



THE HANS INDIA

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WINDOWS



Gupkar signatories float new alliance against Centre's J&K onslaught

New Delhi: In their first meeting since the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, the signatories of the Gupkar Declaration on Thursday formed a new alliance with an aim to restore J&K's constitutional status as it existed before August 5 last year. "We have named this alliance as the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration. Our battle is a constitutional battle and we want the Government of India to return to the people of the State the rights they held before 5th Aug 2019. We aim to restore J&K's constitutional status as it existed before Aug 5 last year," former CM Farooq Abdullah said after the meeting.

PM calls for scaling up Covid testing, sero surveys

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a review meeting of the research into potential Covid-19 vaccines being developed. He also stock of the Health Ministry's "comprehensive" distribution and delivery mechanism for the vaccines, once successful for usage. He said both sero-surveys and testing must be scaled up, and added that testing - regular, speedy and inexpensive - must be available to all at the earliest. He stressed on the need for continuous and rigorous scientific testing and validation of traditional medicine treatments. Modi "appreciated the efforts of Ministry of AYUSH for conducting evidence-based research and providing reliable solution in this difficult time".

Sensex plunges 1,000 points amid global selloff

Mumbai: The BSE Sensex slumped over 1,000 points on Thursday breaking its 10-day gaining streak amid selloff across global stock markets. Heavy selling in banking and IT stocks weighed on the domestic indices. Fading hopes of further stimulus in the US subdued the investor sentiments globally. Further resurgence of the novel coronavirus cases globally also impacted the stock markets.

NATION

CBI refutes closure of SSR case, says probe on



'RED LIGHT ON, GAADI OFF'

CM Kejriwal launches new initiative to tackle pollution

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday launched a new anti-pollution initiative under which people will be encouraged to switch engines of their vehicles off while waiting at traffic signals.

Kejriwal said: "We will start a new campaign today. It has been seen that we often do not switch off engines of our vehicles while waiting at traffic signals. The 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign will aim to bring a behavioural change in that regard. It will help reduce air pollution."

"We cannot do anything about the pollution from the smoke of stubble burning. Still, Delhi is trying to combat pollution. For this, we have launched this initiative," said the Chief Minister at a video press briefing.

Around 10 million vehicles are registered in Delhi. Experts say that even if 1 million vehicles shut down their vehicles at the traffic lights, it will reduce PM10 pollution by 1.5 lakh tonnes. Even PM2.5 pollution will also come down by

0.4 tonnes. According to experts, every driver in Delhi needs to stop at red lights for about 15 to 20 minutes every day. In winter, the smoke emanating from the car during the idling period on a traffic light pushes up pollution enormously.

If the driver switches off the engine at every traffic light, he can save 200 ml of fuel every day. This will result in an annual savings of Rs 7,000.

Vehicle pollution at traffic junctions is particularly high in the winter. In summer the smoke or polluted air goes higher, but in winter the smoke does not rise much. Similarly, dust and smoke are only slightly above the ground and the polluted air proves to be dangerous for everybody, explained the CM.

Kejriwal says the people of Delhi have together worked to slash pollution levels by 25 per cent over the last five years. "I hope all of you will be wholeheartedly involved in this campaign and I request everyone -- including the bus driver, the car driver, the taxi driver, the vehicle owner along with the scooter and the motorcycle driver -- to join the campaign."



India rebuffs China's claim over Ladakh, Arunachal

New Delhi: India on Thursday asserted that the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir have been and will remain an integral part of India and that China has no locus standi to comment on its internal matters.

India's harsher-than-usual message comes days after the Chinese Foreign ministry linked infrastructure development on the Indian side to the five-month-long stand-off in East Ladakh. China's Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian had pointed to the infrastructure development along the border this week and gone ahead to describe the infra push along with military deployment as "the root cause for the tensions between the two sides".

THEY HAVE BEEN AND THEY WILL REMAIN INTEGRAL PARTS OF INDIA, ASSERTS MEA

"We hope countries will not comment on India's internal matters as much as they expect the same from others: MEA on China's remarks on Ladakh," said MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava at an online briefing.



"Our position on Arunachal Pradesh has also been made clear several times. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India. This fact has also been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side on several occasions, including at the highest level," he said. China had earlier said it did

not recognise the Union Territory of Ladakh 'illegally' set up by India, in response to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurating 44 key bridges built in areas of strategic importance.

India and China have been engaged in a bitter stand-off since earlier this year after 20

Indian soldiers died in clashes with the PLA at the Galwan Valley in Ladakh in June. The bridges inaugurated by India have been built in strategically key areas of Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Most of these bridges are expected to significantly improve movement of troops in areas along the border with China in Ladakh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh sectors, officials said. Both India and China held a series of diplomatic and military talks to resolve the border stand-off. However, no breakthrough has been achieved to defuse the situation.

Prez, PM pay tributes to Kalam on birth anniversary

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday paid homage to former President APJ Abdul Kalam on his 89th birth anniversary. President Kovind paid floral tributes before a portrait of Kalam at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Continued on Page 5

IAF team in France for more Rafale jets

2nd batch of 4 Rafale jets is expected to arrive in India in a month

New Delhi: As it prepares to induct a second batch of Rafale jets, the Indian Air Force has sent a team of officials to France to oversee the logistical issues and review the training of a hand-picked group of pilots at the Saint-Dizier airbase there, officials said on Thursday.

The second batch of four Rafale jets is expected to arrive in India in the next four weeks.

The first batch of five Rafale jets arrived in India on July 29, nearly four years after India signed an inter-gov-



The first batch of 5 Rafale jets arrived in India on July 29, nearly 4 years after India signed an inter-governmental agreement with France to procure 36 aircraft

ernmental agreement with France to procure 36 of these aircraft at a cost of ₹59,000 crore. Several teams from the

Indian Air Force have visited France since January to oversee the progress of the Rafale project including integration

of India-specific enhancements and weapons systems, the officials said.

The IAF's Rafale project management team has an office in Paris headed by a Group Captain-rank officer. The team is tasked with overseeing the production timelines as well as coordinating training of the crew. A team of experts headed by Assistant Chief of Air Staff (projects) reached France earlier this week to coordinate logistical issues as well as training of pilots and technicians, said the officials. **Cont'd on Page 5**

Oxford scientists develop 5-minute Covid antigen test

London: Scientists from Britain's University of Oxford have developed a rapid Covid-19 test able to identify the coronavirus in less than five minutes, researchers said on Thursday, adding it could be used in mass testing at airports and businesses.

The university said it hoped to start product development of the testing device in early 2021 and have an approved device available six months afterwards.

The device is able to



detect the coronavirus and distinguish it from other viruses with high accuracy, the researchers said in a pre-print study. "Our method quickly de-

fects intact virus particles," said Professor Achilles Kapanidis, at Oxford's Department of Physics, adding that this meant the test would be "simple, extremely rapid, and cost-effective".

Rapid antigen tests are seen as key in rolling out mass-testing and re-opening economies while the coronavirus is still circulating, and those that are already in use are faster and cheaper but less accurate than existing molecular PCR tests.

Continued on Page 5



3 weeks after getting Jnanpith, Akkitham passes away

Thiruvananthapuram: Three weeks after eminent Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri was conferred with the Jnanpith award, the hugely popular writer often referred to as Akkitham, passed away at a hospital in Thrissur on Thursday, said family sources. He was unwell for a few days. He breathed his last around 8.10 am. The funeral will be held according to the Covid protocols and will take place at his hometown in Patambi in Palakkad district, later in the day. The 93-year-old literary icon was given the Jnanpith at his residence 'Devayanam' by Kerala Culture Minister AK Balan on Sept 24. Seated in an armchair at his home, Akkitham received the award and became the sixth Keralaite to be conferred with the prestigious award. Akkitham's work includes 'Irupatham Noottantinte Ithihasam', 'Balidarasha nam' & 'Dharma Sooryan' among over 45 works of poems, plays & short stories.

As Xi readies troops for war...

US appoints Robert Destro as special officer for Tibet

New Delhi/Washington: A day after President Xi Jinping called on Chinese troops to prepare for war, the United States appointed a senior official as its special coordinator for Tibetan issues.

Tibet, which has been under Chinese occupation since 1950, remains a sensitive issue for Beijing diplomatically. The Chinese Communist Party regime has persistently refused to engage with the

US coordinator on the Tibet issue.

The Tibetan government in exile, established in India, is headed by the Dalai Lama.

Since the beginning of President Donald Trump's term in 2017, the position for the US special coordinator for Tibetan issues was vacant.

On Wednesday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that Robert Destro, assistant



secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labour, would assume

the additional charge. "Destro will lead US efforts to promote dialogue

between the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives; protect the unique religious, cultural, and linguistic identity of Tibetans; and press for their human rights to be respected," Pompeo said in a statement. He added that the US remains concerned with the PRC's "repression of the Tibetan community." The Trump administration in the past has threatened to restrict

visas for the Chinese officials responsible for human rights abuses in Tibet and blocking diplomatic access to the region. A day before the US announced special coordinator for Tibet, Xi while visiting the People's Liberation Army Marine Corps in Chaozhou city, asked the troops to "put all their minds and energy on preparing for war" and "maintain a state of high alert."

Continued on Page 5

Womenia

TWEET PATROL


SAINA NEHWAL
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Remembering the great scientist, a phenomenal teacher & People's President APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary #AbdulKalam ji
The missile man of India and most loved leader ever
He will always be remembered in our hearts!
#apjabdulkalam



WORLD FOOD DAY

Food is more than just nutrition

There is really nothing in the world that brings people together like food. Food is more than a means of nutrition. Food is an emotion, food is nourishment and food is medicine. Food is the basic necessity due to which we evolved from nomads to city dwellers and in honor of this invaluable commodity we celebrate on 16th October - World Food Day. Now before you place an order for your favourite's pizza or greasy burger, do not forget this year's theme of providing healthy food to all and I advocate it at



Naini Setaivad

all times. I am sharing some foods that will be relished by your lips and are forgiving to the hips.

Ice-cream

My father was quite a stickler when it came to food but his one weakness was the globally beloved Ice-cream. As age caught up with him, so did some lifestyle diseases and he was not ready to give up his favourite treat. I wasn't having any of this. Agreed, the store bought variety, made from hydrolyzed oil, heaps of sugar and a list of chemical preservatives would do him a lot of harm but a home-churned preparation, lightly sweetened with dates, fruit or jaggery would be an excellent replacement. The frozen fruit pulp ice-creams are a winner too. Try these guilt free indulgences for yourself and satisfy your cravings.

Peanuts

Talking of my father, I remember the peanut vendors sitting by the road right outside our park; a sight I'm sure most of us are familiar with. A handful of these

freshly roasted, warm, crunchy treats are one of my favourite snacks. Salted and boiled varieties are delectable too. The often misunderstood humble peanut is a store of B vitamins and magnesium giving you energy and clear digestion. The vitamin A and E present in these give you flawless skin and boosts your immunity.

Pickles

An Indian thali is incomplete without the delicious and mouth-watering aachars or pickles. This ancient tradition of pickling fruits and vegetables helps retain their nutrients and the fermentation aids digestion by providing gut friendly microbes. Pickled in limited oil or brine with a generous dose of healing spices; mango, lemon, chilli, cauliflower, turnip, amla, garlic, turmeric, ginger etc. are all elevated in flavor. This condiment is a staple in my meals and make sure you include them too. Even Asian meals have a customary accompaniment of kimchi and fermented cucumber.

Swap out those unhealthy snacks for the nutritious yet scrumptious treats. Let's all take a step forward towards a healthy and sustainable diet this World food day. Here's to celebrating food and a healthier you.



Collection by Namrata Joshipura @ LMIFW SS 21

Make your hair look good

Boost volume

A lasting boost and serious elevation require some time commitment and skill. Before you begin, make sure hair is completely dry and de-knotted. Use a fine-tooth comb, or a tail comb, to separate a section of hair at the front; clip it to the side. Take a section at the crown area and hold it straight up.

The next step is crucial. The wrong way to tease hair is starting at the end, and moving the comb up and down. To avoid damage, start at the mid-shaft and push the comb down to the roots. Pull the comb out and start from the mid-shaft and back-comb again. Finally, comb the swept-aside section over the teased bump for a voluminous lift.

Hairbrush basics

Not all brushes are made equal. And when you factor in bristle types and hair texture, a brush could make or break your hair. Brushes that exclusively house natural boar bristles are the best for fine to normal hair, they smooth and enhance shine without pulling or tugging. For normal to thick hair, try a board-and-nylon comb to detangle, plus, you'll get the added benefits of smoothing and creating a healthy sheen. For everyday grooming, choose paddle brushes. When you blow-dry, use a round brush to easily grab every strand. But watch out for round brushes with metal frames. When combined with hot air from a dryer, it can heat up way too fast and burn your tresses. Your safest bet is to stick with a wooden one.



Knowing how to properly do the basics of hairstyling is important for achieving beautiful hair, if you will. Every time you reach for that flat iron, blow dryer or fine-toothed comb, you should feel confident that you are using the right techniques to style your hair. Here are a few tips that will help you while styling your hair.

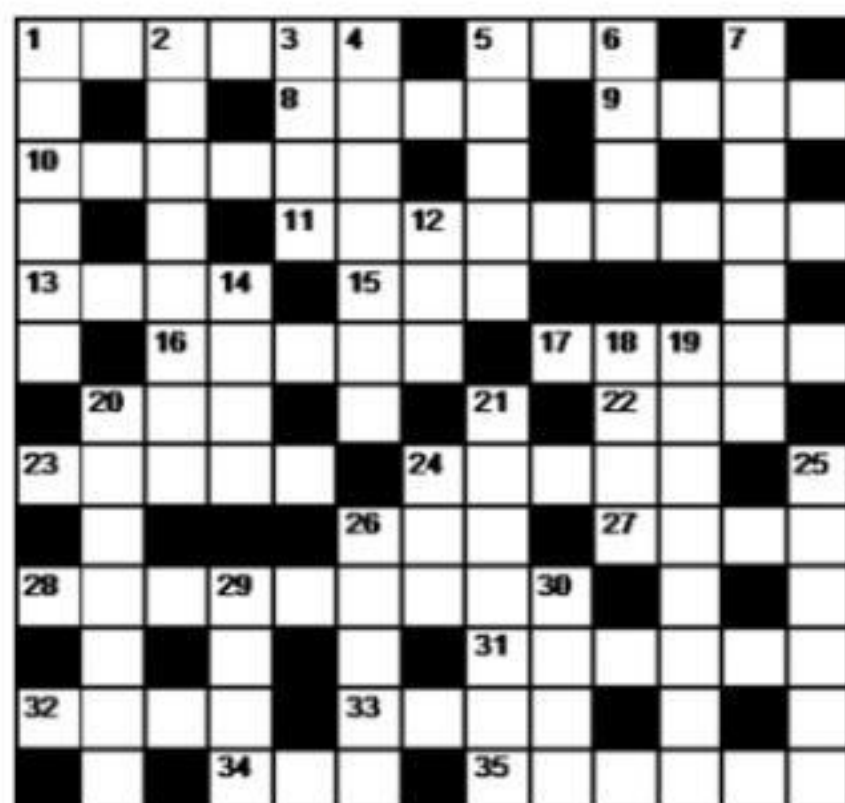
Know your type

Getting to know your hair can prevent you from wreaking havoc on innocent strands. So, before you pick up a heating tool or

brush, learn to distinguish your hair type. Hair typically falls under two categories: fine and thick.

Manage your hair type

If you have fine hair you've got some versatility when it comes to styling options. You can play with messy 'dos, experiment with chignons and low buns, and straighten or curl with ease. Ultimately, how you wear your hair depends on personal style. But if you don't want to commit to a statement look, try face-framing layers and short, soft layers to boost volume.



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 15

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Gorgon with snakes for hair (6)
- 5 Male child (3)
- 8 Military group (4)
- 9 Bit of news (4)
- 10 Mollify (6)
- 11 Monarch (9)
- 13 Crooked (4)
- 15 Yelp (3)
- 16 Choral work (5)
- 17 Well ____ : opportune ? (5)
- 20 Comics cry (3)
- 22 Craze (3)
- 23 Loses colour (5)
- 24 Float aimlessly (5)
- 26 Contend (3)
- 27 Edible roots (4)
- 28 Barefaced or brazen (9)
- 31 Electrical conductor (6)
- 32 Cut off a bit (4)
- 33 Atop or over (4)

Down

- 34 Behold, look (3)
- 35 Muddle or blunder (4-2)
- 1 Accident (6)
- 2 Misshapen (8)
- 3 Takes to court (4)
- 4 Peeved (7)
- 5 Precipitous (5)
- 6 Egypt's river (4)
- 7 Ruled (7)
- 12 A wooden barrel (3)
- 14 Bond of servitude (4)
- 18 Dubious (4)
- 19 Bullfighters (8)
- 20 Gaining or procuring (7)
- 21 Liberty (7)
- 24 Not bright (3)
- 25 At rest and not awake (6)
- 26 Imprecise (5)
- 29 Drains (4)
- 30 Force unit (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 15

NEWS ROUNDUP

Revisiting history: Nitin Bal Chauhan's SS'21 collection

Designer Nitin Bal Chauhan launched his latest collection titled 'Naevus' inspired by the Jallianwala Bagh massacre through a dramatic film that brought the art of storytelling and designing together.

The film was streamed on various social media platforms of the Fashion Design Council of India as part of the ongoing digital Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week Summer/Spring'21.

The designer tried to revisit history and recreate the whole incident enacted by the models wearing outfits inspired by the Victorian era. Models donned dramatic make-up, accessories with puffed sleeve red jackets with metal embellishments, classic white shirts with Victorian collars.

As a reminder of lost lives, the designer chose to represent the scenario through deathly, covered faces of the models who now were wearing dresses, jackets and trousers in soft colours like pink, grey with intricate embroideries. Designer Payal Jain also presented her collection called 'Holy Script' which is inspired by the religious cultures of northern India - from the Ghats of Benaras to the lanes of McLeod Ganj.

Jain has used traditional jacquard techniques like 'Katruan', 'Kadua' woven in silk yarn float into shear, fluid and flowing silhouettes in vibrant colours. She has also used blends of cotton and silk 'Chanderi', Organza and 'Munga' to create the line-up that mostly comprised dresses.

The colour palette is inspired by traditional Buddhist 'Thangka' paintings, in rich hues of Vermillion, Lapis blue, Emerald green and Sulphur yellow, with strokes of painted canvases.



FAKE TRP SCAM INVOLVING REPUBLIC TV AND OTHERS

BARC temporarily suspends weekly ratings of news channels

New Delhi: Following the fake Television Rating Points (TRP) scam, the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) on Thursday announced a temporary suspension of weekly ratings of news channels across languages.

The council intends to review and augment the current standards of measurement to improve on "statistical robustness", and the exercise will result in a "pause" in the weekly ratings for up to 12 weeks, an official statement said.

At least five people have been arrested by the city police

which busted the scam earlier this month.

Those arrested include news channel employees, while the police is also questioning executives of Arnab Goswami-led Republic Media Group with regard to the case. Republic Media Group has denied any wrongdoing.

The audience estimates given by BARC influence ad spends, and the total size of the ad placements was pegged at Rs 32,000 crore annually by the police.

The police allege the ratings were being rigged by inducing the homes where the monitors

were placed. "In the light of the recent developments, BARC Board has proposed that it's technical committee review and augment the current standards of meas-

uring and reporting the data of niche genres, to improve their statistical robustness and to significantly hamper the potential attempts of infiltrating the panel homes," an official statement said.

The exercise would cover all Hindi, Regional, English News, and Business News channels with immediate effect, it added.

"BARC will cease publishing the weekly individual ratings for all news channels during the exercise," it said, adding that the exercise will last between 8 to 12 weeks and include validation and testing.

SC refuses to hear Republic's petition

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has refused to entertain Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami's petition against summons issued by the Mumbai Police.

A bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud asked him to approach the Bombay High Court instead.

Justice D Y Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra and Indira Banerjee said the high court has been working throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the media group should approach it as its office is

located at Worli in Mumbai.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the media house, expressed apprehension about the ongoing probe saying "of late, there is a tendency that commissioners are giving interviews".

Last week, Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh had claimed that Republic TV and two Marathi channels—Box Cinema and Fakt Marathi—manipulated TRP for better advertisement revenue.

India reports 67,708 new cases

New Delhi: India's COVID-19 tally of cases climbed to 73.07 lakh with 67,708 new cases in a day, while 63,83,441 people have recuperated so far pushing the national recovery rate to 87.35 per cent on Thursday, according to the Union Health Ministry data. The COVID-19 case fatality rate has further declined to 1.52 per cent from 1.56 per cent on October 3.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 73,07,097 and the death toll climbed to 1,11,266 with the novel coronavirus virus claiming 680 lives in a span of 24 hours in the country, the data updated at 8 am showed.

There are 812,390 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 11.11 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 9,12,26,305 samples have been tested up to October 14 with 11,36,183 samples being tested on Wednesday.

CBI refutes closure of SSR case, says probe on

New Delhi (IANS): Amid some media reports that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is likely to file a closure report in Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case, the federal agency on Thursday refuted the claims and said that such reports are "erroneous" and the investigation is still continuing.

CBI spokesperson R.K. Gaur said in a statement, "CBI continues to investigate the death of Sushant. There are certain speculative reports in the media that the CBI has reached a conclusion. It may be reiterated that these reports are speculative and erroneous."

The remarks came amid media speculation that the agency will be filing a closure report soon.

Earlier, the forensic team of the All India Institute of Medical



Sciences (AIIMS) led by Sudhir Gupta had ruled out the murder angle in the actor's death case.

The CBI had registered a case on August 6 after a notification from the Centre on the request of the Bihar government based on a complaint filed by Sushant's

father K.K. Singh in Patna.

The CBI sleuths, along with the AIIMS forensic team, visited Mumbai on August 20, a day after the Supreme Court gave its nod for a federal agency probe.

The CBI team recorded the statements of Sushant's girl-

friend Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik, the late actor's house manager Samuel Miranda, flatmate Siddharth Pithani, personal staff Neeraj Singh, Keshav Bachane and Dipesh Sawant, Sushant's former manager Shruti Modi, talent manager Jaya Saha and several others. Sushant was found dead in his Bandra's apartment on June 14.

Besides the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate and the Narcotics Control Bureau are also probing the money laundering and drugs angle in connection with the actor's death, respectively.

Rhea was arrested by the NCB in a drugs related case. She was granted bail after spending 28 days in Byculia jail, while her brother Showik is still lodged in the jail.

Guv Koshyari following BJP's agenda : Shiv Sena

Mumbai: Days after Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari wrote to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray asking him if he had "suddenly turned secular", Shiv Sena attacked the Governor and accused him of acting against the State government.

"Bhagat Singh Koshyari has shown how a person sitting on the post of the Governor should not behave. He may have been a 'Sangh Pracharak' or a leader of the BJP. But today he is the Governor of a progressive state like Maharashtra, he seems to have forgotten this thing at his convenience... Sending a letter by Governor Koshyari to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will be called an unreasonable step," Shiv Sena said in an editorial in its mouthpiece Saamana.

Sena questioned the timing of Governor's letter to the Chief Minister and accused him of forwarding BJP's agenda.

"The BJP started a protest to open the temples in the State. The Governor was not required to participate in that political movement. As soon as the BJP's move-

ment started, the Governor wrote a letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. The letter reached the newspapers during the course of its journey to the Chief Minister," the party said. The Sena further clarified its stance of opening bars and restaurants and keeping the temples closed for devotees and said that the restaurants have been opened but only by following the rules completely. "Nobody enjoys keeping the gods locked; But once a large crowd started coming to the temple, then the crowd of corona-infected people will also increase, the country's Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has also expressed concern," it stated.

The Sena questioned the intention of Koshyari and said he is Governor of both Goa and Maharashtra, then why did he only write to the Maharashtra Chief Minister regarding the opening of temples, and not to Goa Chief Minister as well, where most of the important temples are closed for devotees.

Let Allahabad HC deal with Hathras case: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday said the Allahabad High Court be allowed to monitor the Hathras case in which a Dalit girl was allegedly brutally raped and died of injuries. The top court, which was hearing a PIL and several intervention pleas of activists and lawyers, was told that no fair trial was possible in Uttar Pradesh as the investigation has been allegedly botched up, according to News18 report.

Allaying the apprehension, a bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde, said, "Let the high court deal with it. We are here if there is any problem." Besides Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the hearing saw battery of senior advocates like Harish Salve, Indira Jaising and Siddharth Luthra appearing for various parties. There were other lawyers who wanted to argue but the apex court said "We don't need assistance of the whole world". The hearing also witnessed deliberations that in no case the victim's identity be disclosed and her family members and witnesses be given full security and protection. The lawyer, appearing for the victim's family, demanded that the proceedings of the case

be shifted out of Uttar Pradesh to a court in the national capital. The apprehension of not having a fair trial in the state was also raised by activist-lawyer Indira Jaising who also made submissions on witness protection. At the outset, the Solicitor General referred to recent affidavit filed by the Uttar Pradesh government which gave details about the security and protection provided to the victim's family and witnesses in the case.

The state government which has already transferred the case to the CBI and has given consent to monitoring by the apex court had filed the affidavit after the top court sought details on witness protection and on whether the victim's family has chosen a lawyer. A 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly raped by four upper-caste men in Hathras on September 14. She died on September 29 at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital during treatment. The victim was cremated in the dead of the night near her home on September 30. Her family alleged they were forced by the local police to hurriedly conduct her last rites. Local police officers, however, said the cremation was carried out "as per the wishes of the family".

Approaching HC on tax issue was a mistake: Rajinikanth

Chennai: An appeal should have been made to the Chennai Corporation on a property tax demand for his marriage hall and the "mistake" of approaching the court immediately could have been avoided, top actor Rajinikanth said in Chennai on Thursday.

"Experience is a lesson," he said on his Twitter handle in an apparent apologetic tone, a day after the Madras High Court warned of imposing costs for rushing to court for relief.

"Raghavendra Mandapam property tax...we should have appealed to the corporation. Mistake could have been avoided. #Experience is a lesson," the actor said.

The Madras High Court on Wednesday dismissed as withdrawn a petition filed by the actor over a property tax demand of Rs 6.50 lakh by the city Corporation on his marriage hall for the first half of the current financial year.

Justice Anitha Sumanth warned of imposing costs on him for approaching the court soon after sending a notice to the civic body for relief under vacancy remission rule citing closure of the marriage hall due to COVID-19 lockdown during the six-month period.

Woman locked up in toilet for over a year, rescued

Panipat: In a shocking incident, a 35-year old woman in Haryana was rescued after being locked up inside a toilet for over a year. According to officials, the woman was locked up by her husband in Rishpur village of Panipat district and was forced to live under subhuman conditions, without access to food or water for days at end. A case has

been registered against the woman's husband Naresh Kumar under sections 498 A and 342 of the IPC. The woman was rescued by Women Protection and Child Marriage Prohibition Officer Rajni Gupta on Wednesday. "I received information that a woman was locked in the toilet for over a year. I come here with my team.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mohammad Umar Saifi S/o Abdul Sattar R/o H.No. A-47, Om Vihar, Phase-5, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059. I state that my earlier name is **Mohammad Umar** and present name is **Mohammad Umar Saifi** in the one and same person and is myself. That above mention my name is **Mohammad Umar Saifi** is exact and correct. That Present all record my name is **Mohammad Umar Saifi**.

Panel set up to probe dolphins' deaths in UP

Bulandshahr (IANS): A committee of five officials, including members of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and WWF India, has been formed under the chairmanship of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) to probe the death of two dolphins in the Narora area in Bulandshahr. The death of two dolphins in five days has evoked concern among experts about the protection of this highly endangered fresh water species in the Upper Gangetic Basin.

The chief conservator (forest) of west zone, N.K. Jaanu said, "I have directed the panel to submit its report in two days and make arrangements for a proper post-mortem of the dolphins." A dolphin was found dead in the lower Ganga canal near Ramghat bridge on Tuesday and, earlier, on October 9, another dolphin was found dead near Narora village.

The total population of dolphins in the Upper Gangetic Basin (176-km stretch of the Ganga between Bijonore and Narora barrages) is 41, as per the latest joint survey by WWF India and the forest department. Uttar Pradesh chief wildlife warden Sunil Pandey said that a committee of senior officials would be set up to investigate the frequent deaths of dolphins.

China sternly warns US as warship sails through Taiwan

Washington: A US warship sailed through the Taiwan Strait in what the American military described as a "routine" passage, but enraging China, which claims sovereignty over the island and surrounding seas. Ties between Beijing and Washington have deteriorated in recent months, over issues including trade and Hong Kong, with the self-ruled island of Taiwan a long-running source of tension.


The guided-missile destroyer USS Barry passed through the Strait on October 14, according to a statement by the US Pacific Fleet. "The ship's transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the US commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," the statement said. "The US Navy will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows," it added. Any US Navy operations in the Taiwan Strait, which separates China from the island, provoke a strong response from Beijing, which considers Taiwan to be an inviolable part of its territory.

In an angry riposte, the Chinese People's Liberation Army said it tracked the USS Barry by sea and air



"throughout the entire process." "We warn the US to stop its words and deeds that provoke trouble and disturb the situation in the Taiwan Strait," Eastern Theatre Command spokesman Colonel Zhang Chunhui said. The island has been governed separately since the end of a civil war in China in 1949. Taiwan has its own flag, currency and military, but it is not recognized as an independent nation by the UN.

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It's opportunity for channels to earn their credibility

In the light of the recent developments, Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) Board has proposed that its Technical Committee (Tech Comm) review and augment the current standards of measuring and reporting the data of niche genres to improve their statistical robustness and to significantly hamper the potential attempts of infiltrating the panel homes. It is necessary for the viewers to understand that this is not an unnecessary intervention by the BARC but the latter is forced to adopt some tough measures in the wake of the dirty competition prevailing in the channel world for Television Rating Point (TRP) ratings. Instead of self-regulation as often been pronounced by the media, some of the channels attempted to regulate the viewership in their favour as is known to all now. This is the media's self-destructive path. In the process of annihilating its rivals, the media

has embarked upon the dangerous path of destroying its own credibility. The BARC Board's exercise now would cover all Hindi, Regional, English news and Business news channels with immediate effect. Therefore, starting with the 'News Genre', BARC will cease publishing the weekly individual ratings for news channels during the exercise. This exercise is expected to take around 8-12 weeks, including validation and testing under the supervision of BARC's Tech Comm. The BARC will continue to release weekly audience estimates for the genre of news by state and language. The decision will initially impact all Hindi, Regional, English news and Business news broadcasters. BARC will continue to provide estimates for the overall news genre every week by State and Language. The BARC Tech Committee will revisit the rule sets of niche genres to improve their statistical robustness and to significantly hamper the potential attempts of infiltrating the panel homes. Starting with the news genre, BARC would stop declaring the individual channel ratings for news channels while this reworking of the rule sets is being done. This exercise would take around 8-12 weeks, including validation and testing under the supervision of the Tech Committee. BARC will keep its stakeholders updated as it augments these

processes. The withholding of ratings will, inter-alia, will lead to non-availability of the following viewership variables for impacted channels: • Impressions, Daily reach, Average Time Spent (ATS), Cumulative reach, Rating percentage. Since these variables will not be available, analysis such as viewer movement and Behavioural Track Analysis will not be possible. Are there any lessons in this exercise for the media Channels? Yes. But a more pertinent question is, are they willing to learn any? All those channels resorting to illegality in fixing their viewership like a corrupt player in cricket resorting to match-fixing have committed a crime. Action must be taken against those channels. The channels cannot blame either the police or the governments for the police cases against them. People have lost faith in the Legislatures and the Executive to some extent. It is only the judiciary and the Fourth Estate that command some respect in this country. Nobody should be allowed to destroy the credibility of these two pillars of our democracy anymore. There should be a limit to self-destructive tendency - of the media too. Let the ratings (of any channel) not be dependent on the 'berating' (of its rivals) of these channels. All the best to the BARC Board.

The psychology of 'Communist liberals'

SURGICAL STRIKE



KRISHNA
SAAGAR RAO

Communism and its political policy were conceptualized in October around 1847. However, in 2020 their political principles and policy clearly look irrelevant and invalid. The extinction of 175-year-old communist political ideology seems a certainty by the first half of this century.

When Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx theorized the ideology and objectives of Communism, it was for long considered similar to Socialism. While political and electoral compulsions of even the largest capitalist democracies in the world have a partial socialist face, Communism as a viable political ideology has failed to find neither stability nor traction anywhere in the world.

China, Cuba, Laos and Vietnam are the only proclaimed communist countries left in the world today, but in contrary their state policy, political ideology and governance models have nothing to do with Marxist or Leninist policies. Nations like China and Vietnam are competing with the largest capitalist nations in the world and are very highly industrialized. These nations have left the principles of Communism, especially the core agenda of 'protection of proletariat' long back, in pursuit of massive global investments and international trade. The other two remaining communist nations are clearly on their way to emulate their big communist brothers.

The Psychology of Communist Liberals across the world is quite similar, especially in the last few decades, and quite understandably so. The communist nations have moved on with the dawn of realism and have transformed themselves into ultra-capitalist governments for wealth creation. The objectives and principles of Communism are forgotten even in the nations ruled by communist governments. There is hardly any difference between a Capitalist to a Communist nation anymore. The Communist ideology has been killed and buried almost four decades back, after the fall of the Soviet Union, merger of East & West Germany and the indus-

trial revolution in China.

However, many idealists and theorists defending the principles of Communism from their armchairs in air-conditioned university campus work cabins, and taxpayer sponsored campus homes. They are still trying to sell 'a dead & gone ideology' and holding on to the 175-year-old stagnant political theories, which are no more relevant in any part of the world. Some disillusioned journalists, misguided youngsters, pseudo-rebel authors and part-time social activists still find employment and career advancement through their allegiance to this almost-dead political ideology. Especially in large democracies, it 'pays' to be a Communist Liberal even in this time period.

As I researched what constitutes a model of a modern age 'Communist Liberal' - I could draft a psychological profile by analyzing both the mainstream political leaders and the ardent advocates of Communist Liberal ideology.

Some conspicuous psychological aspects of the modern age Communist Liberals are highlighted here. This profile is not comprehensive, with word-count constraint only important few psychological traits are presented.

Defeatism

Almost all the Communists visibly display 'Defeatism'. It's their eternal fight for something they can never achieve - 'a communist state' - is what drives this psychological trait in them. When one fails at every goal one sets with a confused concept of social transformation, it's imminent that the journey will lead one nowhere. There are no victories, no celebrations, no successful milestones and no ideological rewards... compounding to serious psychological turmoil of 'Defeatism'.

No wonder, the arguments of Communist Liberals are always drowned in negativity, helplessness, hopelessness and desperation.

Deceptive hypocrisy

Almost all the Communist ideology representatives in TV studios and in the Press are upwardly mobile, middle or upper middle-class folks in well-paid jobs, most of them are educated in English medium convent schools, if not from world-class foreign universities. Even the mainstream, modern Communist political leaders are not very far behind their publicly visible liberal activists.

In no possible way their life



The objectives and principles of Communism are forgotten even in the nations ruled by communist governments. There is hardly any difference between a Capitalist to a Communist nation anymore. The Communist ideology has been killed and buried almost four decades back, after the fall of the Soviet Union, merger of East & West Germany and the industrial revolution in China

represents the 'proletariat' or the life of a real communist ideology practitioner. The modern Communist Liberals invest in stock markets, possess private property, send their children to best American universities, possess and enjoy every aspect of a regular capitalist Joe's life. However, they cannot resist outrageously criticizing the same way of life, at any given opportunity.

Self-Deception unsettles one's mind and builds massive stress driven by guilt. It's almost a bipolar life the modern Communists are living today. They rarely practice what they preach. They have neither mind nor body connection to the pains of a 'proletariat' whom they set out to protect. And in their ideological journey of 175 years, Communists have achieved nothing worthy.

Low-self-esteem

Self-esteem is the outcome of consistent emotional validation by one's self and others around. Self-esteem is also the product of accomplishing quantifiable or qualifiable results, from every day or periodic pursuits of goals.

Communist liberals across the world seriously suffer from lack of Self-esteem and no wonder they are against all concepts which drive self-respect and self-esteem in other nationals. They oppose self-reliance, nationalism, culture, heritage and indigenous language and knowledge, all these

concepts which impact the emotional strength and self-esteem positively in the citizens of a nation.

There are no notable ideological wins in over half-a-century for this political group. It's a political compulsion for Communist parties across the world to be a tail-end for a Center-of-Left or a Socialist party, they can never hold their own than in very minimally exceptional cases. Emotional-Invalidation is a very tricky proposition, and the Liberals try to invalidate everyone and everything which is currently underway in the world and claim they have better models.

However, in a few nations and states where they are in power, they do exactly opposite to what Communism proposes, and follow the Capitalism route. This is one of the reasons why Communists are finding it hard to recruit thoughtful young men and women into their ideological fold. Everyone else invalidates their theories, thoughts, propositions and ideology in whole. No wonder they operate from very low self-esteem and are very easy to snap.

Pseudo-liberalism

Pseudo is falsehood. Pseudo is dishonest. It's a psychological condition under which chronic liars operate. Forced false notion of equality has ruined the institution of marriage and family system. Misappropriation of rights over responsibilities have de-

stroyed the sanctity of roles in a family hierarchy, leading to lack of respect, trust and even unconditional love in personal relationships.

Pitching men over women, and women over men in the name of liberal agenda has created an irreparable gender-divide and inter-gender-trust-deficit. It also led to unhealthy competition, insecurity and incompatibility within a family system. Increasing rate of divorces, broken families many times impacting lives of young children forever.

Instead of healing past wounds and insults of few primitive social system norms for social harmony and peace, the Communist Liberals feed on flaring communal fires, re-igniting forgotten social ills to destroy social peace, promote hate, bitterness, retribution amongst social groups. The 'Pseudo agenda' is to trigger this level of social unrest and disruption in the guise of social activism.

The above are only a few psychological aspects of Communist Liberals. The damage they have done to the social and political fabric is unquantifiable and irreparable.

Real Liberalism should be to liberate people from their enslaved mindset, guide people upwards from economic and social depravity, educate and empower individuals to rise above unjust oppression in any phase of their life.

If alive, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels would be certainly not proud of how Communist Liberals have turned out eventually, despite the grand communist political principles and ideology they both proposed for the larger good of the 'Proletariat'.

(The writer is an Organizational Strategist / a Leadership Coach and an Author)



Centre okays cinema reopening if States agree

VINOD MIRANI

Finally, light at the end of the tunnel for the cinema exhibition trade as the Government at the Centre has decided to allow cinema halls to reopen from mid-October. In these last few months, the Covid-19 pandemic has caused great harm to all aspects of life. The reopening directive also applies to gymnasiums, restaurants and shopping malls. All these will have to operate with 50 per cent capacity along with other precautionary restrictions.

Although there is no lockdown in the number of coronavirus cases, the logic is that the economy can't be on standstill forever. These enterprises engage thousands of workers. There has been no movement of money, let alone circulation. An economy works on how many times a rupee circulates in a year. Sadder still, with lockdown, many or most in India had no money to buy basics. They may be the lowest rung in the economic ladder but they are the ones who crank the motor into motion.

For as long as six months, there was no economy movement. It has been a huge setback to economies of countries all over the world. No country can be locked down forever and normalcy has to return gradually. Since the first total lockdown in March, the easing of lockdown has come in phases. This directive of letting cinema halls along with certain other services is the fifth of the lockdown relaxations to come. To be candid, the Covid-19 cases and fatalities may not have varied in numbers during the lockdown than when the reopening process started.

Those concerned would be happy that, finally they are getting back into business. Of course, all those services that will restart will have to face a major problem finding a workforce.

These enterprises no longer employ supporting staff directly but outsource the work to agencies. That way, you don't deal with individuals but just with one agency that provides you the workforce. There is no permanent staff. It is more convenient to let a third party handle your problems. That protects you from trade unions and strikes by workers.

This is something the Indian business community learnt the hard way. A union leader may often get despotic and paralyse a trade or an industry. Mumbai's cloth mills are the biggest example ever. So, outsourcing the job workers is a wise way to work.

Sadly for the work force, during lockdown they were left high and dry. Nobody took their responsibility or looked after their livelihood. With restrictions imposed, not as many workers engaged by a cinema property will be needed now.

As for cinema halls, having been allowed to reopen is not even half the story as far as cinema properties are concerned. There are a lot of hurdles to cross.

The restrictions on the cinema halls are actually not conducive to business, and the property owners may realise that lockdown was less loss-making than such conditional reopening.

The conditions under which the cinemas are allowed to function effective October 15, 2020, don't quite make a business promoting model.

To start with, the cinemas in the containment zones can't be reopened. Cinemas will function at 50 per cent of their seating capacities. To add to the problems of cinema properties, they have to contend with the initial reluctance of the audience to come in, in the first place.

Of course, it will add to the routine of the workers at the cinemas to scan and sanitise every patron who enters. That is besides the exercise of sanitising the cinema halls before and after every show.

Most of all, how about the supply against recovery? At 50 per cent occupancy, you may just pretend that you are back in the business but, business is about making money, and this does not quite seem to be the right formula.

Then, there is the question of supply. Where are the ready films to feed the cinema halls anymore? The OTT streaming platforms have bought out all the ready to screen content that was available in the market. Not all the content the OTT bought out was worthy of cinema hall playtime. The cinema chain holders wouldn't even have touched them under normal circumstances. But, on OTT, who cares?

On Friday, for instance, cinema halls are scheduled to screen new releases like "Unbroken" in English and "Halal Love Story". There is a line-up of Hindi language films like "Comedy Couple", "Love Story", "Big Bull", "Dracula Sir", "Guldasta", and "Kaale Khui" along with regional films like "Putham Pudhu Kaalai" (Tamil) and "Rawkto Rawhoshyo" (Bengali). The films listed for November release in all languages on the online ticket booking site, bookmyshow.com, goes into hundred plus!

This should look like a windfall for the cinema halls. But as far as Hindi films go, there is little that can provide solace to the cinema chain holders. No film slated for an immediate release shows drawing power, let alone staying power. If the viewers do decide to visit cinema halls, the government directive allows only 50 per cent occupancy. Again, the makers of few big bill movies with stars who command a draw have decided to wait till summer 2021 to release their films. With no scope to increase admission rates, it does not look like the cinema exhibition trade is due to turn profitable anytime soon.

Yet, the biggest problem for the cinema halls is that while allowing the cinema business to reopen with Unlock 5 guidelines, the Centre has left the final decision to the state governments. Not all state governments are inclined to go ahead just yet.

While some states have decided to wait till October 30, so far the state governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat have agreed to go ahead with the reopening of cinemas.

(Vinod Mirani is a veteran film writer and box office analyst. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS

Focus on human development indicators

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO) report revealed that India is set to drop below Bangladesh in terms of per capita gross domestic product (GDP) this year owing to the national lockdown imposed to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. This revelation brings to the fore the vulnerable points in India's economy. According to IMF, Bangladesh's per capita GDP in dollar terms is expected to grow 4% in 2020 to \$1,888. On the other hand, India's per capita GDP is expected to decline 10.5% to \$1,897 the lowest in the last four years. However, India's per capita GDP in dollar terms is expected to grow 8.2% at \$2,030 in 2021. A positive response from India would be to delight in our neighbour's economic development and put in sustained efforts to revive the economy. At this juncture, India's motto should be "minimum spending, maximum growth". A growth momentum must be created. To achieve this, non-autonomous expenditure has to go up sufficiently. Growth momentum can be created through substantial investment. Asset managers in the developed world must be persuaded

to invest in India's growth-enabling, productivity-boosting infrastructure and they must be offered attractive dividends. The government must promote investment spending but must focus more on spending in India by foreign capital. India is expected to bounce back from its flagging economy in the near future. However, we must not turn a blind eye to the growth and development in economies of countries like Bangladesh. India must learn lessons from the weaknesses in its economy. It must focus on not only per capita GDP but also human development indicators.

Venu GS, Kollam, Kerala

Unavoidable letter

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari wrote a letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray seeking re-opening of Hindu temples, which were closed due to Covid-19. Intemperate language he used in the letter surely belittles the position he holds. Mocking at Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's secularism aspect is too derogatory to keep aside. Such a mean understanding on secularism by the constitutional authority is unacceptable. More so, his reference to secularism in the letter instigates citizens not to be secular. So also it whips up communal passions among Hindus. He also rakes up and takes a jibe at "Hindutva" philosophy or practice of Uddhav Thackeray. While writing as an official, one must

refrain from touching the personal aspects of any individual or official. Governor must have exercised his volition before doing so. His callous approach, on writing something to State Administrative Head, the Chief Minister, has irked the entire system.

The adventurism he has shown in releasing the said letter to media has further damaged the dignity of the office he serves. He might have displayed this temerity to appease his political bosses, or to boast himself up as a true Hindu. But he is not just an individual. He should have used all his authority to call Chief Minister at his office to convey whatever he wished. But he, without thinking of consequences, acted as politician rather than a constitutional head. Thank God, Uddhav Thackeray riposted by reminding him of the oath he took on the Constitution which contains the word "Secularism" as one of the basic tenets of it. The Supreme Court held several times that secularism is the basic, unamendable feature of our constitution. A reprimand from the office of President of India, on Governor's unwarranted and shrugging like approach on official matters, becomes a good precedent. Such an insensitive and partisan act of Maharashtra Governor demands a serious rethinking on continuation of "Governor system" itself.

G Thirupathaiah, Hyderabad

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Revenue of civic bodies will not be diverted: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said that the revenue of the municipalities should be spent on the developmental works in the same municipality and clarified that the state government doesn't use those funds on any other works.

During a review meeting on reforms in municipalities and corporations in accordance with the Central guidelines on Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) held here on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that the revenue of each municipality and corporation has to be spent locally on various projects and initiatives, as this makes the municipalities self-sustainable. He also announced that employees' salaries will be directly paid by the state government

- Says revenue earned by municipalities and corporations will be spent only on local works

- Salaries of employees of these local bodies will also be paid directly by the state govt through 010 treasury

- Instructs officials to focus on maintaining proper sanitation by keeping the water and sewerage system clean

through 010 treasury.

The Chief Minister also directed the authorities to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) focusing on the reforms to be brought in for providing bet-

ter services to the public alongside developing municipalities and corporations, including the revenue expenditure of each municipality.

He instructed the officials to focus on maintaining proper sanitation by keeping the water and sewerage system in good condition and cleaning them on a regular basis. Charges for maintaining sanitation, water and sewerage only have to be collected.

Minister for municipal administration Botcha Satyanarayana, Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney, principal secretary of finance S S Rawat, principal secretary of municipal administration Syamala Rao, commissioner of municipal administration and urban development Vijay Kumar and other officials were present.



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy reviewing functioning of local bodies at his camp office in Tadepalli on Thursday

20 MPs from AP nominated to Parliamentary Friendship Group

Rajamahendravaram: Prime Minister Narendra Modi nominated 20 MPs from Andhra Pradesh as members of Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) to 14 countries. As part of PFG, the MPs will study the tradition, culture along with policies relating to industry, education, agriculture etc of the respective countries. According to Rajamahendravaram MP and YSRCP Parliamentary Party chief whip Margani Bharat Ram, the Prime Minister nominated MPs between one and three to each country. They will visit the respective countries and give their recommendations to the government after their study.

The MPs from the state who are appointed to various countries are: Italy-Margani Bharat Ram (Rajamahendravaram), Gotti Madhavi and Gorantla Madhav (Hindupur), European Union-Vallabhaneni Balashouri, Finland-M V V Satyanarayana and Adala Prabhakar Reddy, France-Dr B V Satyavathi, Chinta Anuradha (Amalapuram) and Vanga Geetha Viswanadh (Kakinada), Germany-Talari Ranga Rao, Ghana-Dr S Sanjeeva Kumar, Greece-Magunta Srinivasula Reddy, Holland-P Brahmananda Reddy, Hungary-Y S Avinash Reddy, Indonesia-Bellana Chandrasekhar, Japan-Laavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu and P V Midhun Reddy, Latvia-Kota Sridhar, Kazakhstan-N Reddappa and Kyrgyzstan-Nandigam Suresh.

Naidu blames CM's laxity for flood woes

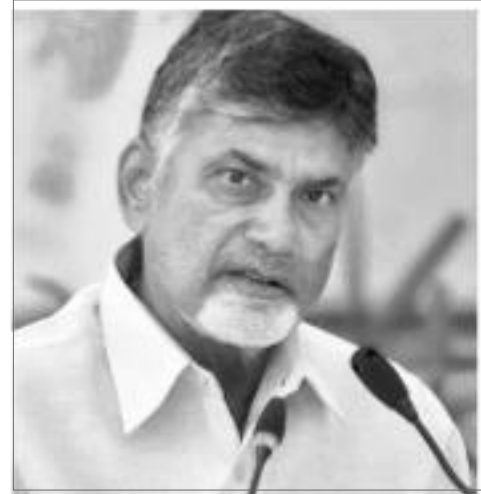
- Says Jagan gives no value to lives and property of people
- Observes that YSRCP leaders are more concerned with taking a revenge on their political rivals even during the floods rather than extending relief to the affected people

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The YSRCP government is not giving any value to the life and property of the people during the times of heavy rains, floods and natural calamities, criticised TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday.

Addressing the party leaders from the flood-affected districts through a video conference, Naidu said that the Chief Minister had miserably failed in water management at a time when many districts were badly hit because of heavy rains. The ruling YSRCP leaders were only interested in spreading false propaganda on the submersion threat to Amaravati capital city rather than going to the rescue of the affected people, he said.

The TDP chief expressed concern that thousands of villages were suffering due to heavy rain in the past four days.



Crops were lost in over a lakh acre. Damage was done to paddy, cotton, chilli, groundnut, banana, papaya and vegetable and horticulture crops. Thousands of houses were submerged. Also, thousands of kilometre of roads were damaged, he said. He criticised that the YSRCP regime has completely failed to provide relief and confidence to the flood affected families everywhere. Under the TDP rule, precautionary measures used to be taken from the side of the government and official machinery was alerted much in advance to meet the flood situation.

The landfall timings of the cyclones were predicted in advance to take steps to prevent damage. The Real Time Governance System (RTGS) was greatly helpful. But, the present government has no commitment or interest in giving the much-needed support to the people, Naidu criticised.

IAF team in France for more Rafale jets

Continued from P1

The first batch of Rafale jets was finally inducted into the IAF on September 10. Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria on October 5 said the induction of all 36 Rafale jets will be completed by 2023. Known for their air superiority and precision strikes, the Rafale jets are India's first major acquisition of fighter planes in 23 years after the Sukhoi jets were imported from Russia. The newly inducted fleet has been carrying out sorties in eastern Ladakh where Indian and Chinese troops are engaged in a bitter border row for over five months.

Oxford scientists develop 5-minute Covid antigen test

Continued from P1

Siemens Healthineers on Wednesday announced the launch of a rapid antigen test kit in Europe to detect coronavirus infections but warned that the industry may struggle to meet a surge in demand. Although the Oxford platform will only be ready next year, the tests could help manage the pandemic in time for next winter. Health officials have warned that the world will need to live with coronavirus even if a vaccine is developed.

COUNTING THE COSTS

Crops in 67,864 hectares damaged

- According to preliminary reports, agriculture and horticulture crops were damaged in 8 district

- The loss is highest in East Godavari where crops in 29,362 Ha suffered loss

- Horticulture crops like banana, vegetables too witnessed a heavy damage

Amaravati: The recent downpour due to a deep depression has damaged crops over 67,864 hectare in the state.

According to preliminary estimates, eight districts have suffered the damage. Visakhapatnam 5,435 hectare, East Godavari (29,362 Ha), West Godavari (15,926 Ha), Krishna (12,466 Ha), Guntur (381 Ha), Kadapa (2,053 Ha), Kurnool (249 Ha) and Srikakulam (1,992 Ha).

The damaged crops include paddy, pulses, sugarcane, maize, ragi, cotton, ramza and tobacco.

Horticultural crops spread over 6,229 hectare have also been damaged, affecting vegetables, bananas, papaya, betel vine, yam, turmeric, black gram and sugarcane.

At most places, the fields are inundated with water, and as it recedes, crop losses are expected to rise.

Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada received 7.79 lakh cusecs of water, exceeding the estimates of 6 lakh cusecs of floodwater, due to heavy rains



A paddy field damaged by floods in Samalkot in East Godavari district

Farmers incur huge losses due to heavy rains in EG

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Rajamahendravaram: The depression in Bay of Bengal caused huge damage to agriculture

and horticulture crops in East Godavari district. The incessant rains created panic among farming community as several low-lying areas were inundated and reservoirs overflowed with heavy inflows.

According to sources, the paddy crop in 29,000 hectares and 1,700

hectares in horticulture crops were damaged in floods. Out of 1,700 hectares of horticulture crops, banana in 735 hectares, vegetables in 526 hectares, cotton in 466 hectares, flowers in 160 hectares, papaya in 132 hectares, Black gram in 115 hectares and chillies in 90 hectares were damaged due to floodwaters.

The heavy inflow of water in reservoirs such as Bhupathipalem, Surampalem, Pampa, Subbareddy

in Telangana.

The total deaths due to rain-related incidents rose to 11.

Due to the rains, 463 boats

were lost, 424 in West Godavari and 39 in Visakhapatnam.

Officials have also estimated that 900 km of roads were dam-

- With incessant rains, many reservoirs overflowed and surrounding areas were submerged

- Paddy and horticulture crops incur heavy damage due to floods

Sagar, Chandrababu Sagar, Sudda Gadda and Yeleru submerged surrounding areas and villages. Yeleru reservoir was breached at two places because of heavy rains. Konaseema area faced heavy damage to paddy and horticulture crops due to lack of maintenance of drains and encroachments.

aged across the state.

On Thursday, five more mandals received rainfall of more than 75 mm.

AP reports 4,038 new Covid cases

Amaravati: The active cases of coronavirus in the state came down to 40,000 on Thursday while the cumulative confirmed cases went up to 771,503 with the addition of 4,038 fresh positives.

The total recoveries increased to 725,099 after 5,622 got cured in the 24 hours ending 9 am on Thursday.

The latest bulletin said 38 more COVID-19 casualties were reported, taking the gross to 6,357 so far.

West Godavari district reported 686 fresh cases in the 24 hours, East Godavari 548 and Chittoor 489, it added.

Chittoor also reported nine more COVID-19 deaths, taking its total to 727, the highest in the state. Prakasam district recorded seven, Krishna five and East Godavari four fresh fatalities, according to the bulletin.



Lalithaa Jewellery to open 2 new showrooms in Karnataka

One more outlet will be opened in Vizianagaram the same day, i.e. Oct 18

Bengaluru: Lalithaa Jewellery is going to open two showrooms in Karnataka on October 18. They are at KRR Road, Mangaluru and Marathahalli, Bengaluru.

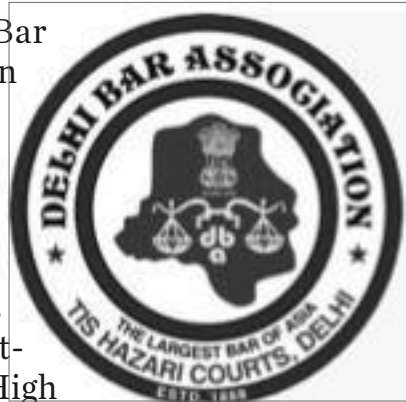
These will be the 28th and 29th outlets in its chain for the south India's leading name in jewellery retail for over 37 years.

Coinciding with the inauguration, the entire range of gold jewellery is being offered for 2 per cent less in V A charges while the entire range of diamond jewellery is offered at Rs 3,000 less per carat, at all Lalithaa Jewellery showrooms. This is lower than their already lowest price in the market. Further, on the same day, one more showroom is being opened by Lalithaa Jewellery at Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh. "We want to continue expanding in south India. After witnessing tremendous response to our Bengaluru showrooms, we decided to create more footprints in Karnataka for the convenience of our customers" says Dr M Kiran Kumar, CMD of the jewellery retail behemoth. The inauguration of both showrooms are at 10 am on Sunday.

Delhi Bar Assn slams Jagan's charges against SC judge

New Delhi: The Delhi Bar Association (DBA) on Thursday condemned the allegations of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy against a senior Supreme Court judge that he has been influencing the sittings of Andhra Pradesh High Court.

The Executive Committee of DBA, the parent Bar of all the district courts in the national capital, said Jagan has circulated a "baseless and ill-founded" letter on October 6 to the Chief Justice of India, which casts serious aspersions on the judges of the apex court and the High Court of Andhra Pradesh. "It has been unanimously resolved that Jagan Mohan Reddy has circulated a baseless and ill-founded letter dated October 6, 2020, which casts serious aspersions on the judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court of Andhra Pradesh and



- The association describes the allegations against the sitting judge of the apex court as 'baseless and ill-founded' which it says amount to interference in the administration of justice

- Criticises that the letter dated Oct 6 appears to have been circulated in public domain with a mala fide intent

has been issued with a view to cause interference in the administration of justice," the association said in its resolution.

The Delhi Bar Association of Tis Hazari District Courts further said that it has been a long tradition that no one should be allowed to raise aspersions on a sitting judge of the top court or of any High Court without any basis and such action amounts to contempt of court. "The letter dated October 6 seems to have been circulated in public domain with a mala fide intent to interfere with the working of the judiciary," the association

said. It said the DBA unequivocally, categorically and in strongest terms condemns the terms cast upon the apex court judge.

In an unprecedented move, Jagan Mohan Reddy wrote to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) S A Bobde, alleging that the AP High Court was being used to "destabilise and topple my democratically-elected government." He has requested the CJI to look into the matter and consider initiating steps "as may be considered fit and proper to ensure that the state judiciary's neutrality is maintained." (PTI)

Navaratri Brahmotsavam at Tirumala from today

Tirupati: The stage is all set for the Navaratri Brahmotsavam of Lord Sri Venkateswara which will begin on Friday in Tirumala.

Adhering to the latest Covid guidelines from the Centre, the TTD considering the threat of coronavirus across the country and keeping in view the health and security of devotees and the staff, has decided to conduct the nine day utsavams without pilgrim participation.

On the first day, the deity will be taken for a procession on Pedda Sesha Vahanam from Ranganayakula Mandapam to Kalyana Vedika, The Vahana sevas will be held in Sampangi Prakaram inside the shrine daily during the nine day fete due to Covid restrictions. Before the Sesha Vahanam, Bangaru Tiruchi (Golden palanquin) seva will be held in the shrine.

Garuda seva will be held on October 20, Pushpaka Vimana on 21 and Chakrasnanam on 24, marking the conclusion of Navaratri Brahmotsavam.

The SVBC will live telecast of all the events while the



- Due to coronavirus, the temple authorities decide to conduct utsavams without devotees' participation

- All nine day sevas will be held in Sampangi Prakaram inside the temple

- SVBC will telecast live all events

public relations department of TTD made arrangement for issuing press releases and photos of the events.

Due to Adikamasam, this year Brahmotsavam which held in September is called Nija Brahmotsavam and which begins in October is called Alankara Brahmotsavam.

However, it was for the first time that there was no public

participation for both the Brahmotsavam due to coronavirus.

Earlier, TTD decided to conduct Navaratri Brahmotsava vahana sevas in the open, allowing limited number of devotees with darshan tickets but later changed its decision to observe the fete without pilgrims.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Air India facing challenging situation

“Air India is facing a very challenging financial situation. However, the airline took recourse to several initiatives with a view to ensuring continuance of its operations. Covid-19 seriously impacted the airline sector and Air India's operations also took a serious hit

– **Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri**



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Quick AI adoption essential in India

Chip giant Intel said that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is essential to the future of work in the post-pandemic world, with over 90 per cent respondents in a survey considering AI to be essential or highly relevant to their businesses in India. More than 40 per cent of SMEs are using AI

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	78.78	South	
Euro	90.2	African Rand	5.06
UAE Dirham	21.97	Hong Kong Dollar	10.89
Thai Baht	2.7	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	98.94	New Zealand Dollar	50.86
Australian Dollar	54.49	Saudi Riyal	21.5
Canadian Dollar	58.36	Swedish Krona	9.51
Swiss Franc	83.39	Singapore Dollar	56.61

DELHI FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Etrio enters e-bicycle space

Hyderabad: Etrio, an electric vehicle startup, expanded its product portfolio with the launch of two new bicycle ranges. Catering to the cargo and personal segment, the two new brands, Ashva and iSwitch offer 80 kms and 35 kms range with a single charge respectively. Pegged as an electric cycle with the power of a motor-bike, iSwitch is equipped with a 250W BLDC motor offering 7-Speed Shimano Gears, 12 Magnet Pedal Assist with 38 Nm torque. The other e-bicycle, Ashva, is suited for the cargo and logistics segment. It offers a performance of 80 km range with comfortable wide seats. Deepak MV, co-founder & CEO, Etrio, said, "Being an OEM, with an aim to provide 'EVs for All', getting into this new category was a sure choice for us".

Hyundai Creta exports at 2 lakh

Hyderabad: Hyundai Motor India on Thursday said its SUV Creta has crossed two lakh cumulative exports milestone. The company ships Creta and various other models from its Chennai-based plant to around 88 countries. "Launched in 2015, Creta established its supremacy as a highly aspirational brand among customers globally. The magnanimous two lakh export milestone achieved by the model is a testimony of Hyundai's undeterred focus and commitment to 'Make in India, Made for the world'." HML MD and CEO SS Kim said. The automaker's plant in Tamil Nadu manufactures global quality products for both domestic and international markets, he added. Last year, HML exported 1,81,200 units with 792 customised variants according to country-specific preference and demand, the company said. The company currently exports 10 models to various countries around the world.

Equitas IPO to open on Oct 20

Hyderabad: Equitas Small Finance Bank on Thursday fixed the price band for its over Rs 500 crore initial public offering (IPO) at Rs 32-Rs 33 per equity share. The IPO consists of a fresh issue aggregating up to Rs 280 crore and an offer for sale of up to 7.2 crore equity shares by Equitas Holdings Limited, the holding company of the bank. The offer opens on October 20 and closes on October 22. Post this offer, Equitas Holdings share in the bank will come down to 82-83 per cent from 95.49 per cent. The bank's Managing Director and CEO P N Vasudevan said, "This is a capital we will be using as growth capital. We are adequately capitalised as of now and this adds to our capital ratio which supports our growth going forward."

New plan from Future Generali

Hyderabad: Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (FGIL) recently launched its new offering, Future Generali New Assured Wealth Plan. The product is a traditional non-par endowment insurance plan which provides flexibility to choose combination of premium payment term and policy term. Rakesh Wadhwa, Chief Customer and Marketing Officer, Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited, said, "Given the volatility in interest rates, many customers look for long term solution with guaranteed returns. Also, the ongoing pandemic has made people understand the importance of being financially protected. Both these factors have resulted in higher enquires for guaranteed life insurance products".

COVID

Apollo Hospitals looks to vaccinate 1 mn/day

HANS BUSINESS

Hyderabad: Leading healthcare provider Apollo Hospitals Group on Thursday said it is prepared to administer 1 million (10 lakh) Covid-19 vaccines daily to augment and support the government efforts to fight the pandemic.

The group will work with the government in tandem to make sure that the largest number of people get the vaccine safe and fast, Shobana Kamineni, Executive Vice-Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Group, told the media.

"Apollo Hospitals have been strengthening its vaccine cold chain for supply and gearing up all Apollo facilities for efficient and fast administration with the highest safety standards, for 1 million doses per day," she added. The group has the capability and has trained 10,000 professionals which will be stationed in all the group's pharmacies, clinics, in hospitals across the country, Kamineni said. "Almost 30 per cent of India is 30 minutes away from an Apollo facility. Every facility will have the capability and the professionals to administer a vaccine based on the government's directive," she added.

The group has also built up the largest cold chain network and distribution system to be able to safely transport and store this vaccine in the temperatures that are required, Kamineni said. The group's cold chain can deliver this

Healthcare major has trained 10,000 professionals for the vaccination task



Shobana Kamineni, Executive Vice-Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Group, speaking to the media on Thursday

vaccine in every part of the country within either 30 minutes or maximum two days, she added. "As the entire country awaits a vaccine for the deadly infectious disease, one of the major challenges will be around safe and orderly delivery of doses, for the population of 1.3 billion Indians, especially the vulnerable," Kamineni said. India is expected to have a Covid-19 vaccine from more than one source by early next year and the government is formulating distribution strategies for the immunisation of people across the country, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has said.

Stock markets crash amid global selloff

Sensex snaps 10-day rally to plunge 1,066 pts

Mumbai: Snapping its 10-session winning run, equity benchmark Sensex plunged 1,066.33 points on Thursday as investors pressed the exit button amid a massive selloff in global markets.

The 30-share BSE index plummeted 1,066.33 points or 2.61 per cent to end at 39,728.41. The broader NSE Nifty crashed 290.70 points or 2.43 per cent to 11,680.35.

Global equities cratered as hopes faded of a pre-election stimulus deal in the US, while multiple countries in Europe braced for a second round of lockdowns to curb rising Covid-19 cases, jeopardising the already shaky economic recovery. Back home, market participants were also eager to book profits after the recent rally amid already stretched valuations, traders said.

Barring Asian Paints, which inched up 0.32 per cent, all Sensex constituents closed in the red. Bajaj Finance was the top loser, tumbling 4.68 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank, SBI, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel and HCL Tech. Investors lost Rs 3.25 lakh crore in Thursday's session as the total market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies fell to Rs 157.31 lakh crore.

"The market had moved-up in expectation of a big stimulus, but the desired fiscal package was not



- Investors lose ₹3.25 lakh cr
- Nifty down 291 pts to 11,680
- Mkt participants book profits
- All sectoral indices end lower

announced in India and a delay of it in US and Euro has changed the trend. At the same time, the pace of economic recovery is under stress because of a resurgence of high rates of Covid infections," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

The margin of safety is low given premium prices and slowdown in economic recovery. The trend going forward will depend on the supportive measures announced in context to stimulus and commentary of Q2 results, he added. All sectoral indices closed lower, with BSE telecom, bankex,

energy, finance, tech and IT indices plunging as much as 3.54 per cent. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices nosedived up to 1.75 per cent. In rest of Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended up to 2 per cent lower. Stock exchanges in the Europe slumped up to 3 per cent in early deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 2.17 per cent lower at \$42.38 per barrel. In the forex market, the rupee pared its initial gains and settled 5 paise lower at 73.36 against the US dollar.

VC investments fall 21% to \$28.9 billion till Sept

Excluding investments in RIL, VC inflows nosedived 53%: EY report

Mumbai: Despite the \$11.7 billion raised by Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) through stake sales, venture investments in 2020 have declined by a fifth to \$28.9 billion till September, consultancy firm EY said in a report on Thursday.

Since mid-March, coronavirus infections started getting reported in the country, which has now become the second highest globally in terms of numbers.

The lockdowns severely dented economic activity, leading to a 23.9 per cent contraction in the gross domestic product (GDP) for the April-June period and expectations of a 9.5 per cent contraction by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for 2020-21.

Excluding the investments in Jio Platforms (RIL's telecom arm) and Reliance Retail Ven-



From a deal count perspective, the number of transactions came down to 686 in January-September 2020 as against 764 in the corresponding period last year

tures, investments by private equity (PE) and venture capital (VC) funds for the January-September 2020 period have declined 53 per cent to \$17.2 billion, the lowest in four years, EY's partner Vivek Soni said. He expects the Indian PE/VC

investments to close the year at around \$24-28 billion, excluding the bets in Reliance arms.

From a deal count perspective, the number of transactions came down to 686 in January-September 2020 as against 764 in the corresponding period last year. Last year's favourite sectors like infrastructure, real estate and financial services have witnessed significant decline in investment flow, while essential goods and services like pharma, telecom, digital technology and education technology have received a major chunk of investments, the firm said.

Real estate and infrastructure companies had garnered investments of \$16.1 billion, accounting for 44 per cent of the overall investments last year, and the same has come down to \$2.9 billion this year, it said.

'Big bull' buys Tata Motors' shares

New Delhi: The 'big bull' of Dalal Street, Rakesh Jhunjhunwala has bought 4 crore shares of Tata Motors, implying a 1.29 per cent stake. As per a disclosure by Tata Motors on the shareholding, Jhunjhunwala has bought 1.29 per cent stake in Tata Motors or 4 crore shares. This makes Jhunjhunwala one of the bigger minority shareholders. His entry into a stock is watched closely due to his track record of picking multibagger stocks and he is a marquee name on Dalal Street. As per the latest corporate shareholding details filed, Jhunjhunwala publicly holds 34 stocks with a net worth of over Rs 18,804.6 crore. Jhunjhunwala bought this stake in the September quarter, as per shareholding details. He has investments in different Tata group companies like Lallit India and Titan. During the quarter, he sold shares in Titan and bought shares in Agro Tech Foods, Tata Motors and Lupin Labs.

Remittances may hit rough patch in FY21

Mumbai: Muted external remittances growth is more of a structural issue than transitory, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said on Thursday.

According to the ratings agency the muted growth would further weaken aggregate consumption demand, though the impact will be restricted to few states, given their skewed shares in foreign remittances. "On the macro front, a considerable flow of remittances directly impacts aggregate demand and thus banking sector deposits," the agency said in a report.

"Meanwhile, banks with a higher non-resident Indian (NRI) deposit ratio in the total portfolio will be better able to hedge their risk than others, as the overall banking sector deposits are stable along with muted credit offtake."

Historically, India has remained as the largest receiver of remittances in the world; however, the share of remittances as



a percentage of gross disposable income receded to 2.5 per cent in FY19 from 3.5 per cent in FY10.

"Foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) has witnessed a year-on-year fall in deposits, whereas overall NRI accounts have reported an increase," the report said. "However, in Ind-Ra's rated portfolio, The Federal Bank Limited (IND AA/Stable) and The South Indian Bank Limited (IND A/Negative) have reported subdued growth in NRI deposits."

The agency opined that the key risk for banks will only emerge if the fall in deposits will continue amid an increase in withdrawals due to the factors induced by pandemic.

Kia Seltos SUV gets anniversary edition

Hyderabad: Kia Motors India on Thursday said it has launched a special edition of its SUV Seltos, priced between Rs 13.75 lakh and Rs 14.85 lakh, to mark the model's first year in the country.

The Seltos anniversary edition is based on HTX trim and comes with petrol and diesel engine options. The 1.5-litre petrol trim with manual transmission is priced at Rs 13.75 lakh, while petrol automatic is tagged at Rs 14.75 lakh. The diesel manual on the other hand is priced at Rs 14.85 lakh.

The anniversary edition comes with various exterior and interior changes over the regular Seltos. The length of the anniversary edition has been increased by 60 mm and it also comes with various features like black alloys, eatherette seats, remote engine start for manual transmission as well. A limited



stock of 6,000 units will be on sale. One monotone and three dual-tone colour schemes including a new colour Gravity Grey with Aurora Black Pearl, will be on offer.

"The launch of Seltos in 2019 laid a strong foundation for Kia as a brand in the country," Kia Motors India Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Kookhyun Shim said.

The Seltos with its features, design, quality, engine options and performance set new benchmarks and redefined the mid-SUV segment, he added.

PFRDA's AUM crosses ₹5 lakh cr mark

Total subscribers under National Pension System, Atal Pension Yojana at 3.76 cr now

New Delhi: The total assets under management of the National Pension System and Atal Pension Yojana have crossed Rs 5 lakh crore, regulator PFRDA said on Thursday.

Besides, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority hopes to hit a target of Rs 6 lakh crore AUM by the end of this fiscal. As on October 10, 2020, the total number of subscribers under the NPS and APY has crossed 3.76 crore, and the asset under management (AUM) has grown to Rs 5,05,424 crore, the pension fund regulator said in a virtual press conference.

"Achieving Rs 5 lakh crore AUM is a major achievement which reflects the subscribers have faith in PFRDA and NPS. We have enabled a robust and unique architecture with efficient systems and professional fund managers, delivering mar-

We have enabled a robust and unique architecture with efficient systems and professional fund managers, delivering market-based returns

– **PFRDA Chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay**



ket-based returns enabling our subscriber to accumulate their retirement corpus," PFRDA Chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay said. The subscriber's contributions under the National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have jointly contributed to this land-

mark figure, over a period of 12 years, PFRDA said.

The growth in NPS subscribers has also been remarkable over the years with 70.40 lakh employees joining the scheme from the government sector and 24.24 lakh from the non-government sector. During this pandemic, a

growing realisation of both corporates and individuals has emerged that retirement planning is not a mere saving or tax benefit choice, witnessed by NPS enrolment - growing almost 14 per cent during this challenging period, he said.

On the level of AUM expected by the end of the current fiscal, Bandyopadhyay said: "We believe, we will be very close to Rs 6 lakh crore AUM (by year-end). But nobody can tell about the market forces... But it (AUM) will be very close to Rs 6 lakh crore, if not Rs 6 lakh crore".

He also said that PFRDA is seeing continuous onboarding of new subscribers even during the current pandemic situation.

Besides, the agency has allowed many sectors to join under its pension fold and operational guidelines have been eased to ensure more people can participate.

KTR prods health staff to stem spread of infectious diseases

- The Minister instructs the Health and MA&UD departments to take up sanitation and disinfection activities on war-footing in the rain-hit areas
- Medical, health staff put on toes
- Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao directs the staff of medical and health departments to prevent the spread of water-borne and vector-borne diseases in rain-affected areas

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao on Thursday alerted the medical and health departments and asked the officials to make sure that infectious diseases do not spread in the areas inundated in water. The Minister along with Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and other officials reviewed the relief activities taken up in the rain-affected areas of Hyderabad at BRKR Bhavan on Thursday. The Minister instructed the Health and MA&UD depart-



Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao holding a review meeting with Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and other officials in Hyderabad on Thursday

ments to take up sanitation and disinfection activities parallelly to prevent spread of water-borne, vector-borne diseases. Minister also instructed the officials to alert people about precautions to be taken for the next few days. Rama Rao informed that the HMWS&SB has increased testing of water samples and also started distribution of chlorine tablets. Minister instructed the officials to station 104 vehicles at various locations to cater to the health-care needs and also stock ade-

quate medicines and disinfectants required. Minister also asked the officials to arrange 50,000 bedsheets for the needy at all relief shelters. He asked the officials to make the 104 vehicles ready for providing immediate medical assistance. The officials informed that since Wednesday, food packets were given to about 50,000 people in the affected areas and they would be served food on Thursday also. Later, the Minister inspected the rain-affected areas in Nal-

akunta, Musheerabad, Amberpet, Khairatabad and Tolichowki, and interacted with the residents. He assured the residents that all the necessary measures would be taken immediately to restore normalcy in the area. The Minister instructed the officials to submit proposals on setting up of the pipelines and sewer systems to avoid flood situation in future. MP Asaduddin Owaisi, MLAs Mutta Gopal and Kaleru Venkatesh and senior officials from various departments were present.

Gutkha worth ₹64 lakh seized

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The north zone task force on Thursday raided multiple places under Afzalgunj PS and arrested two persons for selling the gutkha illegally in the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The accused were identified as Fazil Hussain and Abbas. The Commissioner of police, Hyderabad, Anjani Kumar said that both the arrested accused were transporters of the banned substance and a total of 41 bags of gutkha worth Rs 64 lakh was seized from their possession. He said, "The arrested ones were actually working for a gang of seven persons who were controlling the entire syndicate in both Telangana and AP. The gang leaders who are still absconding, hired transporters and associates to sell the banned substance, the



associates initially would approach a pan shop and kirana shop owner and fix a deal with them to supply the gutkha." "Once a deal was finalised, the associates would hand over the details of the merchants to the gang leaders who then would inform

the transporters to supply the products to them in a discreet manner. Moreover, the gang was importing gutkha from Karnataka and keeping it in their godown. Special teams have been formed to nab the gang leaders," stated the officer.

Actor, father booked over trademark violation

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Shamshabad police on Thursday booked the actor Sachin Joshi and his father JM Joshi on charges of cheating and violation of the Trade Marks Act.

According to police, a case was booked after a complaint from Saidabad-based businessman AV Suresh Kumar was lodged wherein he alleged that the actor and his firm, operating all over India, were using the trademark of Manikchand illegally.

The DCP of Shamshabad, N Prakash Reddy said, "Based on the complaint filed by the businessman, the police also raided the premises of Golden Fin-



gers Food products, Gagan Pahad under the RGI airport police station limits. Pan masala and raw materials, all put worth Rs 1.20 crore were seized during the raid." "The company used the trademark of 7 Hills Manikchand, manufactured and sold pan masala under the brand name "Manikchand" without the required trademark. They cheated the gullible citizens and the 7 Hills Company. For this reason, a case was booked against the management of Golden Fingers Food products and the investigation is still in progress. Once the investigation is completed, necessary action will be taken against the actor and his firm," stated the DCP.

GREEN CHALLENGE DA JAWAB NAHI...!



Former World Cup winning captain Kapil Dev watering a sapling after accepting TRS MP J Santhosh Kumar's Green India Challenge at his house in New Delhi. He expressed his happiness to be part of the Challenge and asked all Indians to plant as many trees as possible to protect environment and improve greenery. He also opined that it is the duty of this generation to give good environment to the next generation.

- Coordinate with DRF, police and Army help thousands
- Volunteers coordinated in the inundated areas were seen distributing food packets, rice and other essentials in lanes and bylanes which were submerged in several feet of waters
- Groups like Helping Hand Foundation (HHF), known for its medical services in City, began undertaking flood relief operations in slums and rescued the people stranded there

MD NIZAMUDDIN

Hyderabad: Several voluntary organisations on Thursday continued their efforts to mitigate the pain of one of the worst calamities brought by nature in decades.

Thanks to social media, men like Md Muneeruddin of Alkhair Society and other organisations created Whatsapp groups overnight on October 13, to coor-



dinate rescue and relief works in and around Tolichowki, which helped spread awareness about the grave situation across the City.

A coordinated effort was in place, even as the relief efforts continued in Nadeem Colony in Tolichowki, Golconda, Al Jubail Colony, Chandrayangutta, Shaheen Nagar, Royal Colony Bala-pur, Yaqutpura, Malakpet, Bahadurpura, Falaknuma and Muradnagar. Muneeruddin procured some more lifesaving jackets for the volunteers. "A coordinated program was launched



irrespective of religion or caste for rescuing the stranded people, providing temporary accommodation, preparing and distributing food packets and drinking water," he said.

The volunteers of SIO who coordinated in the inundated areas were seen distributing food packets, rice and other essentials in lanes and bylanes which were submerged in several feet of waters. According to City president of JIH, Mohammad Rashaduddin volunteers took up relief works on a war-footing. Approximately a total of 15,000 ready to eat food

packets were distributed. "People were shifted to safer places by boats in Tolichowki, Nadeem Colony and other severely affected areas. In few places, emergency kits were also distributed. People on a large scale have been affected and it is imperative to provide immediate relief to them," he said.

While other groups like Helping Hand Foundation (HHF), known for its medical services in City, began undertaking flood relief operations in slums inundated and people were stranded. "Food, blankets, bread, fruits and

water are the immediate need of the hour for the next few days until conditions improve. Our volunteers including our women workforce braced waist to neck-deep waters to distribute food and water in houses which were inaccessible to even relief workers from GHMC and police," said Mujtaba Hasan Askari of Foundation.

Amongst other groups Sakina Foundation, run by Congress leader, Md Asif Hussain Sohail, Welfare Party of India and Amoomat Society continued their voluntary help by distributing food and clothes to the affected.

Before the government could announce relief camps, the MS Education Academy, which has a chain of educational institutions offered space in schools and colleges in Mehdiapatnam, Santosh Nagar, Rajendranagar, Musheerabad, Tolichowki, Charminar, Malakpet and several other places to the displaced people. Some mosques also opened themselves as relief camps near Golconda. Pictures of volunteers assisting DRF, police and Army in flood-affected areas remained under circulation.

CDFD finds four unique mutations in Covid-19 strain in Telangana State

- The scientists also observed predominance of D614G spike protein mutation in more than 95 per cent samples.
- This mutation has been associated with higher infection rates of the virus

Y MALLIKARJUN

Hyderabad: Four unique and relatively high frequency mutations have been found in coronavirus strain circulating predominantly in Telangana by the scientists of the Hyderabad-based Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD).

The CDFD has undertaken a comprehensive SARS-CoV-2 genomic study from Telangana. The Genomic sequencing of 210 viral isolates obtained from Hyderabad and surrounding districts has revealed that the Wuhan strain has been virtually replaced by another strain, which probably came from Europe. Called as "20B" lineage or the G/GR clade, it was associated with 95 per cent of the samples, according to CDFD Director, Dr K Thangaraj.

The scientists also observed a very high predominance of D614G spike protein mutation in more than 95 per cent samples. This mutation has been associated with higher infection rates of the virus. Also, several unique, low-frequency gene muta-



Volunteers wearing PPE performing virus inactivation from patient samples in the BSL2 lab facility in CDFD

tions (not reported earlier) were identified affecting specific viral proteins involved in viral propagation. Since April, the CDFD has received 26,000 samples from across Telangana and 7,000 (around 26 per cent) of them tested positive. Although the samples of the males were more than the females, the infection rates were almost similar—it was 25.5 per cent among males and 26.5 per cent among females.

The highest infection rate was found in patients of 15-40 years of age group. More than 50 percent of the 14,000 samples in this group

were positive. Around 32.8 percent of the samples (1679) in COVID-19 patients aged 60 years and above were found to be positive, while the infection rate in patients of 40-60 years' age group was 28.2 percent.

While it is not yet known whether the high-frequency mutations were in any way contributing to reducing the virulence of the virus and low mortality in India, Dr Thangaraj said that scientific evidence in the past has shown that mutations in the immunologically relevant genes in Malaria and Leishmaniasis patients are significantly different when

compared to normal individuals suggesting that some individuals / populations acquired mutations that give resistance against both diseases.

Besides, people in India are generally exposed to a wide variety of pathogens as compared to the populations in developed countries. That might have also contributed to a better immune response to infections with our genome adapting to live against certain micro-organisms, he added.

Pointing out that genomic variation plays a critical role in the progression of infectious diseases and mortality, Dr Thangaraj cited the example of ancestral tribes living in forests. He said they developed certain mutations which gave them resistance against malaria infection.

He said the high frequency mutations found in the Coronavirus strain have to be carefully looked into while developing vaccines and drugs.

Dr Thangaraj said genomic analysis was important to study the function of altered (mutant) proteins and their effect in protein-protein and protein-RNA interactions in viral propagation within the host as also viral adaptation to evade host immune response. He said CDFD was analyzing around 300 samples from COVID-19 infected patients per day.

The CDFD Covid-19 Diagnostics is spearheaded by Dr Ashwin Dalal, Dr Rashmi Bhandari, Dr Murali Dharan Bashyam and Dr R Hari-narayanan.

Guv's telemedicine service a hit; takes 21 calls in one hour

The calls ranging from common cold to kidney failure were answered by the Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Thursday set an example by attending numerous calls from patients seeking medical advice. The governor and team took 21 calls in one hour.

The Governor patiently answered the calls seeking medical help and advice by many callers during the telemedicine service offered on Thursday evening in the wake of rain and floods situation.

The calls ranging from kidney failure to common cold and symptoms of Covid-19, back pain, infertility and urinary incontinence were patiently answered by the Governor as part of telemedicine service from the Raj Bhavan here. The Governor had announced on Wednesday that she would be taking calls from the public and provide medical advice. The Governor, besides offering the expert medical advice and suggestions, also tried to motivate them to face the situations boldly and follow the healthy practices as per the doctors suggestions to overcome the ailments. The patients were pleasantly surprised by the Governor's affectionate greetings in Tel-



ugu and her assuring words. Responding to a request for help from one woman whose husband's two kidneys have failed, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan directed the Raj Bhavan officials to follow up the request and coordinate with the government for necessary help.

"I always make it a point to respond to numerous requests from people through emails, petitions and through postings on my social media platforms. Without wasting any time we forward the letters with a note to the departments concerned so as to do justice to people," she added. During her

interaction with the patients and their family members during the telemedicine service, the Governor advised the people not to panic with common cold or mild fever which are common in the rainy season. "If the symptoms persist and aggravate, better to take the Covid-19 test and get timely medical help. We must maintain physical distance, wear masks and sanitize hands to prevent the Covid-19 spread," she said.

Doctors Dinesh and Naga Mani, who work at the Raj Bhavan Dispensary, assisted the Governor during the telemedicine programme.

Wearing out pitches due to overuse make IPL teams pick spinners

New Delhi (IANS): Chennai Super Kings fielded three spinners against SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH) on Tuesday, and two of them shared three very important wickets, including that of Jonny Bairstow and Kane Williamson, to help CSK secure a win and give the struggling team a much needed lifeline in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

As many as three spinners in an XI - in CSK's case Ravindra Jadeja, PiyushChawla, and Karn Sharma -- is an indication that spinners, or slow bowlers, will play a key role going forward with the pitches starting to wear out.

"Spinners will come into play. Wickets are getting tired. There are three pitches [venues] to play on, so they will get tired," said legendary Sri Lankan off-spinner MuttiahMuralitharan, the bowling coach of SRH, on the sidelines of Tuesday night's game, while referring to Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

Tuesday's CSK-SRH game was the first of the second half of the league phase of the tournament.

Till now, pace bowlers have led the bowling charts, with the only spinners in the top 10 wicket-takers being SRH's Rashid Khan and Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB) YuzvendraChahal.

But things may change, although Delhi Capitals's fast bowler AnrichNortje bowled three fastest deliveries in IPL history in a game against Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday in Dubai.

With pitches beginning to wear out and tire with just three venues being used, rotation of playing surfaces becomes key.

A couple of Indian curators IANS spoke to feel the wickets will begin to take turn not just because of limited venues and dry weather but also because the matches haven't been spaced out properly.

It initially seemed that the BCCI had planned the tournament well. They had given just 10 matches to Sharjah, which has just three pitches, so there wouldn't be much load on these. Abu Dhabi and Dubai are sharing the bulk of games and



there are more pitches there for rotation.

"However, of what I have heard that is not happening. There are only a limited number of pitches -- three at the most -- that are being used," says a curator who did not wish to be named.

Dubai is hosting the maxi-

mum league games, 24, while Abu Dhabi is hosting 20.

"Ideally, they should not have kept back-to-back games at a venue," adds the curator.

Whether or not pitches are being rotated, one venue hosting back-to-back matches is happening on quite a few occasions.

For example, Wednesday's game between Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals took place in Dubai, so did Tuesday's match between CSK and SRH.

Games on October 6 and 7 took place at one venue, i.e. Abu Dhabi, even though it was not a weekend on which double headers are played. Similarly,

matches on September 24 and 25 too took place at one place i.e. Dubai.

These are instances on weekdays and alternate venues could have been used. If weekends are counted then back-to-back games are aplenty.

Of course, this problem has arisen due to the limited number of venues in these extraordinary times as the tournament is being played in the United Arab Emirates due to Covid-19. In India, the matches are spread out across, at least, eight venues.

When asked about the problem of rotation, former head of BCCI's pitches and grounds committee Daljit Singh said things do become difficult when there are limited venues.

"I think BCCI has done a tremendous job in ensuring that the IPL has been held this time. They have ensured that the livelihood of cricketers and others is not affected. However, in this case, I think it would have been better had they sent an Indian curator or two who has huge experience in conducting such a long tourna-

ment," said Daljit.

"There are technicalities and science involved which they are aware of," he pointed out.

In situations like these, five-six pitches are used alternately. Like pitches Nos.1, 3, and 5 would be used first, and then Nos. 2, 4, and 6.

It is a surprise as to why the Board of Control for Cricket in India failed to send even a single India curator to the UAE while it has sent officials from several other departments.

Those in charge of pitch preparation are the curators who are already employed there. Ideally, there should have been an India curator with experience of IPL.

The last time IPL happened in the UAE, in 2014, curator PR Viswanathan was sent even though only 20 matches were held there at the time.

Ahead of Wednesday night's game in Dubai, Steve Smith looked at the pitch and immediately said, "It looks dry." There could be more such reactions.

Whether or not the pitches tire out or spinners come into play remains to be seen.

Cricket journalist and commentator Bhimani dies at 80

Mumbai: Veteran journalist and former cricket commentator Kishore Bhimani died on Thursday at the age of 80. Bhimani was a leading voice when it came to cricket commentary in the Eighties and Nineties.

Bhimani also edited the sports pages of Kolkata's top newspaper, The Statesman. He was also a noted columnist.

Bhimani had received a lifetime achievement award in 2013 for his contribution to sports and media. His only son, GautamBhimani, is a well-known television personality and a quiz master.

Tributes poured in from several quarters, especially from old-timers like former Indian cricket captain, Bishan Singh Bedi.

Bedi tweeted: "...he was one of the good Old Fashioned Crkrt writer who took Crkrt writings like a player who takes to playing...Condolences to his Spouse Rita & Son Gautam...God-Bless All Always... Fondly."



Bhimani was one of the leading commentators alongside NarottamPuri, Ravi Chaturvedi ad SushilDoshi. Bhimani had commented on the famous Tied Test in 1986. Fellow journalists who saw Bhimani (Sr) at work, were among those who paid their tribute. "As a child listening to cricket commentary, the names SusheelDoshi, NarottamPuri, KishoreBhimani, Ravi Chaturvedi, AnupamGulati were as famous as Gavaskar, Vishu, Kapil, Bedi, Chandra. The voices brought the game into our homes and hearts," wrote veteran journalist MakrandWaingankar.

DENMARK OPEN Srikanth advances to quarters

Copenhagen (IANS): Ace Indian shuttlerKidambiSrikanth on Thursday came out with yet another commanding performance as he defeated Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue in straight-games to enter the quarterfinals of the ongoing Denmark Open.

Srikanth, seeded fifth, defeated Ho-Shue 21-15, 21-14 in just 33 minutes to make it to the last eight of the Super 750 tournament

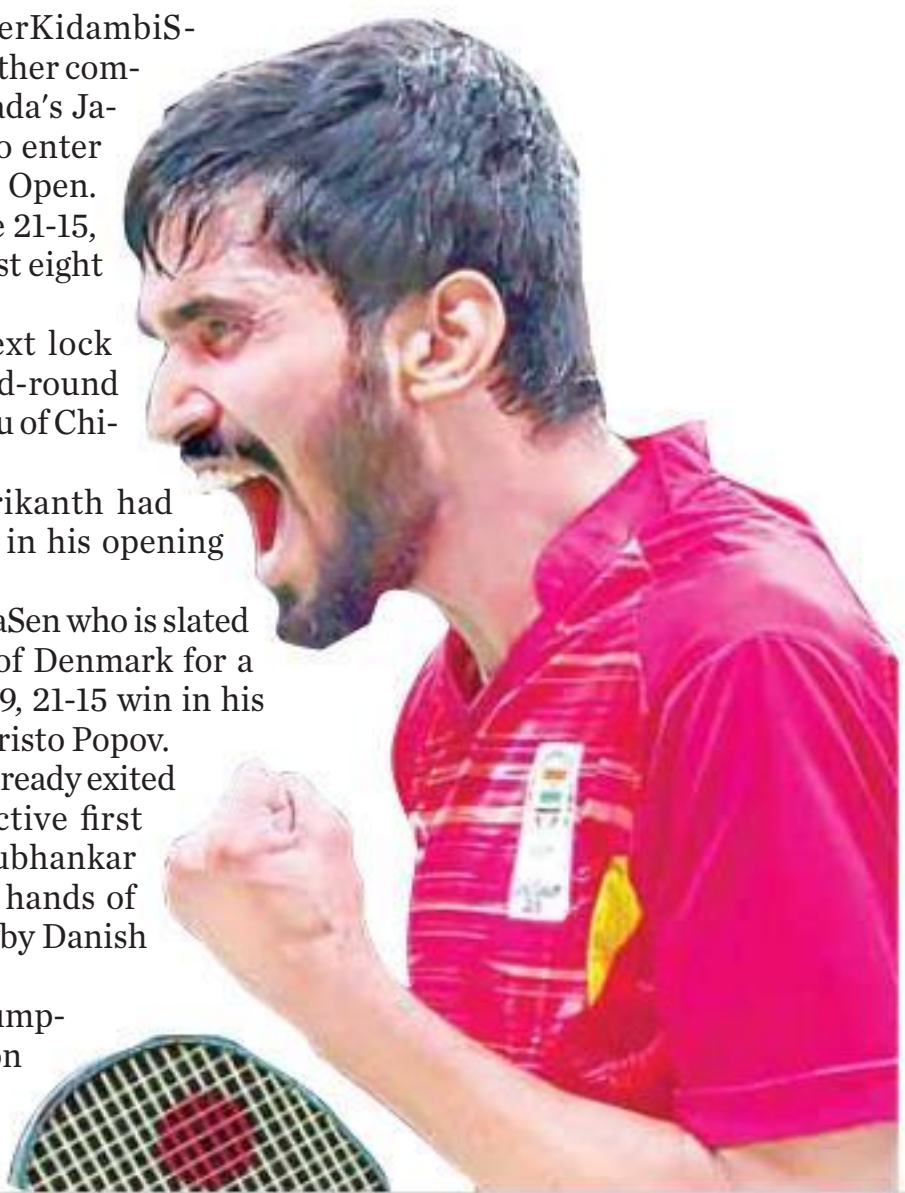
The former world number one will next lock horns with the winner of the other second-round match between second seed Tien Chen Chou of Chinese Taipei and Ireland's Nhat Nguyen.

Back in action after seven months, Srikanth had beaten England's Toby Pentty 21-12, 21-18 in his opening round match on Wednesday.

The other Indian left in the fray is LakshyaSen who is slated to face Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus of Denmark for a place in last eight.Sen had registered a 21-9, 21-15 win in his opening round contest against France's Christo Popov.

ShubhankarDey and Ajay Jayaram have already exited the tournament after losing their respective first round matches on Wednesday. While Shubhankar had suffered a 13-21, 8-21 defeated at the hands of Ho-Shue, Jayaram was beaten 12-21, 14-21 by Danish third seed Anders Antonsen.

The Denmark Open has marked the resumption of the BWF calendar which has been on a halt since March following the outbreak of novel coronavirus.



Kohli bats for captains' call on wide ball review in T20s

Dubai (IANS): India skipper ViratKohli has suggested that captains in T20 cricket should be given the authority to review wide ball and waist-high full-toss from on-field umpires.

"As a captain, I would like to have the ability to review a wide which could be a wrong call or a waist high full toss which could be a wrong call," Kohli told KL Rahul during an Instagram chat session on Wednesday.

"Historically, we've seen how these small things can affect the game in a fast paced T20 format and high-profile tournaments like IPL," he added.

Kohli's comments come in the aftermath of a controversy involving MS Dhoni during Chennai Super Kings' match against SunRisers Hyderabad in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

During the 19th over of SRH's chase of 168 on Tuesday evening, both Dhoni and bowler Shardul Thakur expressed their disappointment after umpire Paul Reiffel stretched his arms to signal a wide being faced by Rashid Khan. Following Dhoni's miffed gesture, the umpire then seemed to change his mind and decided not to call the wide. Reiffel put his arms down looking at CSK captain's reaction, and declared it as a fair delivery.

TODAY'S MATCH

Mumbai Indians vs Kolkata Knight Riders at 7.30pm

GiroD'Italia: Demare takes 4th win on Stage 11

Rimini (Italy) (IANS): A fourth stage win for Frenchman Arnaud Demare saw the in-form Groupama-FDJ rider extend his lead at the top of the magliacclamino standings in Stage 11 to the beach resort of Rimini in the ongoing GiroD'Italia.

One day after Peter Sagan ended his drought, normal service resumed for the Slovakian, who had to settle for a fourth second place after the 182km stage -- of the race being broadcast on Eurosport network -- along the Adriatic coast on Wednesday. Having closed the gap to 20 points, Sagan now trails Demare by 36 points in the two-horse race for the purple jersey.

Once again, Demarebenefitted from a flawless leadout from his Groupama-FDJ train, the 29-year-old launching from the wheels of teammate Jacopo Guarnieri on the home straight and never looking back.

Sagan (Bora-Hansgrohe) beat



the Colombian Alvaro Hodeg (Deceuninck Quick-Step) for second place while the Italian Simone Consonni (Cofidis) and the German Rick Zabel (Israel Start-Up Nation) completed the top five.

Despite some hard work from his UAE-Team Emirates outfit, the misfiring Colombian Fernando Gaviria could only muster seventh place, while tenth-place EliaViviani's chances were not

done any favours when the Italian sprinter from Cofidis was knocked off his bike by a race motorcycle with 32km remaining.

On a day which belonged to Demare and his Groupama-FDJ team, there was no change in the overall classification as Portugal's Joao Almeida (Deceuninck Quick-Step) retained the pink jersey with a 34-second lead over the Dutchman WilcoKelderman (Team Sunweb).

News of Olympics postponement came as a shock: Kom

New Delhi (IANS): Ace Indian boxer MC Mary Kom has revealed she was shocked when she first heard about the postponement of Tokyo Olympics due to Covid-19 pandemic. Originally scheduled to be held from July 24 to Aug 9 this year, the Tokyo Olympics was in March postponed to 2021 due to the outbreak of coronavirus. It is now set to be held from July 23 to August 8 next year. "I was so surprised. This news came as a shock to all of us. It's challenged our life and routines and it's no different for me. I have been fighting for almost 20 years," said Mary Kom while speaking to Indian cricket team captain ViratKohli during an Instagram live session. "I have been trying to do my training and all the activities at home. Only thing I was not able to do was sparring. Boxing requires sparring, so you can easily perform in competition. I do my running, skipping and strength training at home. I am preparing. I am trying to get more strength to improve myself in this situation," she added.

Batting in white shoes is Kohli's superstition

New Delhi (IANS): Even Indian cricket team captain ViratKohli has a superstition.

"I love playing in white shoes, batting specially. It's more of a superstition for me," Kohli told Pep Guardiola, the Manchester City boss, during an Instagram live session.

"When I bat, it's my zone and time to be absolutely close to myself and perform," said the 31-year-old, who made his international debut in 2008.

Kohli also asked Guardiola about him switching colours of his shoes during his playing days. To which the Manchester City boss replied: "When I was playing, all the shoes were black. Now to find a black boot is so difficult. One day when I wore red boots, my mentor and the best manager Johan Cruyff saw it and made me change back into black boots."

Guardiola further revealed that football matches being held with-

out fans during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic feel like "friendly games".

"Without people it's not the same. It feels like a friendly game. We must do it, the show must go on! We need the people to come back to the stadiums when everything is safe," said the 49-year-old.

"It feels very different without them. We miss the fans. Playing closed behind the scenes is weird," he added.

Kohli, who has so far played 86 Tests, 248 ODIs and 82 T20Is, is currently leading Royal Challengers Bangalore in the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) being played across three venues sans fans in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).



No place for Kohli, Dhoni in fantasy teams picked by ex-players

New Delhi (IANS): Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper ViratKohli and MS Dhoni of Chennai Super Kings have not been able to find a spot in the fantasy teams picked up three former cricketers for the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League.

The three IPL commentators -- West Indies' Ian Bishop, Simon Doull of New Zealand and Michael Slater of Australia -- picked their respective teams of the season. Bishop named Kieron Pollard as captain of his team which included the likes of KL Rahul, Rashid Khan and JaspritBumrah. Slater, on the other hand, picked ShreyasIyer as the captain of his side which has players like Rishabh Pant and MayankAgarwal.

Doull named AB de Villiers as captain of the fantasy team which has players like VarunChakravathy and KagisoRabada.

The only player to find place in all the three teams is Delhi Capitals skipper ShreyasIyer. His side is currently at the top of the points table with 12 points from eight games.

Ian Bishop fantasy XI: Kieron Pollard (c), KL Rahul, Faf du Plessis, SuryakumarYadav, ShreyasIyer (vc), Hardik-Pandya, Rashid Khan, Mohammad Shami, KagisoRabada, JaspritBumrah, YuzvendraChahal

Simon Doull fantasy XI: AB de Villiers (c), MayankAgarwal, ShreyasIyer, Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant, Kieron Pollard (vc), Marcus Stoinis, YuzvendraChahal, VarunChakravathy, JaspritBumrah, KagisoRabada.

Have learnt more from defeats than victories, Chhetri tells Kohli

Dubai (IANS): Sunil Chhetri, captain of the Indian men's football team, has stated that in life, he has learned more from defeats than victories.

"I think in life I have learnt more from defeats. When I've won a lot, over a period of time I feel I become complacent," Chhetri told Indian cricket team skipper ViratKohli during an Instagram live session arranged by Puma.

Kohli agreed with Chhetri and said: "Yes, you understand that you learn more from losses than victories. When you win, you hardly reflect on things. But, I have realised you should reflect even when you win. You always have something to im-

prove on, learn and get better at. If we can get that consistency in wins and losses, you can be more balanced going forward."

Chhetri is India's all-time top goal-scorer and second in the world in the list of active goalscorers in international football. He has scored 72 international goals while star Portuguese striker Cristiano Ronaldo has scored 101.

When asked by Kohli about his motivation, the talismanic striker said: "There is no comparison. I feel happy about it and forget about it. The joy of playing football and the love I get is unbelievable. It's not something I have dreamt of." "I want

to give it everything I have got. I don't take the pressure, I just enjoy it because I'm living a life which I have not even dreamt of. I don't let even a day go by where I don't give my 100 per cent," he added. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, fans are currently not allowed to watch their favourites sporting stars in action from inside the stadiums. Currently, Kohli is in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) leading Royals Challengers Bangalore in the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) being played sans fans.

"As a fan, when I got the news that I won't be able to watch the game in the stadium, I felt bad. Sport is all

about fans. I realised live sports gives you so much happiness. It's equally exciting," said Chhetri. "When you get an opportunity to watch live sports, there aren't many things in life better than that. I'm saying it with all my heart. As a fan you have to be patient. Watch the live game on television and enjoy it," he added.

Even Kohli agreed that fans boost the confidence of the players and motivate them to bring out their A-game. "Players benefit more from fans being there (inside the stadium). Fans even when watching from home, when they put full energy into watching and supporting the team, it

reaches the team. That support really gives players a boost," said the 31-year-old. Chhetri also talked about his experience in the lockdown which was imposed first in March to stem the spread of novel coronavirus.

"In the first one month, I had no clue as to what I'm going to - not allowed to go out, not allowed to train was difficult. Suddenly it hits you that life is much more bigger than your sport," he said.

