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Maruthi Rao death: Amrutha blocked by family while trying to attend father's last rites

Tension mounted during the funeral procession of Maruthi Rao when Amrutha tried toattend the last rites of her father. She was blocked by her family members and some people also raised slogans 'Amrutha go back'.

Amrutha amid police security visited graveyard at Gandhi Nagar in Miryalaguda where the last rites of Maruthi were being held. Soon a?er she got down from the car, the sympathizers of Maruthi Rao created ruckus at the graveyard blaming that she killed her father.

She was blocked by her family members when she tried to get closer to the body.

Himachal Pradesh governor Bandaru Dattatreya falls sick, rushed to hospital in Hyderabad

Himachal Pradesh governor Bandaru Dattatreya fell sick on Monday and was rushed to Apollo Hospitals in Hyderguda. It is learned that Dattatreya suffered chest pain and isundergoing treatment.

The doctors a?er conducting all the tests said that it was just gastric trouble and confirmed that his condition is stable. Party leaders and other political personalities are paying a visit to the hospital to see him. He will be discharged from the hospital late in the afternoon. Dattatreya who was serving as the governor of Himachal Pradesh is on a visit to Hyderabad.

Oil prices crash after Saudi

Arabia launches price war

Yes Bank shares jumps 30 pc after SBI agrees to take 49pc stake



Agency, March 9

Shares of Yes Bank on Monday zoomed over 30 per

strapped lender for Rs 2,450

On the NSE, it jumped 32.20 per cent to Rs 21.35.

SBI on Saturday announced it will pick up a 49 per cent stake in Yes Bank for Rs 2,450 crore and clarified that all the deposits and liabilities of the reconstructed bank will continue in the "same manner".

"Yes Bank has 255crore shares of Rs 2 per share. SBI will be issued 245 crore shares at a price of Rs 10 per share for Rs 2,450

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar had earlier said that it had set a maximum investment limit of Rs 10,000 crore for Yes Bank reconstruction

SBI shares were trading over 4 per cent lower at Rs 258.50 on the BSE.

Yes Bank has been struggling to raise capital amidst its dwindling financial health. It sought to raise USD 2 billion initially during this fiscal, which was then pruned to USD 1.2 billion as it could not rope in any in-

mediate sliding to about \$32 a barrel and Brent crude to about \$36 a barrel. Saudi Arabia launched an all-out oil war Sunday with the biggest cut in its prices in the last 20

Singapore: GNS

Oil plunged over 20

News Agency, March 9

percent on Monday after top

exporter Saudi Arabia

launched a price war in re-

sponse to a failure by lead-

ing producers to strike a

deal to support energy mar-

both lost about a fifth of their

value in morning Asian

trade, with West Texas Inter-

The two main contracts

years, Bloomberg News reported, after a failure by cartel OPEC and its allies to clinch a deal to cut produc-

A meeting of main producers was expected to agree to deeper cuts to counter the impact of the new coronavirus -- but Moscow refused to tighten sup-

In response, the Gulf powerhouse cut its price for April delivery by \$4-6 a barrel to Asia and \$7 to the United States, with Aramco ready fallen heavily in recent selling its Arabian Light at an weeks due to fears about the

unprecedented \$10.25 a barrel less than Brent to Europe, Bloomberg said.

'Punishing Russia'

Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA, said that "Saudi Arabia seems intent on punishing Russia

"Oil prices... will likely be capped over the next few months as coronavirus stalls economic growth, and Saudi Arabia opens the pumps and offers huge discounts on its crude grades."

Global markets had al-

killed thousands and has spread around the world since emerging in China late

Tokyo stocks were hit heavily hit at the open Monday on fears over the virus and the plunge in oil prices, with the dollar down against

Just after markets opened, crude prices briefly dropped as much as 30 percent before gaining back some ground -- the biggest fall since the Gulf War in 1991, Bloomberg said.

The new develop- gion in the red.

coronavirus, which has ments are reminiscent of the oil price war that erupted in 2014 and sent oil prices crashing to less than \$30 a

> The price fall then battered revenues in the Gulf countries, forcing them to resort to austerity measures and borrowing to plug budget deficits.

On Sunday, shares in the energy-dependent Gulf plunged to multi-year lows after the failure to clinch a deal on production cuts, with all seven bourses in the re-

crore. This will be 49 per The scrip witnessed a cent of the share capital of cent after State Bank of In- sharp rise, spiking 29.63 per the reconstructed bank," the dia (SBI) said it will pick up cent to Rs 21 on the BSE. State Bank said in a state-Jammu woman tests positive for coronavirus,

India's Covid19 cases totals 43

Jammu: GNS News Agency, March 9

A 63-year-old woman tested positive for Covid-19 coronavirus in Jammu, officials said on Monday. This raises the number of cases in the country to 43.

The woman, who had a travel history to Iran, was among two patients who were declared "high viral load cases" by the administration on the weekend.

They are undergoing treatment at the isolation ward of the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital and are in a stable condition, the officials said. "The test report of the

while the report of the other patient is still awaited," a Health Department official

Another woman, who ing, they added. had returned from Saudi Arabia, was admitted in



day and was kept under obwoman patient is positive, servation in an isolation ward, the officials said.

> Her samples were sent to National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune for test-

> > After the two patients

ral cases" on Saturday, the administration announced immediate closure of all primary schools in six districts of the Union Territory and suspension of all biometric attendance till March 31 as

a precautionary measure. The two with a travel sent to Pune.

history to coronavirus-hit Italy, South Korea and Iran had fled the hospital's isolation ward on Wednesday shortly after their admission, but were brought back within hours of the incident

Their samples were

A memorable journey to Finland



visit to Finland, along with my wife Durdana Arshi and teenaged children, son Mohammed Numan Shamsuddin, daughter Manal Mohammad shamsuddin was indeed a memorable one. It was a five-day trip during last week in December last year. We stayed at the iconic Helsinki for a day while we going to Rovamani and coming back to Helsinki spent the remaining five days at Rovaniemi, also the home town

The most memorable moment in the journey was from Stockholm's to Helsinki, ferry Viking Line (Mariella) we spent all night in ferry to travel to Helsinki my son and daughter first experience in their life, it was fantastic movement for all of us, we travel finland Helsinki, earlier in 2003, we went for honeymoon in Helsinki, Finland and as I was covering the Stockholm's open tennis tournament, since we both journalist, unarguably one of the best cities in the world. A visit to finland all cities including Helsinki cannot be completed without mentioning their water facility. We get pure water and I can say confidently that one never get such good quality anywhere in the

Talking about Rovaniemi is nothing short of inspiring. This place, the capital of Lapland was severely damaged in the Second World War but bounced back strongly to become a modern city with world-class facilities. This place is home to Arktikum, a museum cum science centre which explores the Arctic region and the history of Finnish Lapland. The Science Centre named 'Pilke' features interactive exhibits on northern forests. The only missing point in the entire journey was that we missed the famous Northern Lights as they are not clearly visible during this

Our visit to Arctic Circle was like the icing of the cake. All the four of us enjoyed the snow and were busy shooting videos before immersing ourselves into the mystic snow. It was a new feeling for us and even though it was chilling cold, we could spend time happily. The memories of visiting Santa Claus Village will forever stay in my mind.

What attracted me the most in this beautiful country is the education system which is also known to be one of the best in the world. They offer free education for students, even at university level. This also applies to international students from EU/EES. Non-EU-nationals can enjoy free tuition fees if the classes are taught in Finnish or Swedish, or doctoral studies in any language.

The latest UN report says Finland is the happiest country in the world. The Nordic countries are in general always at the top, but Finland made a big climb this year from number 5 to number 1. The country has a great reputation of being tourist friendly and language was never a barrier for us with English being their second language and being spoken widely. I was surprised to see there



was no trace of pollution in the country.

The thought about Finnish food might come across any traveller. This nation, as mentioned earlier, is a good hosting country and food certainly plays a major part in it. Finnish cuisine is influenced by Sweden and Russia and draws on what was traditionally available: fish, meat, milk and potatoes, with dark rye to make bread and porridge. Soups are a Finnish favourite and one common in homes and restaurants. A Finnish family on an average consumes 12 kg of coffee every year!

Finland is also known for its glassware, and one of the most iconic and valuable brands is littala, which has been making glass since 1881 and now has filled practically every Finnish home with glass items. They last so long that it is common for people to inherit littala items from their relatives. In Finland, the winter is long and cold throughout the country; it lasts almost five months even in Helsinki, which lies in the far south. Here, the temperature remains almost constantly around or below freezing (0 °C or 32 °F) from mid-November to late March.

Finland is a friendly nation which treats outsiders as their own. The country aims at attracting investments from Indian and neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, China, Nepal and Pakistan. They also welcome IT professionals with both hands, something I figured out during this visit. The real estate scenario in the country looks promising and as do restaurant business as they are cheaper when compared to any Asian or Nordic country.

Sports Village, a dream that I am part of, feels that the children we train at our centre in Hyderabad will benefit hugely if they can train here during the summer holidays with world's best coaches. We will certainly make it a point to bring a person to make Indian food because there is a tendency that children may miss the same. We are committed to bring some of the finest coaches to Hyderabad and our focus primarily lies in football and tennis. School University, Henlsinki is a hub of sporting activities and we need to tap its potential to the fullest.

Finland is also famous for its lakes. There are 1, 87,888 lakes within Finnish territory. That's a lot of lakes, so no wonder that the country is sometimes referred to as "the land of thousands of lakes".

In short, Finland is one country which can satisfy the business needs and recreational needs of one individual and a suitable destination for leisure trip.

> Written by Mohammad Shamsuddin **Snaps India (Editor) Sports Village CEO**

Kerala covid19 cases touch six after 3 year old child tests positive in Kochi

Kerala GNS News Agency, March 9

A 3-year-old child who reached Kochi international airport from Dubai has tested positive for the deadly coronavirus (Covid-19). With this, the total number of patients increased to six. The child with its parents landed at Kochi on March 7.

The swab samples of the child's parents were also sent to National Institute of Virology for testing. The child had mild fever when tested at the screening facility at the

The patient was soon shifted to the isolation ward at Ernakulam government medical college. All the co-passengers on the flight have been kept under observation. The condition of the child is stable. The total number of persons quarantined in the government medical college



Sensex nosedives over 1,500 pts on global equity rout

Mumbai: GNS News Agency, March 9

Equity benchmark Sensex plummeted over 1,500 points in opening session on monday led by deepening rout in global markets amid volatility due to rapidly-spreading coronavirus and free falling oil prices.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures plunged nearly 30 per cent to USD 32.11 per barrel after top exporter Saudi Arabia launched a price war in response to a failure by leading producers to strike a deal to support energy markets.

Continuing its downward spiral, the 30share index was plunged

1515.01 points, or 4.03 per cent, to 36,061.61. The NSE Nifty too cracked 417.05 points, or 3.80 per cent, to 10,572.40.

In the previous session, the 30-share BSE barometer settled 893.99 points or 2.32 per cent lower at 37,576.62. Likewise, the Nifty tanked 279.55 points or 2.48 per cent to close at 10,989.45.

On a net basis, foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 3,594.84 crore, while domestic institutional investors bought shares worth Rs 2,543.78 crore on Friday, data available with

stock exchanges showed. ONGC was the top

laggard in the Sensex pack, nosediving up to 11 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, RIL, PowerGrid, Tata Steel, L&T, SBI and Tech Mahindra while.Sun Pharma was the sole

According to traders, investor sentiment took fresh beating tracking the heightened volatility in global markets amid concerns over the rapidlyspreading coronavirus and

sinking crude prices. Incessant foreign fund outflow also spooked market participants, traders

Bourses in Shanghai dropped over 2.41 per

cent, Hong Kong 3.53 per cent, Seoul 3.89 per cent and Tokyo cracked up to 5.65 per cent. Oil prices plunged

nearly 30 per cent, adding to global crude prices tanked after Saudi Arabia on monday cut its price for april delivery by USD 4-6 a barrel to Asia and USD 7 to the United States, with Aramco selling its Arabian light at an unprecedented USD 10.25 a barrel less than Brent to Europe, reports said.

While in India, the Yes Bank crisis has raised concerns over the stability of the country's banking system, adding to the woes of domestic investors, traders said.

English Daily

Channels off air

As expected, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry's telecast ban on two Malayalam news channels, including the most popular one in Kerala, for coverage of the Delhi riots has led to a furore. The order to suspend transmission may have been withdrawn much before its 48-hour-long punishment, but the Centre has a lot of answering to do for what necessitated the action. Labelled as biased and high-handed, the punishment was ordered without establishing the offence committed by the two channels. The order cited 'inflammatory' coverage, but media and political circles attributed it to the channels being critical of the government's handling of events. The challenge posed to the freedom of the press remains an overarching con-

Since it is the time for raising hard questions, why not also ask the media, in its entirety, to introspect over where it has landed itself and those it claims to serve — the people of India? Barring a handful, television news channels in the country have over the past few years managed to lower the bar to levels that freely attract ridicule, dismay and charges of pandering to the powers that be. When the damage to credibility is self-inflicted, cries of 'media under attack' get lost in the cacophony of right versus wrong, fake versus real, sloganeering versus debating. That puts extra pressure on journalism, but speaking truth to power, and that too loud and clear, is the very foundation the profession rests on. In this case, therefore, the action of the government needs to be condemned unequivocally.

Equally bizarre and excessive has been the action taken by the Uttar Pradesh Police to put up hoardings in Lucknow with photographs and addresses of those accused of damaging property during the anti-CAA protests. Whatever the charges against them, naming and shaming individuals and marking them out as public enemies without even a trial is a travesty. Resorting to such 'street justice' methods, that too by those meant to maintain law and order, needs to be strongly discouraged.

Two new degree courses likely

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

In tune with industrial demand, two new courses -BSc in data sciences and BCom in business analytics are likely to foray into undergraduate education from the next academic year (2020-21).

The new courses are being designed to suit the requirements of the industry so that graduates easily land jobs. The Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) has constituted an expert committee comprising academicians and experts from the industry for designing the course curriculum. To start with, only a few select colleges — autonomous and prominent ones — will be granted permission to offer courses from the next academic year. Admissions to these courses will be based on the merit secured in the qualifying examination.

"Data sciences and business analytics are much talked about in the industry. The idea to introduce the new courses is to make students job-ready and also to prepare the required workforce for the market. The expert committee has been constituted to formulate the course curriculum," said TSCHE senior official.

A leading multinational company has agreed in principle to offer BSc in data sciences in collaboration with academic institutions. "There will be offline and online classes," the officials revealed.

Apart from new courses in emerging technologies, there were plans to introduce vocational and skill-based courses, including taxation, automobile engineering, hospitality management, physiotherapy, garment technology, at the undergraduate level from the next academic year. A proposal was recently sent by the Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education to the TSCHE.

Presently, the board is offering 22 vocational and skillbased courses in Intermediate colleges across the State. The idea behind the proposal was to help about 96,000 vocational Intermediate students continue their higher studies in the same field. This apart, skill-based courses will also help students land a job after completing their graduation. Responding positively to the request, the TSCHE has written to the State universities to look into the board's proposal.

Degree colleges may soon have management quota Hyderabad: The long-pending demand of private degree college managements for management quota seats is likely to be fulfilled this year.

Recently, the Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) has sent a proposal to the State government for sanctioning management quota seats to the tune of 25 per cent or 30 per cent from the next academic year in private degree colleges.

An order to this effect is likely to be issued by the government before the commencement of the Degree Online Service, Telangana (DOST) counselling.

According to sources, the private college managements will be given an option to choose either management quota or DOST system for filling up seats in their respective colleges.

Under the management quota, private colleges will be allowed to fill up to 30 per cent seats in each course and the rest will be filled up through the DOST counselling. Currently, there are 1,156 private degree colleges offering various conventional courses with a total intake of more than 3 lakh students.

Indian Chronicle Police felicitate Public **Prosecutors in Nirmal**

Indian Chronicle Bureau HYDERABAD, MARCH9

Superintendent of Police C Shashidhar Raju felicitated public prosecutors, court duty officers (CDOs) belonging to police department who played a vital role in conviction of criminals, here on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, Raju informed that 59 accused were convicted by courts, following efforts of the public prosecutors and CDOs. He said that the prosecutors and officers had coordination and were instrumental in courts awarding the punishments including three life terms. He added that the convictions deter crimes in the society and help citizens lead a peace-

Prosecution deputy director Bhadradri said that



and CDOs could do improve conviction rate if worked together. People trust the poculprits are punished. He was all praise for the police officers for coming forward to felicitate the advocates

and officials involving in

court duties, as per directions of Director General of Police M Mahender Reddy.

Later SP handed over lice department when the certificates of appreciation to investigating officers and CDOs for rendering outstanding services.

Public prosecutors

Rajeshwar Rao, Sriram, DSPs Upender Reddy and Narsing Rao, Inspectors John Diwakar, Jeevan Reddy, Srinivas Reddy, Venkatesh, Srinivas and many other police officers were present.

Karimnagar Collector asks staff to keep office premises clean

Indian Chronicle Bureau

HYDERABAD, MARCH9

Collector K Shashanka said cleaning localities was the responsibility of every person and asked collectorate employees to make their office a role model by maintaining office premises clean. The Collector along with Mayor, Municipal Corporation of Karimnagar, Y Sunil Rao cleaned the collectorate premises as part of Pattana Pragathi here on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that it was the responsibility of employees to maintain collectorate localities clean. Collectorate area was dividied into eight parts and employees were asked to take up sanitation work regularly.

MCK Mayor Y Sunil Rao, Collector K Shashanka and others examining a drainage in collectorate premises in Karimnagar on Saturday.

Each part of the area was allocated to a depart-



ment, he said and asked the workers to take up cleaning programme on every Saturday. MCK commissioner, Valluri Kranthi, Zilla Parishad CEO Venkatamadhava Rao, former Mayor S Ravinder Sigh and collectorate employees par-

Take steps to check road mishaps, Warangal Cops told

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

Police Commissioner V Ravinder has asked police commissionerate officials to focus on containing the growing road accidents. Addressing the DCPs, Additional DCPs, ACPs and other lower rank officials during a monthly crime review meeting here on Saturday, the Commissioner said that they could cut the number of deaths by 50 in the last year comparing to the before last year. "Taking that into consideration, each official has to take steps to contain the road accidents thus save the precious lives," he added.

He asked them to identify the blackspots on the highways and other roads. "You need to set up sign boards and make arrangements like barricades to check the speed of the vehicles at the accident prone areas," he said and also asked the traffic police to intensify the vehicle inspections to check the triple riding, drunk driving and also the vehicles that carry no number plates.

Speaking on checking the crime rate, he suggested the officials to use technology and get command over the latest technology so as to catch the criminals at the earli-



locals in the lanes and bylanes. He cautioned them to be careful while dealing with the long pending disputes and also sense the possibility of crime due to such cases in the future. "The police officials at the police station must keep the higher officials in the loop about the grave offences immediately," he added.

DCP (West Zone) Srinivas Reddy, Additional DCPs est. He also advised them to see that the number of the Venkatalaxmi, Malla Reddy, Bheem Rao, Giri Raju and CCTV cameras would be increased with the help of the others attended the review meeting.

Cooperative Sector of TS would stand as a model to the country: Minister

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

Energy Minister G Jagadish Reddy on Saturday said that it was only the TRS, which was not facing anti-incumbency being a ruling party in the elections, due to the welfare schemes and development programmes taken up by the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Speaking at a media conference here, completion of election of DCCB Chairman post, Jagdish Reddy said that the TRS created history in the politics of the country by showing its domination in all elections since 2014.

Generally, the ruling parties would face anti-incumbency in the elections of its second term, but majority of the TRS in the Legislative Assembly elections-2018 increased. The TRS has captured 95 per cent of the municipalities in the state in elections to urban local bodies.

In Zilla Parishad elections, the TRS has won chairman posts of all 32 zilla parishads in the district. The TRS supported candidates were also won as chairman of 95 percent of DCCBs in the state. It indicated the faith reposed in Chief Minister by the people, he added

He pointed out that the Chief Minister has made Telangana state stand as top in the country in welfare of the people and development in a short span of time.

He has also exuded confidence that cooperative sector of Telangana state would also stand as a model to entire country. Reminding that Mahender Reddy has worked as PACS chairman for three decades, he said that the Chief Minister has recognized his commitment on welfare of the people and provided the opportunity of DCCB chairman. MLC Sheri Subhash Reddy, Government Whip



Gongidi Sunitha and MLAs Kancharla Bhupal Reddy and Gadari Kishore were also present.

Telangana power demand peaks to 13,168 MW

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

Telangana is powering its way into the record books, literally! The State has now set a new record in power consumption with the peak demand soaring to 13,168 MW on Friday, surpassing the peak demand of 13,162 MW on March 13, 2014, in undivided Andhra Pradesh.

Maoist carrying Rs 9.50 lakh reward surrenders in Maharashtra

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH9

A top Maoist carrying a cash reward of Rs 9.50 lakh on his head has laid down arms before the police in Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra on Friday.

The Maoist called Vilas alias Dasru Kolha, aged 44 years surrendered before the Superintendent of Police Shailesh Balkawde along with an assault rifle AK-47 and ammunition consisting of three magazines and 35 rounds, informed a press release.



According to the SP Vilas joined the CPI (Maoist) Party in the year 2000 and was currently working in north Gadchiroli as divisional committee commander. He was involved in as many as 149 serious offences that includes 40 murder cases, 57 encounters, 24 dacoits and eight kidnaps. This was the first time that a naxal has surrendered with an AK 47 weapon in the district. Vilas hails from Vikaspalli in Etapalli taluka in Gadchiroli district and first joined Etapalli dalam, later worked as dalam commander of Tippagad dalam, Chatgaon dalam and was promoted as divisional committee commander, the SP informed.

Telangana CS tells departments to file replies to Assembly queries soon

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH9

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar directed departmental heads to submit details of new Presidential Order to General Administration Department by March 4.

He held a review meeting with the officials at BRKR Bhavan on Saturday over the implementation of the new Presidential Order, replies to pending Legislative Assembly questions, Legislative Council questions, Zero Hour mentions, audit paras and preparation of outcome budget and notes on demand etc.

The CS informed that reports on new Presidential Order submitted by various departments to the General Administration Department and Finance had been sent with some observations to the concerned departments.

He directed the officials to submit the proposals in accordance with rules by March 4 to the General Administration Department. Further, steps would be taken as per the business rules, he said. He also asked the officials to take utmost care regarding the questions raised during the previous Assembly session and also on the present ses-

He directed the heads to submit replies immediately and also coordinate with the Assembly officials. The reports on pending audit paras should be sent to the PAC (Public Accounts Committee) immediately.

Detailed information should be incorporated in note on demand and outcome budget. Departments should also prepare brief profile and submit to the government, he

Special Chief Secretaries Rajeshwar Tiwari, Shanti Kumari, Principal Secretaries K Rama Krishna Rao, Rajat Kumar, Sunil Sharma, Shashank Goel, Jayesh Ranjan, Vikas Raj, Ravi Gupta, Additional DG Jitender, Assembly Secretary Narasimha Charyulu and other secretaries participated in the meeting.

Pocharam Bhaskar Reddy elected as Nizamabad DCCB chairman

INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU

HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

Assembly speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy's son and Desaipet society chairman Pocharam Bhaskar Reddy was unanimously elected as Chairman of Nizamabad District Co-operative Central Bank (DCCB).

There was a single nomination filed on Saturday for both DCCB chairman and vice-chairman posts and consequently, Pocharam Bhaskar Reddy was declared elected as Chairman and Ramesh Reddy elected as the Vice-

DCMS elections were also unanimously as only two nominations are filed for DCMS Chairman and Vice-chairman posts. TRS party proposed Nallavelli PACS chairman Sambari Mohan as DCMS chairman and Bibipet PACS chairman Edulla



Indrasena Reddy as DCMS Vice-chairman. Amrad PACS chairman Srinivas Goud expected DCMS chairman post and he expressed his discontent for not being elected as DCMS

Housing and R&B minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy supervised the DCCB and DCMS elections proses, along with Nizamabad rural MLA Bajireddy Govardhan and MLC V.G.Goud. Speaking on the occasion, the newly elected DCCB Chairman Pocharam Bhaskar Reddy expressed his gratitude to the Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, Municipal Administration minister K. T Rama Rao, R&B Minister Prashanth Reddy and Speaker Pocharam for selecting him as DCCB chairman and said he would strive for the benefit of farmers and development of bank.

Later Bhaskar Reddy took blessings from his father and assembly speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Nizamabad rural MLA Bajireddy Govardhan and R&B minister Prashanth Reddy.

Naxal who wanted to quit arms beaten up in Chhattisgarh

Kothagudem: GNS News Agency, March 9

A naxal in neighbouring Chhattisgarh was reportedly beaten up severely by his comrades in arms for expressing desire to quit the outlawed CPI (Maoist) party and to join mainstream life.

According to the police, the naxal who wanted to quit the movement was identified as Sannu Mandvi. He was said to have worked as the Maoist Bairamgarh area committee member in Bijapur district and used to carry an INSAS assault rifle with him.

It was said that he recently shared his idea of quitting the Maoist movement and surrendering to the police. The local leaders who came to know this beat him up and warned that he would be punished in 'Janatan Adalath'.

the forests and approached Bijapur police for help. The police admitted him to District General Hospital, said Superintendent of Police Divyang Patel. Mandvi has many criminal cases against him at different police stations, he

Maoists kill BJP leader

In another incident, BJP leader Ramesh Gawde was killed by Maoists in Pakhanjur of Kanker district. It was said that the Maoists shot at his chest.

The incident took place at his residence at Hahaladdi village where unidentified men surrounded him and fired at him. He was immediately rushed to local Community Health Centre where he was declared dead, the police

Govt gets Rs 23,701 cr AGR

New Delhi: GNS News Agency, March 9

The Government has received Rs 23,701 crore so far as AGR dues till Saturday with the latest payment of Rs 8004 crore by Airtel in its second instalment. Bharti Airtel on Saturday made additional payment of Rs 8,004 crore towards adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues to the Department of Telecom (DoT). This payment of Rs 8,004 crore is in addition to Rs 10,000 crore the company paid on February 17, 2020 in compliance with the Supreme Court judgement, it said in a regulatory filing.

The top court had directed on February 14 that AGR dues will need to be paid up by the next hearing day. Earlier Vodafone Idea had paid Rs 3500 crore in two tranches and Tata Teleservice has paid Rs 2197 crore. TTSL has said the paid amount is its full and final figure after self assessment, while DoT officials said they would send notice to TTSL to pay the remaining amount pegged

Now all eves are on Vodafone Idea if it makes any further payment. VIL chairman K.M. Birla has made several trips to DoT and has also met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman seeking relief in paying the AGR dues. On Friday, the Digital Communications Commission met but officials said they need more data to reconcile government figures with telcos self assessment to be able to consider any relief. The next Supreme Court hearing is on March

In its exchange filing on Saturday, Airtel said it calculated the liabilities on self assessment basis till December 31, 2019 and the payment includes interest up to February 29, 2020. The company carried out a self assessment from



"Accordingly the company paid an additional amount of Rs 3,004 crore towards the full and final amounts due over and above ad-hoc amount of Rs 10,000 crore paid on February 17, 2020 on behalf of Bharti Group of companies," the filing said. The payment included liabilities on Bharti Airtel, Bharti Hexacom and Telenor India. "We have also deposited an additional amount of Rs 5,000 crore, as an ad-hoc payment (subject to the subsequent refund/adjustment to cover differences, if any arising from the reconciliation exercise with the DoT," Airtel said.

"Based on the aforesaid payment, we have now complied with the AGR judgement and the directions in the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated October 24, 2019," the company said. However, according to DoT estimates, Airtel owed nearly Rs 35,586 crore, including li-FY 2006-07 up to December 31, 2019 and interest thereon cence fee, spectrum usage charges with interest on unup to February 29, 2020 in line with the AGR judgement, paid amount, penalty and interest on penalty till July 2019.

Kerala man quarantined for pneumonia symptoms dies

Kannur: GNS News Agency, March 9

Ernakulam Medical College after showing symptoms of pneumonia, passed away on Friday midnight.

Body fluid samples of Jainesh, from Payyannur in Kannur, were tested at the National Institute of Virology in Alappuzha for both H1N1 and coronavirus. The result of his first sample was negative while that of the second was

"Jainesh's body fluid samples, which were tested at A resident of Kannur district, who was quarantined in the National Institute of Virology in Alappuzha, returned negative for both H1N1 and coronavirus. The result of the second sample is awaited," Ganesh Mohan, a resident medical officer at the medical college, said.

> Thirty-six-year-old Jainesh, who had arrived from Malaysia, was kept on a ventilator following pneumonia. He had landed at Kochi airport yesterday at 1 am and thereafter, he was taken to the medical college.

6 detained for shouting 'Goli maro' slogans in Delhi Metro

New Delhi: GNS News Agency, March 9

The Delhi Police have detained six men for raising controversial slogans at Delhi's Rajiv Chowk metro station on Saturday

According to the Delhi Police, "Around 12.30 p.m. slogans 'desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maro ***** ko' were raised at Rajiv Chowk metro station... we have detained them at Rajiv Chowk metro police station and interrogation is being carried out."

traitors" slogans inside the metro when it was about to halt at the station and then they continued to shout the slogans

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel, responsible for the security of the Delhi Metro, intercepted the protesters and handed them over to the Delhi Police. The police are interrogating them.

in the North-East Delhi violence, Kejriwal said that his gov-

Will work with Centre for Delhi's development: Kejriwal

New Delhi: GNS News Agency, March 9

After meeting Union Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said that they have decided to work together for the next five years for the development of the national

"We are in regular touch with Hardeep Puri Ji as he is the Urban Development Minister. This was my first meeting with him after the Delhi assembly election. This was a formal meeting. Both of us have decided to work together for the next five years for the national capital and its people," Kejriwal told reporters here after the meeting.

Kejriwal said that they share the same vision for Delhi. "As this is the capital city, we need to make it the best place in the world. To develop infrastructure and give people access to facilities, the Delhi government will work with Puri's Ministry," he said.

When asked if the Urban Development Ministry will

ernment would definitely seek help if needed. "The Delhi government is already working on providing relief and rehabilitation. I am taking regular briefing from the officers." Ensuring justice reach all priority of government: PM Modi

Allahabad: GNS News of the government that ev-

Agency, March 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said ensuring that all citizens get benefit and justice is the government's responsibility and also the base of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas and

sabka vishwas'.

ery person is benefitted and every person gets justice. This is the base of sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas," he said reciting a Sanskrit shloka at a mega camp after distributing assistive devices among people with disabilities and senior citizens.Modi said "It is the responsibility serving 130 crore people of

the country is the priority of the last five years, our govhis government. Hitting out ernment held around 9,000 at previous governments, he camps in various parts of the said they did not care for country. In the five years of people with disabilities but his dispensation was thinking about their problems and finding ways to reduce their issues. During previous governments, very few camps such as these used to be organised, he said."In

the previous government, equipment to people with disabilities worth less than Rs 380 crore were distributed, while our government gave equipment worth more than Rs 900 crore, which is two-and-half times," he said.

'Intelligence Bureau intel before Delhi riots was unsubstantial in nature'

New Delhi: GNS News Agency, March 9

The information provided by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) about the prevailing ground situation in northeast Delhi before riots broke out were "unsubstantial in nature", sources in Delhi Police said.

The input generated by the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau (SIB), Delhi headed by Joint Director Vikram Thakur and shared with Delhi Police had "vague reference" of communal tension and "nothing specific" was mentioned in their series of intel reports, sources said.

They further stated that IB Director Arvind Kumar along with Thakur had visited the riot-affected areas early wee hours on Wednesday. They did after National Security Advisor Ajit Doval took charge of the riot-affected situation on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's direction.

lice S.N. Shrivastava to look after the law and order situa-

After visit, Kumar had submitted a detailed report to the Prime Minister Office which had stated reports of rioters coming from Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad and few other areas. It also stated that how a mobilisation of locals was made on Sunday evening within an hour. It has also a sequence of the events and how violence started.

telligence, allegedly failed to gauge the situation in the reports before riots too had no 'specific input'.

The SIB has failed to generate specific reports at many instances. Be it the police and lawyers feud, violence in JNU, or conspiracy to hit Central government on Citizen Amendment Act, the SIB could not gauge the situation.

Ranga Reddy

The unit for the last two years is more engaged into preparing reports on cabinet ministers' performances, marriages of bureaucrats' family members and other issues, but it always had missed larger issues which happened in Delhi, sources police, state government and Ministry of Home Affairs alleged.

The unit earlier was headed by IPS officer Safi Ahsan Rizvi, who had stressed more on generating ground reports rather than copy-cut-paste job.

When Rizvi was promoted as Additional Director in Doval had appointed Special Commissioner of Po- 2019 and sent to head economic intelligence, the SIB came under 1996-batch IPS Vikram Thakur who is from the Uttar

> Before this, Thakur was in the operational wing of the Intelligence Bureau and worked in coordination with the Delhi Police Special cell for long. He had worked upon various terror modules.

The Delhi Police has also a unit — Special Branch which also generate local intelligence. The unit is currently The SIB, which is responsible for gathering local in- headed by 1993-batch IPS officer Praveer Ranjan. Their

An environment of fear prevailing in Delhi: Congress

New Delhi: GNS News Agency, March 9

The situation in Delhi is far from normal and an environment of fear is prevailing in the national capital, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma said on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters, Kumar said that the recent events in the national capital which unfolded due to "deliberate inaction" on part of the authorities have left people of the city living in

"We are a constitu- added. tional democracy, where there is a rule of law. Recent events, riots in the national capital, the killing of almost 50 people and injuries to almost 200, enormous life and property because of deliberate inaction and in many cases complicity has led to a very tense situation,"

"The situation is far from normal. there is a prevailing environment of fear. Our citizens are living in fear," he

Sharma said.

Kumar said that the fundamental rights of people are under assault and that the sedition law is being misused against anyone who raises voice against the government.

"We have seen that for merely objecting to a government's decision or action or a wrong law or discriminate legislation, the citizens are being accused of sedition. It is the right of every citizen to question, to

over the country, sedition cases are being filed, which has never happened,"

The Congress leader said it is time the Supreme Court "intervenes effectively" to protect the rights of the citizens guaranteed by the Indian constitution.

At least 42 people have died while around 200 people sustained serious injuries in the violence that rocked north-east Delhi for

SC should look into charges slapped on protesters: Congress

New Delhi: News Agency, March 9

The Congress on Saturday accused the police of carrying out a "one-sided" investigation into the violence in Delhi and urged the charges.

The party's senior spokesperson Anand Sharma also said the situation is far from normal and an atmosphere of fear is still prevailing in the national capital.

Sharma alleged the police "which allowed Delhi

GNS to burn for four days" is car- 307 of IPC (attempt to murrying out a "one-sided" investigation. He said in the name of action it should be seen against whom the action is being taken.

"What is the definition Supreme Court to appoint of hate speech? If the an amicus curiae to scrutin- speeches made by the BJP ise all such cases in which leaders were not hate protesters and activists are speeches, and the protests being slapped with serious are a threat to the society as per the cases registered. Shockingly, as per an FIR against a group of people and an organisation called United Against Hate. And what is the case...for having said in a speech that 'we shall not get up or give up our protest even if we have to die for that'. For that they

der)," he said.

"We urge the Supreme Court to take cognisance of all these cases and appoint an amicus curiae to scrutinise all these cases where people are being framed and put in jails," Sharma told

sists a court by offering information, expertise, or insight that has a bearing on the case.

"The SC is the custodian of the Constitution. The delays don't help. The entire world is watching this country, it is time that the Supreme Court intervenes were slapped with section effectively to protect the

teed by the Constitution." Sharma said

"We have no expectations from Centre or the Home Ministry or Delhi Chief Minister (Arvind Kejriwal) but we have hopes from the courts," he said.

At least 42 were killed An amicus curiae as- and over 200 injured in the communal riots that broke out in northeast Delhi on Monday after clashes between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control.

> The areas worst affected in the violence include Jafrabad, Maujpur, Chand Bagh, Khureji Khas and Bhajanpura.

Meghalaya clashes: Curfew reimposed, mobile services suspended

Shillong GNS News Agency, March 9 : Curfew was reim-

posed Saturday noon in some areas of Shillong town after one person was killed in clashes between KSU members and non-tribals during a meeting on CAA and inner line permit (ILP), officials said.

The Curfew was imposed on Friday night following the clashes and lifted at 8AM on Saturday.

A ban on mobile internet services was continuing in six districts, they

Curfew was reimposed at noon in the areas under Lumdiengjri and Sadar police stations of Shillong town, they said, adding that five additional companies of armed police forces have been deployed in sensitive

The situation in the state is under control and a minister has spoken to me. close watch is being maintained, an official said.

The clashes between the Khasi Students Union (KSU) members and nontribals broke out during anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and pro-ILP meeting held in the Ichamati area of

East Khasi Hills district close to the Indo-Bangladesh border on Friday.

Mobile internet services have been suspended in six districts — East Jaintia Hills, West Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi, West Khasi Hills and South West Khasi hills — from Friday night for 48-hours, they said.

Officials said SMSes will be limited to five per day.

Police have arrested six persons in connection with the attack on the rally at Ichamati on Friday leading to the death of a pro-ILP activist, officials said.

Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy has appealed to people to stay calm and not pay attention to rumours

"I appeal to all citizens in Meghalaya, tribal or nontribal, keep calm. Don't spread rumours and don't listen to rumours. The chief He assured me he is taking all necessary steps. The prime requirement now is to maintain law and order," the governor said in a state-

Meghalaya Home Minister Lahkmen Rymbui has Elon Musk condemned the incident in

Ichamati.

Rymbui said a magisterial inquiry has been initiated into the incident to find

He said the curfew was clamped and mobile internet services suspended as a precautionary measure.

F-35 has no chance against a drone fighter plane: Elon Musk

San Francisco: SpaceX CEO Elon Musk is confident that the traditional warfare era is long over and the future belongs to drone fighter planes that will dominate the sky and F-35 fighter jets will have nowhere to go.

Addressing the gathering at Air Warfare Symposium organised by the US Air Force in Florida on Friday, Musk said the age of fighter jets dominating the sky is over.

"For the air domain... things are definitely going to go into, kind of... locally autonomous drone warfare... is where the future will be... It's not I want the future to be this, this is what the future will be, autonomous drone warfare...," The Drive reported Musk as saying.

"Drones locally will be autonomous, but I think we still want to retain the authority to damage or destroy anything that isn't an autonomous drone. Keep the authority back there with a person in the loom. The fighter jet era has passed. It's drones," Musk added.

Later, in a tweet, the SpaceX founder said: "The competitor should be a drone fighter plane that's remote controlled by a human, but with its maneuvers augmented by autonomy. The F-35 would have no chance against it".

He stressed that F-35 stealth jet "would have no chance" against a drone remotely piloted by a human.

F-35 has no chance against a drone fighter plane:

F-35B fighter jets provide support during the joint Cobra Gold exercise in the coastal Thai province of Rayong.

Apartheid-era pictures head to auction



New Delhi: GNS News Agency, March 9

An archive of images taken from the photographer's studio of ZJS Ndimande and Sons in Greytown during Apartheid, a system of racial segregation practised in colonial South Africa, will go under the hammer at an auction.

Global auction house Bonhams will sell some of these historically-important studio portraits in London on March 18. The studio, which opened in 1940, was later forbidden from operating under the owner's name as Greytown (now the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa) was considered a white district during the regime. The 1,126 loose images and four albums of men, women and children posing for Ndimande in his studio have an estimate of 6,000-9,000 pounds.

ZJS Ndimande began his family-run photography studio in the 1940s with his son, Richard Ndimande, who later took over the business from his father in 1968.

"Richard Ndimande's pictures were taken under circumstances of duress. But, they have a pride and self-assertion to them that belies the context within which they were produced. Within the confines of the studio a state of utopia reigns, free from the politics of race and space that governed daily life for black South Africans," Ekow Eshun, journalist, broadcaster and curator

University student discovers 17 new planets

London, GNS News Agency, March 9

University of British Columbia (UBC) astronomy student Michelle Kunimoto has discovered 17 new planets, including a potentially habitable, Earth-sized world, by combing through data gathered by NASA's Kepler mis-

Over its original four-year mission, the Kepler satellite looked for planets, especially those that lie in the "habitable zones" of their stars, where liquid water could exist on a rocky planet's surface. The new finding, published in The Astronomical Journal, include one such particularly

Officially named KIC-7340288 b, the planet discovered by Kunimoto is just one and a half times the size of Earth — small enough to be considered rocky, instead of gaseous like the giant planets of the Solar System — and in the habitable zone of its star.

"This planet is about a thousand light-years away, so

we're not getting there anytime soon!" said Kunimoto, a PhD candidate in the Department of Physics and Astronomy."But this is a really exciting find since there have only been 15 small, confirmed planets in the habitable zone found in Kepler data so far," Kunimoto added.

The planet has a year that is 142.5 days long, orbiting its star at 0.444 Astronomical Units (AU, the distance between Earth and our Sun) - just bigger than Mercury's orbit in our Solar System, and gets about a third of the light Earth gets from the Sun.Kunimoto working on her PhD at UBC used what is known as the "transit method" to look for the planets among the roughly 200,000 stars observed by

"Every time a planet passes in front of a star, it blocks a portion of that star's light and causes a temporary decrease in the star's brightness," Kunimoto said. "By finding these dips, known as transits, you can start to piece together information about the planet, such as its size and

Margaret Thatcher named outfits after world leaders

London, GNS News Agency, March 9

Late UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had named some of her outfits after other world leaders, including Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and former US President Ronald Reagan, newly released documents have revealed.

The incident is detailed in the latest release from the Margaret Thatcher Archive Trust, which is overseeing the gradual publication of the former leader's private files, the BBC said in a report on Saturday.

Files have revealed that Thatcher, the UK's first female Prime Minister, named more outfits after Gorbachev, said the eighth and last leader of the erstwhile Soviet Union, than any other leader, followed by Reagan.

An entry from her private diary records that she wore Television Studios in Manchester in January 1990. Eight Burgundy" to the Bank of England. months before, she had worn the same dress when she

Chris Collins, from the Margaret Thatcher Archive Trust, said that "only certain men" received the accolade of having an outfit named after them. He noted, for example, that Thatcher chose to name a dress she wore when she met French President Francois Mitterrand after Waddesdon Manor, the Buckingham country house where the meeting

When she met President George HW Bush in 1990, she was recorded as wearing her "Black Dull Suit". The former Prime Minister's christening of her wardrobe was not limited to foreign leaders she admired, the BBC report

BBC broadcaster Terry Wogan, who interviewed Thatcher in January 1990, had several outfits named after him including a "Wogan Long" and a "Wogan Short". Anher "Pink Chanel Gorbachev" during a visit to the Granada other entry from 1990 details that she wore her "Wogan

Mahathir re-emerges as candidate for new Malay PM

Malaysia. GNS News Agency, March 9

Malaysia's interim leader Mahathir Mohamad attends a committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur: Mahathir Mohamad, who resigned earlier this week as Malaysia's Prime Minister, re-emerged as a candidate for the post on Saturday after receiving support from the Pakatan Harapan (PH) ruling coalition.

In response to the statement that he had supported Muhyiddin Yassin, a former Deputy Prime Minister and the President of Mahathir's own Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) party, the 94-year-old said he did not sign any statutory declaration in support of any individual, reports Xinhua news agency.

Mahathir said he had a meeting with the PH coalition on Saturday morning, and was now confident that he has the numbers needed to garner majority support in the Lower House of Parliament.

"I am therefore prepared to stand as prospective candidate for Prime Minister," he said in a statement.

Mahathir led PH to power after winning the general

election in 2018. But his abrupt resignation and the pulling out of his PPBM party from the PH on Monday cost the coalition its

parliamentary majority. In a statement on Saturday, PH, which has proposed

former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim as candidate for the premiership after Mahathir's resignation, said that they were now fully backing Mahathir for Prime Min-

Slovaks poised to oust ruling Smer party in election clouded by graft

BRATISLAVA (GNS News Agency, March 9

- Voters look poised to oust the centre-left Smer party that has dominated Slovakia's political landscape for more than a decade in a national election on Saturday overshadowed by anger over high-level

Opinion polls ahead of a two-week moratorium before the ballot pointed to a

rapid rise for anti-corruption movement Ordinary People (OLANO), increasing chances it may form a centre-right majority with smaller conservative and liberal parties to outmanoeuvre

OLANO founder and pledged to clean up Slovak politics, an ambition encapsulated in his party's slogan:

"Let's Beat the Mafia Together".

"We can get rid of government that used its power to make itself and connected people rich," he said in the final television debate this week. "Poor people were paying for that, sick people were dying unnecessarily, leader Igor Matovic has and young people were leaving Slovakia. Let's turn

that around."

The political shift in the

euro zone member state, which has avoided fights with Brussels unlike its central European Visegrad Groups neighbours Hungary and Poland, started with the 2018 murder of journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancee.

An investigation unearthed communications between a businessman now on trial for ordering the hit and politicians and judicial officials.

US reports fourth case of COVID 19

Los Angeles: GNS News Agency, March 9

US health officials reported Friday a fourth case of novel coronavirus of unknown origin, indicating the disease was spreading in the country.

The latest case is a boy under 18 in Washington State who tested "presumptive positive," local authorities said without releasing further details about the patient.

He is currently in home isolation in Snohomish County. The high school he attends will be shut until March 3 while it is deep cleaned, the Washington State Department of Health said.

In neighbouring Oregon, authorities said Friday an adult who had had contact with people at an elementary school had been hospitalized and was also considered "presumptive positive."

"We've been expecting this and we're prepared for it," Oregon's Health Authority director Patrick Allen told

Earlier Friday, Californian health authorities said an older woman was confirmed infected with unknown origin -- the second such case in the northern part of the

"This new case indicates that there is evidence of community transmission but the extent is still not clear," said Sara Cody, director of public health for Santa Clara

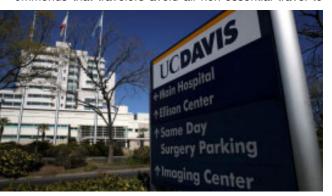
"What we know now is that the virus is here, present at some level, but we still don't know to what degree," she

The two cases in California are close to Silicon Valley, where tech giants like Apple, Google and Tesla are a dozen cities in the north are under lockdown.

Travel advisory issued

The United States on Friday warned against non-essential travel to Italy, a top destination for US tourists, over the growing coronavirus epidemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "recommends that travelers avoid all non-essential travel to



Italy. There is limited access to adequate medical care in affected areas," it said in a statement.

The State Department raised its travel advice a notch for Italy to "reconsider travel," pointing to a "sustained community spread" of the virus there.

Italy has reported 650 coronavirus cases and 17 deaths -- the most in Europe from the epidemic that originated in China, which is by far the most affected country.

Italy has urged tourists not to stay away, even as nearly

US Democratic presidential contenders Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden

CarolinaGNS News Agency, March 9

US Democratic presidential contenders blasted the Republican Trump administration's handling of the coronavirus outbreak on the eve of South Carolina's fourth-in-the-nation nominating contest on Saturday

Joe Biden is banking on the southern state to breathe new life into his struggling campaign and make him the top moderate alternative to national frontrunner Bernie Sanders, a self-described democratic

Trump defended his handling of the threat on Twitter on Thursday told a rally in Memphis, Tenevening, writing that the administration's actions put 'us way ahead in our battle with coronaviru's.

Sumter: US Democratic presidential contenders blasted the Republican Trump administration's han- per Tuesday nominating dling of the coronavirus out- contests next week in Tenbreak on the eve of South Carolina's fourth-in-the-na- On Thursday, he camtion nominating contest on paigned in Texas, Oklahoma Saturday.

Former Vice President southern state to breathe new life into his struggling campaign and make him the top moderate alternative to national front-runner Bernie Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist.

Here's what is happening on Friday:

Coronavirus criticism

Biden, US Senator Sanders and former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg joined the chorus of prominent Democrats criticizing the administration response to the virus, whose rapid spread reached six new countries and sent global stock markets tumbling again on Friday.

At a campaign event in Sumter, South Carolina, Biden accused President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, who is overseeing the government response to the outbreak, of misleading the American public about the virus threat.

US Democratic presidential contenders Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, Mike Bloomberg blast Donald Trump over handling of coronavirus outbreak

File image of former US vice-president Joe Biden. ate.

"Trump and Pence decided that the public health experts cannot inform the public on their own what's going on," Biden said. "Now the president won't let other people tell the truth." Sanders slammed

Trump for holding a rally in North Charleston, South Carolina, on Friday night rather than remaining in asked what drives him. Washington to address the situation.

"Why is he here? He's here to try and disrupt the Democratic primary," Sanders said at an event in St George. "How pathetic and how petty can you be?"

Bloomberg focused on the coronavirus in campaign speeches on Thursday and Friday and pointed to the sharp drop in stock market prices on Friday as a sign of concern about Trump's competence.

"The stock market has plunged partly out of fear (about the virus) but also because investors have no confidence that this president is capable of managing the crisis," Bloomberg nessee.

Bloomberg, a late entrant in the race for the White House, has not competed in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada or South Carolina, and is pinning his hopes on Sunessee and 13 other states. and Arkansas.

Trump defended his Joe Biden is banking on the handling of the threat on Twitter on Thursday evening, writing that the administration's actions put "us way ahead in our battle with coronavirus."

Earlier in the week, he called the risk from the virus "very low" in the United States.

At present, there are 62 confirmed cases of the virus in the United States, including people repatriated from the Diamond Princess cruise ship docked in Japan, U.S. officials said.

Counting on South Carolina

Biden continued to show signs of growing strength ahead of Saturday's primary.

His campaign celebrated a \$1.2 million oneday online fundraising haul, the most contributed by small-dollar internet donors since his campaign launch last year when similar contributions added up to more than \$6 million.

A Monmouth University poll released on Thursday showed Biden with large support from black South Carolina voters, who make up about 60 percent of the state's Democratic elector-

He was buoved as well by an endorsement from U.S. Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia, who was the 2016 Democratic vice presidential nominee under Hillary Clinton. Virginia votes on Tuesday.

In Sumter, undecided voter Marybeth Berry, 44, told Biden that she sees a "fire" in some of his rivals and

"Because you see



The ads will run in some of the most expensive media markets in California, Texas and Massachusetts. The new buy is in addition to more than \$3 million the group previously spent in California and seven other Super Tuesday states.

Bernie, you see Elizabeth Warren, you see that fire. That's what I'm looking for," said Berry, a theatre professor at the University of South Carolina Lancaster.

Biden looked Berry in the eyes and said: "The fact that I'm not screaming like Bernie and waving my arms or like Elizabeth, it's not lack of fire."

He said "dcency and honour" drive him and that he hates to see the "abuse of power" against vulnerable

"And I'm glad you asked me the question because it's making me mad even answering it," he said.

Berry said she thought Biden's answer was "very, very good" and "powerful," and that she was leaning towards him after hearing him speak, but added she was also considering Sand-

Her husband, Christopher, an Army veteran who met Biden when he served in Iraq, was already convinced. He voted for Trump in 2016 but is supporting Biden this time.

Biden had poor showings in Iowa and New Hampshire and finished a distant second place in Nevada.

Warren calls for Super PAC disclosure

At a canvassing kickoff event in Greenville, an animated Warren fired up a crowd of supporters and volunteers, telling them that "our democracy, our world, hangs in the balance" in 2020

"I'm Elizabeth Warren, and I'm the woman who's going to beat Donald Trump," she said, repeating a line she has recently begun delivering at campaign events.

Her campaign also called on a new pro-Warren Super PAC to disclose its donors before Super Tuesday. The Massachusetts senator has been criticized for not disavowing the effort given her longstanding criti-

cism of such groups. The Persist PAC announced it would spend \$9 million to air television advertisements ahead of the Super Tuesday contests.

The ads will run in some of the most expensive media markets in California, Texas and Massachusetts. The new buy is in addition to more than \$3 million the group previously spent in California and seven other Super Tuesday states.

Super PACS may raise and spend unlimited sums of money to support candidates as long as they do not coordinate directly with those candidates' campaigns.

GDP growth slows to nearly 7-year low at 4.7%

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, March 9

During the nine-month period (April-December 2019), the Indian economy grew 5.1% as against 6.3% in the same period a year

The GDP growth rate for the first quarter of 2019-20 was revised to 5.6%, and for the second quarter to

The NSO has pegged economic growth at 5% in 2019-20 in its second advance estimates released on Friday, the same as its estimates last month

India's economic growth slowed to 4.7 percent during the October-December quarter of 2019-20 as against 5.6 percent during the corresponding period the previous year on poor performance by manufacturing, electricity, construction sectors, according to official data released on

"GDP at Constant (2011-12) prices in Q3 of 2019-20 is estimated at Rs 36.65 lakh crore, as against Rs 35 lakh crore in Q3 of 2018-19, showing a growth rate of 4.7 percent," the National Statistical Office (NSO) said in a statement.

During the nine-month period (April-December showed improvement in the 2019), the Indian economy grew 5.1 percent as against ture (3.5 percent from 2 per-6.3 percent in the same period a year ago.

GDP growth slows to nearly 7-year low at 4.7% in Q3 on poor performance by

The GDP growth rate for the first quarter of 2019-20 was revised to 5.6 percent, and for the second quarter to 5.1 percent.

The NSO has pegged economic growth at 5 percent in 2019-20 in its second advance estimates released on Friday, the same as its estimates last month.

Quarterly GVA at Constant (2011-2012) prices for Q3 of 2019-20 is estimated at Rs 33.51 lakh crore, as against Rs 32.07 lakh crore in Q3 of 2018-19, showing a growth rate of 4.5 percent over the corresponding quarter the previous year.

Growth in the manufacturing sector contracted by 0.2 percent during the third quarter as against 5.2 percent rise during the same period the previous year.

The electricity sector witnessed a 0.7 percent decline in the October-December quarter of FY20 as against 9.5 percent growth during the year-ago quarter.

While growth in the construction sector stood at 0.3 percent in the third quarter as compared to 6.6 percent in the corresponding period the previous year.

The sectors that third quarter include agriculcent in the same period last year) and mining (3.2 percent from -4.4 percent).

The Reserve Bank had also estimated 5 percent manufacturing, construction GDP growth for 2019-20. sectorsRepresentational China's economic growth

was 6 percent in October-December 2019, which was the weakest expansion in over 27 years. China's economic growth was 6.1 percent in 2019 (calendar year), the slowest in about three decades.

In the July-September quarter of 2019-20, economic growth had dropped to a six-and-half-year (26quarter) low at 4.5 percent due to a sharp deceleration in the manufacturing, agriculture, construction sector.

Wednesday, economists at SBI had said that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth would stay flat at 4.5 percent in the October-December

They also said that India faces the risk of getting impacted by coronavirus epidemic economically because of its high reliance on Chinese imports for various

The GDP growth is set to slip to a decadal low of 5

percent in 2019-20, driven majorly by a fall in domestic consumption and sluggish world markets that have impacted Indian exports.

The SBI economists revised up their FY2019-20 growth estimate to 4.7 percent from the earlier estimate of 4.6 percent because of the base effect triggered by a downward revision in the FY2018-19 growth number by the government.

On 25 February, a Reuters poll had showed that the country's economic growth likely accelerated a touch in the October-December period after its weakest expansion in over six years in the previous quarter with a small rebound in rural demand and private consumption expected.

Annual GDP growth likely rose to 4.7 percent in the last quarter of 2019 from 4.5 percent the previous quarter, when the growth rate appears to have bottomed out, an 18-24 February Reuters poll found.

US banks in coronavirus in Q3 on poor performance by manufacturing contingency mode with staff, visitors

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, March 9

preparations The come amid growing fears that the fast-spreading virus which has infected around 83,000 people in more than 50 countries could lead to a global recession

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on in New York, Wall Street has developed extensive contingency plans for dealing with large scale disruptions, including

If an outbreak of coronavirus hits New York, markets would likely continue to function even if the floor of the New York

Washington/New York: Big US banks have been rolling out contingency plans to respond to the coronavirus outbreak-requiring some staff to work from home, implementing travel restrictions, and talking to dusting off long-standing regulators about potential

The preparations come amid growing fears that the fast-spreading virus which has infected around 83,000 people in more than 50 countries could lead to a global recession. Stock markets have plunged, with the S&P 500 index dropping 11.5 percent this week, the worst showing since the 2008 financial crisis.

Banks are not the only companies affected by the spread of the disease, but their position as market intermediaries and custodians of critical

operations, and balance

sheets in the spotlight.

On Friday, US presidential candidate and Massachusetts Senator

preparing to mitigate the risks of the outbreak.

"As a globally systemic Stock Exchange had to important bank, your institution and the customers it serves could be impacted either directly through exposures to areas where the virus has spread or indirectly through a change in market conditions," she

Financial firms started contingency playbooks several weeks ago when the virus was spreading through China, two industry officials

Big US banks are in daily contact with federal, state and local regulators on a range of issues, sources said, but lately coronavirus preparations have taken center stage. Discussions have centered around how keep markets, transactions and other banking functions operating smoothly, as well as handling employee quaran-

One major bank infrastructure has put the brought an epidemiologist health of their employees, into its regular risk management gathering on Friday morning, a person who attended the meeting

JPMorgan Chase & Elizabeth Warren sent a Co, the largest US bank by letter to the five largest US assets, told employees on banks asking how they are Thursday that it was

Coronavirus outbreak rains on

restricting all but essential international work travel due to the continued spread of

the virus.

Citigroup Inc has restricted business travel in all Asian countries and Italy, and has asked employees who have visited affected areas to work from home for 14 days, a person familiar with the matter said. The bank has also imposed short-term restrictions on large meetings that require international travel.

Earlier this week, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs Group Inc (asked attendees of several conferences they are hosting in the coming weeks to disclose if they or people they have close contact with have traveled to mainland China, South Korea, parts of Italy and Japan.

Goldman Sachs asked them to skip the conferences if so. In Goldman's New York headquarters, signs posted at check-in ask guests who recently traveled to China or had close contact with someone who did to reschedule their

Several major banks in Hong Kong and Singapore, including HSBC Group Plc (HSBA.L), Morgan Stanley, and DBS Bank, have also restricted travel and are allowing staff to work from

Citi has imposed

tighter restrictions in affected countries, including temperature checks and homeworking, the person familiar with the matter said.

Many are also preparing workforces to work from home and dishing out hygiene advice, urging staff to frequently wash their hands and use antiseptic wipes, sources said.

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on in New York, Wall Street has developed extensive contingency plans for dealing with large scale disruptions, including pandemics.

They most recently deployed such plans during Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and reviewed and updated them after that disaster, Kenneth Bentsen Jr., chief executive of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, which leads industry continuity planning, told Reuters on Thursday.

If an outbreak of coronavirus hits New York, markets would likely continue to function even if the floor of the New York Stock Exchange had to close. Stock exchanges have said they have contingency plans.

Financial firms have back-up facilities in US cities including Dallas, Tampa, Chicago, and Phoenix from which they can continue trading and perform other vital functions, although US banks have yet to activate them, two sources said. Some banks in Asia are already using secondary sites, they said.

Lenders are also considering splitting up critical teams into rotating shifts and physically distancing staff from one another, the official said.

"It's something the industry regularly plans for," said Bentsen. "We're prepared as we need to be."

Goldman Sachs Asset Management added to stocks portfolio as markets tumbled

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, March 9

agement have used the recent selloff in global stocks caused by the coronavirus "But this dislocation provides as an opportunity to take active managers a great oppositions in a range of companies focusing on everything from concerts to cos-

their worst weekly performance since the financial crisis, the firm's \$60 billion portfolios bought shares of Shiseido Co Ltd <4911.T> and events promoter Live Nation Entertainment, as well as companies in the travel and hotel sector, Katie Koch, Goldman Sachs' global co-head of equities for its asset management business, said in an interview

"We recognize the seri-Portfolio managers at ousness (of the coronavirus Goldman Sachs Asset Man- concerns), and we would never celebrate a sell off of this magnitude," she said. portunity.'

The S&P 500 fell for the seventh straight day on Friday and the benchmark in-As stocks tumbled to dex suffered its biggest weekly drop since the 2008 global financial crisis on growing fears the fastspreading coronavirus could Japanese cosmetics-maker lead to a recession, although stocks cut losses at the end of the day's session.

Koch said the firm's cliselloff, deploying more cash this week into the bank's active management portfolios.



"We have not seen great outflows from our clients. We have seen higher engagement- more people calling and asking questions. This week we are going to end up in pretty strong ents have largely remained net inflows into our active sanguine throughout the portfolios from clients globally," she said.

> The firm's purchase of shares of Shiseido is a bet

that demand from Chinese drop triggered by the global consumers for the high-end brand will continue after the outbreak passes, Koch said.

The investments in shares of hotel and cruise companies reflect expectations that millennial spending on travel over the long run will trump the short-term hit the sector is experiencing due to coronavirus fears,

dealmakers' M&A parade NEW YORK GNS tors division by a private eq-News Agency, March 9 uity consortium, and Intuit's The steep market \$7.1 billion acquisition of personal finance portal Credit Karma, both of which

coronavirus outbreak has led many companies to hit the 'pause' button on mergers and acquisitions (M&A), sabotaging the hopes of cor-

porate advisers who ex-

pected a dealmaking bo-

nanza this year. While M&A volumes have not yet registered the effect of this week's market volatility, dealmakers say some clients are stepping back from signing deals after the S&P 500 Index dropped 11.5% from its all-

days. "Volatility is bad for dealmaking," said Alan Klein, co-head of M&A at New York-based law firm Simpson Thacher. "It throws off your ability to appropriately gauge if it's a good time to buy or a time to sell."

The global M&A market is already set for its slowest first two months of a year since 2005, according to data provider Dealogic. Some dealmakers had been looking to 2020 to beat 2019 as the fourth strongest year for M&A on record, even with the uncertainty of the presidential election in No-

"I was ready to make the bold prediction that the total dollar volume of U.S. tech M&A activity this year would exceed last year's total. But the spread of the coronavirus has changed my thinking," said Rick Climan, Silicon Valleybased M&A partner at law firm Hogan Lovells.

To be sure, a few deals are still being done, especially ones that have long been in train, such as a 17.2billion-euro deal for Thyssenkrupp AG's eleva-

In addition, once the volatility subsides, advisers to companies expect many potential acquirers to seize on targets' lower valuations and pursue their dream deals, particularly in sectors with frothy deal prices such as technology.

were announced this week.

But for the moment many negotiations are under threat because acquisition targets are demanding that buvers value shares close to time high in the last five their 52-week highs, dealmakers sav.

In the last 12 months, more than 60 percent of U.S. companies acquired at a valuation of more than \$100 million agreed to deals that priced their shares above or at a discount of no more than 10% to their 52-week high, according to Refinitiv data.

"Companies' 52-week high highs weren't 50 weeks ago, it was last week. Ten days ago the market indices hit all-time highs. So to be down 10% from hat was breathtaking levels has people understandably rattled," Simpson Thacher's Klein said.

Dealmakers declined to give specific examples of negotiations falling through, citing confidentiality agree-

(Graphic - Premiums that U.S. takeover targets accepted, https:// fingfx.thomsonreuters.com/ gfx/editorcharts/CHINA-HEALTH-DEALS/ 0 H 0 0 1 R 8 D V C 3 D / eikon.png)

Companies are also worried about the impact on earnings of the expected global economic slowdown due

to the coronavirus outbreak, David King, co-head of techdealmakers said

If market disruptions America. continue, major private equity firms, which have built up big distressed debt funds in recent years, are ready to snap up assets on the cheap, senior executives of acquirers that retains the said at an industry gathering this week.

"We have a lot of clients that want to buy a number of companies, but they just can't get comfortable with where valuations are," said

nology M&A at Bank of

"The type of market volatility that we've had of late could help ease some of that tension, to the extent that you still have a universe

confidence to go out and do deals," King added. (Reporting by Joshua

New York; Editing by Sonya Hepinstall) This story has not been

Franklin and Krystal Hu in

edited by Firstpost staff and is generated by auto-feed.

USTR vows to push for trade deals with Britain, EU; seeks broader reset at WTO

WASHINGTON (GNS News Agency, March 9

- The Trump administration on Friday said it would focus on concluding trade agreements with Britain, the European Union and Kenya over the coming year, while

strictly enforcing trade laws and pushing for a broader reset of the World Trade Organization.

In its annual report to Congress, the U.S. Trade Representative's office said members of the global trade

body needed to fundamentally rethink what it called "an outdated tariff framework" that no longer reflected economic

It said it would push for a close review of the WTO's budget, which it says has faced "little scrutiny" in the past, and would advocate for changes that allowed for more plurilateral agreements.

(Reporting by Andrea Shalal and David Shepardson; editing by Diane Craft)

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Oil prices on track for biggest weekly fall in four years as global spread of coronavirus stokes demand fears

NEW DELHI, GNS News Agency, March 9

July 2017

Benchmark Brent crude slump of 13% this week is likely to focus minds when the OPEC and allies including Russia meet next week to discuss output OPEC+, which is currently reducing output by roughly

1.7 million bpd to support prices, is due to meet in Vienna over 5-6 March London: Oil prices slumped to their lowest in more than a year on Friday and were set for their steepest weekly

fall in four years as the global spread of the coronavirus stokes demand fears. Investors are increasingly worried about an economic

slowdown weighing on oil demand as the virus spreads

beyond its epicentre in China to more than 40 other countries. The most active Brent crude contract for May was down \$1.74, or 3.3 percent, at \$49.99 a barrel, its lowest since July 2017. The front-month contract, which fell to a session low of \$50.05 and is headed for its biggest weekly fall since

January 2016, expires later on Friday. Oil prices on track for biggest weekly fall in four years as global spread of coronavirus stokes demand fearsFile image of an oil tanker. Reuters

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures fell \$1.89, or about 4 percent, to \$45.20. US crude has fallen about 15 percent this week, representing the sharpest weekly decline since December 2008.

"While oil prices are expected to remain volatile in The most active Brent crude contract for May was down the near term, we expect Brent crude oil to recover to \$64 \$1.74, or 3.3 percent, at \$49.99 a barrel, its lowest since a barrel (in the second half of 2020) as the economic recovery, slowing US oil production growth and additional Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) production cuts tighten the oil market," UBS analysts said in a note.

> panic also sent global stock markets tumbling, compounding their worst week since the 2008 global financial crisis with losses amounting to \$5 trillion. Mainland China reported 327 new coronavirus cases, the lowest since 23 January, taking its total to more than

Oil was not the only market to slump. Coronavirus

break eases in China it is surging elsewhere. Four more countries reported their first cases, taking the number of affected countries and territories outside China to 55, with more than 4,200 cases and about 70

this week is likely to focus minds when the OPEC and

allies including Russia, collectively known as OPEC+,

Benchmark Brent crude's slump of about 13 percent

78,800 cases with almost 2,800 deaths. But as the out-

meets next week to discuss output. "Brent crude under \$50 a barrel will be a nightmare scenario for OPEC and may well provoke a ... response of some kind from the core grouping," said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at brokerage OANDA.Oil markets have their eyes peeled for deeper supply cuts from the producer group. An OPEC+ committee this month recommended the group deepen its output cuts by an additional

600,000 barrels per day (bpd), but the coronavirus has

spread more widely since then.

How to add the right number of fruits and veggies to your daily diet

You haven't been eating your greens all these years just to appease your grandparents, parents, concerned uncles and doctors, have you? The latest research suggests that your diet doesn't just affect your physical health, it plays a significant role in regulating your mood and mental health as well

Here's how: low blood sugar, low levels of hydration, use of alcohol and caffeine can all affect our mood that can devolve into feeling anxious. Similarly, eating meals at different times every day, without a set routine can also lead to hypoglycemia and cause emotional dysregulation.

Recently, a large study done by the University of Toronto looked into the connection between diet and the chances of getting an anxiety disorder. The study, published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, found that unhealthy diets caused significant emotional impairment and were one of the risk factors for anxiety disorders.

All of this leads us to one clear conclusion: well-balanced diets that consist of complex carbohydrates, proteins, fruits and vegetables are our best bet for overall good health. But how do you get the requisite three to five servings of fruit-and-veg daily, without getting tired of eating the same seasonal fruits every day? Here are some

Recipe for good health

Getting the requisite servings of fruits and vegetables can feel boring and repetitive. Here are some ways you can make these targets more appetizing:

1. Start right: Include fruits and vegetables in your breakfast to get off to the right start and cover a part of the requirement before you even leave home. Have a banana or an apple as you're getting ready. Or a mushroom and spinach omelette. You can also add grilled tomatoes to your egg sandwich or have a hearty with vegetable juice with carrots and apple. A spinach-banana smoothie is another winning combo.

ble: This is a handy trick since fruit is inviting to look at and is an easy snack to consume. If the fruit is accessible as you are leaving the house, or foraging for food, you are more likely to eat it over sugary snacks. Try setting up a gorgeous fruit basket in your living room, and notice if it encourages you to grab an extra orange while watching TV or guava on your way out of the house for work.

3. Make desserts a little healthier: Desserts allow us a touch of indulgence - often it is not practical to give them up entirely but you can modify desserts to remove the sugar and add fruit for sweetness instead. Try using a mix of fruits - mix seasonal berries with cream for a quick treat. Or have



a baked pear with honey and walnuts if your sweet tooth can wait for the 40 minutes it takes to prepare this dish.

How much fruit and veg?

The recent study in Canada focused on women and found that those who consumed less than three fruits and vegetables a day had 24% higher odds of getting anxiety disorders. Diets lacking balance and containing a limited amount of fruits and vegetables were associated with being overweight. If total body fat exceeded 36%, the likelihood of having an anxiety disorder increased significantly

Poor diets leading to excess body mass are known to cause inflammation in the body which, in turn, can cause anxiety. Consuming highly processed foods and avoiding nutrient-dense ones can lead to nutrient deficiencies and lead to inflammation as well.

An emerging field of study, the gut-brain axis is beginning to show the relationship between gut health and emotional wellbeing. The neurotransmitter serotonin is synthesized mostly by the gut microbiome (about 95% receptors are also in the lining of the gut) and alterations in this chemical affect brain functioning and mental health.

In short, eating at least three pieces of fruit a day and an equal number of veggies daily is the key to fitness as well as happiness. Eat five, and you get a thumbs-up from preventive cardiologists, too!

4 exercises your legs will thank you for

Enough memes have been circulated about beefed-up muscle men with skinny legs. Unfortunately, fitness enthusiasts looking to get the perfect gym bod often do not exercise their legs as much as they work on their upper body. The result: avoiding leg-day at the gym can cause an unstable body structure. Not to mention, our a swift motion to get down to legs do a lot more work on a regular day than any other body part and training them can make our daily chores a whole lot easier.

Legs workout Part 2: 4 exercises your legs will thank you for

from Pixabay.

Whether you want to lose fat from the legs, add more muscle definition or just make the legs stronger, it is important to train the hamstrings, buttocks, quads, and calves. Of course, training them all together can be difficult. So it is a good idea to break the workout down over three days, targetting different parts of the lower

In the first article in this leg workout series, we focused on toning and firming up the buttocks. This article moves on to the leg muscles we use to walk, sit, stand, kick, run and do so many other things. As with all workouts, it is extremely important to warm up before you start and stretch after the workout is done - as this helps to avoid injuries and improve the flexibility as well as strength of muscles.

1. Hindu squats

India's pehelwans, Hindu squats have found many takers across the world for their unique, exaggerated movement. A variation of the conventional squat, this exercise is similar to the uthakbaithak school punishment

Equipment required: position. This is one rep.

Intensity: Low

Sets and reps: 3 sets of 15 reps each

Stand straight with feet hip-width apart.

Push your chest out and keep the back straight.

Lower your body with a squat. Lift your heels simultaneously while bending the

Lift yourself up with the arms swinging towards the front. This is one rep.

Tip: To control the movement, bend your knees Representational im- as far as you can and graduage. Image by Free-Photos ally increase the motion once you master the movement.

2. Leg extension

Squats, lunges or other bodyweight exercises aren't the only exercises meant for our legs. Leg extensions are a terrific way to keep your leas in good shape, trigger muscle growth in the front thigh muscles as well as keep the ligaments, tendons and tissues connecting the knees in good shape. A machine is specially designed for this exercise, although it can also be done with the help of a dumbbell held between your shoes.

Equipment required: Leg extension machine or a dumbbell

Intensity: Low

Sets and reps: 3 sets of 15 reps each

How to do it at the gym Sit comfortably on the seat of the leg extension ma-

Your ankles must be An old favourite of locked under the padded Nothing

> Start lifting the weight by straightening the knees.

The entire tension should be on your quad (front thigh) muscles.

With a slow movement, lower the pad to the starting

Tip: Keep your chest



out and back straight throughout the movement to avoid injuries.

How to do it at home Sit straight on a chair

or a firm sofa. Grab a dumbbell and

put it in between your feet. Extend your knees to lift

the weight upward. Try to stretch as far as you can to create tension

over the quads Slowly bring down the

weight to the starting position. This is one rep. Tip: Do not bend your

back to lift the weight, as it can put unnecessary pressure on your back.

3. Leg raise

If your thought that leg raises are mainly meant to train your abdominal muscles, think again. This incredible movement can also target the quadriceps or the front thighs when done correctly. So if you're looking for combining the benefits of the leg raise, then this could be a great approach.

Equipment required:

Intensity: Low

Sets and reps: 3 sets of 15 reps each

How to do it

Lie down on the ground or mat on your back. Keep your palms under your hips and legs straight and

Raise your legs up-

wards without bending the knees until your thighs get off the ground.

Hold for a few seconds. With a slow movement lower your legs down to the starting position. This is one rep.

Tip: Keep your legs off the ground throughout a set.

4. Reverse lunges

Lunges are difficult movements performed for greater stability in the hips and legs, and they can be performed in as many directions as our legs can move. The reverse movement involves one of your legs dropping behind you, instead of the forward lunges in which you step forward and then

Stand straight with your feet shoulder-width apart.

Take your right leg behind you and bend it to create two 90-degree angles with your knees.

Your right knee should be slightly off the ground and the left thigh parallel to the

right leg to its starting position by extending both the

Now, slowly bring your

Repeat this movement with your left leg. This is one

Tip: Reverse lunges directly target your thigh muscles. To get the best results, go as deep as you can to feel the tension in your

5 mental health tips for chronic disease patients

Whether you have diabetes, heart disease, cancer, arthritis, HIV/AIDS or autoimmune diseases like lupus and multiple sclerosis, having a chronic disease can feel like life has dealt you a rather bad hand. How are you supposed to live your life to the fullest when you feel weak, fatigued and diseased for a large part of

5 mental health tips for chronic disease patients

Representational image. Image by Rudy and

These are thoughts that come up in the mind of every single person who lives with a chronic illness. These diseases last all your life and cannot be cured. The most you can do is manage the symptoms and live as long and well as you can. Not surprisingly, depression can seep in if you have been dealing or diagnosed with a chronic disease.

According to a study published in The Primary Care Companion for CNS Disorders in 2013, the life span of depressed patients is 25 to 30 years shorter than that of the general population - which is quite high for a problem that can be diagnosed and properly treated if primary care facilities are provided. Add the likelihood of having depression when you have a chronic disease to this mix, and primary care becomes even more impor-

Symptoms of depres-

According to the Cleveland Clinic, one-third of individuals living with a serious medical condition pression. Having a chronic

illness can also trigger something called clinically significant depression. The following are some common symptoms of this depres-

Loss of interest or pleasure in everyday activities

Weight loss or weight

Sleeping too much or not being able to sleep at all Lack of concentration

Lack of self-esteem

Peter Skitterians from and feelings of worthlessness and guilt

Thoughts of death or suicide

Diagnosing depression in chronic disease patients can be very difficult because a lot of symptoms overlap for both, like fatigue, poor appetite, reduced concentration and lack of sleep. Patients and even their family members might overlook the specific symptoms of depression and engage more with the chronic illness itself, assuming that the depressive thoughts are just a byproduct of the other disease. This is clearly not the

Identifying depression

If you have a chronic illness, you should be aware of symptoms of depression and make sure that you are treated for both diseases at the same time. This is because treating one and not the other can lead to a vicious cycle. For example, if you have diabetes, have gained weight and are depressed, you will not have the motivation to regulate also have symptoms of de- your diet, lose weight and



treat diabetes properly.

According to the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH), there are some chronic illnesses which make their patients more prone to depression:

Cancer Coronary heart dis-

Diabetes Epilepsy

Multiple sclerosis Stroke

Alzheimer's disease HIV/AIDS

Parkinson's disease Lupus

Rheumatoid arthritis If you are suffering from

any of these diseases, you should have a chat with your primary healthcare provider about the risk of depression, and also involve family and friends in the process.

How to treat depres-

Early diagnosis and treatment of depression doesn't just reduce the signs

of depression. The Cleveland Clinic says that patients with a chronic illness can observe major improvements in their overall medical conditions if they get their depression treated. It can also improve their quality of life and make it easier for them to follow the recommended treatment plan for the chronic illness.

You can use the following tips to deal with depres-

Get help as soon as you start feeling depressed about the chronic illness affecting your appearance, mobility and regular life.

Be honest about your fears and depressive thoughts with the doctor who is treating your chronic illness. Your primary physician can guide you to mental healthcare professionals to treat both your issues at the same time.

Define your circle of emotional support, be it family, friends, your spouse or children. Ask these loved ones to help you maintain a healthy emotional balance.

Science and Technology the virus called COVID-19 (NTNU) noted that there is can cause mild symptoms no vaccine or cure for the including a runny nose, sore virus insight. This means that throat, cough, and fever. It doctors can do little more can be more severe for than offer supportive treatment to the very sick, and

Already approved

drugs may offer a first-line

treatment for the novel

coronavirus which has so far

killed over 2,700 people and

Norwegian University of

on Thursday.

vive the infection, they said. Pre-approved antiviral drugs could be first line of defense for COVID-19 infectionAlready approved broad-spectrum antiviral drugs may offer a first-line treatment for the novel coronavirus. Image credit: Reuters

hope their bodies can sur-

According to the study, published as a pre-proof in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases, already approved drugs might hold the key to treating the new

"Drug repurposing is a strategy for generating additional value from an existing drug by targeting diseases other than that for which it was originally intended," said Denis Kainov, an associate professor at NTNU.

example. teicoplanin, oritavancin, dalbavancin and monensin are approved antibiotics that have been shown to inhibit corona- and other viruses in the laboratory," Kainov said.

The researchers said these and other already way through to Indian

given that there are currently infected around 80,000, ac- no treatments for the new cording to a study unveiled coronavirus. According to the World the drug development are Researchers from the Health Organization (WHO), already known. These include

Pre-approved antiviral drugs

could be first line of defense for

COVID-19 infection

spectrum antiviral drugs are

good candidates for treating

the disease to start with.

"Repositioning aunched or failed drugs to viral diseases provides unique

broad-spectrum antiviral tested "safe-in-man" broad- some persons and can lead ing new virus-specific drugs to pneumonia or breathing and vaccines," the research-

The researchers noted that the advantage of repurposing a drug is that all of the details surrounding ity, they said.

chemical synthesis steps, manufacturing processes, and information regarding the different phases of clinical test-

translational opportunities, including a substantially higher probability of success to market as compared with develop-

It also offers significantly reduced cost and timeline to clinical availabil-

The researchers reviewed information on the discovery and development of broad-spectrum antiviral agents (BSAAs), which are drugs that target viruses from two or more different viral families. They summarised what they found for 120 drugs that had already been shown to be safe for human use and created a database. Thirty-one of these were found by the researchers to be possible candidates for prophylaxis and treatment of the COVID-19 infections.

The researchers also found that clinical investigations have recently begun five possible drug candidates to treat the COVID-19

Why opt for expensive imported seeds like chia when these 10 varieties of locally-grown seeds are just as healthy

edible seeds are powerhouses of nutrition. According to a study published in imported seeds like chia the journal Circulation in when these 10 varieties of 2014, all seeds are rich in locally-grown seeds are just vitamins, phytonutrients and antioxidants, and can help keep cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and high blood

pressure at bay.

So clearly, munching on a handful of seeds is one of the best things you can do for your immune system and overall health. And it's important to remember that all seeds have similar nutritional values. Yet, some seeds are gaining in popularity in India, despite the fact that they are not grown locally and are more expensive. Chia seeds are the best example, as this Central American seed is making its

They might be tiny, but households and even res- whole or ground. taurant menus.

> Why opt for expensive minerals, as healthy

Flax seeds. Image by Pezibear from Pixabay

But eating healthy also means eating local produce that your metabolism and genes are more used to gain benefits from. Here are some such seeds that Indians have been consuming centuries, and you should indulge in too.

1. Flax seeds

Also known as tisi and alsi, these seeds are rich in fibre and omega-3 fatty acids apart from being chockfull of potassium, magnesium, iron and calcium. Flax seeds have a nutty flavour and you can have them

2. Sunflower seeds

A rich source of polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats, sunflower seeds are also packed with vitamins B3, B5, B6. E and folate. That apart. sunflower seeds have substantial amounts of protein,

iron, magnesium, copper,

zinc, manganese and sele-

3. Pumpkin seeds Pumpkin seeds are ex-

tremely rich in healthy fats and protein. In addition, they are packed with vitamins B2 and K, phosphorus, manganese, magnesium, iron, zinc and copper too. These seeds also have antioxidants like carotenoids, which can help protect you from free radical damage and cancer.

Lack of feelings or

Fatigue, or loss of en-

way to go.

in chronic illness patients

Radhe shoot extended

Salman Khan was slated to complete the shoot of Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai by February 22, but it has now been extended by 17 days. Salman is now making sure that the Prabhudeva directorial is made a lot better before his director goes back home to work on his assignments to the south of the Nilgiris.

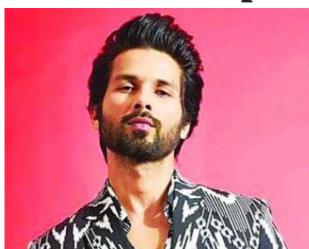
The not so impressive performance of Dabangg 3 released during the anti CAA and NRC wave that first gripped North India in December — resulted in the film not really getting the desired numbers. "Now Salman is looking at everything in detail making sure that Prabhu gets what he wants so he can do the film to his utmost satisfaction. From the dance moves to the action scenes, Salman wants the film to be as good as it gets. Hence the shooting has been extended till March 10. Again, Salman's preoccupation with the Bigg Boss show also resulted in an inordinate delay in the shoot," says a trade source.

Salman is expected to then take on a Sikh cop avatar for Abhiraj Minwala's film with Aayush Sharma before working on Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali for Farhad Samji, Kick 2 for



Sajid Nadiadwala and the new film with his onetime bestie

Shahid Kapoor's hard at work



After Shahid Kapoor's injury to his lip healed, the actor is working on longer shifts for Gowtam Tinnanuri's Jersey, which is a remake of the Telugu film of the same name.

The shooting, which is taking place in Chandigarh, will now move to cooler locations in Uttarakhand. Our man on the spot says, "There is a schedule which is fixed for Dehradun right after this for this emotional sports drama. The shoot shifts to the Uttarakhand capital in the third week of March. It will have a schedule running into almost two August 28 deadline for the release of the film can be ad-

Shahid is wearing a cricketer's jersey for the second time in his career. He had done so earlier for the Yash Raj Film Dil Bole Hadippa directed by Anurag Singh and costarring Rani Mukerji. Super 30 and Batla House actress Mrunal Thakur plays his love interest in the film.

Ahmed Khan defends 'Do You Love Me'

British music producer TroyBoi and his fans have asserted that the new sizzling Baaghi 3 track Do You Love Me is ripped of from him, but the film's director Ahmed Khan has his own opinion on the plagiarism

"As far as I know, T-Series has fully and legitimately bought the rights of the song. There's absolutely nothing illegal about it. Having said this, let me clarify that I have nothing to do with this on any level. I didn't choose the song, T-Series did. I didn't even choreograph it, my formal assistant, Adil did. Though of course, I was song. "Disha is looking gor- way in no time at all," the dipresent on the set," he geous. In Baaghi 2, I had rector gushes.

how hot Tiger Shroff and formed into this astonishing Disha Patani look in the diva. She has come a long



Everybody has been girl in salwar and kameez. complimenting Ahmed on In Baaghi 3, she has trans-

As for Tiger, Ahmed turns sentimental. "Sajid Nadiadwala and I have practically seen Tiger grow up in

front of us. As a star and an actor, he has evolved like Heropanti to Baaghi 3. We are very proud of him," he

Tiger Shroff and Shraddha Kapoor B'day in Dubai!

Currently, Tiger Shroff and Shraddha Kapoor are in the news as their upcoming film Baaghi 3's release is around the corner. However, in just a few days, Tiger and Shraddha will be turning a year older and their fans are gearing up for their birthday celebrations. Tiger will be ringing in his birthday on March 2 and Shraddha's special day falls on March 3. With just a day's gap in their birthdays, fans of the Baaghi 3 stars are all set for the same. Recently, while promoting their film in Dubai, Tiger and Shraddha celebrated their birthday with the media.

In a video that is shared on social media by fan clubs, Shraddha and Tiger are surprised on seeing a huge cake waiting for them at the press meet. Clad in a green pantsuit, Shraddha looked gorgeous as she sat next to her dapper co-star Tiger. The two stars can be seen making a wish and then proceeding to cut their early birthday cake in the



video. As soon as the Baaghi 3 stars cut the cake, the people around them started singing 'Happy Birthday' for

Picture perfect!

Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan were snapped on the sets of a photo shoot. Accompanying them was their little munchkin Taimur Ali Khan.

Photos of the three of them have been doing the rounds on the internet and well, we cannot wait to see the result of this shoot as well. Meanwhile, something from the BTS shoot has caught our attention and while we are excited, this one is adorable as well.

A video of Taimur watching over his parents geared months there before the film can be completed, so that the up in shoot mode while assisting a member of the crew with a wind blower has managed melt several hearts. If anything, this video is adorable for the sheer fact that Tim Tim is assisting while his parents go on with their work for the day. B-town divas Deepika Padukone and Alia Bhatt



are gushing over this tiny tot as both of them dropped in comments on the video. While Deepika wrote 'steal him. Alia left a comment saying 'omg' along with the kiss emoji.

Tulu film catches the eye at Bengaluru International Film Fest

Bengaluru: Among the 200 screenings as part of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) this year, you might have expected a Tulu film to be a bit lost. But Pingara has received a massive response from movie buffs.

Tulu is a language spoken in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udipi and parts of Chikkamagaluru districts. Since the language covers a very small geographical area of Karnataka and is spoken by a small population, availability of theaters is difficult for Tulu movies.

The Tulu film industry has been very vocal about this problem during the Bengaluru International Film Festival

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Avinash Shetty, producer of Pingara, said, "Tulu films find it difficult to release all over Karnataka. We know after the release of Ulidavaru Kandante and Rangi Taranga that people in south Karnataka are very interested in watching movies which reflect a Mangaluru culture. So we are trying to reach out to people with Tulu language movies."

There were 15 Tulu films released in 2018, and 24 in 2019. But visibility and reach is always a problem. Tulu films can count on barely 60 screens (spread over 13 centres) that will show them.

"Our market is quite small as the language is spoken mainly in the Mangaluru region. We get requests for theatrical releases from people in South Karnataka but the problem arises when we approach theatre owners. We are



always told to approach them only if the movie has already done well in the coastal area. So our industry needs more support from the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce

Tulu cinema reached a milestone recently by releasing its 100th film. It took 47 years to achieve that feat. Tuluspeaking people are spread over different parts of the country, with a heavy concentration in West Asia, in addition to the Tulu homeland of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and north Kasaragod in Kerala.

Pingara revolves around people who worship Daiva (evil spirits) and offers something fresh. The film is directed by Preetham Shetty and stars Neema Ray and Sharan

Cops, around the clock

When it comes to releasing a film of a big star, Bollywood prefers to play safe. For decades, Salman Khan has reserved Eid for releasing his films, Shah Rukh opts for New Year, whereas Akshay Kumar generally releases his films during Independence Day or other national holidays. However, this time, the Khiladi of B-town is releasing his most anticipated film, Sooryavanshi, with Rohit Shetty, on March 24 when Maharashtra will celebrate Gudi Padwa — the Marathi New Year. The film will not time in decades that a film is only release on Tuesday but releasing on Tuesday, it is will also be running in theatres 24/7.

This announcement is the wake of the Maharashtra government's new directive that allows shopping malls, restaurants and cinema halls to remain open round the clock.

The film's director Rohit Shetty took to Instagram stating, "India's First Cop Universe... A new release day - Not Friday...but Tuesday And A new Initiative - Mumbai 24×7. With 'Sooryavanshi' Mumbai theatres will be up and running, 24 x 7...AA RAHI HAI POLICE, 24th March 2020 Evening 6 pm

Soon after, Akshay too

March.



also the first to have shows late night. However, one wonders if the audiences will warm up to the idea of watching a film post midnight. According to film distributor Raj Bansal, films like Sooryavanshi can take the risk of screening it round-theclock. "In the case of Sooryavanshi, this will work because this is one of the most anticipated films. Small films can't take that risk of running 24/7. But seeing the cast and director's combination, it is expected to do well," says Bansal adding that it will be a treat to watch such films at night.

But trade analyst Amul Mohan reveals that having shows late night has been there for some time in shared the news on his Twit- Mumbai. "We have shows ter account. He wrote, "Ain't running till three in the mornno time for crime coz Aa Rahi ing, and with Sooryavanshi, Hai Police! #Sooryavanshi they are just jumping into that releasing worldwide on 24th and making it official be-

awareness. They are using the situation for their best so more people will go to watch the film," he opines.

Balancing of econom-

While the 24/7 shows open the opportunities for audiences to choose their show timings, will it manage to generate revenue for theatre-owners after considering the overhead costs? "We are seeing this as a development which will offer more flexibility to our patrons with more show timings. However, the official instructions are awaited for us to make a clearer evaluation," says Alok Tandon, CEO-INOX Leisure Ltd.

Mohan also feels that the film will reap benefits, as the second day of the release is a holiday in Maharashtra.

"Technically, the film is releasing on the holiday and the day prior will have preview shows starting late in the evening. The next day is

the added benefit and makers will hike the ticket prices so they can earn the maximum profit even if people don't go for late night shows," says the trade analyst. He further adds that it is a rare scenario when a film is releasing on Tuesday and gets a five-day-long week-

Inspired from south

Although it is a new practice for Bollywood to have shows round the clock, the strategy has been existing in the south for over decades, specially when the film stars a big hero such as Raiinikanth, Aiith Kumar and Mahesh Babu, among other

"This is a norm in South. They release a film early in available on the platform. the morning and go till late nights. I think Rohit Shetty and Akshay Kumar are taking the lead from South and now there is a law as well, so it gives them the permission and makes it more Vijay Deverakonda, Shilpa valid," concludes Mohan.

Box Office: Thappad First Day Collections

New Delhi: Taapsee Pannu's much-anticipated flick 'Thappad', which hit the theatres on February 28, received a mild response from the moviegoers, minting Rs 3.07 crores on its opening

Film critic and trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared the box office collection of the film on his Twitter account. According to Adarsh, the film started low in the morning show, and gathered speed post noon and registered healthy growth towards the evening and night shows.

The Anubhav Sinhadirectorial has Taapsee as



the protagonist who refuses to tolerate domestic violence

Ratna Pathak Shah, Manav roles.

Kaul, Dia Mirza, Tanvi Azmi, The film also features and Ram Kapoor in pivotal

Bollywood actors say 'Helo' to regional fans

Bollywood's leading actresses - Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, Rakul Preet Singh, have joined the vibrant community on Helo, and are seen personally engaging with their Indian fans through multiple content formats

A number of celebrities from the Indian film fraternity including Tiger Shroff, Ariun Kapoor, Badshah Tamannaah, Guru Randhawa, Mouni Roy,

Dulquer Salmaan, Sargun Mehta and many more have also joined the bandwagon in the past.

The celebrities have been actively creating and posting exclusive content, keeping their fans updated around useful insights, including their personal life.

Oscar-winning Indian composer A R Rahman has also recently joined the platform and was seen promoting his upcoming film 99 Songs among his regional Shetty, Neha Kakkar, fans. Helo has launched an

'Helo Live' through which, the celebrities are able to interact with their fans from all over the country collectively and even personally, through one-on-one direct chat during the live session.

Actress Shraddha Kapoor was the first celebrity to go live on the platform followed by Rakul Preet Singh who took to the platform to engage with her fans.

Many Celebrities see this app as the bridge that connects them to their fans

innovative feature called in any part of the country. Expressing her delight,

> Shraddha Kapoor said, "As actors, we hardly get enough time to directly engage with our fans across geographies., Connecting with thousands of them together on Helo through 'Helo Live' feature is amazing. I had a fabulous experience of sharing my personal stories relating to work life balance and got lots positive comments and reactions from from my fans who form the vibrant community on Helo".

Six-machine Andre Russell leads West Indies to series win over Sri Lanka

Pallekele: GNS News Agency, March 9

Andre Russell hit six sixes in a blistering 14-ball innings as West Indies smashed their way to a seven-wicket victory over Sri Lanka and seal the two-match Twenty20 series on Friday

West Indies' bowlers limited Sri Lanka to 155 for six and then Brandon King struck 43 off 21 balls and Russell made 40 off just 14 balls as West Indies raced to 158 for three in 17 overs. No batsman has hit six sixes in so few balls in a T20 international.

The tourists also easily won the first game by 25 runs this week. Though West Indies are reigning World T20 champions it was their first series win in the format in more than a year.



Dasun Shanaka was the pick of the Sri Lankan batsmen hitting an unbeaten 31 off 24 balls.

Liton Das and Tamim Iqbal first Bangladeshi opening pair to score a hundred each

Sylhet: GNS News Agency, March 9

Liton Das and Tamim Iqbal became the first Bangladeshi opening pair to score a hundred each as Bangladesh crushed Zimbabwe by 123 runs in the rainhit third one-day international to complete a clean sweep in the three-match series in Sylhet on Friday.

Liton hit 176 off 143 balls, the highest ever individual ODI score for Bangladesh, while Tamim stayed unbeaten on 128 off 109 balls as the duo put on 292 runs in Bangladesh's highest partnership for any

Tamim had scored Bangladesh's previous highest score in the second ODI just three days ago.

Liton and Tamim guided Bangladesh to 322-3 in 43 overs before 4-41 from Mohammad Saifuddin ensured victory and gave captain Mashrafe Mortaza a fitting farewell.

It was Mashrafe's last game as Bangladesh's ODI captain after he announced his decision to step down from the position on Thursday and his teammates rose to the occasion to dominate Zimbabwe.

As Bangladesh's innings was interrupted by rain, Zimbabwe were set a

revised target of 342 in 43 overs under the DLS method, but were bowled out for 218 in 37.2 overs, with Sikandar Raza making

Mashrafe, who oversaw 50 wins as skipper, began the demolition in the very first over before finishing with 1-47, while Taijul Rahman (1-32) were also among the wickets.

"This is a great honour. My boys have been fantastic. They have given everything for the team. I'd like to say my thanks to all the boys," said Mashrafe, who was presented with a special memento by the Bangladesh Cricket Board

Shikhar Dhawan's 69 fails to see Reliance 1 through to DY Patil T20 title

Navi Mumbai GNS News Agency, March 9

: India opener Shikhar Dhawan's 69 went in vain as his team Reliance 1 lost to Indian Oil in the final of the 16th D Y Patil T20 Cup here on Friday. Reliance 1 lost by 11 runs in the summit clash as Indian Oil restricted them to 183/7.

Earlier, Indian Oil scored 194/5 on the back of their skipper Aditya Tare's unbeaten 75.

Dhawan (69 off 41 balls; 6x4, 2x6) singlehandedly steered his team's chase as all other Reliance 1 batsmen, including Hardik Pandya (0), faltered at the DY Patil Stadium here. Dhawan was caught in a horrible mix up and was run out. This eventually led to Reliance 1's loss.

The three India players Dhawan, Hardik and Bhuvneshvar Kumar were making comebacks to competitive cricket in this tournament after sustaining injuries.

Hardik, who had helped Reliance 1 beat blazed his way to an un-BPCL in the semifinal by smashing an unbeaten 158 off just 58 balls, perished for a first ball duck in the final. Hardik gave a sitter off Siddhesh Lad.

Bhuvaneshwar Kumar was expensive with figures of 0/50 from his four overs in

in the entire tournamemt, overs. Hardik won three awards --



Maximum Sixes, Best Batsman and Player of the Tour-

Pawan Negi was injured while batting, after being hit on his face when he

was trying to make a pull shot. He was immediately taken off the field.

Hardik Pandya smashes unbeaten 158 off 55 balls

Navi Mumbai: GNS News Agency, March 9

Fit-again India allrounder Hardik Pandya beaten 158 off just 55 balls against BPCL in a semifinal match of the D Y Patil T20 Cup here on Friday.

Pandya, who returned to competitive cricket in this tournament after undergoing a back surgery, struck six fours and 20 sixes during his blitzkrieg to help Reliance However, for his show One post 238/4 in their 20

He had smashed his

Indian Wells tennis tournament cancelled over coronavirus fears

Los Angeles, GNS News Agency, March 9

The ATP and WTA tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California, has been cancelled over concerns about the outbreak of the new coronavirus, making it the first major sporting event in the US to be scrubbed due to health concerns. The tournament, one of the biggest outside the four Grand Slams, was cancelled just days before it was due to begin. Officials said in a news release on Sunday that they opted to cancel after the health department of California's Riverside County declared .



way to a sensational 105 off just 39 balls on Tuesday in a league game for Reliance One at the RCP at Ghansoli.

Pandya was in red-hot form on Friday also and he punished the BPCL bowlers with an array of sixes. The BPCL bowlers -- Sandeep Sharma (0/37), Sylvester D'Souza (1/56), India allrounder Shivam Dube (1/ 40), Parikshit Valsangkar (0/ 28), Sagar Udeshi (0/45) and Rahul Tripathi (2/32) -- were

hammered by Hardik, who looks all set to make a comeback to the ODI team versus South Africa.

However, India opener Shikhar Dhawan, who is also on the road to recovery from an injury, managed to score just 3 runs for Reliance 1.In response, BPCL were bowled out for 134 as Reliance 1 registered a 104-run victory. While bowling too, Hardik took a wicket and conceded six runs in one

PINK LEGAL launched by Mahesh Bhagwat, CP of Rachakonda

The first-ever initiative in India dedicated to women's rights &women's laws



INDIAN CHRONICLE BUREAU HYDERABAD, MARCH 9

The National Crime Records Bureau reveal that a crime against a woman is committed every three minutes. Yet, majority of the crime against women goes unreported in India. One of the reasons for this is that women are not aware of their legal rights and how to report a crime. An online survey was conducted among urban, educated women in India. 80% of them did not know their legal rights. Therefore, the need to bridge the gap between law and women, by educating women about their legal rights.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Advocate Manasi Chaudhari, Hyderabad based lawyer, Founder & CEO of Pink Legal, launched the first ever initiative and website in India dedicated to women's rights and women's laws. The website is called Pink Legal, which signifies women and the law.

The launch was attended by Mr.Mahesh Bhagwat, CP of Rachakonda as chief guest, Rukmini Rao, a social and rural development activist, Mrs. Sunita Bhagwat, IFS, Commissioner Tourism along with Mr. D. Suresh Babu, film producer and Mrs. Ratna Rao Shekhar, editor of wow magazine as guests of honour, senior members of the legal fraternity, along with around 75 women from different age-groups, who were keen to learn about their legal rights.

Advocate Manasi Chaudhari, who has also assisted Justice DY Chandrachud in the Supreme Court on the landmark Section 377 case, introduced the website to all the guests present, while explaining to them how to use the website to easily understand their legal rights.

Speaking at the launch, Manasi said taht "I have always been passionate about gender equality. Pink Legal is my way of contributing towards gender equality by empowering women with the knowledge of their rights.'

Chief Guest, Mahesh Bhagwat, spoke a few words about the relevance and need for initiatives like Pink Legal to empower women, he said that Every year March 8th is International Women's Day with a theme and this year this theme is gender equality and he said "Collective will of society, will of government and will of law enforcement and will of prosecution and judiciary together plays a major role for Mahatma Ghandhi dream to come true that women can walk in mid night.

Rukmini Rao, a social and rural development activist, who has worked towards the prevention of violence against women and fought for their rights also graced the



Manasi for the initiative towards women and their rights.

D.Suresh Babu "congratulated Manasi for starting such a nice initiative and he said that it was nice to hear, both the chief guests has spoken on this, Lot of these things are not known to the society, we are all probably not bothered to go in depth, because of our daily lives. Manasi what ever you need in bringing it in vernacular languages or anything in digital media we will support you, he added.

All the women present at the occasion felt reassured about their legal rights. It was truly a special and empowering start to this year's International Women's Day.

Neymar returns to **Brazil squad for World** Cup qualifying

Rio de Janeiro: GNS News Agency, March 9 Neymar is back in Brazil's squad after a left thigh in-



jury that sidelined him from the national team at the end of

Brazil coach Tite announced his team list on Friday for World Cup qualifiers against Bolivia and at Peru. Real Madrid forwards Vinicius Jr. and Rodrygo were left out.

Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson will be out because of injury, which should give Manchester City's Ederson a rare chance to be in the starting lineup for the matches on March

Striker Gabriel Jesus is suspended for the match against Bolivia because of his red card in the Copa America final, but Tite still listed him.

Copa Libertadores champion Flamengo has three players on the list, midfielder Everton Ribeiro and strikers occasion by her presence. She congratulated and praised Bruno Henrique and Gabriel Barbosa, known as Gabigol

IPL very much on, all measures will be in place to handle coronavirus threat: Ganguly

Kolkata: (GNS News Agency, March 9

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has no doubts whatsoever that the Indian Premier League (IPL) is on schedule. He told PTI on Friday that all measures will be in place to tackle the novel coronavirus threat which has wreaked havoc on sporting calendars globally.

The glitzy T20 event, featuring both Indian and international stars, gets underway on March 29 in Mumbai. India's coronavirus patient count currently stands at 31, including 16 Italian tourists. Internationally, the deadly outbreak has so far killed more than 3,300 people and infected nearly 100,000 in about 85 countries.

"IPL is very much on. Cricket tournament are going on everywhere. England are already in Sri Lanka. South Africa are here. There are no issues," Ganguly asserted.

"County teams are travelling all over the world. They are travelling to Abu Dhabi, UAE to play. So there is no problem," he added.

MEDICAL TEAM IN PLACE

Asked about the precautionary measures to ensure that players and fans are not affected, Ganguly said a medical team is thrashing out the specifics. "We will take all precautions. I don't know exactly what are the extra measures. It's only medical team which will tell us about that." he said.

"The medical team is already in touch with the hospitals so that everything is available. We will do what the



doctors say. All medical issues will be addressed by the medical team. Every tournament will go on," he added.

There are growing concerns about the fate of the Tokyo Olympics in July-August despite the International Olympic Committee's assertion that the quadrennial showpiece will go ahead as planned.

Australian pacer Megan Schutt wary of bowling to Smriti, Shafali in powerplay

Sydney: GNS News Agency, March 9

Clobbered by Shafali and Mandhana in their recent skirmishes, Australian pacer Megan Schutt says she

powerplay when the two teams clash in the Women's T20 World Cup final here on Sunday. Schutt, who took a crucial 2/

hates playing against India

and doesn't want to bowl at

the marauding duo during

17 in Australia's five-run win over South Africa in the rain-hit semifinal on Thursday, has still not recovered from

Verma in the tournamentopener. She was hit for four boundaries by Verma in her opening over of the tournament, and Schutt admitted her concerns about bowling to Indian openers. "I just hate playing India

she got at the hands of

- they've got the wood over me," Schutt was quoted as saying by the official website of the ICC. "Smriti and Shafali have got me covered. That six Shafali hit me for in the triseries was probably the bigdrubbing gest one I've ever been hit for.

"There are obviously some plans we're going to revisit as bowlers. (But) clearly, I'm not the best match-up to those two in the Powerplay. They find me quite easy to play," she added.

"We're at that final we've been talking about for so long and against India, which is super fit considering the tri-series we had. It couldn't really be a bigger challenge for us," Schutt

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