



Dhoni fan paints his home yellow, makes thala's portrait on wall

Chennai (IANS): A hardcore fan of former India skipper MS Dhoni in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore district has painted his house in yellow -- the Chennai Super Kings colour in the Indian Premier League. Not only the outer walls are painted in yellow but they also sport the CSK logo "the lion", the tagline "whistle podu" and also a portrait of Dhoni. Gopikrishnan, the fan, has also loudly proclaimed that he is an ardent Dhoni fan by painting in bold letters 'HOME OF DHONI FAN' above the entrance of the house. According to reports, Gopikrishnan works in the Middle East and owing to Covid-19, he has returned home. Reports also said he had splashed around Rs 1.5 lakh to paint the CSK colours. Chennai Super Kings, the three-time IPL champions, have however not been able to play as per expectations in the ongoing 13th edition of the tournament being staged in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) due to Covid-19 pandemic. Out of the eight matches they have played so far, the Men in Yellow have registered wins in only three and are currently placed at the sixth spot in the points table. CSK, who defeated SunRisers Hyderabad on Tuesday night in Dubai, will next face Delhi Capitals on Saturday.

Implement interest waiver as soon as possible: SC

'Common man's Diwali is in government's hands'

New Delhi (PTI): The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the Centre should implement "as soon as possible" interest waiver on loans of up to Rs 2 crore under the RBI moratorium scheme in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, saying the common man's Diwali is in the government's hands.

The apex court sought to know from the Centre as to whether the benefit of loan interest waiver for borrowers of up to Rs 2 crore during the moratorium period has "percolated" to the common man. The court, which observed that it is concerned about how benefit of interest waiver would be given to borrowers, said the Centre has taken a "welcome decision" by taking note of plight of common

LOAN MORATORIUM

man but authorities have not issued any order in this regard.

"Something concrete has to be done," a bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said, adding, "Benefits of waivers to borrowers up to Rs 2 crore must be implemented as soon as possible". The top court, which posted the matter for hearing on November 2, told the advocates appearing for the Centre and banks that "Diwali is in your hand". The Centre recently told the apex court that going any further than the fiscal policy decisions already taken, such as waiver of compound interest charged on loans of up to Rs 2

crore for six months moratorium period, may be "detrimental" to the overall economic scenario, the national economy and banks may not take "inevitable financial constraints".

The top court is hearing a batch of petitions which have raised issues concerning the six-month loan moratorium period announced due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The bench, also comprising Justices R S Reddy and M R Shah, said when authorities have decided something then it has to be implemented. "The government has taken a welcome decision taking note of the plight of

common man. But you have not issued any order to anybody. You have simply given us the affidavit," the bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

"We are now concerned about how waiver benefit will be given," the bench said, adding, "We are only asking whether the loan interest waiver has percolated or not". During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, Mehta told the bench that the Centre has taken an "informed decision" and has taken a "huge burden".

"When Central Government says on an affidavit that it will be implemented then there should not be any apprehensions," Mehta said. **Continued on Page 5**

Winter could be colder this season, warns IMD

New Delhi (PTI): Winter could be colder this season due to the prevailing La Nina conditions, India Meteorological Department Director-General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said on Wednesday.

He said there should not be an impression that climate change leads to rise in the temperature, but on the contrary, it leads to erratic weather.

"As weak La Nina condition is prevailing, we can expect more cold this year. The El Nino and La Nina conditions

play a dominant role if you consider the large scale factor for the occurrence of cold wave conditions," Mohapatra said. He was addressing a webinar on 'Cold Wave Risk Reduction' organised by the National Disaster Management Authority. "La Nina conditions are favourable for cold wave conditions, while El Nino conditions are unfavourable for it," he added. Mohapatra said Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are among the states that mostly see deaths due to cold waves.

Noted Kuchipudi danseuse Shobha Naidu passes away

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Acclaimed Kuchipudi danseuse, Shobha Naidu, passed away on Wednesday at a private hospital in Hyderabad. The 64-year-old dancer was undergoing treatment for brain haemorrhage.

She was born in Anakapalle in Andhra Pradesh and went to become an exponent of the Kuchipudi dance form, under the tutelage of Vempati Chinna Satyam.

Naidu worked as the



principal of Kuchipudi Art Academy in Hyderabad since the 1980s.

Her famous presentations include Vipranarayana, Kalyana Srinivasam, Sri Krishna

Saranam Mama, Vijayosthutha Naari, Ksheera Saagara Madhanam, Sarvam Saimayam, Jagadaananda Kaaraka, Girija Kalyaanam, Swami Vivekananda and Navarasa Natbamini among others.

Essaying the role of a protagonist, Shobha Naidu donned the roles of Satyabhama, Chandaliika, Devadevaki, Padmavathi, Mohini, Sai Baba, Goddess Parvati and several others in her famous performances. **Continued on Page 5**

Hathras case: PIL in SC seeks case under SC/ST Act against cops, officials

New Delhi (PTI): A fresh PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court in the Hathras incident, in which a Dalit girl was allegedly raped and died of injuries, seeking registration of criminal case under SC/ST Act against police personnel, medical staff and other government officials involved in the case as also a probe by a special task force (STF).

Maharashtra-based Dalit rights activist Chetan Janardhan Kamble said he was constrained to file the PIL after some glaring facts were revealed regarding the state support for manipulating and destroying evidence in the Hathras gang-rape and murder case, from the affidavit filed by the Uttar Pradesh government in the top court in another PIL.

The issues regarding cover up in medical reports prepared by government hospitals and cremation of the body by the police personnel in the face of objections of the family of the victim in order to protect the accused persons, which were being speculated in media reports have now been revealed through the affidavit in reply and documents annexed thereto by the state of UP, said the plea, which is likely to be taken up for hearing on October 15. The PIL, filed through advocate Vipin

Nair, said the incident has shocked the conscience of the society at large and how the State machinery is using all efforts to ensure that the accused remain well-shielded, including manipulation and destruction of the evidence, for reasons best known to it. The facts clearly indicate the involvement and complicity of certain UP State police and officials of the state government machinery in manipulation and destruction of evidence and shielding the accused in respect of the subject crime, it said.

On October 6, terming as "shocking and horrible" the Hathras incident, the top court had said it would ensure a smooth investigation and sought Uttar Pradesh government's reply on how the witnesses were being protected in the case in which a Dalit girl was allegedly brutally raped and died of injuries.

The Uttar Pradesh government, which earlier filed an affidavit in the case, urged the top court to order CBI probe into the incident saying an innocent life has been lost and the central agency may be ordered to conduct the probe under the supervision of the apex court itself. The Centre has accepted the recommendation of UP government for CBI investigation in the case after which the probe agency has registered a fresh case.



BUSINESS

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US Supreme Court halts census in latest twist of 2020 count

Washington: The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that the Trump administration can end census field operations early, in a blow to efforts to make sure minorities and hard-to-enumerate communities are properly counted in the crucial once-a-decade tally.

The decision was not a total loss for plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging the administration's decision to end the count early. They managed to get nearly two extra weeks of counting people as the case made its way through the courts.

However, the ruling increased the chances of the Trump administration retaining control of the process that decides how many congressional seats each state gets -- and by extension how much voting power each

The Supreme Court has ruled that the Trump administration can end census field operations early, in a blow to efforts to make sure minorities are properly counted in the crucial once-a-decade tally

state has. The Supreme Court justices' ruling came as the nation's largest association of statisticians, and even the U.S. Census Bureau's own census takers and partners, have been raising questions about the quality of the data being gathered -- numbers that are used to determine how much federal funding and how many congressional seats are allotted to states.

After the Supreme Court's decision, the Census Bureau said field operations would end on Thursday.

At issue was a request by the Trump administration that the Supreme Court suspend a lower court's order extending the 2020 census through the end of October following delays caused by the pandemic.

The Trump administration argued that the head count needed to end immediately to give the bureau time to meet a year-end deadline. Congress requires the bureau to turn in by Dec. 31 the figures used to decide the states' congressional seats -- a process known as apportionment.

Trump says he feels like 'Superman'

Washington (PTI): US President Donald Trump has said that he felt like a 'Superman' after his experimental Covid-19 treatment and boasted about his new immunity to the disease which has claimed the lives of 216,000 Americans.

Trump, who tested positive for Covid-19 on October 1 and was admitted to a military hospital for three nights and four days, declared himself cured after he was treated with an experimental antibody drug cocktail.

White House doctors have now cleared him for holding election rallies.

Holding his second rally since contracting coronavirus, Trump told a crowd of his supporters packed onto an airport tarmac in Johnstown, Pennsylvania that he felt like "Superman" after the treatment.

Trump was briefly forced to pause his re-election campaign after he tested positive for Covid-19 and he returned to the campaign trail from the battle-

ground State of Florida on Monday. Addressing his supporters in Pennsylvania, another battleground State, Trump, 74, thanked the doctors that treated him.

All I know is I took something, whatever the hell it was, I felt good very quickly. I don't know what it was, antibodies, antibodies. I don't know. I took it, I said I felt like Superman, Trump said. Then I said, let me at 'em.

Nah, and I could've been here four or five days ago. It's great, we have great doctors. I want to thank the doctors at Walter Reed and Johns Hopkins, and--great doctors, he said.

Trump said, that "one great thing about being president, if you're not feeling 100 per cent you have more doctors than you thought existed in the world. I was surrounded with like 14 of them. Where are you from? I'm from this one. Where are you from? I'm from Johns Hopkins, I'm from Walter Reed. But what great, talented people. They did a great job."



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TWEET PATROL


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Being in Manali felt like being on a perennial fruit tour & enjoying a constant #FruitBinge Tried these Persimmons, or Date-plums, on one such tour & couldn't believe how sweet even the semi-ripe ones were. These are called 'Khurma' in Hindi, & are also known as Amlak.



Shobha Naidu's demise leaves a deep void

Well-known Kuchipudi dancer and guru, Shobha Naidu passed away on Wednesday early morning while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Hyderabad

Shobha Naidu was among the foremost Kuchipudi dancers of India and an outstanding disciple of the renowned master Vempati Chinna Satyam. She mastered the art of Kuchipudi and began paying lead roles in dance dramas from a very young age. She performed with her guru's troupe in various countries. Naidu was also the Principal of Kuchipudi Art Academy in Hyderabad and imparted training to younger students over the past years.

Born in 1956 at Anakapalli in Andhra Pradesh, Naidu was among the foremost Kuchipudi dancers of India. In recognition of her services, the Government of India presented her Padma Shri award in 2001.

Condolences poured in on the social media platforms after the demise of the renowned dancer. Meanwhile, we spoke to a few well known personalities from the dance and art field.



"It's very sad that she had to go in times when none of us are could pay personal tributes. Many of us have been inspired by her dance, by her Satyabhama. Besides being a wonderful artist, she was a wonderful friendly person. She used to always praise my performances and motivate me which is very rare. She was a very warm artistic colleague. Her demise is a big loss to the Kuchipudi. Recently, during a programme 'Tales of the Bull and Tiger' she came backstage and praised us so warmly, that was a quality about her. Essentially, she was a very soft-spoken person and we all were very good friends."

-Ananda Shankar Jayant, Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi dancer



"She was a great Kuchipudi diva. And her abhinaya and expressions were outstanding. She was a nice, humble and polite lady, who would greet us warmly whenever we met during concerts across the globe. We have lost a great dancing diva who was a great inspiration for the aspiring dancers. She has left a void in the Kuchipudi field."

- Kaushalya Reddy, Kuchipudi dancer



"When we say Kuchipudi, she comes in everyone's mind. She took Kuchipudi to a different level. It's an unbelievable loss at such an age. She had more years to live and dancing but destiny had different plans. It's a great loss to the art fraternity. She was born to dance, she lived for dance and that's what Shobha Naidu represents. I just pray for her soul to rest in peace."

- Rajeshwari Sainath, Bharatanatyam dancer



"Shobha Naidu garu was actually a good friend of my father Raja Reddy so that's how I knew her. So, when she passed away I was very sad because she was a nice person and more than just an artist. And I remember she had come for my performances and she really liked my dancing. She had been ill for some time. At 64 she died too young and too soon and it's a great loss for the Kuchipudi community as she had so much to give."

- Yamini Reddy, Kuchipudi dancer



Do's and Don'ts while styling your long necklace

Have you ever really thought about how you wear your jewellery? It may seem like a non-issue, but you do not want to ruin your perfect outfit by wearing your statement piece in a way that is not flattering or does not really make sense. Here are a few tips on how to wear long necklaces in a way that completes your outfit effortlessly.

Do wear long necklaces with high cut shirts

High cut shirts are the perfect backdrop for a long necklace. High necks, high-low silhouettes, and high collars give you a nicely proportioned look when paired with a long, dangling necklace.

Don't wear long necklaces with overly long clothes

While long necklaces might work with some long dresses or oversized sweaters, a good rule of thumb is to avoid long necklaces with long clothes. It can give one the look of drowning in their clothes at worst, and just look a little off at best. Long lines are better contrasted with shorter pieces, which is why long necklaces work best with multiple pieces such as tank tops and jeans, shorter skirts and flowy tops, shirts, or blouses, or the like. If you're planning on wearing a long dress, try sticking with short necklaces that come to rest below the clavicle or just above the chest for a look that really works.

Do layer up your long necklaces

A great way to wear long necklaces is to layer them. The layering effect looks nice on both casual and dressy outfits, and always adds a little something extra to your look. We have a number of pieces that can work well when layered together.

Don't mismatch long necklaces with your outfits

While some long necklaces can be worn with any outfit, some are not as versatile. Some long necklaces are total statement pieces that are meant to be worn with a fierce, dressy look. You don't want to throw on old jeans and a t-shirt with a statement pendant, brilliant pearls, or other classy jewels. There's dressing an outfit up, but then there's missing the mark completely. Be careful with how you mix and match!

Do wear long necklaces with casual outfits for a chic yet relaxed look

Casual outfits composed of cute shorts or pants, a sleek tank or blouse, or even an open flannel over a



casual dress are the perfect canvases for long necklaces. Again, you want to create a nice contrast between your pieces without going overboard. A long necklace and a casual outfit can go a long way!

Don't wear long necklaces with crop tops

Though you do not want to wear long necklaces with overly long pieces of clothing, you also don't want to wear long necklaces with extremely short pieces of clothing, such as crop tops, either. As crop tops usually come to rest just above or just at the belly button, wearing a long necklace with the top could make you look a little off. There are, however, some exceptions when it comes to crop tops. If you are wearing a cropped top, cropped sweater, cropped tank, or the like with high-waisted bottoms, the outfit suddenly becomes perfect for a long necklace.

Use the peel-off mask correctly

When it comes to peel-off masks specifically, we always get a kick out of watching others apply them, waiting with anticipation to see what gunk they manage to peel off. Whether your skin skews dry, combination, or oily, rest-assured there's a peel-off mask on the market for you. It may be that you forgot to set a timer, you applied too much product, or you simply picked up the wrong formula. Here are a few tips on applying a peel-off mask correctly.

You're overusing

We know, we know. Peeling off a face mask can be just as stress relieving as late-night snacking or a hot bath. But when it comes to masking, overusing is a common mistake, no matter your skin type.



Peel-off masks are unique in that they form a film over the skin after drying, creating a cohesive layer that allows you to 'peel' it off. But if you don't leave enough days between applications, you'll likely deal

with excess drying, possible irritation, and clogged pores. Nevertheless, no one's raining on your peeling parade.

You're not using the right one for your skin type

Step into the mask section of any beauty store and you may be overwhelmed by all of your options. From foaming bubble masks to those with magnetic removal, finding the right mask for you can be a daunting task if you go into it blindly. If you have dry skin, look for a peel-off mask that has hyaluronic acid or glycerin. Oily skin will benefit from clay or charcoal as an ingredient while aloe can help soothe sensitive, irritated skin.

You're leaving it on for too long

There can be drawbacks to forgetting to remove your peel-off mask at the right time. You should be careful about leaving the product on for too long as it can be irritating to the skin, especially if you're using a mask with fragrance. Most masks will direct you to gently remove as soon as it's dried.

You're too aggressive with your peeling

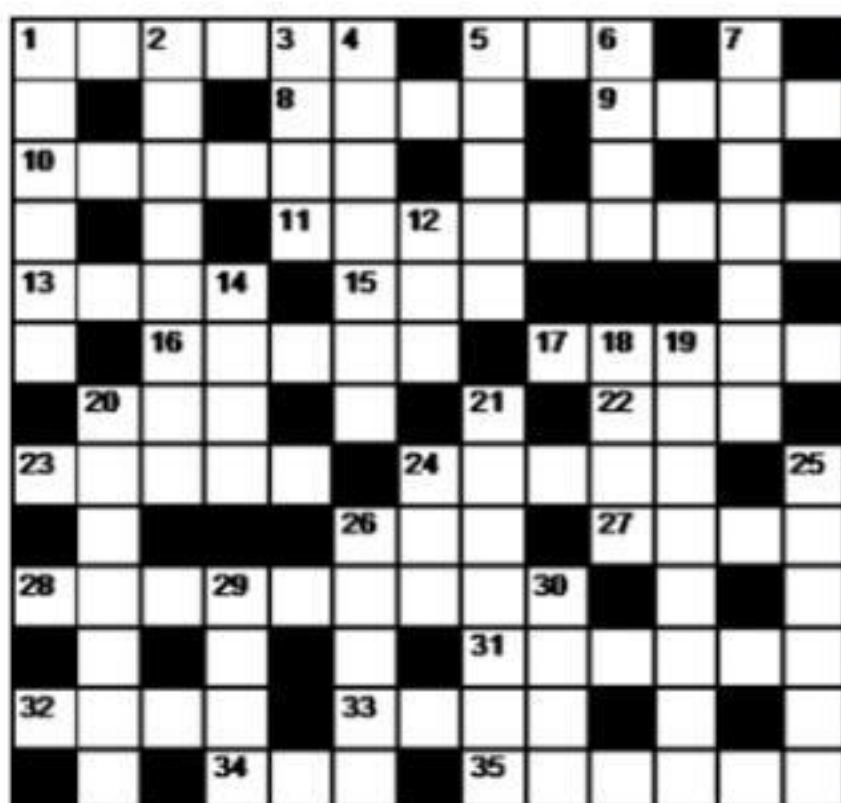
There is indeed something oddly satisfying about peeling off a layer of your skin. Some may chalk it up to nostalgia, you know, those nights you'd spend obliterating your blackheads with pore strips. Regardless, when the time comes, control your excitement and peel slowly. You'll know you're a pro peeler if you're able to remove the mask in one piece. This is usually a function of using the right amount and leaving it on just long enough to be fully dry.

You're multi-masking

Yes, multi-masking was a beauty craze that's very much alive, but save it for rinse-off masks versus the peel-off variety. If you have different skincare concerns you're trying to tackle, it's more effective to alternate your peel-off masks weekly rather than trying to tackle too issues at once. You won't run the risk of the masks mixing, which can cause burning. Plus, drying times vary and there can be issues leaving them on for too long.

You're waxing or threading before peeling

Both masking and waxing remove a layer of dead skin cells, and doing both simultaneously could leave your skin feeling raw and sensitive. The result? Potentially exposing your skin to bacteria, which leads to breakouts, which leads to redness, which leads to irritation. Bottom line, leave ample time in between beauty treatments.



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 14

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 12 constellations (6)
- 5 Disencumbered (3)
- 8 Canadian prairie tribe (4)
- 9 Beams of light (4)
- 10 A type of beard (6)
- 11 Liquidation of a debt (9)
- 13 At all times (4)
- 15 Slang for "venereal disease" (3)
- 16 Weary (5)
- 17 Apart (5)
- 20 Nov. follower (3)
- 22 A Keatsian poem (3)
- 23 Gardens open to public (5)
- 24 Imprecise (5)
- 26 Cavity (3)
- 27 Crippled (4)
- 28 Death rate (9)
- 31 Putting down (6)
- 32 Cook (4)
- 33 Demeanor (4)
- 34 Capture or arrest (3)
- 35 Brief outline (6)

Down

- 1 Capital of Croatia (6)
- 2 Longest line in circle (8)
- 3 Maple genus ? (4)
- 4 A climbing plant (7)
- 5 Take it easy (5)
- 6 Percussion instrument (4)
- 7 Deadly poison (7)
- 12 Legume (3)
- 14 Hay stack (4)
- 18 The spirit in man (4)
- 19 Visionary (8)
- 20 Bandits (7)
- 21 Gossips or chatters (7)
- 24 Roman seven (3)
- 25 A linear extent of something from end to end (6)
- 26 Exactly (5)
- 29 Urban area (4)
- 30 Pull abruptly (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 14

5,000 kg bomb explodes underwater in Poland, hundreds evacuated

Swinoujscie: A massive World War II bomb exploded during a delicate operation on Tuesday to defuse the five-tonne device in a channel near the Baltic Sea but no one was harmed, Polish officials said.

The device -- nicknamed "Tallboy" and also known as an "earthquake bomb" -- was dropped by the Royal Air Force in an attack on a Nazi warship in 1945.

It was discovered last year embedded at a depth of 12 metres (39 feet) with just its nose sticking out during dredging close to the port city of Swinoujscie in northwest Poland.

More than six metres long, it

was laden with 2.4 tonnes of explosives -- equivalent to around 3.6 tons of TNT.

The navy had said earlier it had ruled out the traditional option of a controlled explosion for fear of destroying a bridge located some 500 metres away.

Instead, it had planned to use a technique known as deflagration to burn the explosive charge without causing a detonation, using a remotely controlled device to pierce through the shell to begin combustion.

But in the end "the deflagration process turned into a detonation," said Grzegorz Lewandowski, spokesman for



the Polish navy's 8th Coastal Defence Flotilla based in Swinoujscie. "There had been no risk to the individuals di-

rectly involved," he said, adding that the bomb "can be considered neutralised".

A Swinoujscie city hall

spokesman told AFP he had not heard any reports of anyone injured during the operation by military divers, nor of any damage done to the city's infrastructure.

Before the operation began this week, Lewandowski had called it "a very delicate job," adding that "the tiniest vibration could detonate the bomb".

Around 750 local residents had been urged beforehand to evacuate from an area of 2.5 kilometres (1.6 miles) around the bomb, though some had told AFP they would be staying put.

Halina Paszkowska had said the "main danger" for her was the risk of catching Covid-19 in

a sports hall where residents were given shelter during the operation.

"I've lived here 50 years and there have been other bombs, but this is the first time there's an evacuation! Before, we just had to stay indoors," she said.

Maritime traffic on the navigation channel and surrounding waterways had also been suspended in an area of 16 kilometres around the bomb disposal operation.

During World War II, Swinoujscie -- at the time Swinemuende, a part of Germany -- was home to one of the German navy's most important Baltic bases and was subjected to massive bombard-

ments, said historian Piotr Laskowski, the author of a book on the Royal Air Force raid on Germany's Luetzow cruiser in April 1945.

The ship's cannons were being used to hold back the advance of the Red Army in the dying days of the war.

On April 16, 1945, the RAF sent 18 Lancaster bombers from the 617th Squadron, known as the "Dambusters".

The bombers attacked the Luetzow with 12 Tallboys, including the one that failed to explode at the time.

Tallboys were designed to explode underground next to a target, triggering shock waves that would cause destruction.

Farmers walk out of meeting on farm laws

TEAR COPIES OF NEW ACT OUTSIDE KRISHI BHAWAN

New Delhi: Leaders of 29 farmer unions walked out of meeting with agriculture secretary on Wednesday that was held to discuss the recently enacted farm laws. The leaders tore copies of the Act outside Delhi's Krishi Bhawan.

A leader said that they walked out of the meeting as no minister was present. "We want these laws to be taken back," he said. Another cited "unsatisfactory discussions" as the reason for the walkout. "We want these black laws to be scrapped. The secretary said he'll communicate our demands further," the leader added.

A seven-member panel of protesting farmers in Punjab was formed on Tuesday to hold talks with the Centre. Bharatiya Kisan Union (Rajewal) chief Balbir Singh Rajewal said that they have decided that representatives of all farmers' bodies will attend the meeting.



The leaders included in the panel are Balbir Singh Rajewal, Darshan Pal, Jagjit Singh Dalewal, Jagmohan Singh, Kulwant Singh, Surjit Singh and Satnam Singh Sahni. Earlier on Monday, the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Com-

mittee, a farmers' body in Punjab, decided not to attend the meeting called by the Union Agriculture Department on October 14.

The farmers' organisations, whose agitation against the laws has disrupted rail traffic and se-

verely impacted coal supply to thermal power plants in Punjab, had last week rejected the Centre's invitation to participate in a "conference to address their concerns" on October 8. Rajewal said as per the invitation sent by the secretary of the Union Agriculture Department, the Centre wants to hold talks with them.

Farmers in Punjab have been demanding that the three laws passed by Parliament recently be repealed. Farmers have expressed apprehension that the new laws will pave a way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporates.

The government, however, has been saying that the laws passed by Parliament recently amid a vociferous protest will raise farmers' income, free them from the clutches of the middlemen and usher in new technology in farming.

Govt's solid feat: Rahul on IMF projections

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday took a dig at the government over IMF growth projections showing Bangladesh closing in on India in terms of per capita GDP this year and described it as a "solid achievement" of six years of BJP's "hate-filled cultural nationalism".

Gandhi also shared a graph citing its source as the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook report which showed Bangladesh closing in on India and almost catching up with it in terms of per capita GDP this year.

"Solid achievement of 6 years of BJP's hate-filled cultural nationalism: Bangladesh set to overtake India," Gandhi said in a sarcastic tweet accompanied by clapping emojis.

However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 per cent growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest growing emerging economy, surpassing China's projected growth rate of 8.2 per cent, the IMF said in its latest 'World Economic Outlook' report.

Over 60K cases in 24 hours

New Delhi: India's COVID-19 caseload rose to 72,39,389 with 63,509 infections being reported in a day, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 63 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 87.05 per cent, according to the Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,10,586 with the virus claiming 730 lives in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed. There are 8,26,876 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises

11.42 per cent of the total caseload, while the recoveries have surged to 63,01,927, the data stated. The COVID-19 case fatality rate was recorded at 1.53 per cent. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28 and crossed 70 lakh on October 11.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 9,00,90,122 samples have been tested up to October 13 with 11,45,015 samples being tested on Tuesday.

SHIV SENA MAY SEEK RECALL OF GUV KOSHYARI

Mumbai: The Shiv Sena is mulling writing to President Ram Nath Kovind to seek removal of Maharashtra governor BS Koshiyari a day after a 'letter war' ensued between him and the government over reopening of religious places during the phased lifting of Covid-19 lockdown. A decision is likely to be taken after discussion with allies. The party is "extremely upset with the tone and tenor" of the letter written by the governor.

In his letter, Koshiyari had mentioned that he has received three representations from del-

egations demanding that places of religious worship be reopened. In response, Thackeray pointed out that it was a coincidence that all the three letters Koshiyari mentioned were from BJP office-bearers and supporters. Koshiyari also asked Thackeray, "Have you suddenly turned secular?" Responding to this question, Thackeray wondered if to Koshiyari Hindutva meant merely reopening places of religious worship and if not opening them was to him being secular.

Law student turns hostile, says never accused seer of sexual abuse

Lucknow: In a courtroom twist, the Shahjahanpur based law student who had accused former Union Minister Chinmayanand of sexually assaulting her, has claimed that she did not level any such charge against the BJP leader. Appearing before a court in Lucknow, the LLM student categorically denied that she had levelled any allegations against Chinmayanand. The prosecution immediately moved an application under Section 340 of the CrPC, seeking action against the law student for perjury. Judge P K Rai directed his office to register the application and asked the prosecution to furnish a copy of the application to the victim and the accused. The application will be heard on October 15.

The Allahabad High Court in February this year granted bail to Chinmayanand, whose trust runs the Shahjahanpur law college



where the student was pursuing her law degree. Chinmayanand was arrested in September last year. The case was registered under Section 376-C of the IPC, an offence pertaining to the abuse of one's position by a person in authority to "induce or seduce" a woman under his charge to have "sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape". Chinmayanand (72) also faced charges

under Sections 342 (wrongful confinement), 354-D (stalking) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC. According to government lawyer Abhay Tripathi, the law student had lodged an FIR in this regard with the Lodhi Colony police station of New Delhi on September 5, 2019. The student's father lodged another complaint in Shahjahanpur and both FIRs were merged.

Mehbooba meets Farooq, Omar

Srinagar (IANS): A day after she was released, former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti met former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah at her residence in Srinagar on Wednesday.

Later Omar Abdullah tweeted that she had accepted a request by Farooq Abdullah for a meeting on Thursday by the Gupkar declaration signatories.

"My father and I called on Mehbooba Mufti Sahiba this afternoon to enquire about her well-being after her release from detention. She has kindly accepted Farooq Sb's invitation to join a meeting of the Gupkar Declaration signatories tomorrow afternoon," Omar tweeted.

Earlier Mehbooba Mufti held a meeting with the PDP leadership. The three former Chief Ministers were slapped with Public Safety Act (PSA) after their detention following the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5 last year.

None of us can forget the "insult" and "humiliation" we faced



on August 5 when Article 370 was repealed "illegally" and in an "anti-democratic" manner, said Mehbooba Mufti after being released as the Union Territory administration revoked the Public Safety Act charges against her, more than a year after she was detained.

"We need to take back what Delhi Darbar took away (Article 370) from us illegally and in an

undemocratic manner. Not only this, but the issue of Kashmir needs to be resolved too for which several Kashmiris have given up their lives. I know the path won't be easy but we need to continue with this struggle. Today, when I am being let off, I demand the release of others who are still in detention illegally," Mufti said in her message to the people.

Farooq's remarks on Art 370 restoration 'unacceptable': Karan

Srinagar: Senior Congress leader Karan Singh said Wednesday National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah's remarks on restoring the special status of Jammu and Kashmir were "totally unacceptable" and could provoke "unrealistic expectations" among the people of Kashmir.

"My old friend Farooq Abdullah has made an astounding statement to the effect that Article 370 will be restored with China's support," Singh said. "I can understand his rage and frustration at recent events, including the fact that he was under house arrest for a year, an emotion that large sections in the Kashmir Valley share."

Soldiers in Kashmir being trained to destroy killer drones

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH

Pulwama (IANS): Threat of terrorists using hexacopters to lob grenades at security forces at Line of Control (LoC) as well as in the Kashmir hinterland have made armed forces adopt new training course for the troops. Now, soldiers are learning how to kill drones.

The Indian Army has adopted a new training module for their troops deployed in Jammu and Kashmir for counter insurgency and counter terror operations.

Trainers at 15 Corps Battle School, wherein specialised combat training is imparted through real life situations, are now being educated on how to thwart emerging threats due to drones.

"We are sensitising all the troops who come for training here about threats that drones poses to counter insurgency operations," said one of the trainers, adding that there have been in-



telligence inputs that terrorists can use drones to lob grenades at the security establishments and troops involved in counter terror operations in built up area of terror hot-beds in the valley.

Indian Army officers or soldiers who get posted to the valley need to undergo a training course at the battle school where they

are trained for their upcoming task in the new terrain.

The battle school runs two training courses: one for those who are to be posted at Line of Control with Pakistan and another for those who are to be posted in counter insurgency units in different parts of the valley.

The soldiers who are to be deployed at LoC have to undergo 14 days training programme and those who are to be deployed in the valley for counter operations have to undergo 28 days course.

"Both the courses have some common training module, including drones," said another trainer adding that these training programmes will help the troops on the ground.

Last month intelligence agencies had flagged that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has procured a sizable number of Hexacopters from a Chinese firm associated with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to flood Jammu and Kashmir with weapons to create unrest.

Indian intelligence agencies stated that ISI has adopted a new modus operandi to infiltrate by weaponing the terrorists who have been without weapon. Sending weapons separately by drones or other

means has also been instituted to reduce the risk of terrorists getting eliminated at the Line of Control itself.

Sources said that due to the strong anti-infiltration grid established by the Indian security forces, Pakistan has been unable to infiltrate terrorists or weapons into the valley to increase insurgency. So they have adopted the new modus operandi.

Pakistan too has been adopting new training measures. Terrorists are being taught how to operate drones so that when they infiltrate into valley they can use drones to hit at security establishments and forces engaged in counter terror operations.

Last month, security forces recovered EMEI Type 97 NSR rifles manufactured by Norinco company of China, which is a standard issue to PLA soldiers and also gifted to Pakistan Frontier Force as part of CPEC cooperation.

COAL SCAM

CBI seeks lifer for ex-Union Min Dilip

New Delhi: The CBI urged a Delhi court on Wednesday to award life imprisonment to former Union minister Dilip Ray who has been convicted in a coal scam case pertaining to irregularities in the allocation of a Jharkhand coal block in 1999.

Special Judge Bharat Parashar reserved the order for October 26 after hearing arguments from the CBI as well the convicts.

The CBI, represented by public prosecutors V K Sharma and A P Singh, told the court in the argument held through video conferencing that white collar crimes are on the rise and maximum punishment was required to send a

message to the society.

Ray was convicted under various sections including 409 of IPC (criminal breach of trust by a public servant), that varies a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

This is the first conviction in coal scam for the offence carrying maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

The convicted persons urged the court to take a lenient view considering their old age and that they have never been convicted earlier.

The court reserved the order after hearing the arguments and directed the convicts to be present before the court physically on October 26.

Marooned metro: Nature's fury exposes rulers' lies

Technology hub Hyderabad has edged out 129 other cities in the world to emerge as the world's most dynamic city, according to the seventh edition of the City Momentum Index by global real estate services firm JLL. The city has pushed Bengaluru to second place to regain the top position after a gap of one year. Chennai is at fifth place and Delhi is at sixth. Hyderabad is the most happening city and most liveable city. It has not only regained the top slot but also it has been competing with cities like Shenzhen and Shanghai in innovation economy. These are the nuggets we often hear from all leaders including the Chief Minister, MA&UD Minister K T Rama Rao and all others. Well, while we do not deny all that, the

fact remains that the global city lacks basic infrastructure and this got exposed once again with the heavy downpour of about 25 to 30 cms of rain that lashed the GHMC areas for the past two days. It is literally Hyderabad under water and it will continue to be so for the next 24 hours if not more. There are no words to describe the situation. Pathetic is too small an expression. Disaster is too routine. If residents had parked cars in cellar, they got submerged. Cars parked on roads got washed away by swirling waters. People walking on roads got washed away as lake waters came gushing. Roads caved in and hundreds of colonies were under more than 5 feet water. The GHMC authorities, despite sounding high alert, had to throw

their hands up in the air. The GHMC, HMWSSB, police and NDRF teams were on roads and struggled throughout the night but still there was no end to the woes of people and finally the help of army had to be sought to rescue people and send them to safer places. We cannot blame the teams which have been working 24x7 as they did whatever was humanely possible. When system fails what can the staff do? This is the biggest question and it for the dispensation to find out who is responsible for it - the people who pay taxes, the staff who are hardworking or the administration. Apparently, it is a clear case of failure of successive governments to improve the system. A few days ago, MA&UD Minister K T Rama Rao said all previous

governments ignored the city. Well, that's a debateable issue. But this is not the time for such debates. The fact remains that even the present government took up cosmetic works on city's infrastructure in the last six years and no long-term plans to improve the facilities were taken up. Experts say that Hyderabad cannot take more than 4-5 cms of rain at a time. City is full of illegal constructions and all leaders only speak about it but no action is taken. We do not have drainage system which can take the heavy flow of water. There is no proper linking of nalas to various outlets like the Musi river. Naturally, it would lead to submergence and heavy damages. After a couple of days, leaders of all shades will visit affected colonies, offer lip sympathy give lectures why such a situation had arisen and then they forget about it till such situation recurs again. It is the common man who has to bear the brunt of damages to his property and live in fear if he sees clouds in the sky. Bhagyanagar becomes Abhagyanagar. Is the government listening?



IPL 2020: A panorama for cricket lovers

YAJURVINDRA SINGH

The panorama that the Indian Premier League (IPL) brings to a cricket lover is wonderful. Watching matches after matches unfold with such precision and in a professional manner is truly a remarkable achievement. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) must be complimented on being able to host the IPL, and from the looks of it they may become the hub of sports events in the future.

UAE is now the centre of excellence for sports in this period of pandemic. India seems far away in reviving sporting activities at present and so one may see the UAE as a convenient alternative till normalcy returns. One does miss the hustle and bustle and activities that keep one entertained by spectators at stadiums, but to have cricket back on the screen is in itself a satisfying experience.

All eight IPL teams, unfortunately, have not had the normal preparation that they go through as a pre-tournament routine to strategise, plan and evaluate the squad. In the normal course, they also spend time in identifying players useful for conditions known to them at the various venues in India. The IPL auction is where they bid for specific players to enable them to get the entire spectrum of skills and capabilities that were necessary to implement their plans.

Unfortunately, the playing surface and the ground conditions at the three venues in the UAE, which were unknown to them, have put several of the team's management and thinkers in disarray.

The teams that can quickly put their playing squad in order are the ones that will benefit in qualifying for the playoffs. At present, Mumbai Indians and the young and aggressive Delhi Capitals seem to have managed the change for the better, solely on account of the variety of player skill they have in their armoury. Every other side, understandably, is on a chop-and-change mission, hoping to crack the combination as soon as possible.

The outcome of the trial and test, which the teams have had to undergo, has turned out for the better and is just the opportunity and golden platform for India's international and domestic players. With no domestic cricket and tournaments in the near future in India in sight, the IPL is their only opportunity to stake their claim to either retain their place or get recognised. India have two very important series in the pipeline, against Australia and England. The venues and details for both these tours are being finalised, but with the UAE as an alternative option, cricket for the three top playing nations looks a good possibility.

The quality of young dashing cricketers being churned out in India is heartening to see. Cricket, for each one of them, is their key to a

successful life and the passion, maturity and approach that most of them have shown when given an opportunity in the IPL has been quite astonishing.

Batsmen such as Prithvi Shaw, Shubman Gill, Devdutt Padikkal, Suryakumar Yadav, Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan, Rahul Tripathi, the phenomenal power hitter from Haryana, Rahul Tewatia, and many more have shown how Indian cricket has progressed. Young bowlers such as Shivam Mavi, Navdeep Saini, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kartik Tyagi, Thangarasu Natrajan, Mohammed Siraj, and Ravi Bishnoi have already started rubbing shoulders with their elders in speed and ability.

All these young dynamites, along with the seasoned domestic performers and the India's international stars, have brought a rainbow of joy to Indian cricket. One can envy the task of the new selection committee under Sunil Joshi, who very shortly will have to select the team for the T20Is, ODI, and the Test teams play Australia in November.

The fielding has had its ups and downs in the IPL. Players have dropped some simple high catches, which must be due to the lights and atmosphere. However, we have also seen some stunning catches. The highlight as regards fielding was the incredible save by the Kings XI Punjab and the West Indian player, Nicholas Pooran. His effort to save a boundary has gone into the annals of cricket history as arguably the best fielding save ever!

With 22 of the 49 matches to decide the four teams that will qualify for the playoffs stage completed, one does not see any one team showing superiority over the rest. The team management and the captains are getting a better insight into the potential in their squad and the success of many of the Indian players has brought about a feeling of comfort for some of them.

The Mumbai Indians, under the captaincy of Rohit Sharma, seem to have their batting, the power hitting, and their fast and spin bowling in place. Delhi Capitals, on the other hand, have a young talented side with both their bowlers and batters aiming to make their presence felt.

Rajasthan Royals, unfortunately, are still waiting for their superstar all-rounder Ben Stokes to stoke their fire. Royal Challengers Bangalore are breathing a sigh of relief with Virat Kohli back in form. They, along with SunRisers Hyderabad, have a super topline batting order but lack big hitters who can finish the innings.

Kolkata Knight Riders have a captain struggling for runs and they need to utilise the batting skill of England World Cup winning captain Eoin Morgan sensibly. He needs to bat much higher in the order as he is an established performer who could single-handedly win them matches.

One feels sorry for Kings XI Punjab, as they have lost some very close encounters and although KL Rahul, their captain, is in sublime form, he along with Mayank Agarwal are not being able to carry their team to the winning post.

The race is still open for the four slots to reach the playoffs. However, the IPL has turned the lives of cricket lovers all over the world into a blessing. While we applaud and revel in the exciting cricket and watch some unbelievable shots being played by the batsmen, "let the best team win".

(The writer is a former Test cricketer. Views expressed are personal)



Dr Mohan Kanda

In the Hindu epic Mahabharata, Kaurava king Duryodhana, having sent away the Pandavas into exile, comes to visit them, to watch their plight and amuse himself. A Gandharva king ties him up and carries him away. Upon learning of that incident, Yudhishtira, the eldest of the Pandavas, orders his brother Bhima to release Duryodhana and bring him back. Bhima protests, pointing out that when the Gandharva had accomplished what the Pandavas ought to have done, namely putting the enemy to shame, why should he go to the victim's rescue. Yudhishtira then propounds a principle. He says that while quarrelling internally, their Pandava and Kaurava clans maybe a hundred on one side and five on the other but, when faced with an external threat, they should join and become a united 105. Such was the Dharma or righteousness which Yudhishtira practised!

The scriptures of various faiths such as Hinduism, Islam and Christianity abound with such morals, which can easily be put into practice in one's daily life. We Indians, however, appear to be reluctant to learn from them. Seldom do citizens of other countries decry their fellow countrymen, while abroad, no matter what their differences are internally. Our political leaders do not appear to subscribe to this salutary principle of self-restraint.

One wonders why Indian politicians seem to forget, while travelling abroad, that, no matter what party another person belongs to, all are Indians in the ultimate analysis, and therefore, one should not speak ill of one's political opponents in front of an alien audience.

After all, don't groups of all

persuasions unite, when a foreign enemy is concerned? Has anyone ever heard of one of them joining hands with an external force? And, in any case, what is the meaning of political opponents? Are they not merely people who differ in opinion in matters of policy and principle? Merely on that count, is it proper to wash dirty linen about internecine ideological conflicts in fora abroad? What purpose can be served by indulging in such talk with such an audience?

The 'if you are not with me you are against me' syndrome is of a tribal origin. One thing all political parties, no matter what their fundamental philosophy is, need to remember is that all that separates them from the others is a difference of plus or minus 10% margin in votes garnered. And that that margin might well get reduced in the next round of elections. This merely goes to show that a substantial section of the electorate endorses the manifesto and the leadership of the other party. That is why those parties are heading governments in some states of the country. This needs to be recognised, acknowledged and admitted. The devil, after all, must be given its due. One cannot wish away political truths merely because they are inconvenient from one's point of view. One's job is to showcase the strengths of one's party, and, on occasion, gently point out the shortcomings of rivals and keep improving one's party's popularity with the electorate.

But, while one can be as critical as one likes within the country, one should desist from speaking ill of them when abroad. It should always be remembered that, given the political ambience in a democracy, the party one is criticising today may well be the one to win the next election. And audiences, even abroad, are aware of that. Therefore, any denunciation of policies of opposition and branding them corrupt is likely to cause a reservation in their minds about the wisdom of entering into agreements with our country, as doubts can be created about the sustainability of such arrangements in the future. As a result, all that one would have achieved would be to have smirched the fair name of the country.



There can be no greater mistake on the part of a political leader than to think that his reputation and that of his country are two different entities. The image of a country's leader is always influenced by that of the country he represents. As Cho Ramaswamy once said, about the applause Mrs Gandhi's speeches got abroad, every single Indian had a share in the claps she received, as she represented the entire population of the nation. It is, after all, because the particular person happens to be the ruler of the country with business as well as cultural ties with the host country, establishment there and their media, take note of every word he utters

There can be no greater mistake on the part of a political leader than to think that his reputation and that of his country are two different entities. The image of a country's leader is always influenced by that of the country he represents. As Cho Ramaswamy once said, about the applause Mrs Gandhi's speeches got abroad, every single Indian had a share in the claps she received, as she represented the entire population of the nation. It is, after all, because the particular person happens to be the ruler of the country with business as well as cultural ties with the host country, establishment there and their media, take note of every word he utters. Same attention cannot be expected neither before nor after the tenure.

Did not the same America, which refused a visa to Narendra Modi once, promptly change tack, and invite him, soon after he became the Prime Minister? Why? Because he had become the representative of 1.2 billion people of a country with a great heritage and substantial international standing. Leaders should always remember this

harsh truth and behave with appropriate dignity and restraint.

Such wisdom and statesmanship conduct had, in fact, always been the hallmark of the manner in which our Indian leaders conducted themselves while travelling abroad. No matter what their differences within the country, they desisted from referring to such divisive issues in their speeches when away.

A striking instance of such statesmanship was at display by Congress Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. In 1994, he asked Opposition leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who represented BJP, a party which had serious reservations about the stand of the Congress government party on the Kashmir issue - an issue that was the legacy of a long history of disagreement from the old Jana Sangh days to head the deputation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission to defend India's position on Kashmir. Still, Vajpayee never referred to such matters during that visit.

These days, amusingly enough, the ruling party as well as the Opposition denounce

Whither goest our justice delivery system?

Even as the country is horrified to see spine-chilling crimes against the weaker section growing by each passing day, our justice delivery systems seem to have become even scarier. In the recently concluded Babri Masjid demolition case, the accused, who were very much present at the scene of the crime, have been acquitted. On the other hand, in the Elgar Parishad case, even though no violence took place and people like Anand Telumbe were also not present at the meeting, they were made accused and imprisoned. The present justice delivery system appears to be in alignment with the old Manuadi system, where the degree of punishment is based on where you belong in the caste hierarchy. In what direction are we going? Forward or backwards? Today, our judiciary and justice delivery systems are standing in front of justice, as accused in a witness box. The country is becoming directionless. Let's bring a fistful of mud from the place where the Hathras teenager's dead body was burned or from the land that she walked and make a memorial, with her statue. Her mother wanted to apply haldi on the woman's face for the last time. All of us will apply haldi on her face. Can we apologise to her, and pay tribute to her in this way? Can this bring any consolation to her parents and to Mother India?

Rajeswar Maladi, Hyderabad

LETTERS

Farmers deprived of their rights

The Centre's new farm Bills are meant to exploit the country's farming community to the core. For a country like India food security necessarily means growing one's own food to the maximum possible extent. The market in this case cannot be the determinant of land-use. Since land is scarce, and domestic food production essential, land-use must be socially controlled. Kerala is the only region in the entire third world that has a law, enacted in 2008, preventing diversion of paddy land to any other use. While Kerala is too land-scarce to become self-sufficient in food grains, this law has prevented paddy-land being diverted extensively for construction. Other regions in the country and other countries in the third world would do well to emulate Kerala's example. The damage that diversion of acreage from food grains to export crops does is best illustrated by the case of sub-Saharan Africa, which has been ravaged by a string of famines after it became import-dependent for food. In India, while there is no control over land-use, the old arrangement of MSP, procurement, and PDS implicitly ensured adequate domestic food grain production. The Modi government, alas, is dismantling that arrangement; it must be stopped.

Muktha Nair, Bowenpally, Hyderabad

Religion in politics heralds worst time to come

Growing religious intolerance seems to be the order of the day, the latest being the hullabaloo over a commercial issued by a prominent jewellery group. Despite the assassinations of Indira and Rajiv by extremists, in the last 73 years, India has emerged as a largely secular and tolerant nation, not having to pay the heavy price of religious dichotomies in the country. It is only now that the Modi government, where Hindutva sentiment is largely at play. It is important to note, that while this too may bring the Modi government significant benefit in the form of the support of the majority, he is playing with fire. His efforts to vilify Muslims and divide Indian society based on religious differences in pursuit of a pan-Hindu vote bank seem to be flying under the radar of much of the population, perhaps due to the serious distractions brought about by Covid-19. This too shall pass and before long, the Modi government may well be paying the price. Reports have begun to surface, reporting widespread hate-crimes against Muslims, owing to Modi's anti-Muslim rallying. Many Indians are worried about their future in India and news of that uncertainty is spreading. Currently, Modi's government may harness religious nationalism for political gain, but India will likely pay a huge price in decades to come.

M Girish Goud, Hyderabad

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Reservoirs fill up due to heavy rains

Amaravati: All major water reservoirs in Andhra Pradesh are full to their brim due to the massive inflow following heavy rains caused by the deep depression that moved in from Bay of Bengal.

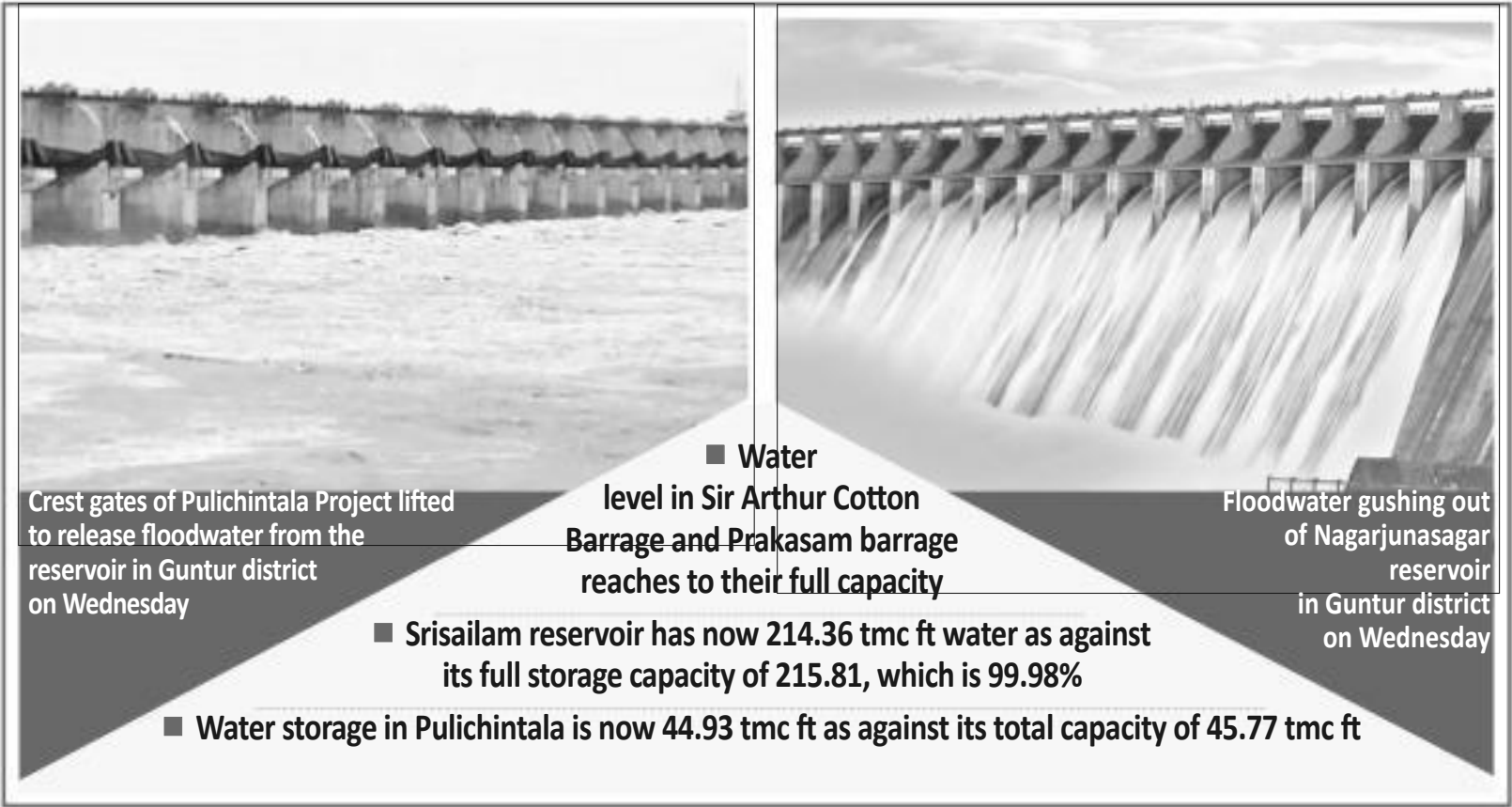
Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage in East Godavari district currently has a water level of 44.65 feet, storing 2.91 tmc ft water. The barrage's capacity of 2.93 tmc ft is 99.35 per cent covered.

Cotton barrage falls under the Godavari river basin.

Similarly, Prakasam Barrage in Krishna district's Vijayawada is currently filled till 56.2 feet. With a capacity of 3.07 tmc ft, Prakasam barrage is filled to the brim with inflows from catchment areas. It is running 100 per cent capacity now.

Officials are expecting 6 lakh cusecs of more flood water inflow into the barrage.

Srisailem reservoir water level reached 885 feet with the water storage level currently standing at 214.36 tmc ft. The reservoir in Kurnool district with a capacity of 215.81 tmc ft is currently filled



up to 99.98 per cent.

Similarly, Nagarjunasagar reservoir water level is at 589.5 feet, which has a capacity to hold 312.05 tmc ft water.

The reservoir in Guntur district is currently filled with 310.84 tmc ft of water, reaching 99.62 per cent capacity of the reservoir.

Pulichintala project water level

reached 174.21 feet. It has a gross capacity of 45.77 tmc ft, which is currently filled with 44.93 tmc ft water or 97.81 per cent of its total capacity.

Somasila reservoir water level reached 328.22 feet. The reservoir in Nellore district has a gross capacity of 78 tmc ft, which is filled up to 94.81 per cent with in-

flows of 73.95 tmc ft. Somasila reservoir is located in Nellore district under the Pennar river basin.

Among the six reservoirs, four fall under the Krishna river basin -- Prakasam Barrage, Srisailem, Nagarjunasagar and Pulichintala; while the other two in Guntur district.

Ankurarpanam to be performed on Oct 15

Vahana sevas will be held in between 9 am to 10am and 7 pm to 8 pm in the evening

Tirumala: The holy ritual of Ankurarpanam for Srivari Navaratri Brahmotsavam will be held on October 15, Thursday night between 7 pm to 8 pm in the shrine.

As part of the event Senadhipati Sri Viswaksena will be seated in Asthanam at Ranganayakula Mandapam in view of Covid restrictions. Ankurarpanam is a significant ritual in the Vaikhanasa Agama followed in Tirumala temple. During this tradition prayers are offered to the god for success before commencement of any major festival.

Ankurarpanam is performance on the eve of all festivals. It is an Agama practice followed at Tirumala and other Vaishnavite temples. On this day, the seeds are nursed for Nava Dhanyas to be used on the eve of Brahmotsavam Ankurarpanam ceremony.

All vahana sevas will be conducted in the Kalyanotsava Mandapam in Sampangi Prakaram of Srivari temple between 9am and 10am in the morning and between 7pm and 8pm in the evening.

Naidu seeks immediate crop loss assessment

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Demanding relief to flood victims, the Leader of Opposition and TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu urged the government to announce ex gratia to the families of those died in flood-related incidents besides suggesting immediate enumeration of crop loss in the state.

In a letter to Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday, Naidu expressed concern over the large scale damage to life and property in the unprecedented heavy rains that lashed the state and triggered gales, house collapses and landslides.

He urged the government to buy food grains discoloured due to soaking in rainwaters and guarantee minimum support price.

Demanding urgent identification of tenant farmers who lost their crops, he said seed and fertiliser should be provided to farmers free of cost to cultivate alternative crops. Financial assistance should be given to weavers and artisans who lost their livelihoods. Assistance should be given to help fishermen to buy fishing nets and boats in place of damaged ones. Families whose houses were damaged should be given help for undertaking repairs,



- **Writes a letter to the Chief Minister urging him to procure paddy and other food grains discoloured due to submergence**
- **Wants identification of tenant farmers who suffered losses, free distribution of seed and fertilisers to go for alternative crops**
- **He also suggests assistance to weavers and artisans who lost livelihoods due to rains**

he said.

Naidu said that there was a need to sanction new houses in place of those collapsed or got washed away in the floods. Breaches to the streams and rivulets should be filled. Pot-holes in the highways should be levelled on a war footing for the safety of the people. All sorts of assistance should be provided to the victims of heavy rains, he demanded.

No APSRTC buses to Telangana for Dasara

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh State Road Transportation Corporation (APSRTC) will operate 2,028 special buses in the coming Dasara festival.

"The special buses will cover various destinations in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring Karnataka," APSRTC executive director (Operations) Brahmananda Reddy told IANS.

However, no buses will be run to Chennai, Puducherry and Telangana. He said the status quo on bus services to and from Telangana continues.

Recently, the corporation decided to run buses to full capacity, sans standees.

In normal times, the corporation's buses carried around 72 lakh passengers daily.

Pastor booked for raping 20-year-old woman

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: A middle-aged pastor allegedly raped a 20-year-old woman at Thukivakam village under Renigunta. The victim was admitted to Tirupati maternity hospital for treatment as she suffered serious injuries. Though the incident took place more than 10 days ago, it came to light when the human rights activists, AIDWA and DYFI met the victim on Wednesday.

According to information, the victim was working as a sales girl in a marketing company belonging to pastor Devasahayam, 46. On October 3, around 7 pm, the accused picked up the victim who was going to Renigunta from Tirupati and took her to an isolated place at Rayal Sykam layout in Thukivakam village. Then the accused sexually assaulted and raped her.

Two days after the incident, the victim approached the Disha police station SI to file a complaint. The police refused to register a case and directed her to go to Tirupati East police station. Even the Tirupati East police refused to register a case

- **Disha police refuses to register a case on the pretext that crime spot does not fall under their limits**
- **ASP Supraja orders Gajulamandam police to register the complaint when the victim approaches her during Spandna**
- **Women and youth organisations demand suspension of Disha police station SI for refusing to take the complaint**



Accused M Devasahayam

as crime spot was not under their limits.

Following this, the victim approached the Tirupati Urban ASP Supraja in Spandana programme seeking justice. Responding to the victim's petition, ASP ordered the Gajulamandam SI to register a case immediately. A case was registered under IPC 376 and 506 sections on October 10.

Members of women's associations and people's organisations met the victim in hospital. They enquired about the incident and assured that they will fight for justice. They also demanded suspension of Tirupati Disha police station SI Himabindu for refusing to accept the complaint case under zero FIR policy when the victim approached her a week ago.

CM wants every water body filled with floodwaters

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy instructed the officials to be on high alert and provide all help to people taking shelter in relief camps and announced Rs 500 to each person in the camp.

During a review meeting held at his camp office on Wednesday on the situation arising out of the heavy rains and floods, the Chief Minister directed the district administrations to take adequate measures in the flood-affected areas and announced an immediate relief of Rs 500 to each person taking shelter in the flood relief camps.

Interacting with the district collectors through a video conference, he asked the officials to be vigilant in the wake of the flood situation, more so in Krishna and Guntur districts as the inflows to Prakasam barrage are expected to reach 7.5 lakh cusecs due to incessant rains in Telangana region.

About 4 lakh cusecs of water will be released from Srisailem which will increase the flow at Prakasam Barrage. He asked the authorities to arrange accommodation for the people who are being evacuated from flood-prone areas and ensure that emergency services are

- **Orders authorities to prepare an action plan to make the best use of floodwaters without wasting them**
- **Directs officials to be on high alert and focus on providing relief to people taking shelter in camps**
- **Announces an immediate relief of Rs 500 to each person in the relief camps**

not stopped.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to focus on restoration of power supply and repairs to damaged roads on a war footing and told them to complete all the repairs on a permanent basis in the next 4-5 months.

He asked the officials to pay ex gratia to the kin of 10 persons who died during the heavy rains.

He stressed on filling the reservoirs with floodwater and further releasing them to canals and ponds, which can be used for irrigation.

In regard to this, he ordered the authorities to prepare an action plan to make the best use of floodwater without wasting them.

Despite having 40 per cent excess rainfall in Chittoor district, only 30 per cent of the tanks are filled, he said and advised the authorities to change such a situation and see every reservoir, canal, tank, and pond is filled with floodwater.

Further, the Chief Minister said that safe drinking water should be supplied to the public and appropriate precautions should be taken to prevent the spread of diseases across the state. Authorities were instructed to equip all the primary health centres with the necessary drugs and ensure that emergency health services are in place.

The officials informed that the drinking water is being supplied through tankers and measures are being taken to maintain sanitation in all rural areas. After normalcy returns, agriculture and horticulture experts from various universities and institutions will be guiding the farmers on cropping patterns to minimise the loss.

Ministers Mekathoti Sucharitha, Botcha Satyanarayana, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney, special chief secretary Poonam Malakondaiah, principal secretary of panchayat raj Gopal Krishna Dwivedi and other officials were present.



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy interacting with District Collectors and SPs on rains and floods from his camp office in Tadepalli on Wednesday

AP Covid cases continue to slide

3,892 fresh infections reported, 28 deaths take the total to 6,319

Amaravati: Showing a further decline, 3,892 fresh coronavirus cases were reported in the state on Wednesday as the aggregate went up to 7,67,465.

The latest bulletin said 5,050 patients had recovered in 24 hours ending 9 am on Wednesday, taking the overall count to 7,19,477.

Twenty-eight fresh Covid-19 deaths were reported in the state as the gross rose to 6,319.

The number of active cases came down to 41,669. After 67.72 lakh sample tests, the overall infection positivity rate stood at 11.33 per cent in the state.

Interestingly, East Godavari district once again reported the highest number of 607 daily additions as its confirmed positives tally went up to 1,07,888.

The total recoveries in the district also crossed the one lakh mark, reaching 1,00,177.

It now has 7,135 active cases after 576 fatalities.

West Godavari added 518, Krishna 458 and Chittoor 405 new cases. Chittoor and Krishna reported four more casualties each, along with Visakhapatnam district.

East Godavari, Guntur and Prakasam had three more deaths each, according to the bulletin.

Simhachalam temple employee suspended

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: Senior assistant of Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam at Simhachalam Paluri Narasinga Rao was placed under suspension on Wednesday for illegal activities that he indulged in.

Issuing the suspension orders, commissioner of revenue (endowments) P Arjun Rao said that that it had come to his notice that Narasinga Rao had been indulging in various unlawful activities like encouraging illegal constructions, inter-

fering in the postings, threatening the guards posted on duty on the temple precincts and leaking certain confidential information.

The commissioner said that Narasinga Rao is the kingpin in the illegal levelling of the 13.4 acre land belonging to the temple though the High Court had ordered status quo in the matter.

The commissioner of revenue (endowments) says among other irregularities, he is the main person behind the illegal levelling of 13.4 acre land of the temple despite status quo order by HC

Arjun Rao said that the senior assistant has been placed under suspension pending inquiry as his continuation in the post will hamper not only the probe but also the mass encroachment of the land belonging to the temple. The executive officer of the temple has been asked to take further necessary action in this regard.

Implement interest waiver as soon as possible: SC

Continued from P1

"There is diversity in lending and different modalities are required to be followed." He said banks would waive interest on interest and then will be compensated by the government and calculation will have different modalities. "We are telling you that it is a welcome decision but they want some concrete things," the bench observed, adding, "we welcome the decision of the Centre, only thing it should be translated practically".

The bench said the Centre may take steps to implement its decisions referred to in the affidavits filed in the court. Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for banks association, told the bench that banks would implement whatever decision have been taken by the government. Senior lawyer Rajeev Dutta, appearing for one of the pe-

titioners, said the banks are capitalizing by taking interest on interest on existing loans. "We are small people with small loans (less than Rs 2 crore). They should not compound the interest in these cases," Dutta said. To this, the bench said it has already ordered that banks cannot declare NPAs. "We have already passed an order prohibiting classification of NPA's and without a fiscal policy, proposals cannot be altered," it said, while asking the Centre and banks association as to when the benefits would be implemented. "For these modalities you require one-month time," the bench asked.

Salve said, "The complexity is such, it requires time". The bench, however, said that the decisions taken by the authorities should be implemented now. The top court is hearing the petitions, including

the one which has sought a direction to declare the portion of an RBI notification, issued on March 27, "ultra vires to the extent it charges interest on the loan amount during the moratorium period..." The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently filed an affidavit in the apex court recently saying that loan moratorium exceeding six months might result in "vitiating the overall credit discipline", which will have a "debilitating impact" on the process of credit creation in the economy. These affidavits were filed following the top court's October 5 order asking them to place on record the K V Kamath committee recommendations on debt restructuring because of the Covid-19 related stress on various sectors as well as the notifications and circulars issued so far on loan moratorium. It has also said that the

apex court's interim order of September 4, restraining classification of accounts into non-performing accounts in terms of the directions issued by the RBI, may kindly be vacated with immediate effect.

The Kamath panel had made recommendations for 26 sectors that could be factored by lending institutions while finalising loan resolution plans and had said that banks could adopt a graded approach based on the severity of the coronavirus pandemic on a sector.

Initially, the RBI on March 27 had issued the circular which allowed lending institutions to grant a moratorium on payment of instalments of term loans falling due between March 1, 2020, and May 31, 2020, due to the pandemic. Later, the period of the moratorium was extended till August 31 this year.

Continued from P1

Since 2008, she hosted a classical dance training programme called 'Sadhana' in Sri Venkateshwara Bhakti Channel. Naidu was also the presenter of 'Siri Siri Muvva' programme on Sanskruthi channel, which was meant for promoting budding artists.

Impressed by her performance as Padmavati in Kalyana Srinivasam, the Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanams even organised a series of programmes across the country, including sponsoring the recordings of a few of her shows.

She also showcased her dancing skills at several international

venues in the USA, UK, Russia, Syria, Iraq and others.

As many as 1,500 students from India and abroad learnt Kuchipudi dance from the exponent, who went on to further propagate and popularise the classical dance form, which originated in Kuchipudi village of Krishna district.

Over the years, the danseuse won many awards, including the Padmashree.

Saddened by Naidu's death, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed grief over her passing away.

"From being a disciple of Satyam to heading the dance

academy to train young dancers, Naidu, born in Anakapalle, has done great service to Kuchipudi and her ballads and solo performances had won worldwide acclaim," said Reddy.

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan also expressed grief over Naidu's death. "Naidu mastered the technique of Kuchipudi and played lead roles in dance-dramas at a very young age and her performance in the roles of Satyabhama and Padmavati were well acclaimed," said Harichandan.

He said Naidu contributed immensely to the popularity of Kuchipudi and trained younger students.

TODAY'S QUOTE

IBC can be far more efficient

“Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) is an evolving process and there is scope for the framework to become more efficient. The ecosystem of creative destruction is a very important part of any economy. Exit process for businesses was not enabled well before the IBC

— CEA Krishnamurthy Subramanian



STOCK MKT

Gross inflows in equities at 6-mth high

Gross inflows in equities are at a 6-month high and the sales of equity schemes is up 17.5 per cent month-on-month to Rs 179 billion. As per Motilal Oswal Financial Services, 60 per cent of top-25 mutual fund schemes outperformed the markets. Further, redemptions also cooled off marginally

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| US Dollar | 77.76 | South | |
| Euro | 90.81 | African Rand | 5.11 |
| UAE Dirham | 21.97 | Hong Kong Dollar | 10.88 |
| Thai Baht | 2.71 | Japanese Yen | 0.8 |
| British Pound | 99.53 | New Zealand Dollar | 51.24 |
| Australian Dollar | 55.39 | Saudi Riyal | 21.5 |
| Canadian Dollar | 58.72 | Swedish Krona | 9.61 |
| Swiss Franc | 83.75 | Singapore Dollar | 56.72 |

DELHI THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Glenmark's new drug

Hyderabad: Glenmark Pharma on Wednesday announced the launch of its generic version of Nintedanib called Nindanib which is used for the treatment of pulmonary fibrosis, in India. "Glenmark being a leader in the area of respiratory has been amongst the first to launch the branded generic version at an affordable cost for the treatment of pulmonary fibrosis in India", it said. The new drug will provide patients a far more cost effective treatment option, and enable doctors to treat a wider patient population. Nintedanib is approved by the Indian drug regulator for the treatment of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF). "By introducing Nindanib, we hope to substantially reduce both the pill and cost burden for patients," said Alok Malik, Business Head, India Formulations, Glenmark.

Ather plans charging grid

Hyderabad: Electric vehicle startup Ather Energy said the first phase of its plans of setting up charging grid across over 135 locations would be completed by the year-end. Under this plan, it is setting up five new charging stations in Hyderabad. In all, it targets to install 6,500 charging points across the country by 2022. The firm currently has 150 fast charging stations pan-India. These grid fast charging network can be used by all electric two-wheelers and electric four-wheelers, besides charging its Ather 450X scooter in 10 minutes. "Ather Grid has seen steady adoption in Bengaluru and Chennai and we believe that accessible charging infrastructure is critical before launching our products in any market we enter," said Ravneet Singh Phokela, Chief Business Officer, Ather Energy.

Pizza Hut expands range

Hyderabad: Pizza Hut India has launched ten new variants of its iconic pan pizzas. The brand is expecting 30 percent growth in sales this quarter on the back of strong delivery, higher group ordering volume and the new product lineup. It has seen a strong surge in delivery and takeaway sales in the last few months with delivery contributing to over 60 per cent sales currently and takeaway surpassing even last year's numbers. "I am confident that consumers will thoroughly relish the new range. We are looking forward to a great quarter with double digit growth in delivery and our investments in product innovation, safety and hygiene measures and strong delivery capabilities will help us achieve this ambitious target," said Merrill Pereyra, MD, India Subcontinent, Pizza Hut.

UXReactor's WFH package

Hyderabad: UXReactor, a US-based full-service user experience design firm with office in Hyderabad, announced a special work from home package where the company makes it more enjoyable for all its employees to work remotely till the end of this year. The firm a work from home expense policy across all of its offices where all employees are paid a one-time amount of Rs 7,500 for its employees in India and equivalent amount for its employees across US and Columbia. Apart from this, it has also announced additional leaves for festivals like Dussehra, Diwali or Christmas. Prasad Kantamneni, co-founder, UXReactor, said, "We see the Covid-19 pandemic situation getting worse before it gets better. Therefore, we are extending the work from home directive for our global workforce till December 2020".

Covid-19 forces Biyani to sell Future Group

Founder says retail major has lost ₹7,000 crore revenue due to pandemic

BIYANI'S CORONA WOES



“To be very honest, we got into a trap with Covid-19. In the first 3-4 months, we lost nearly Rs 7,000 crore of revenue. There was no way the company could have survived losing such an amount

— Future Group founder Kishore Biyani

the BigBazaar that sells everything from groceries to cosmetics and apparel, and Future Lifestyle Fashions Ltd that operates fashion discount chain Brand Factory.

While Reliance will take over Future Consumer, which sells food, home and personal care

products, Future Group's financial and insurance business is not part of the deal. Future Retail operated 1,550 stores. Its flagship brands BigBazaar, FBB and Foodhall, Easyday, Heritage Fresh and WHSmith. Future Lifestyle Fashion operates 354 stores. Investment from Re-



liance would help Future's founder Biyani pare debt.

Last week, US online retailer Amazon slapped a legal notice on Future Group, alleging that the retailer's Rs 24,713 crore asset sale to Reliance Industries violated an agreement with the e-commerce giant.

"We have initiated steps to enforce our contractual rights," a spokesperson for the Seattle-based e-commerce giant said. "As the matter is sub-judice, we can't

provide details." Amazon last year bought a 49 per cent stake in one of Future's unlisted firms, Future Coupons Ltd, with the right to buy into flagship Future Retail after a period between 3 and 10 years. Future Coupons owns a 7.3 per cent stake in Future Retail.

In August this year, Future reached an agreement to sell its retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing units to Reliance. The deal is awaiting regulatory approvals.

Wholesale prices jump in Sept; WPI up 1.32%

New Delhi: High prices of food products, primary articles and manufactured goods accelerated India's September wholesale inflation.

Consequently, the annual rate of inflation based on wholesale prices rose to 1.32 per cent in September from 0.16 per cent in August, and from (-)0.25 per cent in July.

On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) data furnished by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has risen by only 0.33 per cent as against the corresponding period of the previous year.

"The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, stood at 1.32 per cent (provisional) for the month of September 2020 (over September, 2019) as compared to 0.33 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year," the ministry said in its review of 'Index Numbers of Wholesale Price in India' for September.

On a sequential basis, the expenses on primary articles, which constitute 22.62 per cent of the WPI's total weightage, increased 5.10 per cent from 1.60 per cent in August 2020.

The prices of food items remained at elevated levels with a rise of 6.92 per cent from 4.07

Vegetable prices in September escalated 36.54% against a rise of 7.03% in August



per cent reported for August.

On commodity and sub-segment basis, potato price increased by 107.63 per cent in September while it was at 82.93 per cent during August 2020.

Overall, vegetable prices in September rose 36.54 per cent against a rise of 7.03 per cent in August. Similarly, pulses became dearer by 12.53 per cent last month from 9.86 per cent in August.

On a YoY basis, expenses on food items increased at a faster rate of 8.17 per cent from 7.54 per cent in the corresponding period of last year. Sub-segment of vegetable prices in September rose 36.54 per cent against the decline of 19.3 per cent in the same month a year ago.

The cost of the fuel and power category declined (-)9.54 per cent against a rise of (-)6.68 per cent YoY.

MKTS EDGE HIGHER ON SC RULING HOPES



New Delhi: Expectation of a favourable judgment on interest waiver during the moratorium period buoyed the Indian equity markets during Wednesday's trade session.

The indices pared initial losses that occurred due to global cues, profit booking and the IMF's prediction of GDP contraction to close on a positive note. Besides, volumes on the NSE were in line with recent average and BSEI stocks were the star performers for the day.

Apart from BFSI, metals, media and FMCG stocks ended marginally in the positive whereas all other sectors closed in the red.

The S&P BSE Sensex closed at 40,794.74, higher by 169.23 points, or 0.42 per cent, from its previous close. The Nifty50 traded at 11,971.05, higher by 36.55 points or 0.31 per cent, from its previous close.

Globally, Asian equities slipped on Wednesday as trials for a prospective Covid-19 vaccine were halted and an impasse in US fiscal aid package talks dented risk appetite.

Infosys Q2 net up 20.5% at ₹4,845 cr

Raises revenue growth forecast to 2-3 per cent for FY21

New Delhi: India's second-largest IT services company Infosys on Wednesday said its consolidated net profit grew by 20.5 per cent to Rs 4,845 crore for the September quarter, and it has raised revenue forecast to 2-3 per cent for FY21.

Infosys had clocked a net profit of Rs 4,019 crore in the same period last fiscal, Infosys said.

The Bengaluru-based company's revenues rose 8.5 per cent to Rs 24,570 crore in the quarter under review, from Rs 22,629 crore in the year-ago period. Infosys has revised its guidance upwards to 2-3 per cent growth in FY21 in constant currency terms.

Earlier, the company had guided to up to 2 per cent growth in constant currency terms for the current fiscal.

"Increase in revenue and margin outlook for FY21 is due to the continued trust clients have in us," Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh said.

He added that the company's digital and cloud capabilities, combined with intense client relevance, are helping it achieve differentiated results in the market, and the same is reflected in the quarterly per-



To roll out salary hikes from Jan

New Delhi: India's second-largest IT services firm Infosys on Wednesday said it will roll out salary hikes and promotions across all levels effective January 1.

Infosys is also giving 100 per cent variable pay, along with a special incentive for the second quarter. The company has 2,40,208 employees at the end of September 2020 quarter. "Recognising the continuing stellar commitment from our employees during these times, we are paying out variable pay for the quarter at 100 per cent. We will pay

a one-time special incentive in Q3 for our junior employees," Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh said during a virtual briefing. The salary hike process will restart now and will be effective on January 1, 2021, he added. "We restarted promotions in the last quarter at our junior levels, and this will now be expanded to all our levels," Parekh said.

Infosys had earlier said it was suspending promotions and pay hikes amid the epidemic-led slowdown in business but would honour all the job offers it had made.

formance. The company has declared an interim dividend of Rs 12 per equity share.

Infosys CFO Nilanjan Roy said free cash flows grew significantly in H1, driven by its con-

sistent focus on liquidity and cash management.

"Consequently, we are increasing our interim dividend per share by 50 per cent to Rs 12," he added.

GDP revival hinges on right policies: IMF

More can be done to provide support to households, feels world body

Washington: The Indian economy, severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic, would be well-placed to start recovering from the 'horrible crisis' with the government making efforts on both the fiscal and monetary side in addition to putting in place structural elements, a top IMF official has said.

The International Monetary Fund in its annual World Economic Outlook significantly downgraded India's growth for the fiscal year 2020 to minus 10.3 per cent.

At the same time, IMF said that India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 per cent growth rate in 2021, but for this New Delhi needs to ramp up its efforts in various fields.

In terms of what can be done going forward, clearly on the fiscal side, the IMF believes there is more that can be done to pro-



vide support to households and firms that have been affected by the pandemic, Malhar Shyam Nabar, Division Chief, Research Department, IMF, told reporters on Tuesday at a news conference here on the eve of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.

He further said there is a need to tilt the composition of the fis-

cal support towards more of the direct spending and tax relief measures and to rely slightly less on the liquidity support measures, the credit guarantees, which are clearly important to support the provision of credit in the economy.

"But if you look at the approach that was taken, there was more of an emphasis on that type

of measure. We think that there is room to recalibrate and to provide more direct relief and spending support, which could have a first order impact on preventing even worse outcomes", Nabar said.

On the monetary policy side, the RBI had come in very aggressively early on, he said. "It has paused recently with its interest rate cuts, looking through this inflation, the spike in inflation that they have had recently, but we believe there is more that the RBI can do, too, in terms of there is room to cut if needed, and we think that should be done once this inflation spike is more under control," he added.

"And together with these efforts, both on the fiscal side and the monetary side, we think that would put India on a path to recovery going forward," Nabar said.

15% startups shut down due to Covid

New Delhi: The impact of Covid-19 has been severe on the Indian startup ecosystem during the lockdown as 15 per cent of startups have halted operations.

According to a report by THE Delhi-NCR and Zinnov, 44 per cent of startups have cash runway for less than 6 months, 41 per cent of startups have been impacted negatively while 32 per cent are struggling to raise capital.

The report witnessed decline in overall pace of investments, especially in April to June 2020, 48 per cent year on year decline in funding and 37 per cent year on

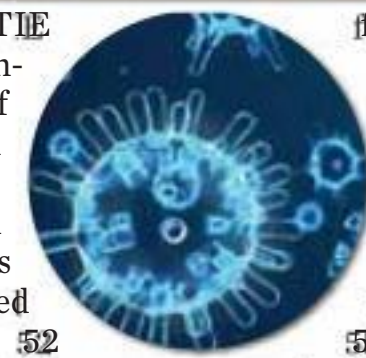
year decline in number of deals in the quarter. As per the report,

less than 50 startups raised their first round of funds in Q2 2020. There was a sharp dip in percentage share of total

funding for B2C startups from 65-70 per cent in Q1 2020 to 30-35 per cent in Q2 2020.

The decline was even more prominent in seed and early stage investments. More than 55 per cent year on year decline in seed and early stage while 38 year on year decline in late stage funding in the quarter.

There was a more than 50 per cent decrease in early and late stage total funding in Q2 20 as compared to Q1 20.



15 killed, many go missing as rains wreak havoc in Hyd

Many colonies in the Old City are worst hit with inundation up to 12 feet height

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The incessant rains in city on Tuesday wreaked havoc and threw the life of denizens out of gear. According to sources, more than 15 persons were killed in separate incidents.

In the first incident, nine persons from a family, including three children and an infant of two months, were killed on the spot after a huge boulder rolled over their residence in Ghouse Nagar of Chandrayangutta. Five more persons were suspected to be caught under the debris. The victims were identified as, Samad, Rabbani, Saba, Fouzia, Zain, Zohaid, Zakira Begum, Sadiq and Syeda Anwari.

According to police, the incident occurred as the owner of the house did not take necessary precautions while constructing the house adjacent to an old rock, due to which a boulder from the rock got displaced and rolled over the house killing the residents. A case of criminal misconduct has been booked against the owner.

In another incident, two persons died due to wall collapse in Phoolbagh of Chandrayangutta while they were asleep. Similarly, three persons were dead due to wall collapse in Gaganpahad under Shamshabad limits.

Shamshabad Deputy Commis-



Musi river brimming with water at Chaderghat bridge on Wednesday

Photo: N Shiva Kumar Meru

sioner of Police Prakash Reddy, speaking to the media, noted, "The wall, which was weak already, collapsed due to heavy rains, killing three persons."

In another incident, eight members of a family were also washed away in flood waters in Bandlaguda on Tuesday night at around 3 am when the waters from nearby lake, Palle Cheruvu tank, entered the surrounding colonies.

According to police, when the incident occurred, the family was asleep and could not realise the growing intensity of water.

When they were alerted by the neighbours, they came out and were washed away in the swirling waters. Only two bodies were traced by the NDRF, and further search is still on.

Apart from it, two more persons were washed away near Falaknuma rail under bridge. The victims went out for work in day time and were stuck in mid-way. However, they managed to reach Falaknuma, but when they were about to reach their residence and were crossing the RUB, they were washed away, said the police.

Meanwhile, there were also reports suggesting that citizens have spotted dead bodies floating in a lake in Al Jubail Colony and in Hussainsagar and their photos were uploaded online on social networking websites.

The Al Jubail Colony was also among the worst hit as many areas such as Ghazi-millat Colony, Subhan Colony, Hashamabad, Shaheen Nagar etc. were inundated in water upto 10 to 12 feet, and around 15 persons were rescued by the NDRF, GHMC and police department.



Ciry Police Chief Anjani Kumar



Cyberabad police chief V C Sajjanar



Rachakonda top cop Mahesh Bhagwath

RAIN PAIN

Top cops swing into action, monitor rescue works in city

Heads of three police Commissionerates visit rain-hit areas in their respective jurisdiction and expedite the relief works

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The rains which wreaked havoc in the city have brought the top brass of police department on the streets as all three heads of three Commissionerates were on the roads the entire day to facilitate the ongoing rescue works.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner, Anjani Kumar visited the worst affected areas of Al Jubail colony along with the Hyderabad Collector Swetha Mohanty and supervised the rescue works.

Anjani Kumar, stated, "I request citizens to not go out of their houses now especially the areas near Musi because it's been observed that many people are just venturing out of their houses to witness the flooding of Musi,

but it will further lead to problems to the officials who are on a rescue mission."

"Apart from it, the Al Jubail colony was worst affected due to the rains, but with the continuous efforts of officials from various departments of DRF, GHMC and Police, the relief works were carried out and the situation is under control now," added the officer.

Mahesh Bhagwath, Rachakonda police commissioner, said that, the police department is working round the clock to rescue persons stranded in their houses which are inundated in waters.

He stated, "With the help of DRF, GHMC and Police officials we were able to rescue many people. Balapur area was also worst affected due to the rains and also

parts of Malkajgiri such as, Shirdi Nagar, Patel Nagar, Durga Nagar were submerged into the waters. The residents of these areas were taken out of their houses safely. Apart from it trucks were also washed away due to the force of rain waters in Pedda Amberpet and the drivers were stuck in the vehicles, but they were also rescued by the officials."

V C Sajjanar, Cyberabad police Commissioner, said that, the police department is monitoring the situation every minute.

He noted, "We visited the areas of Palle Cheruvu at Mailardevally, Gaganpahad, Shamshabad Kamuni cheruvu, Thondapally checkpoint, Ali Nagar, Allwyn company areas and ensured that all relief works are carried out and citizens are rescued."



Civic chief told to rev up rescue ops

Hyderabad: Municipal Administration department principal secretary Arvind Kumar on Wednesday directed the municipal commissioners to speed up the rescue operations and ensure there was no spread of infectious diseases after the rains.

The Principal Secretary held a video conference with the commissioners on Wednesday. He directed the commissioners to take steps to ensure there was no loss of life and property. Every municipality should have a 24-hour control room, he said.

He directed the commissioners to shift the people from low-lying areas to safe areas and also provide them food and drinking water facilities. He wanted the officials to shift the people from dilapidated houses. The apartment cellars should be checked in the towns, municipal areas and pumping of water should be taken up wherever it was necessary, he said.

Red Cross volunteers must join relief efforts: Governor

Says, "we must rise to the occasion and be in the forefront to help the needy and other affected people"

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan exhorted the Red Cross functionaries and volunteers all over the State to take active part in the rescue and relief measures in rain-hit areas.

Concerned over the loss of lives, damage to the properties and heavy inundation, the Governor on Wednesday evening convened a virtual meeting with all the district units of the Red Cross.

She instructed them to be constantly associated with the district administration and support their rescue and rehabilitation services.

"We must rise to the occasion and be in the forefront to help the needy and other affected people," she added. The Governor reviewed with each of the district units of the Indian Red Cross Society and motivated them to be constantly on vigil and attend to all the calls so as to ensure that no needy person goes without getting help. The Governor



termed the situation very sad and added that it was heart rending to see the loss of lives and damage to the property and many people going without shelter due to the incessant rains and heavy flooding.

She told the Red Cross volunteers to contact the Raj Bhavan for any help and required intervention and added that there are 4,000 to 5,000 notebooks are available with the Raj Bhavan to

distribute to the students.

She appreciated the efforts of the Red Cross volunteers in the food distribution, shelter provision, medicines and clothes distribution and the provision of ambulance services.

The Governor urged all of them to maintain the vigil and offer the services to the needy round-the-clock in the State till we overcome this incessant rain and flood situation.



Tahsildar held in bribe case commits suicide

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Tahsildar of Keesara, E.Nagaraju, who was arrested by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in a bribery scam of Rs 1.10 crore allegedly committed suicide at Chanchalguda prison on Tuesday night by hanging himself.

According to sources it is known that the ex-Tahsildar was depressed over the happenings in his life and since the time he was lodged in jail he never interacted with any of his inmates.

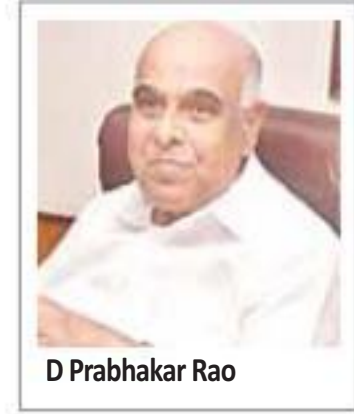
The Dabeerpura police has taken up the investigation. The police said that, the exact reason for him to commit suicide is not yet known, but his body was sent to post mortem at Osmania mortuary and an autopsy report is awaited.

Heavy rains put power discoms on high alert CM enquires about power situation in State with Transco CMD

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana State Genco, Transco CMD D Prabhakar Rao said that the discoms were on a high alert following the heavy rains and flash floods all over the State and were actively involved in the restoration measures.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had reportedly spoke to Prabhakar Rao and enquired about the power situation against the backdrop of heavy floods and rains in the State. The CM wanted the CMD to review the power situation on a regular basis with the officials of Transco and Discoms and take the necessary measures. The CM also instructed the CMD to put the general public also on high alert. "Electricity department had also suffered huge losses at several places in the State. The electricity employees were working very hard despite the adverse weather conditions. Continue this spirit of work till everything limps back to



D Prabhakar Rao

normalcy," the CM told Rao. Prabhakar Rao informed the Chief Minister that due to heavy rains and floods, there were several interruptions in the power supply in the State. Transformers in large numbers were washed away in floodwaters. At several places, poles were uprooted or twisted and power transmission cables were snapped. The intensity of rain and floods has not been reduced yet.

The CMD said that employees were unable to reach the flooded areas. Power shut down became necessary as rain-water flooded the cellars of apartments in Hyderabad and other cities. Power supply was stopped to avert any accidents and as a precautionary measure. Power supply was restored based on the prevailing situation. Employees and staff are reaching the places where they can and they would be finishing the restoration work within 24 hours, the CMD said.

AAJ KA HYDERABAD...

Activists accuse TS government of messing up lake network in city

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Activists involved in the protection of lakes said that the sufferings of people of the city were because of the destruction of hydrological network of lakes.

They opined that had the chain link of each lake connected to another and then the water flowed into Musi River, the city would not have suffered the flood fury.

Politician and activist working on preservation of lakes, Lubna Sarwath said that the Himayat Sagar water is being released into Musi, however, the carrying capacity of Musi River has not been restored. "Musi is severely encroached upon and treated as land with even Metro pillar laid on the river bed. What if Osman-sagar also has to be released? They didn't restore the Balkapur channel that connects Osman-sagar to Hussain Sagar in spite of PIL in the High Court," said Sarwath.

Why is Tolichowki inundated? asked Sarwath, adding that the hydrological network from Durgam Cheruvu passes through Kota Cheruvu, Shahhatem Lake,

Activists involved in protection of lakes feel that presence

situation is not due to filling of lakes and rivers, but due to encroachments on the lake and river beds which the government had miserably failed to contain



Naya Qila Lake, Langer House Lake to and drain into Musi River. This network chain is totally destroyed. People are being evacuated but encroachment still exists. "Musi waters are touching bridges not because Musi is full, but because Musi is cramped with encroachments," said Sarwath. "We always told the government to restore water bodies area and storage capacity and restore the network... We didn't ask for the Moon. Water is a blessing... But due to government's negligence, due to their non-application of mind, due to the gov-

ernment not acting in good faith, due to its commissions and omissions, the chain link of lakes was not restored and today, the common person is in trouble," said Sarwath.

Sarwath found fault with the government for not taking basic steps like cleaning the silt/debris. Silt/debris should have been cleared to enhance storage capacity of the lake as heavy rains were forecasted in advance. Secondly, lakes area needed to be restored so as to fill lakes to their maximum water spread and to their original volume, by eviction

of encroachments, said Sarwath.

She was critical of the government for constructing bridges on water bodies. Without setting the network right, the Municipal Minister and his team of officials built bridges over the lakes, laid BT roads inside the lakes and throttled lakes totally. They also opened gyms in lakes and temples, mosques were allowed right under bund of the lake, she alleged.

She pointed out that many water bodies were encroached and layouts had come in the FTLs. "Further, immersion ponds-cum-amphi theaters have come up inside lakes, MEIL constructs inside lakes with NOC, Phoenix constructs inside lakes. The 'ORO sports' is right inside the drinking water reservoir.

High rises with no permissions inside lake and lake is halved. Secretariat debris dumped right inside Hussainsagar and the 11-storey secretariat complex right in the lake and its notified eco-sensitive zone that has parking place for more than 2,000 cars and 4,000 two wheelers," said Sarwath.

Uttam asks party cadres to help flood-hit victims

Counters TRS leaders claim of developing city with Rs 65,000 crore

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana Congress Committee Chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday gave a call to all the party workers and the leaders to extend their help to all flood-hit victims of the State. He asked them to visit the flood-affected areas and take up the rescue operations. He expressed his condolences to those who have lost their lives to floods and conveyed his deep sympathies to their bereaved family members.

He demanded the State government to extend its support and ex gratia to the bereaved family members,

and also help farmers, who have lost everything to floods. The State Congress chief said that the State wouldn't have incurred so much loss due to heavy rains had the State government taken steps to prevent human and economic loss by warning the people in advance.

Adding that the State government had grossly failed in tackling floods, he sought the ruling party leaders reaction on the present situation, who claimed to have developed the city by spending Rs 67,000 crore.



Guv to advise patients via telemedicine today

Hyderabad: Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan will be attending calls personally from patients and others seeking medical advice as a measure to reach out to the patients and the needy through telemedicine facility from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm on Thursday. A medical doctor by profession, the Governor along with two other Raj Bhavan doctors would personally take the calls and would offer guidance and advice to the patients in need. Those interested and those in need can avail this telemedicine facility by the Governor by calling on the helpline number 040-23310521 from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm on Thursday (Oct 15).

TRS, BJP candidates file nomination papers

Hyderabad: Candidates of two major parties including TRS's Solipeta Sujatha and BJP's M Raghuhandan Rao filed nomination papers for bye-elections to Dubbaka Assembly Constituency on Wednesday.

According to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), 15 nominations were filed on Wednesday. Out of the 15 nominations filed on Wednesday ten were by independents. The other parties include Jai Swaraj Party, Republican Party of India and Indian Praja Bandhu party.

DENMARK OPEN

Srikanth enters second round

Copenhagen (IANS): Ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth came out with a commanding performance as he registered a straight-games win over England's Toby Pentty in his opening round match at the Denmark Open.

Srikanth, the former world number one, defeated Pentty 21-12, 21-18 in 37 minutes at the Super 750 event, which has marked the resumption of international badminton after seven months. He will next face either fellow Indian Subhankar Dey or Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue.

Lakshya Sen has already reached the pre-quarters with a straight-games win over Christo Popov on Tuesday. Sen, who held a 3-1 head to head record against Popov, had defeated the Frenchman 21-9, 21-15 in just 36 minutes to make it to the next round of the Super 750 event. He will face Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus of Denmark for a place in the quarterfinals.

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.

The Bad-



minton World Federation (BWF) had earlier intended the Thomas Cup and Uber Cup team events to mark the restart of the badminton calendar, but the tournaments were cancelled after several countries pulled out due to safety concerns arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The BWF also cancelled the Denmark Masters, which was set to start two days after the end of the Denmark Open.

Wide or Not: Umpire changes mind after Dhoni's angry gesture

Dubai (IANS): Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper MS Dhoni was seen visibly angry during his side's 20-run win over SunRisers Hyderabad in their eighth Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 encounter.

During the 19th over of SRH's chase of 168 on Tuesday evening, both Dhoni and 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.

However, following Reiffel's change of mind, SRH captain David Warner was seen gesturing angrily from the dugout. Shahbaz Nadeem, who was standing at the non-striker's end, was also seen having a word with the Aus-



tralian about the wide call that was not.

In the end, SRH fell short of the target by 20 runs and registered their fifth defeat in the ongoing tournament.

The incident was not the first time that Dhoni showed displeasure at an umpire's call in the IPL. During last year's IPL clash against Rajasthan Royals, the CSK captain, standing in the

dugout, lost his cool at an umpire and stormed on to the pitch launching a heated argument with the on-field umpires.

TODAY'S MATCH

Royal Challengers
Bangalore vs Kings XI
Punjab at 7.30pm

KL keeps Orange, Rabada Purple

Dubai (IANS): Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul and Kagiso Rabada of Delhi Capitals continue to hold on their numerous spots in the list of leading run-getters and wicket-takers following the conclusion of the 29th IPL 2020 match between Chennai Super Kings and SunRisers Hyderabad. Rahul continues to hold onto the Orange Cap, having scored 387 runs in seven games. He is followed by his teammate Mayank Agarwal who has collected 337 runs in seven games. Chennai Super Kings' Faf du Plessis comes third on the list with 307 runs in eight games. Rabada, on the other hand, continues to wear the Purple Cap, having picked 17 wickets in seven matches so far. He is followed by Mumbai Indians' Jasprit Bumrah, who has 11 wickets in seven games. Bumrah's teammate Trent Boult is third on the list with 11 wickets from seven matches.

Kamran Akmal 1st wicketkeeper to affect 100 T20 stumpings

Lahore (IANS): Pakistan's Kamran Akmal has become the first wicketkeeper in T20 cricket to affect 100 stumpings in the shortest format of the game.

He achieved the feat while playing for Central Punjab during the National T20 Cup fixture against Southern Punjab on Tuesday. "The

first wicketkeeper to record 100 stumpings in T20 cricket, congratulations Kamran Akmal on a wonderful achievement!" tweeted the official handle of Pakistan Cricket.

Former India skipper MS Dhoni is second in the list with 84 stumpings in T20 cricket. Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara is at the third spot with 60 stumpings and is followed by Dinesh Karthik (59) and Afghanistan's Mohammad Shahzad (52).

In T20 internationals, Dhoni leads the chart with 34

stumpings in 98 matches. He is followed by Akmal who has 32 stumpings to his name in 58 games for Pakistan. Next in line are Mushfiqur Rahim of Bangladesh (29), Shahzad (28) and Sangakkara (20).

Overall in international cricket (including all the three formats -- Test, ODIs and T20Is), Dhoni is at the numerous spot with 123 stumpings.

He is followed by Sangakkara (99), RS Kaluwitharana (75), Moin Khan (73) and Adam Gilchrist (55).

Reid, who led Kiwis to first Test win, dies at 92

Auckland (Agencies): John Reid, the New Zealand cricketing great and the country's oldest surviving Test player, has died in Auckland, aged 92.

Reid, regarded as one of the world's best all-rounders during his heyday in the fifties and early sixties, captained his country in 34 Tests including, most notably, New Zealand's first three victories.

The first, against the West Indies at Auckland in 1956, broke a winless streak of 26 years for the New Zealand team. The second and third both came during New Zealand's drawn series in South Africa in 1961-62.

Reid was a hard-hitting right batsman and a brisk seam bowler who played 58 Tests, scoring 3428 runs at 33.28, while taking 85 wickets at 33.35. Of his six Test centuries, the highest was 142 against South Africa at Johannesburg, in the Boxing Day Test of 1961.

Reid's quality was no less than a Chris Cairns, who dominated world cricket, especially in the limited overs variety.

As a 19-year-old, John Reid made his Test debut at Manchester on the 1949 tour of

England, scoring 50 and 25; before standing in to keep wicket in the fourth and final Test, during which he scored 93 in his team's second innings.

He was the only surviving member of the famous 49ers.

Following the 1965 tour of England, John Reid retired but returned to the United Kingdom only a few weeks later to captain the Rest of the World in two matches against England at Scarborough and Lord's.

He was later a New Zealand selector, manager, and an ICC match referee.

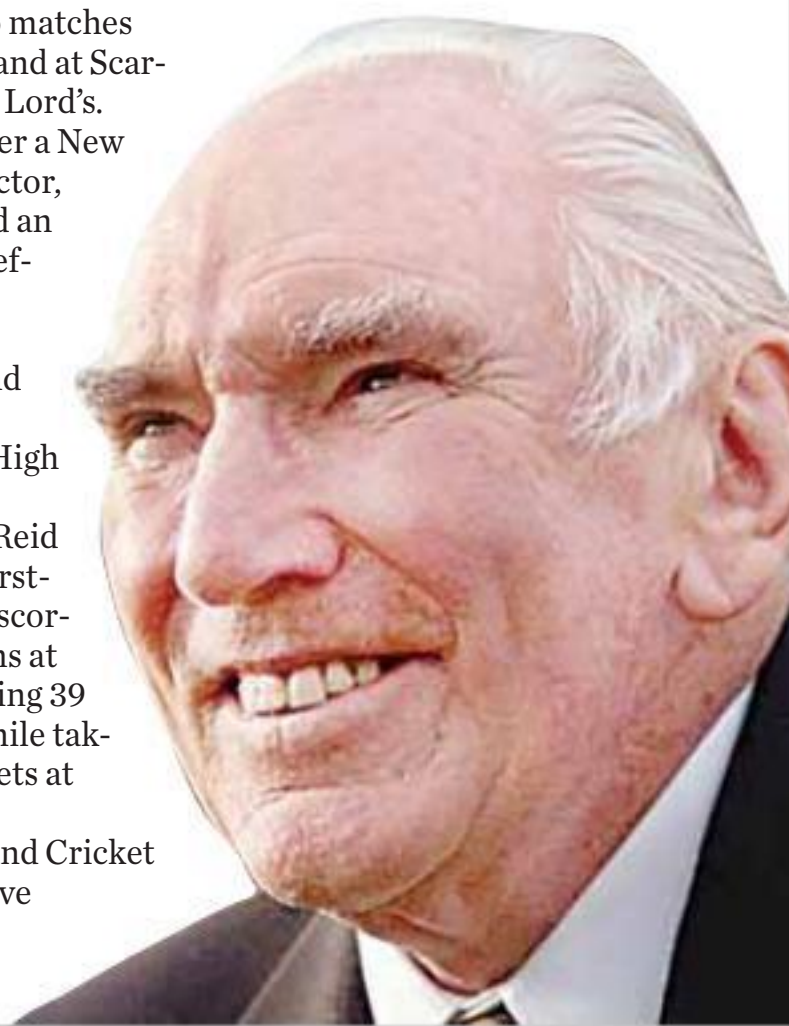
Born in Auckland, and educated at Hutt Valley High School in Wellington, Reid

played 246 first-class games, scoring 16128 runs at 41.35, including 39 centuries, while taking 466 wickets at 22.60.

New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White hailed John

Reid as a colossus of New Zealand cricket in the post-war era, a player who led from the front in all three disciplines, and carried the hopes of his team, more or less, on his own broad shoulders.

A private family service will be held for Reid, and a memorial service at the Basin Reserve in Wellington is being planned.



ISL: 9 graduates from 1st RFYC batch set to embark on pro-football journey



champs from RFYC have embarked on their professional footballing journey with ISL," said Nita Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation.

"We started the academy in 2015 to provide a pathway for talented young players across India to build successful professional careers in the sport. These boys

arrived at RFYC in their early teens and I am delighted that they step out today as highly skilled players, who have earned a place with the best football clubs in the country," she added.

With 22 new young players joining the program in the last year, the total students currently training at the RFYC academy is 65, with 22 full-time staff.

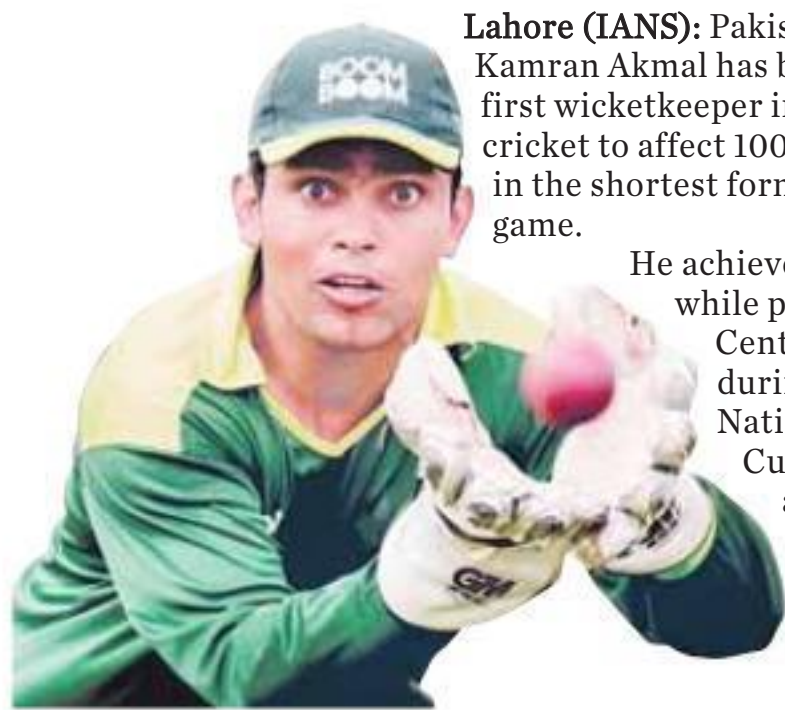


Giro d'Italia: Sagan pulls off sensational win in Stage 10

Lanciano (Italy) (IANS): As the storm clouds cleared and a rainbow appeared above Tortoreto, Peter Sagan -- the triple former world champion with the rainbow bands around his sleeves -- pulled off a ride for the ages, soloing to a first win since the 2019 Tour de France to pick up his first-ever stage victory in the ongoing Giro d'Italia.

The finale of Tuesday's 177km Stage 10 was peppered with steep ramps and hampered by some almighty downpours - but one man could soon see clearly once the rain had gone. After the frustration of three second places in his debut Giro, Bora-Hansgrohe's Sagan finally struck gold, riding clear of the day's breakaway with 12km remaining and withstanding the chase behind as the GC favourites battled for pink supremacy in the wake of an untimely puncture for Denmark's Jakob Fuglsang.

Sagan held on to take an emphatic win by 19 seconds over the American Brandon McNulty (UAE-Team Emirates) while, right behind, Portugal's Joao Almeida (Deceuninck-QuickStep) won the sprint for third place from a select group of GC favourites to add another four seconds to his lead at the top of the standings.



New Delhi (IANS): It's all thanks to badminton that today Amritpal Kaur is India's best known young face in karate. And it was Delhi's streets that pushed her to attend her first martial-arts class.

Even as her story has been optioned for a film by Sujay Jairaj, who also secured the rights for a movie on former world number one badminton player Saina Nehwal, and has started a funding campaign for the karate player on Ketto; Kaur, who won the Gold Medal in Commonwealth Karate Championship (2015) and has been walking away with the top slot at South Asian Championships for the last three consecutive years recalls that as a 13-years-old, travelling alone in Delhi's to the badminton court from her house near Tilak Nagar was a nightmare for obvi-

ous reasons. "Self-defence was the only reason that I wanted to learn karate. However, there was something about the sport that made me fall in love with it instantly," smiles the 23-year-old.

Training in a park near her place for the first two years and losing most of matches, the young player soon understood that there was something amiss. She then decided to save her pocket money and raid cyber cafes to watch videos of karate champion Rafael Aghayev from Azerbaijan.

"That is when I realised that what was being taught to me was something very basic. It also meant that I had to work hard on myself and devote more time to self-training."

Of course, like most Indian parents obsessed with academics, the idea of long hours of



training did not really go well with her parents. But Kaur, a topper and through-out scholarship holder during her school years managed to convince her mother of a fine balance between the two.

By the time she enrolled in the English Honours course at the capital's Janki Devi Memorial College, the young player had already proved her mettle at the state and national levels, thanks to which the Delhi government

Neymar goes past Ronaldo to become 2nd highest goal-scorer for Brazil

Lima (IANS): Neymar has surpassed Ronaldo to become the second-highest goal scorer for Brazil. Neymar scored hat-trick against Peru in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifier which helped Brazil register a 4-2 win on Tuesday evening. He has now taken his international tally to 64 in 104 games, two more than Ronaldo who had scored 62 goals in 98 matches for Brazil. Legendary striker Pele leads the chart with 77 goals for Brazil. In Au-

gust, legendary Brazil goal-keeper Taffarel had termed Neymar as a superstar. In an interview to FIFA.com, he had said of the Paris Saint Germain striker: "A great player. He plays the game in a beautiful way. He's an incredible dribbler, sets up goals, scores fantastic goals." "He's very important for us. We really hope he can be at his best and help Brazil win another World Cup. He's a superstar," Taffarel added.

Delhi's mean streets & badminton creates India's Karate Kid

granted her a scholarship. "And that is how I could afford my training, travelling and gear," she says.

But with no support from the government when it came to training ("where is the infrastructure") and flying to international destinations for qualifying matches, things suddenly started looking bleak. "Once a Sikh organisation funded me to train in Turkey. Going for qualifying matches means flight tickets, accommodating, gear, training and food....it is never easy," this black belt in Soto'yo Seiko Kai (a style in Karate) laments.

For someone whose day starts at 5 am -- meditation, three hours of training, a break and five hours of training again before hitting the bed, the driving force has always been passion. "What else can you attribute it

to," she asks.

Despite beating all odds, the fact that she could not make it to the Tokyo Olympics left her heartbroken. "All qualifying matches that started two years back were held in Europe, how could I afford it?" she asks.

And on top of that, in December 2019, while competing at a tournament in Goa, a fall caused a torn ACL. "This translated into complete bed rest for seven months and also meant an expensive surgery."

But the moment one of her friends tweeted about this, actor SonuSood's team reached out in fifteen minutes and decided to fund the surgery.

Kaur, still hungry for more championships now wants to go to Turkey to train further. "The only way for me is forward," she says.