



WINDOWS



Slovenia's Primoz Roglic, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, celebrates on the podium after stage 16 of the Tour de France cycling race over 164 kilometers (102 miles) from La Tour-du-Pin to Villard-de-Lans in France on Tuesday

Ayodhya temple trust gets back fraudulently withdrawn ₹6L

Ayodhya (IANS): The State Bank of India (SBI) has refunded Rs 6 lakh which was fraudulently withdrawn from the account of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust last week. This was the second cyber-attack on the Ayodhya temple trust in four months. Secretary of Ram Mandir Trust, Champat Rai, said he had written to the bank demanding refund of money, fraudulently withdrawn from the account. Manager of SBI Ayodhya branch, Priyanshu Sharma, said, "The fraudsters had produced cloned cheques at the Punjab National Bank (PNB). We have refunded the amount to the temple trust's bank account and will recover the money from the PNB." The trust has confirmed the refund. The amount was withdrawn through two cloned cheques with forged signatures of trustees over a 10-day span before the scam was busted during verification of a third fake cheque at the SBI clearing house in Lucknow last week.

SPORTS



Thomas and Uber Cup postponed, BAI supports BWF's decision

P8



You are no longer a VIP, sir. Your name is not in the list China spies on.

China in illegal occupation of 38,000 sq km of land: Rajnath

New Delhi (IANS): China is in illegal occupation of 38,000 square km of Indian land and it considers another 90,000 square km as its own, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament on Tuesday, adding that the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is not clearly delineated.

The Defence Minister said that China has tried to disrupt the ground situation in May and June and it led to India's response. "We have told China that such incidents won't be acceptable to us," Rajnath said.

China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq km in the Union Territory of Ladakh. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq km of Indian territory in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to China. China also claims approximately 90,000 sq km of Indian territory in the eastern sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh, the minister said.

China does not accept the customary and traditional alignment of the



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the Lok Sabha during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in New Delhi on Tuesday

boundary between India and China. "We believe that this alignment is based on well-established geographical principles confirmed by treaties and agreements, as well as historical usage and practice, well-known for centuries to both sides," the minister said.

The two countries had engaged in discussions during the 1950s and 60s but these efforts could not yield a mutually acceptable solution.

Both India and China have formally agreed that the boundary question is a complex issue which requires patience and have committed to seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution

through dialogue and peaceful negotiations. In the interim, the two sides also agree that maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas is an essential basis for the further development of bilateral relations.

The Defence Minister said as yet there is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control in the border areas between India and China and there is no common perception of the entire LAC.

Therefore, in order to ensure peace and tranquillity in the border areas, especially along the LAC, the two countries have concluded a number of agreements and protocols.

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'China moving troops in depth areas opposite Arunachal'

New Delhi (ANI): After the Chinese Army's attempts to occupy dormant heights in Southern Pangong Tso area were foiled by the Indian security forces, Indian agencies are keeping a close watch on their movements opposite other sectors, especially Arunachal Pradesh, where the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has been moving troops in the depth areas. "A strict vigil is

being maintained in almost all the sectors with China from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh as the Chinese suffered a setback in the southern Pangong Tso area and may try to make fresh attempts to ingress into newer dormant areas," government sources told ANI.

In the Arunachal Pradesh sector, the Indian security forces have been keeping a close watch on Chinese mili-

tary movements in the areas opposite the Asaphila area, and also opposite the Tuting axis and the Fish Tail-2 area, they said. Sources said the movement of Chinese troops in their depth areas (around 20 km from LAC) has been seen in the last few days using the roads built by them in the area where they have built infrastructure through glaciated areas as well.



An IAF transport aircraft C17 brings in essentials supplies at a base in Ladakh on Tuesday, as the security forces gear up for winter amid tensions at the LAC

India beats China to win election to UN panel on women

United Nations (PTI): In a significant victory, India got elected as Member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the principal global body focussed on gender equality and women empowerment, beating China in a hotly-contested election.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The 54-member ECOSOC, holding the first plenary meeting of its 2021 session in the General Assembly Hall on Monday, held elections for two seats in the Asia-Pacific States category with Afghanistan, India and China in the fray. Afghanistan, which is led by Ambassador Adela Raz at the UN, garnered 39 votes and India got 38 votes of the 54 ballots cast. China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, got only 27 votes and could not even cross the half-way mark and also failed to get the required majority of 28 votes. "India wins seat in prestigious #ECOSOC body! India elected Member of Commission on Status of Women #CSW. It's a ringing endorsement of our commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in all our endeavours. We thank member states for their support," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti tweeted.



A child plays inside a big iron pan during unlock 4.0, in Kolkata on Tuesday

AP seeks CBI probe into Amaravati land deals

Amaravati (IANS): Andhra Pradesh's ruling party YSRCP has urged the Centre to order a CBI investigation into the alleged land scam in the Amaravati capital region and irregularities in the Andhra Pradesh State FiberNet Limited (APSFNL) during the previous TDP regime.

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), which had already made a request in this regard a couple of months ago,

decided to once again raise the issue during the ongoing Parliament session.

The YSRCP alleged that the then Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government resorted to insider trading, benefiting Chandrababu Naidu, his family members and those close to them.

The party reiterated that the information about choosing Amaravati as the location for building the new state capital was leaked

by those in power and they through their aides purchased land in and around Amaravati at throwaway prices. The investigations conducted so far including by the Cabinet Sub-Committee revealed that before the announcement of Amaravati as the state capital, 4,069.94 acres of land was purchased in Krishna and Guntur districts by those involved in insider trading.

Continued on Page 5

NIA arrests key Indian link of ISI in Indian Navy espionage case

New Delhi (IANS): In a major breakthrough in the Visakhapatnam espionage case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said it has arrested the key accused Giteli Imran from Gujarat for his involvement in the espionage activities and working for the Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI).

An NIA spokesperson in Delhi said that the agency arrested Imran, 37, on Monday under several sections of the IPC, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and the Official Secrets Act.

The official said that during the investigation, it was found that Imran was associated with Pakistani spies/agents under the guise of cross-border "cloth trade". "As per the directions of the Pakistan-based spies, he deposited money into the bank accounts of Indian Navy personnel at regular intervals in lieu of sensitive and classified data provided by them," the official said.

The official said that some digital devices and incriminating documents have been



The NIA took over the case on December 29 last year. The case was originally registered on November 16, 2019 at the CI Cell division of Andhra Pradesh Police under criminal conspiracy and waging or attempting to wage war against the Indian government and sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Section 3 of Official Secrets Act

seized in the search conducted at the house of Imran Giteli on Monday.

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The 2019 Visakhapatnam espionage case relates to an international racket involving individuals based in Pakistan and at different loca-

tions in India, including Visakhapatnam and Mumbai. It included agents in India recruited by Pakistan-based spies between 2011 and 2019.

They were collecting sensitive and classified information about locations or movements of Indian naval ships and submarines and other defence establishments. Investigation revealed that a few navy personnel came in contact with the Pakistani nationals through various social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp. Through chats and messages, often comprising sexually-explicit content, exchanged with accounts of Inter-Ser-

vices Intelligence agents posing as young women, the Indian recruits were lured into sharing classified information in lieu of monetary gains.

The money was deposited into the bank accounts of the navy personnel through Indian associates having business interests in Pakistan. The espionage racket was busted in an operation code-named 'Dolphin's Nose', jointly executed by the naval intelligence, Central agencies and Andhra Pradesh State Intelligence wing. The anti-terror probe agency has filed a chargesheet on June 15 this year against 14 people involved in the espionage case.

Facebook grants ₹32cr to help 3,000 small biz

New Delhi (IANS): Facebook India on Tuesday announced a grant of \$4.3 million (Rs 32 crore) for more than 3,000 small businesses in Delhi, Gurgaon, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

The grant, that includes both cash and ad credits with cash constituting a larger share, is part of a \$100 million global grant for small businesses Facebook announced in March this year as Covid-19 pandemic began to spread globally.

"The grant programme is open to small businesses from all industries and verticals, and businesses do not need to have a Facebook family of apps presence in order to apply. They are also free to do what they wish to do with this grant," Ajit Mohan, MD and VP, Facebook India,

said in a statement. Facebook and Instagram also launched capabilities for businesses to drive the discovery and sale of Gift Cards.

"Gift cards will help small businesses reach more potential customers online. They will also help small businesses to get cash flow when they need it the most, and even when physical stores might be shut," Mohan said.

Configuring gift cards on Facebook and Instagram is free for businesses.

Facebook also released India findings of the 'State of Small Business Report', an ongoing research

collaboration between Facebook, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank to survey SMBs globally, including India, in the context of Covid-19.

According to the survey, more than a third of operational SMBs on Facebook India expect cash flow to be a challenge in the next few months.

Nearly 41 per cent of operational SMBs on Facebook India reported that at least a quarter of their sales are made digitally.

More than half of operational SMBs on Facebook India also said

they feel optimistic about the future of their business. According to Facebook, 180 million small businesses globally use the Facebook family of apps to reach potential customers and build their business.

It means, for every 45 people in the world, there is a small business present on the Facebook family of apps. "The 60 million small businesses in India are a key growth driver for the economy, fueling innovation and disruptive business models," Mohan noted.

The social media giant in April announced to pour in Rs 43,574 crore for a 9.99 per cent slice in Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)-led Jio Platforms, underlining its commitment to India and especially small businesses.



Womenia

Breakup in the time of lockdown can be tough

DURGA CHAKRAVARTY

The lines of The Breakup song, featuring Ranbir Kapoor and Anushka Sharma in 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil', were an instant hit upon release, resonating with many who have been through heartbreak. In 2020, however, the groovy track would be of little relevance as the pandemic plays spoilsport for people who seem to be trying to rebuild their lives after a breakup.

Indeed, being locked in while tackling a breakup can be a nightmare. As hopelessness, anxiety and sadness loom over brokenhearted souls, what could be the solution?

Actress Adah Sharma, said that she has had lots of heartbreaks, from being dumped by boys to being dumped from a film and also agrees that a breakup amid the lockdown can be tough.

She says, "Breakups and heartbreaks are common, but amid the lockdown when you can't go meet friends or take your mind off the person who left you, or try to sort out the issue, life can be tough."

She added, "I have the most amazing friends. I've had my heart broken in non corona times and had a friend who was shooting for a film on the other end of the world, but he did everything he could to take my mind off the gloominess, and made me laugh till my stomach hurt. My closest friends are funny, caring, and protective, and have a wicked sense of humour, and they make sure to cheer me up whenever I'm sad."

Actress Celina Jaitley calls a heart-

Breakups and heartbreaks are common, but amid the lockdown when you can't go meet friends or take your mind off the person who left you, or try to sort out the issue, life can be tough

—Actress Adah Sharma

break a 'universal experience' that comes with intense emotional anguish and distress.

Celina says, "I personally believe being locked in is a great opportunity for self introspection. Start an at-home exercise regimen. Take care of yourself. Use the phone, lead the way in letting people know what you need. Watch an emotional movie and have a good cry. Venting negative emotions is important. Read self-help books and listen to podcasts. Set aside time every day

for doing something that feels positive, such as hobbies, comedies or playing with a pet."

She stressed that people shouldn't waste energy on feeling ashamed or guilty about their feelings.

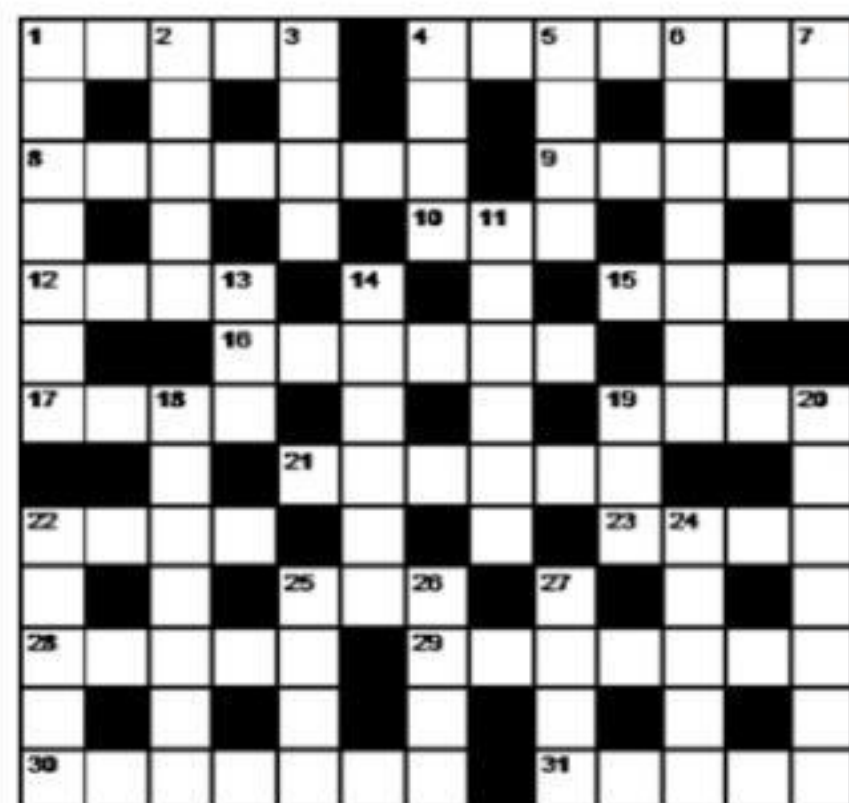
While actress Ahana Kumra says that she is at an age where, if she has not had a heartbreak, she has not lived her life right. Calling a breakup 'normal', the actress said that lockdown surely takes a major emotional toll.

She says, "Everybody goes through heartbreaks and that's how you learn, evolve and grow. Yes, the lockdown has been difficult for many. I know a lot of people who have broken up during the lockdown

and, of course, it takes a major emotional toll on your mental wellbeing, because you can't go and meet the person to sort out an issue. What I learnt during the lockdown is that you really need to concentrate on yourself."

Ahana stressed that self love is important. "If things are not working out during the lockdown, maybe they are not meant to work at all, because this is the toughest phase of everyone's life and if you cannot handle this situation, then maybe it's not meant to be," she noted. The actress added breakups can be harder for the younger generation as social media plays a huge role.

In the current scenario, Yo Yo Honey Singh's rap lines 'dil se hai maine aaj usko nikala' and 'uski photo bhi jalayi, phir flush me bahake thodi thandak si aayi' from his number 'Breakup party' wouldn't seem all that extreme, perhaps, to many.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 15

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Subatomic particle (5)
- 4 Wide flat pasta strips (7)
- 8 Body structure (7)
- 9 Group of eight (5)
- 10 A cutting tool (3)
- 12 Trip to Mecca (4)
- 15 Reddish-brown gem (4)
- 16 Entertains (6)
- 17 Shut noisily (4)
- 19 Nerve fibre core (4)
- 21 Downhill course (3,3)
- 22 Fails to keep up (4)
- 23 Allergy irritant (4)
- 25 Colourful Japanese carp (3)
- 28 Untrue (5)
- 29 Child (7)
- 30 Abraded; economised or skimped (7)
- 31 Spills the beans (5)

Down

- 1 Shores or coastlines (7)
- 2 Parboil (5)
- 3 Midday (4)
- 4 Puts or places in a particular position (4)
- 5 Falls in the winter (4)
- 6 Types of cakes (7)
- 7 Performed (5)
- 11 Tired (6)
- 13 Tight spot (3)
- 14 Slightly mad (6)
- 18 Bony (7)
- 19 Besides (3)
- 20 States or countries (7)
- 22 Boosts or hoists (5)
- 24 Joint or bond (5)
- 25 ___ mum : say nothing ? (4)
- 26 Footnote abbr. (4)
- 27 Running birds (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 15

TWEET PATROL



ANUPAMA PARAMESWARAN
@ANUPAMAHERE

Inhale the future,
exhale the past ...
Just Breathe



No more tracksuits please!

Work from Home seems to have become an excuse for dressing like a ragamuffin; we have fallen into a cycle of fashion lethargy

SUJATA ASSOMULL

On Sunday, New York Fashion Week kicked off with Jason Wu's presentation—who has dressed Michelle Obama more than once when she was the First Lady. The Taiwanese born designer is known to refer to "Old World" femininity in many of his designs and chose to have a physical show with a very limited audience.

The collection was filled with contemporary, easy but beautiful clothes inspired by the Caribbean coastline town of Tulum, Wu's home away from home. They had a feeling of escapism yet could be worn from home, or dressed up to wear for an intimate evening soiree. They are clothes that work for the times we are living in--- and there was not one track-suit!

Work from Home, seems to have become an excuse for dressing like a ragamuffin. Of course we do want to wear starched shirts and confining tailored jackets (and nor do we live in a place where the weather "suits" such attire); but does that mean we need to live in clothes that were meant to be worn in the gym or on a sports field?

Jason Wu keeps it simple, stylish and feminine. The term athleisure was first used back in the late 1970s, a time when the American inspired sports look was becoming global—it was influenced by sports but not performance based; they still had a feel of elegance-- think Ralph Lauren. High fashion borrowing idea from sports is not a new concept,



and you could say Coco Chanel was probably the first athleisure designer—she used jersey to make day suits for women back in the 1920s. I have a feeling if she were alive today she would be horrified to see how women are dressing right now.

"We have become trapped in a cycle of fashion lethargy," says celebrity stylist Mohit Rai. "What most people do not realise is that a growing routine is not about how you look but how you feel. A system that puts life into an overall perspective and retains sanity."

As someone who has been a freelancer for the last couple of years, work from home is a way of life for me. And it's my dressing routine that has kept me in check--- I wake up, gym, shower, finish my morning prayers and then change into something easy but still elegant-- it could be a kaftan dress, jeans and a shirt or shorts and boxy top, add on some accessories, finish with some undereye concealer, a wand of mascara and lip gloss. It makes me ready for the day and well, as someone who writes about fashion--- it would be strange not to enjoy and understand the value of dressing-up.

I wonder if when we look back to the current tracksuit trend, it will be with the same disdain we have for the Juicy Couture (remember those velour tracksuits) phase of fashion in the early 2000s. (I am happy to say I never participated in this trend). You don't need a reason or an occasion to dress--- and sometimes we just do it well because you feel like it because it acts as that "pick me up". Anjali Patel Mehta, founder of the Studio Verandah, a luxury resort brand says, "Athleisure is here to stay, but even if that's your choice, choose the clothes that make you feel good. I haven't been to a salon in over six months, nor cut my hair but what I've done is to make the most from my surroundings and dressing can help you lift your spirits."

Which is why as we try and learn to co-exist with the virus, we need to get out of our tracksuits and embrace our own personal style--- yes, that could be sporty but it does need to have a feel of being dressed. And tracksuit bottoms don't cut it. Even if Vogue supreme, Anna Wintour wore them in April.

Hopefully Jason's Wu show is showing that we are moving away from tracksuits to a chic yet comfortable style of dressing. The whole point of fashion is to bring joy and a feeling of escapism to our lives—and don't we need that more now than ever. In fact there is no surprise that many of the recent collections we are seeing seem to have taken inspiration from resort fashion instead of athleisure--- so let's get out of those tracksuits, please!

QUICK TIP

Allow him to miss you sometimes

If a man always know where you are all the time, and you're always readily available to him - he may take you for granted. Remember you have your own life to live; it may not always include him.



Blackhead removal for the face

Blackheads form when dead skin cells and oil inside the pore rise and push through the skin's surface. When these materials interact with the air, they oxidize and turn black, forming a plug. Removing blackheads from the face requires a consistent skincare routine that involves using products that can break up the skin-clogging oil inside.



Cleanse daily

Daily cleansing is vital to reduce excess oil, dirt, and other materials that can build up, clog pores, and potentially cause blackheads. One approach to try is double-cleansing.

This approach involves first cleansing with an oil-based cleanser to remove makeup and pollutants from the skin. Examples of cleansing oils include rosehip, olive, macadamia, argan, or coconut oil. Follow this with a gentle cleanser that contains ingredients such as tea tree oil, rosewater, aloe, or vegetable glycerin. These gentle cleansers remove dirt and oils to prepare the skin before treatment.

Apply blackhead-clearing topicals

Topical applications can help break up the oil plug that leads to blackheads. These do take time to work, and a person may have to apply them daily for several weeks before the plug breaks up, reducing the blackhead's appearance.

Try a natural blackhead removal scrub or mask

Exfoliating scrubs or masks can help remove dead skin cells that may otherwise clog pores and lead to more blackheads. A person can craft an effective skin treatment using natural ingredients they have at home.

Oatmeal

According to an article in the

Journal of Drugs in Dermatology, colloidal oatmeal has anti-inflammatory, exfoliating, and skin-soothing properties. To use on the skin, mix 2 tablespoons of oatmeal, 3 tbs natural yogurt, and 1 tbs olive oil. Apply to cleansed, slightly damp skin, and leave on for 15 minutes.

Egg whites

Egg whites have skin-tightening properties that can help reduce the appearance of blackheads. To create, mix three egg whites with 2 tbs of lemon juice. Apply the mask to clean skin using your fingers or a clean, soft paintbrush. Leave on and allow the mask to dry and apply a second layer. Rinse off after 20 minutes.

Sugar

Sugar is a natural exfoliator. To use for blackhead removal, mix 1 cup of white sugar with 3 tbs of a skin-friendly oil, such as olive, almond, or jojoba oil. Rinse the scrub away with lukewarm water. For best results, apply a mask or scrub once a week to aid in skin exfoliation and blackhead removal. If you have an oilier skin type, you may be able to use a mask twice weekly without drying out your skin.

'Purpose to vilify Muslims': SC stops Sudarshan TV 'UPSC Jihad' show

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has restrained Sudarshan News TV from telecasting the remaining episodes of its 'Bindas Bol' programme which had promised to unfurl a 'UPSC Jihad' conspiracy, after observing prima facie that the objective of the show was to "vilify Muslims."

Hearing a plea against the programme, a bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra and K.M. Joseph made strong remarks against the tone and tenor of the show, a teaser of which was released on August 27 and had resulted in outrage on social media, according to The Wire report. "Any attempt to vilify a commu-

nity must be viewed with great disfavour by this court which is a custodian of constitutional rights," LiveLaw quoted the bench as having said.

In the teaser, channel head Suresh Chavhanke had claimed that the show would unveil the 'conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service'. On September 11, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had allowed the show to be telecast. On the same day, the Delhi high court had declined to stay the telecast, after initially having stopped the channel from airing the programme.

The Supreme Court called the



programme "rabid" and said there should be some mechanism for self-regulation in media.

"Look at this programme, how rabid is this programme that one community is entering into civil

services?" observed the bench headed by Justice Chandrachud. "See how insinuating is the subject of this programme that Muslims have infiltrated the services and this puts the examinations of UPSC under scanner without any factual basis?" said the bench.

"Such insidious charges also put a question mark on the UPSC exams. Aspersions have been cast on UPSC. Such allegations without any factual basis, how can this be allowed? Can such programmes be allowed in a free society?" the bench asked.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the top court that freedom of journalist is supreme and it would

be disastrous for any democracy to "control the press."

To this, Justice Joseph noted that no freedom is absolute.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Sudarshan TV, told the bench that the channel considered it "an investigative story on national security."

"Your client is doing a disservice to the nation and is not accepting India is a melting point of diverse culture. Your client needs to exercise his freedom with caution," the bench told Divan.

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, the bench said, "We are not suggesting

some kind of censorship on media but there should be some kind of self-regulation in media."

"How do we lay down some standards for the media reportage?" the bench said, adding that there should be some kind of self-regulation and it would hear the solicitor general on this issue.

The apex court said the petition has sought guidelines as to how media should report some issues and guidelines for self-regulation.

"We are not saying states will impose any such guidelines as it would be an anathema to Article 19 of freedom of speech and expression," the bench said

What if Abhishek hanged himself: Kangana to Jaya

Mumbai: Actor Kangana Ranaut hits back at Rajya Sabha MP and veteran actor Jaya Bachchan for criticising her in the Rajya Sabha for her latest remark on Bollywood and questioned would she say the same things if it was her daughter Shweta Bachchan or son Abhishek Bachchan who was affected.

Earlier in the morning, Jaya in a veiled manner criticised the 'Panga' actor in the Upper House for comparing the film industry to a 'gutter'.

"Jaya ji would you say the same thing if in my place it was your daughter Shweta beaten, drugged and molested as a teenager, would you say the same thing if Abhishek complained about bullying and harassment constantly and found hanging one day? Show compassion for us also," Ranaut tweeted.

"Like a famous choreographer once said 'so what if we have raped, we have provided them livelihood' (in Hindi) is that what you implying? There are no proper HR departments in production houses where women can complain, no safety or insur-



ances for those who risk their lives every day, no 8 hours shift regulations," she said in another tweet.

In a different tweet, Ranaut stated that there is a dire need to change the mentality from "food is enough for the poor" to "respect is also required along with the food to the poor" and added that she has a full list of reforms that she wanted from the centre government for workers and junior artists.

"Someday if I meet honourable Prime Minister I will discuss," she tweeted.

The war of words between the two actors started at the time when the Narcotics Control Bureau, Mumbai is undertaking an investigation into alleged drug use and supply in the film industry that had surfaced during a probe into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput -- ANI

Actor Sonam Kapoor Ahuja said that she wants to be like Jaya when she grows up. Sonam took to Twitter to share a video of Bachchan's Rajya Sabha speech shared by filmmaker Anubhav Sinha.

New Delhi (IANS) Lauding the nation-wide lockdown, ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava on Tuesday said that the country distributed the Covid-19 curve in such a way that it did not have many deaths and did not witness a huge peak.

The comments came against the backdrop of All India Institute of Medical Sciences Director Dr Randeep Guleria's statement that India is witnessing a second wave of coronavirus in some areas.

"During the peak in Europe and the US, there were huge numbers of mortalities. We took learning from that and were able to distribute the curve in such a way that we did not have those deaths. This was attributed to the lockdown. We were able to distribute the curve and did not have a huge peak at all," said Bhargava, at a press conference, on being

India did not have huge peak at all, says ICMR DG



asked about the second wave.

As far as the vaccine is concerned, indigenous vaccines -- Cadila and Bharat Biotech have completed Phase-1 and Serum Institute of India's "wants to start the Phase-3 trial, which will commence after the clearance is given by the DCGI," the ICMR chief said.

Union Health Ministry Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, who was also at the press conference, said no one has presently applied for the emergency authorisation of the vaccine.

Russian vaccine shows side-effects

Moscow: Over 300 volunteers have been inoculated during the post-registration trials of Russia's Covid-19 vaccine, dubbed Sputnik V, around 14 percent of them have reported fatigue, muscle pain or high body temperature, Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said on Tuesday.

"Over 300 persons have been vaccinated. Around 14 percent have minor complaints about fatigue or slight muscle pain during the day, they sometimes have a high temperature," Murashko told reporters.

These slight complications were predictable, "this is what the manual says," the minister said.

83,809 new cases, 1,054 deaths in India

New Delhi (IANS) : India has lost 80,776 people to the Coronavirus till date, Health Ministry data revealed on Tuesday that also showed a spike of 83,809 new cases in the past 24 hours.

With 1,054 deaths India now has a toll that is barely 5,000 short of total Covid-19 cases reported in China, the ground zero of the virus that turned into a pandemic since the first case was reported in Wuhan in December 2019.

China has so far recorded only 85,202 cases while India that reported its first Covid-19 case on January 30, now has 49,30,236 cases, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare data. Out of the total cases, 9,90,061 are the active, 38,59,399



have been discharged, while 79,292 were cured in the past one day.

While the recovery rate is 78 per cent, the fatality rate is 1.64 per cent.

On July 17, India had logged 10 lakh cases, which then doubled to 20 lakh in 20 days, on August

7. The country added another 10 lakh on August 23 and went past 40 lakh on September 5.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit state with a total of 10,60,308 cases, including 29,531 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

LS passes bill to cut salaries of MPs by 30%

SP, Cong raise issue of suicides due to unemployment

New Delhi: Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed a bill to reduce for one year the salaries of MPs by 30 per cent "to meet the exigencies arising out of COVID-19 pandemic".

The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was introduced in the Lower House on Monday.

It will replace the Salary, Allowances And Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. The ordinance was cleared by the Cabinet on April 6 and promulgated the next day.

Samajwadi party MP Ramgopal Yadav and Congress leader Anand Sharma raised the issue of suicides due to unemployment in the Rajya Sabha.

Yadav demanded that Rs 15,000 per month be provided to the people who have lost jobs.

Supporting Yadav's demand, Congress MP Anand Sharma said the Centre should look into the matter and provide financial support to such people.

The Congress has already slammed the government for having no data on deaths of migrants during the lockdown. Congress leader P. L. Punia also raised the matter of

MGNREGA labourers and demanded that the money be increased to Rs 300 per day, while another Congress member Chhaya Verma demanded that the number of work days in MGNREGA be increased to 200 in a year.



China threat: Cong urges govt to step up efforts on cyber security

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday urged the government to step up its efforts on cyber security for confronting China's intentions in the cyber space after a media report claimed that a Shenzhen-based firm with links to the Chinese government is monitoring over 10,000 Indian individuals and organisations in its global database of "foreign targets".

A report in the Indian Express claimed that the range of targets in India identified and monitored in real time by Zhenhua Data Information Technology Co. Limited was "sweeping" and included President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress' interim



president Sonia Gandhi, and their families, as well as several chief ministers, among others.

Tagging the news report, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said on Twitter that the news about Chinese digital surveillance of India's leaders and others is "worrying".

"We condemn this unequivocally. Have the Chinese used this 2 yr old Company to influence Govt policies in any manner? Will the Govt investigate & assure the Nation?" he said. In another tweet, Surjewala asked that, if the report is correct, then did the Modi government know about this serious matter.

"Or they didn't know that we were being spied upon? Why is the government failing to protect our strategic interests over and over again?" he said.

A clear message needs to be sent out to China to prevent them from indulging in such activities, he said in the tweet in Hindi.

Corona pushed 3.70 cr people into extreme poverty: Gates Foundation



London: The coronavirus pandemic has pushed almost 37 million people into extreme poverty besides reversing the progress made in the health sector for past several decades, a report by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation said on Tuesday.

It said the "widest-ranging catastrophe" - the one that has hit every country regardless of the actual spread of the disease - is economic. Citing a projection by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the report said the global economy will lose USD 12 trillion or more by the end of 2021 despite spending of USD 18 trillion in trying to stimulate growth around the world.

The annual 'Goalkeepers report' by the Foundation primarily analyses progress on the Sustainable Development Goals

New Delhi: Three of the leading six coronavirus vaccines currently will probably work by early next year, Bill Gates said on Tuesday, setting an optimistic timeline for the development of the vaccine and distribution of the doses.

Making this assessment, the Microsoft co-founder said that he expects some of the vaccines will work very well by next year, although how they work in terms of blocking transmission or avoiding sickness will still have to be studied. Asserting that most of the world will prefer a vaccine that has been developed in the

'3 vaccines may come into use early next year'

constructs. I think most of the world will want to see a vaccine that's been reviewed by a top-notch regulator, which generally is the USFDA or Europe or UK," he said. Researchers are currently testing 38 vaccines in clinical trials on humans, and at least 93 preclinical vaccines are under active investigation in animals across the world.

West, Gates said that partnership with India would be crucial to ramp up manufacturing capacity. "Because of the need to get them (vaccines) out, we want to go to full volume manufacturing on many of these

goal of empowering women.

In an interview to PTI, co-chair of the Foundation Bill Gates said the whole Aadhaar digital financial system in India has proven to be once again a "huge asset". "Getting payments out through digital cash transfers, that has been a fantastic

thing, and obviously, India has done that at a scale that no other country ever has," he said.

In the report, the foundation said the extreme poverty has gone up by 7 per cent in just a few months because of COVID-19, ending a 20-year streak of progress.

High inflation bane for ailing economy

Retail inflation eased a bit in August to 6.69 per cent thanks to softening prices in some categories of food items. This inflation print was 6.73 per cent in the preceding month of July. Though key food inflation came down marginally thanks to reduction in prices of cereals, milk products and pulses, fruits and vegetables, however, turned costlier during the month. As per the official data announced on Monday, the retail inflation in the fuel and light category too accelerated to 3.10 per cent from 2.80 per cent in the previous month, keeping the inflation trajectory at elevated levels.

However, despite a slight decline, the consumer price index (CPI)-based retail inflation still remained outside the comfort zone of the Reserve Bank India (RBI) last month. As per the central government's mandate, the apex bank needs to keep retail inflation at 4 per cent with +/- 2 per cent. That

means the tolerable inflation range for RBI is two to six per cent.

Moreover, the wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation also climbed up in August after hovering in negative territory for four months since April this year. The wholesale inflation accelerated by 0.16 per cent last month as manufactured products and food items turned expensive. Potato, a staple diet in North India, saw its prices soaring by a whopping 82.93 per cent, while wholesale prices of onions were down by 34 per cent in August. The wholesale inflation remained at 1.17 per cent in the same month a year ago.

It is said that supply chain disruptions due to Covid-19 crisis are partly fueling inflationary pressures in the country. Localised lockdowns to control the pandemic are further pushing up prices. A day before the inflation data for August month was out, Chief Economic Advisor KV Subramanian expressed optimism that with the easing of lockdowns, the retail inflation would come down considerably. His prediction turned out to be inaccurate as inflationary pressures were at elevated levels in August too. As Covid cases are on the rise and there is no end in

sight to the pandemic, it is very unlikely that inflation will come down significantly in the coming weeks.

Our economy contracted by a whopping 23.9 per cent during the first quarter of this fiscal. That means nearly a quarter of India's GDP evaporated during those three months. Global rating agencies had drastically cut down GDP growth forecasts for the current fiscal after the official GDP data for April-June was out. Last week, global rating agency Moody's projected that Indian GDP would contract by a staggering 11.5 per cent in the current fiscal. Its rival S&P pegged the GDP contraction at -9 per cent. So is also the Asian Development Bank.

However, high inflation is a bane for the economy at a time when GDP has slipped into steep negative territory. It's a piquant situation for RBI also. To spur the economic growth, it will have to cut interest rates. But lowering interest rates at this juncture will further fuel inflationary pressures. So, the economy is at crossroads now and the central government has its task cut out. The trillion dollar question is how will it revive the GDP growth.



A question of life and death

A AMARENDER REDDY

Dying is an inevitable part of the life cycle. Everybody aspires to live a long life and die a painless death. But, too many of us have seen bad death, with lot of pain, suffering, depression and loneliness. Although treatment for terminally-ill ailments like cancer is improved since last two decades, there is no change in the severe pain undergone, various hitches of hospitalisation and prolonged-illness and suffering near the end of life.

More people are dying today of chronic diseases, and the average person can expect to spend the last decade of his life being seriously ill and under constant medical treatment.

This is the adverse downside of extended life years: the life expectancy in 1960 was 40 years, today it is 72 years. Studies, however, have shown that end of life medical interventions are largely unnecessary and ineffective, as, of those who die in hospitals fully one-third will do so in ICUs and one fifth will have undergone redundant operations in the last month of their lives. Recent health science studies shows that pain relieving, quality care, interaction with family, near and dear are equally important if not more than the treatment itself during the end of life.

The Indian society places special value on treatments that prolong life – even for a few months – near the end of life. Prolonging life at any cost forcing terminally-ill patients into and out of hospitals with no value assigned to patient's preferences for pain relieving and healthy family interactions is reason behind the bad deaths. Though many studies have established that the quality of life of terminally-ill patients mostly depends on pain relieving, patient interactions with family members rather than prolonging life itself. Quality of life near the end of life differentiate good from bad death.

With so many diagnosed with terminal illnesses each year, as humans, we need to balance between quality of life and prolonged life itself. Part of living a good life is not living in fear – and living in fear of a long, drawn out, unpleasant, awful death is taking away a good quality of life.

There are many cases, where cancer patients are died just after 15 days of radiotherapy, which is unnecessary and painful. Treatments for terminal illnesses are non-curative by definition and so are likely to result in relatively small health gains when compared to other types of treatment. Such health gains often come at high cost and hence treatment of this type are less likely to meet cost-effectiveness threshold. Often, treatment of terminally-ill patients are breeding ground for corruption in terms of compelling unnecessary tests, surgeries and radiotherapy without any improvement in health.

In the name of extending life of terminally ill patients, the society is not only spending huge amount of money in ICUs and surgeries and radiotherapy etc without much improvement in health, but also forcing the patients to experience lot of pain, locked up in hospitals away from their families and eventually forced in to psychological and emotional depression. Moral dilemma of how to accommodate patient's interests like pain relieving, quality care, and life quality while extending the life is still unresolved. Relative value of life extensions for people with terminal illnesses like cancer needs to be addressed with the perspective of patients rather than a single motto of extending life at any cost.

Any major surgical operation with huge costs for terminally ill patients needs to cross a minimum cost-effectiveness threshold of extending life, normally of at least an additional 3 months. All end-of-life major treatments for terminally-ill patients needs consider cost per Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY) before deployment. If treatments are not crossing the threshold, the same efforts needs to place to enhance the quality of life.

Medical fraternity has to listen to patient's interests and needs. The medical establishment in India needs to initiate a dialogue on the subject so that we could adopt a more humane approach to the inevitability of death.

There are wide variety of medicines available now to decrease depression and anxiety, reduce pain and improve quality of life in patients with life-threatening cancer. The societal norms should encourage use of feel-good medicines instead of forcing painful radiotherapy and other surgeries for terminally-ill patients.

Historically, indigenous cultures encouraged use of psilocybin and other hallucinogens as part of treating dying patients to induce heightened states of optimism under strict doctor's supervision. The end-of-life treatment should focus on palliative care. Recent advances in palliative care make it highly effective in dealing with extreme pain and other suffering.

Issues like patient's physical comfort, pain-relieving, daily care, and emotional and spiritual health are key ingredients of treatment. Good interaction and emotional exchanges with family members, sufficient time and space for spiritual enlightenment, piece, sharing past experiences with sons and daughters and grandsons are all the more important than the medicine.

In terminal cases the medical fraternity should not regard death as a challenge but as a release, and should prepare their patient for good death.

(The author is a principal scientist and freelance columnist. Views expressed are personal)

NEP 2020

NEGLECTING THE VALUE OF UNIFORM EDUCATION SYSTEM

PROF NAIDU ASHOK

Education is one of the essential components in Human Development Index (HDI). The Cabinet approved new Education Policy-2020 (NEP) has its own positive and negative implications on the socio-economic and human development of the country. From the past 35 years the educational policy regime in India has been stagnated and given least priority. The present new National Education Policy-2020 intended to introduce several key changes in overall structure and procedure of the education system i.e., school education as well as in the higher education system in India.

At present the educational sector in the country is facing two major challenges one is accessibility of quality education (School and Higher education) in the country. And second is existence of disparities or inequalities in both school and higher education in the country. After thorough examination of the NEP 66 pages document it has been realised that the NEP has ignored the above mentioned two major challenges of the education sector in India. Its more emphasis was on building future generations by ignoring the issues of present generation education system.

As of now, educational system in India can be seen into two phases i.e., school education and higher education. The most triggered challenge of the educational system in the country is persisting disparities in both school and higher education. Disparities or inequalities in terms of nature of educational institutions (State and Central), even in the central schools Navodaya, Model Schools, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Railway Schools, Kasturba Gandhi schools, etc., in terms language (English versus other regional languages and national language Hindi), in terms of curriculum / syllabus (State and Central), in terms of location of educational institution (Urban versus Rural), in terms of nature of the institutional ownership (Private and Public institutions) etc., are some of the disparities hampering the quality education in the country. In this context, the proposed NEP-2020 has no provision to address these disparities and it also neglected the importance of uniform educational system across the country in order to achieve the objectives of the education.

Medium of instruction

For a long time, there has been an ambiguity over the medium of language in the country. Regional language versus national language, still Hindi is the predominant language over regional language especially in north India. Paradoxically, the government projects English as colonial language and still accepts the importance of global language.

The vaguest aspect in the new NEP is teaching up to fifth standard in mother tongue. Sometimes, such cases in which the children of the inter-state migrants' or transferable job holder's mother tongue is different from the state where the family is staying which may leading confusion to the both parents and institutions too. Learning a new language (English) right from the beginning of childhood days onwards becomes easier than reaching up to 5th standard. The best example in this context is, in most of the states the perform-

ance of the private English medium school students' are best in comparison with the government school students with regional languages.

At this juncture, it is worthwhile to mention the opinion of the Raja Ram Mohan Roy, the veteran social reformer of India who strongly criticised the Indian traditional literature and languages which largely hinders the nation's future generation to achieve modern life. Therefore, he suggested in place of Indian traditional literature and language it should be necessary to adopt a modern educational system with western features especially, English language and curriculum.

Later he founded an Anglo-Hindu School and College in Bengal with English as a medium of instruction. Similarly, the Muslim social reformer Sir Sayad Ahmed Khan loyalist of loyal to the British government appealed to his Muslim community to learn English education so that the Muslim community will be civilised. Thereafter, he founded Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental School and College in 1883 English as a medium of language later it became the Aligarh Muslim University.

School education

Strengthening of existing educational institutes by providing more financial resources to develop infrastructure and quality teachers, etc., are more important and viable solution to transform present educational system to reach the global standards. But the present NEP has intended to restructure the whole school education without having any research or baseline survey on present school educational system.

The primary change in NEP-2020 is inclusion of pre-school education into school education system. At present the pre-school education system can be finding in two types one is run by Anganwadi Centres under ICDS project without proper facilities and the second is the majority of the pre-schools are run by the private schools known as Nursery, UKG and LKG. The policy could not mention about these existing situation and problems associated with the pre-school system at the ground reality.

Moreover in proposing a new Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) system assuming flexible, multi-faceted, multi-level, play based, inquiry based, learning. Instead of these it would have been done a more focussed research on the practical challenges in early childhood learning process.

Vocational education

Children up to certain age need proper foundation in education than the vocational skills. Even if they fully skilled they may not be allowed to work up to completing certain educational qualification. The new NEP proposed vocational education is not a new concept but it is already there in practice across the country as vocational colleges, ITIs and Polytechnic colleges etc., Most of these institutions are in a declining stage largely suffering from lack of funds, faculty and infrastructure etc.,

Higher education

In the part Two of the NEP Section-91, which highlighting "the importance of higher education in promoting human well being and societal well being as envisioned



The vaguest aspect in the new NEP is teaching up to fifth standard in mother tongue. Sometimes, such cases in which the children of the inter-state migrants' or transferable job holder's mother tongue is different from the state where the family is staying which may leading confusion to the both parents and institutions too. Learning a new language (English) right from the beginning of childhood days onwards becomes easier than reaching up to 5th standard. The best example in this context is, in most of the states the performance of the private English medium school students' are best in comparison with the government school students with regional languages

in the constitution – a democratic, just, socially conscious Cultured and human nation upholding liberty, equality, fraternity and justice for all". The paragraph in NEP document ignored and drops down the important characteristic feature of the Indian constitution i.e., "Secular" which is also the part of "Basic Structure" of the Indian constitution as defined by the Supreme Court of India in its landmark judgement Kesavananda Barti V. State of Kerala in 1973. It also further holds that the Parliament cannot amend this basic structure of the Indian Constitution. By excluding this important feature in the policy document, the government has omitted the importance of developing communal harmony among the young educated citizens of India.

Four- year degree

Four year degree program under NEP with multiple exit options, the new proposition in NEP method seems to be more attractive but not feasible to the career and job situation in Indian society. Presently, there are number of unemployed graduates in the society with professional and non-professional degree. Unfortunately, the government and industry has not been able to provide job opportunities to the full degree holders then how come it could be possible to accommodate the certificate, diploma holders can be expected to get a suitable job, remuneration or salary after exiting before completion of the degree program. Private sector can also easily exploit the services of this type of degree holders.

Multi- disciplinary

Multi-disciplinary approaches in higher education is not a new concept in NEP, it has been there in higher education. However allowing too much flexibility in choosing multiple specialisations may lead missing focus on main discipline or subject. There may be a possibility in selecting irrelevant subject combinations in an over-enthusiastic manner or lack of proper understanding on subject allied subject combinations.

Monitoring institutions

To dismantle the monitoring bodies of UGC and AICTE, there should be a reason-

able cause for replacing national level bodies. There should be a proper research before repealing such an apex bodies with long run experience in monitoring and evaluation of these governing bodies. The immediate problem with the higher educational institutions in the country is political intervention and curbing the autonomy of the both the higher educational institutions as well as monitoring agencies.

Conclusion

On paper this NEP-2020 seems to be more attractive than the previous education policies, however the success of the NEP is largely depends on the implementation at the ground level. The new education policy is expected to meet the challenges and gaps existing in present educational system in the country. Since, education fall under the concurrent list, the states' cooperation and coordination is required for the successful implementation of the NEP. Therefore, instead of formulating unilateral policies on key subjects like education, the central government would have been considered the critical policy inputs, deliverables along with the triggered challenges, gaps in the present educational system at the gross root level, including the view points of the state governments.

In order to achieve the expected Sustainable development the fourth goal of United Nations, the government need to introduce several provisions into the NEP. Since 90 per cent of schools and educational institutions are under control of the states, the centre needs to bear the proportionate cost sharing of the expenditure. Moreover it needs to spend at least 10 per cent GDP on education to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) as expected in the NEP. Further it is also important to strict implementation of the Right to Education Act especially in the private educational institutions, allocation of 25% of seats for the poor and marginalised sections in order to attain the social justice.

(The author is former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Osmania University, Hyderabad.)

policy of the Congress -led UPA government (2004-14). The governments led by Congress and the regional parties in their courtship of the Muslim vote launched among others special coaching centers for Muslims to prepare them for successful entry into every type of government service. The solicitude for Muslims was so intense that the UPA government had the Muslim First and not the SC or ST First programmes.

The regional parties and the Sonia Congress are already hostages to Muslims for their votes. The ex-civil servants who are often giving statements opposing the CAA -2019 are now against the Sudarshan News TV are part of a left, liberal, secular, usually anti-Hindu and pro-minority persons. Now they are becoming professional statement givers opposing many of Modi government's nationalist moves.

Dr T H Chowdary,
Secunderabad

LETTERS

RTI Act deserves better

This has refer the article " High Court admonishes irresponsible PIOs" (The Hans India , 15/09/2020) by Sridhar Acharyulu, former CIO, on recent land mark judgment on RTI by Madras High Court. It is highly commendable that the Hon. Court gave a very clear direction to the TN government how to implement the act in true letter and spirit. This problem of implementation of the RTI act 2005 by officials is not only in one state but at all parts of the country following the same.

The governments are not showing interest to show the transparency governance to the public. They know very well that the RTI Act implementation in letter and spirit is a very difficult task because the ruling political people will suffer

ultimately. Because of this situation, they never give importance to give publicity for this Act. As per section 26 of the Act it is the mandatory on the governments to allot proper funds to publicity among the public. But there is not a single instance showing about the publicity of the act, no proper trainings for the PIOs arranged even after the lapse of the period 15 years.

The right spirit is the only way for the government to implement the Act, and the responsibility of the public to awaken the society about this Act. This is the only way to eradicate corruption in the country.

J Srinivasa Rao,
Srikulam

Muslims and Civil Services

The Sudarshan News TV was not exposing a conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims into the civil services. Inducting more and more Muslims into services was the official

Do MPs care about Covid-19?

Ag propos to "30 MPs test +ve" and accompanying photograph of RS MP at Parliament House offering hand sanitiser to a fellow MP (THI 15 September). Both have been seen without masks which is highly risky for not only them and other MPs inside the Parliament. The elected members of Parliament should set the example for people strictly following the Covid protocols at a time when as many as 30 MPs have been tested positive and also another Rajasthan MP Hanuman Beniwal has been tested positive at Parliament and another test in a hospital in Jaipur has declared him negative. As of now the government has scrapped Question hour, if MPs fail to strictly adhere to protocols, the government would find a valid reason to suspend the session, if more of them are found positive as the session progresses.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

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Clear ₹9,164 cr dues: AP to Centre

Amaravati: The cash-starved Andhra Pradesh government has requested the Centre to immediately release Rs 9,164 crore under various heads, due to the state for several years.

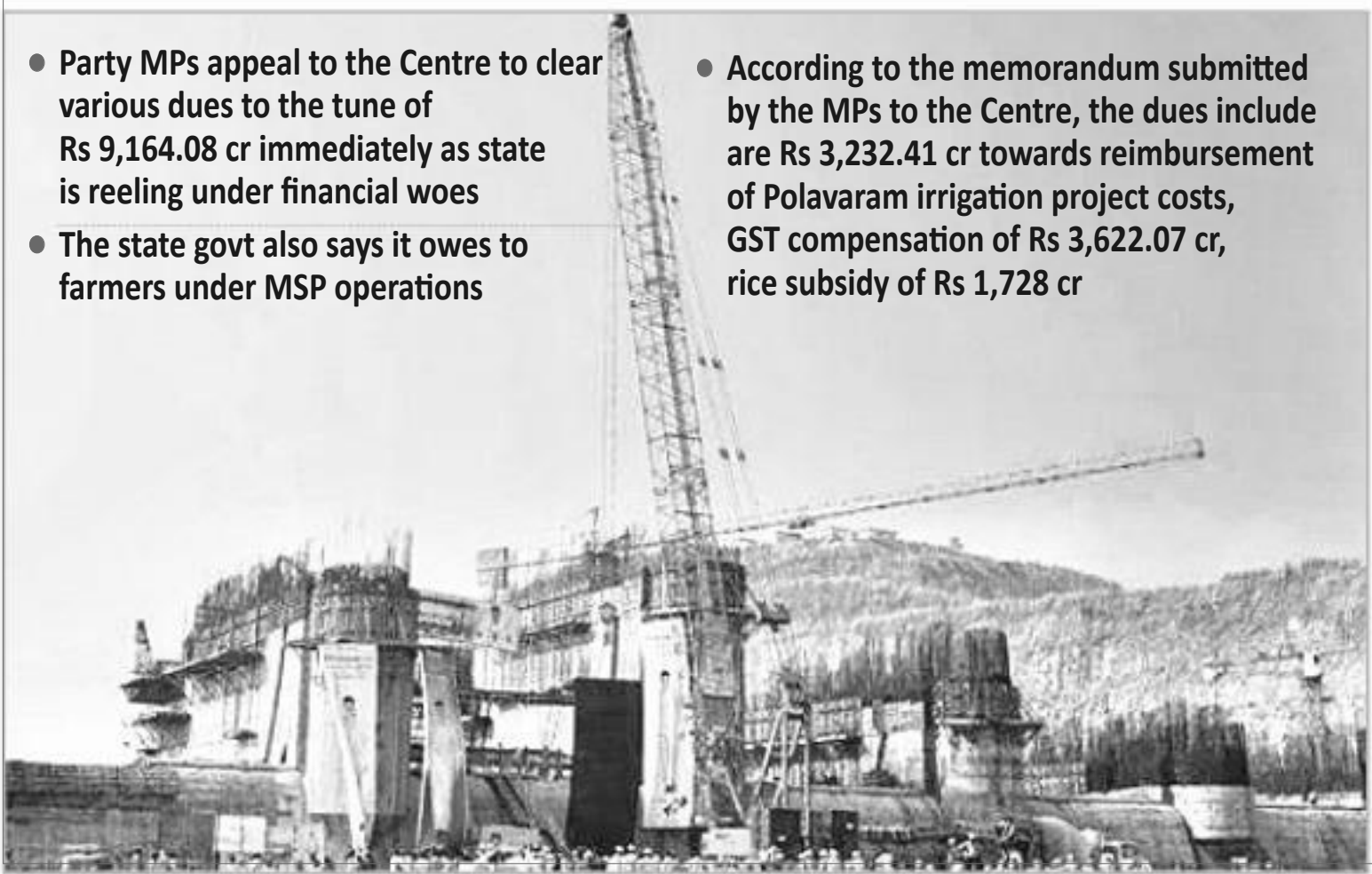
Despite borrowing heavily from different sources, the Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government is finding it very difficult to foot the bill for numerous freebie schemes and has faced trouble even in disbursing salaries in time this month.

The state has now sent a plea to the Centre, through the ruling YSRC MPs, that all old dues amounting to Rs 9,164.08 crore be released forthwith.

The dues are Rs 3,232.41 crore towards reimbursement of Polavaram irrigation project expenditure, GST compensation of Rs 3,622.07 crore, rice subsidy of Rs 1,728 crore and 14th Finance Commission grants to Urban local bodies (ULBs) of Rs 581.60 crore.

In a detailed memorandum presented to the Centre, the state pointed out that it had already submitted the audit report on Polavaram project expenditure prior to March 31, 2014 and as such the pending reimbursement of Rs 3,232.41 crore be done immediately.

It also wanted the Jal Shakti Ministry to approve the revised estimates for Polavaram, which the ministry itself determined to



be Rs 47,725.74 crore.

The state government said the GST compensation was due (in parts) for the financial years 2017-18 and 2019-20 and further more up to June 2020.

The deleterious impact of the coronavirus pandemic is compounded in the case of state where finances were already stressed due to post-bifurcation structural issues of the economy.

“In this context, timely release of GST compensation (amounting to Rs 3,622 crore) has become

- Party MPs appeal to the Centre to clear various dues to the tune of Rs 9,164.08 cr immediately as state is reeling under financial woes
- The state govt also says it owes to farmers under MSP operations
- According to the memorandum submitted by the MPs to the Centre, the dues include are Rs 3,232.41 cr towards reimbursement of Polavaram irrigation project costs, GST compensation of Rs 3,622.07 cr, rice subsidy of Rs 1,728 cr

very important for the state,” Chief Minister Jagan said in a recent letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The state said it owed payments to farmers under minimum support price operations while payments were due to the cooperatives and self-help groups for handling paddy purchases.

Release of the pending Rs 1,728 crore food subsidy to the AP Civil Supplies Corporation will help in clearing the pending payments, it said.

Referring to the Rs 3,635.80 grant of the 14th Finance Commission to ULBs for improvement of urban services and civic infrastructure, the AP government said a sum of Rs 581.60 crore was still pending release from the Centre.

“We have submitted the required utilisation certificates and also demonstrated compliance for all reforms stipulated by the Finance Commission,” the state government informed the Centre and sought an early release of the pending grant.

Village, Ward volunteers to be used in education sector

- CM asks officials to prepare SOPs for making use of Village/Ward volunteers in education
- Says appropriate textbooks be printed and training should be designed for teachers to implement the NEP-2020
- Teachers will be re-apportioned as per student-teacher ratio



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy holding a review on NEP-2020 at his camp office in Tadepalli on Tuesday

that appropriate textbooks be printed and training programmes should be designed for teachers to implement the NEP from 2021-22.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to inspect all the schools and colleges in the state and ensure they are complying with the minimum standards and said educational institutions which did not meet the required standards should be closed down immediately and permission should be given for their reopening only after they have achieved those standards again.

He suggested creating awareness among the parents on the necessity of standards in schools, colleges and educational institutions.

He directed re-apportionment of teachers as per student-teacher ratio. The officials said

many modules proposed in the National New Education Policy-2020 are already being implemented in the state.

They said the government has already set up 1,261 Gurukul schools for SC, ST, BC and minority communities, 352 Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalayas (KG-BVs) for girls and 672 Bhavita Kendras for the disabled.

The officials said the NEP proposed for a commission to monitor standards in educational institutions and already two separate commissions are working on school education and higher education in the state.

NCERT has formulated guidelines to take steps to further enhance the skills of those working in Anganwadi centres, the state government will have to introduce diploma courses for them.

AP seeks CBI probe into Amaravati land deals

Continued from P1

The YSRC Parliamentary Party has decided to highlight the ‘nepotism, manipulation, corruption and breaking the oath of secrecy by the people in high office who were privy to information leaking it to their close circles and the insider trading arising out of such malpractice.’

People in the know of cabinet decisions, including cabinet ministers, legislators, party associates, and their benamis reaped undue benefits by buying land ahead of the actual announcement, it said.

According to YSRC leaders, the beneficiaries included Chandrababu Naidu, his son and then cabinet minister Nara Lokesh, his close associate and NRI, Vemuri Ravi Kumar Prasad, then minister Paritala Sunita, Public Accounts Committee chairman and MLA Payyavula Keshav, former MLAs G V S Anjaneyulu and Dhulipalla Narendra, Kam-bampati Rammohan Rao and several other TDP leaders.

The benami transactions that took place in the land deals allegedly involved Ministers and TDP leaders. The boundaries of the capital area were redrawn to suit their favoured few to keep their landholding at an advantageous place.

The YSRC also alleged that assigned and government land was grabbed and surrendered for land pooling to get the benefits announced by the government. Unwilling farmers were intimidated to acquire their land. The land pooling scheme rules also do not comply with the Land Acquisition Act.

Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRC also decided to highlight the irregularities in the AP State Fiber Net Limited (APSFL) involving then chief minister Chandababu Naidu, his son and Information Technology Minister Nara Lokesh and the then technical advisor to the government, Vemuri Hari Krishna Prasad.

The YSRC government on July 13 extended consent to the CBI for a probe into APSFL irregularities and intimated the same to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India.

The total amount involved is to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore. A large part of this amount was raised through loans and the rampant pilferage led to a severe financial strain on the government.

The tender was given to Tera Software owned by the family members of Hari Krishna Prasad and undue favours were doled out during 2014 and 2019. “There were grave irregularities at bidding level and undue favour was meted out to Tera Software by giving the maintenance contract at an exorbitant rate to the company,” the ruling party said.

Booze consumption down due to restrictions: Panel

- Madya Vimochana Prachara Committee Lakshmana Reddy reiterates that total prohibition will be implemented by 2024

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: The liquor consumption has come down by 30 per cent and the beer consumption by 60 per cent in the state owing to the proactive steps taken by the YSRC government headed by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, said Vallamreddi Lakshmana Reddy, chairman of Madya Vimochana Prachara Committee. He addressed the after participating in a meeting of the committee on the premises of state excise office here on Tuesday.

The Prachara Committee met for more than 60 times in the last one year and took revolutionary deci-

sions to discourage consumption of liquor in the state, he added

Lakshmana Reddy praised the decision to take over liquor business from the private sector as part of efforts to impose prohibition in phases in the state. “The liquor consumption has come down considerably after its prices were raised abnormally,” he said.

Belt shops were completely removed and the number of liquor shops has come down by 30 per cent.

Lakshmana Reddy said that he had been touring all over the state extensively to create awareness among people on the need to quit liquor consumption.

The 90 lakh women members SERP were roped into anti-liquor campaign and the committee is using social media including YouTube, Facebook and Twitter against

liquor. Lakshana Reddy said the committee was organising short film competitions through Information and Public Relations department on the phase-wise prohibition.

The last date for submission of the short films is September 25 and the winners would be announced on September 28. So far they have received 50 entries. The prizes would be distributed on Gandhi Jayanti, October 2.

He said so far 15 de-addiction centres were set up and 10 more would be coming up soon all over the state.

Prohibition and excise additional commissioner Bhaskar, health director Aruna Kumari, SEB joint commissioner G Nagalakshmi, SERP managing director Prakasa Rao and others were present.

Land cases only a political vendetta, alleges Naidu

Alleges that YSRC leaders are plundering the state as if there is no tomorrow

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu said that the Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy was levelling false allegations over Amaravati lands out of sheer political vendetta. He reacted to the cases filed against the TDP leaders by the ACB for alleged insider trading in capital city on Tuesday while addressing a virtual conference with party senior leaders.

Naidu warned the AP government that a day would come soon when all sections of the people would revolt against the unchecked atrocities and

injustices carried out by oppressive regime of Jagan Mohan Reddy.

He expressed surprise that the YSRC leaders were plundering the state wholesale as if the voters would not give them another chance. The ruling party was robbing all sections of people as if there is no tomorrow.

He said a strong impression gained ground that the AP police were hand in glove with only one section of the society. “Never before in the history of any state, the police have come to face such all-round criticism and critical scrutiny as they are now in AP,” he said.



China in illegal occupation of 38,000 sq km of land: Rajnath

Continued from P1

Under these agreements, the two sides have agreed to maintain peace and tranquillity along the LAC without prejudice to their respective positions on the alignment of the LAC as well as on the boundary question.

“It is on this basis, that our overall relations also saw considerable progress since 1988. India’s position is that while bilateral relations can continue to develop in parallel with discussions on resolving the boundary question, any serious disturbance in peace and tranquillity along the LAC in the border areas is bound to have implications for

the positive direction of our ties.”

A key element of both the 1993 and the 1996 agreements is that the two sides will keep their military forces in the areas along the Line of Actual Control to a minimum level.

These agreements also mandate that pending an ultimate solution to the boundary question, the two sides shall strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control.

Furthermore in these agreements, India and China also committed to clarification and confirmation of the Line of Actual Control to reach a common understanding of the alignment.

Thus, in late 1990s and upto 2003, the two sides engaged in an exercise to clarify and confirm the LAC.

But, thereafter the Chinese side did not show a willingness to pursue the LAC clarification exercise. As a result, there are some areas where the Chinese and Indian perceptions of LAC overlap.

In these areas, as with other sections of the border areas, the various agreements govern the manner in which troops of both sides should operate and deal with situations of face-offs to maintain peace and tranquillity.

Since April, India had noticed

a buildup of troops and armaments by the Chinese side in the border areas adjacent to eastern Ladakh.

“In early May, the Chinese side had taken action to hinder the normal, traditional patrolling pattern of our troops in the Galwan Valley area, which resulted in a face-off,” Rajnath said.

Even as this situation was being addressed by the Ground Commanders as per the provisions of our bilateral agreements and protocol, in mid-May the Chinese side made several attempts to transgress the LAC in other parts of the western sector, he said.

Lokesh demands MSP to Nellore paddy farmers

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TD general secretary Nara Lokesh accused the YSRC government of pushing paddy farmers in Nellore districts into the clutches of middlemen by not ensuring Minimum Support Price (MSP) to their crop. He said that due to



negligence of the government, the paddy farmers have been incurring losses and landing in debts.

In a statement on Tuesday, Lokesh demanded the government to ensure at least MSP and reminded that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had promised that the government would buy every grain of paddy from farmers at MSP.

It was unfortunate that the farmers were not getting even Rs 8,000 per putti (850 Kg) now resulting in an overall loss of Rs 400 to Rs 500 crore to the paddy farmers in the district, he said.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Seamlessly flow of exports benefits will boost new orders

“When exporters are receiving new orders, support needs to be given to help them execute such orders. Unfortunately, many of the exporters have expressed their inability to honour such orders, in view of liquidity challenges, due to stoppage of exports benefits and refund of GST - **SK Saraf**, FIEO president



LTCG

Panel for abolishing tax on startups

The Standing Committee on Finance (2019-20) has recommended to the Centre to abolish tax on Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG) for all investments in startups, which are made through collective investment vehicles (CIVs) such as angel funds, alternate investment funds (AIF), and investment LLPs.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	78.06	South	
Euro	91.97	African Rand	5.14
UAE Dirham	22.05	Hong Kong Dollar	10.93
Thai Baht	2.72	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	98.91	New Zealand Dollar	52.01
Australian Dollar	56.68	Saudi Riyal	21.59
Canadian Dollar	58.78	Swedish Krona	9.68
Swiss Franc	84.49	Singapore Dollar	56.87

DELHI WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Forevermark's new collection

Hyderabad: Forevermark has launched new Tribute Collection, a diamond jewellery to wear every day. Comprising 22 rings accented with round brilliant, pear and oval cut diamonds, set in 18k white, yellow or rose gold, each piece can be worn alone. “The modern Indian woman today is confident, independent, successful, purposeful and social. She is unapologetic about her achievements and loves to celebrate every milestone and success. Through the Forevermark Tribute Collection, we demonstrate that our diamonds aren't just for special occasions - they can be worn every day as a celebration of yourself and your personal journey,” said Sachin Jain, Managing Director, De Beers - India.

HomeLane unveils brand identity

Hyderabad: HomeLane.com, a technology-based home interior service provider, unveiled its new brand identity as part of the company's overall strategy to steer its business into the next phase of growth. The new brand identity gives HomeLane a sharper brand persona aimed at creating greater relatability with its home-buying customers. According to the company's research, consumer preferences have evolved following the increasing influence of international video content and wider access to information through the internet and frequent traveling. This has resulted in Indian consumers raising the bar on home aesthetics. Srikantylar, founder & CEO, HomeLane said: “Our rebranding efforts are aimed at making HomeLane relatable to the home-buying customers as we target to scale-up our presence across the 25 top markets over the next two years”.

Omron's new plan

Hyderabad: Omron Healthcare India, a Japanese player in the home healthcare monitoring segment, said that there is an urgent need to formalise a plan of action to create the awareness about respiratory conditions among the general public. This is in the backdrop of the spread of respiratory diseases in the country and seriousness attached to it. Rohit Saini, GM-Sales & Marketing, Omron Healthcare India said that this is a time to think differently, innovate more and come up with affordable solutions to manage the respiratory disorders in an efficient manner at the comfort of the safe boundaries of the home. He further elaborated that the usage of nebulizers in the country is still at a nascent stage. People consider using it themselves cumbersome, and many other do not understand its utility, he added.

Spintly enters US market

Hyderabad: Spintly, an IoT based wireless access control startup, has taken its products and services international by foraying into the North America market. The startup has set up its first international office in Los Angeles. It appointed Travis Willis as Head of Business Development for the North America market. The US access control market, along with the Indian market, is going through a rapid transition from traditional access control systems to a more modern smartphone-based contactless access control systems. With the world adapting to the new normal, the global access control market is ripe for disruption and Spintly aims in becoming the global leader when it comes to providing solutions for a contactless environment, it said.

TS-BPASS ensures zero corruption: Credai Hyd

Says it ensures speedy approval process in a transparent, time-bound manner in 21 days

HANS BUSINESS

Hyderabad: Welcoming the TS-BPASS, the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (Credai), Hyderabad chapter, said that it would speed up the approval process in a transparent and time-bound manner. This is a first-of-its-kind reform anywhere in India, and will shape the way real estate projects will be approved in future, significantly increasing the ease of doing business, said Credai-Hyderabad.

Credai-Hyderabad led by president P Rama Krishna Rao, General Secretary V Rajashekar Reddy hailed the Telangana State Legislative Assembly passing the Telangana State Building Permission Approval and Self-Certification System (TS-BPASS) Bill.

“Credai-Hyderabad played a pivotal role in the formulation of the policy with a thorough evaluations and inputs from all stakeholders for a smooth implementation of TS-BPASS,” said Rama Krishna Rao.

The TS-BPASS is a self-certification system to make citizens responsible and ensure that they adhere to the building and layout permission rules of the State government. As per the new law, people constructing a building within 75 square yards land need not obtain any permission from the authorities.



V Rajashekar Reddy (left), General Secretary, and P Rama Krishna Rao, president, Credai Hyderabad

However, they must register with the urban local body using TS-BPASS. Similarly, citizens can obtain instant permission for constructions in an extent of 75 sq yards to 600 sq yards through self-certification under TS-BPASS and commence their construction work.

Rajashekar Reddy added that “also, a parallel initiative, on the municipal side, by the government to curb sale of illegal plots, layouts in Telangana, and promoting the buyers to buy RERA-approved projects will go a long way in building the buyer confidence and spurring the growth for real estate sector in the city. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Telangana State and especially Hyderabad, continues to attract investments and is showing consistent growth. In last one month, the State has attracted investments totalling Rs 5,950 crore”.

SBI extends OTP-based ATM withdrawals

Hyderabad: To reinforce ATM security system, lending major State Bank of India (SBI) has extended its OTP-based cash withdrawal for Rs 10,000 and above throughout the day.

OTP-based cash withdrawal for Rs 10,000 can now be carried out throughout the day across all SBI ATMs in the country starting September 18.

“For withdrawing Rs 10,000 and above, SBI debit card holders now have to enter OTP sent on their registered mobile numbers along with their debit card PIN each time,” the lender said in a statement.

The lending major had introduced OTP based cash withdrawals of above Rs 10,000 between 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. through SBI ATMs from January 1, 2020.

Mid, small-cap stocks hog limelight

Financial stocks lead Sensex, Nifty

Mumbai: The benchmark indices on Tuesday ended over 0.70 per cent led by healthy buying in healthcare, consumer and financial stocks. The S&P BSE Sensex ended 288 points, or 0.74 per cent, higher at 39,044 levels. NSE Nifty-50 ended at 11,522, up 82 points, or 0.71 per cent. The S&P BSE SmallCap index settled nearly 1.5 per cent higher at 15,363.57 levels, while the S&P BSE MidCap index ended at 15,015, up 127 points, or 0.85 per cent. India VIX dropped nearly 4 per cent to 20.39 levels.

Manish Hathiramani, technical analyst with Deen Dayal Investments said: “We are trading above the 11,500 levels but I would still look out for the Nifty to trade in the 11,550-11,575 trading zone as that would signal that we are entering into a bullish zone. The support

continues to be around the 11,300 levels.”

Being the top gainer, IndusInd Bank rose nearly five per cent. Titan down around 1.5 per cent, the biggest loser.

On the sectoral front, pharma stocks rallied the most. The Nifty Pharma index ended nearly 2 per cent higher at 11,450.50 levels. Nifty Private Bank index gained 1.85 per cent to 12,431.90 levels while Nifty Bank added 1.65 per cent to 22,466 points. On the other hand, Nifty Realty slipped the most - down over 0.7 per cent to 221 levels.

World stocks rose on Tuesday on the back of upbeat Chinese data and optimism about novel coronavirus vaccines, as a struggling dollar kept the hot streaks for the euro and some of the biggest emerging market currencies sizzling.

Aurobindo ties up with BIRAC to develop Covid-19 vaccine

HANS BUSINESS

Hyderabad: Aurobindo Pharma on Tuesday announced collaboration with the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), set up by the Department of Biotechnology, for the development of Covid-19 vaccine.

BIRAC has facilitated the establishment of ‘the r-VSV vaccine’ manufacturing platform for the first time in India by supporting Aurobindo Pharma's Covid-19 vaccine development, the company said in a statement.

Aurobindo Pharma said it is developing a vaccine for Covid-19 through its wholly-owned US subsidiary, Auro Vaccines. The vaccine candidate is based on a proprietary vaccine delivery platform of the company.

“Aurobindo is in the process of setting up a state-of-art manufac-



Pharma major setting up a new manufacturing facility for viral vaccines

turing facility for viral vaccines which will be used to produce the Covid-19 vaccine and other viral vaccines. The plant will comply with global standards. The company's Covid-19 vaccine development is going as per plan,” the statement added. Commenting on the collaboration, Aurobindo Pharma Managing Director N Govindarajan said, “It is a matter

of immense pride that BIRAC has placed its trust on our vaccine capabilities. The senior leadership of Aurobindo and Auro Vaccines has extensive experience in development, production and commercialization of several vaccines.”

Department of Biotechnology Secretary and BIRAC Chairperson Renu Swarup said the partnership with Aurobindo is to serve the country's need for a vaccine to fight this pandemic.

“The government is focused on creating an ecosystem that nurtures and encourages new product innovation to address the most relevant issues to our society,” Swarup added.

Bharat Biotech, Serum Institute, Zydus Cadila, Panacea Biotech, Indian Immunologicals, Mynvax and Biological E are among the pharma firms in India working on the coronavirus vaccine.

Merchandise exports slump 12% in Aug

Imports fall by 26.04% to \$29.47 billion; trade deficit narrows

New Delhi: India's merchandise exports in August slumped by over 12 per cent on a year-on-year basis, official data showed on Tuesday.

The country shipped out merchandise worth \$22.70 billion in the month against \$25.99 billion exported during the like period of the previous year. The data showed that the contraction caused by the Covid-19 pandemic widened during August at (-) 12.66 per cent from (-) 10.12 per cent in July and (-) 12.41 per cent in June. In terms of sequential movement, the country's merchandise exports in July stood at \$23.64 billion.

“Non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports in August 2020 were \$18.95 billion, as compared to \$19.57 billion in August 2019, registering a negative growth of (-) 3.17 per cent,” the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement.

Similarly, India's imports declined, falling by (-) 26.04 per cent to \$29.47 billion in August from \$39.85 billion reported for the corresponding month of 2019.

In July, imports declined by (-)



28.40 per cent to \$28.47 billion in July from \$39.76 billion reported for the corresponding month of

2019. “Oil imports in August 2020 were \$6.42 billion which was 41.62 per cent lower in Dollar terms compared to \$11.00 billion in August 2019,” the statement said. “Non-oil imports in August 2020 were estimated at \$23.05 billion which was 20.10 per cent lower in Dollar terms compared to \$28.85 billion in August 2019.”

Besides, the non-oil and non-gold imports were \$19.35 billion in August 2020, recording a negative

Ban on onion exports to control local prices

New Delhi: With an increase in onion prices in the country, the central government has banned its export, which is expected to bring the prices of the staple down. Onion exports from the country had increased considerably during the coronavirus pandemic, due to which domestic prices increased and supply decreased within the country.

At present, the retail price of onions is above Rs 40 per kg in Delhi and neighbouring areas. On



Monday, onion prices at the Azadpur wholesale market ranged from Rs13.75 to Rs 27.5 per kg.

Rajendra Sharma, general secretary, Azadpur Mandi Potato Onion Merchant Association (POMA), said: “The export ban

was a good decision to put an end to increasing onion prices. Due to crop failure in south India, there is shortage of onion supplies and hence the Union government should focus on import as well.”

According to a notification issued on Monday by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the export of all varieties of onions has been banned with immediate effect.

SpiceJet posts ₹600 cr net loss for Jun quarter

New Delhi: Budget carrier SpiceJet on Tuesday reported a net loss of Rs 600.5 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, owing to the suspension of flight operations due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

It had posted a net profit of Rs 262.8 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

The airline's operating revenue stood at Rs 521 crore in the first quarter of 2020-21, significantly lower as against Rs 3,002.8 crore a year ago, it said in a statement.

Operating expenses during the June 2020 quarter were Rs 1,311.6 crore, compared to Rs 2,886.7 crore in the year-ago period.

SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said, “Flight operations were suspended for most part of the (first) quarter, and the partial resumption of flights initially and weak demand thereafter were a reminder of the significant problems that this pandemic has resulted in.”



In July, the country's largest airline IndiGo declared a net loss of Rs 2,884.3 crore for the first quarter of 2020-21.

Scheduled domestic flight services were suspended in India from March 25 to May 24 due to the lockdown. The domestic flights resumed from May 25 but in a curtailed manner.

Scheduled international flights have been suspended in India since March 23 due to the coronavirus-triggered lockdown. However, special international passenger flights have been operating in India under the Vande Bharat Mission since May and under bilateral air bubble arrangements formed between India and other countries since July.

Milk industry gets shot in the arm; mega dairy to come up in Hyd

- State faces milk shortage
- State needs 40 lakh litres per day
- Anganwadis alone needs 20 lakh litres
- GHMC needs another 20 to 25 lakh litres
- New mega milk dairy is being set up at the cost of ₹445 crore



HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Animal Husbandry Minister T Srinivas Yadav on Tuesday said the government was establishing a mega dairy at Maheshwaram on the outskirts of the city.

The Minister was replying to a question on promotion of dairy industry in the State by Telan-

gana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) member S Ravi Shankar and others during the Question Hour in the Assembly on Tuesday.

The Minister said that demand was more and supply was less for milk in the State. The State needs 40 lakh litres per day including 20 lakh litres for Anganwadis and another 20 to 25 lakh litres for GHMC. However,

the supply is just over one lakh litre before 2014.

The State has now reached seven lakh litres now because of the various steps taken by the government, said the Minister. He said that the government is bringing up a mega dairy at Ravirala at Maheshwaram on the outskirts of the city at the cost of Rs 445 crore. Already land is also ac-

quired on lease for this purpose, he said, adding this would become a model for other States in the country.

The Minister said that the government provided Rs 4 per litre as incentive and this made the private dairies also to provide the same to the farmers. He urged farmers not to worry in case of delay in the payments stating that because of the Corona pandemic the payments have got delayed. Srinivas Yadav said that the government is providing a 75 per cent subsidy to SC farmers. Regarding the branding of Vijaya Dairy, Yadav said that there is a huge demand for the Vijaya Dairy products and seeing this government started 500 parlours in the State during the last one year.

More outlets would also be opened up at different tourist spots in the State. Earlier the Vijaya Dairy used to depend on the state government but now the dairy is self-sustaining.

PLEASURE DURING PANDEMIC



A woman clicking a photograph of her family on a mobile phone at Bodakonda waterfalls in Manchal mandal of Ranga Reddy district on the outskirts of the city on Tuesday. The fall which is in full flow as a result of rich monsoon showers has become an exotic location to have a day out for pandemic-hit denizens in the State capital. Photo: Adula Krishna

CM promises to look into 'excess power bills' during lockdown

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Chief Minister K Chandrababhu Naidu has told the Assembly that his government would look into the complaints of excess power bills levied on citizens during three months of lockdown.

He said that the government would not take any step to burden the public. "I do not know of levying more bills than they are sup-

posed to be," he said, adding that if any anomalies were found, he would give orders to address the issue.

Earlier, CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that he got Rs 55,000 power bill for three months lockdown period and expressed concern over hefty power bills levied in the State. He requested the Chief Minister to intervene and set right the anomalies.



Planning Board VC urges UoH to reschedule entrance tests

The Central university is planning to conduct entrance test for its different courses from September 24-26

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana State Planning Board Vice Chairman B Vinod Kumar on Tuesday urged University of Hyderabad to reschedule its entrance exams in wake of other examinations during the same period. The Central university is conducting entrance test for its different courses from September 24-26.

Vinod Kumar said that a large number of Degree and PG students of all Telangana State Universities are appearing for the end-semester / final year examinations from September 22 to October 13. Many students who are aspiring admission into University of Hyderabad are from Telangana region. Any move to conduct entrance examinations of the University of Hyderabad on

these days will adversely impact the careers of students in general and Telangana in particular. Conducting entrance exams on the same dates will impact MPhil and Ph D applicants also, said Vinod Kumar.

The Planning Board VC recalled that the University of Hyderabad was established after a long drawn struggle for a separate Telangana movement and as part of the six point formula and Article 371 (D). The University has to keep the interests and avenues for the Telangana students whenever the entrance examinations are planned in future also.

Any attempt to curtail the future prospects of the students of Telangana will not be acceptable and shall be viewed seriously by the policy makers, stakeholders and intellectuals from Telangana, he said.

Vinod requested the VC to reschedule the University plans to conduct entrance examinations for PG and M Phil / Ph D admissions and issue a fresh schedule at the earliest.



Hyderabad most livable city in India, says survey

The city ranks number one after scoring 4.0 out of 5 by beating Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru and Chennai to lead the chart, according to website Holidify.com

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The City of Pearls has been ranked number one among the '34 Best cities to live and work in India'. A survey conducted by destination discovery website, Holidify.com disclosed Hyderabad ranked number one after scoring 4.0 out of 5 by beating Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru and Chennai to lead the chart.

According to the survey, the best time to visit the city is from September to March, and says there are not one but many places, right from the historic Charminar and Golconda Fort to the dreamy Ramoji Film City, to visit in the city. "Hyderabad is fast turning into the New York city of South India" the website says, adding that 'it is really a great place to visit in Telangana'.

This is not the first time that Hyderabad leads the chart in different studies and surveys conducted by different organisations. In the JLL City Momentum Index 2020, Hyderabad bagged the World's Most Dynamic City tag. The index, which also said Hyderabad was one of India's fastest growing cities, said the city was drawing a significant level of interest from overseas real estate investors as well.

The website, which helps travellers find the right destination according to their preferences and help them plan their holiday in a hassle-free manner, says the 'Best Cities to live in India' are an amalgamation of cultures of various States that have been moulded into well-structured cities. "Whether it is strong infrastructure, sustainable development or the economy, these mega cities function effortlessly due to incredible process mechanisms," it said.

₹3.75 crore hawala money seized, four arrested

Upon receiving the information, teams rush to the spot and apprehend the accused persons and seize the entire cash

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The West Zone Task Force on Tuesday intercepted a car at Road No. 12, Banjara Hills and seized hawala money worth Rs 3.75 crore from the possession of four persons.

The persons were identified as, Eshwar Dileep Solanki (29), Harish Ram Bhai Patel (35), Ajith Singh (34) and Rathod Kanak Singh Natuba (42), all residents of Banjara Hills and natives of Gujarat. According to task force police, they received a tip-off from a credible source that the said persons were transporting the hawala money to Gujarat. Upon receiving the information, teams rushed to the spot and apprehended the accused persons while seizing the entire cash. Anjani Kumar, Commissioner of police, Hyderabad, said that, when our teams questioned the arrested persons, it was revealed that all these persons are working in P Vijay & Company situated in Mumbai and they also have a branch in Hyderabad. The owner of the company is Kamlesh Shah, a native of Ahmedabad.

He said, "Two persons Dinesh and Giri are in-charge of the company in Hyderabad. The accused Ajith, Rathod and a woman Thakur



Soalben are working in the office of Dinesh and Giri. On September 14 two accused persons Eshwar Dileepji and Harish Ram came to Hyderabad in Mahindra Scorpio to collect the cash from Dinesh and Giri."

"After collecting the cash from them, the duo who arrived from Gujarat started their journey back and they were being accompanied by Ajith and Rathod in another car. Meanwhile, we received credible information about the deal and we intercepted the cars and arrested the men while seizing the entire hawala amount," added the Commissioner.

"The seized money will be handed over to the Income Tax department for further course of action and the arrested persons will also be handed over to the IT department for further questioning. The arrests were made under the supervision of DCP of Task Force, P Radhakrishnan Rao and his team," stated the officer.

Burglar couple decides to settle down; cops play spoilsport

They purchase a 100 sq. yard plot with stolen money and begin construction of a house, but the police arrest them before they could complete the task

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: An interstate burglar couple's dream of settling down in life has come to naught as they were nabbed by the police before materialising their plan. The couple who purchased a 100 sq yards plot ended up in police custody even as the construction activities were going on

at Kondamallepally village in Nalgonda district.

The accused couple were identified as Katti Ravi Kumar (25) and Mekala Geetanjali alias Laxmi Devi (21), both natives of Anantapur District in Andhra Pradesh.

According to the police, the accused man used to steal bikes, move in isolated colonies with his wife and do recce. He used to move along with his wife to avoid suspicion and frisking by the police. During night times the couple would park their vehicle at the house they had targeted during the recce and then break open the main door with the help of an iron rod and com-

mit the robbery.

Mahesh Bhagwat, Rachakonda Police Commissioner said, in 2019, Ravi Kumar was arrested by Nekarikallu police in Guntur district and released from Ongole jail in September.

He added, "After being released from jail, the couple went to Anantapur district to keep their identity a secret and started doing tea business by opening a kiosk. However, they were not satisfied with the earnings, so they resumed committing property offences in surrounding villages of Kurnool and Anantapur districts with an intention of settling down in life

after accumulating huge money made through robberies."

With the same intention they moved to Kondamallepally in Nalgonda district, Telangana and started committing the same offences in Rachakonda Police Commissionerate. They were also successful in their attempt, but the police were keeping an eye on the couple based on their previous criminal record because the Ravi Kumar started committing offences at a very young age. He was also arrested earlier in Narsaopeta, Piduguralla, Singarayakonda, Nekarikallu of Andhra Pradesh for committing robberies, said the officer.

Appoint women panel chief: TDP to govt

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Khammam: Demanding setting up of Mahila Commission in the State, TDP women wing leaders staged a protest in Khammam town on Tuesday.

Several number of TDP women leaders participated in the protest and took out a huge rally in Zilla Parishad (ZP) Centre. They garlanded Dr Ambedkar statue at the centre and submitted a memorandum to the statue. Later they conducted a meeting at the centre.

Speaking at the meeting, the women leaders demanded that the government must immediately set up Mahila Commission in the State for preventing the attacks on women. Stating that attacks, sexual harassment against women are raising with each day across the State, they criticised that the TRS government had failed in preventing attacks on women in the State.

TDP women leaders extended their support to MRPS collectorate, demanding podu patas, before the Collectorate.

TDP women wing leaders M Satayavathi, T Swathi, K Rajini, Anusha, TDP Parliamentary general secretary G Seethaiah, spokesperson A Kokndal Rao, P Suresh, N Murali, Ranjith, K Anand Rao, Y James, A Venkanna and Ravi were participated in the programme.



TDP women wing leaders submitted a memorandum to Dr Ambedkar statue at ZP centre in Khammam on Tuesday

'Belt shops spreading coronavirus in villages'

PV SATYANARAYANA

Khammam: Rapid spread of coronavirus in rural areas is causing concern to old aged and children, who are spending sleepless nights in the erstwhile Khammam district. According to medical and health records, as many as 13,000 cases in Khammam and about 6,500 cases in Bhadradi Kothagudem district were recorded. But unofficially, the number is almost double.

A medical and health officer said that every day more than 500 cases are being reported in Khammam and as many as 200 to 300 in Bhadradi Kothagudem district. But the officials are not releasing any statements on the rise in number like earlier.

A top medical and health official in the district said that they have noticed liquor belts and wine shops are becoming Covid-19 spreading centres in both the districts and it is the main reason for the fast spread of the virus in villages as there is no monitoring on setting up of belt shops.

K Krishna of Bhadrachalam temple

town said that hundreds of illegal belt shops have been set up in villages and there will be huge gatherings at these shops, which is spreading corona. He alleged that the excise department, which is supposed to conduct raids and prevent setting up of belt shops, is not taking any steps.

On the other hand, the medical and health department has noticed most of the affected were aged below 50 years in both the districts. Youth are coming on roads without reason and gathering in all places and villages including small towns. Most of the youth are not wearing masks and not observing social distance, said Dr Rajendra Prasad. He also said people aged above 50 years are not coming out of their houses fearing of contacting the virus but youth has no such fear and spreading the virus.

District medical and health officers of both the districts, Dr Bhaskar Naik and Dr B Malathi said the despite creating awareness, many people still not wearing masks and coming out without reason.

Thomas and Uber Cup postponed, BAI supports BWF's decision

New Delhi (IANS): A spate of withdrawals by top teams led to the Thomas Cup and Uber Cup being postponed to 2021 on Tuesday. The Badminton World Federation (BWF) did not specify as to when the two tournaments will be held next year, saying that it is "looking into possible alternative dates to reschedule the World Men's and Women's Team Championships, but on dates not before into 2021".

The tournaments, slated to be held in Denmark from October 3 to 11, was set to mark the resumption of international badminton after it came to a halt in March following the outbreak of novel coronavirus.

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) has said that it stands by the BWF in this decision. "BAI has been supporting BWF in its efforts to restart international badminton. However, we stand by this decision taken by BWF considering the chal-



lenges in the ongoing time and the health and safety of all concerned," said BAI General Secretary Ajay Kumar Singhania.

Countries that had withdrawn from the tournament included South Korea, Australia, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong. "BWF, in collaboration with Badminton Denmark, has for many months been preparing for a safe return to international badminton," BWF said in its statement.

"However, in view of the recent Covid-19 related de-

velopments around the world, a number of teams and individual players have elected not to travel to Denmark for tournaments in Aarhus and Odense; a choice the BWF has to respect and acknowledge," it added.

Meanwhile, BWF also announced that the Denmark Open, scheduled to be held from October 13 to 18, will proceed as scheduled while the Denmark Masters (October 20-25) has been cancelled.

The Indian squad for the Denmark Open included PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, Ki-

dambi Srikanth, Ashwini Ponnappa, N Sikki Reddy and Lakshya Sen.

Subhankar Dey, who was part of the Thomas Cup squad, had said he hopes the tournament goes ahead so as to ease the financial burden on the players.

"I can only say that it would be great if the Thomas Cup and other tournaments are held," Subhankar had told IANS. "The players are suffering right now because unless and until we play tournaments, we won't get any money at all. Sponsorships are also not coming so we are facing a lot of problems and I hope tournaments like Thomas Cup take place even if other teams withdraw."

Call me, I will come, play cricket anywhere: Sreesanth

Kochi (IANS): The desperation was written large on his face when fast bowler S. Sreesanth said, "call me and I will come and play cricket anywhere". Sreesanth, who was part of the 2007 World T20 and 2011 World Cup-winning Indian teams, made this statement after his seven-year ban ended recently.

"I am speaking to agents in Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka as I want to play cricket at the club levels in these countries. My aim is to represent my country in the 2023 World Cup. Another wish is I want to play in a match at the Lords when the MCC plays the Rest of the World," he added. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had banned Sreesanth for life in August 2013 for his alleged involvement in the spot-fixing scandal that rocked the 2013 Indian Premier League (IPL). In 2015, how-



ever, a special court in Delhi acquitted him of all charges.

In 2018, the Kerala High Court had struck down the life ban imposed on the cricketer by the BCCI and also quashed all proceedings against him. However, a division bench of the High Court restored the ban. Sreesanth then moved the Supreme Court against the order. And last year in March, the apex court upheld his guilt but asked the BCCI to reduce his quantum of punishment. The cricket board then reduced his life ban to seven years which came to an end on September 12 this month.

PFL announces int'l distribution partnership with Eurosport India

New Delhi (IANS): Professional Fighters League (PFL) has announced an international distribution partnership with Eurosport India, marking the first time MMA will be televised on the platform. The partnership is part of PFL's planned global expansion, which includes a focus on growing the sport in India.

As part of the multi-year agreement, Eurosport India will broadcast live PFL regular season, playoffs and championship events. PFL programming on Eurosport India will also feature classic fights from PFL's vault, providing fans with the opportunity to relive the championship journeys of PFL stars such as Kayla Harrison, Ray Cooper III, Emiliano Sordi, Magomed Magomedkerimov and Nathan Schulte.

"As the second-largest populated country in the world, there is a tremendous growth opportunity in India for the Professional Fighters League and MMA," said Peter Murray, CEO of the PFL. "We are actively evaluating talent in the region for opportunities to join the PFL roster and compete for a million-dollar prize. This exciting partnership with Eurosport India provides fans with access to premium MMA content."

Racism exists but we have to stop it: Neymar

Paris (IANS): Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) striker Neymar has said he could not leave the field without responding to Alvaro Gonzalez after claiming the officials ignored his accusations of racism against the Marseille defender.

Neymar was one of five players sent off on Sunday as Marseille clinched their first victory against PSG in nine years after Andre Villas Boas' side beat PSG 1-0 in a game which will be remembered for aggressive fouls and a late brawl.

The Brazilian was sent off for slapping Gonzalez in injury-time, who he accused of racism as he left the field and also on social media following the match.

In a lengthy post on Instagram, Neymar has now said he "acted like a fool" to earn a red card but said that it is important that those in power reflect on the role of racism in sport.

"Yesterday I revolted. I was punished with red because I wanted to hit someone who offended me," Neymar said.

"I thought I could not leave without doing something because I realised that those in charge would not do anything, did not notice or ignored the fact. During the game, I wanted to answer as always: playing football. The facts showed that I did not succeed. I revolted..."

"In our sport, aggressions, insults, swearing are part of the game, of the dispute. You can't be affectionate. I understand this guy partly, all is part of the game, but racism and intolerance are unacceptable."

"I am black, son of black, grandson and great-grandson of black also. I am proud and do not see myself as different from anyone. Yesterday, I wanted those in charge of the game (referees, assistants) to position themselves impartially and to understand that there is no longer such a place for a prejudiced attitude."

"Reflecting and seeing all the manifestation of what happened, I am saddened



by the feeling of hatred that we can provoke when, in the heat of the moment, we snap.

"Should I have ignored it? I don't know yet... Today, with a cool head, I say yes, but in due course, my companions and I asked the referees for help and we were ignored. That's the point!"

"We who are involved in entertainment need to reflect. An action led to a reaction and got where it did. I accept my punishment because I should have followed the path of clean football. I hope, on the other hand, that the offender will also be punished. "Racism exists. It exists, but we have to stop it. No more. Enough!"

"The guy was a fool. I also acted like a fool for letting me get involved in that... I still have the privilege of keeping my head up today, but we all need to reflect that not all black and white people are in the same condition."

"The damage from the confrontation can be disastrous to both sides. Whether you are black or white, I don't want to and we shouldn't mix subjects. Skin colour we don't choose. Before God, we are all equal."

"Now, yesterday, I lost in the game and I lacked wisdom. Being in the centre of this situation or ignoring a racist act will not help. I know. But pacifying this 'anti-racism' movement is our obligation so that the less privileged will naturally receive their defence. "We will meet again and it will be my way: playing football. Stay in peace! Stay in Peace! You know what you said... I know what I did. More love to the world."



Murray given wild card for Roland Garros 2020

Paris (IANS): Former world number one Andy Murray has received a wild card entry into the French Open which is slated to begin from September 27.

Last month, Murray was also given a wild card for the US Open where he reached the second round in his first Grand Slam after hip surgery last year. He had registered 4-6, 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 come-from-behind victory against 49th-ranked Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka before losing to 15th seed Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Along with Murray, seven other players have been given a free pass into the main draw of the clay Grand Slam. The 33-year-old last appeared at the Roland Garros three years ago when he lost to Stan Wawrinka in a marathon five-set last-four encounter. In women's singles, Eugenie Bouchard and Tsvetana Pironkova have also received wild cards into the main draw at Roland Garros.

World No.1 and reigning champion Ashleigh Barty has already confirmed that she will not participate at the Grand Slam due to health concerns and a lack of preparation.

The French Open was originally scheduled to start in May but had to be moved back because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dortmund thrash 10-man Duisburg in German Cup

Berlin (IANS): Borussia Dortmund progressed into the second round of the German Cup after moving 5-0 past third division outfit Duisburg.

The "BVB" on Monday smoothed the way for their win with three first-half goals, while Dominic Volkmer's red card before half-time left Duisburg hopeless, reports Xinhua news agency.

The lower league side had the worst possible start on home soil as Maximilian



Sauer's handball allowed Jadon Sancho to break the deadlock from the spot with just 14 minutes played.

Dortmund gained momentum and pinned Duisburg in their territory before Thorgan

Hazard's back-heel pass found youngster Jude Bellingham, who made no mistake to make it 2-0 from inside the box in the 30th minute. Eight minutes later, things went from bad to worse for Duisburg as Volkmer felled Erling Haaland as the last man to receive his marching orders.

Haaland remained center stage as he drilled the subsequent free-kick from the edge of the box into the top-left

corner to make it 3-0.

Duisburg tried to keep pace but the "BVB" continued their relentless march, as Giovanni Reyna's deflected free-kick left goalkeeper Leo Weinkauf helpless five minutes into the second half. Lucien Favre then brought on Marco Reus for his return after a long injury lay-off, and the German international paid back his trust seconds later, beating Weinkauf following a free-kick at the hour mark.

Well-balanced KKR need consistency to win 3rd IPL title

Kolkata (IANS): Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will look to make the most of an efficient leadership group coupled with world class performers in their bid to bounce back after the two-time champions flattered to deceive last season, crashing out of the play-off zone for the first time since 2015.

As part of the preparations for the 13th edition, beginning in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on September 19, KKR snapped up star Australian seamer Pat Cummins for a record Rs.15.5 crore, the most expensive overseas purchase in the history of the IPL. But it was the signing of England's ODI World Cup winning skipper Eoin Morgan that further added to their arsenal, not only for the left-hander's batting exploits but also his skills as a leader, besides captain Dinesh Karthik.

Karthik was not at his best donning the skipper's hat last time as the team finished fifth. The wicket-keeper-batsman's decisions were frowned upon by sceptics and the team suffered from inconsistency.

KKR's chief mentor David Hussey said at a recent media interaction from Abu Dhabi that Morgan would be a great ally to Karthik and his calm demeanour can help the team win matches. "He is a World Cup-winning captain. He has captained England for a long time -- classy player. He will be a great ally for Dinesh Karthik," former Australia and KKR batsman Hussey said.

"Maybe fielding in the ring and talking to the bowlers while our captain's behind the stumps, keeping wickets. He is also a very cool calm and collected person so...he will be very handy in the middle order controlling things with our captain as well."

Batting wise, KKR were over reliant on Andre Russell with the big-hitting West Indies all-rounder scoring 510 runs in 13 innings despite batting lower down the order, something which was not to his liking.

This time the middle order will get the much needed support from Morgan besides Karthik and Nitish Rana. The hugely talented Shubman Gill will be expected to open the batting



along with Sunil Narine who had a strike-rate of 150-plus last time opening the batting. For firepower there is dashing England opener Tom Banton who can bat anywhere as seen in the England-Australia T20 series recently.

KKR's bowling was abysmal last season with Russell topping the list of wicket-takers with 11 scalps. The spin trio comprising Sunil Narine, Kuldeep Yadav and Piyush Chawla failed miserably, though the West Indian had found some form at the back end of the league stage and finished with 10 wickets in 12 games with an economy rate of 7.82.

Lockie Ferguson, Prasidh Krishna and Harry Gurney were expected to be the X-factor but could not produce the spark as they were treated with disdain by the opponent batters.

In contrast, young Sandeep Warrier, who was a late replacement of injured seamer Kamlesh Nagarkoti, impressed with his control and accuracy with the new ball in the three games he played. This time, KKR will have Cummins to bank on, besides a much improved Ferguson and the likes of Warrier and Prasidh Krishna for backup. KKR will also have the services of USA fast bowler Ali Khan who has replaced Gurney.

Strengths

KKR's strength will be the balance in all departments. From a leadership point of view, Morgan and Cummins will be there to assist Karthik. There is firepower and talent across the batting and bowling arsenal and on a given

day, KKR has match winners who can blow any opposition away.

Weaknesses


KKR can tread an inconsistent path and at times their decision making leaves much to be desired. Karthik drew flak for his leadership last season and although he has Morgan by his side, the seasoned campaigner would do well to be more flexible this time and cut the coat according to the cloth. The spinners floundered last time and if the same happens this season, there could be pressure on Cummins and Co. to deliver in warm conditions where they need to manage their workload.

Squad

Andre Russell, Dinesh Karthik (captain, wicket-keeper), Ali Khan, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Nitish Rana, Prasidh Krishna, Rinku Singh, Sandeep Warrier, Shivam Mavi, Shubman Gill, Siddhesh Lad, Sunil Narine, Pat Cummins, Eoin Morgan, Varun Chakravarthy, Tom Banton, Rahul Tripathi, Chris Green, M Siddharth, Praveen Tambe, Nikhil Naik (wicket-keeper)

Coaching staff

Brendon McCullum (head coach), Abhishek Nayar (assistant coach), Kyle Mills (bowling coach), David Hussey (mentor), Omkar Salvi (assistant bowling coach), James Foster (fielding coach), Chris Donaldson (strength and conditioning coach), Kamlesh Jain (head physiotherapist)



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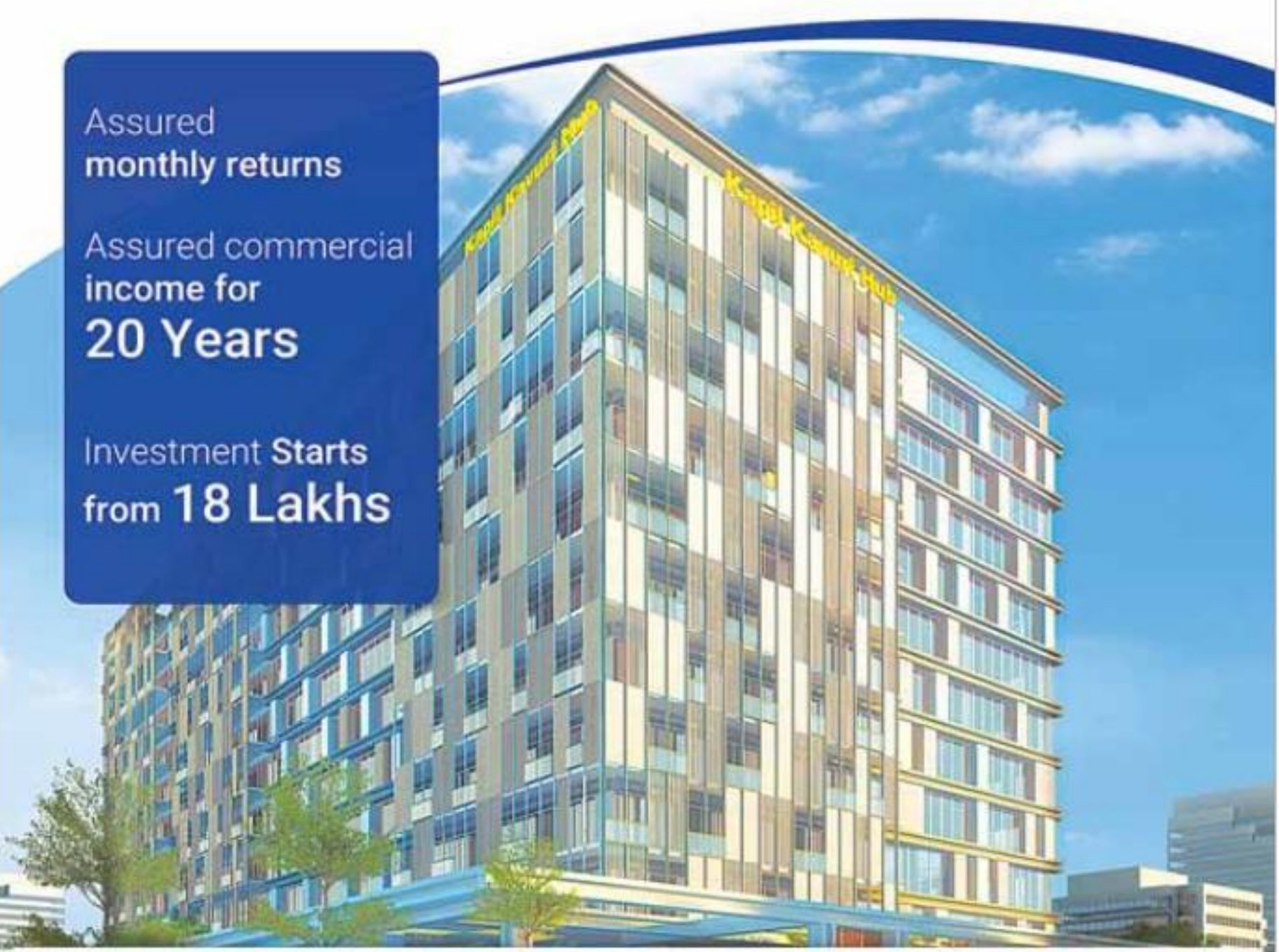
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