



WINDOWS



Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty carries an idol of Lord Ganesha from Santosh Kambl workshop, ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Mumbai on Thursday

FB row: MP seeks Tharoor's removal

New Delhi: BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Thursday demanded removal of Shashi Tharoor as the parliamentary committee on Information Technology chief while his party colleague Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore accused the Congress leader of "undermining" the panel's work, marking a sharp escalation in the ruling party's attack on the opposition party MP over the Facebook row. Dubey and Rathore wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla against Tharoor's conduct as the chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT, with the Jharkhand MP claiming that the Congress leader was "running the affairs of the committee in a thoroughly unprofessional manner and to serve his political agenda of spreading rumours and defaming my party (BJP)". ► P3



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks during a plenary meeting of the Workers' Party in Pyongyang on Wednesday. North Korea has decided to hold a rare ruling party congress in January where leader Kim will announce a new five-year plan to develop the country's dismal economy ravaged by US-led sanctions and a global pandemic, state media said on Thursday. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government



Apex meet on water disputes unlikely as Jal Min tests +ve

AP, TS get some more time to present their stand on irrigation projects

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The scheduled Apex Council meeting of the Union government with the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments on August 25 is unlikely to be held as Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Nath Shekhawat tested positive for coronavirus on Thursday.

Shekhawat, who also holds the post of Apex Council Chairman, was admitted to a hospital in New Delhi after he was found infected with

the virus. The Union minister will have to undergo prescribed medical treatment for at least two weeks.

Officials of the TS government said the scheduled meeting is just four days away and the recovery of the minister in a short time is ruled out. However, the irrigation officials are busy preparing a detailed report on the issues raised by the Andhra Pradesh government against the projects constructed by Telangana. State Irrigation Secretary Rajat



Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Kumar and Officer On Special Duty (OSD, Irrigation) to Chief Minister K Chan-

drasekhar Rao, Sridhar Rao Deshpande were analysing the objections raised by the neighbouring state on Telangana projects in consultation with irrigation experts and retired irrigation officials.

Officials said all the projects were approved in undivided Andhra Pradesh and all that they had done was to make some changes to ensure the optimum utilisation of waters. "They are not new projects as claimed by AP. Kaleshwaram project was the result of redesign of

Pranahitha - Chevella and Sitamma Sagar and Sitarama Sagar projects. The government was constructing every project within the allocated water for Telangana. The Chief Minister will leave no stone unturned and expose the AP government conspiracy to utilise excess water from river Krishna by illegally constructing the Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme and also enhance the capacity of Pothireddypadu head regulator," they said.

Slight progress in Pranab's health condition

New Delhi (PTI): Respiratory parameters of former president Pranab Mukherjee have shown

a slight improvement, though he continues to be on ventilator support, the hospital said on Thursday.

Mukherjee, who was admitted to the Army's Research and Referral Hospital on August 10, developed a lung infection on Wednesday. Doctors attending on him said his vital parameters remain stable. "The respiratory parameters of Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee have shown slight improvement though he continues to be on ventilatory support. His vital and clinical parameters remain stable and are being closely monitored by a team of specialists," a hospital statement said.

Mukherjee was operated on for removal of a clot in the brain on August 10 at the Army Hospital in Delhi Cantonment. He was also tested positive for Covid-19. Mukherjee was the 13th President of India from 2012 to 2017.

29% of Delhi have Covid antibodies: Sero study

New Delhi (PTI): Antibodies against Covid-19 infection have been found in 29.1 per cent of people in the latest sero-prevalence survey in the national capital, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said on Thursday.

Interacting with reporters, he said, 15,000 representative samples were taken in the August 1-7 survey from 11 districts, and the next exercise will begin from September 1. "In the previous survey, it was found that over 22 per cent people had developed antibodies. Now, the August survey shows it is 29.1 per

cent, meaning they had got infected and recovered," Jain said.

The minister also said that prevalence of antibodies found in males was 28.3 per cent, and in females 32.2 per cent in the latest survey. The previous sero-prevalence survey done from June 27 to July 10 by the Delhi government in association with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), had used 21,387 samples and found that around 23 per cent of the people surveyed had an exposure to the novel coronavirus. "The rise, rather than the exponential rise is



not there. So, people are taking safety precautions it seems. But, we cannot afford to be complacent and lower our guard, even though positivity rate at present is 7 per cent," Jain said. The exercise was undertaken in the first week of August for a comprehensive assessment of the COVID-

19 situation in Delhi and to formulate strategies based on its findings.

About 15,000 samples were collected as part of this exercise, spanning different areas and age groups, gender and economic class, he said. Representative samples were taken from all the eleven districts. Out of total number of samples, 25 per cent were taken from the age group of less than 18 years, another 50 per cent from 18-49 years age bracket and remaining 25 per cent from those in the age group of 50 years or more, the Delhi health minister said.



After Gmail outages, Google restores services

New Delhi (PTI): Google on Thursday said its Gmail service has been restored for some users and the outage issue will be resolved for all affected users "in the near future", hours after the popular emailing service faced a global disruption since this morning.

Some users faced issues like inability to log in, add attachments and receive messages, but the company is yet to specify a reason for the outage. On Thursday morning, G Suite status dashboard -

which provides performance information on various Google services - said the company was investigating reports of an issue with Gmail.

In its latest update at 1510 hours, the company said: "Gmail service has already been restored for some users, and we expect a resolution for all users in the near future. Please note this time frame is an estimate and may change".

The company has provided multiple updates on the matter in the past few

hours stating it is investigating the issue and that there is disruption in sending e-mails, Meet recording, creating files in Drive, posting message in Google Chat, among others.

While Google did not specify details around how many users were impacted and their locations, data from DownDetector (which provides outage updates on various online platforms) showed users from various parts of the globe, including India, were affected.

Govt may ban Chinese equipment in power sector

New Delhi (IANS): The government is looking to bar Chinese firms from participating in government contracts in the sensitive power sector, especially for procurement of digital products that are prone to malware threats. Sources in the government said that already global bidding has been barred for public procurement of upto Rs 200 crore, and more specific restrictions may be imposed on use of Chinese gear in the critical power sector. ► P6

Russia's Oppn leader poisoned by toxic tea; goes into coma

Moscow (AP): Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny is in a coma and on a ventilator in an intensive care unit in Siberia after falling ill from suspected poisoning that his allies believe is linked to his political activity.

The 44-year-old critic of Russia's President Vladimir Putin felt unwell on a flight back to Moscow from Tomsk, a city in Siberia, and was taken to a hospital after the plane made an emergency landing in Omsk, Navalny's spokeswoman, Kira Yarmysh, said on Twitter.

She told the Echo Moskvy radio station that he must have consumed something from tea he drank at an airport cafe before boarding the plane early Thursday. During the flight, Navalny started sweating and asked her to talk to him so that he could "focus on the sound of a voice." He then went to the bathroom and lost consciousness, and has been in a coma in grave condition ever since. Other opposition figures were quick to suggest Kremlin involvement.

"We are sure that the only people that have the

capability to target Navalny or myself are Russian security services with definite clearance from Russia's political leadership," Pyotr Verzilov, a member of Russia's protest group Pussy Riot who ended up in intensive care after suspected poisoning in 2018, told The Associated Press. "We believe that Putin definitely is a person who gives that go-ahead in this situation."

Doctors at the Omsk ambulance hospital, where the politician is being treated, remain tight-lipped about his diagnosis.

THE HANS INDIA
go green
CELEBRATE YOUR FAVOURITE FESTIVAL . WIN EXCITING PRIZES

Make your own style of Ganesha with eco - friendly Materials
Shoot a video of min. 30sec to 2 Min max. and send it to us
<https://gogreenganesha.thehansindia.com/>
OR

Send Your details with the video
Name..... School.....
Age..... Place.....
Gender..... Phone.....
Class..... Email id.....
Send to
response@thehansindia.com
you can use any smartphone or camera to shoot

For any query dial in - 6305196713
for future updates follow us in, <https://www.thehansindia.com/>

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [in](#) /THEHANSINDIA [t](#) /THEHANSINDIAWEB

Kamala Harris scripts history with V-P nomination

Washington (PTI): Senator Kamala Harris has accepted the Democratic Party's nomination to be the vice-president of the United States, scripting history by becoming the first Indian-American and also the first Black woman to be on a major political party's national ticket.

Harris, 55, was nominated as the vice-presidential candidate on Wednesday at the virtual Democratic National Convention. "I accept your nomination for vice president of the United States of America," she said. In her acceptance speech, Harris paid tribute to the Black women that came before her and she vowed to fight for the nation. "Let's fight with conviction. Let's fight with hope. Let's fight



Democratic vice-presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris is joined on stage by her husband Doug Emhoff after she spoke during the third day of the Democratic National Convention at the Chase Center in Wilmington on Wednesday

with confidence in ourselves, and a commitment to each other," she said.

She profoundly remembered her mother from Tamil Nadu. Harris said she was there standing on her mother's shoulders, a woman who "came here from India at age 19 to pursue her dream of curing cancer. At the University of California, Berkeley, she met my father, Donald Harris — who had come from Jamaica to study economics."

She assailed US President Donald Trump's "failure of leadership". She said the Republican leader "turns our tragedies into political weapons". "Donald Trump's failure of leadership has cost lives and livelihoods," Harris said.

Womenia



FLAUNT VIBRANCY OF MONSOON WITH HAIR COLOURS

During the unlocking phase as Salons and spas have started opening, people are also confused if they should go for hair colour in monsoon but the monsoon has nothing to do with this as during the gloomy season you can actually add a hint of vibrancy to your mane.

As monsoon remains a good time to beat the gloom by flaunting vibrant hues this is also the time when your chemically processed hair deserves extra attention to have good longevity of hair colour. During monsoon, hair faces problems of itching, dandruff, flaky scalp, frizzy hair and hair fall.

Beauty Expert, Richa Aggarwal, from Cleopatra Salon, makeovers and wellness decodes the fresh trends in hair colours.

Ideal colours for monsoon

Chocolate Truffle colours remain the flavour for the season from Hollywood to Bollywood stars celebrities are lapping up the trend of this colour which looks warm and Haute.

Avoid dying your hair with dark black colour. Highlighting is back in the season Wheat Blonde hair shade with slightly darker shade towards the root adds a good edge.

Brown's version of wheat blonde includes very subtle highlights all around with slightly darker roots. For deeper impact, you can go for strawberry blond which is towards the deeper and redd side with a touch of copper tone that goes very well on pale skin as this adds a hint to pinkish glow to your face too. For a similar look you can also go for orchard red, shades of Strawberry blond that complement pale complexion.

If your skin tone is pink or warm you can add a rosy glow to your complexion with orchard notes with a creamy brown base which shall add warmth and tones of copper. Go for highlights or lowlights. Shades like Rich Chocolate brown, Chestnut brown, ash brown blond are trendy colours too. For warm skin tones go for chestnut brown hair colour, ash brown blonde colour, light colour towards the root and stronger tone towards the length. Omber colour is another trendy shade that highlights your hair and adds a pop to our look, show your free-spirited and rebellious streak and go for a rainbow-inspired hair colour or simply make a bold and bohemian statement with multicoloured tresses and add zing to your braid. Pastel hair shades, pale turquoise, mint green shades also look soft and feminine during monsoon.

Make your hair colour last longer

Go for hair colour with deep conditioning properties and ingredients with natural oils, this shall retain moisture. Don't use hair colour with sulfate as this can strip off colour and moisture from hair. Ask the professional expert to use non-ammonia hair colour formulated with pre-softening technology Apply a hair mask, Use conditioners with oils like Tahitian monoi and Ojon nut which can help resist fading and create a protective barrier on colour-treated tresses. Apply colour preserving hair products which will not only keep your hair hydrated and lock the hair colour too. Limit the use of heating products and tools for styling and prepping hair. Use products with SPF and heat protecting properties to avoid heat damage.

QUICK TIP

Makeup doesn't harm skin

Use products from a reputed company, they are usually well-researched. Remove makeup before you go to bed. Use a good remover. While applying the makeup base, use your fingers or a disposable sponge, not a brush. Save the brush for an eyeshadow, blush and the like.



Pandit Jasraj was a child at heart

DURGA JASRAJ

On one hand, my brother (musician Shaarang Dev) and I feel blessed and fortunate, to have Bapuji as our father because we all know about his contribution to the world of Indian classical music, and how he was admired by people beyond borders. But I want to share how Bapuji lived his life and that inspired us to follow his footsteps.

My Bapuji was born in a small village Pili Mandori of Haryana, before the Punjab and Haryana partition happened. Even though he came from a society where gender discrimination was inevitable, in our house there were no such rules. So I was not treated specially because I am the daughter, or Shaarang was never given any extra privilege because he was his son.

We have grown up in a household where at least seven to 10 of his students would live with us because he believed in the guru-sishya parampara. He never took money from them because for him it was 'vidya daan', a huge contribution to music. He treated all his students as his children. In a way, he was living by example to teach us the joy of sharing since childhood.

He had a larger than life personality, something very magnetic. Although in our growing up days Bapuji became a superstar and travelled extensively for his concerts, he always had time for all of us -- house full of children! He would play with us, we would jump around him. Someone would be doing riyaz and Bapuji would also



Durga with her father late Pandit Jasraj

Padma Vibhushan Pandit Jasraj passed away on August 17 at the age of 90 in New Jersey. Daughter Durga Jasraj recalls her Bapuji beyond the legendary classical vocalist, as a man who loved many things from learning zoom call to singing online during lockdown to encouraging fitness among youngsters

be listening to that and correcting to perfection!

Bapuji was very open-minded and encouraged us to experiment and if we made any mistake, he would just get upset for a moment but then he accept it as a human mistake. I think he was too huge a personality and, of course, he had so much love to give to all of us.

But I have to tell you, there was something Bapuji was very strict about -- and that is following set discipline. He always nudged all of us towards physical fitness because he would say you cannot excel in anything if you are not physically fit. He would always tell us to take care of our health and vocal cord, and for that one

should lead a disciplined life.

As a child, I used to hate doing exercises and one-day Bapuji said, 'meri bacchi, body ka balance sahi rakho to hi mind ka balance sahi rahega, aur awaaz bhi'. At that time I did not understand what he meant, why would he be specific with food, exercise and riyaz so much. I understand the value of it now.

Bapuji was a child at heart. During lockdown, he learnt zoom video call and Google meet, at the age of 90! And then, he would stay in touch with all his students worldwide

and teach them music online. Anyone who met my Bapuji would agree how he always loved meeting people face to face and interact. But during lockdown, he did online concerts. He would say, 'Toh kya hua hum ghar par hai, agar isi tarah gaana hum gaa sakte hai aur isse logon ko khushi mil sakti hai, toh kyun nahi?' He would talk to me for at least two hours every day. He always had time for us.

Last month we had a conversation when I was talking about creating a raga. He explained, 'a raga is a combination of swara, and to get acceptance of that as a raga, it needs three generations. Otherwise, that combination of swara is like a composition or song that music directors are also composing. A raga should mature through at least three generations. Read the Shastra carefully, all the permutations and combinations have been done. It is like a sea and you have to study. There is no more scope to do anything on that. If you are saying you will make a new raga, perhaps you did not read the Shastra deeply'.

Bapuji's best contribution to Indian classical music is Jasrangi-Jugalbandi. It speaks volumes about his contribution to the music world.

Bapuji, you are a blessing to us. We were chosen to be your children and we will live with everything you gave us -- the love, the compassion, the music and teaching.

Styling your outfit with masks

Face masks have unfortunately become a large part of our lives these days, as a way of keeping good health as well as providing us some well-needed 'personal space'. As the current situation of Coronavirus carries plenty of emotional weight, check out some of the most popular styles of medical masks and get some tips on how you can style your mask:

Pitta mask

For the edgiest of individuals, the Pitta mask shows off an image of being street savvy and ultimately cool. Layer-draped utilitarian pieces in order to achieve an urban-ninja aesthetic.

Blue surgical mask

The blue surgical mask can inspire the preppy-nurse in you; lady-like, refined and somewhat 'proper'.

We went pure-Chanel in tones of baby blue to complement the mask's femininity, paired with some bejewelled Fendi Sandals -- adding a bit of sparkle to lift any spirit!

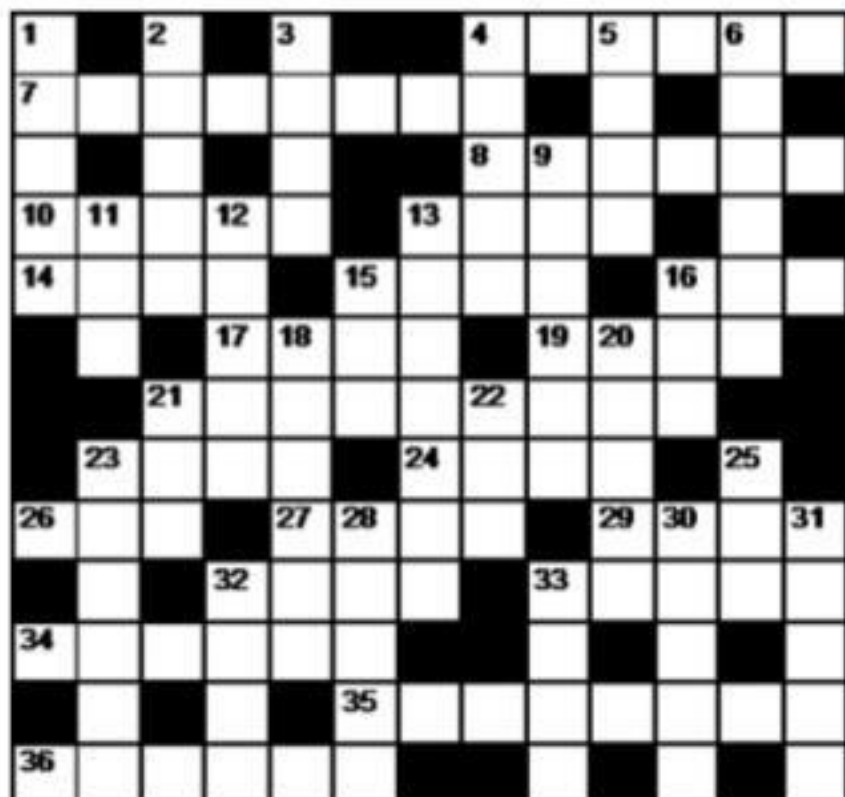


N95 mask

The N95 mask looks great with street-wear. A pair of joggers and chunky sneakers with a pop of colour are the perfect match to the industrial nature of the mask. When you have to run, you gotta be ready girl!

White pleated mask

Keep it white, keep it minimal, say nothing. The white mask works for any business attire as it is the most understated.



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 20

CROSSWORD

Across

- 4 Canterbury saint (6)
- 7 Hard at work (2,3,3)
- 8 Smells (6)
- 10 Fenced areas (5)
- 13 Nitrogenous fertilizer (4)
- 14 Japanese wrestling (4)
- 15 Keen on (4)
- 16 Tenet or rule (3)
- 17 Office need (4)
- 19 Piece for two (4)
- 21 Aborigine throwing club (9)
- 23 Platter (4)
- 24 Grape brandy (4)
- 26 Decimal base (3)
- 27 Glance or look at (4)
- 29 Praise (4)
- 32 Grow together (4)
- 33 Light brown (5)
- 34 Morose (6)
- 35 Ramp (8)
- 36 Spiritualist session (6)

Down

- 1 Young kangaroos (5)
- 2 Rage, rant and rave ? (5)

- 3 Possessive pronoun (4)
- 4 Give up on (5)
- 5 Greek portico (4)
- 6 A long tight rope used esp. to catch or tether livestock (6)
- 9 Cedar of the Himalayas (6)
- 11 Diving bird (3)
- 12 Extinct birds (5)
- 13 Dishevelled (7)
- 15 Informally, any doctrine or practice (3)
- 16 A lower limb (3)
- 18 Certain epoch (6)
- 20 Family member (5)
- 21 Storage container (3)
- 22 Shaft of light (3)
- 23 Great flood (6)
- 25 Small stocky dog (3)
- 28 Burn a bit (5)
- 30 Assisted (5)
- 31 Divine being (5)
- 32 Third "K" in the notorious group "K.K.K." ? (4)
- 33 Comm

SUDOKU



NEWS ROUNDUP

Taapsee recalls the challenge of getting 'out' of skin of Prakash Tomar

Actress Taapsee Pannu recalls having nightmares wondering if her skin would bounce back to being normal once the prosthetics that she had to put on for her role in Saand Ki Aankh were taken off.

Taapsee played sharpshooter Prakash Tomar in the film, which needed her character to age on screen. In turn, this required her to wear heavy prosthetics while depicting the aged Prakash.

The actress shared a couple of pictures on Instagram where we see her prosthetics being removed after a shoot session.

"Getting 'into' the skin of a character is passé, let's talk about how it was getting 'out' of the skin of Prakash Tomar. A one hour long procedure to get my skin back then still has lines and folds visible until the skin bounces back to normal. How many times have we had nightmares that if it never bounces back? What if one day we realise we have to live with it," she wrote.

"That one day will come sometime in the future but as of now it was nice to shed this skin off and breathe a sigh of relief #SaandKiAankh #Throwback #ArchivePost," the actress added.

"Saand Ki Aankh" is based on the lives of India's oldest sharpshooters, Prakash and Chandro Tomar. It was released in 2019. The film also starred Bhumi Pednekar as Chandru Tomar.

Taapsee's upcoming films are "Haseen Dillrub", "Rashmi Rocket" and "Shabaash Mithu".



SCHOOLS FORCED TO TAKE ONLINE CLASSES DUE TO PANDEMIC

27% students do not have access to smartphones, laptops: NCERT

New Delhi: At least 27 per cent students do not have access to smartphones or laptops to attend online classes, while 28 per cent students and parents believe intermittent or lack of electricity is one of the major concerns hindering teaching-learning, according to a survey by the NCERT.

The survey with over 34,000 participants, including students, parents, teachers and school principals from Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and CBSE affiliated schools, has pointed out that lack of knowledge of using devices for effective educational purposes and teachers not being well-versed with online teaching methodologies, caused hindrance in the learning process.

The survey noted that almost all of the responsive states use physical

(non-digital) mechanisms to track the progress of learners with majority of them either practising home visit by teachers or systematic parental guidance via phone calls.

"About half of the students stated that they did not have the school textbooks. Although the e-text books are available on NCERT website and DIKSHA, the probable reasons behind this feedback are that students are used to studying from the hardcopy of the textbooks, there is lack of awareness regarding the availability of the e-textbook and paucity of devices with students and teachers," it said.

The majority of the stakeholders pointed out that mathematics as a subject was difficult to learn via online medium.

"Since, mathematics contains a number of concepts which require

interaction, continuous support, monitoring from the teacher and these aspects were lacking in the online mode of teaching.

"Next to Mathematics, Science was identified as the subject of concern since it contains several concepts and practical experiments which could only be done in the laboratory under the supervision of the teacher. A few stakeholders also found Social Science as a difficult subject to grasp through online classes," the survey said.

It said that around 17 pc of students identified languages as being a difficult subject to learn through online medium.

"Many students and parents felt the need for Physical Education classes through online mode, as physical fitness is the need of the hour to combat this pandemic. Arts

education can help to reduce stress and boredom. Around 10 per cent of the stakeholders mentioned art education as a subject of concern," the survey said.

Universities and schools across the country have been closed since March 16, when the Centre announced a countrywide classroom shutdown as part of measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

A nationwide lockdown was imposed on March 25. While several restrictions have been eased, schools and colleges continue to be closed.

The prolonged closure of educational institutions has mandated a shift from classroom teaching to online learning.

Based on the NCERT survey findings, the Ministry of Education has formulated Students' Learning Enhancement Guidelines.



CRIMINAL CONTEMPT CASE

SC gives Prashant 2 days to reconsider statement

New Delhi: Doing a hundred good things can't give a person the license to commit ten crimes, said the Supreme Court on Thursday even as advocate Prashant Bhushan said he would "cheerfully submit to any penalty" in the criminal contempt case.

The bench of Justices Arun Mishra, BR Gavai and Krishna Murari was hearing Bhushan and his lawyers on the point of punishment when Bhushan read out his statement.

Prashant refused to apologise and said the two contentious tweets comprise his bonafide belief, and was a part of his duty as a citizen and as an officer of the court.

The bench asked Bhushan to reconsider this statement, observing it can be "very lenient" only if the person concerned



can show a sense of remorse from the core of his heart.

"Criminal contempt has serious consequences. Whatever has been done is done. But we want the person concerned to have a sense of remorse. The person must reconsider," said Justice Mishra.

On his part, senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, representing Bhushan, said that he has pro-

vided a bonafide justification of his tweets and that it is unclear how his tweets could bring down the majesty of judiciary. Meanwhile, Attorney General KK Venugopal requested the bench not to punish Bhushan, citing his good work as a lawyer.

Referring to Bhushan's tweets that led to his conviction, Venugopal added he has a

list of five judges who talked about lack of democracy in the Supreme Court. "I also have a list of nine judges who talked about judicial corruption. Many judges have said it," contended the top law officer.

But the bench told Venugopal that it is not hearing a review petition and that Bhushan's conviction order stands. The court also requested AG to go through Bhushan's affidavit in justification of his tweets, saying it needs to examine if his reply is a defence or an aggravation of contempt. The bench, which at the beginning declined to defer the proceedings awaiting a decision on review petition, is expected to hear this case again on Monday. "We don't want to delay these proceedings," said the bench.

FB row: BJP MP wants Tharoor out as panel chief

New Delhi: Stepping up his attack against parliamentary panel on information technology chairman Shashi Tharoor, Bharatiya Janata Party MP and a member of the panel Nishikant Dubey on Thursday wrote a letter to the Lok Sabha Speaker requesting him to remove the Congress leader from the post.

Citing the Lok Sabha rules, Dubey requested Speaker Om Birla to appoint any other member as the chairman of the committee in his place. Taking a dig at Tharoor, Dubey alleged, "speaking in 'Spencerian' English with a foreign accent does not give freedom to an individual to not only disregard our glorious parliamentary institutions/organs to meet his own political ambitions but also to abuse our constitution."

Ever since Tharoor has become the panel head, "he is running the affairs of the committee in a thoroughly unprofessional manner and to serve his political agenda of spreading rumours and defaming my party," Dubey said in the letter.

Transgenders get right to property in UP

Lucknow (IANS): Transgenders, recognised as the 'third gender' by the Supreme Court, will now get the right to inherit agricultural land in Uttar Pradesh.

The State cabinet has cleared an amendment to the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code of 2006 under which persons of the third gender will be recognised as members of a landowner's family and will have an equal right to inherit agricultural property.

A draft proposal for the law was submitted by the State Law Commission to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in March 2019. Commission Chairperson Justice A. N. Mittal had pointed out that all inheritance laws mention 'sons', 'daughters', 'married', 'unmarried' and 'widow' which kept



third gender children out of the purview of the law, who, as it is, face massive social boycott despite laws to protect their interests.

According to the official spokesman, in the new Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code (Amendment) Act, 2020, changes have been made to section 4(10), 108 (2), 109 and 110 to include people of third gender as members of the landowner's family to give them succession and physical rights over property.

Islamabad airport doesn't have bomb disposal squads

Islamabad (IANS) Despite being one of the sensitive airports, the Islamabad International Airport does not have bomb detection and bomb disposal squads, a media report said on Thursday.

According to sources, intelligence brought the issue into the notice of Regional Police Officer Sohail Habib Tajik last month, the Dawn news report said. "Due to the long distance from the three cities --

Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Attock, it will not be easy for the rescue teams and bomb disposal squads to reach the airport on time in case of an emergency situation," it said.

"Besides, the airport should also have detection dogs. In case of an emergency, the bomb disposal team needed more than one hour to reach there from Rawalpindi," Following the intelligence,

India records biggest single-day spike

New Delhi: India's COVID-19 caseload went past 28 lakh with a record single-day spike of 69,652 infections, while the recoveries increased to 20,96,664 on Thursday pushing the recovery rate to 73.91 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The total cases of coronavirus infections mounted to 28,36,925, while the death toll climbed to 53,866 with 977 new fatalities being reported in a day, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Case fatality rate has declined to 1.90 per cent.

There are 6,86,395 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which is 24.20 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh



mark on August 7.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative total of 3,26,61,252 samples have been tested up to August 19 with 9,18,470 samples being tested on Wednesday.

Of the active cases of coronavirus infection, 1.92 per cent are in ICU and 2.62 per cent on oxygen support. The country's case

fatality rate has further declined to 1.90 per cent, it said.

With 58,794 recoveries in a span of 24 hours, India's recovery rate amongst COVID-19 patients has reached nearly 74 per cent (73.91 per cent) reflecting that the number of patients recovering is on a steady rise over the past several months, it added.

Cop dies, toll in Mumbai Police force reaches 60

Mumbai: A 35-year-old sub-inspector of Mumbai Police died of Covid-19 on Thursday, an official said. With this, the Covid-19 death toll in the Mumbai Police force has gone up to 60, he said. The sub-inspector, who was posted at Deonar police station, underwent a test on August 9 and it came out positive for coronavirus. He was undergoing treatment at DY Patil Hospital in Navi Mumbai and succumbed to the disease on Thursday, the official said. Another constable who had also tested positive for the disease along with him was later discharged after treatment, the official added.



'Vaccine won't be mandatory in US'



Anthony Fauci, the United States' top infectious diseases official, said the government wouldn't make any future COVID-19 vaccine obligatory for the general public -- though local jurisdictions could make it mandatory for some groups, like children. "You don't want to mandate and try and force anyone to take a vaccine. We've

never done that," said Fauci, a member of the White House coronavirus task force, during a video talk organised by George Washington University. "You can mandate for certain groups of people like health workers, but for the general population you can't," he added, citing the example of the National Institutes of Health, where health workers can't treat patients without a flu shot. Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison earlier announced that coronavirus vaccines, once approved, would be mandatory for everyone in his country, barring medical exemptions.

UP school found open, probe ordered

Jalaun (IANS): A probe has been ordered against a private school in Madhavgarh area that was found to be open even though all educational institutions remain closed in Uttar Pradesh due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A video of the school where about 40 children were found to be attending classes amid the pandemic has gone viral on various social media platforms on Wednesday. Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), Prem Chand, said: "The government has not allowed opening of schools. We are investigating this case and, if found guilty, the recognition of the

school, will be cancelled. The principal and owner of the school will also face legal action."

Moreover, he said that none of the students were seen wearing face masks in the video.

"It is also being investigated whether classes were being held or coaching classes were taking place. In both cases, action will be taken," the BSA said.

Due to the threat of the Coronavirus, the state government has directed all educational institutions to remain closed and online classes were being held in most of the educational institutions.



United States democracy is at stake, warns Obama

Need numbers so overwhelming Trump can't sneak or steal his way to victory: Hillary

Washington (IANS) : Former US President Barack Obama has warned that the country's democracy was at stake, adding that incumbent President Donald Trump was "categorically unfit" for the job, it was reported.

Obama's remarks were part of the ongoing Democratic National Convention (DNC), which he made virtually from the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia on Wednesday, reports The Hill news website.

While urging voters to back his Vice President Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential candidate, Obama said: "I am also asking you to believe in your own ability -- to embrace your own responsibility as citizens -- to make sure that the basic tenets of our democracy endure."

"Because that's what's at stake right now. Our democracy."

He also warned against complacency, arguing that cynicism and apathy in the face of Trump's attacks on democratic norms would



cause the entire system to wither away "until there's no democracy at all".

"This administration has shown it will tear our democracy down if that's what it takes to win," the former President was quoted as say-

ing by The Hill news website.

In his address, Obama also slammed Trump over his character, treatment of protesters, attacks on the media and his lack of commitment to the job.

"I did hope, for the sake of our

country, that Donald Trump might show some interest in taking the job seriously; that he might come to feel the weight of the office and discover some reverence for the democracy that had been placed in his care.

"But he never did... For close to four years now, he's shown no interest in putting in the work; no interest in finding common ground; no interest in using the awesome power of his office to help anyone but himself and his friends; no interest in treating the presidency as anything but one more reality show that he can use to get the attention he craves," he said.

Obama's affection for Biden, who he referred to as "a brother" was notable in the address. "Joe and I came from different places and different generations. But what I quickly came to admire about him is his resilience, born of too much struggle; his empathy, born of too much grief."

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gave a strong clarion call to Americans to overwhelmingly vote in the 2020 presidential election to ensure that Donald Trump can't sneak or steal his way to victory, warning that Trump's re-election will make things even worse.

Creation of NRA: A revolutionary move

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has given its approval for creation of National Recruitment Agency (NRA), paving the way for a transformational reform in the recruitment process for Central government jobs. At present, candidates seeking government jobs have to appear for separate examinations conducted by multiple recruiting agencies for various posts, for which similar eligibility conditions have been prescribed. Candidates have to pay fee to multiple recruiting agencies and also have to travel long distances for appearing in various exams. These multiple recruitment examinations are a burden on the candidates, as also on the respective recruitment agencies, involving avoidable/repetitive expenditure, law and order/security related issues and venue related problems. On an average, 2.5 crore to 3 crore candidates appear in each of these examinations. A common eligibility test would enable

these candidates to appear once and apply to any or all of these recruitment agencies for the higher level of examination. This would indeed be a boon to all the candidates. Examination Centres in every district of the country would greatly enhance access to the candidates located in far-flung areas. Special focus on creating examination infrastructure in the 117 aspirational districts would go a long way in affording access to candidates at a place nearer to where they reside. The benefits in terms of cost, effort, safety and much more would be immense. The proposal will not only ease access to rural candidates, it will also motivate the rural candidates residing in the far-flung areas to take the examination and thereby, enhance their representation in Central government jobs. Taking job opportunities closer to the people is a radical step that would greatly enhance ease of living for the youth. Presently, the candidates have to appear in multiple examinations conducted by multiple agencies. Apart from the examination fees, candidates have to incur additional expenses for travel, boarding, lodging and other such. A single examination would reduce the financial burden on candidates to a large extent.

Women candidates especially from rural areas face constraints in appearing in multiple examinations as they have to arrange for transportation and places to stay in places that are far away. The location of test centres in every district would greatly benefit candidates from rural areas in general and women candidates in particular. This will greatly ease the financial burden on the candidates too. The CET score of the candidate shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of declaration of the result. This would go a long way in mitigating the hardship of candidates who spend a considerable amount of time, money and effort preparing and giving these examinations every year. Candidates would have the facility of registering on a common portal and give a choice of Centres. Based on availability, they would be allotted centres. The ultimate aim is to reach a stage wherein candidates can schedule their own tests at centres of their choice. The CET would be available in a number of languages. This would greatly facilitate people from different parts of the country to take the exam and have an equal opportunity of being selected. If there is any pro-people move, this one really is.

Sushant Singh & Maha Injustice



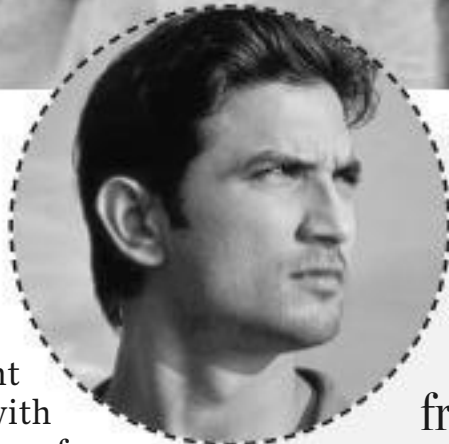
Maharashtra State government has failed miserably in providing justice to the kin of Sushant Singh Rajput. The young actor died under suspicious circumstances and heaps of circumstantial and prima facie evidence suggests, a possibility of a murder. Even after 60 days, the Mumbai police has not completed the inquest proceedings, and has not filed any FIR. The police have not arrived at any conclusion on the 'cause of death' and surprisingly even the 'time of death' in 60 days.

It's a well-known fact that Mumbai police is an efficient police force. They have solved many big crimes and have even saved the nation's economic capital from many terror plots in the past. I don't think, arriving at conclusion through an investigation on a suspected death of a Bollywood actor, will take 60 days for Mumbai police.

The political interference in this suspicious death case is clear from the day one. The pressure on Mumbai police to 'not investigate' this case and let the case die a natural death is so high, that the top police bosses of the department have sacrificed even their personal and departmental reputation. One can imagine the 'special interest' of someone very higher up in the government to scuttle this case badly.

The bogus investigation into this high-profile death case has certainly put not just the Maharashtra police department in docks, but also the state government.

Maharashtra state government led by CM Udhav Thackeray is an alliance government built on the foundation of political opportunism. Not even a year into the administration of the state, CM Udhav Thackeray seems to be losing it all. It could be his lack of experience in managing a state government or a serious emotional dilemma to protect some one very dear involved in this death case, either way, Udhav has made a mockery



of justice in Maharashtra.

How did CM Udhav Thackeray imagine, that his government and police department can get away with daylight sabotage of a case which has drawn national attention? How did his 'Man Friday' Sanjay Raut imagine, that by making personal threats, using political statements, arousing regional sentiment, his government can get away from its responsibility of delivering justice to the family of Sushant Singh Rajput?

Supreme Court has taken cognizance of everything Mumbai police did not do in this case, as per well laid out standard operating procedures in investigation of a suspicious death case. Supreme Court ordering a probe by CBI into this case is beginning of the end to the opportunistic and criminal politics of Shiv Sena led government in Maharashtra.

CBI will certainly find the actual cause of Sushant Singh Rajput's death and will also investigate into circumstances and individuals connected to it. If someone big in the state government is involved in this case, and has any connection with possible murder of Sushant Singh, it will certainly end not just the sloppy cover-up of this case by Maharashtra government, but also the stability of its coalition.

CM Udhav Thackeray, his party and his alliance partners

Sushant Singh Rajput's suspicious death case is not just about justice to his family, but it will also expose a pattern of elimination of select actors from Bollywood using 'suicide' theory. It will expose the politician-Bollywood-mafia nexus. The lust for money of successful actors and actresses, unhealthy competition, turf wars, honey traps for executing these devious plots, will all be exposed. Bollywood has been for a long time in the hands of a syndicated few and has become a cesspool of blackmailers, extortionists, looters and even murderers. The visible practice of 'insider-outsider' is a tribal practice in Bollywood and does not reflect the modern open economic model, which provides access to the best talent and excellence

will certainly put up a big fight using all political tools they can line up. They will use federalism, hyper-regionalism, and even communalism, to distract and stall CBI investigation into this case from today, if they must protect those involved. It is a certainty that Maharashtra state government will try its best to scuttle CBI investigation from day one.

However, I am quite certain that the people of Maharashtra, and those across India will not allow more political theatrics in the investigation of this case. Sushant Singh Rajput's suspicious death case is not just

about justice to his family, but it will also expose a pattern of elimination of select actors from Bollywood using 'Suicide' theory. It will expose the Politician-Bollywood-Mafia nexus. The lust for money of successful actors and actresses, unhealthy competition, turf wars, honey traps for executing these devious plots, will all be exposed.

Bollywood has been for a long time in the hands of a syndicated few and has become a cesspool of black-mailers, extortionists, looters and even murderers. The visible practice of 'insider-outsider' is a tribal practice in Bollywood and does

not reflect the modern open economic model, which provides access to the best talent and excellence.

It's a shame that the biggest names in Bollywood who have extracted the best from the entertainment industry, have not spoken a word for their fellow actor who died in glaringly suspicious circumstance. They have been mute spectators to the botched-up police investigation from day one, after the death of Sushant Singh Rajput. It is extremely unsettling to see those who have made hundreds of crores, are still sacred of standing up for justice, in the fear of losing more opportunities to make more money.

It's horrendously shameful that some of these actors even have prefixes like 'Bollywood's first family', 'Bollywood Badshah', 'Bollywood Bhai' etc., but did not live up to their ethical duty of standing up for their colleague. The least they could do, is to seek justice for his family and a legitimate investigation into his death. Is that asking for more?

Maharashtra has inflicted great injustice to Sushant Singh Rajput, his family and his true friends. He was betrayed by both the state government and his industry colleagues. In fact, it looks like few people connected to these two institutions might have even murdered him in cold blood. CBI should bring the perpetrators to justice.

(The author is the chief spokesperson of the BJP, an organisational strategist and a global leadership coach)

Valley dispute and they are like snake under the grass for the country. Imposing a trade ban or restraining trade relations with China for a while in whatsoever mode can make both the countries back on track without hostile actions.

Madhulika N, Hyderabad

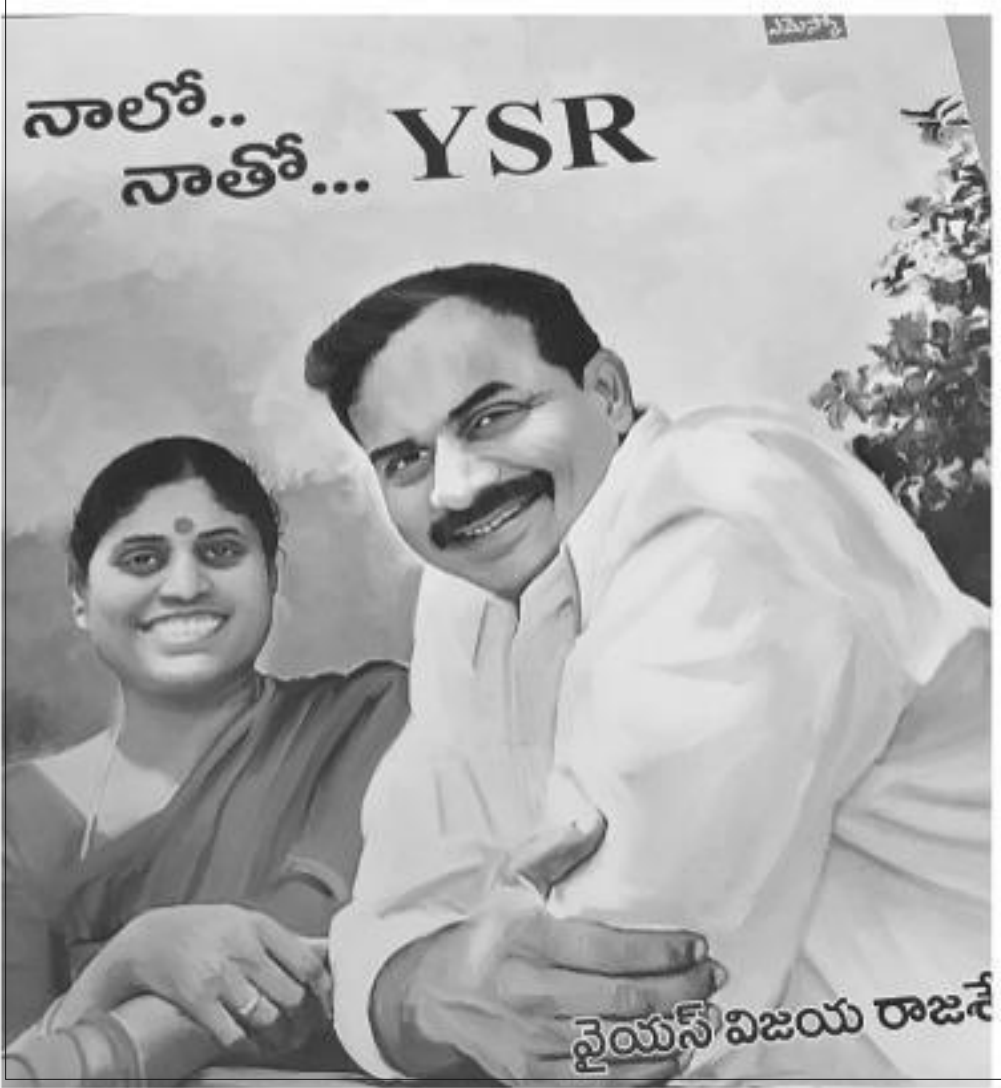
Respect our neighbours

Despite all tall claims by the Centre of aggression by neighbouring countries on Indian borders, the fact is India looms as the largest nation in South Asia and in many ways the subcontinent is defined by the media. It is natural that our neighbours feel insecure about their "independence and identity". Setting aside the obsession with the huge amounts that China is investing in our neighbourhood, let's begin by simply respecting the complexities of our South Asian neighbours. It may be prudent to revisit the aspects of the Gujral doctrine, which emphasise the need for good faith and trust as the basis of India's relations with its South Asian neighbours.

To be a true leader in the region, it is time for India to stop berating and belittling. In the pursuit of better regional relations, the foremost aspect would be to inculcate respect for our South Asian neighbours in our political establishment, which filters into the collective psyche of the nation.

Syed Omar Farooq, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com



YSR: A legendary leader and gem of a person

Dr K NARAYANA

"Naalo-Naato-YSR" (YSR With Me, Within Me) is a book authored by Vijayamma, wife of late Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy. I have received a copy of the book from her. I am quoting here two paragraphs from the concluding part of the book:

"To survive in politics, a daring and strong heart is essential. Even when you lose everything, you must be able to stand on your own promises. Be with the people who have put their belief in you, and they will reciprocate your affection abundantly. A great multitude of people are waiting to share their problems and concerns with you. Never neglect them, talk to them all." - YS Rajasekhara Reddy.

"Look, mom. So many people are literally worshipping father. I will also remain in the hearts of people with my good deeds. I will follow father's footsteps. As father used to say, "How long you live is not important. But how you have lived is crucial." - YS Jagan Mohana Reddy.

Among the many bourgeoisie political leaders that I had interacted, YS Rajasekhara Reddy stands out and I appreciated him all along for his great traits. But my party's political line and his do not go together. I do not confuse political differences with personal enmity. They are worlds apart. Any political formation has to devote itself to the interests of its constituency of people. Every political party claims that it stands for the larger interest of the people and they concretise these claims in their respective election manifestos. And if that political party gains power, they will proceed to implement their promises. But not all the promises might see the light of day. In the process, political one-upmanship might lead to friction and enmity among persons within the ruling formations and outside it. Instead of healthy competition in serving the people, what we are witnessing today is intrigues and scheming to bring down opponents and gain superiority. This enmity ultimately results in destroying the lives of political opponents and weakening the rival party. This has become the order of the day.

When Comrade Subbaiah, one of the foremost freedom fighters of Pondicherry was to be elected as the Chief Minister of Pondicherry, after it was liberated from French colonial rule and got merged with the Indian Union, Congress leader Kamaraj Nadar had resorted to horse-trading of MLAs to pre-empt Subbaiah becoming the Chief Minister. This is due to the desire of the Congress leaders that they only should rule from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

Nandini Satpathi was active in AISP in her college days. That is one reason why the Communist Party of India (CPI) extended support to her to become the Chief Minister of Orissa. But she and her party had encouraged defections from other parties to strengthen the Congress government in Orissa. But this had led to groupism in the ruling Congress in Orissa and ultimately she ended up as a loser. Later, Mulayam Singh in UP had encouraged defection from other parties to strengthen his position. A significant chunk of the CPI, including the State secretary of the party was bought by him. Because the Communist movement in Kerala was strong and had gone through glorious revolutionary struggles, defections were non-existent there. This had made other political parties, including the Congress to stick to some political values there. But the phenomenon of jumping fence had acquired an all-India character, mainly encouraged by leaders such as PV Narasimha Rao and took up on an ugly form in various States. This is the general political culture being practiced by political parties like the BJP, the Congress, the TDP, the YSRCP, the TRS etc. "Forget the promises given to people and concentrate on securing your power by weakening the opponents," is the current political mantra. Extreme and senseless rivalries result from this kind of a culture. Against the background of this present culture, I feel it pertinent to mention YSR. Though he was elected as an MLA on the Old Congress ticket, in the process of reconciliation among the Congress factions, he had joined the Indira Congress and became an important leader. N Chandra Babu Naidu was also an Indira Congress MLA and he and YSR, both young leaders had had a strong bond of friendship. But when NTR had established the TDP, being his son-in-law, Babu had changed over to TDP. Babu and YSR, being in opposing political formations, had to oppose each other. But their personal friendship outlasted their rivalry.

I am talking about YSR and I should deliberate on my various interactions with him. Normal political culture is that politicians move closely with those that are successful and look the other way when the edifice of the other person is in ruins. "Nobody wants to take risks. But YSR was different. He himself ventured to talk to others who were in difficulties and did not hesitate to offer necessary help," was what Penna Pratap Reddy told me when YSR died in a helicopter crash. You can cite many instances where YSR went out of his way to help those in need. Once when YSR was the Opposition leader, he came to Tirumala Hills and his over enthusiastic followers had fired crackers. A case was imposed on him for desecrating a holy place. Later on, as the Chief Minister, when he came to Tirumala Hills, he recognised one of his followers in the crowd and called him and talked to him. The very next day, he was allotted a space for a shop in the temple complex. A shop there is lucrative business. There are many such examples.

Since Independence, many projects had come up and were named after great persons. But no Communist leader had the privilege of getting a project named after him, posthumously. After the Congress came to power in AP in 2004, good relations existed among the Congress, the CPI and the CPIM. YSR's father Raja Reddy used to have good relations with veteran Communist leaders of Kadapa, like Comrade Y Eswar Reddy, Comrade S Sivarami Reddy and Comrade JV Venkatrami Reddy. YSR also had great respect for these veteran leaders and he once said that the first paper he had read was Visalandhra.

The CPI worked with dedication to achieve hydro-projects. The CPI had taken up a campaign and struggle for sharing of Krishna waters to Rayalaseema. AISE, AIYP and our peasant organisations had conducted glorious struggles. With this background, a CPI delegation met Chief Minister YSR and requested him to name the Velugodu Project in Kadapa District and Veligonda Project in Prakasam districts after comrades Y Eswar Reddy and Pula Subbaiah respectively. YSR agreed to our proposal readily as both these senior comrades had put immense efforts to bring the projects to reality. As CPI MLA, Subbaiah submitted a memorandum to the then Chief Minister NTR and appealed to him that Prakasam was a backward, water starved region and the CM should get the Veligonda project sanctioned.

(To be continued on Saturday)

The author is national secretary, the Communist Party of India. Views expressed are personal

Leather industry needs govt support

The two-day Make in Telangana mega conference scheduled for August 27-28 will explore the opportunities for investment and new partnership in the State. The aim of 'Make in Telangana' is to highlight the strength and opportunities of the State's economy, industry, goods and services like energy, pharma, textiles, electric vehicles, food processing, aerospace and defence, retail and infrastructure, with leading Indian CEOs and those from around the world. However, the leather industry has not got any attention in the upcoming conference organised by the Telangana government while the manufacturing and export of leather and leather goods fell down to 0.83% from 9.30%. While the Telangana government is very much serious in various fields of economy and industry under the umbrella of 'Make in Telangana', it ignores the leather industry. Leather is one of the five biggest industries in the country. The leather industry is in dire need of support of the State and the Centre, otherwise it will vanish soon. Hope both the governments will take necessary steps to give life to leather Industry.

S M Arif Hussain, Musheerabad, Hyderabad

We want MS Dhoni back on field

The Influence of Mahindra Singh Dhoni on the lives of millions of individuals across the world is not a



LETTERS

hidden fact. Calm, composed and collected, former captain of Team India broke hearts of millions of his fans from across the world. The emotional video which mentioned Dhoni's highs and lows in the Cricket journey was yet again an inspiring factor for all his fans, since the video indicated how Dhoni accepted all the highs and lows in his cricket career to get him the title of 'The Best Captain of Team India'. MS Dhoni's presence of mind is unlikely to be seen on the field of international cricket for a long period to come. Nevertheless, everyone is excited to see M S dhoni on the field yet again.

Surbhi Attreya, Meerut

India should be wary of Chinese moves

This refers to the intrusion of Chinese investments into the Indian banking sector. The Finance Minister has to work on the contention of the CAIT in returning the investments made by the People's Bank of China in HDFC and ICICI banks. India has properly witnessed the cunning and defaming strategies of China and the Indo-China ties have developed a crevice which need not be widened more by allowing such investments. The Chinese attitude has been completely exposed in Galwan

‘Tourism policy should put State on world map’

- CM instructs officials to formulate the new policy with an aim to attract investments
- Says the State should compete with Rajasthan in hospitality sector
- Wants Araku Valley to be developed on par with world tourist resorts along with 15 other tourist spots

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has instructed the officials that the new tourism policy should attract investors and help the state to find its due place in the world tourism map.

During a review meeting held here on Thursday to discuss the draft tourism policy, the Chief Minister said that the policy should attract investors for developing the tourist spots and partner with major companies in the hospitality sector and Andhra Pradesh should



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launching AP Tourism online trade registration portal during a review on tourism policy at Tadepalli on Thursday

find its due place in the world tourism map.

The Chief Minister suggested that changes should be made to give priority to those who wish to invest in tourism in the state. He said the state should compete with Rajasthan in the field of tourism and hospitality sector. Araku Valleys should be developed on par with world tourist resorts along with 14 other resorts in the state.

He advised the officials to set up a hospitality management

college with global standards by giving confidence to the students that they can get jobs anywhere. The Chief Minister started the AP Tourism online trade registration portal on the occasion. He said that the money invested on AP TDC properties shouldn't be misused and all the projects should be completed immediately.

Minister for tourism Mutamsetti Srinivasa Rao, principal chief secretary Rajat Bhargav and others were present on the occasion.

9,393 new cases take tally to 3.25 L

Amaravati: Belying the expectations of the health authorities, the Covid-19 graph of the state continued its explosive spree as 9,393 more cases were added to push the overall tally further up to 3.25 lakh on Thursday.

After Maharashtra, AP is the only state reporting a large number of Covid-19 cases daily, sometimes close to 10,000, over the past few days.

The state health officials were initially hopeful that the infection positivity rate would be brought down below five per cent by the end of July but later reset it to mid-August.

“The peak is continuing and it may take a couple of more weeks for the curve to reverse,” a top official of the health department noted.

Also, the coronavirus fatalities continued their upward spiral, crossing the 3,000 mark with the addition of 95 fresh deaths in the last 24 hours.

The latest bulletin said 8,846 patients recovered and were discharged from hospitals.

The state now has 87,177 active cases after a total of 2.35 lakh coronavirus patients recovered and 3,001 succumbed so far.

The infection positivity rate maintained its ascent and went further up to 10.58 per cent.

Job creation top priority, stresses Goutham Reddy

Says the govt is chalking out an action plan to bridge the gap between jobs available and the skills of the unemployed youth

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The state government has been chalking out a plan of action to bridge the gap between available employment vacancies and skills among the unemployed youth in order to ensure proper utilisation of human resources. As part of this, minister for industries Mekapati Goutham Reddy instructed the officials concerned to work with the Indian School of Business (ISB) and prepare a road map.

During a review on Thursday, Goutham Reddy said that the government will undertake a survey to identify the key areas in the industrial sector, for employment generation and skill development.



He suggested that the officials take advantage of certain skill development courses designed by the Union government in the informal sector and encourage the youth to participate in them. He said that the employment generation in industries will be sector-specific and region-specific, which would enable the youth to get opportunities easily.

Officials informed that the government has already some

data on the unemployed youth, their educational qualifications and other skills.

The minister instructed the officials to appoint joint directors across the state those who have knowledge in this domain so as to complete the project swiftly.

The government is also focusing on increasing employment in unorganised sectors like poultry, fishing, agriculture, mining, horticulture and others, he added.

TDP chief seeks thorough probe into house site scam

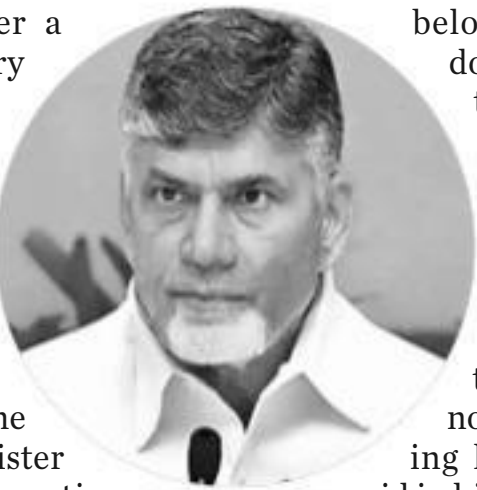
- In a letter to CS, Naidu alleges in Korukonda alone, Rs 500 cr public money has been looted by the YSRCP leaders who are going to siphon off another Rs 250 cr in the name of levelling
- Says such instances have taken place in several parts of the State including Tenali, Vinukonda, Kavali, Penamaluru

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu demanded Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney to order a thorough inquiry into the multiple instances of large scale corruption in the name of house sites for the poor all over the state.

In a letter to the CS on Thursday, the former chief minister alleged that corruption was taking place in land acquirement for the scheme in many parts of the state. For instance, in Assembly constituencies like Tenali, Vinukonda, Kavali, Palacole, Pendurthy, Chowdavaram, Addanki and Penamaluru, the local YSRCP leaders had indulged in corruption by inflating land prices, he alleged.

“Scams worth many crores are being committed in multiple phases beginning from making the government pay inflated prices to buy cheaper, unfit lands and then to loot public



money in the name of levelling, layout making and filling the acquired lands with soil. It is disheartening to see the government acquiring the lands belonging to the downtrodden sections, ecologically sensitive marsh lands, wetlands, low lying lands, mangroves and forest lands though they are not suitable for giving house sites,” he said in his letter.

The TDP chief alleged that the government had unleashed a scam of Rs 500 crore in acquisition and levelling of over 600 acre marsh (aava) land at Burugupudi village in Korukonda mandal in Rajanagaram Assembly constituency of East Godavari district alone. The land was acquired at an inflated cost of Rs 45 lakh per acre amounting to a total of Rs 270 crore. Further, another Rs 250 crore is required for filling the marsh land with soil and to convert the same into house sites, he added.

HC posts phone tapping hearing to Aug 27

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nelapadu (Amaravati): The division bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court comprising Chief Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheswari and Justice D Ramesh posted the hearing of the writ petition on phone tapping by the state government to August 27 after instructing the court registry to incorporate the affidavit filed by the petitioner N N Grace of Visakhapatnam with the main petition.

Earlier, the petitioner's counsel J Sravan Kumar submitted the affidavit which includes the details of the police officers monitoring the movements of judges as sought by the Division Bench in the earlier hearing on August 18.

A petitioner from Vizag submits an affidavit containing the details of police officers allegedly monitoring the movements of judges



The petitioner, Grace, in her petition alleged that the phones of judges, advocates and various important persons were being tapped in violation of the Telegraph Act and it was also against the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court. She contended that phone tapping is a serious offence that amounted to depriving the individuals of their funda-

mental right to privacy. Moreover, surveillance of phones of judges was a threat to the judiciary, she added.

Later, Sravan Kumar said that the division bench directed the petitioner to file a miscellaneous petition in two days. He said that it was not proper to reveal the details of the names mentioned in the affidavit.

Prabhakar Reddy released

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Kadapa: Tadipatri former MLA J C Prabhakar Reddy was released on bail from central prison here on Thursday. He was granted bail by SC, SC atrocities special court in Anantapur following he tested positive for Covid-19. He had been shifted to

central prison here four days back after being arrested for abusing a Dalit police officer.

After completion of formalities, the authorities released Prabhakar Reddy at 5.45 pm. According to the sources, he was shifted to Kamineni Institute of Medical Sciences in Hyderabad for treatment for Covid.



Former Tadipatri MLA J C Prabhakar Reddy leaving Kadapa central prison on Thursday

Man beaten to death in Covid row

HANS NEWS SERVICE:

Kadapa: Tense situation prevailed in Narasapuram village of Kasinayina mandal in the district following the murder of a person allegedly by YSRCP supporters on Thursday. The victim has been identified as K Gurrappa, 27.

According to sources, a woman village volunteer reported Gurrappa's father as testing positive for Covid-19 on August 14. This led to controversy with his family denying it and picking up an argument with the volunteer. They said Gurrappa's father was tested negative in the latest tests and also contended that it was against norms for the village

A 27-yr-old villager, who was attacked by YSRCP activists after he objected to a village volunteer revealing the test results of his father, succumbs in hospital

husband against Gurappa and his family. Her husband took the matter to the notice of YSRCP activists in the village, who reportedly attacked Gurappa with sticks on August 14 night. The seriously injured Gurrappa was admitted to a private hospital in Kadapa. He succumbed to his injuries on Thursday.

According to another version, after being beaten by the ruling party supporters, Gurrappa himself stabbed himself with a knife unable to digest the humiliation.

Police setup a picket in the village to prevent any untoward incident. Porumamilla police registered a case and are investigating.

volunteer to disclose identity of the infected person. Following heated exchanges between both sides, the village volunteer complained to his

SAI sanctions Khelo India Centre for Loyola College in Vijayawada

Vijayawada: The Sports Authority of India (SAI) sanctioned the prestigious Khelo India Centre (KIC) to the Andhra Loyola College, the first-of-its-kind in the two Telugu states.

Fr G.M. Victor Emmanuel, principal of the college, in a statement here on Thursday said that the Khelo India Centre would enable the college to offer the best services to the upcoming sporting fraternity.

The SAI would also extend Rs 5 lakh for the maintenance of the KIC which would have residential hostel facilities, better infrastructure and the expert coaches in the years to come.

Reliance Retail to empower women through YSR Cheyutha

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: State government signed MoUs with corporate giants Reliance Retail, Jio and Allana group to partner with the State in carrying out the YSR Cheyutha which is aimed at empowering women.

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said that YSR Cheyutha is taken up to empower women and to provide a stable livelihood for the SC, ST, BC, Minorities women in the age group of 45 to 60 years and implementing the scheme has been giving him immense satisfaction.

Reliance Retail will support micro-grocery women retailers and women farmers through the JioMart Kirana programme and Reliance Fresh fruits and vegetables farmer connect programme, respectively, says a press release

- An agreement is signed by the Reliance Retail and the State govt
- The company will support micro-grocery women retailers and women farmers through JioMart Kirana and Reliance Fresh

from JioMart. The participation in YSR Cheyutha scheme will enable JioMart to create new economic opportunities for micro-women entrepreneurs by extending the benefits of the 'JioMart Kiranas' initiative to them.

The support to 'micro grocery women retailers' and 'women fruits and vegetables cultivators' through the Cheyutha scheme will help the Reliance Retail to create more economic growth

opportunities for rural women entrepreneurs and women farmers.

In fact, the Reliance Retail will extend support across two key avenues. It would help micro-grocery retailer women to setup, modernise and digitise their stores creating a regular source of income.

Secondly, fruits and vegetable cultivators would be helped by buying harvested produce directly without middlemen, thereby increasing realisation.

It would also help them with inputs for cultivation, harvesting, sorting and packing practices.

At the same time, the Reliance Jio will extend support across two key avenues by supporting the government to connect to its beneficiaries using features of Jio Chat (one to one and one to many).

Sagar Mala pact to benefit State's youth

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh is to reap the benefit of vast employment opportunities in the maritime sector even as the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed digitally between the ministry of shipping and the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship on Thursday.

This partnership will provide vast employment opportunities and better prospects to the youth of coastal areas. This MoU would reinforce the commitment of Coastal Community Development under the Sagar Mala programme of the ministry of shipping, Union minister, Mansukh Mandaviya said after the MoU.

The ministry aims to nurture the skilled manpower for the development of ports and maritime sector of India to compete globally by training the lo-



- The MoU between Union Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will provide job opportunities in State as it aims to nurture the skilled manpower for the development of ports and maritime sector
- The AP government last year constituted AP Maritime Board (APMD) in Visakhapatnam, to manage the development of all port and shipping related projects

cal communities of the coastal areas.

The AP government last year constituted Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (APMD) at

Visakhapatnam, which will manage the development of all port and shipping related projects in the state, to facilitate fast-track growth of maritime

sector.

Official sources said that the board is all set to get down to the business of improving the skill sets of the youth in the industry. With the MoU signed now between the ministries of shipping and skill development, AP gets an opportunity to improve the job prospects of the coastal youth.

“With the state possessing advantages such as natural resources, a long coastline, skilled manpower and its strategic location, the board will help increase trade and commerce. The skill development will boost our potential further,” sources in the state government added.

AP industries minister Mekapati Gautham Reddy, had assured the Centre during a conference at Delhi sometime back that the state would be an active partner in the Sagar Mala programme.

TODAY'S QUOTE

RBI keeping monetary arsenal for future use

“ Although there is headroom for further monetary policy action, the arsenal has to be kept dry and used judiciously for promoting growth which has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be prudent to wait for growth outlook

- RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das**



SC WORRIES

AGR dues will be wiped out in IBC process

Supreme Court on Thursday said that it is extremely worried that almost the entire AGR dues will be wiped out in the IBC process, and noted that spectrum trading is different from sale of spectrum in IBC. A SC bench conducted hearing on adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	79.31	South	
Euro	93.76	African Rand	4.99
UAE Dirham	22.4	Hong Kong Dollar	11.1
Thai Baht	2.75	Japanese Yen	0.82
British Pound	102.82	New Zealand Dollar	52.2
Australian Dollar	57.09	Saudi Riyal	21.94
Canadian Dollar	59.75	Swedish Krona	9.96
Swiss Franc	86.13	Singapore Dollar	57.6

DELHI FRIDAY 21 AUGUST 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Mangaldeep's new product

Hyderabad: Mangaldeep, ITC's agarbatti brand, has joined hands with Shree Siddhivinayak Ganapati Temple Trust of Mumbai as well as with BRTC (Bamboo Research & Training Centre), the Maharashtra Government, to launch a special agarbatti offering, Mangaldeep Temple, Lord Ganesha's favourite fragrances agarbatti pack dedicated to millions of Lord Ganapathi's devotees. This launch coincides with the celebrations of Ganesh Chaturthi starting from August 22. It is believed that Ganapathi has 32 different forms. Mangaldeep celebrates all the forms of Ganapathi worshipped across India with the launch of this special agarbatti which contains the flowers offered to the Lord at Shree Siddhivinayak Temple. It is an innovative dual-fragrance agarbatti, made with fragrances of items believed to be Lord Siddhivinayak's favourite - hibiscus and marigold.

ICSI holds webinar

Hyderabad: Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) recently organised a special webinar to honour company secretary professionals and officials from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) for their relentless efforts throughout the Covid-19 lockdown. Rajesh Verma, Secretary, and Manoj Pandey, Joint Secretary, MCA, attended as chief guest and special guest on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Rajesh Verma said: "Company secretaries are playing an immensely important role that has increased many folds, during these trying times, in building the nation. ICSI has been very constructive in its suggestions to the ministry and is making a commendable progress in rendering service to the nation, he added. Ashish Garg, president, ICSI, pointed out that around 35,000 companies were incorporated in the last four months despite lockdown.

Mahindra's ambulances

Hyderabad: Automaker Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd recently delivered 20 units of its BS6 compliant Supro Ambulance ZX variant, to StanPlus, a private network of ambulances, in Hyderabad. These ambulances will help StanPlus in the ongoing battle against the current Covid pandemic. Built in-house on Mahindra's popular Supro van platform, the ambulance vehicle is available in two variants - LX and ZX. Ambulances are a vital part of India's healthcare infrastructure and have proven their value during the current pandemic, facilitating critical first responder interventions. Veejay Nakra, CEO-Automotive Division, M&M, said: "Several other government organisations, NGOs and corporates have also shown active interest in Supro Ambulance.

Okie unveils own brands

Hyderabad: Okie Ventures Private Limited, which is into the manufacturing of consumer electronics products, has established Okie Electronics to launch its own branded range of consumer electronics. The brand has made its entry into the category by launching Okie LED TV, a range of television sets. With plans to launch a host of high quality electronic products in the coming months, the company is set to establish an electronic manufacturing facility and an assembling factory exclusively for its LED TVs. J Masand, CEO, Okie Ventures, said: "We are committed to providing maximum value to our customers with a range of high quality and innovative products that will delight the consumers. With our long standing expertise and experience in manufacturing consumer electronics, we endeavour to do just that".

Selective ban on China's power equipment likely

India firming up a series of economic responses after border tensions

New Delhi: In a swift turn of events, the government is looking to bar Chinese firms from participating in government contracts in the sensitive power sector, especially for procurement of digital products that are prone to malware threats. Sources in the government said that already global bidding has been barred for public procurement of up to Rs 200 crore, and more specific restrictions may be imposed on use of Chinese gear in the critical power sector.

A blanket ban on use of sensitive digital equipment from China by the power sector may also be looked at but a decision on this is pending, said the source quoted earlier.

The Power Ministry has already put restrictions on imports as such proposals will now be vetted by it before permission is given. Also, individual digital equipment would be scrutinised for malware before being allowed inside Indian territory.

Besides, power companies have been told to source locally in all categories where domestic capabilities exist.

An indication that firmer action is being looked at to prevent use of Chinese equipment in the power sector, sources said is the postponed move to

A blanket ban on use of sensitive digital equipment from China by the power sector may also be looked at but a decision on this is pending



blacklist Chinese entity PT Hexing Technology from participating in any future government tenders post the cancellation of a Rs 344.47 crore smart meter contract given to it by Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL).

Though the move follows the Delhi High court's decision on Tuesday dismissing a petition filed by the Chinese firm seeking a stay on the encasement of its \$4.08 million (Rs 30 crore) bank guarantee given to EESL following the cancellation of its smart meter contract, the government is looking whether a blanket ban could be considered, especially in sensitive product categories that could compromise the country's security. India is firming up a series of economic responses

against China, following border tensions that remain unresolved. Already, investment from the country, which shares a land border with India, has been put under the approval route and other tariff and non-tariff barriers are being looked for various product categories.

In the power sector, earlier REC Power Distribution Company, Noida (RECPDCL) removed sub-contractor, Dongfang Electric (India) Pvt. Ltd., which was a subsidiary of a Chinese company, from its smart meeting project. The subsidiary of the power financing firm REC noted that the decision was taken in view of a recent government order regarding concern for the security of the power supply system in case of a cyber attack.

India will be 'Hospital of the World': Goyal

New Delhi: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that along with being the 'Pharmacy of the World', India will also become the 'Hospital of the World'. Speaking at the inauguration of CII's 12th MedTech Global Summit here, Goyal was quoted in a statement as saying that "we will also become the 'Hospital of the World', where the world will be able to use facilities, high quality medical care and high quality treatment that India will provide to the rest of the world".

According to the Minister, the medical devices industry will be at the forefront of bringing technology to India and "ensuring our rightful place in global trade for equipment and global engagement with hospitals internationally".

Besides, Goyal pointed out that the pharmaceutical industry persevered to ensure an ad-



Medical devices industry will be at forefront of bringing tech to India

equate supply of medicines for India and the world. "The medical devices industry laboured and helped us indigenously prepare products required to fight Covid-19," he said in the statement. Our doctors, paramedics and medical fraternity have made the nation proud by serving the common man relentlessly through their commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of India. (PTI)

'India among few bright spots in world economy'

JK Paper Chairman says Indian economy will recover much faster than others

New Delhi: India is expected to be one of the few bright spots in the world economy as countries battle the coronavirus pandemic, according to JK Paper Chairman Bharat Hari Singhania.

The pandemic has arrived at a time when the Indian economy was already experiencing a growth slowdown, as reflected in lower discretionary spending over the last 12 months, Singhania said in his address to shareholders in the company's annual report for 2019-20.

He said in almost 170 countries, people are likely to face a decline in average income over the previous year as well.

"The complete lockdown in India is one of the most stringent, for around 70 days, where almost two-thirds of all economic activity came to a grinding halt. While the



In almost 170 countries, people are likely to face a decline in average income over the previous year as well

- Bharat Hari Singhania, Chairman, JK Paper

advanced countries are set to experience prolonged pains, India is expected to be one of the few bright spots in the world economy, sustaining positive growth at 4.2 per cent for 2019-20," Singhania said. For the country, he said, "unfortunately, the Covid-19 pan-

Markets plunge amid selloff in global mkts

Mumbai: Domestic equity benchmark Sensex plunged 394 points on Thursday, tracking a massive selloff in global markets after US Fed's gloomy economic outlook spooked investors across the world. The BSE Sensex ended 394.40 points or 1.02 per cent lower at 38,220.39. The broader NSE Nifty slumped 96.20 points or 0.84 per cent to 11,312.20.

HDFC was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding over 2 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, M&M, Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank and Titan. On the other hand, NTPC, ONGC, PowerGrid and Tata Steel were the gainers.

The Indian market opened on a negative note following subdued Asian markets which were impacted by the US Federal Reserve's cautious view of the economy, US-China tensions and new



Sensex tanks 394 pts; Nifty ends below 11,350

uity Research (Fundamental), Anand Rath. The Fed's minutes showed again that policymakers are finding it difficult to forecast the path of the economy, which will depend greatly on what happens with the coronavirus.

During the afternoon session markets briefly attempted to bounce back from day's lows but the strength failed to sustain as profit booking by traders was seen, he said.

Gold falls ₹1,492

New Delhi: Gold prices plunged by Rs 1,492 to Rs 52,819 per 10 grams on Thursday in the national capital in line with sell-off in international prices of the precious metal, according to HDFC Securities. The precious yellow metal had closed at Rs 54,311 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also witnessed weak trend as it tanked Rs 1,476 to Rs 67,924 per kg, from Rs 69,400 per kg in the previous day. In the international market, gold was trading lower at \$1,927 per ounce and silver was quoting marginally higher at \$26.71 per ounce. "Gold prices continued downtrend on Thursday with stronger dollar post US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) minutes," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said. As per the FOMC minutes, the committee members have expressed concern over the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on economic growth.



Axis Bank plans to hire 1,000 people

Hyderabad: Axis Bank has plans to employ nearly 1,000 people under its new hiring initiative 'Gig-a-Opportunities', a model devised to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely, from anywhere in the country.

This hiring model comprises two working patterns, first is full-time permanent job and the second is based on the duration of a project.

S Ramadurai, Chairman, Axis Bank Foundation, said: "Gig-a-Opportunities is a great platform which clearly is the direction of Future of Work. Axis Bank taking the lead is very welcome. The option to work from home and flexibility to define one's capabilities will unearth a lot of hidden talent for the future including gender balance and inclusivity".

This platform will make it possible to 'work from anywhere', while ensuring flexibility and ease of operations for skilled specialists.

Indian biz leaders say upskilling key challenge

New Delhi: As the pandemic pushes organisations to invest more in securing their data, nearly one in two business leaders in India think that upskilling workforce has emerged as the biggest challenge faced by their IT security teams, a new Microsoft survey has revealed.

Among business leaders in India, 62 per cent indicated that security challenges have changed due to the pandemic while 43 per cent said they are prioritising investments in cloud security through the calendar year.

Investments towards data and information security was another important area with 37 per cent voting for it as a priority, according to the Microsoft survey of 800 business leaders with more than 500 employees across markets in India, Germany, the UK and the US.

The pandemic had direct implications on cybersecurity budgets and staffing, with 33 per cent business leaders in India reporting a 25 per cent

Pandemic has direct implications on cybersecurity budgets: Microsoft survey



budget increase for security.

More than half (54 per cent) of the leaders in the country said that they would hire additional security professionals in their security team.

"A vast majority (70 per cent) of leaders in India stated that they plan to speed up deployment of Zero Trust capabilities to reduce risk exposure," the findings showed.

Globally, 90 per cent of businesses have been impacted by phishing attacks with 28 per cent admitted to being successfully phished.

Notably successful phishing attacks were reported in significantly higher numbers from organizations that described their resources as mostly on-premise (36 per cent) as opposed to being more cloud-

based. In response to Covid-19, more than 80 per cent of companies added security jobs. While 58 per cent of companies reported an increase in security budgets globally, 65 per cent reported an increase in compliance budgets.

"The shift to remote work is fundamentally changing security architecture," said the survey.

"While 51 per cent of business leaders are speeding up deployment of Zero Trust capabilities, 94 per cent of companies report that they are in the process of deploying new Zero Trust capabilities," it added.

Among the key insights are data showing that an alarming number of businesses are still impacted by phishing scams, security budgets, and hiring increased in response to Covid-19, "and cloud-based technologies and architectures like Zero Trust are significant areas of investment moving forward," said Andrew Conway General Manager, Microsoft Security.

Centre plans to sell some stake in IRCTC

Invites bids from merchant bankers for managing the sale process

New Delhi: The Centre government plans to sell part of its stake in Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp (IRCTC) in the current fiscal, and has invited bids from merchant bankers for managing the sale process.

"The GoI intends to disinvest a part of the paid up equity capital of IRCTC out of its shareholding through 'Offer for Sale (OFS)' method of shares by promoters through the stock exchanges' as per Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Rules and Regulations," said the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) while inviting Request for Proposal (RFP).

The merchant bankers will have to submit their bids by September 10. The government currently holds 87.40 per cent stake in IRCTC. To meet Sebi's public holding norm, the government has to lower its stake in the company to 75 per cent. Shares of



IRCTC closed at Rs 1,346.65 apiece on the BSE, down 1.20 per cent over its previous close.

IRCTC, the only entity authorised by Indian Railways to provide catering services to railways, online railway tickets and packaged drinking water at railway stations and trains in India, was on the stock exchanges in October 2019. The company had raised Rs 645 crore through the IPO.

IRCTC OFS will help the government inch forward in meeting the Rs 2.10 trillion disinvestment target. Of this, Rs 1.20 trillion will come from disinvestment of public sector undertakings and another Rs 90,000 crore from stake sale in financial institutions.

Urban sprawl takes toll on water bodies in Warangal



ADEPU MAHENDER

Warangal: The spread of urban sprawl had so far gobbled up 52 of the 247 water bodies in the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) spread across 407.6 square kilometres. A satellite imagery of yester-years makes it evident that rapid increase in urban settlements has taken toll on Warangal's water bodies.

The weeklong downpour that battered the city yet again exposed chinks in the civic infrastructure especially in dealing with the flood situation. When multiple weather conditions triggered torrential rains, the urban local body was left with



Nala water flowing in Bokkalagadda in Hanamkonda

52 water bodies go missing

no option to mitigate the devastation caused by the floods. Although the administration is in a hurry to remove 400 odd encroachments on four major nallahs (storm-water drains) in the city, how far the move succeeds in arresting the floods remains to be seen, especially against the backdrop of 52 disappeared water bodies.

The imagery of Telangana State Remote Sensing Applications Centre gives ample evidence that over the years the urban sprawl had already eaten into local water bodies.

Speaking to The Hans India,

NIT Warangal Retired Prof M Panduranga Rao said, "With lakes and water bodies making way for human settlements, it drastically affected urban storm-water management. As a result, the drainage systems are unable to cope with the increased volume of water whenever there was a downpour. The water bodies are not only a traditional source of water but also traditional harvesting devices." Explaining about the major stormwater drains in the city, he said that overflowing waters from Waddepally tank used to fill several water bodies

on their way. "As many as five water bodies downstream Waddepally tank were now missing. The phenomenon is the same with Bondivagu (stream). Converting Bhadrakali into summer storage tank, the authorities constructed a channel besides foreshore bund of Bhadrakali tank to let out stormwater flowing in from Bondivagu. But the channel was narrow and moreover it has no buffer zone on either side," he said. The need of the hour is to conduct a hydrological survey to develop storm-water drains, Rao said. He also stressed the need for constructing an underground drainage system in the city.

Rajiv Gandhi was architect of IT revolution in India, says Uttam



TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy offering floral tributes to Rajiv Gandhi's portrait at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana Congress leaders paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 76th birth anniversary on Thursday. TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with other senior leaders Bhatti Vikramarka, K Jana Reddy, V Hanumantha Rao and Ponnala Lakshmaiah, MLA Jagga Reddy, A Sampath Kumar, M Anjan Kumar and others garlanded Rajiv Gandhi's statue at Somajiguda and also paid floral tributes to his portrait at Gandhi Bhavan.

Speaking on the occasion, Uttam Kumar Reddy said that Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister at the age of 40 years in very difficult circumstances and left an indelible impression of his regime through a unique style of administration. He reminded that it was Rajiv Gandhi who empowered the youth by granting them voting

- Congress leaders pay rich tributes to the former Prime Minister on his 76th birth anniversary
- Rajiv Gandhi championed the cause of Panchayati Raj system
- BJP govt distorting history to downplay contribution of Gandhi-Nehru family, says the PCC chief, Uttam Kumar Reddy

rights at 18 years of age so as to involve them in the nation building exercise.

He also promoted science and technology at a large scale and inculcated scientific temper among all citizens. He introduced large scale reforms to boost the technological industry by reducing taxes, encouraged modernisation of industries and promoted higher foreign investments in the economy. He was the architect of digital India and father of Information Technology and Telecom revolution in India'.

Uttam also recalled that Rajiv Gandhi championed the cause of Panchayati Raj system through the 72nd Constitutional Amendment. He believed in moral-based politics and therefore, introduced the Anti-Defection Law. The TPCC Chief said that Gandhi-Nehru family gave many sacrifices for the country and laid their lives for the integrity of the nation. However, he alleged that the BJP government at the Centre has been trying to distort history to undermine their contribution in the development of a modern India.

CITU stages dharna at GHMC office

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Following a week after High Court's order in favour of outsourced employees, the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) staged dharna at GHMC office questioning the delay in implementation on Thursday.

Led by CITU State President, J Venkatesh the Union leaders who have been demanding regularisation held that the Court's decision should at least now be implemented and should not be further delayed. "A total of 36,000 employees throughout all Municipalities and Corporations are engaged for years. In GHMC alone 28,000 are working under Contract, Outsourcing, NMR-Fixed pay are doing their jobs in different wings and we demand that those who are longstanding and engaged in similar work to that of regular employees should be regularised. Not regularising these employees amounts to violation of Arti-



CITU holding dharna at GHMC office demanding implementation of recent High Court order of regularising staff on Thursday

cle 14, 16 and 21 of constitution," he said.

The Union leader also cited Supreme Court order of October, 2016 which emphasised "equal work-equal pay". "Devoid of Court's decision, the State government has failed to implement GOs and PRCs and failed in providing their

due to the employees," he added.

VV Mangapathi, working president, S Rama, women's wing State convenor, Paladugu Bhaskar, State Secretary, E Anjaiah, C Mallesh, Shravan Kumar, S Srinivas, M Chandramohan and others took part in demonstration.

Tentative TS ECET-2020 exam on August 31

Hyderabad: Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTU-H), registrar and convener TS ECET-2020 M Manzoor Hussain said that tentatively the TS ECET-2020 is scheduled to be held on August 31.

He said on Thursday that the computer-based test through the online mode will be held in two sessions. Arrangements for conducting the entrance test have been made providing necessary facilities to the candidates to follow Covid-19 guidelines.

He said that the TS ECET-2020 will be held in 56 test centres, out of which 52 test centres are in Telangana and four test centres in Andhra Pradesh. Training and awareness programmes will be conducted in online mode for the rural area candidates appearing for the test. Mock tests have been made available on the website for the candidates for practising to get acquainted with the CBT examination. He asked the candidates to download the hall ticket afresh from August 25 as the candidates will have to present the new hall tickets.

BJP wants MLA Saidi Reddy to apologise for tweet about Guv

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Condemning his remarks about Governor Tamilisai Soundarya Rajan, State BJP has demanded apology from Huzurnagar TRS MLA Shanampudi Saidi Reddy on Thursday.

In a statement, Telangana BJP chief spokesperson K Krishna Saagar Rao said that the TRS MLA's comments are irresponsible and disrespectful to the constitutional head of the State and are lowering the dignity of the office of the State Governor.

"Saidi Reddy seems to be illiterate, who doesn't know that State Governor is also the head of the State Executive to whom, Chief Minister and the Council of Minister's report. In his capacity as a TRS MLA, "he has actually abused his own government," he said.

Rao said that the Governor had only highlighted serious lapses by the state administration in

The TRS MLA's comments are irresponsible and disrespectful to the constitutional head of the State and are lowering the dignity of the office of the State Governor, says TS BJP spokesperson Krishna Sagar Rao



dealing with Covid-19 situation in the State and advised for a course correction. She had neither used any harsh words of criticism nor made any statement against Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao or anyone in particular in the administration.

That apart, Dr Tamilisai had also clarified that she was speaking in public, only after months of consistent written advice to the government, which was not acted upon.

The TRS leader should be

ashamed of his statement for trying to attribute political affiliation to the State Governor. "BJP demands a written public apology from MLA Saidi Reddy to the State Governor withdrawing his irresponsible statement," Rao said.

Rao also demanded CM KCR, as the head of the State government and KTR as TRS party working president to publicly reprimand their party MLA and warn him not to repeat this crass behaviour.

COVID-19 NORMS

No arrangements for Ganesh Chaturthi, Muharram 'Maatam'

Hyderabad: Government on Thursday announced that it cannot make the arrangements for Ganesh Chaturthi and Muharram festivals because of the Covid guidelines and called upon the people to celebrate the festival at their homes.

The Endowments Minister A Indrakaran Reddy said that there is a country-wide ban on the programmes which make people to congregate at one place in the wake of coronavirus. As per the Covid guidelines issued by the Centre, the State government has closed places like cinema halls, function halls, bars, pubs, clubs where large number of people gather. The schools, colleges and playgrounds have also not been opened. As it is important to save the lives of the people, all the programmes which have any

scope for people to gather are controlled, said the Minister.

Reddy further said that the Centre had issued guidelines asking the States not to allow festivals with mass gathering, hence, people have been bound to celebrate festivals within their houses, since March 16. People have celebrated festivals like Ugadi, Sri Ramanavami, Good Friday, Ramzan, Bonalu, Bakrid and others at their home. The Independence Day and State formation Day was also celebrated without fanfare. "I request people to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi and Muharram 'Maatam' in their houses. Because of Covid rules, arrangements for mass processions and immersions cannot be made. Hence people should celebrate these festivals at their homes," urged Indrakaran Reddy.

New seating plan for Assembly to maintain social distancing

- The monsoon session of the House will start from September 7
- Speaker P Srinivas Reddy asks officials to take steps to avoid spread of Covid
- Visitors may not be allowed in the visitors' gallery

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The seating arrangements in the State Assembly and Council would be made in such a way that one member will be sitting on a single seat for maintaining social distancing in wake of Covid pandemic.

The monsoon session of the Telangana Legislature would be



starting from September 7 and the House is likely to be in session for at least 20 days. The Council Chairman G Sukhender Reddy, Assembly Speaker P Srinivas Reddy and Legislative Affairs Minister V Prashanth Reddy on Thursday discussed on seating arrangements to be made as per the Covid norms.

According to sources, the government wanted all the members to attend the Assembly and Council and seating arrangements would be made as per the requirement. Sources said that 40 additional seats would be arranged in the Assembly Hall. There was also a proposal whether the members should be



asked to come on alternate days but it was decided to ensure arrangements are made as per the total strength of members. The Telangana Assembly has 120 members including the lone nominated member. The Assembly is the same which was used during the undivided Andhra Pradesh and the

strength during that time was 294.

Speaker P Srinivas Reddy asked the officials to take steps like all precautions taken to avoid spread of Corona and also ensure members actively participate in the session. The officials were asked to complete all the formalities by September 1. Sources said that the visitors may not be allowed in the visitors' gallery and is likely to be used by the media persons as physical distancing needs to be followed.

The officials showed the equipment used like thermal screening and others at the entrance and also in the inner lobbies to the Legislative Affairs Minister. The minister later visited the media gallery in the Assembly and Council hall and asked the officials to ensure physical distancing is maintained even in the press gallery.

Online mode of education faces many hurdles, reveals study

VRC PHANIHARAN

Hyderabad: A Covid-19 Response Took Kit for Indian Higher Education Institutions by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and OP Jindal Global University (OPJGU) exposes several gaps in the current state of transition to the online mode of education.

It may be mentioned here that the report comes close on the heels of a 15-year-old schoolgirl committing suicide in the Chamarajnagar of Karnataka reportedly for not able to afford a smartphone to attend online classes.

The report stresses on the greater sensitivity among the policymakers like Education departments, universities and colleges making policies

and rolling out online education as an alternate model during the current COVID crisis from the point of the digital divide.

Analysing the Student Enrolment Landscape Analysis (SELA) and the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in the Indian Higher Education Landscape, it said that the current GER in the IHEL stands at 26.3 per cent.

Of this, 10.62 per cent are enrollments in the Distance Education Model (DEM).

The AIU and OPJGU identify that the majority of students base affected are enrollments in the non-distance format of education. Particularly, 79.8 per cent are undergraduate students. Besides, of the total UGS, the majority of them are enrolled in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (35.9 per

- AIU, OPJGU report stresses on showing greater sensitivity on digital divide
- Digital divide a hurdle for a transition to the online mode of education
- 79.8 per cent affected are the undergraduate students
- Geographical locations may pose a high-risk transmission
- HEIs facing pedagogical restrictions in teaching and learning process

cent), Science (16.5 per cent). Followed by 13.5 per cent are from engineering and technology and 14.1 per cent enrolled in the commerce courses. Only less than 0.5 per cent are the students of research degrees like PhD.

Based on this, it asked the policy planners, universities and colleges to make critical focus in planning academic continuity. Further, more than

50 per cent of the total students enrolled under the UGS is from "scheduled caste/tribe, OBC and minority communities." In turn, this makes a large number of students represented by these communities may potentially be more vulnerable to additional disadvantages in continuing their education during these pressing times.

That apart, as nearly 394 universities and 60.53 per cent of colleges are

located in rural areas makes it further difficult to switch over to the online mode due to insufficient technology infrastructure. This makes it not easy for every higher education landscape to operate synchronous online classes. Higher education also faces pedagogical restrictions and it may not be possible to implement effectively through an online format. It needs innovation in teaching and learning methodologies, as well as, investment in technology-based platforms, it stressed.

The report cautioned that higher concentration of students and faculties on campuses. The residential campuses and non-residential students commuting every day might be a potential risk factor, as the spread of the virus is very high.

For example, the top 8 states for the highest number of colleges are Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

Of these, "Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat are also among the states with the most number of COVID-19 cases as on date."

Hence, it stresses to factor before planning to reopen the campuses physically the geographical areas, where the HEIs are located and are prone to high risk of transmission. Course classification ad customization, student analysis, Delivery Methodology Identification (DMI) and content customization are among the other areas that the report has made its findings.

IPL 13

DON'T YOU DARE BREAK COVID-19 PROTOCOLS, BCCI WARN PLAYERS

New Delhi (IANS): The coronavirus cases in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are increasing rapidly -- according to the latest report -- making the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) a little worried about the cricketers, who are reaching the gulf nation for this year's IPL.

The UAE is scheduled to host the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League from September 19 and two teams -- Kings XI Punjab and Rajasthan Royals -- have already reached Dubai. Other teams will also be reaching in a couple of days.

A senior BCCI official told IANS that all the players and IPL team owners have been told to take care of themselves. "Strict instructions have been given to all the players, coaching staff, owners and other members. We don't want that because of someone's mistake, others get infected and suffer," the official said.

"UAE will provide all the help needed regarding safety of players (medical or other). The teams' owners have also been asked not to roam here and there freely because coronavirus cases are no less in that nation.

After so many delays, the IPL is going to happen and everybody will have to respect it and be more responsible," he said.

Last month, England fast



bowler Jofra Archer was dropped from the playing XI for the second Test against West Indies after it was learned that he had broken the team's

bio-secure protocol.

The IPL 13 will be played across three venues in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah till November 10.

Glad to see IPL return as lot of livelihoods depends on it: Azhar

New Delhi (IANS): As IPL teams have started to leave for the UAE, former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin on Thursday expressed his happiness on the Indian Premier League T20 carnival returning nevertheless in the Gulf nation.

Kings XI Punjab and Rajasthan Royals have already reached Dubai. The 2020 edition will kick-start from September 19.

Azharuddin felt that it is high time that BCCI's franchise league resumes as livelihoods of many depend on it. He also expressed gratitude towards the UAE for hosting the lucrative T20 league.

"I think it's good that IPL is going to start as we have seen multiple series taking place in England already with proper



precautions. We should be thankful to the UAE government and their cricket board for inviting IPL as a lot of livelihoods depends on IPL taking place," Azharuddin told IANS.

With MS Dhoni calling it quits after a glittering career of over 15 years in international cricket, many are expecting this edition to be the last for the 39-year-old. However, Azharuddin felt fans need not to worry about him quit-

ting cricket all together.

"Retiring from international cricket and retiring from IPL are two different things. Dhoni may play IPL longer than we are assuming, so I don't think we have to worry about Dhoni's retirement as far as IPL is concerned," the 57-year-old former batsman reasoned.

The former cricketer also took the opportunity to pay tribute to Dhoni for a remarkable career.

"Now when he is retiring from international cricket, I will like to congratulate him on having a superb career. No doubt he has done a lot for the country, all records and statistics are there to confirm that. All the major tournaments he has won will be remembered forever.



Hyderabad FC, Borussia Dortmund launch new club partnership

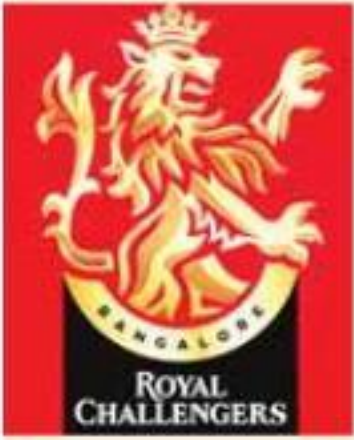
Hyderabad: German football giants Borussia Dortmund (BVB) and Indian Super League Club Hyderabad FC (HFC) launched today a new two-year club partnership with an option to extend for additional years with an extended scope until 2025.

BVB will focus on building and supporting HFC on its academy structure as well as guiding HFC's coaches on coaching education. The partnership will also include BVB's expertise in technology to drive innovation; enhance connectivity between the clubs, and positively grow and expand its fan base.

In addition to providing excellent brand visibility and raising each of the club's profile among football fans around the Indian sub-continent, the partnership is particularly good news for football supporters in India, as it shows a long-term commitment of one of the biggest German football brands to the Indian football ecosystem.

Carsten Cramer, Managing Director of Borussia Dortmund said, "I am delighted to announce this partnership with HFC, which comes at a quite challenging time for all of us during this Covid-19 pandemic, as this partnership shows that sports and particularly football can unite people from all over the world and I'm grateful for the trust that the board of HFC has in us."

RCB all set for unique show with health top of agenda



Bengaluru (IANS): Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) will kick off this season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in a highly safe, bio-secure environment while fostering a bubble ecosystem that will ensure the psychological, physical and emotional well-being of the squad, a statement from the franchise said on Thursday.

RCB have strengthened the sup-

port-staff for this season by re-cruiting sports psychologist Chaitanya Sridhar and specialist team-doctor in Charles Minz.

From a safety perspective, the RCB team has put together very stringent guidelines which are in adherence to the health and safety protocols issued by BCCI. This is to ensure highest levels of safety for the players and staff, the statement

added. These guidelines include testing for COVID-19 at three levels and an advance quarantine of Indian players before they take off for Dubai. The team there will be undergoing six-day isolation and three COVID-19 tests again before entering a bio bubble. To secure the bubble further, a whole wing is blocked at Waldorf Astoria Dubai Palm exclusively for the team.

Dedicated facilities like gym, team room, lift, separate AC duct and a restaurant will be permanently reserved for exclusive use of the team.

RCB team will reach Dubai on August 21 and start a three-week camp with Indian and international players in collaboration with Mike Hesson and Simon Katich from August 29 onwards.



Sportsmen crave appreciation: Dhoni on PM's letter

New Delhi: Mahendra Singh Dhoni reacts to PM Narendra Modi's letter to him thanking him for his contribution to cricket. Dhoni tweeted, "An Artist, Soldier and Sportsperson what they crave for is appreciation, that their hard work and sacrifice is getting noticed and appreciated by everyone. Thanks PM @narendramodi for your appreciation and good wishes."

Earlier, The PM in his letter wrote, "In your trademark unassuming style you shared a video that was enough to become a passionate discussion point for entire nation. 130 crore Indians

were disappointed but also eternally grateful for all that you have done for Indian cricket."

On August 15, the former India captain announced his retirement from international cricket.

"Thanks. Thanks a lot for ur love and support throughout. From 1929 hrs consider me as Retired," he said in a video post on Instagram.

Dhoni is regarded as one of India's most successful captains, having led the country to two World Cup titles -- the World T20 in 2007 and the ODI World Cup in 2011.

ISL: Chennaiyin FC confirm participation of Thapa, nine other Indian players

Chennai (IANS): Two-time ISL champions Chennaiyin FC have confirmed the participation of star mid-fielder Anirudh Thapa and nine other Indian players for the upcoming season of the Indian Super League.

ISL 2017-18 winner Thapa, who joined the club as an 18-year-old in 2016, is currently on a multi-year contract and is set for a fifth campaign and beyond in Chennaiyin blue.

Winner of the 2018 AIFF Men's Emerging Player of the Year award, Thapa is joined by compatriots Thoi Singh, Dhanpal Ganesh, Sinivasan Pandiyan, Edwin Sydney Vanspaul, Vishal Kaith, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Deepak Tangri and Rahim Ali for the 2020-21 campaign as they all have existing contracts. Versatile mid-fielder Abhijit Sarkar is also set to return to the CFC ranks after a successful loan spell at East Bengal in the I-League last season. Chennaiyin FC co-owner Vita Dani said, "We are delighted to have the core of our squad continuing with us. Our commitment is to build on the previous campaign in the strongest fashion.

"And the presence of our key Indian players, including the likes of Thapa, will go a long way in achieving that. It has been particularly pleasing to see Thapa's rise in stature for both



club and country, that too at such a young age.

"He has gone from strength to strength since joining us four years back as a teenager and has now firmly established himself as an integral part of the first-team setup," he added.

With 68 appearances for CFC in all competitions already, Thapa is looking forward to the new season. "All of us at CFC are hungrier than ever to win silverware again. But for that, we need to work incredibly hard and be prepared for the new season. We need to retain the mentality that took us to the final last season."

"I can't wait to get back on the

ball and begin training with my teammates," said the 24-time capped India international Thapa, who is also the ISL's youngest goalscorer in play-off matches after having netted in the 2017-18 semis against FC Goa, aged 20.

ISL has officially confirmed that the 2020-21 campaign will be held in Goa with Chennaiyin to play their nine home games at the GMC Athletic Stadium, Bambolim.

They will be sharing the venue with Mumbai City FC, Kerala Blasters FC, and Odisha FC, meaning the three away games against these opponents will also be played there.



Bayern beat Lyon to reach Champions League final

Lisbon (IANS): Bayern Munich defeated Olympique Lyonnais 3-0 to secure a place in the UEFA Champions League 2020 final.

Having beaten Barcelona 8-2 in the quarterfinal, Bayern on Wednesday arrived into the semi-final as heavy favourites and did not disappoint, though Lyon made life difficult for them in the opening stages, reports Xinhua news agency.

The French side started the game well, filling the spaces and not allowing Bayern midfielders Thiago Alcantara and Leon Goretzka time and space on the ball.

Lyon even hit the post in the 16th minute, with striker Memphis Depay wasting what might have been the first goal of the game. Lyon were made to pay for Depay's profligacy immediately afterwards as Serge Gnabry received a long throw from Joshua

Kimmich and dribbled past three opponents before rifling an unstoppable shot past Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes.

Bayern doubled their lead shortly afterwards when Ivan Perisic drilled a cross into the box, and although Robert Lewandowski's effort hit Lopes, Gnabry was on hand to tap home the rebound to make it 2-0 after 32 minutes.

Lyon coach Rudi Garcia rang the changes at half-time, but his side was unable to overcome Bayern's dominance, and Lewandowski made sure of the result in the dying minutes when he headed home Benjamin Pavard's cross.

Bayern will now face French champions Paris Saint-Germain in Sunday's final, when the German side will be looking to win their sixth European Cup title.

ENG vs PAK 3RD TEST

We're ready to end series on a high: Pope

Southampton (IANS): England batsman Ollie Pope has said the team is gung-ho about ending the ongoing rain-marred Test series against Pakistan with a win in the third Test which begins Friday at the Ageas Bowl.

"The third Test looks likely to be our last Test this year so there's extra motivation to put another win on the board, especially after losing so much time to bad light and rain in the last game," Pope said in his blog for Sky Sports.

England lead the series 1-0 after their dramatic win in the first Test and the rain-hit second Test which ended in a pale draw.

"Our Old Trafford victory feels an age away after the frustrations of the last week.

"Thankfully our hotel here at the Ageas Bowl is just across the ground from the changing rooms so when the weather did interrupt play we were able to go back to our rooms and switch off.

"My darts are definitely better than they were at the start of the series but I'm still not peppering that triple 20 as much as Woakesy (Chris Woakes) or Jimmy (James Anderson)," said Pope.

"The players are 100 per cent keen to support any idea that helps us play as much cricket as possible when conditions are bearable, so there's plenty to discuss.

The light has been an issue and Pope said he does not feel that batting in bad light against the Dukes ball is a biggest challenge.

"I don't regard batting in bad light against the Dukes ball as the biggest challenge in the game because of the white sight screen, although it does make facing bowling -- that is consistently above 90mph -- more difficult.

"Rather, I find it a little bit harder in the field to pick up the ball - for example if you're standing at backward point and the ball is slashed at you. Every now and again you just lose the ball completely.

While the hosts are on the verge of completing another series victory in the home summer, Pakistan, who haven't lost a series in the country since the end of 2010, will look to maintain their record. England are placed third behind

India and Australia with 279 points in the ICC World Test Championship points table and a win in the final Test will take them past Australia into second position.

On the other hand, Pakistan are placed at the fifth spot with 153 points. A win will take them above New Zealand to fourth, but they will still be far for third-placed England.

England: Joe Root (C), James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Dominic Bess, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Ollie Pope, Dom Sibley, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood, James Bracey, Ben Foakes, Jack Leach
Pakistan: Azhar Ali (C), Babar



Azam, Abid Ali, Asad Shafiq, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Imam ul-Haq, Imran Khan, Kashif Bhatti, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood, Sohail Khan, Usman Shinwari, Wahab Riaz, Yasir Shah.

‘Sudeva to field all-Indian team in I-League 2020-21’

Kolkata (IANS): New entrants Sudeva will be fielding an "all Indian XI" in the forthcoming I-League 2020-21, club president Anuj Gupta has confirmed.

In the chat with AIFF TV which will be aired on Friday on AIFF social media handles at 5.30pm, Gupta confirmed he is "not looking at foreign options" and wants to combine a team of his academy graduates and experienced Indian players.

"Everyone knows how hard Indian players are working in the pre-season. So as a matter of policy this year I've decided to field an entirely Indian team. I will not appoint any foreign player this year," Gupta said.

"I want to have a team with

both young and mature players. It's not that I will be playing with just young players; I will also have at least 6 to 8 experienced Indian players who can create a nice atmosphere for the youngsters. I want to grow the team as a big family, both on and off the field. Let's hope Sudeva will be able to do justice to being in I-League in its maiden season," Gupta opined.

The show also featured Chairman of the Sreenidhi Group Dr. KT Mahi and League CEO Sunando Dhar.

While Sudeva will be featuring in the I-League 2020-21, Sreenidhi will be competing in the I-League from 2021-22 onwards from Visakhapatnam.