



THE HANS INDIA

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Holiday Notice

The offices of The Hans India will remain closed on Sunday, October 25, on account of Dasara. There will be no issue of the paper on Monday, October 26

WINDOWS



Women light earthen lamps on 'Maha Asthami' during the Durga Puja festival, at a community pandal in Thane district on Saturday

Defence Minister visits forward areas at LAC

NEW DELHI

AMID border tensions with China along the Line of Actual Control, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Indian Army Chief Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane on Saturday visited Sukna Corp in Bengal's Darjeeling district. The Sukna Corp is tasked to protect Bhutan and borders with China. Singh and Gen Naravane are on a two-day visit to Darjeeling and Sikkim.

BUSINESS P7

'Hopeful of quick revival of India's aviation sector'



THE central government proStrong local fundamentals will aide the revival of India's aviation sector, believes Airbus South Asia president Remi Maillard. In an exclusive interview, Remi Maillard, president and Managing Director, Airbus India and South Asia, expressed confidence in the industry's potential along with its revival prospects on the back of strong fundamentals. "I remain confident about the future of the Indian aviation industry because of the strong local fundamentals," Maillard said.

MIRROR P6

Was Rajiv Gandhi a victim of foreign intelligence agencies?



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You needn't do this, prabhu. My increased spending on masks, soap, etc. will soon kill me.

LOAN RELIEF ON DASARA

Centre okays interest waiver

Finance Ministry issues guidelines on moratorium loans

NEW DELHI

THE Union government approved the scheme for granting of ex gratia payment of the difference between compound interest and simple interest for six months of loans up to Rs 2 crore.

"The ex gratia payment under this scheme shall be admissible irrespective of whether the borrower had fully availed or partially availed or not availed of the moratorium on repayment announced by the Reserve Bank of India on March 27, 2020 and extended on May 23, 2020," the government



order said. The Union Finance Ministry has approved the guidelines for the scheme, which came into force after a Supreme Court direction to the Centre to implement the interest waiver on loans of up to Rs 2 crore under the RBI

moratorium scheme "as soon as possible" in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. Under the scheme, the government will pay the difference between compound interest and simple interest for the 6 months of moratorium period. The process

of crediting to be completed by November 5, 2020.

As per the operational guidelines issued by the Department of Financial Services, the scheme can be availed by borrowers in specified loan accounts for a period from March 1 to August 31, 2020.

"Borrowers who have loan accounts having sanctioned limits and outstanding amount of not exceeding Rs 2 crore (aggregate of all facilities with lending institutions) as on February 29 shall be eligible for the scheme," it said.

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ITR FILING DEADLINE EXTENDED TO DEC 31

NEW DELHI

IN a major relief to taxpayers, the Government on Saturday announced extension of the due date for filing income tax returns for the assessment 2020-21 by another month to December 31, 2020.

The earlier extension allowed such filing by general taxpayers by November 30.

Along with general category of taxpayers, the government also extended the date of filing returns by taxpayers (including their partners) who are required to get their accounts audited and those who are required to furnish report in respect of international/specified domestic transactions by two months to January 31, 2020.

The further extension for filing tax returns has been given in view of the challenges faced by taxpayers in meeting the statutory and regulatory compliances due to the outbreak of Covid-19, finance ministry said in a statement.

In order to extend relief of delayed tax filing to small and middle class taxpayers who are liable for payment of self assessment tax, tax returns by such category of taxpayers can also now be filed up to January 31, 2021.

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DELHI AIR POISONOUS

AQI reaches 'severe' category



PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

DELHI'S air has become more poisonous. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee data (DPPC) said on Saturday that the national capital's air quality index (AQI) has reached the 'severe' category. The air quality index stood at 432 in Alipur, Delhi, while it was recorded 427 in Mundka and 409 in Wazirpur.

A day earlier, the Delhi High Court directed the

AAP government and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to petition to ban the bursting of fire-crackers and stop burning effigies of Ravana during Dasara festivities.

A bench of Chief Justice DN Patel directed the Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and CPCB of the Government of Delhi to take decisions in this matter as per the applicable laws, rules, regulations and government policy.

Continued on Page 4

VOCAL FOR LOCAL Centre bans imported goods at Army canteens

NEW DELHI

PERNOD Ricard and Diageo, two of the world's biggest spirit makers, have stopped receiving orders for their imported brands from Defence canteen stores where they were sold at concessional prices, industry sources said. The move is seen as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "vocal for local" campaign in which he has called for the promotion of indigenous products to make India self-reliant during the coronavirus pandemic, a government measure that critics have called protectionist and against foreign businesses.

India's defence canteens provide access to both local and imported products such as liquor and electronics at less-than-market rates to soldiers, ex-servicemen and their families.

Continued on Page 4

Kejriwal throws open Seelampur flyover

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses a gathering during the inauguration of newly-constructed Shastri Park flyover, in New Delhi, Saturday

Covid vaccine should be free for all citizens: CM

NEW DELHI

CITIZENS across the country should get Covid-19 vaccine for free, said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday.

Kejriwal's statement comes two days after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) promised free Covid vaccination in its Bihar election manifesto. The statement

made by the saffron party kicked up a storm. Interacting with reporters after inaugurating two flyovers in the city, Kejriwal said, "The whole country should get free COVID-19 vaccines." "It is the right of the entire country. All the people are troubled by Covid. So, the vaccine should be free for the country," Kejriwal reiterated.

Continued on Page 4

AP & TS to strike a bus deal on Tuesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

ANDHRA Pradesh Transport Minister Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani) on Saturday said that an agreement between the officials of AP and Telangana Road Transport Corporation is likely to be entered on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference here at Lake View, the minister said that the delay in taking a

decision was because it was being held between the officers of the two states.

If it was a political issue, it could have been resolved by now. Perni Nani said that the talks were in final stage.

The TSRTC officials could not provide certain documents during the last meeting and now that there is long weekend, talks would resume on Tuesday.

Continued on Page 4



Women playing Bathukamma near Padmakshi gundam in Hanamkonda, in Telangana on Saturday. Photo: G Shyam Kumar

Covid-19 fails to take sheen of Bathukamma

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WARANGAL

THE precincts of Padmakshi hillocks reverberated with thousands of women clad in traditional attire played around conical-shaped stack of seven concentric layers of flowers - Bathukamma, on the final day of nine-day festivity that showcases the unique culture of the region.

The gathering may not be equal to that of previous years'. Although the district administration had advised the people to celebrate the festival as a low-key affair due to coronavirus scare, nearly 70 per cent of the women in the city turned to Padmakshi gundam, regarded as the best place for Saddula Bathukamma in the State.

The atmosphere at the Padmakshi hillocks on Saturday was vibrant with the women playing Bathukamma, with foot-tapping songs like 'Bathukamma, Bathukamma Uyyalo - Bangaru Bathukamma Uyyalo' and 'Rama Rama Uyyalo - Ramane Sri Rama Uyyalo'. Indeed the finale was a huge occasion with a large number of women who formed circles, clapped and sang while moving around the Bathukammas.

Continued on Page 4

Biden vows free Covid vaccine for 'everyone'

WILMINGTON

DEMOCRAT Joe Biden said on Friday that if elected President he would mandate coronavirus vaccines be free for all Americans, part of a national strategy to "get ahead of this virus."

"Once we have a safe and effective vaccine, it has to be free to everyone -- whether or not you're insured," Biden said in a speech laying out his pandemic response plan just 11 days before the US presidential election.

President Donald Trump, who trails Biden in the polls, has also stressed that a vaccine - which he says will be ready in



the coming weeks -- should be free. But Democrats led by Biden have hammered Trump for failing to lay out and implement a nationwide response to a

pandemic that has now killed more than 223,000 Americans.

More than 220,000 Americans have lost their lives, which is more than one-fifth of the to-

Covid-19 dwarfs anything that we've faced in recent history, and it isn't showing any signs of slowing down. The virus is surging in almost every state

tal global death, Biden said in a major policy speech on the coronavirus, a day after the final presidential debate he had with the Republican incumbent Don-

ald Trump. Biden blamed the policies of Trump for the deadly spread of the virus that has had a devastating impact on the country's economy.

"Covid-19 dwarfs anything that we've faced in recent history, and it isn't showing any signs of slowing down. The virus is surging in almost every state," Biden said in a speech in Wilmington, Delaware.

"We're more than eight months into this crisis and the president still doesn't have a plan," the 77-year-old former vice president said. "He's given up. He's quit on you. He's quit on your family. He's quit on America."

DELAY IN INTERSTATE BUS OPS

AP Transport Minister finds fault with TSRTC officials

AP Transport Minister Perni Nani says the issue would have been solved by now, had it been a political one

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

ANDHRA Pradesh Transport Minister Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani) on Saturday said the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) officials were the reason behind the delay in taking a decision on operating inter-state buses between the two Telugu States.

Addressing a press conference here at Lake View Guest House, Perni Nani said the issue would have been solved if it was a political one, but since the issue was related to the officials, it got delayed. The Minister clarified that the talks were almost coming to a conclusion but the TSRTC officials could not bring required papers with them in the meeting and in the wake of continuous holidays for the next three days, the agreement is likely to be entered on Tuesday.

The AP Minister said the AP-

“We are ready to accept whatever they say, but the TSRTC officials are not ready. They said they would have operations only after a written agreement”
— Perni Nani, AP Transport Minister



TSRTC was ready to start operations without agreement to provide relief to the passengers, but the TSRTC officials said they could operate buses only after entering into an agreement. He said that the APSRTC officials had been talking to the TSRTC officials since June 18. “We are ready to accept whatever they say but the TSRTC officials are not ready. They said they would have operations only after a

written agreement,” said Nani.

Perni Nani said the APSRTC was operating buses from the borders to different areas of Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of passengers till the Dasara festival. The buses would be operated from border check posts in Vijayawada, Kurnool and Suryapet. He urged the TSRTC officials to operate buses till the check post instead of depots so that the passengers can catch

buses directly from the check posts.

Justifying the hike in penalty amount on the violations by motorists, the AP Transport Minister said that this was for those who did not follow the rules and drove the vehicles irresponsibly. He said that the government had to implement these new penalties because the State government had no choice but to implement the Central Motor Vehicle Act. “These penalties are to control the irresponsible persons and the government has no intention to collect money from the people who follow the rules,” said Nani, taking exceptions to the criticism on social media.

The Minister said that there was no relation of potholes with penalties by the government. “It is natural to have potholes during heavy rains. During the time of N Chandrababu Naidu, there were no rains hence there were no potholes,” said Nani.



Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, along with her family members, celebrating Bathukamma festival on the premises of Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad on Saturday

Governor celebrates Saddula Bathukamma at Raj Bhavan

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

GOVERNOR Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan said Bathukamma is a tribute to the life and the celebration of life by women in Telangana.

Participating in the celebrations at Raj Bhavan on Saturday, she said that Bathukamma highlights the devotion to Mother Nature and invokes the blessings of Goddess Gauri.

The Governor along with her family members with the traditionally decorated Bathukamma

idol made up of flowers took part in the celebrations. Earlier they offered prayers to the Bathukamma idols and launched the festivities.

The Raj Bhavan Parivar women members, duly adhering Covid-19 preventive norms, joined the Governor in going round the Bathukammas, kept in the middle, in a rhythmic form and singing the traditional Bathukamma songs.

After participating in the celebrations, the Governor and her family members carried the Bathukamma idols made of traditional flowers to the pond, near

the Main House, and immersed them thus bringing an end to the nine-day long festivities of the Telangana traditional Bathukamma celebrations.

All the family members of the Governor were present at the Saddula Bathukamma celebrations in the Raj Bhavan, which was illuminated brightly in tune with the festive atmosphere.

Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan said that she was so happy to have started the Bathukamma celebrations at the Raj Bhavan in the true spirit of Telangana culture and traditions.

Kavitha extends Bathukamma greetings

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Saturday extended Bathukamma wishes to the women in the State via a video address.

In the video, Kavitha spoke about how Bathukamma has always been about colours and festivities. A festival that is celebrated with friends and family together sees a low side this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, she added.

Kavitha expressed her happiness over the pride and excitement with which Bathukamma

was being celebrated on social media by young girls especially. The Bathukamma songs that were launched by Telangana Jagruthi recently have received huge support online and rose to become one of the top songs of this Bathukamma.

Referring to heavy rains and flooding in the State, Kavitha applauded the spirit of humanity in Telangana and requested the people to stand by each other in these difficult times. She thanked Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao for releasing Rs 550 crore to ensure immediate relief towards those affected by floods.

2 held, ₹70 lakh worth gold biscuits seized at RGIA

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CUSTOMS officials apprehended two passengers who arrived at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) from Visakhapatnam and seized 1.4 kg gold biscuits worth Rs 70 lakh from their possession. Two of their associates were caught by Customs officials at Visakhapatnam airport. Acting on a spe-



cific information from Visakhapatnam Customs officials, the Hyderabad Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) team caught two passengers who arrived on Friday from Visakhapatnam. During frisking, Customs officials found four pieces of gold biscuits in the trousers pockets of the two smugglers. “The gold is of foreign origin and its market value is Rs 70 lakh,” said a Customs official.

Bandi takes potshot at CM, says farmers' issue petty politics for KCR

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar wondered if the anguish of farmers appeared to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao petty politics.

In a statement here on Saturday, he alleged that Chandrashekar Rao was behaving like a dictator asking the farmers to cultivate crops prescribed by him. He said that purchase of maize has posed confusion among the farmers in the State, pushing the agriculture sector into the doldrums.

He asked the TRS chief whether subjecting the farmers to the regulated farming without conducting the soil testing is an unscientific practice adopted by his government.

The Ministers and the Agriculture department officials are not providing any information to farmers as to what kind of crops they have to cultivate in their lands. “The Chief Minister issues diktats from his farmhouse,” he said. The Karimnagar MP said that

- CM KCR is behaving like a dictator, asking the farmers to cultivate crops prescribed by him
- Purchase of maize has posed confusion among the farmers in the State, pushing the agriculture sector into doldrums, says State BJP chief

earlier farmers have incurred losses for cultivating fine variety rice believing the worlds of CM KCR. Similarly, traders are earning profits purchasing maize from the Market. But farmers who cultivated maize are incurring losses. He demanded the Chief Minister to answer as to who is responsible for the current situation in which farmers are at the receiving end.

The BJP leader also took strong exception to CM KCR for calling his party supporting the farmers as petting politics. “Are the farmers woe amounts to petty issues to the CM,” he asked.

Grazing cow shot dead in Damagundam Forest

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a bizarre event, a cow that came to graze in the forest was shot dead on Saturday at Damagundam Forest Range in Poduru Mandal. Bullets were found on the spot where the cow was found died. The cow belonged to a farmer Chandani Nayak of Puduru village in

Vikarabad district. The local residents said there were many farmhouses built in Manneveda area and people there were hunting animals in the forest.

Tirupati Tirumala Devasanam (TTD) board member and Yuga Thulasi Foundation chairman Shiva Kumar condemned the incident and said strict action should be taken on the culprits who

shot dead the cow. He also said that a walk will be held from November 5 to November 7 from Hyderabad to Sri Laxmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Yadagirigutta to condemn the attacks on wildlife.

He appealed to the people to join the cause. The police arrived at the scene, recovered the bullets and are investigating the case.

Golconda Fort walls under threat

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MORE walls of Golconda Fort may fall due to the recent heavy rains if the officials will not take precautionary actions to protect the fort walls. Heavy rains in Hyderabad last week not only damaged the residential and commercial buildings of Hyderabad but it also brought down some portions of the fortification of the historical Golconda Fort, the Qutub Shahi quake-proof architecture which remained unrattled for five centuries.

On October 12, a portion of one of the miradors of a rampart of Naya Qila collapsed. Then again on October 16, another wall inside the fort, in front of the Sri Jagadambika Devi temple, also collapsed.

An official of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on condition of anonymity told that decades of neglect made the stone-mud wall too feeble to



Portions of the fortification of the historical Golconda Fort brought down due to heavy rains in Hyderabad

withstand the onslaught of heavy rains. He further informed that they had sent their report to the headquarters in New Delhi and the authorities have advised them to begin the repair work. Meanwhile, heritage activists have also criticised the government and officials saying that their negligence was now taking a heavy toll on this magnificent

monument of great historical importance. They said the ASI was not taking interest in preserving the historical fort, which attracted the tourists from all over the world. They warned that if they continued neglecting the cracks that had developed in other parts of the fort, it would not take much time for the Qutub Shahi monument to be fully ruined.

Cyberabad police observe Ayudha Puja

HYDERABAD

CYBERABAD police observed Ayudha Puja and celebrated Navratri festival at the Commissioner's office here on Saturday.

On the auspicious occasion of Ayudha Pooja, Cyberabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar, along with his family and other police officials, offered puja to the rifles and other armaments and vehicles. On this day, people clean and paint their vehicles, tools and implements in a particular place and decorate them with flowers and pray for the safety of the humans using them. Cyberabad Police vehicles were decorated with vermilion and garlands at

the district police headquarters.

Cyberabad CP extended wishes to police officials and people on the occasion of Dasara and stated that the Vijayadashami festival symbolised the victory of good over evil. Cyberabad Traffic DCP SM Vijaykumar, Madhapur DCP Venkateshwarlu, DCP Balanagar Padmaja, CAR Headquarters ADCP Manikraj, CAR HQ (CSW) Venkat Reddy, SOT ADCP Sandeep, ADCP Lavanya NJP, CAR Headquarters ACP Laxminarayana, Madhapur ACP Raghunandan Rao, Estate Officer ACP Santhosh Kumar, SCSC General Secretary Krishna Yedula, staff and others were present.



Cyberabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar, along with his family members, performing puja at the Commissioner's office on Saturday

‘Uphill task for Election Commission to enforce COVID-19 rules’

NEW DELHI

THE Election Commission has the requisite powers to take strict measures like banning rallies and counter-mandating polls for violation of COVID-19 guidelines during campaigning, but it will be an uphill task to ensure compliance, according to former chief election commissioners.

Campaigning is on for Bihar assembly polls as well as for by-elections in other states, and the EC has already cautioned parties that penal provisions can be invoked against them by district authorities for violations.

While most of the former CECs said implementing health guidelines during campaigning is not easy given the number of candidates, parties and voters involved, two of them said the

EC could take “demonstrative action” such as postponing polls in a few constituencies and banning rallies to show that it means business.

Responding to a question on how the EC would enforce the guidelines, a senior functionary said the Commission has all the means to ensure implementation.

“The more reports we get of violations, the more action we will take... EC has all the means,” the functionary said without elaborating.

Former chief election commissioner V S Sampath said if the violation is by one party or one candidate, action can be taken.

“But if it is a universal violation, you cannot postpone elections. When you are ordering elections under such circumstances, you should anticipate

this kind of a fallout also,” he told PTI.

At the same time, Sampath said, it does not mean the EC should take things lying down because it is a matter of public health.

“There is no way you can implement this 100 per cent, but they (EC) will have to do their best. They have to maintain a delicate balance, which they are perhaps doing,” Sampath, who was CEC between 2012 and 2015, said.

SY Quraishi, who is also a former chief election commissioner, said the EC’s recent guidelines, based on experiences of various countries, are “very good”.

“It was a question of enforcement. I am happy that the EC is now coming down heavily on this (violations).”



CHINESE AGGRESSION

IMPORTANT WE WORK WITH PARTNERS LIKE INDIA: US

WASHINGTON

GIVEN China’s increasingly aggressive behaviour across the India-Pacific from the Himalayas to the South China Sea, it is more important than ever that we work with like-minded partners such as India, said US State Department.

A US administration official said that, “As the United States, Japan, Australia, and India are getting together to cooperate on one issue or another, if there are other countries that want to participate in those discussions or those activities, the door is always open.”

“Secretary Pompeo and Minister Jaishankar, along with their Japanese and Australian counterparts, met in Tokyo on October 6th for the second Quad meeting of foreign ministers. Given China’s increasingly aggressive behavior across the India-Pacific from the Himalayas to the South China Sea, it’s more important than ever that we work with like-minded partners such as India.”

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is the informal strategic dialogue between India, the US, Japan and Australia.



Earlier this week, India had announced the participation of Australia in the upcoming Malabar exercise alongside the US and Japan.

Talking to media persons, the State Department official said the foundational concept behind the Quad is one of the vibrant democracies working together towards

a common vision of a free and open India-Pacific region.

The official further said that Quad is not an alliance and there’s no reciprocal obligation among the countries who are involved.

“Well, on the Quad, I should tell you it’s not an alliance. You mentioned that - you said it was

an alliance and I want to push back on that. There’s nothing about the Quad that is an alliance. It doesn’t have - it is not formalized. There’s no reciprocal obligation among the countries that are involved. It’s not an organization that solicits membership,” the official said.

Gupkar Declaration anti-BJP, says Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR

FAROOQ Abdullah of the National Conference has been appointed the president of the Gupkar Declaration and former J&K chief minister Mehbooba Mufti its vice-president. Formed in August of last year ahead of the Abrogation of Article 370, the ‘People’s Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration’ as it is called, is a coalition of political parties from Jammu and Kashmir.

The Gupkar Declaration alliance also adopted the flag of the erstwhile state of J&K as its symbol and appointed J&K People’s Conference leader Sajjad Lone as its spokesperson. The move is being perceived as an attempt to give a formal structure to the alliance.

A former chief minister himself, Farooq Abdullah told media outlets in Srinagar on Saturday, “Those who have been spreading propaganda that Gupkar alliance is anti-national are wrong. We are anti-BJP and that does not mean being anti-national. They have harmed this country and its constitution. We want the rights of the people of J&K to be returned. That is all. Their attempts to divide us on religion will fail.”

“When we talk of revival of 370, we also talk of regional autonomy of area in Jammu and Ladakh,”



Farooq Abdullah, who was released in March after more than seven months in detention added.

Newly-appointed spokesperson of the Gupkar Declaration alliance, Sajjad Lone said, “We have decided on a structure of the alliance today. Farooq Abdullah will be our president and Mehbooba Mufti as the vice president and I will be the spokesperson of the alliance.” “We will soon come up with a white paper on reality. We will give a research document on what we had and what they have taken away. In two weeks, we will have our next meeting in Jammu and then we will have a convention. Our erstwhile flag of the state will be the symbol of our alliance,” Sajjad Lone went on to add.

Can’t be business as usual post 370 abrogation: Soz

SRINAGAR

LENDING support to former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, Congress leader and former Union Minister Saifuddin Soz on Saturday said Mehbooba’s views on restoration of the flag of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir reflects the wishes of the people.

6-year-old raped, killed in Punjab

THE BJP hit out at the Congress on Saturday over a case of alleged rape and killing of a six-year-old girl belonging to a migrant family from Bihar in Punjab, as it asked opposition party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra why had they not paid a visit to the family of the victim yet.

Union minister and BJP leader Prakash Javadekar accused Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi of going on a “political tour” to Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, where a Dalit girl was allegedly gang-raped and who died later, as he questioned the lack of a similar reaction from the two leaders to crimes against women in Punjab and Rajasthan,

which are ruled by the Congress.

They go to these places for “photo-op”, Javadekar said, referring to the Congress leaders’ visit to Hathras in the BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh. “A six-year-old girl coming from a Dalit migrant family from Bihar was raped and murdered in Punjab’s Tanda. Former Union minister Vijay Sampla from our party met the family. Nobody from the Congress met them.” “They (the Gandhis) cannot see atrocities against women in the states where it (Congress) is in power. Neither Rahul Gandhi nor Priyanka went there and nor was there any comment from its president, Sonia Gandhi,” Javadekar told reporters in New Delhi.

Girl shot dead for resisting sexual abuse

FIROZABAD

IN yet another incident that raises questions on women’s safety in Uttar Pradesh, a 16-year-old girl was shot dead at her home in Firozabad district on Friday evening allegedly by three men for fighting back against sexual harassment.

Police said a search was launched for the three men named by the victim’s father and they will be arrested soon. The Class 12 girl’s body was sent to the district hospital for post-mortem.

Naming the accused, the victim’s father said they barged into his Prem Nagar home on Friday evening and shot the girl in the head. “Some people came to my house today and started fighting. They shot my daughter in the head. Manish Yadav, Shivpali Yadav and Gaurav Chak killed my daughter.

Americans are learning to die with coronavirus: Biden

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC presidential candidate Joe Biden said Americans are not learning to live with COVID-19, but learning to die with it as the pandemic has dwarfed anything that the country faced in recent history and is not showing any signs of slowing down.

More than 220,000 Americans have lost their lives, which is more than one-fifth of the total global death, Biden said in a major policy speech on the coronavirus, a day after the final presidential debate he had with the Republican incumbent Donald Trump.

Biden, in his speech in his home state of Delaware, blamed the policies of Trump for the deadly spread of the virus that has had a devastating impact on the country’s economy.

“President Trump said we’re rounding the corner, it’s going away, we’re learning to live with it. They are quotes. But as I told him last night, we’re not learning to live with it. We’re learning to die with it. This is a dark winter ahead,” Biden, 77, said.

“Already more than 220,000 people in the US have lost their lives to this



virus. Worse yet, a new study from Columbia University suggests that anywhere between 130,000 and 210,000 of those deaths were avoidable,” he said. “COVID-19 dwarfs anything we’ve faced in recent history and it isn’t showing any signs of slowing down. The virus is surging in almost every state. We passed 4.8 million cases. And when Trump was asked this week what he’d do differently to get the pandemic response right from the start his answer was

and I quote, ‘Not much. Not much.’,” said the former vice president.

Alleging that Trump does not have a plan to fight the coronavirus, Biden said the longer he is the President, the “more reckless” he gets.

“We don’t have to be held prisoner by this administration’s failures. We can choose a different path. We can do what Americans have always done: come together and meet the challenge with grit, compassion, and determination,” he said.

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INTER ONLINE ADMISSIONS

Chaos, uncertainty mar process

V PRADEEP KUMAR
TIRUPATI

THE students seeking admission in Junior Intermediate and their parents are in a state of confusion over the cumbersome online process being implemented by the Board of Intermediate Education (BIE) from this year.

The process set by the board is alleged to have riven with several problems.

The government's decision to deny permission for hundreds of private and corporate junior colleges in the state and the reduction of the number of seats from 88 to 40 in each section only in private and corporate colleges has led to a huge shortage of seats.

Normally, parents prefer reputed colleges which were showing good results year after year. But, now they could not find any such colleges in the online list which is causing panic among them.

Moreover, almost all the candidates were declared passed SSC examinations this year due to Covid.

In Chittoor district alone, about 54,000 students are looking for Intermediate admissions.

- Hundreds of private and corporate colleges don't find place in the list
- The available seats have come down with the ceiling on number of students in each section at 40
- Parents are confused in choosing the right college with several reputed colleges left out of list

In this backdrop, it would be difficult for them to get admitted in private colleges. Also, each college will be allowed only 360 students and if the number crosses this limit, they need to apply for opening a new college.

A correspondent of a private unaided college, on condition of anonymity, told *The Hans India* that the board has included all government colleges in the online list though they do not fulfil several requirements.

Several colleges were not even having proper classrooms and bathrooms. Still, they are in the list whereas hundreds of private colleges being run for over 20 years with good reputation could not find a place.



For instance, in Chittoor district, only 32 private colleges were in the list out of over 150 colleges on the first day while on the second day, some more colleges were added. Some private managements are alleging that many colleges in the list could not fulfil any of the norms but managed to find a place in the list.

Another correspondent said that they need some more time to fulfil certain requirements like fire safety certificate. By then the admission process will be over and there will be no use in submitting them. The board officials were acting according to their

whims and fancies. "We are being harassed for each and everything. If the government wants to close all private institutions, we are ready to do so. Even we are discussing writing to the government to allow us to close down as we can't put up with harassment anymore," he said.

With new colleges getting added each day in the online list, choosing a proper college has become an uphill task for parents. Nobody is in a position to tell now the fate of several students and private colleges by the time the admission process closes on October 29.

Farmers register kharif crops they are to sell

AMARAVATI

WITH an objective protect farmers from middlemen, the state government has enabled them to register their agricultural produce in advance to sell it at procurement centres, so that the support price can be credited directly into the farmers' accounts.

Some 75,805 farmers have already registered their crops on the Comprehensive Monitoring of Agriculture Prices and Procurement (CMAPP) portal for this kharif season.

Six crops such as maize, bajra, ragi, korra, cotton and onion have been registered for crop procurement through Marketing Federation Limited (MARK-FED).

"Due to heavy rains and floods, farmers are concentrating on safeguarding their crops, considering which the government extended registration date till October 26," said a senior agriculture marketing department official.

The government expects more registrations from farmers by the end of the registration date, he added.

He said, "To enable farmers to sell their agriculture produce at their village level, Agricultural

- So far 75,805 farmers registered their crops in advance on CMAPP portal
- The state govt rolled out the system to protect farmers from middlemen
- When crop is harvested, farmers can sell them at procurement centres at Rythu Bharosa Kendras

Marketing department is taking measures to set up more number of procurement centres across the state."

According to him, for the first time in Andhra Pradesh, 8,256 procurement centres have been set up in linkage with Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) across the state to procure crops in the current kharif season.

Farmers are required to register their details at RBKs before selling their produce at the procurement centres.

Once the registration is done, farmers' details will be fed into the procurement centre's online database, following which farmers will directly start receiving information on their mobile phones. Payments will be credited to farmers' accounts within 10 days of procurement.

State reports 3,342 fresh Covid cases

AMARAVATI

THE state on Saturday completed 75 lakh sample tests and so far detected a gross of 8,04,026 positives, including 3,342 in 24 hours, for coronavirus.

The overall infection positivity rate in the state touched 10.72 per cent, three per cent higher than the national average, the latest bulletin said.

In 24 hours ending 9 am on Saturday, 3,572 patients had got cured, taking the overall recoveries to 7,65,991, with the overall recovery rate being 95.3 per cent.

The state also reported 22 more Covid-19 fatalities, increasing the toll to 6,566, the bulletin said.

The number of active cases dropped to 31,469.

West Godavari district continued to add the highest number of fresh cases in the state, 551, followed by East Godavari, 445, and Chittoor, 404.

Kurnool added just 60 new cases and SPS Nellore 98 in 24 hours.

Chittoor, Guntur and Krishna reported four more Covid-19 deaths each, the bulletin added.

AP & TS to strike a bus deal on Tuesday

Continued from P1

The AP minister said that the APSRTC had offered to start operations without agreement in view of the festive time, but but the TSRTC officials did not agree. "We are ready to accept whatever they say but the TSRTC officials are delaying the agreement," he said.

He said in order to help the poor and lower middleclass people, APSRTC was operating buses from and up to the borders of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. All those who come from Telangana up to AP border on the occasion of Dasara will be provided buses to go to their respective villages. The buses would be operated from border check posts at Vijayawada, Kurnool and Suryapet. He urged the TSRTC officials to operate buses till the check post instead of depots so that the passengers can catch buses directly from the check posts.

Justifying the hike in penalty amount on the violations by motorists, the AP Transport Minister said that this was for those who do not follow the rules and drive the vehicles irresponsibly. He said that the government was implementing these new penalties as part of the amended Central Motor Vehicle Act. "These penalties are to control the irresponsible persons," he said.

The minister said that there was no relation of potholes with penalties by the government. "It is natural to have potholes during heavy rains. During the time of N Chandrababu Naidu, there were no rains hence there were no potholes," said Nani.

Centre okays interest waiver

Continued from P1

Housing loan, education loans, credit card dues, auto loans, MSME loans, consumer durable loans and consumption loans are covered under the scheme.

As per the scheme, the lending institutions shall credit the difference between compound interest and simple interest with regard to the eligible borrowers in respective accounts for the said period irrespective of whether the borrower fully or partially availed the moratorium on repayment of loan announced by the RBI on March 27, 2020.

The scheme is also applicable on those who have not availed the moratorium scheme and continued with the repayment of loans.

The lending institutions after crediting the amount will claim the reimbursement from the central government.

According to sources, the government will have to shell out Rs 6,500 crore for the implementation of the scheme.

Centre bans imported goods at Army canteens

Continued from P1

But Pernod Ricard India, whose brands include Chivas and Glenlivet scotch whisky, received no orders in May for imported spirits, compared with average monthly orders of 4,500-5,000 cases by defence stores, one source said. One case typically holds six, nine or 12 bottles of liquor.

Diageo India too has not received any orders since May for

its imported brands such as the popular Johnnie Walker Black Label whisky and Talisker single malt, a second source said.

Pernod Ricard declined to comment and Diageo did not respond to queries. The defence ministry did not respond.

While no written order has been issued, a senior government official said a formal decision in the matter was imminent.

3-MW floating solar power plant project to gain pace

Continued from P1

"Once the work commences, the target is to complete the project in three months," says G Srijana, Municipal Commissioner.

The work pertaining to the project began in January. However, it could not take off due to various constraints.

Laying emphasis on alternative energy sources, Municipal Commissioner Dr Srijana says that the floating solar power plant at Meghadrigedda is a step towards making the city energy efficient.

The floating modules and panels will be readied at the reservoir, covering less than 3-4 acres. With a target of three months set for the project, the GVMC intends to finish the work at a faster pace and make do for the lost months.

Covid-19 fails to take sheen of Bathukamma

Continued from P1

Such was the folkloric vibrancy of the Bathukamma.

Earlier in the day, the people had a tough time searching for as many varieties as possible among the traditionally used flowers - Gunugu (Celosia Argentea), Thangedu (Cassia Alata), Gummadi (gourd flower), Tamera (Indian Lotus), Jilledu (Calotropis), Dosa (Cucumis), Ganneru (Oleander), Katla (Ipomoea), Beera (Luffa), Gaddi (Tridax procumbens), Banti (Marigold), and Oma (Ajwain). In the end, they had to make do with the available ones.

In a precautionary measure, the administration didn't allow the women to float their Bathukammas in Padmakshi gundam to avoid any untoward incident. They deployed personnel to float the Bathukammas in the pond.

It may be noted here that although the authorities have made arrangements at 19 other locations in the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation limits for the conduct of Saddula Bathukamma, a large number of people turn to Padmakshi gundam, where close to one lakh people gather every year for the occasion. The women who obeyed the administration's advice were seen playing Bathukamma in their apartments and colonies.

Kejriwal throws open Seelampur flyover

Continued from P1

"In Delhi, we built an air-conditioned hospital having all facilities with an expenditure of only ₹30 lakh per bed... Since the AAP has come to power, we have been saving money in every project. Through the saved money, we have made medicines, water and electricity free, and are also building the best schools. We are providing facilities to the people of Delhi by saving money in projects," he said.

He said the people living in the area will benefit from the new flyovers. No previous governments or any former Chief Ministers paid heed to the issues of the people of East Delhi and they were given "stepmotherly treatment", Mr. Kejriwal alleged.

PWD Minister Satyendar Jain said the government will construct children's parks under the flyovers. The government said that Shastri park flyover has six lanes. The construction of the new flyover will bring relief to around 1.5 lakh vehicles which seem to travel through the route daily, a statement stated.

DELHI AIR POISONOUS

Continued from P1

The court also directed them to keep in mind the instructions of the Supreme Court on this issue while deciding.

On the other hand, Lt Governor of Delhi Anil Bajal has directed various agencies to expedite action against polluting activities in the national capital. Actually, the air quality of the city had gone into 'very poor' category on Friday. An official said the Deputy Governor has asked the officials concerned to take action against local causes of pollution, such as burning of garbage and other activities.

According to data from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, air quality has reached critical levels in many areas of the capital. In these circumstances, the health of a healthy person has an impact, which has a profound effect on those who already have a disease.

The System of Air Quality and Weather for Casting and Research (SAFAR) forecasts that air quality may go into critical levels on Saturday and Sunday. In view of this, the Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) is also ready to take necessary steps.

Demolition of GITAM compound wall kicks up political storm

- Revenue officials reach the spot in the early hours with earthmover and demolish the compout wall and other adjacent structures amid tight security
- While they say that they had made markings, the GITAM management alleges that they were not given any notice about the action

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

IN a sudden development, the state government decided to demolish the alleged portion of the encroachment land at GITAM Deemed-to-be-University.

In the early hours of Saturday, the revenue authorities pulled down a part of the compound wall and constructions in the adjoining stretch of the institution, including playground and road.

According to the revenue officials, the institution has encroached close to 40 acre government land and the state government has so far retrieved half the stretch of the alleged encroached site.

Meanwhile, GITAM management claimed that the demolition work was carried out at the venue without any prior intimation.

However, the authorities concerned maintained that the survey on the encroached part of the premises was completed with markings a few months back and the management of the institution is aware of the fact.

They said no building was destroyed, only the compound wall was demolished and vacant encroached land has been taken over adding that a barrier was erected till where the land was retrieved and work was going on.



A part of GITAM institution being demolished by revenue officials in Visakhapatnam on Saturday

Muttamsetti denies vindictiveness

VISAKHAPATNAM

MINISTER for Tourism Muttamsetti Srinivas criticied the TDP for raising a huge and cry over GITAM University lands and reiterated that the government was not vindictive towards the TDP. He said encroaching upon government land was not new to GITAM as the institution has been indulging in it for years.

Expressing his views on the demolition of the portion of the institution, the minister said in the garb of education, the management is minting money, charging exorbitant fees for the courses the institution

The road was blocked with posse of police personnel when the revenue authorities reached the spot with an earthmover to carry out the demolition.

Established in 1980 by the late founder of the institution M V V S Murthi, GITAM has set up its campuses in Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

Currently, GITAM Institute of Medical Sciences and Research

offers. Srinivasa Rao stated that hundreds of acres worth land has been grabbed in Visakhapatnam during the TDP regime. "TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu could not stop GITAM from encroaching government lands," Srinivasa Rao pointed out.

He strongly opposed the comments of Naidu and TDP leaders who continue to campaign against the state government that is only trying to increase transparency by putting an end to corruption.

The minister urged the land grabbers that it will be an 'honour' if they voluntarily handover encroached lands to the government.

(GIMSIR) is designated as Covid hospital in the district and has been treating coronavirus patients since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Now, GITAM is being run by Murthi's grandson M Sri Bharat, who is married to the youngest daughter of Hindupur TDP MLA and N Chandrababu Naidu's brother-in-law Nandamuri Balakrishna. He also contested as MP in 2019 as TDP candidate from Visakhapatnam.

TDP cries vendetta

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP national president and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday strongly condemned the demolitions taken up by the state government at the GITAM University in Visakhapatnam, saying that it was a clear act of vengeance against the political opponents in the state.

Naidu said that GITAM stood out as a glorious temple of learning which had shaped the lives of thousands of students, provided jobs to youth and helped in providing medical services. The matter was in the court but the demolitions were initiated without waiting for the final verdict.

In a statement here, the TDP chief said that the destructive attack on a noted educational institution would be a big threat to the future progress

and prosperity of the state as a whole. Only recently, ex-mayor Sabham Hari's house was demolished and now GITAM University was targeted. This was nothing but the political vengeance of the ruling YSRC. The ruling party was taking revenge out of personal jealousy and vindictiveness against opposing parties and persons.

Naidu expressed concern that already educational and medical institutions and industries were afraid of coming to Andhra Pradesh because of the ongoing "government terrorism" here.

Many companies were shifting to neighbouring states after seeing AP transforming into 'Bihar of South India' in a short period of time because of its violence and destruction.

Stating that GITAM was an idealistic institution, Naidu said that the university had lived up to its social

- Party chief says YSRC is presiding over government terrorism in AP
- Opines that such destructive acts will send a wrong signal to prospective investors

service motto providing medical help to 2,590 Covid-19 patients by bearing crores of rupees loss. Such a noble educational institution became witness to thoughtless demolitions overnight by over 200 personnel.

The one who cannot build has no right to demolish, he said adding tht already, most of AP people were going to neighbouring states for educational, employment and medical facilities.

In a separate statement, TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh said that the demolitions and diabolical acts of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy were going out of control. He said Jagan knows only how to demolish but not to construct.

Hoodwinking the Bihari with free vaccine promise

THIS has reference to the article 'Of hollow promises, humiliating bonhomie' (dated 24th October, 20). Bihar elections are no litmus test either for BJP-JDU combine or LJP or Mahagathbandhan, because each party has failed Bihar in every possible way. Nitish Kumar who like an trapeze artiste jumped from Lalu's swing to catch BJP rope in time made mockery of mandate. BJP shamelessly accepted the bait and went on to govern Bihar like they were elected to rule. Actually they selected to rule with connivance of Machiavellian Nitish.

Nitish turned out to be a pale shadow of self in this tenure. He was seen faring poorly in every which way. He made booze ban his main plank, allowed government's revenue to take the bullet, did nothing to beef up revenue by helping new industries to establish and create employment for the locals. Biharis continue to be work fodder for other states because in the name of development each government has hoodwinked them.

BJP which is now promising free vaccine and promising to create 19 lakh jobs is talking through its hat. What it did in the last five years is nothing they can quite justify. Nitish's lacklustre performance notwithstanding, opposition parties are even much worse than BJP-JDU combine. RJD, LJP and concoction brewed with Congress as a whole is a bunch of discredited, corrupt and inefficient conglomerate of opportunists eyeing power to milk the state for their selfish interests.

In this tragic melodrama, the average Bihari dies in the first scene, rest of characters seems to be fighting over dead remains and legacy of the much glorified deceased. The ball is now clearly in people's court who needs to break the stereotype and choose some grain from heap of chaff. Easier said than done. But only a change in vote pattern which



should reject casteist leanings and select best candidates with good credentials. People should ask BJP if they are going to charge for the vaccine to states who are not going to polls as of now?

Bholey Bhardwaj, Mumbai

Populism pops up in Bihar polls

BJP'S "vaccine shot" at Bihar drawing criticism from opposition with congress going to far length to question vaccine promise in BJP's manifesto appears only to score brownie points even as legal experts and former election commission officials are of the opinion that welfare promises made in manifesto by a party ahead of the polls cannot be stopped because it may not constitute corrupt practice or amount to a violation of model code of conduct.

In other words, when freebies in the form of free essentials, household consumer goods etc have been included practically in every political party manifesto ahead of state and national polls since decades, election commission could not be able to restrain any party as long as it did not violate constitutional principles or stand to vitiate the poll process. If this has been so,

BJP taking the lead to provide free vaccine to all in Bihar leading to opposition calling political lollipop and face-off over Covid vaccine offer only shows their desperation.

Though freebies in general is considered unjustified, every party has been resorting to before every poll to attract voters on the plea that it a promise connected to health, nutrition and well-being of people and therefore even EC and Courts deemed it fit not to intervene as long as it is within the ambit of "welfare" promise. But when the nation is painstakingly waging a battle to end Covid, opposition is questioning free vaccine promise taking a political turn knowing well that vaccine talk keeping aside pressing issues concerning the common name will only whip up mass euphoria and expectations.

However unjustified the claim of the opposition that Covid vaccine delivery is a complex issue, the issue cannot be brushed under the carpet as "welfare" promise to save lives of people from the virus. Not lagging behind, other states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh following suit jumped on the free vaccine bandwagon by announcing free vaccine for all. Now that Politics over vaccine taking centre-stage

instead of addressing pressing issues of restructuring economy and growing unemployment, this clearly affirms that all political parties have a single point agenda to win elections using all gimmicks at any cost.

What a fall from grace by the Centre and the states who instead of trying to coordinate vaccination strategies and ensure a definite vaccine delivery mechanism is witnessing volley of questions been raised over blatant populism even as unethical promise rule the poll campaign. In a nutshell, when health been a state subject and state governments has to take a call over vaccine distribution once ready under universal programme, politics taking precedence aggravating the situation at a time when the nation is going through economic crisis and state states under severe financial constraints is self-defeating.

But as hopes are still alive, allpolitical parties keeping in view of health of people been paramount at all times must come together in this critical hour and pave a national strategy so that every eligible citizen is vaccinated within a time-frame, otherwise it tantamounts to mockery of democracy and the entire health system.

K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad

Trump and the American voter

The columnist speaks about some of Trump's actions, that might have had some traction with American voters. Yet, it is difficult to assume that they are all achievements in the proper sense. Given the opinion poll leads of Joe Biden, there is a belief that this time around Trump would be dumped by the voters. But the nagging doubt is, in the last election too, he was behind in the opinion poll ratings.

When it came to the final result, he lifted the trophy. Last time, may be because, he was untested, he got a chance. But, it is a real worry that despite what he did and didn't do, he is a serious contender once more. I distinctly remember an article of the columnist in the this very paper predicting

the win of Donald Trump last time too in an assured tone. He was proved right. One hopes, at least this time around, he may go wrong. If trump posts another victory, one has to think seriously about the form of electoral systems.

The electoral college system of America has the negative effect of nullifying the majority popular will. One doesn't know exactly why the system was formulated in the first place. Anyhow, here is a man, who is with sheer bravado is threatening the lovers of democracy of substance. It is a riddle that Americans elected Barack Obama and are poised to elect Trump second time, if the columnist gets proved right once again.

Yalamudi K, Khammam



THE edit page article (October 23) of K Rishna Saagar Rao predicts that Trump would win again. It is not what one loves to believe, much less digest. With Trump, the question always is, what is right with him?

Keep schools closed, save children



CORONA virus is still playing its role in full swing despite recovery rate is increasing throughout the country. Telugu State governments are proposing to reopen all the educational institutions in November. How far it is wise? There is another threat of second wave of spreading this pandemic shortly. Different versions are expressed about this contagious infection by

various experts. Third stage trials are also under process on the effectiveness of vaccines.

Students are taking on online classes and examinations which are not a useful and good system in the field of curriculum. As everyone aware attending to schools and colleges cannot be substituted by virtual programmes as it abdicates the student-teacher in-

teraction and vice versa besides partaking in seminars, symposiums, debates, fests, etc.

Finally, it leaves a dilemma and confusion to the government, teachers, students, parents and the public to support for opening or not. Further class room strength of forty or sixty is needed to be divided into two or three classes. Then accommodation will be a question. Or classes on alternate days are to be conducted. School buses are to be run with only fifty percent capacity. Total sanitisation of the institutions becomes a must and wearing masks should also be a mandatory. However, surging of Covid pandemic is not possible to be kept away as canteens, water, playgrounds, etc., are also prone to infection. But under any crucial situation, academic year should not be lost.

The above foregoing, it is not advisable and proper to open the educational institutions until this dangerous devil is dead leaving no scope for its resurrection.

Nittala Anjali, Hyderabad

THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN VALUES IN TODAY'S TIMES

THE trouble with children is that they grow and as they grow, they change, when they are small, their elders are their friends, their companions, their play mates and soul mates but as youngster turns in to teens and the teens enter twenties, then their pals of yesteryear are only the 'old'. They are avoided, neglected, resented, discarded. Now and then they are pitied and none care too hoots for them which to the old is worse than all.

The trouble with children is that they grow without realising that they too turn old. The so-called generation gap is one of the huge modern fictions conjured up to justify the callousness of the age (that is of the times). Whence has this suddenly erupted? The elders of today never did hear of it during their youth. They did not suffer from any such hang-ups. In fact they did not think of their age or the other's age at all. They looked up on their elders as equals who knew more, strive more and achieved more-not merely as those who were older. Today an elder is regarded only as older. All his other personalities are ignored and he is merely looked up on as an old fogey who must be tolerated because he is there.

But the old were not born old, nor will the young, alas remain young forever. Even "bubbling youth and infirm old all must consign to thee and come to dust". Also it is a fallacy to suppose that all the 'young' are young or the 'old' old. Many of the young are old in their thinking, in their ways, in their actions and reactions. Many of the old are young in theirs, It is therefore



wrong to divide the human race in to the old and the young and to separate worlds with the seven seas between them. (Recollect Sri, Sri's famous stanza ('kontamandi yuvakulu puttukato vruddulu').

Special homes for the aged are no solution to the problem. This amounts to their segregation and confining them in ghettos. It may take care in a manner of speaking of their physical and material needs. However as one grows in age, one's emotional needs are greater. Companionship, affec-

tion, consideration, sentiment ---these needs are comprehensive and compelling and cry for relief for satisfaction. No amount of money credited to old man's account or other communications or even routine visits are a substitute for these. The old continue to care for the value rather than the price of things. They want in full except where it is utterly impossible, to be near their near and dear ones. They will not be satisfied with formalities and virtual feigned affections. They want to be wanted.

In this delicate and sensitive relationships India does not have to follow the example of the West who revel in building homes for the aged, India is different and the people are different and one hopes - their leaders, political, social, spiritual are different. If they are, they will be satisfied with buildings walls around the aged and telling them "look, how well we protect you!" What good care we take of you! what more can we do for you?

Much can be done. Much needs to be done. We cannot avoid doing this by the simple expedient of blaming the 'generation gap' for the suffering that we inflict upon our respected elders. We must not think of them as the old, the aged, the weak, the diseased. We must think of them as part of ourselves and treat them accordingly. Only then can the problem of the "Generation gap" be resolved. Life for all is nothing but the bundle of emotions, love, memories and bonds. Let us strive to strengthen the basic human values.

Rama KrishnaM, Kakinada

PAST & PRESENT

My adventures with the GPS lady!

SANDHYA VASUDEV

THE pandemic has shaped unimagined endeavours to flower and fructify. There was an unavoidable visit to the hospital for my daughter and son-in-law. Although both are expert drivers they were caught up with work and virtual meetings and I offered to drive them down. They sounded relieved at the suggestion. But the issue was how I would find my way back, being unfamiliar with the roads of a big city like Bengaluru. I have always opted for the taxi services or been driven around by family members.

The issue was quickly resolved as my son in law enabled the GPS on my phone and punched in the to and fro addresses. The onward journey was smooth enough with both the virtual and offline GPS (my son-in-law) guiding me. The passengers were politely dropped off and I started back home, alone with the GPS lady (GPSL) and the husband. It was smooth enough going till halfway when I was guided to take a slight left and I turned at a sharp bend and drove into an alley leading to several narrower ones.

I knew instinctively that I had taken the wrong left turn. A smart u-turn and I was back on the main road but I was confused as the GPSL guided me in the opposite direction. I later realised that it was veering me for a u-turn some meters down. It was a relief when I sighted the house gate which elicited an "excellent" remark from my



son-in-law when my husband informed him the good news.

It was evening and time to pick up the duo. I was about to leave when the husband made up his mind to come along. I set the GPS and the lady's familiar voice started with the first instructions. I felt that nothing could go wrong and I drove confidently along the first stretch of a familiar road until an intersection was reached and I was guided to take a right.

Now there were two lefts, two rights and a u-turn. I frantically asked the husband and he lifted his head from the cellphone and pointed his finger to the sharp right asking me to follow the BMTC bus. There was no time for thinking as the traffic had piled up on all sides and the husband roared, "Go!". Go I did behind the bus and ended up at the road leading to the bus terminus. The husband continued to take refuge in his cellphone and I was on my own. I quickly pulled on to the main road and continued onwards without a clue, but the GPS lady (GPSL) was omniscient.

Although puzzled at my trying to go back home through an-

other route, she quickly understood what was happening and started guiding me through congested lanes and a busy market area, where I had to veer between the proverbial devil and the deep sea - the BBMP railings and a deep trench - until finally we came on to the main road.

I requested the now annoyed husband to text that we would be late and he chastised me for having informed the waiting duo a timeline at all. With no reprieve on hand I wished for some solitude at that moment. The GPSL instructed me to take a right but just in time I spotted the right turn board had a slash across it.

I ignored the husband's bidding to turn there anyway and drove straight as I had seen a cop pulling up an errant driver. The GPSL made some sort of an exclamation but started resolutely to guide me through strange sounding roads and circles which I traversed with implicit trust in her. Finally when we sighted the destination it seemed like an unparalleled victory. But the GPSL may not have had a driver like me, ever!

The tearjerker 'onion' story

HELLO, my name is onion and India, I have different names and you will find me in both poor and super rich homes. In rich homes, I am added to many fancy dishes and used separately as decorative items along with my green coloured friends and collectively call us "salad". Whereas in poor peoples' homes, they spare me from being

mashed and thrashed but treated with due respect and treated as a important person to eat along with another green friend who is called chilli as only two of us often they can afford to keep as others often turn very pricey.

Strangely, in this part of earth, those in white attire and appear before people every five years, use us to win elections and attack others in power. When sitting on other side of power, I often be become their garland which they use ridicule those in power when demand goes up and I become unaffordable for poor and middle class houses. Thanks to a virus called Corona and work came to halt, my parents who take care never stopped taking care of me allowed us

to grow and plenty were sold away at just 100 rupees in lot of five to six kilos, and many parents were ruthlessly thrown away in roads.

What a change, after rains, I am sad, a "no entry" board is hanging and now in rich I have become a part of luxury item as I have become treasure trove in their homes. Actually, in a place

where white attire are out in streets seeking arms to come to power or continue to fool my eaters, they have forgotten me not only here and elsewhere and not even talking about me and why I'm not allowed in every home.

This is because another item called vaccine which I understand is going to save people from death has replaced and now being promoted as the one who will be available free which has left me crying and those who are forced to stop me entering their house. I can only pray to God, please allow me to enter every house and particularly those for whom I am only one who can as a "bulb" to bring some light in their kitchen, if they have one!

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad



Was Rajiv Gandhi a victim of foreign intelligence agencies?

VISHNU MAKHIJANI

WAS Rajiv Gandhi the victim of “international intelligence agencies” in “what was to become” of him after the 1991 General Elections that were likely to see him return to power after being unceremoniously voted out two years previously?

Wajahat Habibullah, who was at school with Rajiv Gandhi, and, as a member of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), served under him, and before that, his mother, Indira Gandhi, in the Prime Minister’s Office, poses the question in his new book “My Years With Rajiv - Triumph And Tragedy” (Westland) -- but leaves it unanswered.

As India’s sixth Prime Minister (1984-89), Rajiv Gandhi had been vociferous in championing closer India-US ties, as exemplified by a landmark MoU on technology transfer within a month of his assuming office, a hugely successful visit to Washington in June 1985 and an address to a Joint Session of Congress, the first by an Indian Prime Minister.

This was followed by another visit in October 1987 when the Reagan administration “announced a substantial expansion in trade and the setting up of a bilateral trade promotion group chaired by the private sector with government representation”, Habibullah writes.

Along the way came the CrayX-MP/14 supercomputer, in place of a more powerful version that India had asked for, but nonetheless, “its rapid adaptation to India’s use by the already highly skilled army of computer technologists, led by



the youngsters bred by Sam Pitroda, brought India’s revolution in information technology that is surely Rajiv’s most enduring legacy”, Habibullah writes.

All that, however, came unstuck with Rajiv Gandhi leaving office after the rout of his Congress party in the 1989 General Elections.

“There was to be a contrary footnote with Rajiv leaving office, given the sophistication of Rajiv’s PMO under the leadership of Ronen Sen (the Joint Secretary to the Prime Minister) that had crafted foreign relations during his prime ministership, that can only be described as gauche,” Habibullah writes.

The trigger was Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait led by “India’s friend of long-standing Saddam Hussein” and the US putting together a 35-nation military coalition for Operation Desert Shield (August 2, 1990-January 17, 1991) followed by Operation Desert Storm (January 17, 1991-February 28, 1991).

“The war presented India with several opportunities. India could have demonstrated an unambigu-

ous commitment to the territorial integrity of a sovereign non-aligned nation which, in turn, would have ensured India a prominent role in the post-war security arrangements within the Gulf.

“It was a chance to test the benefits of improved Indo-US ties, at a time when in consequence of Rajiv’s own labours, the USA had begun to remedy its Pakistani tilt, cutting aid flows to the country,” Habibullah writes.

But with the end of the Cold War, the non-aligned movement (NAM) was in its death throes when Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral “fatuously embraced” Saddam Hussein in Baghdad during a mission that was meant to rescue some 2,00,000 Indians trapped in Iraq and Kuwait post the invasion.

“The crisis became hostage to the parallel political drama on India’s domestic front. Polemic replaced policy. Bowing to the pressures of the left, Rajiv’s Congress (I), upon the support of which Chandra Shekhar’s government was dependent for survival, launched a tirade against the USA

focussed on refuelling permissions given by India to the US planes, a decision Rajiv painted as a surrender of India’s sovereign status, overlooking that India itself was routinely given such permission by a host of countries.

“Rajiv was at pains to quietly explain to the US Embassy in New Delhi the domestic compulsions behind his actions and stressing that he had no desire to undermine Indo-US relations that he had himself so caringly wrought,” Habibullah writes.

He even travelled to Europe and the Middle East to invoke a NAM peace initiative “to save Iraq from total destruction, only to find Saddam refusing to meet him”.

“Given that the LTTE (then engaged in a bitter civil war in Sri Lanka in which India had unsuccessfully tried to broker peace) was a client of Israel’s Mossad -- Israel being a frontline participant state in Operation Desert Storm -- and the surety at the time of Rajiv’s return to government, in preparing for which he had reached out to the left, this gaffe resulted in what for me has remained an unanswerable question: did international agencies have a hand in what was to become of Rajiv in India’s general elections of 1991,” Habibullah asks -- leaves the question hanging.

Like is unanswered what brought down a C-130 carrying Pakistani President and Army Chief General Zia-ul-Haq, US Ambassador Arnold Lewis Raphel and several senior Pakistani military officials near Bahawalpur, 500 km from Islamabad, on August 17, 1988, killing all on board.



As IPL 2020 rounds the final bend, competition heats up

YAJURVINDRA SINGH

THE Indian Premier league (IPL) has approached its final bend. This now is the business end of the tournament and so any glitch or hiccup henceforth may have a team licking its wound as an ‘also ran’.

This year’s edition has shown that all the teams are evenly matched and several of the games have had very close finishes. The two tied matches last Sunday were just what the doctor ordered. To have one of the matches, which were decided by two Super Overs, with the ever smiling face of Kings XI Punjab’s owner, Priety Zinta, was delightful to watch. The three wins in a row have catapulted the Punjab team, to perhaps sneak into a qualifying position.

They seem to be a team buzzing with confidence. With captain KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal in good form, the emergence of the ‘Universal Boss’ Chris Gayle and power hitters in Nicholas Pooran and Glenn Maxwell to support them, Punjab look like a very good batting outfit. For KXIP and Rajasthan Royals, each match is similar to a knock-out, as one defeat will be sufficient to eliminate them from qualifying for the final leg of the tournament. Their league encounter between each other could become the deciding factor in their way forward.

Rajasthan Royals have suffered because of their inconsistent performance. Their hopes were majorly dependent on their international players, especially on the batting of captain Steve Smith, Jos Buttler, and Ben Stokes. The bowling of Jofra Archer and the superlative performance of their unknown Indian hero, Rahul Tewatia, has still kept them in the game. They will all need to perform consistently and at their best to make it to the final four.

Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore are comfortably placed at the top. Both require just one win to qualify and along with Mumbai Indians they seem to have, at present, reserved the top three slots.

The IPL has become the selection ground for the Indian players for the Australian tour in November. India, one gathers, will be selecting 32 players, a number that has never been done before for an overseas trip. The young Indian players are looking at the IPL as an opportunity to get recognised. Unfortunately for some of them, T20 format is ideally suited for power-hitting batsmen and therefore, players with technique and good batting prowess are falling prey to playing adventurous shots in trying to impress one and all.

With batsmen in an attacking mode in the T20 format of the game, most wickets are obtained through mishit and cross bat strokes rather than getting one out through a genuinely good delivery. The bowling skill of fast bowlers in the IPL is based on having a good bouncer and yorker and the ability to have variation in their bowling armoury. It does not recognise the art of bowling on a consistent good length or the ability to swing and cut the ball.

The finger spinners, on the other hand, in the IPL, seem to be bowling their deliveries like a dart, without any flight or turn and hoping to live on the lines of the famous saying “if you miss, you get dismissed”.

One hopes that the selectors go beyond the process of players playing in the IPL as the only criterion for selection. Many of the domestic good performers are not playing in the tournament. These players are not at present in the famous the UAE bio-bubble. The BCCI should have identified them as prospects and got them for a fitness and training camp in India.

At present, Cheteshwar Pujara and Hanuma Vihari, the two Test match specialists, are the only names that are doing the rounds. The selectors will need to go beyond them, as performance in the Ranji Trophy, T20 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, and Vijay Hazare Trophy also need to be taken seriously. An Indian cricket side cannot be selected on the basis of just the IPL. If so, then there is a major lacuna in the system.

(Yajurvindra Singh is a former Test cricketer. Views expressed are personal)

Coronavirus gives fragile Rohtang Pass recovery time

VISHAL GULATI

THE Coronavirus-induced lockdowns have cleaned up the fragile Rohtang Pass with the piles of trash almost vanished and nature making a comeback in the cold, rugged and rocky mountains of the Pir Panjal range of the Himalayas -- the origin of one of North India’s major rivers, the Beas.

Also the vehicular pollution plummeting to levels unseen in the living memory. “What a pleasant surprise to see no littering of trash in hills en route to the Rohtang Pass,” remarked Nikita Pandey, a tourist from Delhi. “We should be thankful to Covid-induced lockdowns that gave nature a recovery time to regain its glory,” she told IANS, while pointing towards spots where non-biodegradable waste was normally dumped carelessly along the banks of the glacial-fed Beas river near Marhi, en route to the Rohtang Pass from Manali.

The Rohtang Pass is located at an altitude of 13,050 feet and 52 km from tourist resort Manali in Himachal Pradesh. Her friend Gauri Vaidya said in her past visits, the ninth this time in as many years, she felt angry to see the stunning

amount of waste like beer and liquor bottles and food sachets dumped haphazardly in the mountains.

“This visit is memorable to see nature blooming again amid pine forests and gurgling streams,” she added. The picturesque Rohtang Pass, which remains under snow even during the onset of summer, is a major attraction for both domestic and foreign tourists.

According to the state tourism department, more than 1,00,000 tourists visit the Rohtang Pass every year and tourism, including skiing, trekking and paragliding, is a key source of income for the local people.

For more than five months from December, the pass remains cut off from the rest of the country due to heavy snowfall. After nearly six months of sealing borders, the state government on September 15 threw open its borders for free movement of people and goods.

“In the last one or two weeks, the trend of tourists is picking up in Manali and its nearby areas. Compared to thousands of tourists that normally descend here daily ahead of Diwali, now tourists, mainly from the northern states, are thronging that too on weekends,” an official of

the state Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corp. told IANS here.

Travel agent Naresh Thakur said the tourists from Manali now prefer to travel towards the Lahaul Valley via the newly opened Atal Tunnel, beneath the Rohtang Pass, rather than taking the long, treacherous route of the pass.

“Snow is the only attraction for the tourists and the mighty Rohtang Pass is the only destination near Manali that remains marooned in snow cover till end of May. In this season, Rohtang slopes are totally bereft of snow cover, so they are not on their preferred list,” he added.

Government officials said the Rohtang Pass normally closes for the traffic every year in December owing to snowfall. “This time the Rohtang Pass remained closed for the tourists for a longer duration i.e. from December to mid of September. Firstly due to snapping of road links by snow and then due to coronavirus lockdowns. This has given enough time for nature to revive,” an official said.

Trekking along the Rohtang Pass is another adventure pursuit, the backbone of the state’s economy, from June to September.

Excessive emission of carbon

monoxide from the vehicles and huge quantities of trash left behind by tourists on the Rohtang Pass are taking a heavy toll on the snow cover, says the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), a Nagpur-based institute that has carried out studies on the impact of pollution on the local ecology.

Besides tourist vehicles, a major component of the traffic is also the defence vehicles, with the forces taking supplies to strategic points through the Rohtang Pass. The deteriorating ecology of Rohtang, meaning “piles of dead bodies” in Persian, has also caught the attention of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

With its direction, the government has checked unregulated plying of vehicles by imposing an environmental cess on each of the 1,300 vehicles permitted every day to cross the Rohtang Pass, besides construction of eco-friendly toilets and installation of garbage collection bins en route.

According to a journal of the Asiatic Society, Lieutenants A. Broome and A. Cunningham trekked to the Rohtang Pass on July 7, 1839, to trace the sources of the Punjab’s rivers.

Gender in National Education Policy 2020

PRADEEP KUMAR PANDA

THERE is a need to understand impact of the National Education Policy 2020 on higher education in India from a gendered lens. The policy document, released after being in the making for almost five years, aims to undertake a “complete overhaul and re-energising of the higher education system”.

Many targets are laid out including one of enhancing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education to 50 per cent by the year 2035. The document lists out several challenges such as severe fragmentation, rigid separation of disciplines, limited access, limited decentralised autonomy, ineffective regulation and low emphasis on research, among others.

To tackle these issues, it makes many propositions including changing the pedagogic structure of undergraduate courses to a 4-year system, proposing a centralized research curriculum to prevent early narrow specialization, expansion of vocational education and open distancing learning (ODL), amendments to the dropout policy etc. There is need to evaluate these propositions and their implications in addressing the present challenges within India’s higher education sector using a framework of gender equity and right to education.

The previous two decades have witnessed a rapid growth of the higher education system with the period between 2002 and 2013 recording an increase in

the number of institutions from 12,080 to 35,357 and an increase in student intake from 10.7 million to 32.3 million. However, it is noteworthy that much of this increase has been in the private sector which currently accounts for 78 per cent of all the colleges and 67 per cent of total college enrolments in India.

Furthermore, there is a sharp decline in GER at higher levels of higher education such as post-graduate and research levels. While 80 per cent of the GER in higher education is accounted for at the undergraduate level, this falls to 10 per cent for postgraduate level education and a bleak 0.43 per cent at research level.

Studies have pointed out the dominance of gender as part of the framework that drives the discourse on higher education policy in India. The only real metric within which it finds a mention is while addressing the gender gap in GER which currently stands at 25.4 per cent for men and 23.5 per cent for women.

However, when coupled with other marginalised identity positions such as caste and religion, these gendered inequities get dangerously aggravated. In terms of total enrolments, students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) account for 13.9 per cent, those belonging to Scheduled Tribes (ST) account for 4.5 per cent, 33.75 per cent is made up by students belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC), 4.7 per cent is accounted for by students belonging to

Muslim minority (MM), and a meagre 1.7 per cent of total enrolments are accounted for by students from other minorities.

There are several institutional and structural challenges which have led to skewed and unequal access to higher education in India. Education as a whole is a sector that has consistently grappled with low public expenditure, under-financing and under-allocation of resources. The public expenditure on education is currently estimated to be around 3 per cent of India’s GDP which the policy aims to expand to 6 per cent.

However, even at the suggested rate, the proposition that a higher GDP might pave ways to higher spending is contingent upon a higher tax-GDP ratio. With both the central government and state governments grappling with shortages under the present GST regime it remains to see how much money would be made available and through what processes.

However, the expansion of public expenditure on education is not a new promise and has remained undelivered despite changes to political regimes. Even with the present public outlay, the policy has to pave pathways that are effective in dealing with several other problems such as inadequate infrastructure, deficiencies in decentralised planning, shortage of human resources and a highly skewed gender disaggregated distribution of faculty, lack of investment in human capacity building

and teacher training, and delayed fund flows.

First and foremost, in order to achieve any real increase in GER at the higher education level, it is imperative to start at the elementary, middle and senior school levels where early dropouts, limited learning levels, rampant and discriminative segregation based on socio-economic backgrounds and learning levels, infrastructural and human resource bottlenecks and low-quality private provision continue to remain central challenges. The expansion of Right to Education to include children between 3-18 years is a welcome change in the document.

However, with many propositions including altering the pedagogic structure, implementing new assessment models, regulatory bodies, curricula restructuring and enhancing private and community led initiatives within Special Education Zones (SEZs), it is crucial to evaluate whether these would have the intended consequences, and what, if any, would be the unintended consequences of these on school education.

The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) notes that women account for very low proportion of enrolments in institutes of national importance and state open universities, pointing to a skewed distribution of state resources based on gender.

Much of the expansion in higher education, as noted previously, has been recorded in the private sector. Such an

expansion of privately funded education has routinely been criticized as leading to a model where those who can afford are accorded high quality while those who cannot afford to pay are forced to choose from an array of low-quality low fee private providers that hamper learning, knowledge, skilling and employability.

The composition of students across disciplines of higher education presents a gloomy picture of gender-based stereotypes influencing young people’s choices and access. While the proportion of female enrolments remains lowest in science and technology streams, the opposite is true in the case of arts and humanities. Several structural inequalities relating to the present model of higher secondary schooling, high dropout rates and gendered notions give rise to such a skewed distribution.

Moreover, there is the issue of inadequate and an under-representative teacher-pupil distribution across diverse socio-economic backgrounds. With many central and state universities turning towards increased contractualisation of faculty and limited autonomy to teachers and student bodies, these issues are ever more pertinent. While the NEP document does address the issue of unequal access, structural patriarchal norms and practices that often lead to the limiting of choices for women is largely left untouched. It remains to be seen whether the proposition of incorporating a Gender Inclu-

sion Fund along with several smaller ways in which the policy aims modified curricula to address ‘respect for women’ would be in anyway instrumental in addressing such stereotypes.

Women in higher education, along with people from several other marginalised backgrounds, are routinely subjected to discrimination and harassment within higher education institutes that often promote early dropouts or hinder their enrolments altogether. Atrocities and everyday discrimination based on caste, gender and religion are rampant across university campuses which need to be addressed and eliminated to create an environment for truly inclusive and egalitarian education.

NEP 2020 should tackle these structural issues of unequal access and gender-based discrimination. The policy should impact the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of our society. It should address newer challenges which we need to foresee due to some of the propositions made by this policy.

There is need of unpacking the implications of NEP using the framework provided by the Right to Education Act. There is need of envisaging the implementation of this policy in the light of the stagnant public expenditure on education, a shoddy infrastructural setup and complex bureaucratic systems across central and state governments. (The author is a New Delhi-based economist)

CYBERATTACK ON Dr REDDY'S

Time for strengthening digital infrastructure

Tightening cyber security control measures also essential: Analysts

THE cyberattack on pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories came as a sharp reminder to strengthen its digital infrastructure and tighten cyber security control measures, according to analysts.

According to a report by HSBC, damage control and restoration of operations is crucial. It said Dr Reddy's is a front runner among peers in terms of investing for digital transformation initiatives as well as for new age cyber security technologies.

"Thus, the cyberattack came as a sharp reminder to strengthen its digital infrastructure and tighten cyber security control measures. While it expects no major operational impact, a quick update on damage control and restoration of operations will in our view be crucial to validate resilience of its systems," the report added.

Dr Reddy's faced a major data breach earlier this week, which triggered a shutdown of its key facilities. The company experienced data breaches in servers in the UK, the US, India, Brazil and Russia. Afterwards, the company released a statement which said that in the wake of a detected cyberattack, it had isolated all data centre services to implement preventative measures. Dr Reddy's anticipates all services to be up within 24 hours and does not expect any major impact on operations due to the cyber-attack.

Most of the Indian pharma manufacturers are increasingly focused on digitisation and process automation to improve operational efficiencies.

With increasing digitisation,

Dr Reddy's faced a major data breach earlier this week, which triggered a shutdown of its key facilities

data breaches and cyberattacks are common place, with the pharmaceuticals industry one of the sectors most impacted, after healthcare, energy and finance as per a study by Ponemon Institute (a Michigan-based research institute dedicated to data privacy, protection, and information security policy), and IBM Security.

For example, Merck faced a major cyberattack in June 2017 that led to disruption of its worldwide operations and sales losses of \$260 million due to non-fulfilment of orders, and it incurred incremental costs (including remediation costs) of \$285 million in 2017.

"The risk of cyberattacks on the pharma industry is further amplified by remote working during the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, pharma manufacturers need to invest further and strengthen cyber security systems to avoid or minimise operational disruptions, high costs of control, and to contain damages and any potential lawsuits or regulatory penalties," the report said.

'Hopeful of quick revival of India's aviation sector'

Airbus South Asia president says sector has been heavily battered by coronavirus outbreak

ROHIT VAID

Strong local fundamentals will aide the revival of India's aviation sector, believes Airbus South Asia president Remi Maillard.

In an exclusive interview, Remi Maillard, president and Managing Director, Airbus India and South Asia, expressed confidence in the industry's potential along with its revival prospects on the back of strong fundamentals.

"I remain confident about the future of the Indian aviation industry because of the strong local fundamentals," Maillard said.

"That is why, in parallel to our efforts of catalysing a safe traffic recovery, we need to work on further strengthening the foundations for India to become a world leader in the civil aviation industry. This implies further developing the domestic market, turning India into an international hub, growing the MRO and training eco-systems as well as stimulating the helicopter business," he added. Notably, the sector has been heavily battered by the coronavirus outbreak and its cascading impact on the overall travel industry. Maillard termed the pandemic as the 'gravest crisis' that industry has ever faced.

"There is not one single player in the market that is immune to the crisis, be it an airline, a lessor, an MRO, a training centre, an airport, an equipment supplier or an aircraft manufacturer. It is a long-term crisis," he elaborated.

"Given how deep the crisis is, a full recovery in aviation will take years specifically when it comes to international flights," he added.

Nevertheless, Maillard pointed out that with the economy opening up gradually, demand for air travel has started to pick-up.

"We have now started seeing a gradual increase in air travel as the domestic flights have increased



in a phased manner," he said.

"We are hopeful passenger demand will further pick up during the festival season. Now the situation remains very fluid and uncertain and we predict that 2021 will remain a difficult year for the industry. This is why we need to continue adapting ourselves to navigate the crisis," he added.

According to him, the regional connectivity scheme, 'Udan', will play a major role in the growth of the domestic market. Besides, the aerospace major is aiding its airline partners to fully utilise the potential of its cargo business.

"Indian carriers have started focusing on international markets in the recent past and the induction of wide-body aircraft will be a key strategy for consideration in their growth plans," he said.

"We are also supporting our customers to diversify in the cargo market for them to capture additional sources of revenue," he added. Furthermore, Maillard sees immense potential in the chopper, MRO and aviation training segments of the industry. As a case in point, he pointed out that India has only about 270 civil helicopters



I remain confident about the future of the Indian aviation industry because of the strong local fundamentals. However, we need to work on further strengthening the foundations for India to become a world leader in the civil aviation industry
— REMI MAILLARD, president and MD, Airbus India and South Asia

which is less than 1 per cent of the worldwide helicopter fleet. "India's civil helicopter market has a large runway for growth. The emergence of new segments like urban air connectivity as well as the launching of next generation helicopter platforms such as the recently certified H160 and the 5-bladed

H145 will also further drive growth," he said.

"For this, the industry needs policy reforms and regulatory support. We believe that helicopters will play a critical role in the future growth of the country as helicopter missions are essential to protect people, to save lives and to drive efficiency savings," he added.

On its part, Airbus has been working towards developing new market segments in the country such as, Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS), security, aerial work, power line missions etc. Recently, the first official HEMS service was launched in India by the State of Karnataka followed by AIIMS hospital in Dehradun, using Airbus H130 helicopters. In addition, he credited the recent reforms to usher in opportunities to leverage the huge untapped MRO market. "There is also an opportunity to boost training capabilities to meet a growing demand for pilots, engineers and technicians in the coming years. Let us have faith. It will take time, but the industry will recover while contributing to building a better future," he added.



Ice Make eyes steady growth in FY21

ICE Make Refrigeration Limited (Ice Make), leading supplier and manufacturer of cooling solutions, which is now traded in the main board of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), is eyeing steady growth in this Covid-19 disrupted financial year.

"We are confident of neutralising disruptive effects of Covid and focused on at least reaching the top-line of last year, which stood at Rs 136 crore. The company's order book which currently stands at about Rs 37.21 crore is growing at a decent pace post the unlock1," said Chandrakant Patel, CMD, Ice Make Refrigeration Limited.

In the last four months, Ice Make has already picked up around 19.10 per cent sales growth and 22.17 per cent order book growth led by strong pent up demand in multiple product segments including dairy, pharmaceutical and exports. The improvement in export business has been due to our aggressively focused efforts in the last two years, he added.

He further said: "This year, everyone has faced unprecedented situation and Ice Make is not an exception to the business challenges posed by ongoing Covid-19 global pandemic. However, I must reiterate that we are successfully adapting and dealing with it. We are confident that we will overcome from this situation in near term. As things have begun to become normal, we are ready to recapture the lost ground within this financial year itself". Given the realities of the changing global business environment and Indian capital markets, what ICE Make is focused on to achieve is steady growth which is translated into a strong stakeholders value creation in the medium to long term.

COVID CHAOS

Electric vehicle sales on bumpy ride

Pandemic likely to delay the penetration of EVs in India: Ind-Ra report

THE coronavirus pandemic is expected to delay the penetration of electric vehicles in India, as low affordability and the government's priority on reviving existing conventional automobile industry shift the focus away from EVs in the interim, according to rating firm Ind-Ra.

The passenger vehicles (PVs) segment of e-mobility will face a double whammy, as consumers would be wary to buy a costlier EV than an internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle, while original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) would refrain from incurring high Capex, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said.

"Low affordability and the government's priorities on reviving the otherwise suffering auto industry could shift the focus away from EVs in the interim," it added. Reduced affordability and lower economic activities due to the pandemic could result in the automobile industry recording a decline in sales of over 20 per cent year-on-year for the second consecutive year in FY21, the agency said. This is likely to impact the sales of EVs, which are costlier than an ICE vehicle.

Two-wheelers have benefitted from rural demand and shift to personal mobility, and the segment could be the least impacted with regard to electrification due to better pricing and model choices, it noted. "However, three-wheelers and buses, which have seen higher electrifi-



cation in 2019, are among the most affected segments in FY21 and hence could see a delay in electrification," Ind-Ra said.

Growth in buses may take a back seat as orders for city buses are largely from state transport undertakings, and state governments are already grappling with a falling GDP, it added. On the other hand, two-wheelers (2W), especially scooters, could see an upside due to the lower pricing delta between an EV and ICE and several models available to consumers. Though the EV penetration is likely to be faster in scooters, buses and three-wheelers (3W) in the medium term (defined as three to five years), PVs may take longer, the agency said.

"Ind-Ra also believes that underlying challenges in the adoption of EVs such

as higher battery cost and reliance on imports would prevail in the medium term, and robust government policies would remain key for the development of EVs in the country," it added.

In terms of investments by automotive firms on EVs, Ind-Ra said, "Amid the current slowdown, OEMs are unlikely to incur aggressive Capex over the electric platform. Segment-wise, PVs and CVs have seen e-vehicle launches by conventional OEMs; and hence are unlikely to see material progress in FY21-FY22".

Stating that government measures remain key, it said that while the government has laid out Rs. 10,000 crore outlay over FY20-22 for faster EV adoption under the FAME-II policy, capping of subsidies at a specific vehicle price, which is Rs 15

lakh for an e-PV, limits the scope of EVs in the premium car segment.

In case of e-two-wheelers, the FAME-II scheme has a stricter requirement for speed, range and energy, which excludes the majority of the models present in the Indian markets, Ind-Ra said.

"Moreover, the majority of e-2W and 2-3W run on the lead-acid battery while the subsidies are limited to EVs using lithium-ion battery. Though e-2Ws are gradually transitioning to lithium-ion batteries, e-3Ws may take longer due to cost viability," it added.

Ind-Ra believes that robust government support is imperative, as could be seen globally, for achieving the target of 30 per cent electrification by 2030.

"For example, China (over 50 per cent of the global electric fleet) witnessed a subsidy programme of over \$60 billion during 2009-2019. The Indian subsidy programme of Rs 100 billion (equivalent to \$1.4 billion) is much smaller than China's," it said. Moreover, the incentives are capped at 20 per cent of the vehicle cost in India compared to 30-50 per cent in the initial years in China, and 35 per cent in the United Kingdom.

Thus, it becomes essential for the government to lay down more comprehensive policies, enhance incentives and ensure robust implementation of existing policies to increase EV adoption, it said.

E-tailers begin 2nd festive sale round

AFTER registering record sales in the seven-day period to kick off the festive season after pandemic-induced lockdowns, ecommerce marketplaces like Amazon and Flipkart have announced the second round of online sales to keep up the momentum.

Amazon announced 'Happiness Upgrade Days' where customers will get special offers on a wide range of products across categories from top brands till October 28. The e-commerce platform is offering up to 40 per cent off on latest smartphones from top brands, 65 per cent off on large appliances and TVs and up to 80 per cent off on Amazon fashion and home and kitchen products.

The sale brings over 6,000 deals on consumer electronics and accessories, up to Rs 30,000 off on laptops, up to 75



per cent off on headphones and up to 60 per cent off on camera devices, the company said in a statement.

"The customers can save big with a 10 per cent instant bank discount on Axis Bank, Citibank and ICICI Bank credit and debit cards and EMI transactions.

They can get five per cent instant discount plus up to five per cent reward points with Amazon Pay ICICI Bank credit card. Flipkart has also started

Dussehra sale from October 22 till October 28 and after that, the e-commerce platform will begin the 'Big Diwali Sale'. According to industry reports, the seven-day sales likely witnessed over \$4.8 billion (nearly Rs 35,273 crore) in sales.

According to Bengaluru-based market research firm RedSeer, \$3.1 billion (about Rs 22,000 crore) of goods were sold online from brands and sellers in the first four-and-a-half days of the online sales event that started from October 15.

Online retailers are expected to generate approximately \$6.5 billion (Rs 47,751 crore) in sales during the festive month (October 15-November 15), with around 5.5-6 crore online buyers participating, according to a Forrester report.

QUIZ NO.
145

HANS BIZ QUIZ

Theme: John Francis Dodge

1. John Francis Dodge, an American automobile manufacturing pioneer, was born on 25 October 1864. John Francis Dodge and his younger brother Horace died of complications from which of the below?
a) Yellow fever b) Poliomyelitis
c) Spanish Flu d) Smallpox



2. John Francis Dodge, along with younger brother Horace Elgin Dodge, founded Dodge Brothers Company in Auburn Hills, Detroit in 1900. Before entering into automobiles, what were the brothers manufacturing?
a) Toys b) Bicycles
c) Tyres d) Toolkits



3. For which automobile company did Dodge Brothers make engines before building the cars bearing their own names in 1914?
a) Olds Motor Vehicle Company
b) Graham Brothers Inc
c) Benz Patent Motor Car
d) Opel Automobile GmbH

4. In 1925, Dodge Brothers' widows sold the Dodge Brothers Automobile business for \$146 million to which amongst the below?
a) Ford Motor Company
b) JPMorgan Chase & Co, Investment bank
c) Chrysler Corporation
d) Dillon, Reed & Co, Investment bank

5. Which automobile corporation purchased the Dodge automobiles company from Dillon Reed & Co for \$170 million in 1928 to become the world's third-largest automaker overnight?
a) Ford Motor Company
b) General Motors Company
c) Chrysler Corporation
d) Graham Brothers Inc

6. Launched in 1983, the 'Dodge Caravan' was the first minivan to be sold in the United States. Production of the Dodge Caravan ended in August 2020. Which crossover SUV replaced Dodge Caravan?
a) Dodge Journey
b) Durango
c) Nitro
d) Grand Caravan

7. The 'Dodge Caliber' hatchback was launched in 2006 as a replacement for which of these?
a) Dodge Neon
b) Dodge Intrepid
c) Dodge Viper
d) Dodge Dart

8. Which Dodge variant became the first front-wheel-drive economy cars to be built in the United States?
a) Dodge Neon
b) Dodge Intrepid
c) Dodge Viper
d) Dodge Omni

9. Which model from Dodge's trucks division reminds us of a Hindu God and Mythological character?
a) Krish Lorry
b) Ram Trucks
c) Hunuma Tipper
d) Bhim Bogie

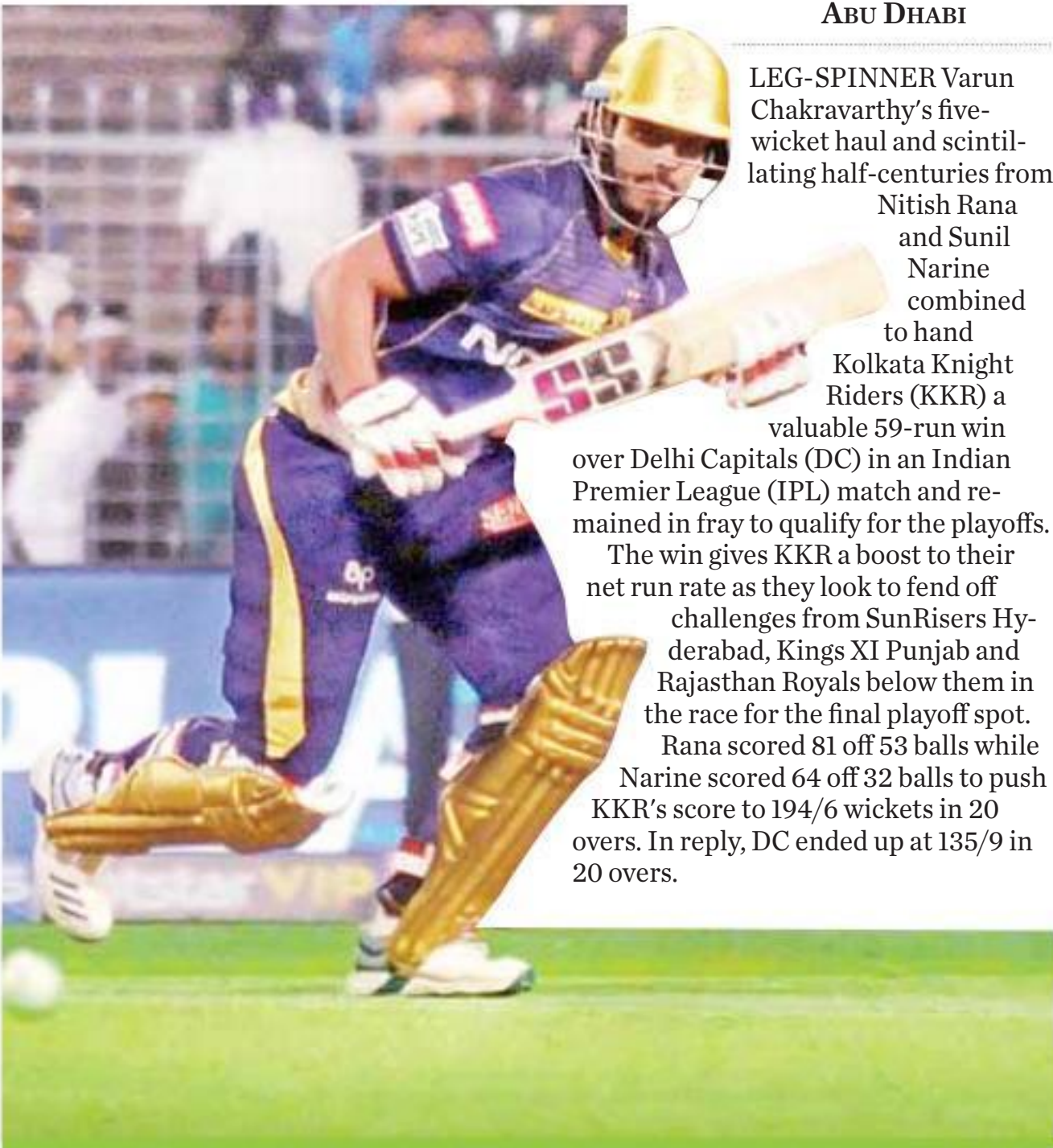
10. In 1948, Dodge Automobiles in collaboration with Premier Automobiles was set up in Independent India and started to assemble Dodge cars in 1949. Which was the first model that Dodge assembled in India?
a) Royal Lancer
b) Liberty
c) Freedom
d) Kingsway

The Hans Biz Quiz has been compiled by **Sunil Dhavala**, CEO, The Third Umpire Media. He had held senior management roles at Bertelsmann, NGC, Fox Broadcasting, Star TV and others. He is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

KEY

10 2B 3A 4D 5C 6A 7A 8D 9B 10D

CHAKRAVARTHY, RANA & NARINE STAR IN KKR'S WIN OVER DC



ABU DHABI

LEG-SPINNER Varun Chakravarthy's five-wicket haul and scintillating half-centuries from Nitish Rana and Sunil Narine combined to hand Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) a valuable 59-run win over Delhi Capitals (DC) in an Indian Premier League (IPL) match and remained in fray to qualify for the playoffs. The win gives KKR a boost to their net run rate as they look to fend off challenges from SunRisers Hyderabad, Kings XI Punjab and Rajasthan Royals below them in the race for the final playoff spot. Rana scored 81 off 53 balls while Narine scored 64 off 32 balls to push KKR's score to 194/6 wickets in 20 overs. In reply, DC ended up at 135/9 in 20 overs.

Chakravarthy first dismissed Rishabh Pant in the 12th over, who along with DC captain Shreyas Iyer were going big and fixing the damage caused by Pat Cummins's opening spell. During the innings, Pant completed 100 sixes in his IPL career. Having done so in 1,224 balls, he is the fastest Indian to have reached the milestone, beating the record set by Yusuf Pathan, who had done that in 1,308 balls. Chakravarthy then got Shimron Hetmyer and Shreyas off consecutive balls in the 14th before getting Marcus Stoinis in his next. Axar Patel fell in the same over to complete Chakravarthy's five-wicket haul. His 5/20 is the best figures for a bowler this season. Cummins, who has been struggling to get wickets this season, also came into the party. He dismissed Ajinkya Rahane leg before the wicket off the very first ball of the DC innings before casting the in-form Shikhar Dhawan for six in his next over. The DC innings eventually ended on 135/9 wickets. Batting first, KKR were tottering at 42/3 wicket in the eighth over when Narine, sent in ahead of captain Eoin Morgan, joined Rana in the middle. He turned the tide in KKR's favour hitting six fours and four sixes. Narine fell in the 17th over to Rabada but Rana carried on. He was finally dis-

| IPL STANDINGS | | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|---|----|--------|
| TEAM | M | W | L | PT | NRR |
| MI | 10 | 7 | 3 | 14 | 1.448 |
| DC | 11 | 7 | 4 | 14 | 0.434 |
| RCB | 10 | 7 | 3 | 14 | 0.182 |
| KKR | 11 | 6 | 5 | 12 | -0.476 |
| SRH | 10 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 0.092 |
| KXIP | 10 | 4 | 6 | 8 | -0.177 |
| RR | 11 | 4 | 7 | 8 | -0.620 |
| CSK | 11 | 3 | 8 | 6 | -0.733 |

TODAY'S MATCHES
Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Chennai Super Kings at 3.30pm
Rajasthan Royals vs Mumbai Indians at 7.30pm

missed on the penultimate ball of the innings on 81 by Marcus Stoinis. Stoinis then dismissed Morgan off the very next ball with the England captain on 17 off 9 balls. **Brief scores:** KKR: 194/6 wkts in 20 overs (Nitish Rana 81, Sunil Narine 64; Anrich Nortje 2/27) beat DC: 135/9 wkts in 20 overs (Shreyas Iyer 47, Rishabh Pant 27; Varun Chakravarthy 5/20) by 59 runs. (IANS)

Early swing makes captains Kohli, Pollard change plans



SHARJAH

WICKETS in the UAE being used for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 matches are supporting enough swing to force captains to make changes to their pre-match plans on the field of play itself. As the tournament enters its business end, captains are now willing to go for pace bowlers who can exploit the early movement instead of saving them for the middle or late overs. After the Banga-

lore skipper Virat Kohli had changed his plan immediately after Chris Morris's first over against Kolkata Knight Riders on October 12 and gave the new ball to seamer Mohammed Siraj ahead of off-spinner Washington Sundar who had shared the new ball in earlier games, Mumbai Indians skipper Kieron Pollard did the same on Friday night. Instead of bringing in a spinner as he had initially planned, Pollard brought in Jasprit Bumrah for the second over after seeing the swing Trent Boult was getting in first over. Pollard had thought of pairing Boult with either a spinner or seamer Nathan Coulter-Nile. "We didn't want to use Jasprit (Bumrah) early but after getting that early wicket and seeing that over from Trent we decided to go for him and it worked for us. Rayudu has batted well against us in the last few games over a couple of years. The two bowlers executed and delivered on the plans," said Pollard in a press conference after the match. (IANS)

CSK struggle to find the right combination

SHARJAH

CHENNAI Super Kings have been struggling to find the perfect combination this season, team coach Stephen Fleming admitted after the Chennai franchise suffered their heaviest defeat on Friday by losing to Mumbai Indians by 10 wickets. The M.S. Dhoni-led team, desperately looking for a win to stay in contention for a play-offs spot, decided to ring in changes for Friday's match including sending an out-of-touch and inexperienced Ruturaj-Gaikwad to open against the potent new ball attack of Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah. "Our opening pair has been a bit mixed. The reason why Gaikwad is there is because of (Imran) Tahir. We've got a problem there, because our spin bowling has been a little bit



ineffective. When you have one of the world's best spinners, you are keen to introduce him," said Fleming pointing to the troubles the franchise has faced in fielding South African Imran Tahir as one of its four overseas players. CSK's batting has struggled with not much depth in Indian talent. This has forced CSK to put Sam Cur-

ran, Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis in the top three, leaving one overseas spot to be fought among all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, paceman Josh Hazlewood, leg-spinner Imran Tahir and left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner. Bravo, because of his all-round skill-sets, was the obvious option in the early phase. When he got injured, CSK brought in Hazlewood to strengthen their relatively weak pace attack. On Friday, CSK decided to drop Watson to introduce Tahir which meant that Gaikwad had to be placed in to open the innings. "The advice to Gaikwad was to find his feet. (But) we had a bad batting day. Sums up the entire tournament. Everything we tried, it has been exact opposite of it. Today was a great example of it." (IANS)

Our place in IPL points table appropriate: CSK coach Fleming

SHARJAH

CHENNAI Super Kings (CSK) coach Stephen Fleming said that there is a lot of hurt, disappointment and frustration within the camp after the three-time IPL champions crashed to Mumbai Indians (MI) by 10 wickets on Friday. Fleming added that the loss to Mumbai Indians was symptomatic of the entire season which has gone to totally wrong. He added that CSK deserve the bottom place in the points table. The Chennai franchise is placed eighth with six points. "There is a lot hurt, disappointment, frustration that goes along with a dis-



appointing season. There were a lot of things tried but we just couldn't put a game together," said Fleming after the humiliating loss on Friday. "We've had holes throughout, like losing a player before the start of the season to things like being one over short or losing

a couple of wickets too many. That can happen to a team off the pace. We don't have the numbers from individuals, therefore our place in points table is probably appropriate." CSK were reduced to 24 for five in the power-play as MI seamers Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah ran riot. Boult picked three of those power-play wickets while Bumrah got two. "We were pretty stunned, we had a terrible power-play, losing wickets so quickly and frequently. The game was almost over in the power-play itself. It was tough watching. They bowled well but we made them find ways of getting us out." (IANS)

Wasteful Shaw dropped after string of poor scores

ABU DHABI

PRITHVI Shaw's tweak in technique, that was made early in the tournament and acknowledged by team coach Ricky Ponting, doesn't seem to have helped him in the long run as the opening batsman has failed to go past 20 in the last five innings. In fact, the Delhi Capitals' opener managed only single digit scores over the last four innings. On Saturday, the team management decided to drop the batsman from their playing eleven and replaced him with fellow Mumbai batsman, Ajinkya Rahane. Shaw had started the tournament well after changing his stance, moving a bit towards off-stump. He made a couple of 60s and a 42 in his first five games.



Ponting praised him and said that the team management has helped him back the tweak in technique. However, the batsman failed to match the start since getting his 42 against Royal Challengers Bangalore on October 5. He has fallen mostly while trying to force the pace but in various ways. Shaw has been criticised for playing far too many strokes in the air by former cricketers. (IANS)



The Academia Sports Village (ASV) fifth anniversary celebrations held at Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club (HPRC) tennis courts marked the conclusion of a three-day tennis camp here on Saturday. Iftakhar Shareef, Chairman and Managing Director IGS Group of Companies, with philanthropist and former Director of Shantha Biotech, Khalil Ahmed and trainees of the three-day tennis camp, which was also held to coincide with the Dussehra festival, and their coaches were present on the occasion.

A piece of MCG at Gabba irks fans, players

BRISBANE

THE Australian Football League (AFL), the Australian rules football competition, has tried to keep tradition alive for the Grand Final that was played on Saturday. After the tournament was delayed and affected by Covid-19, a break from history was made by scheduling the tournament final at the Gabba in Brisbane instead of Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) where it has always been played. In fact, the final has never before moved out of Melbourne in its 123-year history and only once before it was played outside the MCG. The organisers, however, decided to extricate and transport a section of grass from the goalsquare at MCG to Queensland. But the decision did not go down well with many followers and former players, who criticised the wasteful expenditure. Former player Stephen Rowe slammed it, calling it the dopest decision this year. "This is the dopest decision this year. The look of it stinks," he was quoted by Australian media as saying. "This would be thousands and thousands of dollars. I hope every cent of it goes into junior football and game development." (IANS)

Mumbai City announce signing of Mehtab Singh

MUMBAI

MUMBAI City on Saturday announced the signing of defender Mehtab Singh ahead of the 2020/21 season of the Indian Super League (ISL). Mumbai coach Sergio Lobera said that Mehtab, 22, "stands out" among the talent pool of young defenders in India. "Representing a big club like Mumbai City, it's a huge honour for me," said Mehtab in the club's statement. "I've always believed putting the hours and in being the best you can every single day. (IANS)

2008 U-19 World Cup star Tanmay Srivastava retires

NEW DELHI

TANMAY Srivastava, the top run-getter at the 2008 U-19 World Cup that India won under Virat Kohli's captaincy, announced his retirement on Saturday. The left-handed Srivastava, who scored 262 runs at 52.4 in that tournament, announced the decision to retire on Twitter. "It's time to bid adieu to my cricketing playing career! I've built memories, made friends, achieved the best I could in these years playing junior cricket, Ranji Trophy and most importantly being a good performer in U-19 World Cup, 2008 and bringing the cup home with the team!!," said the 30-year-old batsman. Srivastava scored 4918 runs in 90 first-class matches. He represented Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand at the first-class level. (IANS)



SAI approves national coaching camp for TT in Sonapat

NEW DELHI

THE Sports Authority of India (SAI) has approved a national coaching camp for table tennis, which will be held from October 28 to December 8. The camp comprising 11 players (5 male, 6 female) and four support staff, will be organised by the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) at the Delhi Public School, Sonapat. The camp has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 18 lakh (plus air travel and medical expenses), a press release from SAI said. The camp will abide by the Standard Operating Procedure outlined by the Sports Authority of India for the

resumption of sporting activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. This will be the first national camp for table tennis that will be held after the announcement of the nationwide lockdown due to coronavirus in March this year. Four-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist Achanta Sharath Kamal will be part of the men's training group, where he will be joined by Manush Shah, Manav Thakkar, Sudhanu Grover and Jubin Kumar. The women's training group will comprise Anusha Kutumbale, Diya Chitale, Suthirtha Mukherjee, Archana Kamath, Takeme-Sarkar and Kaushani Nath. (IANS)