide a wide range of environmental benefits, includventing soil erosion. They are, however, casually felled in India to make way for industrial enterprises and coalfields when coal. a highly polluting source of energy, is increasingly in disuse

everywhere. Underlying such conduct is not only callousness but sadism, to which animals can be subjected without attracting the kind of condemnation and punishment that similar action towards humans do. True, humans treat other humans too in pretty awful ways. Otherwise, there would not be crimes like slavery and incarceration in concentration camps but murder and genocide. Nevertheless, as often as not, perpetrators of such crimes against humans are punished. Mussolini was shot while on the run; Hitler had to commit suicide. Several German perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity during World War II were brought to justice at the Nuremburg trials. More recently, most perpetrators of war crimes during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971 have

been sentenced, a few to death. No murderer of a tree or the perpetrator of the genocide of a forest has been given similar punishment. This is because trees, forests and the rest of nature, including other nonhuman living beings, are generally held to be existing for human convenience alone and, hence, have been put outside the unicreated for themselves. Thus, while the punishment for killing a human can be death, that of killing an animal is a fine and a laughably short stint in jail.

The attitude towards nature described above has been compounded by the adversarial view of it that emerged during the long struggle for human survival and progress, which included the establishment of human settlements and farms for food, the domestication of animals, use of the latter in wars, controlling of rivers for irrigation and floodprevention. The result of all this has doubtless been the enormous material progress witnessed from the emergence of the initial tribal communities to the establishment of the complex modern civilisations of the information age. This in turn has led to the identification of progress with mastery over nature. The latter was not the matrix to live in harmony with but to be destroyed and subordinated at will.

What was forgotten in the process was that humankind emerged from the cradle of nature, which included all nonhuman living beings as well, and has existed in the supportive environment provided by it. Destruction — even severe damage to the latter - could threaten its very existence. The devastating effects of climate change. including extinction of species, and the cyclones and tidal waves that are increasingly playing the abominable conditions existing in Wuhan's live animal mar ket have unleashed the COVID-19 virus on humans. This is unlikely to be the last zoonotic or natural calamity visiting our world. There will be others, and perhaps even more catastrophic, if we do not mend our ways.

(The author is Consulting editor, The Pioneer)

a New India that we want.

NDA, be democratic

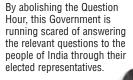
Sir —It is a matter of grave con-

cern that the NDA Government

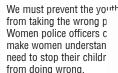
has nixed the Question Hour in



SOUNDBITE



Congress leader



Prime Minister



To tell you the truth, Dilip sahib has not been told that his brothers Aslam bhai and Ehsan bhai are no more. We keep every kind of disturbing news away from him

Former actress



We will defeat the TMC both through the EVMs and ballots. TMC knows it will be defeated. that's why it is scared and the State Government is not willing to hold elections.

BJP leader—Dilip Ghosh



R Narayanan

Navi Mumbai

LETTERS THE EDITOR

Grow rural economy

Sir — This is in reference to the article, 'How to grow green shoots', published on September 4. It is the huge stockpile of 73.85 MT of reserve grains that is feeding this nation during the pandemic. However, it need not have taken a contagion for this nation to realise that we are but an agrarian economy and owe much to the rural sector. In fact, it was the agro sector that demonstrated the strength and resilience to grow during the pandemic while the urban economy just folded

Economists feel their only obligation is to suggest ways to create jobs. Since jobs are in the urban centres, they only focus on the urban economy. This resulted in the informal sector and the rural economy being largely forgotten. It is a pity that we refuse to make any effort to organise the "informal sector", only to then neglect it as an "unorganised sector." It is high time that the thrust on the economy reverts to rural

It is sad that so much of human creativity in rural areas should be going to waste. The youth here are all not just labour-

Good move by India to ban PUBG he dispute between India and China in the border areas in eastern Ladakh doesn't seem to be getting resolved

anytime soon. This issue is a hard nut to crack for both the countries despite months of talks on the military and diplomatic level. The frequent attempts by China to intrude at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) are a deliberate violation of bilateral agreements between the two neighbours with long-standing traditional ties. The way that the battle-hardened Indian troops have been moving from pillar to post to thwart the Chinese intrusions is quite appreciable and praiseworthy. However, China must stop its aggression as this is

not a creative solution to this ongoing tussle. On the Indian side, an economic strike on Chinese interests is a move in the right direction. Not because it will hurt the Chinese economy too much but because it sends a strong message that we won't take things lying down and will react militarily and economically. The prohibition of 118 mobile apps, most of them Chinese, is certainly a remarkable and formidable step taken by the Central Government. One of the most striking and sensational aspects of this decision is the banning of the popular online multiplayer game

The complete credit of this goes to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for many reasons. Hundreds of thousands of adolescents and youths in India had become addicted to PUBG, leading to emotional and



mental fatigue. They lost concentration on their studies and work. Plus, for ages, India has been an open market for Chinese products, which led to the ruin of the indigenous industry and products. We have to introduce indigenous apps instead of foreign ones. The same should be done for all other products that we get from China now.

All possible efforts should be taken to avoid the dependency on foreign goods and apps. In view of the ongoing face-off between the two countries on the border, it is the duty and responsibility of every Indian to come under one umbrella of unity and patriotism to boycott all Chinese products so as to attain ultimate success

Prabhakaran Vallath Kozhikode the forthcoming Monsoon Session of the Parliament. This decision will set a wrong trend even for the State Legislative Assemblies. Question Hour is devoted to questions that MPs raise about any aspect of administrative activity. The concerned Minister is obliged to answer to the Parliament, either orally or in writing, depending on the type of question raised. This move amounts to gagging democracy and refraining from answering to the Government's failures on many aspects, like the gasping economy, management of the pandemic and the fiasco with China in Ladakh. Hope that the NDA Government will reconsider this issue and allow Ouestion Hour to continue in order to sus-

tain democratic values. Amit Singh Kushwaha

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

products and services. The right framework, institutions and policies will transform rural economies. With the tools of

political leadership, quality educational institutions and healthcare facilities, a new class of rural micro entrepreneurs will emerge.

and sending daily wage labourers to the cities would be a thing of the past. The rural economy ers but do create wide-ranging Information Technology, good As that happens, merely creating must have its place in the sun in

unprocessed agricultural inputs

analysis

FIRSTCOLUMN

China schooling the Mongols

There is a growing sense of insecurity in the ruling elite that makes it impatient to stamp out differences and deviations from the norm



Residential schools were a common feature of European settler societies (except New Zealand) until quite late in the 20th century, and their purpose was not just to educate but to "deracinate" their aboriginal pupils: That is, to cut them off from their roots. The Chinese Government would reject the analogy with its last breath, but it is now doing the same thing. Last week, in China's Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, ethnic Mongolian parents began holding rallies and keeping their children home from school in protest against new measures to reduce teaching in the Mongolian language in favour of Chinese. Under the new rules, history, politics, language and literature will be taught in Mandarin Chinese, not in Mongolian.

It has not been reported in the Chinese media, of course, but the *BBC* reports that students at one demonstration chanted "Our language is Mongolia and our homeland is Mongolia forever!" At another school, only 40 students registered for the autumn term instead of the usual 1,000 — and most of them left after the first day. It should be noted that in Inner Mongolia, ethnic Chinese (Han) people are a four-fifths majority of the 25 million residents. The province is beyond the Great Wall and was once almost entirely Mongolian, but it was already majority Han before the current Chinese Communist regime came to power in 1949.

Most of China's five million Mongols are concentrated in three eastern districts of Inner Mongolia, but even there they are not a majority of the population — and many of these Mongolian-speakers are urbanised people who are fully bilingual and intermarry freely with their ethnic Chinese neighbours. The core of the unrest is among the million or so who still pursue a modified version of the old "nomadic" culture. They are the traditional Steppe-dwelling people who follow their herds on horseback or in all-terrain vehicles through their seasonal rounds. Unlike aboriginal languages, Mongolian has been written in its own script for many centuries, and Genghis Khan's empire once briefly ruled about a quarter of the world, but the "nomadic" Mongols do depend on boarding schools.

Such schools are simply a practical necessity for people who live in small groups and move frequently, and in the Chinese case, they were not originally conceived as instruments of cultural genocide. Until recently, in fact, they operated entirely in Mongolian, with Chinese taught as a second language. The Chinese policy towards "tribal" minorities has traditionally been more tolerant than the US or Canadian policy towards native Red Indians, the Australian policy towards Aborigines, the Scandinavian policy towards Sami (Lapps) or the Russian policy towards Siberian native peoples. All of those unlucky people got the kind of residential schools that aimed at cultural assimilation and religious conversion.

The children spent most of the year in boarding schools, not with their families. They were taught the religion of the settlers, not that of their native culture. They were forced to use the language of the dominant European group and forbidden to speak their own. And most of them were subjected to violence. (Yes, most.) Many of the adults who emerged from this ordeal were tormented men and women, and their legacy of alcoholism, drug abuse, child abuse, nihilism and despair is still being passed down the generations. Nothing of the sort has happened to the Mongols of Inner Mongolia, so far as is known but something bad is starting to happen to them now. The Chinese culture has always been patronising towards the minorities living within China's borders, but it didn't usually see them as threats. They aren't threats now, either, but there is a growing sense of insecurity in the ruling elite that makes it impatient to stamp out differences and deviations from the norm. You can see it in Tibet, where the screws have been turned so tight on dissent that more than a 100 people have burned themselves to death in protests since 2009. You cannot avoid seeing it in Xinjiang, where more than a million Uyghurs have been sent to concentration camps that operate like residential schools for adults, trying to separate the residents from their religion, language and values.

And you can detect it in a minor key even in Inner Mongolia, in a needless, destabilising attempt to force Mandarin down the throats of loyal, innocent people who pose no threat whatever to the State. What drives President-for-Life Xi Jinping and his advisers to such ridiculous and counter-productive extremes? The only plausible answer is fear that history will repeat itself. China's rulers are all Communists in theory (though how many still really believe it is another matter), and so they rightly worry that what happened the communist parties of Europe in 1989 could also happen to them. However, two years after that the Soviet Union broke up as well. It's really unlikely that China will ever do the same, because more than 90 per cent of the population is ethnic Chinese, but the guilty flee where none pursue.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work.')

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

MUMBAI AND MAHARASHTRA ARE SECURED BY THE POLICE. IF ANYONE FEELS UNSAFE ABOUT LIVING IN MUMBAI, THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO LIVE HERE.

— MAHARASHTRA HOME MINISTER ANIL DESHMUKH





PEOPLE ARE THREATENING ME FOR COMING BACK TO MUMBAI. SO I WILL GO THERE ON 9TH. KISI KE BAAP MEIN HIMMAT HAI TOH ROK LE (STOP ME IF YOU DARE).

— ACTOR

KANGANA RANAUT

The gift of autonomy

Today the educationally best performing nations have no Govt interference in schooling. India needs this, too, if we are to compete globally



CHANDRA BHUSHAN SHARMA

progressive and vibrant society moves. Look at countries and compare their rate of growth and the scale of teachers' status in the society; it will be apparent that both go up and down together. India had a great guru-shishya parampara and teachers were highly revered by the students and civil society. Respect for teachers was not ornamental but real in those days. The educators were revered in the true sense as even the king would not take decisions without the consent of the Raj Guru.

Even though the Raj Guru.

Even though the Raj Guru is often depicted as a poor person in popular culture, the king would invariably receive the guru by standing up from his seat. The teacher in turn would often visit the king's court in moments of crisis to counsel the ruler. Sadly, those days are long gone.

We need to understand today as to why the independent of teachers was first in the days of

We need to understand today as to why the judgement of teachers was final in the days of yore. To be precise, the objective of the king (or in today's parlance the politician) is to remain in power. Similarly, the aim of the common people is to be rich or famous or powerful. However, the objective of a teacher is nothing but to see his/her students grow and achieve what they aspire to. This is the only profession where the individual works not for oneself but for other people's growth and success and derives pleasure in the attainments and achievements of the students whom s/he teaches. However, to expect such dedication we, too, must have complete trust in teachers and grant autonomy in pedagogic activities; as individuals and as a system.

In India, we celebrate Teachers' Day on the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a scholar of philosophy and a great teacher loved by all who had the good fortune to be taught by him. Radhakrishnan taught Indian philosophy and religion at many British and Indian universities. He later joined the freedom struggle, because he believed that to serve a foreign rule was "irreligious" or adharm in the Hindu tradition.

Radhakrishnan pursued his study of Indian philosophy while continuing to make his contribution to the freedom struggle. He was in a ntless search for the ultimate truth which he believed was the pursuit of every Hindu scholar i.e. Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye (attaining salvation through search of the ultimate truth). Radhakrishnan became the Vice-Chancellor of the prestigious Banaras Hindu University on the invitation of Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya to succeed him in 1938. It was a position that Radhakrishnan occupied till 1948. Once India became independent, Radhakrishnan became the chairman of the first commission on education to be set up to revamp the higher education system of the country.

The report presented by him is popularly known as the Radhakrishnan Commission Report. It is a comprehensive one but today it is vital to remember that this report stressed on the importance of education being grounded in the Indian tradition. The Radhakrishnan Commission Report was also of the view that school education must be given emphasis and revamped so that deserving students could

enter higher education institutions.

This Teachers' Day has special significance



THE BEST TRIBUTE
TO DR
RADHAKRISHNAN
WOULD BE TO GIVE
THE SCHOOL
TEACHERS OF INDIA
AN INDEPENDENT
STATUTORY BODY
TO REGULATE
THEMSELVES
INSTEAD OF BEING
MONITORED BY
BROWN SAHEBS.
IF WE WANT
DEDICATED
TEACHERS, WE
MUST HAVE
COMPLETE TRUST IN
THEM AND GRANT
THEM AUTONOMY
AS INDIVIDUALS





for us all. The Narendra Modi Government issued its New Education Policy 2020 (NEP) on July 29, after a mammoth discussion nationwide for five long years. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), now renamed the Ministry of Education (MoE), had started the discussion in 2015 and people at the grassroots level were consulted through 33 identified areas or themes; and then a committee under TSR Subramanian (a retired bureaucrat) was asked to prepare a draft on the basis of all the documents and feedback that were collected.

However, this report was widely ticised and was largely unacceptable to most stakeholders. So, a new committee was constituted to prepare a fresh draft under the chairmanship of Dr Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, (a space scientist of global repute). The draft report was submitted to the Government on May 31, 2019. The final document, prepared by the Government on the basis of all the data and feedback collected through the two drafts, was released in July. This document is extraordinary in many respects. The previous documents ran into hundreds of pages but this was presented in just 62 pages. Beside other things, the policy focusses on educators, right from pre-school teachers to the ones teaching in universities.

This Teachers' Day the educators must rejoice at the appearance of the Prime Minister in a conclave of teachers on August 6, only a week after the new national education policy docu-

ment was released. Talking about the NEP while addressing the conclave, Modi had said, "Today, there are views and opinions coming from all across the India. People are sharing their thoughts on this. It has been widely welcomed and one thing that has been observed is that no one is saying that this policy has any bias towards any one area... that is a great thing. Now everyone's focus is on how this will be implemented. As far as the political will to implement this is concerned, I want to assure you that I am fully with you... all the way"

He called upon the educators to ter and spirit. The message conveyed was that the nation has realised that the education policy will have little impact, like all the previous policies, if the educators don't own it. A policy document on education will have to be owned and implemented by teachers and teachers alone. Plans prepared on the basis of the policy will have to be implemented in the classrooms which teachers alone handle. It is noteworthy that in his speech, the Prime Minister addressed principals who are the key players in transforming schools. If this is not just rhetoric, then we can indeed look forward to a "year of the teachers." This Teachers' Day can perhaps then be seen as a landmark one in the history of education in India.

The Mudaliar Commission on school education was constituted as a corollary to Radhakrishnan's report. This commission suggested the forma-

tion of an independent body to coordinate school education among the States of India. This, it said, was necessary because education is a national concern and the major responsibility of maintaining quality and content of school education as well as higher education rests upon the Union Government. The University Grants Commission (UGC) was established on the recommendation of the Dr Radhakrishnan Commission but the School Education Commission (SEC) has not been established till date. We need to get this going.

need to get this going.

The best tribute to Dr Radhakrishnan would be to give school teachers an independent statutory body to regulate themselves instead of being monitored by "brown sahebs." We have been shouting against Macaulay's policy of controlling teachers and schools because the gurukuls (residential schools of ancient times) and the madrasas were the places which produced the best minds of the nation. However, Macaulay planned and destroyed the indigenous school systems

Today the educationally best performing nations have no Government interference in schooling. India needs this too if we are to compete globally. Modi had also expressed the importance of good quality teachers on several occasions. Hope he gets his policymakers to walk the talk.

(The author is Professor of Education at IGNOU. The views expressed are strictly personal.)

Despite the virus, find a way to honour educators

Teacher's Day is a wonderful opportunity for all the students to appreciate the hard work and efforts put in by their gurus



MJ WARS

OVID-19 has forced schools and universities across India, and the world, to suspend face-to-face teaching and move to online classes. This transition to online teaching and learning is challenging for most organisations, students and teachers alike as academic institutions across the world have cancelled all on-campus activities that made the experience of learning memorable and meaningful. Hence, celebrating Teachers' Day this year will not be the same as it used to be in the past. Irrespective of religious beliefs, Teachers' Day is celebrated across the world, albeit on different days. This is because, no matter what society one belongs to, we all have grown up with the realisation that we must always show respect to the the country.

teachers who made us as we are. Right from becoming a good human being to a civilised citizen of the

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) started observing Teachers' Day on October 5, 1994 as it commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 International Labour Organisation (ILO)-UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. This recommendation sets benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, teaching and learning conditions.

However, in India it is celebrated on September 5 to mark the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was a teacher par excellence. When he became the President of India in 1962, his students and friends sought permission to celebrate his birthday. However, Dr Radhakrishnan politely requested them to celebrate his birthday as a day dedicated to all the teachers in



The former President of India, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, once said, "Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, calibre and future of an individual. If the people remember me as a good teacher that will be the biggest honour for me."

A teacher, who may give us a piece of advice and the lessons of a lifetime, is always considered a highly honoured person in every community.

In India, the teacher-student relationship has a special religious and social bond and significance. Since ages, the story of Eklavya has come to define exemplary discipleship. This story is an example of dedication, hard work, obedience and paying the guru his due. This also shows that acquiring or gaining knowledge is not possible without the teachings and blessings of the guru.

In ancient times, a common practice

in learning was guru-dakshina, where a student would offer a gift or fee for the knowledge gained by him. Actually, Dronacharya blessed Eklavya with immortality by asking him for his thumb because whenever people think of an ideal student and devotion to a teacher, they think of Eklavya and not Arjuna.

A teacher has a very high status and is given a lot of importance in Islam. There is a famous saying of Hazrat Ali in which he said that "if a person teaches me one single word, he has made me his servant for a lifetime." Teachers always play a prominent role in influencing and inspiring students. In our society, parents are responsible for giving their children quality care. However, teachers are responsible for honing their skills and making their future bright and successful.

They are a source of inspiration to students as they prepare the latter to face any challenge with confidence and commitment. With enormous understanding of the subject matter and with deep knowledge and wisdom, they always nourish the lives of their students.

Keeping the importance of the Muslim University.)

teacher-student relationship in mind, Tariq Mansoor, who himself is a professor and the Vice-Chancellor of the historic Aligarh Muslim University, says, "Teachers are the backbone of any academic institution and always play a very big role in shaping the lives and careers of students." This is a fact as our foundational education completely depends on the guidance

we get.
Teachers' Day is a wonderful opportunity for all students to appreciate the hard work and efforts put in by teachers in grooming and shaping their life in a meaningful way. The most difficult and challenging part for a teacher is to balance the class where students come from different economic, social, religious, linguistic and cultural backgrounds. But

Teaching is one of the most respected and valued professions in the world and an educator continues to be a respected person in society. Let's remember ours, wherever they are, especially for preparing us to be

resilient in these pandemic times.
(The writer is the Chairperson, Department of Linguistics at Aligarh





DON'T RESIST
ONLINE LEARNING
There has been significant

pushback against online learning in Pakistan over the last six months, and this is continuing. Given the digital divide and the variation in home environment of students, this is not surprising. But the pushback should not blind us to the opportunities that online teaching and learning offer. And in many ways, we have just started to explore these possibilities. Given the importance and scope of this learning worldwide, we are being myopic. (Dawn



Instagram launches separate Reels tab for India users

NEW DELHI: Facebook-owned Instagram on Friday said it has launched a separate tab for 'Reels' in India, making it the first country to get the feature, that will enable users to easily discover short-video content. In July, Instagram had unveiled its new format 'Reels' in India that allows users to create and share short videos. "Earlier this month, we started testing a new tab on Instagram to make it easier to discover entertaining Reels. Today, we're expanding this test in India to most of the country. India is the first market we're launching in due to the interest and creativity we've seen," Facebook India Director and Head of Partnerships Manish Chopra said in a statement on Friday. The Reels Tab will replace the Explore tab.



Freight haulers demand action on **Brexit preparations**

LONDON: British freight haulers and storage companies are asking for an urgent meeting with government leaders because of concern that gaps in preparations for Brexit may threaten supplies of critical goods. Trade associations representing the companies have written to Michael Gove, the minister overseeing Britain's exit from the European Union, saying that improvements to border posts and computer systems are behind schedule. The groups say that if the issues are not addressed, "disruption to UK business and the supply chain that we all rely so heavily on will be severely disrupted." More than 40 years of free trade with the EU will end Jan. 1 after an 11-month transition period that followed Britain's formal departure from the bloc earlier this year.



Rupee settles 33 paise higher at 73.14 against USD

MUMBAI: Snapping the twoday losing streak, the rupee rebounded by 33 paise and settled at 73.14 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, even as the domestic equity market was trading with significant losses. At the interbank forex market the domestic unit opened on a strong note at 73.38 against the US dollar, then gained further ground and closed at 73.14 against the American currency, registering a gain of 33 paise over its previous close. During the trading session the local unit witnessed high volatility and touched an intra-day high of 73.01 and a low of 73.47 against the greenback. On Thursday, the rupee slumped 44 paise to close at 73.47 against the US dollar

'Indian auto industry facing one of the toughest times in history'

He thanked heavy industries

minister Prakash Javadekar,

who assured the gathering that

he will take up the matter of

GST reduction with Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and

Finance Minister Nirmala

growth witnessed in the last

couple of months is on a very

low base of last year and "we

are also not sure whether this

is sustainable in future" while

festival demand is very impor-

tant. "So, at some point of time

we definitely need some sup-

port from the government," he

said, adding the industry is

waiting for a government deci-

sion to encourage demand.

Ayukawa also said the

Sitharaman.

The Indian auto industry is facing one of the toughest times in history and needs government support through reduc-tion of GST and incentivebased scrappage policy, Maruti Suzuki India Managing Director and CEO Kenichi Ayukawa said on Friday.

Ayukawa, who is the president-elect of auto industry body SIAM, said the sector has been "set back by many years" by a combination of the coronavirus pandemic and the slowdown that has been going on since last fiscal.

As the global health crisis broke out, he said, the auto industry in India also played its part by getting into manufacturing of ventilators, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and importing testing kits from abroad to fight the virus although sales have been hit

"In August we can say we just came back on our feet to achieve performance comparable to last year. Also last year is not a good comparison as the industry saw negative growth of 15-25 per cent. This negative growth has set back the indus-



try by many years," Ayukawa said at the 60th annual convention of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) conducted online.

Reiterating the long pending demand of the auto industry to reduce Goods and Services Tax (GST) on automobiles by 10 per cent, Ayukawa said, "we are facing one of the toughest times in history. The industry needs your support".

"We are eagerly waiting for GST reduction and scrappage incentive scheme. We believe that taxes on the increasing turnover will be more than the government expenditure on the scrappage scheme and GST reduction," he said.

Industry not in position to make investments

ufacturers were not in a position to invest further in the implementation of upcoming government regulations as the sector was going through an extremely difficult period.

Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) also noted that government support was required to pursue the targets set under the Automotive Mission Plan 2026 (AMP 2026).

"For (implementation of) upcoming regulations, investments are very steep and the commensurate revenues have not been realised by the industry due to lack of consumer demand," SIAM President Rajan Wadhera said while speaking at the industry body's annual convention here.

So, the industry does not have the ability to invest fur-

Auto industry body SIAM of new regulations like CAFE norms from 2022 onwards, he norms from 2022 onwards, he noted. Wadhera also said that there should not be an overdose of regulations as India's emission standards are already at par with the strictest in the world. Seeking government support to offer some form of demand boosters, Wadhera said: "We feel that whatever we are talking on reviving demand will provide the required push to consumers to come to deal-

> He noted that demand stimulus for the industry is a must in order to achieve targets listed in AMP 2026.

AMP 2026 is the collective vision of the government of India and the automotive industry on where the various segments of the automotive and auto component industry need to be by 2026 in terms of size and contribution to the ther into the implementation overall Indian economy.

RBI expands priority sector lending categories

The Reserve has expanded the scope of priority sector lending to include start-ups funding up to Rs 50 crore, and loans to farmers

for installation of solar plants and compressed biogas plants. The Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines have been

comprehensively reviewed and revised to align it with emerging national priorities and bring sharper focus on inclusive development, after having wide ranging discussions with all stakeholders, the RBI said on

"Revised PSL guidelines will enable better credit penetration to credit deficient areas; increase the lending to small and marginal farmers and weaker sections; boost credit to renewable energy, and health infrastructure," the RBI said in a release.

The PSL will include bank finance to start-ups for up to Rs 50 crore.

According to the release, loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid-connected agriculture pumps and loans for setting up Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants have been included as fresh categories eli-

gible for finance under priority sector.

The revised guidelines, the RBI said, also seeks to address the issues concerning regional disparities in the flow of priority sector credit.

Further, the central bank said that higher weightage have been assigned to incremental priority sector credit in 'identified districts' where priority sector credit flow is compara-

tively low. The targets prescribed for "small and marginal farmers" and "weaker sections" will be increased in a phased manner, the RBI said, adding that "higher credit limit has been specified for Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs)/ Farmers Producers Companies (FPCs) undertaking farming with assured marketing of their produce at a pre-determined price". Under the new norms, the loan limits for renewable energy, health infrastructure, including the

projects under 'Ayushman Bharat', have been doubled.

Paytm FY'20 revenue rises to Rs 3,629 cr

Digital financial services firm Paytm on Friday said its revenue for fiscal year ended March 31, increased to Rs 3,629 crore supported by increase in number

of transactions across various segments and point of sale

The home-grown financial technology firm said its losses have narrowed by 40 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

"We are on the path to empowering millions of Indians with digital financial services that would play a key role in building Atmanirbhar Bharat. We are also investing heavily in building digital services for our merchant

"Our efforts have started

reflecting in the strong adoption of more profitable services by our consumers and merchants," Paytm President Madhur Deora said in a state-

'We are on path to become profitable by 2022. Paytm is also moving its efforts to become a dominant digital financial services platform with Paytm Postpaid, Paytm Money and Paytm Insurance services contributing an increased turnover in the coming fiscal years," Deora

Jobs report likely to point to a still-slow recovery

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

The United States this spring.

the layoffs that began in March that millions of Americans remain burdened by job losses that might prove permanent. Economists have forecast that employers added 1.4 million jobs in August and that the unemployment rate fell from 10.2 per cent to 9.8 per cent, according to a survey by data provider FactSet.

That rate would still be just below the peak unemployment level of the 2008-2009 Great Recession.

issue the August jobs report at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time Friday. While a monthly gain above

some businesses are still will-

in March.

Friday's jobs data will be the second-to-last employment report — for most voters, the most visible barometer of the economy — before Election Day, November 3.

President Donald Trump faces the daunting task of seeking re-election in the worst economic downturn since the 1930s.

OYO India offers voluntary separation or leave extension

PNS NEW DELHI

Hospitality firm OYO India on Friday said it is offering its employees who are on leave with limited benefits, the option to voluntarily separate or extend the leave for another six months. In April, the company asked

some of its staff in India to go on leave with limited benefits from May 4 for four months and also asked all employees in the country to accept a cut in their fixed salaries by 25 per cent due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the hospitality industry.

After June 8, the company could partially reopen its hotels in a phased manner after the government's nod. Postunlock, the company started tracking to 30 per cent of pre-COVID-19 occupancy levels, OYO India said in a statement.

It has enabled the company to prioritise its commitment of and call back some impacted colleagues in different teams and geographies, as limited opportunities opened up, it

In an address to employees



(LwLB), OYO India and South Asia CEO Rohit Kapoor said, "We know it is challenging to hold you back due to a situation that neither you nor we can control or wish away."

Given the context, OYO has created a set of options for all employees on LwLB in India to make a decision that is best aligned with their longer-term career goals and financial requirements, he added.

You can either choose to India said. tion programme (VSP) or continue the LwLB period by another 6 months until February 28, 2021," Kapoor

This will never measure up

ally liked to do, or "you would have expected of us - do accept our sincere apologies for the same. We are living in a world where everything is far from ideal and the solution that we are offering may still be sub-optimal," he added.

The impacted employees will be offered additional benefits to the ones received over the last four months, based on the option exercised, OYO

The comp those who opt for VSP, the company will provide benefits such as financial assistance, relaxation on employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) vesting, continued health coverage.

Route Mobile's Rs 600-cr IPO to open on Sep 9 PNS NEW DELHI

Route Mobile, cloud communications service provider, on Friday fixed price band of Rs 345-350 a share for its initial share-sale offer that will open for public subscription on September 9. The public offer compris-

es a fresh issue worth Rs 240 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of Rs 360 crore by promoters — Y Sandipkumar Gupta and Rajdipkumar Gupta, Route Mobile said in a statement.

The initial public offer (IPO) will conclude on September 11 and the investment by anchor investors will be finalised by September 8.

The company proposes to proceeds towards funding for repayment or pre-payment, in full or part, of certain borrowings of the company; acquisitions and other strategic initiatives; purchase of office

premises in Mumbai; and general corporate purposes. It had received approval from markets regulator Sebi in December 2019 to float

routemobile

the IPO. The cloud communications service provider had initially filed for it's IPO in January 2018, later it refiled the document in October

Due to unfavourable market condition, the company failed to bring its IPO even 2018, market sources said.

ICICI Securities, Axis Capital, Edelweiss Financial Services and IDBI Capital Markets & Securities are the managers to the issue.

ITC accelerated

keeps regaining more of the jobs that vanished when the viral pandemic flattened the economy early Yet so deep were

The Labor Department will 1 million would show that

ing to add workers, it would take many months to return to pre-pandemic job levels even if that pace could be sustained. And many economists think hiring is slowing. The economy still has roughly 13 million fewer jobs than it did when the coronavirus struck

digitisation: Sanjiv Puri
PNS NEW DELHI Industry 4.0, Artif

Chairman Sanjiv

Diversified business entity ITC has accelerated digital transformation under the company's future-ready strategy to enhance competitive advantage and operational effectiveness.

Puri has said. The current pandemic has accelerated manifold the transition to digitalisation that was already moving at high velocity and the company is adopting new-age technologies to stay ahead of the curve, Puri said.

New technologies such as

Intelligence, Big Data, Industrial Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine Learning are being deployed by all Businesses, including supply

chain and logistics to enhance operational effectiveness, Puri said while addressing shareholders in his AGM speech. ITC had made substantial invest-

ments for a digital ecosystem to drive "smart manufacturing, prod-uct quality, traceability and supply chain agility, amongst others. This accelerated digital journey has begun to demonstrate appreciable outcomes," he added.

Sri Lankan Navy, Indian ships battling fire on board oil tanker

PNS ■ COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan Navy with assistance from Indian ships

The Navy said that 22 of the 23 member crew had been safely rescued off the tanker. The tanker was carrying 270,000 metric tonnes of crude

oil from Kuwait to India when

'Fintech the way forward for Indian banking, payment system'

was battling for a second day on Friday to douse a major fire raging on an oil tanker carrying crude from Kuwait to India that left one of its 23 crew members dead. The Sri Lankan Navy on Friday confirmed that a Filipino sailor died in a boiler explosion in the engine room of the Panama registered tanker MT New Diamond that caught fire on Thursday.

the eastern district of Ampara. 270,000 metric tonnes of crude oil it was carrying had not been

The Navy said that so far the

the coast of Sangamankanda in

affected by the fire. The Sri Lankan Navy is also



its engine room caught fire off taking steps to ensure that there will be no seepage of oil to the sea from the tanker.

The distressed vessel is in the waters 23 nautical miles off the eastern coast where the sea depth is measured at 3100

L&T defence arm bags govt contract for supply of PWS

PNS NEW DELHI

Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Friday said its defence arm has received orders for the MoD for the supply of four regiments of Pinaka Weapon Systems. "The contract involves supply

tery command posts and associated ESP for four regiments," L&T said in a regulatory filing. The company did not provide the value of the contracts, but said the orders fall under the "significant" category,

of Pinaka launchers, bat-

which ranges between Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 2,500 crore according to the classification of contracts.

L&T said the Pinaka launch system has been indigenously developed by the company as part of Pinaka development program of Defence Research

Development Organization and functions as a high tech, all weather, long range, area fire artillery weapon system.

Shares of L&T were trading 0.97 per cent lower at Rs 951.70 apiece on BSE.



Giving the example of SBI, he said, 91 per cent of jobs are being done digitally now, which was unthinkable 35 years ago.
"We believe that this 91 per cent will become 100 per cent. For a bank like State Bank of India, and other banks obviously, everything

is going to move digitally.

There is no doubt about



that. Penetration of smartphones is also going to increase," he said at a virtual conference organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Going forward, he said, branches are going to This is where the big opportunities lie, he said

other places.

adding, "I am sure as we evolve, and we will evolve very very fast. Fintech is the way forward as far as the Indian banking system is concerned and the payment system is concerned." Fintech refers to compa-

technology to offer financial services to businesses or consumers. Bandhan Bank managing

nies or services that use

director Chandra Shekhar Ghosh said: Banks and

ution points like what has the ecology of money. There happened in Europe and are benefits that Fintech brings in that banks do not inherently have and vice-aversa. A combination of both is what brings best value for

customers. "It is not about UX (user experience) but about CX (customer experiences). Best consumer experiences come from a combination of traditional banking and Fintech... both will thrive and together drive growth for them-selves and for the reason of their existence -- the customers. Customers are the

first priority.' Observing that India is

various small markets, Ghosh said Fintech companies have to develop products for each segment rather than jumping in the same space. Pointing out that consumer behaviour has undergone change during the lockdown and COVID period, Ghosh said digital payment has seen significant growth and is going to stay even after COVID-19 is over, he added.

He said there has been spurt in online fraud during COVID-19 period and most defrauded customers are elderly who are least aware about the technology.

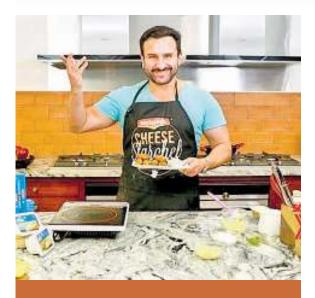
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Saturday September 5, 2020



SAIF ALI KHAN turns chef for Shipra Khanna

<u>ne</u> learns to cook with the best -MasterChef Shipra

Shipra Khanna (MasterChef winner) and Saif Khan and Saif Ali Khan who is a self-professed good food aficionado, together whip up 12 lip smacking, delightfully rich cheesy dishes with Britannia Cheese. You can catch the duo on Britannia Cheese StarChef which is a 12-part YouTube series keeps you entertained while you create some of the best delectables.

This is not the first

This is not the first time Saif Ali Khan has donned the chef's hat played the role of chef who travels back to India from the States to discover what he loves cooking while operating a food truck with his son. The movie was based on the 2014 American comedy-drama movie with the same name co-produced and directed by, and starring Jon Favreau.

The YouTube is the destination for a

destination for a plethora of rich, cheesy recipes all made with a selection of the the brands of the the brands
leading cheese products. Shipra Khanna
says, "The cheesy
affair with Britannia
Cheese StarChef
makes me believe that
in the kitchen a Star in the kitchen a Star can become a Chef and a Chef can Online was fun and unique, especially

COVID-19: DO'S AND DON'TS OF BUS TRAVEL

As inter-city bus services resume gradually, the opportunity to travel comes as a huge relief to millions of people across the country. However, there will be a significant difference in the way we look at bus travel going forward. Experts suggest that Covid-19 is here to stay and hence it is up to all of us to keep it at bay by strictly adhering to and following all the precautions and guidelines on safety, social distancing

and personal hygiene. While travelling is inevitable for most people, there are clearly laid out guidelines that, when followed diligently, will help check the spread of infection and keep intercity bus travel. "With Unlock 4.0 underway, the

nation is on its path to establishing normalcy in every respect, including travel. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders in the bus travel ecosystem to follow the safety guidelines to keep Covid-19 at bay and work together to make bus travel safe for everyone during these times," Prakash Sangam,

As we implement • Ensure your and adapt to new standards of safety, the online bus ticketing platform shares some of the do's and don'ts of bus travel:

DO'S:

- Book bus tickets online
 Sneeze or cough into to avoid unnecessary contact
- Always carry your own face masks and hand sanitizers

- temperature is normal prior to any trip
- Always wear your masks when inside the bus and ensure you cover your nose properly
- Make sure to sanitize hands regularly, especially before entering a bus and after exiting
- Use tissues while sneezing and coughing
- upper sleeve if you run out of tissues
- Bring your own linen, blankets and water bottles for long distance or overnight

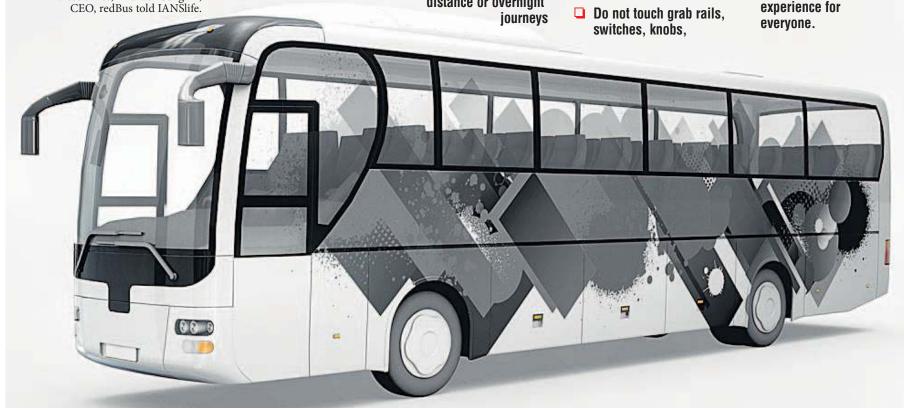
Download Aarogya Setu app (Highly recommended)

Be up to date on guidelines issued by the state you are travelling from and the state you are travelling

DON'TS:

- Do not travel if you are feeling unwell or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19
- Do not touch your face, nose and mouth often
- Do not take off your mask unless necessary while inside the bus

- headrests, armrests if possible
- Do not discard tissues/disposable masks/gloves or any other protective gear inside the bus
- To counter Covid-19, it is paramount to inculcate a culture of responsible travelling among passengers. All it takes is a little discipline and responsible behaviuor, which when exhibited collectively, can make a huge difference not only to the ongoing efforts in containing the virus but also to make bus travel a safe experience for



MOBILE PHONE ETIQUETTE **AMID WORK FROM HOME**

that owing to the lockdown and lack of outdoor activity, most of us are struggling with our addiction to screens. Curtailing our screentime has become close to impossible for a lot of us, this has turned us into impatient beings. And with us having to spend most time indoors in the presence of our family or work from home pals, it has become all the more important to keep a check on our worsening habits. Cell phones are of great

use to us — they keep us in touch with friends and family and

can be lifesavers in an emergency. But what they can also be is, annoying, if not used thoughtfully. It is, therefore, important that you learn to use your phone's features like silent ring, vibrate, and voice mail to handle the times when your phone would bother others. Observing some basic etiquette and courtesy when using mobile phones so as not to make others feel annoyed or disrespected isn't a herculean task

after all. Mobile phone eti-

quette is vital in public places as inconsiderate users can be a great disturbance to others. So here are some of the things you can do, to use your phone effectively, without bothering another:

Prioritise your contacts with the pin-shaped option available on Whatsapp for attending the messages on a priority basis.

It is always advised not to call your head/bosses directly, try sending a message before calling and wait for their reply. Only if it is an emergency, give a call. It may be noted that everyone in the

morning

is busy with their routines like fitness, yoga, and other personal work and sometimes busy preparing the schedule for the day, appraising the bosses on important official issues, etc. Hence, calling may be deferred and try to send SMS and wait for the reply.

Whenever calling a VIP, first send an SMS seeking permission to call and ascertain free time to call. Develop the habit of

courtesy to acknowledge or reply to other people's messages with 'regards' or 'thanks', which will help develop a good relationship. Any Message posted in the

HoDs group for want of some information with a definite timeline should be strictly adhered to, if unable to provide information it should be clearly mentioned and the timeline also may be indicated for submission of the information. But, in any case, the reply should be instantaneous.

It is advisable to pause after calling your officemate/boss once and then send an SMS as they could be busy attending other calls or virtual meetings. Repeated calls with-

out pause shall be

dents or

mishaps.

made only in emer-

gencies like acci-

Joining the ensemble cast are actors Divya Dutta, Dino Morea, Shibani Dandekar, Shweta Basu Prasad, Shilpa Shukla, Amit Sial, and Kanwaljit Singh. On his journey as the director of the series, Sudhir Mishra, said, "Hostages franchise is very close to my heart because of the unexpected nature of the narrative it's explosive, twisted and will catch everyone by surprise! As a storyteller that's exactly the kind of work that I thrive on. Hostages Season 2 marks a iourney with an intriguing turn of events and brings new faces, new secrets, and new mysteries for the audience to

explore and enjoy. DOP

turned Director Sachin

Krishna has done a fantastic

Of a darker & grittier storyline!

P Prithvi Singh is back — only this time the hunter has become the hunted. The groundbreaking Season 1 that left audiences on the hook — the plan of killing CM Handa goes awry and audiences were left guessing what Prithvi Singh's next move would be. Sudhir Mishra returns this time as a series director along with Sachin Mamta Krishn as director. Ronit Bose Roy reprises his role of protagonist SP Prithvi Singh who is caught in the eye of a storm and is trying to find a way out of this hostage situation.

> **Divya Dutta** On playing Prithvi Singh, actor Ronit Bose Roy shared, "It's humbling to know that my character Prithvi Singh has found so much love and affection, even though he technically was the antagonist. For me personally, I wanted to go beyond my own performance from the previous season and really explore the depths of this intense character where he goes from being entirely in control to losing that control and finding himself in a situation he can't find a way out of. Hostages Season 2 is a finely crafted masterpiece and I'm eager to know what else is in



store for Prithvi." On joining the cast Actor Divya Dutta shares, "It's been a joyride being a part of this show. For me, it's about bringing alive characters that are strong and memorable. Playing a hostage negotiator you realize how tough that job is one wrong move and someone's life could be in danger. It has been a satisfying journey."

Having reneged on his deal to kill Chief Minister Handa, Prithvi Singh now plans to transport the CM out of the country. As tables turn, will Prithvi Singh find a way out of this? Stay tuned!





what's brewing?

Kangana's challenge: 'Coming to Mumbai on Sep 9, stop me if you can'



Kangana Ranaut has thrown an open challenge at Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut asking her not to come back to Mumbai.

Kangana took to her verified Twitter account on Friday and stated that she would be arriving in Mumbai on the 9th of September and

dared anyone to stop her.
"I see many people are threatening me to not come back to Mumbai so I have now decided to travel to Mumbai this coming week on 9th September, I will post the time when I land at the Mumbai airport, kisi ke baap mein himmat hai toh rok le (stop me if you can)," tweeted the actress.

Kangana's open challenge comes a day after the actress alleged on Twitter that Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut has asked her not to come back to Mumbai.

"Sanjay Raut Shiv Sena leader has given me an open threat and asked me not to come back to Mumbai, after Aazadi graffitis in Mumbai streets and now open threats, why Mumbai is feeling like Pakistan occupied Kashmir?" the actress had tweeted on Thursday. Kangana is currently in her hometown Manali, where she has spent the Covid-19 lockdown with her

Big B shoots 4 campaign films in a day: 'It's a struggle to be back on your feet'

ctor Amitabh Bachchan is back in the work mode in the right earnest. As he returns to the sets after recovering from the coronavirus, he has embraced work with a vengeance. "Yooo .. hooo !!! .. back to the grind and work .. 4 campaign films .. 5 outfit changes .. 4 still shoots .. 5 hrs one day .. other than me everyone else looking like they ready for a 'heist'.. and tomorrow on to KBC .. !!" the actor tweeted.

Through his blog, he also gave a glimpse of what his workday looked like. Sharing a few photos where he is seated on a wheelchair, Amitabh wrote, "Its been a struggle to be back on your feet and the considerate unit accommodates me with this vehicle of convenience. The surroundings are quiet and disci-

plined, scarce conversa

tion. A respected look and guidance, care at every wheel turn, crew about, seeking any requirement from me, feeling like a child in the cradle. All precautions of mask and PPE and distance and channels where I should wheel away, ready and designed before, people about to take any instructions — fatigue, rest, eat something, a coffee or a drink, a break... just say it, no rush no issue." He went on to explain that the wheelchair was a requirement for one of the shoots.

Robert Pattinson tests positive for Covid, The Batman shoot suspended

ritish actor Robert Pattinson has tested positive for Covid-19, news media reported on Thursday, halting production of The Batman and highlighting the industry's struggles to get back to business after months of a pandemic-induced shutdown.

Movie studio Warner Bros. said in a statement that "a member of The Batman production" in Britain had tested positive for the coronavirus, but did not give a name. "Filming is temporarily paused," the studio's statement added, but did not say for how

long. Variety, the Hollywood Reporter and Vanity Fair all cited sources as saying the person who tested positive was Pattinson, the film's star.

Warner Bros. and Pattinson's representatives did not return calls seeking comment. It was not clear to what extent Pattinson, 34, best known for his breakout role in the vampire movie series Twilight, was suffering Covid-

of crew members, makeup artists, actors, extras and other 19 symptoms.
Filming of *The Batman* had resumed north of London production staff. Some productions, including Universal Pictures' Jurassic World: Dominion, have restarted in London or in movies and TV Eastern Europe, while the cast of the Avatar sequel is back at shows around the work in New Zealand, where world due to the the coronavirus has been kept coronavirus. The movie, in check. Tom Cruise in July got perin which mission to shoot parts of the Robert stars next Mission Impossible as the thriller in Norway without comic book hero, having to follow quarantine requirements. However, Variety reported that the production has hired two cruise ships to house the crew to keep them apart

about three months of materi-

al left to shoot, according to

Hollywood trade outlets. Its

October 2021.

release was pushed back earlier this year from June 2021 to

Movie and TV production

has been slow to get going again in the United States

under complex safety procedures that include testing, quarantine and social distanc-

ing on sets that employ dozens



Honey Singh on why he launched 'Billo tu agg' amid lockdown known for belting out release the song when

apper Yo Yo Honey Singh and musician Singhsta have collaborated

once again, and the rap star say lock-down was the best time to drop the new track. Titled Billo tu agg, the song is the latest in the

Honey Singh has worked on with Singhsta, after Makhna. "This is lockdown time. The clubs are not

this is the best time to

non-film circuit that

open and no parties are taking place. I thought

people can listen to it at home or in their cars. That is why I chose this song and that is how this song happened," Honey Singh told IANS.

About how the song came to be, he added, "Billo tu agg has been written and produced by Singhsta. He is my artiste. I signed him in 2017 and I have pushed him to do the kind of music I wanted him to do. So, finally he came up with this idea of the song called *Billo tu agg*. The rapper, who is

hits like Brown rang, Love dose and Blue eyes says he saw a lot of potential in the track.

"He (Singhsta) made me listen to the song and said that 'I have written and produced the music, if you come on board then this song will be good. I saw potential in the song and then I wrote my verse for the song," said Honey

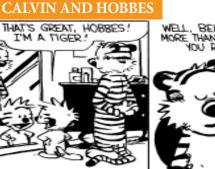
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CROSSWORD



GARFIELD

NANCY

SQUIRREL ??

SQUIRREL ??

GINGER MEGGS

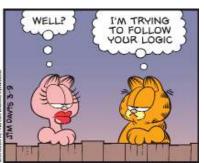




POOCHIE!

SQUIRREL ??

SQUIRREL ??



35 SECONDS



REALITY CHECK



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ACROSS

1 This small sea creature might sting a swimmer

6 Does a signature on

7 Telling untruths 9 Very uncommon

10 The tiredness you get after

a very long plane flight 12 A paper hanky

14 A hard black fuel

17 The opposite of tails

18 Train tracks

19 A month

DOWN

4 Recorded with a movie

camera

2 Very keen 3 Misplaced



5 Not moving

11 Day's end

13 Frighten

6 Pull something to

make it longer or wider

8 A swimmer's glasses

15 A small oval oily fruit

16 A baby's transport







Most Read

Frenchman to livestream own death



A Frenchman who is suffering from an incurable condition said that he plans to livestream his death on social media as he refuses to take food, drink or medicine after President Emmanuel Macron turned down his request for euthanasia Álain Coco

who suffers from a rare condition where the walls of the arteries stick together, said he believed he had less than a week to live and would livestream his death on Facebook from Saturday morning. He had written to Macron asking to be given a substance that would allow him to die in peace but the President wrote back to him explaining this was not allowed under French law. Cocq, 57, has used his plight to draw attention to the situation of terminally-ill patients in France who are unable to be allowed to die in line with their wishes. "Because I am not above the law, I am not able to comply with your request," Macron said in a letter to Cocq, which the patient published on his Facebook page. "I cannot ask anyone to go beyond our current legal framework... Your wish is to request active assistance in dying which is not currently permitted in our country," said Macron. "With profound respect" In order to show France the "agony" caused by the law in its current state, Cocq said he would broadcast the end of his life on his Facebook page which he believed would come in "four to five days".

Plant with 4 leaves sold for Rs 4 lakh in NZ



A tiny house plant with just four leaves has been sold for a whopping £4,000. The plant is a variegated rhaphidophora tetrasperma or philodendron minima. The plant is rare with leaves that are half green and half yellow. The plant's uniqueness sparked the bidding on New Zealand's trading site Trade Me. The winning bid turned out to be NZ \$8,150 (Rs 4.02 lakh). The highest price paid for a plant on the website before this bid was NZ \$1,650. The listing which had over 8,000 views

leaves with stunning yellow variegation on every leaf. Variegation is the appearance of differently coloured zones in the leaves. Variegated plants are not only rare but they also grow slower than the non-variegated sorts. They rarely occur in nature because variegation is not all that good for the plant."It's the green in the leaves that lets plants photosynthesise. The less green, the less surface area they have to produce the sugars they need for growth and repair. NZ Gardener editor Jo McCarroll explained.

Parents lock kids for 4 months over Covid fears



Three children taken into care after being locked up by their parents for nearly five months in case they caught the coronavirus should not be allowed to return home, an administrative court in Sweden has ruled. From March until early July, the children, aged between 10 and 17. were prevented from leaving the family's apartment, whose door was "nailed shut with planks" and also

kept isolated from each other, according to the court verdict in Jönköping county. The children's lawyer, Mikael Svegfors, told local radio the family did not speak or understand Swedish fluently and followed the news about Covid-19 from the parents' home country, which had imposed much tighter restrictions than Sweden. "It is an absolute clash between how people think in different parts of the world," Svegfors said. "The children got caught up in this, and in the fear of a pandemic we should all be afraid of in one way or another. The case was "obviously very sensitive", but the court and local social services had the children's best interests at heart, he said. The parents have said the children were home-schooled and denied locking them in against their will, saving they were free to go out if they wished. They intend to appeal against the compulsory care order. "There are different perceptions and different images in this," Andreas Hannah, the lawyer who represented the parents at the court, told the radio station P4

Arctic fires released record amount of CO2



The Arctic has experienced the worst fire season on record for the second year in a row, with giant wildfires sending over one third more carbon

dioxide into the atmosphere than last year. Fires raging across the Arctic Circle emitted 244 million tons of carbon dioxide for the first six months of the year, compared to 181 million tons for the whole of 2019, according to Europe's Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service or CAMS. "We've known for a long time that the rate of change of climate and temperature at northern latitudes has been two to three times faster than the global average," said Mark Parrington, senior scientist at CAMS "What we're now seeing is a symptom of that more rapid rate of change." The fast warming of the Arctic has manifested this past few months through heat waves that have broken temperature records. At the same time, satellites showed that the sea ice shrank more than during any other July in history. Thinner ice in Arctic waters meant the Northern Sea Route, which is used during the summer months to ship gas, oil and metals from northern Russia to China, opened up earlier than usual this year Emissions from Arctic fires were so high that in just six months the region emitted the equivalent of what countries like Spain.

Well done

Nagal's US Open dream ended as he went down to Thiem, but not before impressing his rival

PTI NEW YORK

umit Nagal's trademark Sfighting spirit was on display throughout but it was not enough to get past world number three Dominic Thiem, who notched up a straight-set victory over the Indian in the US Open men's singles second round on Thursday.

Nagal lost 3-6, 3-6, 2-6 to the second-seeded Austrian,

who celebrated his 27th birthday with a commanding performance at the Arthur Ashe sta-

Thiem, this year's Australian Open finalist, had said that he has seen videos of Nagal's game and knew that he has a ripping forehand. Well prepared, he came out with a clear strategy of not giving many balls on the forehand side of the Indian



"Thank you 2020 US Open. Lots to learn. Going to keep working hard! Thanks for all the support everyone," Nagal later

Nagal came into the contest after giving India a rare singles main draw match win at a Grand Slam but it was always going to be a daunting task for him to challenge someone who has made two French Open

finals.

Slow off the blocks, Nagal was broken early but the slogger that he is, he kept Thiem under pressure, creating as many as five chances to break back in the fifth game that lasted 10 minutes.

He converted the fifth breakpoint when Thiem made an unforced error and made it 3-3 with an easy hold, riding the momentum. Playing with a lot of energy and stinging strokes, those were the best two games that Nagal played as the gap between him and the top players was on display after that.

Thiem, using his superior game shifted gears with remarkable ease, turning the tide with an immediate break and served out the set.

Nagal lost his serve early again with Thiem getting a grip of his returns. The Austrian started to serve better and also unleashed his big-hitting game, keeping the match in a tight grip. Thiem broke the 23-yearold Nagal one more time in the seventh with a cross court winner to serve at 5-2.

Nagal got a break back when Thiem hit a backhand long on the third breakpoint but dropped his serve in the next to give his fancied opponent a twoset advantage.

Thiem wrapped up the match with ease even as Nagal

kept finding winners here and there. He fought hard and saved a match point too, but it was clear that the young Indian's best was not enough to trouble the top guns.

The world No 3 Thiem will play 2014 champion Marin Cilic in round three. Cilic, seeded 31st, took four sets to overcome Norbert Gombos 6-3, 1-6, 7-6, 7-5.

Elsewhere, third seed Daniil Medvedev progressed to the third round 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 at the expense of the 116th-ranked Christoper OConnell.

The Bulgarian fell to 66thranked Hungarian Marton Fucsovics 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/4), 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 in 4hr 50min.

Dimitrov became the second-highest men's seed to exit the tournament after Chile's Cristian Garin, seeded 13th, lost in five sets on Wednesday. Canadian Raonic was taken down 6-7, 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 by his countryman Vasek Pospisil.

Mum's the word

Three of nine mothers in main draw reach third round, with wins over top seeds

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Djokovic vs Struff erena star sports select 1 & 2 ing her first tournament

SWilliams, Victoria Azarenka and Tsvetana Pironkova made up a 'Band of Mothers' who marched into the third round of the US Open on Thursday. Williams, Azarenka

and Pironkova were part of a cluster of nine mums who started this week's women's singles tournament at Flushing Meadows

Six of the nine — Kim Clijsters, Vera Zvonareva, Tatjana Maria, Kateryna Bondarenko, Patricia Maria Tig and Olga Govortsova — have

been eliminated. But unranked Bulgarian Pironkova — play-

in three years after a break to have her first child - prolonged her participation with a 7-5, 6-3 upset of Spanish 10th Garbine Muguruza.

Former world number one Serena also advanced with a 6-6-4 win over Russia's Margarita Gasparyan.

Williams and Pironkova were later joined by Azarenka, another former world number one who beat Belarussian compatriot and fifth seed Aryna Sabalenka 6-1, 6-3.

We expect to hit top gear by year end: Reid | Need practice games for

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tndia's training environment Lis second to none and the national team can hit the top gear by the end of this year, asserted chief coach Graham Reid, who has adopted a "conservative approach" to train his players.

Forced to hit the pause button after touching its alltime highest world ranking of fourth, the Indian men's hockey team did not train for more than five months due to the Covid-19 pandemic

An optimistic Reid said even though the future looks uncertain with no international competition scheduled for this year, the side can regain the intensity by the end

of this year.

"It's not just India, the rest of the world has been affected by the Covid. Every hockey playing nation is in the same mode. But the good thing is that we are on the right path now. It is definitely going to take a while for us to return," the Australian said.

But by the end of this year, probably by November-December we expect to return to where we were because if we are able to train without any hindrance, our environ-

> T h e best thing is we have a centralised training

Australia has in Perth."

Having spent the entire period here in India since the outbreak of the virus, Reid is aware of the approach he and his support staff needs to adopt in the prevailing circumstances. "The good thing is that the

players have started what they love doing — go on to the field. But we are taking a very conservative approach, we are not going too fast," he said.

"We are right now just

focussing on fitness and skill training, making sure that players are getting their skills back, hing with GPS with emphasis on control over a player's workload." The ongoing camp, that

began on August 19, is scheduled to end on September 30, but the coach hinted that it can be extended till November if the situation demands and ment just external factors are under con-

match awareness: Rhodes

NEW DELHI: Skills are not a concern but "match mindset" certainly is, Kings XI Punjab fielding coach Jonty Rhodes has said, stressing the need for practice games before the IPL to give the competition-starved players a feel of what awaits them in

tournament proper. Rhodes, who is returning to the IPL after a two-year gap, also feels that coaching staff like him has an additional responsibility of providing emotional support to the players this time given at most would be without their

families and friends due to Covid-19 health safety protocols. "I think from a skills point of view, batting wise, all the boys have their skills

back, they are playing

ramp shots in the nets

and playing shots all around the ground, which is interesting because they could not practice much during lockdown," Rhodes said.

"You tend to pick up the skills quickly but it is the match practice or the lack of it that will take a while to get used to. Playing in the nets is one thing, if you can get the match mindset, especially in a tournament like the IPL, it is very important."

Like other teams. Rhodes said KXIP too is keen on having a few practice games before the arrange one or two practice games just because of this reason (for match mindset).

> The skills have come back quickly. The balls are just flying out of the ground and it is good to see the bowlers hitting the right areas," said the South African.

Bhajji pulls out of IPL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh on Friday became the second high-profile name to pull out of this year's Indian Premier League owing to "personal reasons", saying he has informed the Chennai Super Kings team management about his decision.

The 40-year-old, who has been a part of CSK during the past two seasons is currently in Jalandhar with his family and requested privacy.

"I have informed the CSK manageficult times. I expect that

everyone would respect my need for privacy," Harbhajan, who was bought by the fran-chise for ₹2 crore, told PTI on Friday.

Once Harbhajan officially announced his

CSK finally hit the nets

Dubai: Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and all other Chennai Super Kings players, except for the Covid-19 afflicted duo of Deepak Chahar and Ruturaj Gaikwad, finally hit the nets on Friday after clearing a third round of testing for the virus.

The coronavirus-free players returned negative in the additional round of testing on Thursday, clearing their way to start training.

pullout, CSK issued a statement, backing the player "Harbhajan Singh informed us he won't be availment about my decision to pull able due to personal reasons. Team Chennai Super out of this year's IPL. I have Kings is supportive of his decision and stands by him decided to take a break due to and his family during these testing times," CSK tweet-

personal reasons in these dif- ed CEO KS Viswanathan's statement.

ATLETICOS COSTA, ARIAS TEST COVID +VE MADRID: Atlético Madrid striker Diego Costa and defender Santiago Arias have tested positive for the coronavirus, the Spanish club said. The players are in quarantine and will not report for the team's first day of training on Friday.

PSG ANNOUNCE 3 MORE CORONA CASES

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain on Thursday announced "three new positive cases" of Covid-19 in their squad. a day after Neymar, Angel Di Maria and Leandro Paredes were revealed to have contracted the virus. casting serious doubt over the start of their season in France. L'Equipe reported that defender Marguinhos. striker Mauro Icardi and goalkeeper Keylor Navas who were also in Ibiza — were the new positive cases.

TT EVENTS TO RETURN IN NOVEMBER

WASHINGTON: Table tennis events will return in China in November. The International Table Tennis Federation says World Cup events for men and women will be held in China after the country took over hosting duties from Germany and Thailand. The 16 top-ranked men and women will compete at the ITTF Finals. World Cup events will have 20-player lineups of no more than two

BARBADOS, ST KITTS & NEVIS EXIT CPL

from each country.

TAROUBA: Defending champions Barbados Tridents crashed out after suffering a six-wicket loss to Guyana Amazon Warriors, while St Kitts & Nevis Patriots too exited the CPL even before finishing their quota of ten leagues matches. While the Warriors secured their semis berth outplaying Tridents, the match between Patriots and Jamaica Tallawahs was washed out after just over five overs on Thursday. With three teams yet to play two matches each and two of them with one match each in hand, the four semi-finalists have been

ALL QUAID-E-AZAM GAMES IN KARACHI

KARACHI: Cricket activities will resume in Pakistan later this month with the start of the domestic season. the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Friday. The PCB said that the domestic matches would be held in a biosecure environment due to the Covid-19 precautions and has scheduled all matches of the premier first class tournament, the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy in Karachi from October 18, 2020 to January 5, 2021.

HAVERTZ CLOSE TO COMPLETE CHELSEA MOVE LONDON: Kai Havertz left the Germany camp on Friday

to travel to London to finalise his transfer from Baver Leverkusen to Premier League side Chelsea, reportedly costing around 100 million euros. Ahead of Sunday's away Nations League match with Switzerland Germany head coach Joachim Loew allowed the 21year-old to leave their camp to settle the details. Havertz jetted to London, reportedly for his Chelsea medical, after being on the bench for Thursday's 1-1 draw against Spain in Stuttgart. Agencies

STAYING at Barca

AFP ■ BARCELONA

T ionel Messi is staying at Barcelona and in an exclusive interview with *Goal*, he has explained that he wanted to leave, but the club made it impos-

"When I communicated my wish to leave to my wife and children, it was a brutal drama," Messi told Goal.

did not want to leave Barcelona, nor did they want to change schools. "But I looked further afield and I want to compete at the highest level, win titles, compete in the

because it is very difficult, but you have to compete. "At least compete for it and let us not fall apart in Rome, Liverpool, Lisbon. All that led me to think

Champions League. You can win or lose in it,

about that decision that I wanted to carry out. "I thought and was sure that I was free to leave, the president always said that at the end of the sea-

son I could decide if I stayed or not. "Now they cling to the fact that I did not say it before June 10, when it turns out that on June 10 we were competing for La Liga in the middle of this awful coronavirus and this disease altered all the

"And this is the reason why I am going to continue in the club. Now I am going to continue in the club because the president told me that the only way to leave was to pay the €700 million (£624m/\$823m) clause, and that this is impossible.

'There was another way and it was to go to trial. I would never go to court against Barca because it is the club that I love, which gave me everything since I arrived.

"It is the club of my life, I have made my life here.

"Barca gave me everything and I gave it everything. I know that it never crossed my mind to take Barca to court.

Messi confirms he's | WBBL to be played entirely in Sydney | Wrestlers urge WFI to



"The whole family began crying, my children

ustralia's T20 women's Big Bash Augue was on Friday shifted entirely to Sydney as coronavirus travel restrictions forced drastic venue and schedule changes

The eight-team tournament was originally set to start on October 17,

with 59 games across six cities. But they will all now be played in Sydney, starting a week later, due to

Covid-19 border closures and quaran-

tine requirements.

Many of Australia's World Cupwinning T20 squad will play the BBL including Meg Lanning, Alyssa Healy and Ellyse Perry.

Cricket Australia's head of Big Bash Leagues Alistair Dobson said he was working with the Australian Government to ensure overseas players could also enter the country to join their clubs. Players had been expecting the switch to a single-location hub, and Brisbane Heat captain and Australia allrounder Jess Jonassen said it was good to have certainty

"Now there's that little bit of clarity around what the season is going to look like, everyone is able to prepare for that," she said.

"I think everyone is just really excited to get out on the field and start playing some cricket again."

The men's BBL is due to start on December 3 with games countrywide, although that will almost certainly be

postpone men's camp

fter three Indian wrestlers tested Apositive for coronavirus at the Sports Authority of India centre in Sonipat, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is facing growing calls to postpone the men's national camp. Some grapplers — in quarantine in Sonipat — have expressed concern and said that to start the camp soon could 'backfire".

A senior wrestler told IANS that the federation must speak to the SAI and postpone the camp immediately.

They put us at risk. Why is everybody going so mad about starting the camp so early? What is the hurry? Which tournament we are playing this year? This (national camp) is going to backfire. Better postpone it immediately," said

Another wrestler said that the athletes present in Sonipat are giving excuses to leave the camp. "Wrestlers have started giving personal reasons to leave the camp. Some said their mother is not well and some have given other reasons. Nobody wants to take any chance with life," he said.

On Thursday, three wrestlers — Deepak Punia (86kg), Navin (65kg) and Krishan (125kg) — tested positive for Covid-19 in Sonipat, where they were in a 14-day quarantine ahead of a national camp, raising doubts about the start of the training on September 15.

But the federation insisted that the development wouldn't have a negative impact on the national camp. According to a source, eight men wrestlers have reached the venue so far and they all are inside their rooms, serving the mandatory 14-day quarantine period.

Spain snatch late draw against Germany

AFP ■ STUTTGRAT

Tose Luis Gaya's late goal gave Spain a 1-1 draw away in Germany on Thursday as the start of the Uefa Nations League marked the return of international football in Europe following a hiatus of 10 months due to the coro-

navirus pandemic. Valencia defender Gaya was on hand to score from close range in the sixth minute of added time in Stuttgart after Rodrigo Moreno had nodded down a Ferran Torres cross, in a

dramatic ending to the and hunger. We didn't League A, Group Four encounter.

Earlier, new Chelsea striker Timo Werner had given Germany the lead just after half-time in an entertaining contest between two of the last three World Cup

winners. It was Luis Enrique's first game of his second spell as Spain coach, despite being re-appointed in November just after their last game in Euro 2020 qualify-

In League B, Artem Dzyuba netted a brace as Russia beat Serbia 3-1 in

Moscow, while in the same Group 3, Hungary were surprise 1-0 winners away in "This team is full of faith

over Switzerland in Lviv.





tollywood

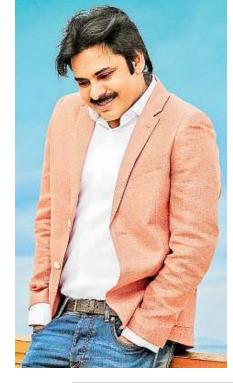
Satya ecstatic with Pawan's praise

power star Pawan Kalyan on his 49th birthday Wednesday, little did Satvadev know that his tweet would elicit reaction from the star who generally doesn't communicate much with industry folks on Twitter! Naturally, Satya, who received rich plaudits

Maheswara Ugra Roopasya from the industry and general audience alike, was over the moon with the reply of Pawan. "Thank you Satyadev garu, I truly enjoyed your performance in your latest film *Uma* Maheswara Urga roopasya. All the best" was Pawan's reply to Satya.

An ecstatic Satya, who

played a blink and miss role in Pawan-starrer Attarintiki Daaredhi, wrote, "Sirrrrr, thank youuu so much. Will cherish this for a long long time. Thank you again for presenting me a gift on your birthday. Our #umamaheswaraUgraRoop asya team is ecstatic with your message @PawanKalyan (sic)."





PAVAN'S FEEL-GOOD ROMANTIC COMEDY

with Dinesh Tej and Shweta Avasthi

The filmmaker, whose interest has always been movies and UPSC, tells NAGARAJ GOUD about his film, completing shoot in 36 days, theatrical experience and more

he filming of debutant director K Pavan Kumar's untitled romantic comedy, featur-ing *Hushaaru* fame Dinesh Tej and Shweta Avasthi, has been wrapped up. Bankrolled by Venkatesh Kothuri under Kothuri Entertainments LLP, it features Sanjay Swaroop, Gururaj, Bindu, Sandhya Janak and Mani in supporting roles. Speaking to *The Pioneer*, the director savs it was deliberate from their end not to announce the film when it went on the floors last July. "We wanted to finish the film first and later focus on the marketing side. We've completed the shooting in 36 days spread over three

THE DIRECTOR **SAYS IT WAS DELIBERATE FROM** THEIR END NOT TO ANNOUNCE THE **FILM WHEN IT** WENT ON THE **FLOORS LAST JULY.** months. Right now, the re-recording is going on and in three weeks time, the trailer will be out," the director tells us.

Pavan, who completed his MBA from University of Kansas, US in 2009, worked as an assistant director for a couple of films, with Harish Shankar's *Mirapakay* being the prominent one. His interest has always been movies and UPSC. He started with movies but as it turned out to be difficult to balance movies and UPSC, he had to temporarily bid adieu to movies and focus on UPSC. "I spent six years in New Delhi for UPSC preparation. I gave five attempts, but couldn't clear it. I came back to Hyderabad in 2017 and recommenced movie attempts. I've made a couple of short films soon after to get hands-on experience and got the nod of Dinesh

last year for the feature film," he shares. Shedding light about the film, he points out that it narrates the tale of a girl (played by Shweta) who is about to get hitched. "She is happy with the match, but is at a crossroads career point of view. She wants to

do something meaningful with her life before walking down the aisle. What she does and how her personality changes due to it is what the film treads. Dinesh will be seen as a startup guy who helps the girl's cause. It's a slice of life feel-good film and is a right film for the season," he asserts.

He goes on to mention that his producer Venkatesh is keen on a big screen debut for the film. "Like our team, he loves the theatrical experience and it is the reason why he has been waiting. We are hopeful of cinema halls reopening next month," Pavan informs, smilingly adding that while there will be a section which will be cautious to visit theatres as soon the shutters are out, there will be another section like himtired of cooped at home and consuming content on OTT. "I am eager to watch a film

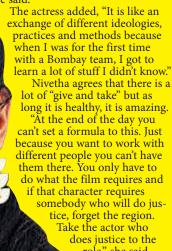
Great to have people from across regions working together: **NIVETHA**

ivetha Thomas is happy with the talent exchange happening within film industries in the country.

Several actors from film industries down South including Prabhas, Vijay Deverakonda, Dhanush,

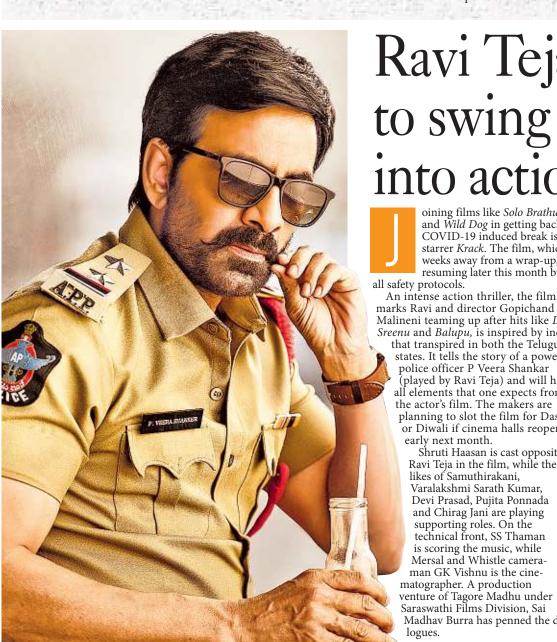
Sudheer Babu have forayed Bollywood late ly, or are set to do so, even as a huge list of Bollywood stars, including Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan among many others have wor in the south Indian film industries.

Nivetha said she welcomes such talent exchange. "It is cultural integration. I wel come it with open arms. At the end of the day when we are talking about it from the broader front. It is great to have people from across regions working together,"





n his 18-year career, Prabhas has always been content in doing one film at a time. But that is going to change next year, according to reports. The actor, who has announced a couple of projects in the last seven months, will be shuffling between the sets when they go in front of the cameras next year. He will dive into the shooting of Nag Ashwin's futuristic scientific-thriller set against the backdrop of an imaginary third world war early next year and film for portions that need extensive VFX work. The schedule, it is believed, will be a short one, lasting just a month. Later, he will completely shift his attention to Om Raut's Adipurush, a screen adaptation of a chapter from Indian epic Ramayana, and will shoot until it ends. The director is looking at a threemonth time period to finish it. So it's likely that Prabhas will rejoin the sets of Ashwin's film in July or August. It is being said that this is his attempt to tell his fans that he is serious about releasing at least one film a year from 2021



Ravi Teja to swing into action

oining films like *Solo Brathuke So Better* and *Wild Dog* in getting back on sets after COVID-19 induced break is Ravi Tejastarrer Krack. The film, which is two weeks away from a wrap-up, will be resuming later this month by following all safety protocols. An intense action thriller, the film, which

Malineni teaming up after hits like *Don*Sreenu and Balupu, is inspired by incidents that transpired in both the Telugu states. It tells the story of a powerful police officer P Veera Shankar played by Ravi Teja) and will have all elements that one expects from the actor's film. The makers are planning to slot the film for Dasara

or Diwali if cinema halls reopen

early next month. Shruti Haasan is cast opposite Ravi Teja in the film, while the likes of Samuthirakani, Varalakshmi Sarath Kumar, Devi Prasad, Pujita Ponnada

and Chirag Jani are playing supporting roles. On the technical front, SS Thaman is scoring the music, while Mersal and Whistle cameraman GK Vishnu is the cinematographer. A production venture of Tagore Madhu under Saraswathi Films Division, Sai Madhav Burra has penned the dia-

