



WINDOWS

Satya Pal Malik is now Meghalaya Governor

New Delhi (PTI): Satya Pal Malik was on Tuesday transferred as Governor of the north-eastern state of Meghalaya, replacing Tathagata Roy who completed his five-year tenure on the gubernatorial post. A Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said Malik has been shifted to Meghalaya, and Governor of Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshyari has been asked to discharge the functions of Goa governor in addition to his own duties. There was, however, no mention of Roy, who completed his five-year tenure by serving as governor of Tripura for three years and the remaining in Meghalaya. There is no fixed tenure for governors, but conventionally it is considered for a period of five years. There have been examples in the past where governors have served for a longer period like that of E S L Narasimhan, who served continuously for 12 years in Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh (undivided) and later in Telangana.



Maneka shares video of dog being run over

Chandigarh (PTI): BJP MP Maneka Gandhi on Tuesday shared on social media a video purportedly showing a man running his car over a dog, following which he was booked in Punjab's Kapurthala. In her tweet, Gandhi said, "He is a breeder and seller of dogs for dog fights. This is what he does to dogs when they are no longer useful. This dog died after 30 minutes of being in excruciating pain." The accused, identified as Gurjinder Singh, has been booked under relevant sections of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on the complaint of a representative of the People for Animals, police said. Singh, a resident of Dandupur in Kapurthala, is absconding, they said.



PM Cares fund need not be transferred to NDRF: SC

New Delhi (PTI): The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to direct the Centre to transfer the contributions made to the PM CARES Fund for battling the Covid-19 pandemic to the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said that voluntary contribution can always be made to the NDRF as there is no statutory bar under the Disaster Management Act.

The judgement came on a PIL, filed by NGO Centre for Public Interest Litigation, seeking a direction that all the money collected under the PM CARES Fund for the Covid-19 pandemic should be transferred to



the NDRF. The PIL had also sought a direction to the government to prepare, notify and implement a national plan under the Disaster Management Act to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. The bench, also comprising Justices R S Reddy and M R Shah, said in its verdict that a plan

prepared by the government under the Disaster Management Act was sufficient for Covid-19 also. The Centre had on March 28 set up the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund with the primary objective to deal with any kind of emer-

gency situation like the one currently posed by the Covid-19 outbreak and provide relief to those affected. The prime minister is the ex-officio chairman of the fund and the ministers of defence, home and finance are its ex-officio trustees.

During the hearing in the top court on July 27, the Centre had defended the PM CARES Fund saying it is a public trust meant to receive "voluntary contributions" to fight Covid-19 pandemic and the budgetary allocations for NDRF and SDRF are not "being touched".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had told the court that the PM CARES Fund is a "voluntary fund", while funds to

the NDRF and SDRF (State Disaster Response Fund) are made available through budgetary allocations. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for the petitioner NGO, had said that they are not doubting the bona fide of anyone but the creation of the PM CARES Fund is allegedly in contravention of provisions of the Disaster Management Act. He had claimed that an audit of the NDRF is being conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) but the government has said the audit of the PM CARES Fund will be done by private auditors. Dave had also questioned the validity of the PM CARES Fund.

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Wuhan celebrates while world battles with virus



Thousands of people packed shoulder-to-shoulder with no face masks in sight, frolicking on rubber floats and cheering along to a music festival, reports BBC. It's not a very 2020 image, but it was the scene this weekend in the Chinese city of Wuhan, where Covid-19 first emerged late last year. Pictures of partygoers at the Wuhan Maya Beach Water Park - looking very much removed from the outbreak that the rest of the world continues to battle - have now gone, well, viral.

Amit Shah admitted to AIIMS after complaining of fatigue



New Delhi (PTI): Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been admitted to AIIMS here for post Covid care after complaining of fatigue and body ache, hospital authorities said on Tuesday. According to a statement issued by AIIMS, Amit Shah is comfortable and is continuing his work from hospital. "Home Minister Amit Shah has been complaining of fatigue and body aches for the last 3-4 days. He has tested negative for Covid-19. He has been admitted to AIIMS for post-Covid care. He is comfortable and is continuing his work from hospital," the statement said.

No change in Pranab's condition

New Delhi (PTI): There is no change in the condition of former President Pranab Mukherjee who continues to be on ventilator support, the Army's Research and Referral hospital said on Tuesday. Doctors attending on him said his vital parameters are stable. The 84-year-old former president was admitted to the hospital in Delhi Cantonment on August 10. He was operated for removal of a clot in the brain and has been in a coma ever since. He also tested positive for Covid-19.

Biocon chief tests positive



Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw on Monday night said she tested Covid-19 positive. "I have added to the Covid count by testing positive. Mild symptoms and I hope it stays that way," tweeted the 67-year-old Bengaluru-based biotech queen Shaw.

AP govt to video record property registrations

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The AP government will soon launch a pilot project for property registrations in the state. Stating that all registrations under the project would be video recorded, officials said that this is a new move to put an end to benami transactions. This would also help cleanse the registration offices from corruption as they would be under surveillance.

The pilot project would be initially implemented in 20 registrar and sub-registrar offices in Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Vijayawada, Rajamahendravaram, Kakinada, Eluru, Tirupati, Guntur, Nellore, Kadapa and Kurnool in the next few weeks.

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On the occasion of World Photography Day, our lensman Adula Krishna captured painted storks, which have come in search of food in Gandipet lake in Hyderabad on Tuesday

TS seeks Centre to allocate 10L MT urea

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Telangana government appealed to the Centre for an additional allocation of urea over and above 10 lakh metric tonnes for the current kharif season.

After meeting Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers D V Sadananda Gowda, State Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy said the sale of urea had seen a substantial jump this Kharif season as compared to that of the last year due to an increase in acreage under cultivation in the state. He requested for speeding up the supply of urea to Telangana.

The minister said the cultivation



Telangana State Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy greeting Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers D V Sadananda Gowda at Shastri Bhavan in New Delhi on Tuesday

in the state had gone up to 1.41 crore acres as against 1.25 crore acres during the last agriculture season. Farmers, he said,

were cultivating an additional extent of 8.5 lakh acres of horticultural crops. The state received highest rainfall in the last five decades. This has given fillip to agriculture leading to an increase in demand for fertilisers.

He said the farmers in the state had utilised 3.5 lakh metric tonnes of urea during the third week of August last year. As against that, the demand of usage has gone up to 7 lakh metric tonnes. The Centre had allocated 10 lakh metric tonnes to the state and out of that it was yet to receive 2.5 lakh metric tonnes of urea for the month of August. He also sought the Centre to increase the allocation of the quota of urea.

Continued on Page 5

HRD Ministry is now Ministry of Education

New Delhi (PTI): President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday gave assent to the change in name of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) as Ministry of Education, an official notification said.

The name change was among the key recommendations of the draft new National Education Policy (NEP), which was also cleared by the Union Cabinet last month.

A gazette notification published on Monday night said the President had given his nod to changing the name of HRD ministry to



Ministry of Education. The heading Ministry of Human Resources Development stands substituted to Ministry of Education, it said. The Ministry of Education was renamed as the HRD ministry in 1985 during the tenure of then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The NEP was introduced the next year and it was later

amended in 1992. P V Narasimha Rao became the first HRD minister in the Rajiv Gandhi cabinet.

A panel headed by former ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan, tasked with working on the new NEP, had first proposed that the name of the ministry should be changed again.

In 2018, the idea was also mooted by Ram Bahadur Rai, chairman of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and also chairman of the joint organising committee of the Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence.



THIS CELEBRITY WIFE MIXES IMMUNITY DRINKS FOR KIDS

P2



Indigenous fighter LCA Tejas deployed on Pak border

New Delhi (ANI): In a significant achievement for the indigenous fighter aircraft programme, the Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed the home-grown Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas on the western front along the Pakistan border in view of the tensions with China on the Ladakh front.

The first LCA Tejas squadron, 45 Squadron (Flying Daggers) based out of Sullur under the Southern Air Command, was deployed in an operational role there, the sources said.

The indigenous Tejas aircraft had been praised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day speech where he had stated that the deal to buy the LCA

Mark1A version was expected to be completed soon.

While the first squadron of the planes is of the Initial Operational Clearance version, the second 18 Squadron 'Flying Bullets' is of the Final Operational Clearance version and was operationalized by the IAF chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria at the Sullur airbase on May 27.

The Indian Air Force and the Defence Ministry are expected to finalise the deal for the 83 Mark1A aircraft by the end of this year. In view of the Chinese aggression on the borders, the IAF had deployed its assets all along the borders with both China and Pakistan.

The LCA Tejas was deployed by the Indian Air Force on the western front close to the Pakistan border to take care of any possible action by the adversary there," government source said



Trump to pardon woman activist arrested in 1872

Washington (PTI): President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that he will pardon Susan B Anthony, an American social reformer who was arrested in 1872 for illegally voting, as at that time only men were allowed to vote.

Susan Anthony, who died in 1906, played a pivotal role in the women's suffrage movement in the United States. "As we fight to deliver a better future for all women and for all Americans, we remember the

wonderful victory one century ago. While I am president, America will always honour its heroes and we will always celebrate the patriots who secured women's right to vote so," Trump said in his remarks at signing of a proclamation on the 100th anniversary of the women securing the right to vote in the United States.

Trump's pardon comes 100 years after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which ensured women the right to vote.

Womenia

This celebrity wife mixes immunity drinks for kids

Mira Kapoor shares tips on how to build your kids' immunity, reveals her lockdown discoveries

PUJA GUPTA

Mira Kapoor might have her heart and soul in Mumbai where she resides with her husband actor Shahid Kapoor, but the Delhi girl still loves her Dilli street food. The celebrity mother admits with time she has become more mindful about her food choices for herself and her family.

Mira, who has collaborated with Tata Sampann for a session on how spices help build immunity, speaks on all things food. She gives advice to mothers on how they can build their kid's immunity.

Mira shares, "I am a big foodie and my preferences have evolved over the years. Earlier I used to eat a lot of junk food and I feel that a part of me still loves Delhi street food and momos. But, these days I have become more mindful of what I eat. It is not just about the cuisine, it's more about the produce that is being used to cook our food, whether it's organic, is it seasonal, is it sustainably farmed, my choices regarding food have become more mindful now. Now I think food for me has become a lifestyle, before it used to be something fun that I used to look forward to."

One kadha that she has is haldi, ginger, and black pepper in hot water. It helps to spice up the health and boost immunity. She adds, "I prefer using Tata



Sampann spices in my kadha because they keep the natural oils intact which is very important. I have always been interested in health, wellness, and now recently with the whole Ayurvedic way of cooking. Indian food has always been wholesome, it consists of grains, spices, seasonings, vegetables, dairy products for protein, and some pickle or chutney, which makes our food automatically balanced. One does not need to pay a lot of

attention to ensure that the food is nutritious and tasty."

Mira says now she has become more mindful of what we all eat. It is not just about the cuisine, but it is all about what is the product that is being used to cook it. Her choices regarding food have become more mindful now.

Her topmost advice would be to start young and to involve your kids in the process of making these home remedies, she thinks when one gets kids excited about

things that's when the kids get the most benefit from it.

"I give my kids things like amla juice and haldi doodh regularly and we started all this when they were really young. So my advice for all mothers would be to inculcate natural remedies that you may have and those that our mothers have taught us and start early, because when they grow up, get into school and see their friends making faces it gets more difficult," concludes Mira.

QUICK TIP



MAKEUP FOR ROUND FACE SHAPE

This face shape makes you look youthful. Bronzer should be applied on the entire outer parameter of the face and under the cheekbones. Highlight on the bridge of the nose, center of the forehead, high points of the cheeks, underneath the brow bone, cupid's bow, and on the chin.



ARE YOU FINANCIALLY PREPARED FOR A BABY?

Preparing for a baby isn't only about purchasing tiny clothes, diapers and mittens. It goes beyond watching the endearing ultrasound photos and counting baby kicks; baby planning involves a lot of financial preparation.

Priti Rathí Gupta, Founder of LXME, MD & Promotor Anand Rathí Group spells out the most crucial financial tasks that must be on your checklist from the onset of your pregnancy, including estimating your medical costs, planning leave from your job and budgeting for your new born's arrival.

Save for medical expenses

The most obvious first step to take – start saving! Considering the ex-

orbitant charges for medical check-ups and tests, and poor maternity benefits in health plans, it would be wise to keep aside a small amount each month in a liquid fund soon after you receive your good news. Don't forget that with prenatal care, epidurals, and hospital stays, giving birth doesn't come cheap

Keep your debt status in check

If you have a substantial debt figure before you have a baby, there's a good chance it will swell once your baby arrives. The ideal scenario is to be debt free with probably just your mortgage because when the baby comes along, expenses are bound to shoot up. Ensuring your debt is under control will render

you financially secure resulting in peace of mind and contentment. If debt is all you think about, it will be hard to focus on your family.

Prepare for maternity Leave

Taking time off your job to bond with your new baby, heal your body and adjust to the changes in your family is extremely important. According to the Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, women can take 26 weeks maternity leave. As per the Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, women can commence their leave up to a maximum of 8 weeks before the expected delivery date and the remaining time can be availed after childbirth. Some couples also make use of their paid vacation or

sick days once the baby arrives. Discuss with the HR department and understand your company's policies with regards to this so that you can plan your leave accordingly.

Review your health insurance

You will need to include your new born to your health insurance policy, so take the time to review your policy now, while you are still free from baby duties. If you're currently covered through your job, you can find out more from human resources, or talk to your insurance provider. It would be of use to note that even with health insurance, you might be responsible for some out-of-pocket expenses when it comes to childbirth and family coverage plans. By reviewing promptly you will have more time to clarify any doubts and start saving.

TWEET PATROL



RADHIKA APTE
RADHIKA_APTE

Cant wait for all the episodes of #Flesh to drop on August 21 on @ErosNow! Watch the trailer here - <https://t.co/J9nTWMBjlk> @ShahanaGoswami @gulshandeveiah @Jayasaha @SiddhanthKapoor @deespeak now it's your turn to share tum kya chahte ho! Use #MainChahtiHoon aur shuru ho jao



Sonam Kapoor inspires fashionistas with her #TakeTwoWithSonam challenge

THE BOLLYWOOD STAR KICKS OFF A CONTEST ON INSTAGRAM ASKING HER FANS TO RECREATE SOME OF HER ICONIC LOOKS

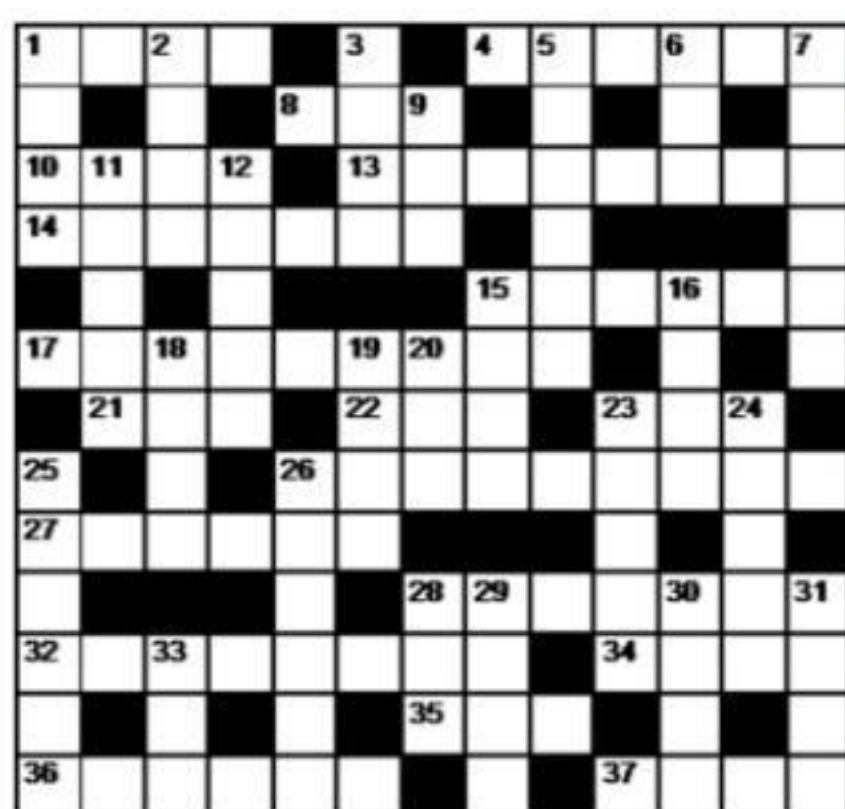
Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor Ahuja recently came up with a fun social media contest titled #TakeTwoWithSonam, in which she challenged the fashionistas to recreate some of her iconic looks. The actress asked her fans not only to emulate but also to experiment with their looks while ensuring they are easy to recreate at home.

She kicked off the contest on Instagram with the theme #StyleYourSaree - A saree with a twist.

"The last time I did this, there was such an overwhelming response from you guys - I had to do it again! With this edition of #TakeTwoWithSonam, I want you to not just emulate, but experiment. What's the theme, you ask? It's Indian fashion at its contemporary best. A saree, with a twist. Over the years of being in the public eye, I've loved experimenting with the 9 yard fabric and giving it my own spin. Whether the spin comes from bold accessories, or a different drape, it all depends on me and my team's mood," she wrote in the post in which she called from entries from fashionistas.

She added: "What I want you to do in this challenge is fairly simple. Show me how you #StyleYourSaree. Go crazy with your looks, I'm watching all of you! Remember to tag me. Use the hashtag #TakeTwoWithSonam. Don't forget, the deadline for all your submissions is August 10. Have fun styling!"

On Tuesday, while sharing her top favourite looks from among the entries, Sonam wrote: "Whoa, whoa, whoa. This round of #TakeTwoWithSonam really had all of you show me your most creative side. I had a gala time picking out the winners - so much so that, I ended up choosing 5 entries instead of 3. Congratulations to all the winners and participants, I just can't get enough of your quirky styles! Should there be another round? What would you like to be challenged with next?"



MARSH E OOZED
C A OUDADS R
STATE W OLDER
I I MICRO B
BOURBON O BUS
ANTE W SUREST
T T BEAKS G E
HEEDED I BENE
EAR Q SPLITUP
R GULLS G RUP
ENVOI Y AGISM
E BEELINE E
ADMIT Y DRESS

SOLUTION TO AUGUST 18

CROSSWORD

Across

- Diesel oil, slang (4)
- Medicine to induce vomiting (6)
- It keeps food off clothes (3)
- Newts (4)
- Outmoded or obsolete (8)
- Sorrow (7)
- Stove nozzle (3,3)
- Inelegantly (9)
- One or other (3)
- Electric or evil follower (3)
- Append or join (3)
- Abundant (9)
- Oblivious to danger (6)
- Coaxed (7)
- Jump over (8)
- Mexican coin (4)
- Implore (3)
- Everest climber's aid (3,3)
- Eastern continent (4)

Down

- Female animals (4)

"Retired" in short ? (4)

- Short life stories (4)
- Noon (6)
- Expression of impatience (3)
- Officers in training ? (6)
- Public conveyance (3)
- Muslim decree (5)
- Tintin's dog (5)
- A narrow valley in the mountains (4)
- Martial art (4)
- Be cognizant of (4)
- Depend on (4)
- Colouring agent (3)
- Fable writer (5)
- Sandy hills seen on beaches (5)
- Centres of atoms (6)
- Put in front (6)
- Male swan (3)
- Matured (4)
- Not so (4)
- Lady of Spain - "a nod" anagram ? (4)
- Admiration (3)

SUDOKU



5 2 8 9 6 4 1 7 3
9 4 7 3 2 1 5 6 8
6 1 3 5 7 8 4 9 2
8 3 2 4 9 5 7 1 6
7 6 9 8 1 2 3 4 5
4 5 1 7 3 6 8 2 9
3 9 6 1 5 7 2 8 4
1 8 5 2 4 9 6 3 7
2 7 4 6 8 3 9 5 1

SOLUTION TO AUGUST 18

NEWS ROUNDUP

Shilpa's yoga tip to remove unwanted thoughts from mind

Actress Shilpa Shetty, a yoga enthusiast, is motivating people to remove unwanted thoughts from their minds.

Sharing a video where she can be seen doing an asana, she tweeted: "One can lose balance in these unsettling times. There's so much uncertainty in life at this point that we need to be able to center ourselves to function normally. Today, I chose to do the Eka Pada Malasana - 'Mala' means 'Waste Re She calls it a challenging pose, for which one first needs to align their mind and body."

"You will need to stay calm and composed removing all the unwanted (waste) thoughts from your mind, to achieve the correct posture," she explained. She shared that what she loves about this asana is that it "truly helps improve balance and focus", adding: "It also works on strengthening the quadriceps, hip flexors, and core. Now, I am all set for whatever the day has to offer. How did you start your day?"



2,400-yr-old mummy in Jaipur enjoys fresh air after 130 years

Jaipur (IANS): A 2,400-year-old mummy at the Albert Hall Museum in Jaipur was taken out from its box for the first time in past 130 years to save it from drowning.

Torrential rains flooded Jaipur streets on August 14, the water also entered the museum. As the flood water reached knee-length, the mummy preserved in the box had to be taken out to a safe place, said Dr. Rakesh Chholak, Superintendent of Central Museum.

Had there been a delay of even a

few minutes, this mummy which was brought from Egypt to Rajasthan more than a century ago would have been destroyed forever. Therefore, it's glass cover was smashed and the mummy was put in a safe place.

The mummy displayed at the Albert Hall Museum was brought from Cairo 130 years back. It is of a woman named Tutu. It was found in the Akhmin area of the ancient city of Panopolis in Egypt.

In April 2017, the mummy was

shifted to the basement of the Albert Hall in Jaipur and all related details of its history, birth-death relationship, the method of making mummy and X-ray of this mummy were presented to the people here.

Even the Archaeological Department head office was flooded with water, department files were drenched. The officials, since the last four days, have been trying to dry these files by spreading them in open spaces.

The tourist's entry has been

closed for seven days, said Prakash Chandra Sharma, Director, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Rajasthan.

He said, "All files were drenched due to water rising up to five feet in the office. Office laptops, printers, computers and stationery have become unusable and non-functional. Hundreds of soaked files are being dried and tourist entry is closed for seven days. If conditions do not improve, it can be extended further."



INTERFERING IN INDIA'S ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY

‘FB needs to be quizzed’: Cong writes to Zuckerberg

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday wrote to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, accusing Facebook India of “interfering” with the country’s electoral democracy, and demanded a time-bound high level inquiry into the conduct of Facebook India leadership team, and their operations.

In a letter to Zuckerberg, Congress general secretary KC Venugopal also demanded that pending the internal investigation and submission of the report, the company should “consider a new team to lead Facebook India operations so as to not influence the probe”.

The Congress and other opposition parties have attacked the social media giant after a US media report alleged that Facebook did not apply its hate speech rules on BJP leaders.

In its response, Facebook on Monday said the company’s social media platform prohibits hate speech and content that incites violence, adding these policies are

Act against those spreading hatred on FB: Sena



enforced globally without regard to political affiliation.

However, Facebook, which counts India among its largest markets globally, acknowledged that “there is more to do”.

The Shiv Sena sought action “irrespective of party affiliations” against those who spread hatred

and talk of disintegrating the country on social media platforms like Facebook. Companies like Facebook can’t ignore someone spreading hatred because the persons belongs to the ruling party, the Sena said and asked the social media platform to observe rules and ethics of business.

Facebook executive Ankhi Das booked

Raipur: An FIR has been filed in Raipur against a senior Facebook executive and two users of the social media platform for allegedly hurting religious sentiments, police said on Tuesday.

The case was lodged at Kabir Nagar police station late Monday night based on the complaint of Awesh Tiwari, a Raipur-based journalist of a news channel, Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Yadav told PTI.

Three persons, identified as Ankhi Das from New Delhi, Ram Sahu from Mungeli (Chhattisgarh) and Vivek Sinha from Indore (Madhya Pradesh), were booked. An investigation is underway and further action will be taken accordingly, the official said.

Final year exams cannot be cancelled: UGC

Supreme Court reserves judgement

New Delhi (IANS):

The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved judgement on whether the final year degree examinations in universities should be held before September 30, in accordance with University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines.

The top court will also decide whether State governments have the power to take a decision against conducting final year examinations under the Disaster Management Act.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan has reserved the judgement on a batch of PILs along with some state governments - Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha and Delhi - questioning the UGC direction to universities to conduct final year exams before September 30. The state governments have argued that they have the power to promote students without exams in the backdrop of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the UGC, contended before the top court that final year is the degree year and exams cannot be done away with. Mehta also cited examples of exams being conducted by some universities and added that many top-level universities have opted for online exams. Mehta insisted that foreign universities and further education require degrees.

Citing the UGC guidelines, Mehta contended before the bench that these guidelines are not merely for preaching and that they are mandatory. The guidelines which have been challenged before the top court have a statutory mandate, added Mehta.



With 55K new cases, India crosses 27L-mark

RECORDS HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY RECOVERIES OF 57,937 PATIENTS

New Delhi (IANS) India's Coronavirus tally crossed the 27-lakh mark on Tuesday with 55,079 fresh cases in 24 hours, while the toll climbed to 51,797 with 876 more fatalities, said the Health Ministry.

Out of the total 27,02,742 cases, recoveries have surged to 19,77,779 with 57,937 more people recuperating in the past 24 hours, taking the recovery rate to nearly 73.17 per cent. The actual caseload of the country is the active cases, which currently stands at 6,73,166. The country had touched the 20-lakh mark on August 7 and added more than seven lakh cases in 11 days.

The silver lining, however, is that the gap between recoveries and active cases is growing every day. Currently, recoveries are over 12 lakh more than the active cases. As far as the death toll is concerned, the country had registered its first death on March 13 and crossed the 25,000-mark on July 17. The next 25,000 deaths were logged in the span of a month. Notably, the case fatality rate, which is the proportion of people who die from the disease among individuals diagnosed, has dropped to 1.91 per cent, the ministry said. As many as 8,99,864 samples were tested on Monday. Maharashtra remained the worst-hit state with a total of 5,95,865 cases and 20,037 deaths; followed by Tamil Nadu with 3,38,055 cases and 5,766 deaths. The southern state is followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. India continues to be the third worst hit after the US with 5,437,969 cases and 170,491 deaths and Brazil with 3,359,570 infections and 108,536 deaths.



A migrant worker shows a medical certificate after a rapid antigen test for COVID-19 on his arrival at Anand Vihar station, in New Delhi on Tuesday

Frame poll guidelines in 3 days, EC tells states

New Delhi (IANS): The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday directed the states where elections would be held in the coming months to frame broad guidelines within three days on the smooth conduct of the polling process amid the coronavirus pandemic and report back to the central body.

On the basis of these guidelines, the Commission directed, the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of such states will also prepare comprehensive plans for the conduct of campaigning and voting in the state/districts concerned, taking into account the conditions likely to prevail during elections.

After hearing from these states, the ECI would take further action.

The Commission's directions came after a meeting here earlier in the day on the matter. The ECI took into consideration the views and suggestions given by various political parties.

Sushant's sister groped me, it strained relationship with his family : Rhea

Mumbai: Actress Rhea Chakraborty, who has been named in a complaint by late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's father KK Singh and accused of taking Rs 15 crore from him, has put out a statement, clarifying her stance on the case, according to India Today report.

A four-page statement was shared by Rhea's lawyer Satish Maneshinde, on behalf of the actress. In the statement, Rhea says that she did not know Aaditya Thackeray, and what drove a wedge between her and the family of Sushant Singh Rajput.

"Rhea and Sushant were known to each other over the past several years as they were both working in the Indian film Industry. Rhea and Sushant had maintained a cordial friendship and would occasionally communicate with each other. In April 2019, Rhea and Sushant had attended a party hosted by the film fraternity and shortly thereafter they

Trump 'wrong' President for US: Michelle Obama

Washington: Michelle Obama has ripped through Donald Trump at the opening of the Democratic National Convention, saying he is the "wrong president for our country" and urged Americans to vote for his challenger Joe Biden "like our lives depend on it."

In an emotional recorded message to the convention, the former US first lady said last four years had been difficult to explain to America's children. "They see our leaders labelling fellow citizens enemies of the state, while emboldening torch-bearing white supremacists," she said.

The four-day Democratic National Convention was initially scheduled to be held in Wisconsin but it began virtually on Monday amid the raging COVID-19 pandemic. Former vice president Biden, 77, is challenging 74-year-old Trump, a Republican in the November 3 presidential election.

Senator Kamala Harris, 55, is all set to be formally nominated by the DNC as the first-ever Black as well as the first-ever American of Indian and African descent as a vice presidential candidate by a major political party.

Launching a blistering attack on Trump, Obama said children are torn from their families and thrown into cages and pepper spray and rubber bullets are used on peaceful protests for a photo op.

"Let me be as honest and clear as I possibly can. Donald Trump is the wrong president for our country. He has had more than enough time to prove that he can do the job, but he is clearly in over his head.



'MP govt jobs for State citizens only'

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday said that his government has decided to take steps to reserve government jobs only for the people of the state.

The Chief Minister said the legal changes regarding the reservation of government jobs for Madhya Pradesh citizens will be introduced soon. "The state government has taken an important decision that government jobs will be given to youths of Madhya Pradesh. We are making necessary legal provisions for this. Resources of Madhya Pradesh are meant for children of the state," Chouhan said in a video statement.

He, however, did not elaborate about the proposed legal provisions.



began dating each other. Even though they spent a lot of time in each other's homes, they officially moved in together in December 2019 and lived at Mount Blanc, Bandra, till Rhea left on the 8th of June 2020.

"In the initial months of their relationship, when Rhea had visited Sushant's house, his sister

Priyanka and her husband Sidharth were living with him. On one night, in and around April 2019, Rhea and Priyanka had gone out to a party. Priyanka consumed copious amounts of alcohol and was behaving inappropriately with men as well as women at that party. So, Rhea insisted that they return to Sushant's

home. Upon returning, Sushant and his sister continued drinking alcohol while Rhea retired for the night as she had a shoot the next morning.

Rhea was asleep in Sushant's room when she suddenly awoke to find Priyanka had got into bed with her and was groping her. Rhea was extremely shocked and demanded that she leave the room immediately. Subsequently, Rhea herself left the house. Thereafter, Rhea informed Sushant as to what had transpired and Sushant got into an argument with his sister regarding the same.

That due to the aforesaid incident, the relationship between Sushant's family and Rhea had been strained since inception. Even after his death when a list of 20 people was made to attend the funeral, Rhea's name was not included in the list and hence she was excluded from attending the funeral.

Covid-19 in rural areas a bad sign for GDP

It is a foregone conclusion that India's gross domestic product (GDP) will contract this financial year due to the economic crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic. Even the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) forecast the same. However, there is no clarity yet on the quantum of the contraction in the country's GDP. RBI also refrained from indicating the expected extent of shrinkage in the economic activity this financial year. However, several global agencies came out with projections which said that India's economy would take a bigger hit compared to many major economies as Covid-19 was spreading faster in the country, the world's second largest populated country after China. Among the major economies, China, where the novel coronavirus that triggered global Covid pandemic was born, seems to be sitting pretty when it comes to economic activity. The

communist country posted a GDP contraction of 6.8 per cent during January-March 2020. But its economy recovered sharply and posted a positive growth of 3.2 per cent during the April-June quarter. The steep rebound in the world's second largest economy is a surprise as the world is still reeling under the debilitating impact of Covid and China heavily depends on world markets for its growth. Other major economies are not that fortunate though. Japan's economy shrank by a whopping 27.8 per cent during April-June. This disappointing de-growth marks the largest contraction in the world's third biggest economy since 1980. The US economy registered a much higher shrinkage of 32.9 per cent in the same three months. It was the worst ever drop for the world's largest economy since 1921. Against this backdrop, how is the Indian economy doing now? A research report by the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, estimated that the country's GDP would have contracted 16.5 per cent during the April-June, the first quarter as per the Indian financial year that begins in April. The SBI's Ecwrap report, in its May edition, projected a higher contraction of

over 20 per cent for the same period. As per the report, the GDP contraction was not as deep as it was thought earlier. It cited lower de-growth in corporate GVA (gross value added) as compared to fall in corporate revenues during the first quarter as the reason for its latest GDP estimates. Till now, over 1,000 listed companies announced their first quarter (April-June 2020) financial results. As per this data, top line of these companies fell by 25 per cent while the bottom line (margins) declined by 55 per cent. However, the decline in corporate GVA was only 14.1 per cent. This should come as glad tidings. But Covid-19, which has so far confined to mega cities and urban pockets, is spreading faster to hinterlands. Rural areas accounted for 54 per cent of total Covid confirmed cases in August. That is a bad sign indeed. Till now, it has been expected that as rural areas are relatively free of novel coronavirus, the agriculture sector will cushion the adverse impact of Covid-19 pandemic. That seems to be unlikely now as rising Covid cases will hit agriculture activity. If that happens, the Indian economy will take a bigger hit compared to its global peers.

Heart of business in times of pandemic

HIMANSHU MANGLIK

The Covid Syndrome will haunt us for years. Human misery is escalating, and many businesses are caught in this Covid trap. The business of business is to make profits. Yet, business and corporates are frequently criticised for not spending enough on community and social welfare. There are people who believe that business is prospering at the expense of society. Exhortations to spend more on CSR and even expecting business to contribute to areas of social stress not directly related to their areas of activity is an ongoing reality. The question of how much spending on social responsibility projects is enough remains unanswered and we forget that the business of business is to create economic value. The tussle between the heart and the mind is a continuous and never-ending process. Yet, there are companies who are doing an excellent job of balancing the two.

Many years ago, a television channel produced a programme that gently probed corporate businesses and unearthed the benefits of their operations to the community. It was tough to make the mark and be accepted on this programme. It made you think and forced you to look at your business from a new and societal perspective. Since then, corporates have evolved further, as internal leadership, CSR laws, and consumer expectations prodded them to present a more humane face of their brands. However, the question still troubles the hard-nosed decision makers who also listen to their hearts. It will continue to raise its head again and again as we go through social and economic disruptions. This is especially relevant today as we deal with the Covid Syndrome where business operations are almost as severely disrupted as the society itself. Every business will need to find its own answers on how to navigate this present while remaining relevant for the future.

That programme was conceptually very much similar to what Michael Porter and Mark Kramer of Harvard University later defined as Creating Shared Value (CSV). It created the realisation that even though the primary objective of business is to make profits, it can be done best when business empathises with the communities where it operates and focuses on creating value for both itself and the community. The essence is that business and the community are interdependent on each other. If the business focuses on those problems of the community where it has expertise and where its own interest is linked, then it creates superior value for both. Nestle's work over decades to develop the milk district of Moga is a commanding example of the CSV concept. It gives out a clear signal that the benchmark for social responsibility must be to create trust while ensuring efficient operations



Over five million migrant workers have been transported back by the railways alone, while many more with their families have made their way through other means. The economic disruption and the exodus of migrant workers going back to their villages is a defining moment. It confronts us with fundamental questions of human behaviour and responsibilities. It forces businesses to relook at their core and their fundamental purpose. It puts the spotlight on policies and the role that is expected of the government, the corporate and the individual. It impacts both the heart and the business and causes uncertainty, anxiety and turbulence in decision making. Is the social responsibility in ensuring business continuity or is it in mitigating the misery of people who are deprived of food and shelter? Both will have a long-term bearing on the business. It's an unusual situation and tough, but businesses and individuals have risen above the benchmarks

and enhancing the quality of life of the community in the long run. The operative word is 'Long Run' though in times of calamities and crisis the heart will want to dominate the mind.

The real test, however, is to make a decision under stress and be able to find the balance. The current pandemic is a reality check for economies and societies across the globe. In India, we are experiencing an entirely unique situation that seems to be overwhelming us. For over four months, the economy has been largely in free fall and marking time. Corporates are confronted with the 'Covid Syndrome' where the operations are grounded but the business is considered operational. The urban pockets have experienced an exodus and reverse migration of labour, who are doggedly returning to their native villages despite the hardships they face in the process.

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Many well run companies have similar long-term views. Disruptions in economic activity, social upheaval, and increasing unemployment create stress, uncertainty and distress and bring us face-to-face with our own values. Corporates are clear that while the primary responsibility of the company is to ensure business continuity, it is also the time to reach out to try and heal scars, build trust and create hope.

The biggest challenge during a crisis of this magnitude is anxiety and uncertainty. While continuing to sustain the business during these unprecedented times, one of the key focus areas for companies is to manage the mindset of their talent across all levels and ensure that the 'family' stays connected and positive about the future. At the same time, they are concerned that the crisis has severely affected certain sections of society including daily wage labourers, the homeless, slum-dwellers, as well as the elderly who live alone and for them the true challenge is not only to evade the virus, but to get enough food to survive. IndiGo is one such company that not only focused on its internal people to keep them engaged and battle ready for post-Covid, it also ensured that IndiGoReach, which is the CSR program at 'IndiGo', stepped up its efforts and entered into partnerships and networked with like-minded and efficient organisations to reach the most vulnerable quickly. The employees also volunteered their time and initiated activities to ease the distress of marginalised individuals and the needy during the pandemic.

When resources are limited compared to the immediacy and magnitude of the problem, any amount committed as CSR will be insufficient. Irrespective of the quantum, it will leave the nagging feeling that perhaps we could have done more. The solution is to focus resources on creating shared value instead of indulging in guilt-driven social responsibility. The Sikhs have the widely practiced tradition of langars, or the practice of food sharing through community kitchens. It is selfless service without any discrimination that reflects humility and creates hope for those in need throughout the year, not just in times of a public crisis. 'Langars' are an epitome of selfless service that cannot be seen as charity. Many corporates and individuals have partnered with the 'langars' because the 'langar' concept recognises interdependence in society and the need to add value. The donations, the support and the volunteers that help sustain these 'langars' reflect a deep-seated desire to add value. It creates that unique bond of mutual respect and trust that is necessary to co-create value in society. Not as a mandated social responsibility but as a recognition of the need. CSV is only the corporate version of this approach to co-create value with the communities instead of a patronising charitable approach.

The core of CSV is to develop and sustain synergy and trust between the community and the business and create a win-win situation for both. Trust will be the cliff-hanger in the future, but it will no longer be a matter of chance. Business will have to work hard to create shared value and establish trust in the community.

(The writer is founder and president, WALNUTCAP Consulting LLP. The views expressed are personal)



Lockdown, leftovers and how food frugality is a climate boon

CHRISTOPHER WALLJASPER & NIGEL HUNT

Clint Parry ransacked every kitchen cupboard and scoured all corners of his fridge during lockdown in Detroit, hunting for lost ingredients and leftovers to whip up meals.

The 33-year-old is one of many people across the world to have embraced thriftiness and cut down on food waste during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to experts. They say the new habits, if maintained will provide a major boost in tackling another global crisis: climate change.

"We are using virtually all of our leftovers, where we used to waste food because we would forget to pack it and just pick up fast food on a lunch break," said Parry, who is married and works as a master model builder at Legoland in Michigan.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates that a third of the world's food is wasted every year. Forests are cleared, fuel is burnt and packaging in produced just to provide food which is thrown away. Meanwhile, rotting food in landfills releases more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

As a result, food waste is responsible for around 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions, a similar amount to road transportation.

"The next crisis will be the climate crisis and the best thing you can do as a consumer is reduce food waste," said Toine Timmermans, program manager for sustainable food chains at Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

Household food waste in Britain, to take one country, fell significantly in the early phase of the lockdown in April with just 14% of four key items - bread, chicken, milk and potatoes - thrown away, according to research by environmental group WRAP, which conducted thousands of interviews.

Pre-lockdown, an average of 24% had been wasted. Waste had begun to rebound by June, with a second WRAP survey putting waste of those products at 18% but remained significantly below pre-lockdown levels.

"Although people are reporting wasting more food as restrictions lift ... the positive news is that 70% of people want to maintain their new-found food management behaviours in the long term," said Richard Swannell, director at WRAP Global which works with governments to reduce food waste.

"This is an encouraging sign that people are taking this opportunity to adopt less wasteful habits in life after lockdown."

Food security has been a major concern during the pandemic as consumers panic-bought basic goods, migrant workers struggled to get to the fields, meat-packing plants shut, and farm goods produced for shuttered restaurants rotted. But the lower household food waste has been one bright spot. Out of necessity, consumers have become more organized in planning menus, developed new cooking skills, checked their cupboards and fridges more before they shop and found better ways to use up leftovers, according to food waste experts.

"What people have been forced to do during the pandemic is plan ahead because they're now shopping less frequently," said Dana Gunders, executive director at ReFED, a non-profit dedicated to reducing wasted food across the United States.

"They're being forced to cook more and build those cooking skills." Laura Brooks, a stay-at-home mother of five in Weymouth, Massachusetts, said she had developed useful habits during the lockdown that she would keep.

"I think as things go back to normal, I may continue with less frequent shopping trips. When I go more often, I find that the new produce pushes the old produce out of sight and things get wasted more easily," she added.

Increased frugality could prove a valuable habit in the economic and unemployment crisis caused by the pandemic; Gunders said a family of four in the United States was estimated to throw out food worth about \$1,800 a year.

A survey from Germany's Food and Agriculture Ministry also showed consumers had started to show more concern about wasting food during the coronavirus crisis.

The government had launched an anti-food waste campaign called "Too good for the bin" before the crisis, urging the public not to automatically throw food away after the sell-by date but to smell and taste it to see if it was still in good condition.

The Ministry's survey, undertaken during the pandemic, found that 91% of German consumers questioned were now checking food after its sell-by date and not automatically throwing it away.

This compared to only 76% in a similar survey in 2016. Food waste is not restricted to the home but it is the biggest source in many countries.

The European Union has published a study estimating that 53% of food waste was in households and 11% in production, with the balance in areas such as processing and retailing.

China's President Xi Jinping said this month that the amount of food wasted in China was "shocking", prompting many local governments to launch related campaigns.

For Parry in Detroit, and many others, thrift is here to stay. "Our food costs have definitely gone way down, since we are not buying out when we have perfectly consumable leftovers in the fridge at home," he said.

We will miss you, Mr Dhoni!

India's star wicket keeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni bid adieu to International cricket on Independence Day. With this, his long and distinguished career came to an end. While chasing targets in international cricket, Dhoni kept his cards closed to his chest many a times. Similarly, till Independence Day night, he kept his fans and critics guessing till he made an announcement of his retirement. Dhoni, widely known as MS to all cricket lovers and Mahi 'bai' to his fellow cricketers, retires as most successful captain in limited over international career, having won three ICC trophies - 2007 T20 World Cup, most coveted 50 over World Cup (the title which Sachin Tendulkar cherishes as great achievement in his career) and 2013 ICC Champions Trophy. He took Indian cricket team on top of test rankings. Who will forget his calm presence behind the stumps and electrifying speed in making stump outs? Without prior announcement and without formal press conference, Dhoni hung his boots from international career, true to his own style, symbolising his personality with an announcement through Twitter. We will sure miss those helicopter services (helicopter shots) in future. What else we can do, the cricket lovers of India, except wishing the Ranchi man good luck in his future 2nd innings!

V Nagendra Kumar, R K Puram, Hyderabad

A cricketer par excellence!

MS Dhoni created new records as stumper, skipper and well-versed batsman and stole the hearts of many cricket lovers across the globe. His scoring of around 5,000 runs in test cricket with a double century speaks volumes of his passion for the royal game, thus joining the galaxy of idols of cricket world. Also, his appearance in as many 90 Tests for India is exemplary that

LETTERS

he had sweated hard and showed patience enough to quench his sportsman's thirst. Dhoni scripted the apt role of skipper suitable for One Day cricket where stamina and patience play key roles. His achievements prove he was an able batsman with guts to test opponent sternly. Some of his victories registered against mighty OZ, South Africa and arch-rival Pakistan will be remembered forever in the cricket world. Dhoni played the captain's role perfectly in the finals, salvaging India from an insecure position to wrap up India's second ODI World Cup. His young at heart attitude helped beat England in the final of the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy to make Dhoni the first men's captain to win all three ICC tournaments. Kudos to M S Dhoni for his remarkable achievements.

Raju Kolluru, Kakinada, AP

Media should play a constructive role

Media is considered as the fourth pillar democracy. Its main responsibility is to protect the rights and privileges of public and it ought to be a mirror to the society. In early days of advancement, media had been informative, apart from playing a crucial role in development of a civilised society. Over a few years, it has changed. In the lust of Television Rating Point (TRP), it has surpassed all the limits in misguiding the society. Nowadays, most of its contents involve caste, religion, reservation and all other things which are further dividing the masses and weakening the society. As competitive market emerged in the electronic media, news channels are now more concentrating on their TRPs. They come

with different subjects to create interest in viewers, sometimes are true and sometimes gossip. This creates a miscommunication and confusion among the people on various issues. People get influenced by the media and they often come under wrong conclusions about the government, religion, caste and many other issues. So, media should consider this and work more towards forceless and free coverage of news and help building a better society.

M N Musaeed, Mumbai

Save Kashmiris from institutional torment

Kashmir valley is one of the well-known places in the world that attracts tourists in large numbers. But now, it has gotten worse since Article 370 and 35a have been abrogated from the Constitution of India which provided Special Status for Jammu and Kashmir compared to the other regions of the country. It should be kept in mind that Kashmir's performance in every part of life - be it economy, education or jobs - had been better than any other State in India. The development dream shown by the BJP during the removal of Article 370 was a mirage, because a year after the annexation of Kashmir, the socio-economy has gotten worse. According to reports, Kashmir's economy has incurred losses of up \$5.3 billion and more than 1,00,000 people became unemployed. I firmly appeal to the intelligentsia to remember human history and try to protect people of Kashmir from brutality and support them by raising your voices against this cruelty.

Mohd Adnan, Bijnor, UP

thehansreader@gmail.com

Many find solace in pets' company in times of pandemic

- Of late, the number of searches for pets on official sites has gone up, says K Sree Krishna, secretary of Visakha Kennel Association, affiliated to the Kennel Club of India
- Vijayawada-based Yannam Yeswanth, who sells pets through a Facebook page 'Yesu Dog Sales' says the demand for pets has increased by 50 per cent since March
- On an average, we receive 10-15 enquiries a day from prospective buyers for fresh registrations, he points out
- The breeds that are in demand include Golden Retriever, German Shepherd, Beagle, Siberian Husky, Labrador and Cane Corso



Many consider bringing home a pet to relieve themselves from stress in times of the pandemic

RANI DEVALLA

Visakhapatnam: During these unprecedented times when many feel isolated, the demand for pets has seen a considerable rise for more reasons than one.

With so much of negativity around amid the dreaded coronavirus pandemic, many wanted to de-stress themselves by bringing home a pet.

While some consider spending a sizeable amount on a puppy to re-

lieve themselves from stress, a few find the period apt to usher in a new family member into their life. "Currently, I am working from home. During the initial days, canines need a lot of attention because it is a crucial phase for them to get adjusted to a new environment. However, WFH (work from home) has come as a boon for me as I can focus on my pet 'Pablo' well and attend to him whenever he needs," says Manoj Kumar Kadali, who works in

an IT firm.

A lot of 'research' has been carried out by Manoj before placing an order for the 38-day-old Pune-based Golden Retriever that has a complete golden coat which he is very particular about.

Along with Golden Retriever, the other breeds that are in huge demand in recent past include German Shepherd, Beagle, Siberian Husky, Labrador and Cane Corso. "Of late, the number of searches for

pets on official sites has gone up as many find solace in puppies' companionship. People are seeking guidance to maintain pets as it is a new experience for some," observes K Sree Krishna, secretary of Visakha Kennel Association, affiliated to the Kennel Club of India.

Vijayawada-based Yannam Yeswanth, who sells pets through a Facebook page Yesu Dog Sales, is busy catering to the orders that pour in from different destinations. "The demand for pets has increased by 50 per cent since March. On an average, we receive 10-15 enquiries a day from prospective buyers for fresh registrations. In recent months, we have delivered 30-40 pets to Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Ongole and Vijayawada through our Facebook page," says Yeswanth.

However, those who could not resist impulse buying need to shell out a minimum Rs 20,000 extra for a show quality pup, excluding the transport cost as the price of a pup has almost been doubled.

Pet lovers lay emphasis on preparedness to shoulder responsibility as taking care of puppies involves a huge commitment that continues for long.

Aadhaar services launched at Araku Valley

Mango, apricot, custard apple, coriander and onion seeds distributed to farmers of Dumbriguda mandal

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam: Aadhaar related services are now made available in Araku Valley. Araku MP G Madhavi, Araku MLA Chetty Palguna and ITDA Project Officer S Venkateswar inaugurated the Aadhaar centre at a Rental Housing Colony.

Registration of Aadhaar, change of address, photo upload, biometric registration, name,

mobile number and email updation, downloading of Aadhaar card can be done at the centre. On this occasion, the PO said that similar centres will be set up at Paderu, Pedabayalu and Chintapalli mandals. He advised to avail the services at the centre launched.

Later, with the support of Bengaluru Indian Institute of Horticulture, mango, apricot, custard apple, coriander and onion seeds were distributed to the farmers of Dumbriguda mandal.

Zonal Special Officer P.H.O.G. Prabhakara Rao, MPDO G V Rambabu, Innovation PO Anjana, and special consultant Mohan and others participated.



MP G Madhavi inaugurating an Aadhaar centre in Araku Valley on Tuesday

Rotary Club donates 400 home quarantine kits

- Each kit has medicines for 20 days
- Visakha Chemist Welfare Society extends support to the initiative

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam: Rotary Club Visakha Port City donated 400 Covid-19 home quarantine kits to Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC).

The kits were handed over to Commissioner GVMC G Srijana. Speaking on the occasion, club president R S Kali Prasad said 600 more kits will be given to GVMC soon.

Kali Prasad explained that each kit has medicines for 20 days and Visakha Chemist Welfare Society extended support to the initiative. GVMC Chief Medical Officer (Health) K S L G Sastry, club secretary G Vithal Prasad, Visakha Chemist Welfare Society president B. Srinivas and Satish participated in the event.

VSP employee donates plasma to a patient

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam: Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) official donated plasma to a patient suffering from coronavirus.

L V Raman, a senior manager, working in the blast furnace department of VSP recently recovered from Covid-19. He was approached by a patient's relative whose condition is said to be critical.

Raman was involved in various service activities of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Ukkunagaram. His timely help was lauded by the patient's relative and State president of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation S G Chalam.

3 stadiums of int'l standards soon

- Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy to release New Tourism Policy on Aug 20
- Tourism Minister Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao says construction of star hotels in 12 places in the State on cards
- A Buddhist museum and a meditation centre will be established at Thotla Konda in Visakhapatnam

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: With Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy set to release new tourism policy on August 20, the tourism department embarked upon an ambitious plan to develop tourism throughout the state, including the construction of three stadiums of international standards, said minister for youth, tourism, sports Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao, also known as Avanti Srinivas.

After conducting a review meeting with the officials of tourism, sports, culture and archaeology departments at the Secretariat here on Tuesday, the minister said that the



Minister for Tourism Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao reviewing the works of Tourism, Sports and Youth with the officials at the Secretariat in Amaravati on Tuesday

Buddhist museum and a meditation centre would be established at Thotla Konda at Visakhapatnam. He instructed the officials to talk with the contractors to expedite the work on various tourism projects in the state since the tourists would be allowed to visit tourist sports in the first week of September.

The Chief Minister would conduct a review meeting on tourism on Thursday, August 20, when he would release the new tourism policy.

There was a proposal to undertake the

pending works in the tourism department under public-private partnership (PPP) with the permission of the Chief Minister. It had been decided to construct star hotels at 12 places in the state to promote tourism. However, the final decision would be taken by the Chief Minister, the minister said.

Srinivas said that three stadiums of international standards would be built in the state under PPP mode which would be decided by the Chief Minister during the review meeting on Thursday.

The state government would allocate Rs 3 crore for honouring the sports talent who achieved medals at the national level, Rs 5 lakh for the gold medalists, Rs 3 lakh for silver medalists and Rs 2 lakh for bronze medalists.

Referring to the development of Thotla Konda at Visakhapatnam, he said that Buddhist museum and a meditation centre would be established there. He hoped that this would attract more tourists from abroad too.

The minister said that the Chief Minister would inaugurate Babu Museum at Mylavaram and the renovated Kondapalli Fort soon. Several works under the Central government-funded 'PRASAD' scheme would be undertaken at Simhachalam temple at a cost of Rs 50 crore.

Praveen Kumar, MD of Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation and CEO of AP Tourism Authority, B Rama Rao, managing director of SAAP, Vani Mohan, director of archaeology, Jayaraj, CEO of Shilparamam, Mallikarjuna, director of cultural department were also present.

Coop Bank elects new governing body



Chalasani Raghavendra Rao

Visakhapatnam: Chalasani Raghavendra Rao has been unanimously elected as Chairman of The Visakhapatnam Co-operative Bank.

In the recent elections that were held to the governing body of the the bank, 21 directors have also been elected to the bank unanimously, according to election officer and Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Department P Durga Prasada Rao.

The board meeting held on Tuesday elected advocate Gudivada Bhaskara Rao as senior vice-chairman and advocate M Raghava Rao from Ongole as vice-chairman.

Covid tally crosses 3 lakh mark

- Toll climbs to 2,820 with 88 fresh deaths in 24 hours
- AP joins Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu in crossing 3 lakh cases

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The state on Tuesday became the third state after Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu in the country to cross the three lakh mark in the overall number of coronavirus cases.

The state now has 3,06,261 cases after 9,652 were added in the last 24 hours ending at 10 am but the number of active cases is only 85,130 with 2,18,311

patients having recovered so far, according to the latest government bulletin.

It took 160 days for the state to go from one to three lakh (cases) after the first person tested positive for the contagion on March 12 but the last one lakh came in quicker pace in just 11 days.

The state reached the 10,000 cases mark on June 24, 50,000 on July 20, one lakh on July 27, 1.50 lakh on August 1, two lakh on August 7 and 2.50 lakh mark on August 12. The Covid-19 toll in the state now climbed to 2,820 after 88 fresh deaths were reported in the last 24 hours, according to the latest bulletin. The infection positivity rate has been steadily rising over the past few weeks and has now touched 10.34 per cent, much higher than the national average of 8.73 per cent.

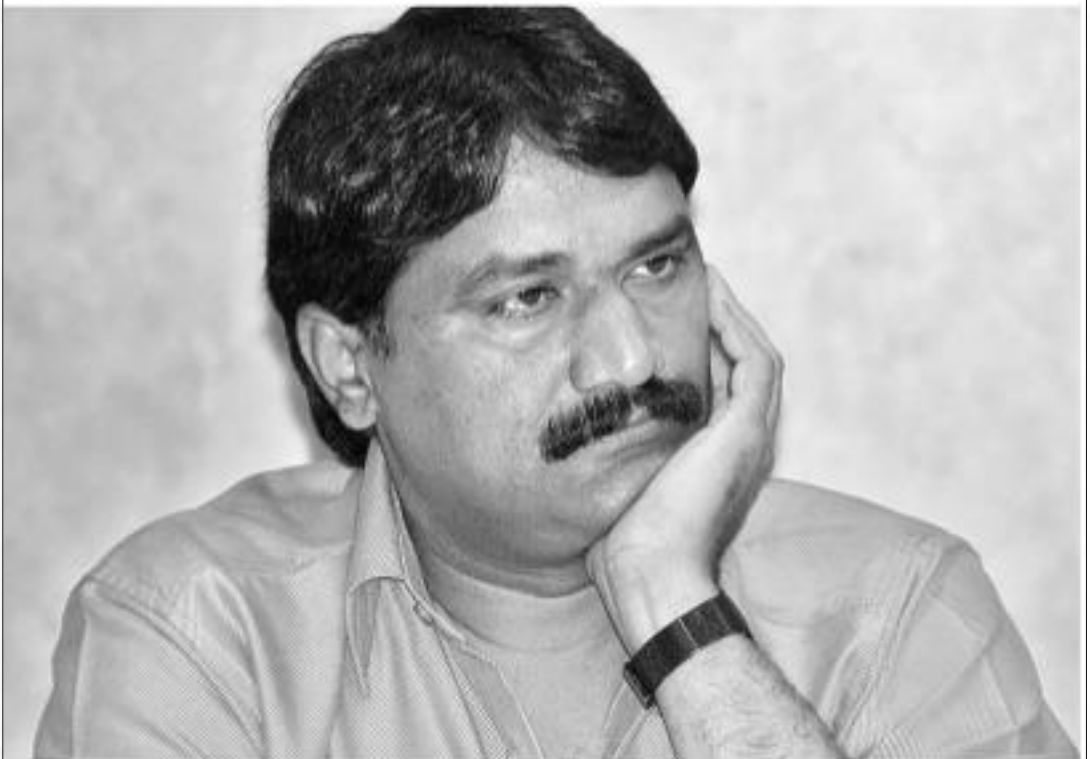
Ganta's entry into YSRCP put on hold yet again

- Very recently, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana hinted that Ganta is likely to join the ruling party when he resigns from the TDP
- While Minister for Tourism Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao opposes Ganta's entry into the YSRCP, some ruling party leaders and activists in Vizag await his arrival
- Earlier, Aug 9 was reportedly fixed as the date when he would join the YSRCP, subsequently the date has been changed to Aug 16
- The former Minister has been keeping away from the TDP activities for quite some time
- However, it is learnt that his followers advised him not to join the YSRCP now as it is not an appropriate time

VASU POTNURU

Visakhapatnam: Despite hype and revised 'muhurats', TDP Visakhapatnam North MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao's entry into the YSRCP seems to be put on hold once again.

The latest date fixed for his joining the YSRCP was August 16. But even that did not work out for the MLA, according to the sources. Earlier, the date fixed for his reported



entry into the party was on August 9.

However, the mounting 'differences' between Ganta and Minister for Tourism M Srinivasa Rao (Avanthi) appears to be one of the factors that stood in the way of his entry into the YSRCP.

While the Tourism Minister is against Ganta's entry into the YSRCP, some of the ruling party leaders and activists await the latter's arrival.

Both Avanthi and Ganta planned to contest from Bheemunipatnam constituency in the last general elections and fought for the Assembly ticket. But in the last minute,

Avanthi joined the YSRCP, while Ganta preferred to contest from the North Assembly constituency of Visakhapatnam.

The 'political rivalry' between Ganta and Avanthi began to grow much before the YSRCP came to the power.

It is said that Ganta always aspires for the Cabinet Minister post despite the party he contests for. It is the same 'mantra' that made him to switch parties and eventually gain a Minister's post until the last election. But currently, he is an MLA for the TDP and some of his 'stalwart' followers find it hard to accept.

With an intention to join the YSRCP, Ganta alienated himself from taking part in various TDP activities for quite a while. Regardless of the campaign in the past, the fact that the line has been cleared for Ganta to join the YSRCP has been confirmed by both the ruling party as well as the Opposition party leaders.

Very recently, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana hinted that Ganta is likely to join the party when he resigns from the TDP and when the YSRCP gets ready to usher him.

Meanwhile, protests were carried out extensively in Bheemunipatnam constituency against Ganta's entry into the YSRCP, alleging that the MLA's close followers were involved in land-grabbing. As a result, the much-hyped Ganta's entry into YSRCP has been put on hold temporarily.

It is learnt that Ganta's followers also advised him that it's not appropriate time for him to join the YSRCP in such circumstances.

Meanwhile, Ganta's cadre in Bheemunipatnam constituency is waiting for his arrival. Keeping Ganta's experience and following in view, several party activists are of the opinion that the MLA can play a key role in local elections effortlessly.

N Usha bags Dhyan Chand Award

Visakhapatnam: N Usha, working in Diesel Loco Shed of Waltair Division, East Coast Railway, has bagged Dhyan Chand Award. Usha has so far bagged several medals, including four gold, five silver and two bronze medals at international level and nine gold and three bronze medals at national level. The Boxing Federation of India recommended her for the Dhyan Chand Award. Usha is now Indian Railways Women's Boxing team coach.

Continued from P1

Each office will be equipped with three video cameras and other essential accessories. "We will keep a tab on the activities inside the registration offices using the system. The central monitoring system would enable the department heads to keep a close watch on the happenings in the offices in real-time," the officials said.

This would be the first of

its kind experiment in the country, the officials claimed. So far only photographs of the buyers and sellers were being used for registrations. Special Chief Secretary (Revenue) Rajat Bhargava said the project was part of the Good Governance initiative of the government.

Commissioner and Inspector General of Registration and Stamps Siddharth Jain said the video recording will

prevent fraudulent registration of properties and check impersonation using forged identities. "We will offer video recording of the transactions to buyers and sellers that will serve as evidence and a second layer of protection," he said.

The project would subsequently be extended to all registration offices in the next phase upon successful completion of the pilot phase.

TS seeks Centre to allocate 10L MT urea

Continued from P1

Gowda said that the Department of Fertilisers was monitoring the urea supplies to the states very closely.

There was a day-to-day interaction among the officials and every issue highlighted is being addressed on top priority.

He said necessary directions had already been issued to ensure the supplies as per the agreed plan.

He requested the Telangana government to ensure that data about sales, availability and stocks are updated timely on the dashboard so as to get real picture about the availability of fertilizers on real time basis. He assured that the supply would be strengthened.

PM Cares Fund need not be transferred to NDRF: SC

Continued from P1

The solicitor general had said that a national plan was prepared in 2019 and that had included the ways to deal with a "biological disaster." On June 17, the apex court had asked the Centre to file its response on the plea, which has sought a direction that all the contributions made by individuals and institutions for the COVID-19 pandemic should be credited to the NDRF, rather than to the PM CARES Fund.

The PIL had alleged that the Centre has been "refraining from divulging information about the specific utilization of crores of rupees that have been contributed to the PM CARES Fund till date".

TODAY'S QUOTE

Yes Bank is committed to accountability

“Yes Bank is committed to a culture of accountability to all shareholders. The bank has made significant changes in the risk framework to ensure that impending risks are identified, evaluated, and resolved before these convert into reputational risks

— Yes Bank CEO Prashant Kumar



APP BAN

Oracle joins race to acquire TikTok

Cloud major Oracle entered the race to acquire TikTok as US President Donald Trump issued an executive order to direct China-based ByteDance to sell its TikTok business in the US within 90 days. Oracle held preliminary talks with TikTok's Chinese owner, ByteDance, says a media report

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	79.24	South	
Euro	93.42	African Rand	4.93
UAE Dirham	22.38	Hong Kong Dollar	11.09
Thai Baht	2.76	Japanese Yen	0.81
British Pound	102.4	New Zealand Dollar	51.47
Australian Dollar	56.73	Saudi Riyal	21.92
Canadian Dollar	59.65	Swedish Krona	9.9
Swiss Franc	85.83	Singapore Dollar	57.5

DELHI WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Gold jumps ₹1,182 to ₹54,856/10 gm

New Delhi: Gold prices jumped Rs 1,182 to Rs 54,856 per 10 gram on Tuesday in the national capital following rally in international prices of the yellow metal, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, gold had closed at Rs 53,674 per 10 gram. Silver was also in heavy demand as it zoomed Rs 1,587 to Rs 72,547 per kg, from Rs 70,960 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was quoting higher at \$2,005 per ounce and silver also depicted strength as it traded higher at \$28.15 per ounce. "Gold prices continued upside with spot international prices trading above USD 2,000 on Tuesday," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

Mitron raises ₹37 crore

New Delhi: Homegrown short-form video app Mitron on Tuesday announced it had raised \$5 million (nearly Rs 37.3 crore) led by Nexus Venture Partners in a new funding round. Existing investors 3one4 Capital and Arun Tadanki's private syndicate LetsVenture also participated in the latest round. Mitron app is a short-form social video app that allows users to create, upload, view, and share entertaining short videos. Founded by two computer science engineers, Shivank Agarwal who is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee and Anish Khan-delwal, an alumnus of Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology in Nagpur, Maharashtra, the app was launched in April this year. Mitron said it will use the new infusion of capital to accelerate its product development to increase user engagement and hire high quality talent.

Deloitte buys Spatial Access

New Delhi: Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP on Tuesday announced the acquisition of Spatial Access, specialised advertising and marketing advisory and analytics firm, to enhance the organisation's advisory capabilities and enable brands to make more efficient advertising and marketing (A&M) decisions. "This strategic move is aimed at bringing best-in-class solutions from two leading industry players - integrating knowledge-driven sector expertise by Spatial Access with the technology and advanced data analytics skills of Deloitte," a statement by Deloitte said. It said that with this joint proposition, brand marketers will gain deeper insights on consumers and advertising avenues that will further help position marketing spends as a strategic business investment. Deloitte's acquisition announcement comes amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

New flights from Vistara

New Delhi: Full-service carrier Vistara will operate 'special, non-stop' flights between Delhi and London's Heathrow from August 28 to September 30. The airline said that the flights have been introduced as part of the bilateral 'transport bubble' formed between India and the UK. "During the period, Vistara will fly thrice a week between the two cities - on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays," the airline said in a statement. "The airline will deploy its brand-new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft on the route to provide an exceptional, non-stop flying experience to travellers in both directions."

Data, AI likely to add \$500 bn to economy

India needs to take a coordinated action to enhance data, AI: Nasscom report

Nasscom also announced that it will host 'Xperience AI' virtual summit from September 1-4 in partnership with the Telangana AI Mission

New Delhi: Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) could add \$450-500 billion to the country's GDP by 2025 and to harness its full potential, India needs to take a coordinated action to enhance data and AI capabilities at scale across all sectors in the country, a new Nasscom report said on Tuesday.

In the near term, data and AI could support governments and businesses for effective Covid-19 response and economic recovery. "AI has become a strategic lever for economic growth across nations and will continue to be one of the most crucial technologies of the future. In order to harness its full potential, India needs to embrace AI innovation and regulation with an open, inclusive, principle-based and a collaborative mindset," Union IT and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said while virtually launching the report, titled 'Unlock Value from Data and AI: The Indian Opportunity'.



According to the report, if India acts quickly, it can become a leader in building a holistic data utilisation and AI effort, especially as countries emerge from the pandemic and global economic slowdown.

The three key interventions needed to create a vibrant data economy in India include -- identify datasets of national importance with each ministry with specific use cases, launch programmes to create a marketplace of data and derived assets and establish a central agency for defining and enforcing data standards," the report mentioned.

Nasscom also announced that it will host 'Xperience AI' virtual summit from September 1-4 in

partnership with the Telangana AI Mission.

"Data and AI's true potential emerges from its ability to drive transformation across multiple sectors through a diverse range of applications," said Debjani Ghosh, President, Nasscom.

The report highlighted the importance of building an AI innovation ecosystem and seeking greater participation from the private sector and entrepreneurs.

"India has the potential to become a global hub for data and AI. The moment is now, to support and grow a vibrant AI ecosystem in India," said Anant Maheshwari, President, Microsoft India.

Samsung retains top spot in TV mkt

Seoul: Samsung Electronics remained the top TV vendor in the second quarter of the year, while its local rival LG Electronics fell to the fourth spot in global TV shipments, a report said on Tuesday. Samsung shipped 8.5 million TVs in the April-June period, down 6 per cent from a year ago but maintained its top status, according to industry tracker Display Supply Chain Consultants (DSCC), citing DiSci's monthly report. However, LG dropped from the second to fourth spot after its TV shipments declined 25 per cent on-year to 4.4 million units in the second quarter of the year, reports Yonhap news agency. "LG has struggled to maintain its market position as it tries to increase the volume of OLED TV sales without decreasing prices, and faced with a vast price gap between LCD and OLED TV panel prices," DSCC said.

Demand dip makes refineries cut output

New Delhi: The Covid-19 demand destruction has begun to hit Indian refiners with almost all entities further reducing crude processing or going in for unexpected maintenance shutdowns to remain afloat and protect margins.

Privatisation-bound Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) operated three of its refineries at about 70 per cent capacity in July and is expected to further cut down throughput in August, given that product demand has further fallen in August. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has cut refinery throughput by 15-20 per cent in July and expected to enlarge the cut in August while Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, which made major gains on refinery output in April-June quarter, has fallen a little behind in July and has postponed expansion of refineries at Mumbai and Vizag to 2021 due to



Covid-19 disruptions.

A few state-owned refiners are also going in for maintenance shutdown in the unlikely period of monsoons but the hope is that this would make them ready for demand pick up during the festive season.

Company sources said that IndianOil, Reliance Industries and BPCL, among others, are shutting units for maintenance this month that would further impact petroleum product production. But the build-up of inventory would, more or less, take care of market during the period of low demand.



MF industry AUM rises after 18% fall in March

New Delhi: The opening of the economy post lockdown and gradual pick up in business activity has positively impacted the country's mutual fund industry.

According to Indian Mutual Fund Tracker-July 2020 by Motilal Oswal Institutional Equities, after plunging 18 per cent from Rs 27.2 lakh crore in February to Rs 22.3 lakh crore in March, total (asset under management) AUM of domestic MFs have climbed back to Rs 27.1 lakh crore in July, 2020.

The reversal of fortune for the MF industry was primarily led by equity, liquid, income, and other ETF funds. Equity AUM (including ELSS and Index funds) of domestic mutual funds increased 5 per cent MoM to Rs 7.8 lakh crore in July, led by a rise in market indices and a marginal increase in sales of equity schemes.

At the same time, redemptions increased 32.5 per cent MoM to Rs 18,800 crore, leading to net outflows to Rs 4,000 crore in July, the first in 52 months. The Nifty has maintained its upward momentum and closed higher for the second consecutive month in July (up 7.5 per cent MoM). Expectation of gradual demand recovery coupled with benign global backdrop aided the Nifty's north-bound journey.

Mkts zoom amid foreign fund inflows, global cues

Sensex rallies 478 pts to close at 38,528pts ; Nifty tops 11,350

Mumbai: Equity benchmark Sensex rallied 478 points on Tuesday, driven by gains in index majors Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank amid positive cues from global markets and sustained foreign fund inflows.

The BSE Sensex ended 477.54 points or 1.26 per cent higher at 38,528.32, while the NSE Nifty surged 138.25 points or 1.23 per cent to 11,385.35. In the broader market, BSE Midcap and Small-cap indices gained up to 1.30 per cent.

UltraTech Cement was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising over 3 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, ICICI Bank, Asian Paints and Tata Steel. Reliance Industries and HDFC



Bank added most to the gains on the index. On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Bajaj Auto and Power Grid were among the laggards.

"US-China political tensions and the uncertainties over the US stimulus package kept global markets on edge," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Investor wealth rises ₹2.71 lakh crore

New Delhi: Investor wealth rose by Rs 2.71 lakh crore in two days of stock market gain. Equity markets registered gains for the second straight day on Tuesday, with the 30-share BSE Sensex closing at 38,528.32, up 477.54 points or 1.26 per cent. Following the upbeat sentiment, the market capitalisation of the BSE-listed companies jumped Rs 2,71,541.13 crore to Rs 1,54,11,199.53 crore. "Markets extended yesterday's (Monday's) upmove and gained over a per cent amid volatility," Ajit Mishra, vice-president (research), Religare Broking Ltd, said.

CHINESE INVESTMENT IN ICICI BANK RAISES EYEBROWS

New Delhi: After the disclosure of a holding in HDFC, the Chinese central bank Peoples Bank of China has now acquired an equity stake in ICICI Bank.

The government had in April notified new norms for FDI investments by neighbouring countries which would require approvals. It is not clear if portfolio investments need to go through some vetting process or the government will continue with this open route till the time no FDI approval is required.

The investment by the Chinese central bank in ICICI Bank is modest. It subscribed to the recent ICICI Bank's Rs 15,000 crore capital qualified institutional investors (QIP) placement and invested Rs 15 crore.

The Chinese central bank was among the 357 institutional investors which included domestic mutual funds, insurance companies and global institutions that subscribed to the issue.



The investment comes at a time when business and trade relations between India and China have nose-dived after the Galwan valley clash between the soldiers.

Earlier, a disclosure by HDFC had caused a flutter after PBOC holding breached 1 per cent mark. HDFC had clarified that Chinese central bank, People's Bank of China (PBOC) has been an existing shareholder of the company and only the disclosure was being made as they hit the 1 per cent threshold.



'Planned strategy to intrude into Indian banking sector'

New Delhi: The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has strongly criticized ICICI Bank for allowing Peoples Bank of China to invest in the bank despite strong sentiments prevailing in the country against China and its anti-India policies. The CAIT said that this is a second such instance of a Chinese bank trying to make inroads into the Indian banking system. The People's Bank of China had earlier this year made an investment in HDFC Bank. "The CAIT has asked Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to direct both ICICI & HDFC Bank to return the investments by Chinese bank," a statement said.

Auto sales outlook cloudy despite July respite: Fitch

New Delhi: Even though the sharp slide in automobile sales witnessed during April-June 2020 slowed in July, demand conditions remain uncertain in India, Fitch Ratings said on Tuesday.

The ratings agency said the ease in sales contraction during July could reflect the release of pent-up demand, following the gradual easing of restrictions to contain the coronavirus pandemic. It said India's auto demand continues to face several challenges, while it forecasts overall industry volume to decline over 20 per cent in the financial year to June 2021 (FY21). Furthermore, Fitch said the forecast could be revised downwards, if the extent and magnitude of the pandemic are 'worse than we expect'.

"The economic fallout from the pandemic exacerbated the weak consumer sentiment that was dampened by the higher cost of ownership under BS6 - a more stringent emission framework adopted from April 2020,"



Fitch Ratings said in a statement.

This is likely to constrain demand from first-time car buyers as well as upgraders, despite their preference for private transportation due to hygiene reasons, it said.

Besides, it pointed out that likely curtailment in private and public investments will weigh on demand for commercial vehicles (CVs), particularly medium and heavy commercial vehicles (MHCVs), which are used in more cyclical end-markets. "The pandemic has also reduced the availability of financing as lenders exercise caution, particularly to weaker borrowers that form a significant customer base for CVs," the statement said.

KTR visits flood-hit Warangal areas

- Sets up panel for clearing illegal structures
- Inspects Covid ward in MGM Hospital

HANS NEW SERVICE

Warangal: Structures that have come up occupying storm-water drains led to the flooding in the city would be removed in about a month.

Assuring this, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister K T Rama Rao, who made a whirlwind survey of the flood-affected areas in Greater Warangal on Tuesday along with Eatala Rajender and E Dayakar Rao, constituted a committee to be headed by District Collector to monitor the demolition

work. He also sanctioned Rs 25 crore for the restoration of damaged roads and providing basic amenities.

During his interaction with the people in areas like Nayeem Nagar and Sammaiah Nagar, KTR urged them to cooperate with the administration. He sanctioned Rs 10 crore for remodelling the drainage system. He also directed the officials to provide essentials to those residents whose houses were inundated in the floodwaters.

The minister also inspected Peddamagadda, Waddepally 100-feet road, Santhoshi Mata temple, Bondi Vagu (stream), etc, told the officials to clear all the illegal structures and thorny bushes along the drains that led to the flooding.

The locals sought the minister to

construct an additional sluice gate at Bhadrakali Bund as the existing two are not enough to let the water out quickly. KTR sought a report from Urban District Collector Rajeev Gandhi Hanumanthu on the inflows into the Bhadrakali Lake.

During his visit, KTR inspected the MGM Hospital. Wearing a PPE, he inspected the Covid-19 ward, where he tried to instill confidence among the patients. He said an additional ward with 150 beds would be set up in the MGM Hospital for treating Covid-19 patients. The ward will be equipped with ventilators and oxygen facilities, he said. KTR said the PMSSY super-specialty hospital coming up on the Kakatiya Medical College (KMC) campus would start functioning as an exclusive Covid-19

During his interaction with the people in areas like Nayeem Nagar and Sammaiah Nagar, KTR urges them to cooperate with the administration

facility.

Ministers Eatala Rajender, E Dayakar Rao, Satyavathi Rathod and Chief Whip D Vinay Bhaskar, Mayor Gunda Prakash Rao, Commissioner and Director, Municipal Administration, N Satyanarayana, Urban District Collector Rajeev Gandhi Hanumanthu and Municipal Commissioner Pamela Satpathy were present.



Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao visits flood-hit NTR Nagar along Hunter Road in Warangal on Tuesday
Photo: G. Shyam Kumar

Get well soon says TS BJP to Amit Shah

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana BJP State, chief Spokesperson, K Krishna Saagar Rao in a statement on Tuesday said that BJP wishes and prays for the speedy recovery of health of the party former national party president and Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah. The party will wait for the return of Shah who was admitted into AIIMS on Tuesday morning for post-Covid-19 care regaining his health and returning to normal health soon.

BJP urges CM to personally oversee flood relief ops



HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana BJP State Core Committee member, Dr Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy appealed to Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu to personally oversee the flood relief activities and order for assessment of crop damage. In a statement here on Tuesday, the BJP leader said that the unprecedented floods of River Godavari submerged several areas under Bhadrachalam, Pinapakka, Manuguru and Polavaram mandals. He said that villages under the above mandals were severely affected and thousands of agriculture crops have been damaged. Besides, people of the affected villages were rendered homeless.

The former MLC appealed to the CM to come to the rescue of farmers and appoint special officers, in addition to the District Collectors for the flood-affected districts and take immediate steps to address the likely problem of the spread of seasonal diseases. He also condemned the arrests of BJP leaders and others in connection with the dispute over the flood-affected people of the Gollapadu Channel, Khammam and called it a motivated action.

Man held for clicking obscene photos of step daughter

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Nacharam police on Tuesday arrested a person for shooting obscene pictures of his step daughter and saving them on his computer. The accused was identified as Rajesh Kesari. According to police, the accused person had married for the second time as his first wife divorced him. The second wife, from her first husband, had a daughter from her first husband who would visit her frequently. The accused took the advantage of

the victim's innocence and used to click her obscene pictures by the CCTV cameras in the bathroom. However, the issue came to light, when the victim girl recently visited her mother and was using the computer. It was then when she saw her pictures on it and complained to her mother.

The mother then filed a police complaint, said the police. Based on the complaint, the investigation was carried out and the accused was arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

BJP welcomes Guv's reprimand of govt on Covid-19 mishandling

The TRS government should feel ashamed of this development. At least, now, it should take necessary action to correct their course in dealing with Covid-19 situation in the State, BJP spokesperson K Krishna Saagar Rao

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana BJP on Tuesday welcomed State Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan's reprimand of KCR-led TRS government for its failure in dealing with Covid-19 pandemic in the State. In a statement on Tuesday, Telangana BJP chief spokesperson K Krishna Saagar Rao said that the TRS government should feel ashamed of this development. At least, now, it should take necessary action to correct their



course in dealing with Covid-19 situation in the state.

Rao said that there are innumerable deaths in almost all residential colonies and apartments across the GHMC area and in

many districts due to Covid-19. However, there's no system of collection and reporting of data in the State. Dr Tamilisai being a doctor herself understood the criminal neglect of the TRS government since March 2020 in dealing with Covid-19, and has now publicly rebuked KCR government as a last resort.

Governor Dr Tamilisai has also openly stated that she has written and advised the state government several times earlier, regarding the need to provide the

essential medical infrastructure to the people in the State and to minimise infection and treat the infected.

Against this backdrop, Rao said that BJP demands explanation from CM KCR on State Governor's rebuke for his dismal failure in managing Covid-19 crisis in the State. CM KCR should explain to people, how his government is so irresponsible, which is leading to many deaths across the state. The State Governor has finally belled the cat, he added.

Cong seeks release of Sarpanch allegedly linked to Maoists

The Congress team says in their letter that 'punishing innocent tribals with the excuse of being Maoist sympathiser would be misuse of State power and would amount to gross injustice'

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Congress leaders led by CLP leader Bhatti Vikramarka met the DGP to request for the release of Puligundala sarpanch who was arrested on August 8, 'on charges of being a Maoist sympathiser', claiming his innocence.

The team which included MLA, T Jagga Reddy and AICC secretary, S A Sampath Kumar submitted a representation signed by TPCC president and MP, N Uttam Kumar Reddy requesting the release of S Chalapathi, sarpanch of Puligundala, which borders Chhattisgarh.



This development comes following Bhadrachalam's MLA, Podem Veeraiah's request to Bhadradi-Kothagudem's SP requesting the same citing his 'innocence'. Later speaking to me-

dia persons, they held that he may have unknowingly helped any Maoist cadre, who visited his village. "He is a poor tribal (koya), an active congress leader and selfless, hardworking

Sarpanch, who should not be punished if the Maoists have come to his village and he has unknowingly or under pressure helped them. 'Subsequent to above arrest, all the Sarpanches and elected representatives of above area are in a state of panic. We request that the false charges filed on Sarpanch by the local police be withdrawn. An innocent tribal and elected representative should be released and allowed to perform his duties. Punishing innocent tribals in the excuse of being Maoist sympathizer would be misuse of state power and would amount to gross injustice,' the letter emphasised.

EXEMPLARY ACT



108 medical technician Khaja Moinuddin has shown exemplary courage and conducted delivery for a known Covid positive woman as it has turned out to be an emergency. He took all precautions and the woman delivered the baby safely. Both of them are safe. The ambulance is of Kothakota segment in Wanaparthy.

ACP, Inspector suspended for misconduct

The ACP was involved in unethical acts and was bringing disgrace to the uniform. He was also accused of favoring a respective group in a land dispute at Basaram village.

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Two cops were suspended in the city on Tuesday. The Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) of Vanasthalipuram, S Jayaram was placed under suspension for misconduct.

According to sources, it is known that, The ACP was involved in unethical acts and was bringing disgrace to the uniform. He was also accused of favoring a respective group in a land dispute at Basaram village. There were allegations that the ACP was not moving the files related to the complaint filed by Santosh Kumar, President of

Telangana Schools Technical Colleges Association. The complainant alleged that he had filed a complaint against the unethical practices of engineering colleges belonging to Malla Reddy group wherein, the management was not allocating salaries to their teachers during the Covid crisis.

He further alleged that, "The college management was demanding the teachers to submit their monthly report despite there being no classes and also they were not paying the salaries nor were they being given any allowances."

Based on all these allegations and complaints against the ACP,

the Director General of Police (DGP) issued a suspension order.

In the second case, the Commissioner of police, Anjani Kumar, suspended an Inspector of Special Branch (SB), K Chander Kumar for his behaviour. The commissioner in his order said, "His conduct has been improper with a lady. Any misconduct by an officer in uniform cannot be tolerated at all."

The officer also tweeted about the incident and said that citizens can send Whatsapp messages against such officers on 9490616555 and help the department in identifying the black sheep in the police department.

GANESH CHATURTHI

Will lay siege to TRS leaders' homes if false cases are foisted, warns Bandi

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana BJP State president Bandi Sanjay Kumar warned that siege would be laid to the houses of TRS peoples' representatives if officials and police foist false cases against people celebrating Ganesh Chaviti in the name of COVID-19 regulations.

The Karimnagar MP on Tuesday asked the State government to take steps to celebrate the Vinayaka Chaviti celebrations

peacefully. Alleging the State government willfully trying to mislead organising the celebrations of Ganesh Utsav.

He pointed out that the State government and administration machinery have no clarity over organising the Ganesh Utsavams. In turn, the lower rung of police officials in the State has been indiscriminately imposing rules and regulations against organising the celebrations and threatening the organisers of the festival.

"Due to lack of clarity those ruling the State and its officials are resorting to anti-Hindu policies. It is condemnable and unwarranted," he added. He asked people to celebrate the Vinayaka Chaviti as suggested by the Dharmic institutions and Hindu Utsav committees in a grand manner. He assured that BJP will stand by the side of the organisers of the Ganesh Utsav celebrations. He said that the entire Hindu society is prepar-

ing to celebrate the celebrations in line with the ideals of the freedom fighter Bala Gangadhar Tilak for the unity and integrity of the societies. He asked the people to carefully watch the anti-Hindu ways being advocated by the TRS leaders in the name of Covid regulations. He warned that BJP would give a befitting response to the TRS government acting against the aspirations and feelings of the Hindus.

VHP oppose restrictions on Ganesh festivities

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Taking objection to the police personnel asking devotees to install one idol per village during Ganesh Utsav, Vishwa Hindu Parishad on Tuesday said that there would be backlash from people if they resort to imposing restrictions on the festival.

Speaking at a press conference VHP State President M Ramaraju, Working President Surender Reddy and others objected to the police asking the pandal organisers to have one idol per village. Ramaraju said that Hindus know how to maintain social distancing because they have celebrated the festivals like Ramanavami, Hanuman Jayanthi, Bonalu following the social distancing. "The police asking devotees to install only one idol in a village was not acceptable. If the government resorts to dictating, people would revolt against it."

The VHP leaders demanded the

government to respect the religious beliefs of the Hindus and support them by making arrangements for the immersion of idols.

The Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi leaders on Tuesday said that Ganesh Bhakts can install idols but, should follow the Covid guidelines. Samithi General Secretary Bhagwant Rao appealed to the organisers to show commitment towards 'dharma' by performing Ganesh Utsav without violating of Covid guidelines and celebrate the festival in a simple manner following the traditions and customs instead of opting for hi-fi measures. He urged the government to provide eco-friendly Ganesh idols and also make arrangements for immersion of idols. He said, another meeting on the arrangements would be organised after Chaturthi. The Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations will start from August 22 and end on Ananta Chaturdashi on September 1.

Wakf Board hand in glove with the encroachers: High Court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad: The High Court Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijaysen Reddy on Tuesday heard a public interest litigation filed by Vladimir Khatoun seeking to direct the State Government to frame rules, regulations or guidelines to preserve and maintain the Muslim graveyards from encroachments in the State.

Counsel for Wakf Board Mirza Safullah Baig submitted a report to the Court on Muslim graveyards in the State. The Court erred in finding that the report was ambiguous, did not mention the occupants, and did not mention the survey numbers of the encroached graveyards. Further, the court questioned whether the Wakf Board officials had ever lodged a com-



LEGAL NOTES

plaint against the encroachments at all in the concerned police stations.

The Wakf Board Counsel Mirza Safullah Baig informed the Court that the complaints of encroachments were within the purview of the Revenue Department. The Court said that the revenue trial would continue for years and why no FIR was registered against the en-

croachers.

Chief Justice Chauhan pointed out that he was surprised that the Wakf Board is hand in glove with the encroachers. 'What sort of Wakf Board do we have, if they are hand in glove with the encroachers?' Nothing prevents the criminal proceedings from being initiated while a civil case is going on, the Supreme Court

tells us both these are exclusively distinct', CJ said.

"Nothing stops you from filing an FIR in the concerned police station where the encroachment took place. You don't require a judicial order from the High Court to file a complaint in the police station", the Court added.

Moreover, the Court is surprised to see that the Wakf Board is taking it so casually when the people are encroaching its property. All our graveyards are permitted to be encroached upon, where would we go to bury our dead. I am sorry to say that I don't think the Wakf Board is standing by the interest of the minority community', CJ Chauhan expressed concern.

Further, the Court pointed out that 'you have listed 63 cases and not even in a single case, an FIR has been filed,

which the Chief Justice feels is an indication of your incompetence'. CJ Chauhan said 'I am sorry to make this observation that I don't think the chairman of the Wakf board is working in the interest of the Wakf board. In the next hearing do ask the Chairman of the Wakf Board to be present before the Court. The Court would like to hear from him why appropriate action has not been taken on the encroachments, CJ added.

Accordingly, the Court directed the Wakf Board Counsel to furnish a better report having more details about the graveyards encroached upon and to explain the reason why no FIR has been filed so far against the alleged encroachers. The CJ bench directed the registry to tag all the connected PILs and adjourned the matter till September 11.



Dhoni may get permanent seat at Wankhede Stadium, where his 2011 WC final 6 landed

New Delhi: No cricket fan can ever forget MS Dhoni's towering six at the Wankhede Stadium in 2011 World Cup final against Sri Lanka. Now, as Dhoni announced his retirement on August 15, a plan is in pipeline to mark the seat on his name at the Wankhede, where his famous six landed.

Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) Apex Council member Ajinkya Naik wrote a letter to the MCA, suggesting the same. "As an act of gratitude and tribute to Mahendra Singh Dhoni's

immense contribution to Indian cricket, the MCA can devote a permanent seat on his name at the stand where his famous World Cup-winning six had landed," read Naik's letter, which has been accessed by The Indian Express.

"We can find out the area where the ball landed – and which seat it was flying to – after Dhoni smashed it to win the 2011 World Cup."

This would be the first time such a thing could be introduced in India, however has

been implemented a few times abroad.

Back in 1993, a seat at MCG was Great Southern Stand, was painted yellow to commemorate Simon O'Donnell's 122-metre six for Victoria over New South Wales. Also, in 2018, Ethihad Stadium in Melbourne painted the seat red, to honour Brad Hodge, who smashed a 96-metre six, in his last match. New Zealand's Grant Elliott too has a seat named after him, when he hit Dale Steyn for a six, after the Kiwis entered the

final of World Cup in 2015.

The plaque on the seat stated: "Here Lies the Resting Place of Grant Elliott's Mighty Six That Propelled the Black-caps on March 24, 2015, into their maiden World Cup Final."

"We can paint and decorate the seat in a unique way to celebrate Dhoni's association with historical Wankhede Stadium in Indian cricket history," Naik's letter said. "The seat could also be used as a major tourist attraction, like a paid tour of the stadium perhaps. It

will allow the fans to relive the most glorious moment in Indian cricket and it will be part of MCA's heritage. We can have a plaque on that seat with some special text to honour that moment."

"It would also be nice if possible to find out where that World Cup ball is," he added in the letter. "It can be a proud attraction in the upcoming cricket museum. Here is a small suggestion from me to honour the legendary MS Dhoni."

Dream11 gets IPL 2020 title sponsorship rights



New Delhi (IANS): Fantasy league platform Dream11 has got the sponsorship rights for this year's edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"BCCI has awarded the title sponsorship of IPL 2020 to Dream11," sources close to the development confirmed to IANS. While the BCCI received Rs 440 crore per year from Vivo, Dream11 may pay BCCI approximately Rs 250 crore for the upcoming edition - which will be played in the UAE from September 19 to November 10, sources added.



Meanwhile, Aditya Verma, Secretary of Cricket Association of Bihar (CAB), said that the development was against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' agenda.

"As a well-wisher of Indian sports, I wish and pray that IPL 13 is held successfully in the UAE," Verma told IANS.

"However, with Dream11 becoming the title sponsor of IPL,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' will be a bit shattered as Dream11 is a Chinese company. It has also come to fore that the company has a huge investment in one of the IPL franchises," he added.

On August 10, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had invited third parties to express their interest in acquiring the title sponsorship rights for

the 13th edition of the IPL.

The IPL 2020 title sponsorship was left vacant after the national cricket board had decided to suspend its partnership with Chinese mobile company Vivo as the 'Boycott China' campaign gathered steam in the wake of the India-China standoff at the Galwan Valley in Ladakh in June in which 20 Indian soldiers had lost their lives.

Italian Open to start from Sept 14, health rules set

Rome (IANS): Organisers of the Italian Open tennis tournament have formally announced that the tournament will take place from September 14, with strict COVID-19 protocols in place. The final will take place on September 21. The new dates are more than four months later than its normal spot on the calendar, reports Xinhua news agency. The move was widely anticipated after the Madrid Open was cancelled because of fears related to the pandemic. The Italian event will now precede the French Open by two weeks instead of one. The Italian Open, which is held on clay courts, is a key tune-up event before the clay-court French Open. In a Monday statement to media, sponsors, and other stakeholders, the Italian Open's main sponsor said the event will be held with COVID-19 protocols in place, including those for social distancing in locker rooms and periodic disinfecting common areas. The Italian Open normally takes place during the second week in May, but the pandemic required the professional tennis calendar to be reshuffled, with several events suspended or reduced in scope. The Italian Open plans to return to its normal spot on the calendar in 2021, assuming the pandemic is no longer a threat, with a May 9 start date already set.



Rohit Sharma, four others recommended for Khel Ratna

New Delhi (IANS): India's star batsman Rohit Sharma, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, 2016 Rio Paralympics gold medalist Mariyappan Thangavelu, table tennis sensation Manika Batra and Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal have been recommended for this year's Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

According to sources, the National Award Committee met in the Capital on Tuesday and named the five athletes for the prestigious award.

Rohit was the star performer for India in the 2019 World Cup, scoring 648 runs in the tournament while Vinesh sealed qualification to the Tokyo Olympics with her bronze medal win at the 2019 wrestling World Championships. Vinesh also remains one of the biggest medal hopes for the country going into the Games which have been postponed to next year due to the

Covid-19 pandemic.

Manika won two golds at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and subsequently won bronze at the 2018 Asian Games. She, however, is yet to seal qualification to the Tokyo Olympics after losing in the quarter finals of the Tokyo 2020 Qualifiers in January.

Mariyappan sealed qualification for next year's Paralympics after claiming a bronze medal at the World Para-Athletics Championships. Rani meanwhile spearheaded the Indian team's qualification campaign for Tokyo 2020 late last year.

Apart from the Khel Ratna, the committee will also decide upon recommendations for the Dronacharya Awards, Arjuna Awards, Dhyan Chand Awards, Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar Award and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy for the year 2020.



Former I-League winner Surojit Bose battling with blood cancer

Kolkata (IANS): Once a darling of Jose Ramirez Barreto and Yusif Yakubu and a pivotal figure in Mahindra United's National Football League triumph in 2005-06, former India forward Surojit Bose is now battling with blood cancer.

Bose, who has also turned out for India, played just behind ace strikers Brazilian Barreto and Ghanian Yakubu -- two of the most accomplished foreign forwards to have played in India -- and set up a lot of goals for them during Mahindra United's title winning season just before the inception of the I-League.

The 33-year old, who is admitted in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) hospital in New Delhi, also plied his trade for Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting in Kolkata and was last seen in Bharat FC colours in the I-League in 2014.

"I have been diagnosed with the first stage of blood cancer, Acute myeloid leukemia (AML)," Bose told IANS on Tuesday.

"I was admitted on August 7. I am recovering but it was a manic few days for me since I came to Delhi and I have been fortunate to get help from my former teammates and a few football forums," said the footballer.

Bose, a resident of Kalyani district in West Bengal, was working as a coach for a football development centre in Pune when he fell sick.

Barca sack Setien, announce 'restructuring' of first team

Madrid: FC Barcelona have sacked coach Quique Setien following last week's 2-8 Champions League defeat to Bayern Munich. The club confirmed the decision in a communique issued on Monday following an emergency directors' meeting that was called in the wake of the crushing defeat.

"The board of directors have agreed that Quique Setien is no longer the first-team coach. This is the first decision within a wider restructuring of the first-team which will be agreed between the current technical secretary and the new coach, who will be announced in the coming days," confirmed the FC Barcelona website. Setien had joined Barca as coach on January 13 this year. During his seven months in charge, the Cantabrian coached the first team in 25 matches: 19 in the league, three in the Champions League and three in the Copa del Rey. The breakdown of his results was 16 wins, four draws and five defeats.



FIDE ONLINE OLYMPIAD 2020 TO BEGIN ON AUG 21

Chennai (IANS): The psychological advantage based on world ranking may not be great advantage while playing in the online chess Olympiad, said Grandmaster K. Humpy, ranked No.2 in the women's category. Come August 21, the Indian chess team with four players currently ranked in the World top ten in different categories will be taking on their opponents in the first FIDE Online Olympiad 2020.

Broad moves to No.2 in Test rankings, Bumrah slips to 9

Southampton (IANS): Formerly top-ranked fast bowlers Stuart Broad and James Anderson of England have made advances in the latest ICC Test Player Rankings after some fine bowling in the drawn second Test against Pakistan at the Ageas Bowl.

Broad has moved up one slot to second position in the bowlers' list after a haul of 4/56 while Anderson has moved up two slots to 14th with figures of 3/60, as the pair helped dismiss Pakistan for 236 in their only innings of the match.

Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Abbas took 2/28 in England's score of 110/4 declared, gaining two places to reach eighth position, but is still away from his career-best ranking of third in October 2018. India's premier fast bowler has moved down by a place and is currently situated at the ninth spot in bowler's rankings.



In the batsmen's list, Babar Azam is back at a career-best fifth position, which he had attained in February this year. His knock of 47 helped him gain one place while his compatriots Abid Ali (up to 49th) and Mohammad Rizwan (up to 75th) have also attained career-best rankings after knocking up half-centuries.

For England, Zak Crawley has moved to a career-best 81st place after a score of 53, even as



all-rounder Ben Stokes and captain Joe Root have retained their seventh and ninth positions, respectively. In the World Test Championship points table, England remain in third position with 279 points while Pakistan are fifth with 153. The list is led by India with 360 points and Australia are second at 296. Pakistan and England will next face each other in the final Test of the series beginning Friday at the same venue.



Inter crush Shakhtar to reach Europa League final

Berlin (IANS): Two goals each from Lautaro Martinez and Romelu Lukaku helped Inter Milan secure a 5-0 victory over an uninspired Shakhtar Donetsk in their UEFA Europa League semifinal in Dusseldorf.

Inter will face Sevilla in Friday's final in Cologne, as Shakhtar were never able to threaten Antonio Conte's men over 90 minutes on Monday evening, reports Xinhua news agency.

Shakhtar tried to assume control from the start and to implement their offensively-minded strategy, though Inter's defense managed to neutralise all attacks.

20 minutes into the game, the Italians also increased their attacking efforts and opened the scoring with their first chance as Nicolò Barella's cross into the box found Martinez, who nodded home the opener.

Shakhtar struggled to create opportunities as they were unable to bypass Inter's defenders. Goalscoring chances remained at premium as only Marcos Antonio unleashed a shot on target just before the break.

After the restart, Inter started where they left off as they kept all their men behind the ball, but once they forced a turnover they overran Shakhtar's defense.

However, Shakhtar almost restored parity out of thin air, but Junior Moraes' header missed the target at the hour mark.

Raina did all the difficult things playing for India: Dravid

New Delhi (IANS): Suresh Raina did "all the difficult things" while playing for India, be it playing down the order or the work he put in while fielding, feels former India skipper Rahul Dravid.

Dravid was captain of the team when Raina made his international debut in an ODI against Sri Lanka in July 2005.

"Suresh Raina was one of those young exciting talents coming through the system around 2004 or 2005," Dravid said in a video tweeted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

"(He was) playing U-19 cricket and doing exceptionally well. You could see at the time that Suresh



was going to be a very very important player for India and that's really how it has played out in the last decade-and-a-half.

"A lot of success India has had in white ball cricket, the great memories India has had, Suresh has been a big part of them. His contribution to Indian cricket has been fantastic, especially in the white ball game. He is a World Cup winner and a Champions Trophy winner," Dravid said.

The former batting great said that Raina could have had more impressive numbers in international cricket, as he does in the Indian Premier League (IPL), where he has usually batted in

the top four while playing for Chennai Super Kings and is the second highest run scorer in IPL after Virat Kohli. "You always felt Suresh did all the difficult things for India. Batting lower down the order when honestly his numbers would have been a lot better had he batted higher up. That is seen in the success he has had playing for CSK where he bats at no.3 and he has a phenomenal record."

"For India, he mostly batted lower down the order, fielded in difficult positions, bowled some very handy overs and brought a lot to the team. Someone who I would think of as a terrific team mate," Dravid said.