



WINDOWS



Goddess Kanakadurga will appear in the form of Sri Lalita Tripura Sundari Devi atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Thursday, the sixth day of Navaratri festivities

Modi lauds police forces

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday paid homage to police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty and said police personnel always give their best without hesitation. In his message on Police Commemoration Day, Modi said from preserving law and order to solving horrendous crimes, from assistance in disaster management to fighting Covid-19, police personnel always give their best without hesitation. "We are proud of their diligence and readiness to assist citizens," he tweeted. The prime minister added, "Police Commemoration Day is about expressing gratitude to our police personnel and their families all across India. We pay tributes to all the police personnel martyred in the line of duty. Their sacrifice and service would always be remembered."

Sanjay Dutt beats cancer

BOLLYWOOD star Sanjay Dutt on Wednesday announced that he has come out "victorious" from his cancer battle and thanked fans and well-wishers for their unwavering support in this journey. The 61-year-old actor shared the news in a statement on Twitter on the occasion of his children's birthday, Shaahran and Iqra who turned 10 on Wednesday. "The last few weeks were very difficult time for my family and me. But like they say, God gives the hardest battles to his strongest soldiers. And today, on the occasion of my kids' birthday, I am happy to come out victorious from this battle and be able to give them the best gift I can. The health and well being of our family," Sanjay Dutt said.



Sindh Police rise in defiance against Army in Pakistan

AARTI TIKOO SINGH
New Delhi/Islamabad (IANS)

IN a major show of open defiance against Pakistan Army, police officers in Karachi have threatened to go on mass leave after the Sindh Police chief was allegedly kidnapped and coerced to act against PML(N) Vice President Marayam Nawaz Sharif.

Sources in Islamabad said that Pakistan is rapidly slipping into a civil war-like situation with the ongoing tussle between the opposition parties and the Army.

In Karachi in Sindh province, headed by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the Sindh Police in a major show of defiance against the Pakistan Army have threatened to go on leave after they were pressurised to arrest PML(N) Vice Presi-

dent Marayam Nawaz's husband Safdar Awan.

Sources said that Sindh IGP Mushtaq Mahar and at least two additional inspector generals, seven deputy inspector generals and six senior superintendents of Sindh Police on Tuesday applied for leave in order to "come out of the shock" caused by the "episode of registration of FIR against Capt (R) Safdar".

The Sindh Police on Monday had arrested Safdar Awan, the husband of Maryam Nawaz Sharif, and the son-in-law of exiled former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, from a hotel in Karachi.

The arrest came just hours after the PML(N) Vice President criticised Prime Minister Imran Khan's government at a massive rally of People's Democratic Movement (PDM) -- an alliance of 11 opposi-



Captain (retd) Safdar Awan, husband of Maryam Nawaz Sharif (right)

tion political parties which have joined hands to challenge the Imran Khan government backed by the Pakistan Army. He was later released on bail.

Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has ordered an in-

quiry into Safdar Awan's arrest after Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari questioned the Army and the ISI about the incident in a tweet.

Pakistani media quoted Bilawal alleging that the Sindh Police chief

was abducted by Pakistan Army and its intelligence wing for a few hours before Safdar Awan was arrested. Bilawal insinuated that Pakistan military had pressurised the Sindh Police to act against Safdar Awan.

The Dawn newspaper reported that a purported voice message by PML(N) leader and former Sindh Governor Muhammad Zubair was shared by a journalist in which Zubair alleged that the Sindh Inspector General of Police, Mushtaq Mahar, was kidnapped and forced to register an FIR against Maryam, her husband Safdar and 200 others for violating the sanctity of Quid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's mausoleum.

The leave applications submitted by Sindh Police officers to IGP Mahar said that it had become hard for them to "discharge duties in a

professional manner" due to the stress caused by Safdar's arrest.

"The recent episode of registration of FIR against Capt (R) Safdar in which the police high command has not only been ridiculed and mishandled, but all ranks of Sindh Police have been demoralised and shocked. In such stressful situation, it is quite difficult for me to discharge my duty in a professional manner," the letters read.

All the letters were identical. However, the tense situation in the province forced IGP Mahar to defer his own leave as he ordered his officers to set aside their leave applications for 10 days.

In a tweet, the Sindh police said the decision was taken "in the larger national interest" and pending the conclusion of the inquiry into how the arrest of PML(N) leader Safdar unfolded. IANS

Delhi air quality remains poor

NEW DELHI

DELHI'S pollution level worsened on Wednesday with the air quality index falling to 268 from 223 on the previous day but remained in the "poor" category, a government agency said.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi's air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 268 on Wednesday morning. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, stated the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution stood at 15 per cent on Wednesday. "It is forecasted that the air quality will remain in marginally Very Poor category tomorrow and in marginally Very Poor to higher end of poor for October 23. The SAFAR synergised stubble burning fire counts around Haryana, Punjab and neighbouring regions stand at 849 for



A Civil Defence volunteer holds a placard as he requests commuters to participate in the campaign 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off', launched by Delhi government to tackle air pollution, in New Delhi on Wednesday

yesterday (Tuesday). The SAFAR model estimate of stubble burning share in PM2.5 is 15 per cent for today," it said.

The city recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 223 on Tues-

day. It was 244 on Monday and 254 on Sunday. The farm fire count around Haryana, Punjab and nearby region across the International Border was 1017 on Monday, it said.

Continued on Page 5

₹3,737 cr festive bonus for 30.67L Central employees

NEW DELHI

THE government on Wednesday decided to give Rs 3,737 crore bonus to 30.67 lakh central government employees to encourage spending during the festival season and add to demand in the economy.

The decision to give a productivity-linked bonus and non-productivity-linked bonus for 2019-2020 was taken at the Union Cabinet meeting, Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar told reporters.

The bonus ahead of Vijayadashami and Diwali

will encourage the middle-class to go out and spend and thus add to the demand in the economy, he said.

The bonus will be disbursed in a week's time. "Payment of Bonus to non-gazetted employees for their performance in the preceding year is usually made before Durga Puja/Dussehra season.

The Government is announcing the Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) and ad hoc bonus for its non-gazetted employees to be disbursed immediately," a press release said.

The Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) for the year

2019-2020, having financial implications of Rs 2,791 crore, will benefit 16.97 lakh non-gazetted employees of commercial establishments like Railways, Posts, Defence, EPFO, ESIC, among others. Non-PLB or ad-hoc Bonus, which is given to non-gazetted central government employees, will benefit 13.70 lakh staff. It will cost the exchequer Rs 946 crore.

A total of 30.67 lakh employees would be benefited from the bonus announcement and the total financial implication will be Rs 3,737 crore, the release said. PTI

Telangana tanks face breach threat

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THOUGH there has been some respite from rains for the past two days in the city, the threat from 185 water bodies which have reached their full tank level (FTL) looms over the low-lying areas.

Musapet, Mansurabad and Bandlaguda tanks in the Hyderabad limits are on the verge of breach, while the bund of Fox Sagar had to be breached as the officials failed to open the valves of the crest gates.

Faced with inundation of low-lying areas, civic authorities made announcements since Wednesday morning asking the people to shift to safer places. They also took up meas-

ures to shift them to relief camps.

All the lakes and tanks, including Osman Sagar, Hussain Sagar and Himayat Sagar, have been found vulnerable. Three lakes - Appa Chervu, Gurram Chervu and Palle Chervu had breached and cracks are developed in the bunds of 50 other water bodies, which include Fox Sagar and Meerpet Chervu. According to the officials, out of 41,000 water bodies in the state, 200 are reported to have suffered damage.

Water levels in the big reservoirs -- Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar -- have reached the full tank level (FTL) of 1763 feet and 1790 feet, respectively. As the IMD predicted very heavy to heavy rains in the

next two days, officials said that the threat of breaching of the water bodies is imminent. Special teams have been deployed to monitor the status of water level and the existence of the water body structure in case the catchment areas receive heavy rains in the 24 hours. Additional 15 special teams have also been constituted to look after the safety of the tanks and lakes round the clock.

Officials said that all the tanks were brimming with huge inflows after the city received a record 30 cm of rainfall this week.

State Secretary to Irrigation Rajat Kumar said that repairs were taken up at all breached water bodies on a war footing.

Continued on Page 5

3 injured in AP temple landslide

HANS NES SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THREE persons sustained minor injuries due to a landslide atop Indrakeeladri, the abode of Goddess Kanaka Durga here on Wednesday.

The incessant rains during the last week caused the landslide, the officials said. They had even erected the warning boards alerting the people to be careful of the landslide. There would have been more casualties had the police not stopped the traffic in view of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to the temple to present silk robes to the presiding deity Kanaka Durga.

Huge boulders slipped



The scene of landslide on Indrakeeladri

onto the road in a landslide on the ghat road. A tinned roof shed was damaged and

three persons sustained minor injuries. It is reported that the three in-

jured persons include two sanitation workers of the temple. Continued on Page 5

Trump abruptly ends TV interview, says considering posting video early

ERIE (US)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Tuesday abruptly ended an interview with a US-based news channel and said he is considering releasing a video of it ahead of the broadcast time for the "sake of accuracy in reporting".

The 'CBS News 60 minutes' interview with Lesley Stahl was scheduled to be broadcast on Sunday. "I am pleased to inform you that, for the sake of accuracy in reporting, I am consider-



President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at Erie International Airport Tom Ridge Field at Erie in Pennsylvania on Tuesday

ing posting my interview with Lesley Stahl of 60 Minutes, PRIOR TO AIR-TIME! This will be done so that everybody can get a glimpse of what a FAKE and BIASED interview is all about," Trump said in a series of tweets on Tuesday afternoon. Soon thereafter, he left the White House for his election rally in Erie, Pennsylvania. "Everyone should compare this terrible Electoral Intrusion with the recent interviews of Sleepy Joe Biden!" said the President. PTI

Kamala Harris turns 56, Biden says will celebrate her next birthday at WH

ERIE (US)

DEMOCRATIC vice-presidential candidate Kamala Harris turned 56 on Tuesday, with the party's presidential nominee Joe Biden greeting her on the big day, saying they would celebrate her next birthday at the White House.

Biden took to Twitter to post a photograph showing their hands clasped together. "Happy Birthday, Kamala Harris. Next year, let's celebrate with some ice cream at the White House," tweeted Biden, who had in August

picked her as his running mate. If elected, she would be the first-ever woman vice president of the United States.

Biden will celebrate his 78th birthday next month. Harris in a tweet said her birthday wish is that everybody should go out and vote. "My birthday wish this year? For everyone to go vote," she said. October 20 also happens to be the birthday of her niece, Meena Harris.

"I couldn't let the day go by without wishing my niece, Meena, a happy birthday too!" she said.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton greeted Kamala Harris on her birthday. "In two weeks, we could call this birthday girl Madam Vice President," said Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential candidate as she asked people to go out and vote.

"Happy bday to @Kamala-Harris. Celebrate this big day by voting for the #Biden-Harris ticket and Democrats up and down the ballot," said Sabrina Singh, the Democratic vice-presidential nominee's spokesperson. "Happy birthday, @Kamala-Harris! Hope you're showered with love on your special day," tweeted former First Lady Michelle Obama. "The best way to celebrate Kamala is by making sure you're registered and have a plan to vote at http://iwillvote.com," she said. PTI

Womenia

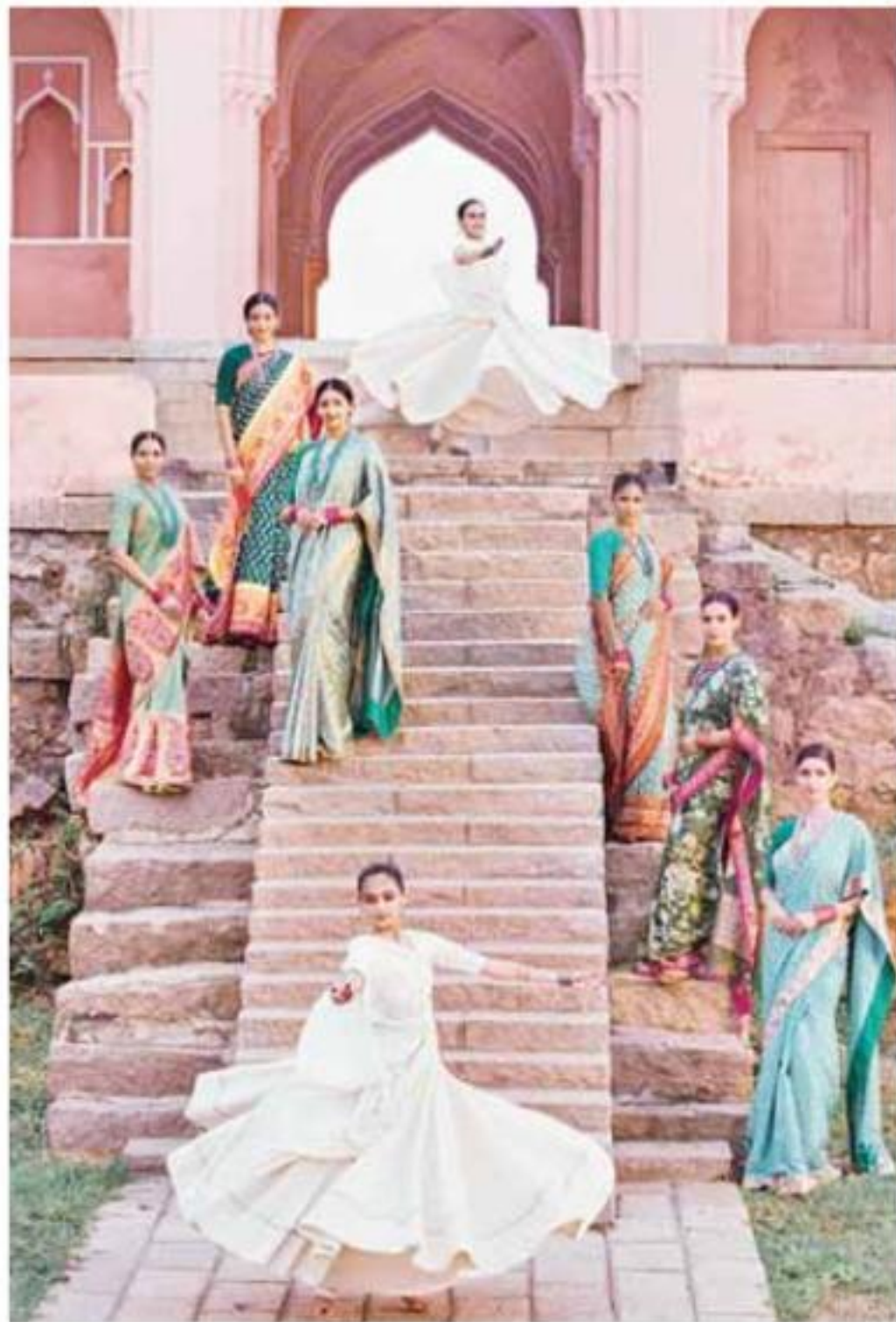
TWEET PATROL


MADHURI DIXIT NENE
@MADHURIDIXIT

Remembering the megastar #ShammiKapoor ji on his birth anniversary 🕒 He ruled Bollywood with his aura & will always be an inspiration for generations of actors & performers to come.



Gaurang's magical 'Taramati' collection



Gaurang presented 'Taramati', a virtual voyage to the exquisite handwoven sarees - An aura of the bygone from the legendary Golconda Courtesan's Era at the Virtual Lakme Fashion Week'20

A fashion presentation by National Award-Winning Textile and Fashion Designer, Gaurang Shah has always been a memorable event. At Lakmé Fashion Week 2020 Digital First Season Fluid Edition, Gaurang's 'Taramati' collection of 30 grand, heritage, and hand-woven sarees from the Golconda era was an enthralling experience.

Inspired by 'Taramati' an artisanal ode to the legendary courtesan who dazzled the Seventh Sultan of Golconda, Abdulla Qutub Shah, Gaurang showcased a treasure trove of saris, which brought the legend's romantic narrative to life with the extraordinary weavers' skills.

There was a masterful merging of complex designs created by master weavers and enhanced by surface embroidery in a rainbow of hues that moved melodiously from beige, wine, green, yellow, and then struck the high notes with rich purple and pink.

When it came to the traditional weaves of India from all corners of the country, Gaurang allowed his creativity boundless freedom. His design sensibilities brought

in a newfound accent for the intricate ikat, superb Kanchi, graceful Patan and then moved to reinvent the glory of Kota, gentle Up-pada, glorious Banarasi, stylish Kani, dramatic Venkatagiri and the timeless Paithani in the traditional complex jamdaani weave.

'Taramati' is an artisanal ode to the legendary courtesan of the Seventh Sultan of Golconda Abdulla Qutub Shah - The Ravishing Taramati. With an air of enigma, her melodious voice, carried by the gentle breeze from her Mahal, mesmerized the Sultan seated far away at the Golconda Fort.

This dreamy tale of love is an imperial voyage back to the nostalgic era of Hyderabad where dance and music were patronized in quiet evenings, by the rulers of dynasties, where Taramati and her sister Premamati had devoted their lives.

Revealing the idea behind Taramati Presentation for the Digital Lakme Fashion Week Gaurang said, "This collection is about India's glorious weaving heritage, 'Taramati' is a spectacular collage of unique captivating nostalgic romantic narratives through an ex-

traordinary artisanal interpretation of the finest hand-crafted textiles, with a reassurance that our vast living culture of textile crafts is still practised. Each Saree is an art, keeping these legends alive."

The cluster of saris in shades of green presented weaves from different states but it was the grand line up in all shades of red, maroon and wine that will delight the bride when she is trousseau shopping. For lovers of heritage weaves, crafts and Indian textiles, the 'Taramati' collection by Gaurang Shah will be the treasured, timeless possessions that will turn into heirlooms over the years.

Indulging in extremely complex designs woven by master weavers and skilfully ornamented embroideries by artisans in a myriad of vibrant colours ranging from elegant beige, wine, green, yellow to striking magenta, purple and hues of pinks.

Gaurang's "Taramati" a finely woven 30 luxurious Sarees takes you through an armchair virtual voyage of the vast handcrafted heritage of India in these times of strict social-distancing.

— *Womenia Desk*

Fashion trends for festive season

PUJA GUPTA

It's a time to pause, to relook, to rethink. This year festivities will not be like anything you've experienced in the past; we may miss meeting and celebrating with our loved ones but social media helps you bridge that distance.

Connect online and make the best use of technology to liven up your spirits and look your best to ensure you always remember

this festival as a memorable and unique one.

Here are some tips shared by Sreyashee Halder, VP Design, Brand W on how to choose relevant and appropriate fashion in these unprecedented times.

Make a conscious choice

Sustainability has made a special space for itself in fashion and in the future, it is going to be even more meaningful. The overall way we consume fashion, from our choice of material and fabrics that we wear, to the lives of people we touch in the process of creating and wear-



ing fashion, all go a long way in contributing to a sense of being conscious. Also creating a minimal wardrobe with interesting and unique pieces to mix n match gives you a variety of looks without investing in multiple pieces.

Forever green

Green - a colour that has gained huge popularity recently being a color that is automatically related to being eco-friendly is a must have color this festive. The color has become a trans seasonal tone as green has an automatic connection with nature, positivity and well-being and it is a color that connects with human emotions. From soft pistachio to mid tones like jade to rich emerald greens. One must not forget to pick up at least an outfit in this colour this season.

The bold & confident look

Look bold and feel confident this festive. Dress up for yourself and your loved ones around you. Leave behind stories of the past and immerse yourself with happiness and positivity and look forward to better times ahead.

Going back to the roots

As fashion evolves, we see the traditional kurta going shorter and are now being clubbed with voluminous bottoms. The traditional Indian fashion of "The salwar Kameez" makes a comeback. Flaunt your patialas, salwars, shararas and ghararas with above the knee short kurtas for that perfect festive ensemble.

The one perfect piece

This year as focus moves towards comfort, simplicity and minimalism, Festive dresses emerge as a winner being a single piece outfit that creates a season appropriate look yet is extremely convenient to wear. The Glam factor is enhanced when the dress is made in soft and lustrous velvet giving the wearer a royal and regal feel. No need to think about too much accessorizing, a dressy pair of earrings and embellished heels is all that is needed to complete the look.

Hairstyles to see you through festivities

ENJOY YOUR TIME WITH YOUR CLOSE ONES WITHOUT STRESSING ABOUT YOUR TRESSES

N LOTHUNGBENI HUMTSOE

It's Durga Puja time. It's the most awaited period of the year for many of us. And if you are among the ones who have been looking forward to the fun and frolic that Durga Puja brings along, you must already be prepping up for the celebrations.

Along with clothes and makeup, hairstyles are always important, we often forget that hair needs to be prepared and nourished to achieve that perfect look.

So there it is, tricks that will definitely help you look your fashionable best this festive season. These handy tips are worth a try for all the girls out there waiting for the celebrations to begin.

Start the festive season with a good haircut

To achieve a perfect hair look for the puja season, always go for a good haircut as it gives proper design and shape to your hair and helps to remove dry and rough ends. You can choose from haircuts like Neck-length Bob cut, Textured layered haircut,

Lob haircut depending upon your hair length and texture.

Pamper your hair with hair spa

To truly make your mane your crowning glory this puja season, pamper your hair with a deep conditioning or go for a good hair spa service. You can also try the olive hair spa from Streax Professional, that will make your hair soft, smooth, and nourished.

Be style ready with your hair

Prepare your hair a day before important days. Ensure your hair is clean and style-ready with best-suited shampoo and conditioner for up styling. For styling hair, it is best to wash your tresses one day before the event day to easily style them, without wasting much time on drying them. Also, on the second-day hair is easy to style.

Stand out with vibrant colour strands

Puja celebrations are the best time to recreate your look by popping up some of your preferred choice of hair colour. Try out trendy, vibrant hair hues like



pink, violet, blue and other shades from the same range. You also choose from a wide range of reds, browns and blondes to get that subtle look. You can also try the award-winning, Streax Professional funky colour vibrant range of blues, violets, greens & pinks for some styling to get a perfect look as hair colour always makes you look different.

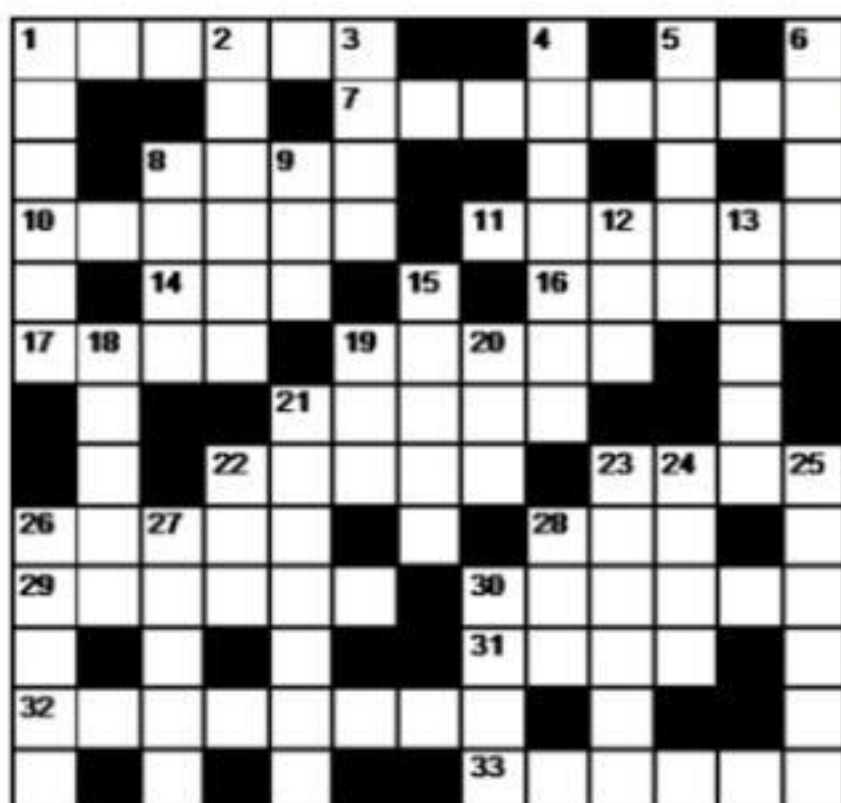
To hold the look use styling spray

Always use a styling spray to secure

the look and styling you gave to your hair and to ensure that styling stays in place for a longer time. Enjoy your time with your close ones without stressing about your tresses.

Adorn your hair with natural flowers

The best one to up-style your hair is just by embellishing with real flowers and securing it with your choice of hair accessories. These simple tricks will give that extra styling to your hair.



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 21

CROSSWORD

Across

- Largest US state (6)
- Right to vote (8)
- Oozy dirt (4)
- Snapshots (6)
- Countenance (6)
- Couch or cot (3)
- Spur spikes (5)
- Slide sideways (4)
- Rather fat (5)
- Cripples or mutilates or disables (5)
- Photo of pop-star perhaps (3-2)
- Purchases (4)
- Centre of activity (5)
- ___ one's heart out : grieve continuously ? (3)
- Just the same, although that is the case (4,2)
- Diacritic mark (6)
- Spurt (4)
- Disarrange (8)
- Dweller on the Red Sea (6)

Down

- Takes child as one's own (6)
- Fried lightly in hot oil (6)
- Inquires (4)
- States as a fact (7)
- Brightly coloured parrot (5)
- Gemstone (5)
- Mongolian desert (4)
- Large sea fish (3)
- Bribe (3)
- Nerdy (5)
- Hipbone (5)
- Russian ballet company (5)
- Vessel for frying (3)
- Ballpark figure (3)
- Faux pas (7)
- A play on words (3)
- Resinous balm (6)
- One of the USA (4)
- Buddhist enlightenment (6)
- Vendettas (5)
- Use a thurible (5)
- Big bird (3)
- Unightly (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 21



NEWS ROUNDUP

Mirzapur 2 casting made Amika Shail emotional

Singer-turned-actress Amika Shail plays a pivotal part in the upcoming web series, Mirzapur 2. She recalls being emotional when her casting in the show was confirmed.

"I became emotional when the news broke of my confirmation in 'Mirzapur'. I had watched season one in 2018 and thoroughly enjoyed it, just like the millions of fans the world over. However, being a part of the show is magical. My pulse went ticking when on my first day on the sets I saw Kaleen Bhaiyya (Pankaj Tripathi), Guddu (Ali Fazal) and Munna (Divyendu)," she said.

Amika plays a singer in the show. "The character of a singer came naturally to me, it was a dream come true. I loved working with the stellar cast and crew. I learned a lot watching Pankaj ji acting as he has a very raw way of doing things. His perspective as an artiste is amazing. I believe that the almighty has already planned a good Diwali for me this year!" she added.

She started her journey as a singer in the reality show "Little Champs" at the age of nine. She stepped into acting and appeared in television series like "Madam Sir", "Laal Ishq", "Abhay", "Balveer Returns", and "Udaan". The actress says that this year she has been fortunate to get ample opportunities. "My two shows and a movie are premiering within a month. 'Gandii Baat 5' (web series) has done well and now I am biting my nails as the release date of 'Mirzapur 2' inches closer. This will be followed by 'Laxmmi Bomb'. 'Mirzapur 2' is memorable for me as I essay the character of a singer in the series, who is kidnapped by Munna Bhaiyya," she said.



Supreme Court to examine if universities can be sued under consumer law

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal, challenging a verdict of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), which raised the question, whether an educational institution or university can be sued for deficiency in services under the consumer protection law.

A bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra and Indira Banerjee, admitting the appeal, said: "Since there are divergent views of this court bearing on the subject as to whether an educational institution or University would be subject to the provisions of the Consumer Protec-

tion Act 1986, the appeal would require admission." The order was passed by the top court on October 15.

The appeal has been filed by Manu Solanki and other students of a medical course against Vinayaka Mission University at Salem, Tamil Nadu.

The top court also asked advocate Soumyajit, representing the caveator university, to file the response within six weeks.

The students have alleged that the university has indulged into unfair trade practice and there was deficiency of service, as it induced them to take admission in a course on an assurance that requisite approvals

from the authorities have been obtained.

In 2005-2006, the students were admitted in an offshore programme of two-year study in Thailand and two-and-a half year study in the university in India.

They were assured that the MBBS final degree is recognised by the Indian Government and Medical Council of India. However, after completion of studies in Thailand, the students were told to continue their course there. The students' in their plea said they were informed that a Foreign Medical Degree will be conferred on them and they would have to appear for screening test in India.

The university had objected to the maintainability of this plea contending that petitioners are not consumers and education is not a commodity.

The university cited top court verdicts in the Maharishi Dayanand University and in the PT Koshi cases where it was held that education is not a commodity and educational institutions do not provide any kind of service.

As a result, there cannot be any deficiency of service to be adjudicated upon in consumer forum or commissions, the university had argued. However, the students contested this with other verdicts,

which held educational institutions fall under the purview of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

In January, the NCDRC, in its verdict, had said that the institutions rendering education including vocational courses and activities undertaken during the process of pre-admission as well as post-admission and also imparting excursion tours, picnics, extra co-curricular activities, swimming, sport, etc. except coaching institutions, will, therefore, not be covered under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

The students have appealed this verdict in the top court. (IANS)



‘BJP-JD(U) alliance like Sachin-Sehwag in cricket’

PATNA

CALLING the BJP-JD(U) partnership as "superhit" as the opening pair of Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag in cricket, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said one can debate on the quantum of development done by the alliance government in Bihar, but no one can point a finger at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on corruption.

Attacking the opposition RJD, Singh said the people had witnessed its 15-year tenure and can see the difference between its "misrule" and the good governance of the Nitish Kumar-led alliance government.

Singh said, "The alliance of the



Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) President Chirag Paswan with State president and MP Prince Kumar releases party manifesto ahead of Bihar Assembly polls, during a press conference, in Patna.

BJP and the JD(U) is as superhit as the opening pair of Sachin and Sehwag of Indian cricket team."

He said the alliance govern-

ment has provided basic facilities of electricity, road and water, which Bihar lacked for decades.

Senior BJP leader Khadse to join NCP

MUMBAI

Senior BJP leader Ek-nath Khadse will join the NCP on Friday, Maharashtra minister and state NCP chief Jayant Patil said on Wednesday. "He (Khadse) will join NCP at 2 pm on Friday...this will strengthen the NCP," Patil told reporters here.

Khadse has been sulking since he was made to resign as a minister in the then BJP government in 2016 on allegations of corruption.

Khadse said he was "leaving only because of Devendra Fadnavis". "My family and I have been humiliated for four years... I had worked hard to build up the party in the state for 40 years and this is what I had to undergo." Making it clear that he had no grouse against the BJP central leadership, Khadse said that "except State President Chandrakant Patil, no BJP leader has called me up so far". Forced to quit as minister in June 2016 following corruption charges when he was the de facto No. 2 in the cabinet headed by Fadnavis, he was denied a BJP ticket in the 2019 Assembly elections.



India returns Chinese soldier captured in eastern Ladakh

LADAKH

A Chinese soldier who was caught by Indian Forces after he strayed into Indian territory was returned to the Chinese border patrol on Wednesday morning. The soldier was identified as Corporal Wang Ya Long. He was apprehended by the Indian Army in the Demchok sector of eastern Ladakh on Monday after he had "strayed" across the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The incident comes amid a massive deployment of troops by the two militaries in the region following the border standoff since May.

The Indian Army had said that the soldier would be returned to the Chinese Army "as per established protocol after following due procedure". It said that the soldier would be returned to the Chinese military at the



Chushul-Moldo border point after completion of formalities.

The Indian Army said that a request asking about the whereabouts of the missing soldier was received from the Chinese army.

In a statement, spokesperson for the Western Theater Command of the PLA had said, "China hopes that India will hand over soon the Chinese sol-

dier who got lost in China-India border areas on the evening of October 18 when helping local herdsmen retrieve a yak at their request." Both the countries have been locked in a standoff at the Indo-China border, in Ladakh since May. The countries have had several rounds of diplomatic talks for the de-escalation and resolve the border dispute.

FAROOQ ABDULLAH APPEARS BEFORE ED

SRINAGAR

NATIONAL Conference president Farooq Abdullah appeared before the Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday, second time this week, for questioning in connection with a money laundering probe into an alleged multi-crore scam in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association



(JKCA). The 84-year-old former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir was questioned

for over six hours on October 19 in the case. Abdullah had said he was not worried and would cooperate in the probe. The last round of questioning took place four days after Jammu and

Kashmir's mainstream political parties, including the NC and the PDP, met at Abdullah's residence and formed the People's Alliance for 'Gupkar Declaration'. ED officials said Abdullah's statement will be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as in the past. He was questioned for the first time in July last year in Chandigarh.

Hathras rape case: 2 AMU docs sacked

ALIHARH

DRAZEEM Malik, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC) at Aligarh Muslim University, who had questioned the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report in the Hathras woman's case was terminated from his post at the hospital.

Malik had contradicted the police's claim that the Hathras victim was not raped. On October 16, in a letter, Malik was asked: "Not to perform any further duties".

On October 5, Dr Azeem Malik had told the Indian Express, "The samples were collected 11 days after the woman was allegedly raped, while government guidelines strictly say forensic evidence can only be found up to 96 hours after the incident. This report can't confirm rape in this incident."

Besides Malik, another doctor, Obaid Haque has been issued a similar letter by the hospital.

Malik was appointed as the temporary CMO after 6 out of 11 CMOs of the hospital contracted Coronavirus. His term was expected to extend till November but has been abruptly terminated.

Congress slams Centre for hike in festive train fares

NEW DELHI

THE Congress on Wednesday slammed the Centre for increasing fares in special festive trains and demanded their immediate roll back.

"We demand that the government should roll back the increased fares immediately and subsidise them further so that rail travel becomes accessible to the common man during the festive season without putting pressure on their pockets," Congress leader Gourav Vallabh said while addressing a press conference on Wednesday.

The Congress said that the railways is called the backbone of the Indian travel landscape for



a reason. It is because it has the potential to help the common man travel without burdening his pockets.

Vallabh said, "With millions of people having lost their jobs in the last few months, the government instead of providing festival stimulus has decided to further pull the common man

down."

On top of that, the Covid-19 pandemic has dealt a severe blow to the earnings of many people. They are now looking forward to the festivals as the only source of joy.

"But the government seems to be ignorant of its role of supporting the people in enjoying the festivities. Instead, the fares in the festival special trains are 25-30 per cent higher on an average," Vallabh said.

The government recently approved 392 trains to cater to the festival rush. These trains will be operating from October 20 till November 30 for festivals such as Durga Puja, Dussehra, Diwali and Chhatt Puja. (IANS)

Anti-triple talaq crusader gets Min rank in U'khand

ALMORA

ANTI-TRIPLE talaq crusader Shayara Bano, who recently joined the BJP, has been given Minister of State status by the Uttarakhand government. The move comes just 10 days after Bano, who was the first Muslim woman to question the constitutionality of the practice of triple talaq in the Supreme Court, joined the BJP in Dehradun in the presence of its Pradesh president Bansidhar Bhagat and a host of other leaders. Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat's media coordinator Darshan Singh Rawat said, "Bano is among three women, who were appointed vice presidents of the



State Women's Commission, besides being accorded MoS status on Tuesday.

The other two women appointed to the post are Jyoti Shah from Ranikhet in Almora district and Pushpa Paswan from Chamoli district. The three posts in the commission had long been vacant. It is the chief minister's gift to the women of the state during Navratri, he said.

Bano was the first to challenge the constitutionality of the practice of triple talaq in the apex court in 2014, four months after being divorced by her husband through speed post. She is a resident of Udham Singh Nagar district in Uttarakhand. PTI

Blast in Karachi building; five dead, 15 injured

KARACHI

PAKISTAN'S financial capital, Karachi, was rocked by an explosion in which 5 persons died and 15 were wounded. The explosion took place in a multi-storey building near Maskan Chowrangi in Karachi's Gulshan-i-Iqbal area on Wednesday. The cause of the blast has not been ascertained yet. However,

local police said that it "seems to be a cylinder blast". Along with law-enforcement agencies, the rescue team has arrived at the site and cordoned off the area.

Seven of the injured are said to be in critical condition, police said.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has sought a detailed report of the incident from the authorities.

RJD tops list in giving tickets to candidates with criminal record

PATNA

NO qualms in fielding candidates with a criminal background and it is reflected in the 1st phase of Bihar elections 2020 as out of 1064, 328 (31%) candidates are with criminal cases and Rashtriya Janta Dal (RJD) tops the list while Bharatiya Janata Party comes in the second position with (72%), according to an election watchdog Association of Democratic Re-forms.

No political party can claim that it has not given tickets to candidates with pending criminal cases including serious cases which are non-bailable offences, RJD has fielded most number of candidates with a criminal background (73%), followed by BJP (72%). Ac-



cording to the report, 244 (23%) candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves.

Serious criminal cases are non-bailable offences with over five years of imprisonment where 22(54%) out of 41 candidates analysed from RJD, 20(49%) out of 41 candidates analysed from LJP, 13 (45%) out of 29 candidates analysed from BJP, 9 (43%) out of

21 candidates analysed from INC, 10 (29%) out of 35 candidates analysed from JD(U) and 5 (19%) out of 26 candidates analysed from BSP have declared it in their affidavits. Highlighting other parties, the polls body says that about 24 (59 per cent) out of 41 candidates analysed from the LJP have declared criminal cases against themselves and 20 (49 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves.

The report also noted 12 (57 per cent) out of 21 candidates analysed from the Congress, 15 (43 per cent) out of 35 candidates analysed from the JD(U) and eight (31 per cent) out of 26 candidates analysed from the BSP have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

Delhi Chief Secretary assault case: HC sets aside sessions court order

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court on Wednesday set aside a sessions court order rejecting the plea of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia to provide the statement of one of the witnesses in the case related to alleged assault of then chief secretary Anshu Prakash in 2018.

Police cannot pick and choose what evidence will be placed on record, the court said.

Justice Suresh K Kait directed the trial court to consider the statement in question of February 21, 2018 at the time of passing the order on charge.

The high court also said that it

was the "prime duty" of the investigating agency to conduct a free and fair probe and thereafter, bring to the notice of the trial court all the evidence collected "without pick and choose".

"The investigating agency has no power to appreciate the evidence, it rests with the court. Consequently, the impugned order (of July 24, 2019) is hereby set aside.

"Consequently, the trial court is directed to consider the statement dated February 21, 2018 of V K Jain (witness), which is part of "case diary" and placed on record by the accused, at the time of passing the order on charge," Justice Kait said in his order.

Kejriwal and Sisodia, in their



plea moved through advocate Mohd. Irasad, had alleged that the prosecution withheld Jain's statement recorded on February

21, 2018 as it did not suit the prosecution case and helped in falsely implicating the petitioners.

They had contended that a copy of the statement ought to have been supplied to them.

The state government, represented by the Delhi government standing counsel (criminal) Rahul Mehra, had in its status report contended that Jain was called to the police station on February 21, 2018 and he was examined on that day, but no statement under section 161 Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) was recorded.

Jain's statement under section 161 CrPC was recorded only on February 22, 2018 and May 9, 2018, it had told the high court.

The government had also claimed that the reference in Jain's 161 CrPC statement of

May 9, 2018 with regard to recording of statements under section 161 CrPC and section 164 CrPC was a "typographical error".

A statement under section 161 CrPC is made to a police officer and section 164 CrPC deals with statements or confessions made before a magistrate.

The government had contended that both those statements, of Jain, were recorded on February 22, 2018.

It further argued that under the CrPC, "what is to be supplied to an accused are the specified documents and no more. It is what the prosecution proposes to rely upon what can be supplied and the accused cannot seek sup-

ply of a document which they have produced and which the prosecution does not choose to rely upon."

The high court did not agree with the contentions, saying the sessions court in its order July 24, 2019 has recorded that on perusal of case diary it shows that Jain was examined in the police station on February 21, 2018 in depth and a report was prepared.

On October 25, 2018, Kejriwal, Sisodia and nine other AAP MLAs were granted bail by the trial court in the assault case.

The other two MLAs, Amanatullah Khan and Prakash Jarwal, who are also accused were earlier arrested in the case and granted bail by the high court. (PTI)

Dubbak, oppn parties and TRS

The political strategies of the Opposition seems to be going haywire. The Congress and BJP had taken up the byelection to Dubbak as a matter of great importance. The race is more to grab the number two position so that they can improve their numbers in the GHMC elections and to claim that the people were getting disenchanted with the ruling party.

The TRS on the other hand is looking it from two angles. One, it wants to increase the majority to prove that the people were happy with the government because of the welfare schemes it had introduced in the last six years and retain its supremacy in the GHMC elections. If the TRS improves its majority in Dubbak it can go hammer and tongs against the Opposition saying that the people had rejected the saffron party and the Congress party.

The BJP which claims that they are

set to come to power in the next general elections wants to ease out the Congress party. Hence, it has become or die situation for the two opposition parties. Dubbak will also be a litmus test for the new AICC in-charge of state affairs Manickam Tagore and his strategic skills. He succeeded in making all leaders campaign in the election but the outcome is to be seen.

Similarly, it will also be a test for the State BJP president Bandi Sanjay who was brought in with great expectations that he will be able to take on the TRS government and help the party emerge as a formidable force by the time the next general elections were held. But so far the BJP has not been able to make much of a mark at the ground level.

The Opposition parties plans to highlight the devastation the city had witnessed and how several colonies

have been under water about ten days as the government failed to come to their rescue in time. They also want to harp on the issue of lack of proper drainage system and how the TRS government failed to do anything to improve infrastructural facilities despite having absolute majority in GHMC.

Sensing this, the TRS had on one hand entrusted the responsibility of getting bigger margin to T Harish Rao but also is trying its best to see that the situation arisen due to rains and flood does not cast any shadow on its prospects in GHMC. Its true that people in the affected colonies are unhappy that their sufferings were getting prolonged but the ruling party had in a swift move is sending its ministers and officers from door to door to hand over a cheque of Rs 10,000 towards immediate repairs for the damages caused by flooding.

This has come as a welcome measure and many in the affected areas are submitting applications seeking the monetary benefit. This comes as a soothing balm for the affected people. It is also likely to announce a mega plan to make the city flood proof in next three years. The Minister for MAUD himself has been wading through the flood waters in many colonies and trying to reach out to the people.

The opposition parties which could have utilised this crisis as an opportunity to win over the people have lost a chance. Some of the leaders only went round some areas and lashed at the government for its failure to provide proper drainage system but none of them pressed their cadre into action.

They could have taken up distribution of essentials like water and milk or food in the affected colonies and assured them of taking measures to see that the drainage system would be made ready to face the requirements for next 50 years. While focussing on Dubbak they seem to have missed a golden chance once again.



Learning from past mistakes: It's time to save urban rivers

SHIVALI JAINER, SHIVANI YADAV

It has been observed historically that human settlements often evolved alongside water — near lakes or rivers. The river passing through a city offers ecosystem services that can be seen as a provisioning, regulating and a supporting system. It not only serves as source of water supply, but also helps in balancing flood control and landscape ecology.

Urban riverfronts particularly provide a space for a city to reduce the risks of climate change such as heat island effect and flash floods. They simultaneously provide greater health, space for social cohesion and socio-economic benefits to citizens. Some rivers have always been lent sacredness to the culture in several cities. Socio-cultural and religious elements have always been intricately woven with rivers. A famous saying by prominent urbanist Jane Jacobs goes like: “The waterfront isn’t just something unto itself. It’s connected to everything else”.

And yet, rivers are constantly polluted, moulded, abused and face grave environmental degradation due to urbanisation. Throughout a river’s course, anthropogenic activities have adverse impact on the river’s watershed. As a result, an urban river becomes a stretch where the function of that water resource is altered from its natural state.

The key issue with river systems in cities is water pollution, point sources such as waste water from a tributary drain, sewage draining and grey water, industrial effluents and wastewater. Other factors include non-point sources such as urban storm water runoff, solid waste and debris, pollution from agricultural fertilisers and chemicals, erosion due to deforestation. The fragmentation of vegetation in the riparian zone due to human settlements and construction are among the other causes. Riparian protection is a critical factor in determining the health of the river as well as that of people dependent on it.

No specific land-use category or legislation — which identifies the ‘River Regulation Zone’ or ‘River Riparian Zone’ and the optimum width of this zone — has been identified in India so far.

Moreover, India has various socio-cultural religious issues involved human activities in the rivers like mass idol immersion, cremation by river bank, oily containing offering submerged in rivers etc.

Development inclination at forefront of urban river edges

Accelerated transformation of ‘urban riverfront development’ has been pushed along the riverbanks in the last few decades. The riverfront development has been reduced to just cosmetic ‘river beautification’ and unaccountable money spent to increase its real estate and commercial value.

Our rivers are being narrowed far within their actual width with concrete riverbed wall embankments. Since concrete riverbed and channels are the main components of these projects for car parking, plaza, walkways, restaurants etc, the river’s flooding capacity and aquatic are adversely impacted. The Sabarmati river channel, for example, has been uniformly narrowed to 275 metres during the riverfront development project, when naturally average width of the channel was 382 metres and the narrowest cross-section was 330 metres.

These projects also often ignore treating the sewage flows into the river through the natural drains and tributaries in the watershed. There are various similar urban riverfront development projects that tell the same story and focus on just the receiving end, compromising on riverbank stabilisation, riparian buffer and immediate floodplain ecological values. Moreover, many such projects are pushed without any kind of social and environment impact assessment and data or facts are dodged for environmental clearance. There’s also a lack of regulation or democratic participatory decision.

The way forward

For successful future interventions of blue-green infrastructure solutions, it is necessary to learn from our past mistakes. Recognising what did not work may provide us with directions needed to improve future projects and avoid poorly designed and costly interventions with no social and environmental benefits.

The solutions need to be multi-dimensional, holistic and should involve all relevant stakeholders. The river front development should involve the community to be the key agents for action to mitigate problems related to river pollution. There are many inspiring examples of community-driven river revival efforts in India that show that we need tremendous amount of efforts for a strong public awareness.

For example, youngsters come together to clean Mithi river in Mumbai every weekend. In Tamil Nadu, a local non-profit Clean Conoor, organises clean-up drive for river Conoor.

At the same time, it is essential to understand that the existence of river’s ecology is defined by its watershed and not by administrative boundaries. For successful interventions, it is critical to acknowledge the river’s flow regime, morphology and scale and align it with characteristics of local urban form.

The uses and functions can be selected in a way that work for a diverse community and provide multiple benefits, including good flood management performance, ecological function, improved aesthetic and health benefits. The main challenge in designing the riverfront development is to improve the quality of the runoff entering into the river while maintaining the infiltration rates in its surroundings. The optimal land-use planning for the riverfront areas by adding green spaces along the river edges is most suitable for balancing the river environment.

The creation of such recreational areas makes riverfront accessible to public to serve more than one purpose. The riverfront is not a hard boundary, but a zone that shifts with time and topography. The riverfronts and river bank floodplains are ecologically very dynamic and meant to be undeveloped for maintaining bank storage, floodplain biodiversity along with natural tributaries and wetlands.

Decision-makers and planners can invest time in carrying out analysis to create potential blue-green spaces around the river. Under no conditions should the riverfronts and riverbanks be concretised where the ecological biodiversity is protected, restored and enhanced — irrespective of any amount of commercial and profit-making values.

Development and conservation need to go hand-in-hand where water and vegetation are seen together to shift from ‘hard’ to ‘soft’ engineering approaches. For example, the Yamuna biodiversity park located on Yamuna riverfront was developed by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) with the technical help of Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Ecosystems (CEMDE), University of Delhi. It serves as an alternative habitat for migratory and resident bird species. It was also designed to conserve wild genetic resources of agricultural crops, enhance groundwater recharge and augment freshwater availability.

Specific legal framework with riparian protection

Riparian zones are as valuable as the river course itself. Hence, regulation and riparian limits should be framed for protection of the actual riverbeds and riparian fringes so that the carrying capacity of the river does not deteriorate and the dynamic biodiversity does not get disturbed. The encroachments inside the river channels and river beds should be checked and riparian fringes be fully protected along with strict and transparent social and environment impact assessments.

Yodogawa river side development in Osaka, Japan, and Room for the Rivers Programme in The Netherlands are the two case examples to refer to for successful models of riverfront development and other interventions at decentralised level.

(Courtesy: DownToEarth)

Recollecting those ‘sporting’ moments...

TALKING OF MANY THINGS



Dr Mohan Kanda

People always refer to the period of their childhood as the ‘good old days’. I am now beginning to realise how really ‘old’ my own such days were! We have noted, on several occasions, in this column earlier about the need for a fit body, an alert mind and a balanced emotional apparatus being necessary, for a human being to lead a productive and happy life. While a regular session in the gym, or the practice of disciplines such as yoga are formal methods of keeping one’s body fit, games and sports offer the same advantage, but with added attraction of providing relaxation and entertainment. In earlier columns, I shared with the readers the more or less fixed annual schedule of games and sports that Hyderabad was known for in – yes, my ‘good old’ days!

It was during my first graduation days that I started learning to play tennis with the Lady Hydari Club courts, under the able guidance of the well-known tennis coach Farkhunda Ali Khan. Such was my enthusiasm for learning the game, and enjoyment of playing, it, that I would start at the crack of dawn from our house at Gaddiannaram and cycle for 10 km to reach the club for the morning practice. And, after a rigorous session at the tennis nets, one had enough energy left to go to the swimming pool located in the Mint near the Secretariat for more exercise! I was fortunate to be able to continue to play tennis for quite a few years thereafter, through my days as Sub-Collector, Ongole, Collector of Guntur and Krishna districts, and at Vishakhapatnam as Managing Director of the Andhra Pradesh Fisheries Corporation.

My swan song with the game was participating in an exhibition game with the internationally renowned Martina Navratilova, during my days as the Chief Secretary after which I have not touched a racket again. Since then it has been back to the daily game billiards at the Nizam Club. So far as swimming is concerned, I made an attempt to renew my relationship with a pool at Country Club in Hyderabad a few years ago. And gave up swimming forever, after I nearly drowned!

I have always been a reasonably active player of various games, and sports, indoor as well as outdoor including table tennis, badminton and indoor games such as chess and caroms. Which is probably the reason why I derived such enormous pleasure from watching various games and sports during the Asian games in New Delhi in 1982.

My first experience of administering a game was the appointment as a Joint Secretary of the Bridge Federation of India (BFI). The legendary Y. Kamalakara Rao (‘Kamalakar’) was the Secretary General of BFI at that time. He was a livewire of a man, enormously energetic, and with limitless enthusiasm. He was the Director of a large number of tournaments, which he conducted with extraordinary precision, perfect coordination, and a totally uncompromising attitude when it came to enforcement of rules and regulations. During my days as Collector Guntur, I even had the great honour of playing bridge with Dr. C.S. Rao and his legendary partner Koteswara Rao, the pair who had represented India in Bridge at the highest international level.

Like any other person born in Chennai, and brought up in Hyderabad, I have always been a keen cricket aficionado. In the year 1990 the charming, and extremely popular, former cricket captain of India Ghulam Ahmed walked into my office. He had just retired from the IAS. I was then the Secretary of the Planning Department and also a Secretary in the Chief Minister’s office. To my surprise Ghulam Saab asked me to contest the forthcoming election to the Vice President of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA). Apparently, he felt that the affairs of the Association were



in a mess, and needed to be cleaned up.

A bit reluctant, but in deference to the wishes of a person who was my childhood hero, I accepted. I felt much more confident and reassured when the matinee idol of Hyderabad cricket, M.L.L. Jaisimha, called me to tell me how happy he was that I had agreed to join the fray.

One day Chief Minister Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy, upon reacting to a complaint made to him that I was interfering in the affairs of HCA only said cryptically “I hope only you are sure of winning!”

Years later, by which time I had been elected unanimously as the President HCA, I received a call one day from Sharad Pawar (then Chief Minister of Maharashtra) to support one of the candidates contesting for the presidency of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

My tenure as President of Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) was, by and large, smooth and successful. I doubt that I gave my guru Ghulam Ahmed any cause for regret on the occasion when Chief Minister Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy had come to the Lal Bahadur Shastri grounds to inaugurate a one-day international cricket match. As was customary, I was to invite him to be introduced to the players of the two teams, by the respective captains. And, typical of the bad luck which had been haunting my relationship with the Chief Minister for quite some time by then, the microphone failed just as I

was addressing the spectators!

For some time then, a proposal had been pending to construct a cricket stadium in the Parade Grounds at Secunderabad belonging to the Indian Army. As the land was located in the Secunderabad Cantonment, the permission of the Director General of Defence Estates, in the Ministry of Defence, Government of India was needed before construction work could be taken. Along with Shivali Yadav (well-known Hyderabad cricketer, and, at that time the Secretary of HCA, I visited Delhi and met the Director General for necessary clearance.

Despite several such efforts, however, the matter could not get resolved and, finally, when I took over as Chief Secretary “(by which time I was no longer the President of HCA), it was finally decided to construct the stadium in Uppal (on the outskirts of the city), instead. I had to play a small role in ensuring the smooth passage of a proposal made by the then Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, that the stadium be named after Rajiv Gandhi.

Although my own contribution was trivial, at least according to me, the powers that be, for reasons best known to them, decided to name the foyer of the new stadium after me! The Afro-Asian Games and the Military World Games 2007, which were organised during my stint as Chief Secretary of the state, were staged in that stadium. I also had the opportunity to watch a cou-

ple of one day Internationals in the ground and was pleased to see that the facilities were comparable with the best in the world.

There is a tradition (at least was, those days), of organising an annual cricket game between the elevens captained by the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police. That friendly encounter was, governed by the principle that, no matter what the actual scores, the Chief Secretary’s eleven won, and always by the margin of a single run!

I had another pleasant brush with the game of cricket recently when the HCA approached me to request, on their behalf, V.S. Sampath, formerly Chief Election Commissioner of India, to be the Election Officer for their elections.

It was, again, during my tenure as Chief Secretary, that explosive growth took place in sports infrastructure in the twin cities, largely on account of the conduct of the games referred to earlier in addition to the National Games on one occasion. I visited the Hyderabad (now Telangana) Rifle Association one day and, was invited by the Secretary of the Association, to (quite literally!) have a shot at two dummy ducks floated into the air, as much to my surprise as that of those around, I shot both at my first attempt! No, not the NCC training of the days of yore, but sheer beginner’s luck!

(The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

Treat stammering normally

International Stammering Awareness Day (ISAD) is celebrated on October 22 worldwide. The day is designated to bring up public awareness of the issues faced by millions of people – one percent of the world’s population – who stammer. In India too, millions of people are confronting the challenge of stammering. It creates trouble for education, interpersonal relationships, social activities, and finding employment. Our society recognizes that every individual must speak fluently.

Stammerers are isolated and many times judged incapable of jobs and marriage. Community is giving advice to people who stammer likewise speak slowly, breath repeatedly, and to develop self-confidence. This kind of advice does not assist them and makes their life more complicated. The need of the hour is that people should accept stammering as human diversity and accept it extensively. If you face any people who stammer, listen to him patiently, give time to speak, and do not make any assumptions about it on the basis of stammering.

Exclusively equal opportunities and full participation may empower people who stammer in society. At the same time, the people who stammer should frankly accept stammering and talk to more people and remove the fear of stammering.

Amit Singh Kushwaha, Satna

Rogues and tax payers’ money

Massive write-offs of bank loans and infusing capital (tax-payer’s money) into stressed banks by the central government has become a regular feature in the banking industry year by year. The very fact that an amount of around 7 lakh crore of rupees was written off until

LETTERS

September 2019 by the PSBs speaks volumes of the status of bank recoveries each year. The measures taken by the government in recovering bad loans from the fugitives which are tremendously bulky loans are not at all sufficient and the govt should aim at catching the ‘big fishes’ by adopting all stringent measures including passing amendments in the existing Right to Privacy Act so that the top most defaulters names can be disclosed in all media which will certainly become a public matter forcing wilful defaulters to repay their loans at least in the near future. After all, why should anyone allow huge amounts of honest money of crores of people to be misused by few ‘rogue borrowers’? It seems it is not far off in the future when the government may also have to include ‘bank loans write-offs’ amounts while presenting the general budget in the parliament every year.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao, Hyderabad

We have to protect ourselves

It is understandable from the views expressed by the IPM that the nation had passed several stages in the fight against Corona in order to reach the present stage wherein the number of active cases have substantially shot up, thus with the recovery rate having remarkably come down, thus indicating a greater improvement in our fight against the disease.

Thus on a worldwide basis, our relentless efforts towards tackling the spread of Covid have been appreciable with 83 deaths per million as compared to 600 deaths per million in other countries besides over 90 lakh beds

having been made ready for patients and 2000 labs kept open for conducting Covid tests across the nation.

The advisory and warning issued by the Prime Minister on the live TV channels which gave a greater impetus towards observing health protocol should be unfailingly and diligently honoured by all during the present times when the virus is still considered to be persisting in the nation despite a greater happening on the Covid front.

BH Indu Sekhar, Hyderabad

‘Covid fatigue’ is dangerous

This refers to a retail showroom in Chennai which has taken the advantage of the prospective festive season to lure customers without adherence to the Covid norms laid by the State. We all know that human is an active vector for the Covid spread. But people have been troubled with a new syndrome called ‘Covid fatigue’ which is a new word that has seen much light in Chennai depicting the urge of the people disregarding norms and public’s safety just for the sake of God.

Presently, the states are facing an irreparable concern of the community-stage spread of the virus. The PM too has pinpointed the extreme need of being cautious in his latest video as they have been new cases being reported on a daily basis. ‘Stay safe’ has to be the motto of our lives because of this pandemic and it is our responsibility to be safe and make the country safe by following the timely guidelines and compromise with the festivals so as not to get the lives of innocent people at stake

Madhulika N, Hyderabad

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Anti-social elements will not be spared, asserts AP CM

- Speaking at Police Commemoration Day parade, CM says anti-social elements, crime in the name of caste and creed and against women will not be tolerated
- 6,500 vacancies will be filled every year for the next 4 years in police department
- Praises police for being on the forefront during corona, meeting the challenges thrown by modern technology besides striving to check sand and liquor smuggling

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

REITERATING the government's commitment to maintain law and order and give protection to women, children and the old, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said the vacancies in police force would be filled by January next.

Participating in the Police Commemoration Day parade at Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said notification would be issued to fill the vacancies in police department and directed the DGP to



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy paying tributes to police martyrs on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day at IGMCI stadium in Vijayawada on Wednesday. Home Minister M Sucharitha, DGP D Goutam Sawang and others are seen.

issue the schedule by next January to fill 6,500 posts annually in four years. The pending funds for the police welfare for the past three years will be cleared soon.

Earlier, the Chief Minister paid homage to the martyrs at the police memorial and took the guard of honour.

He said maintaining law and order is of top priority to the government and no one would be spared on that count. Special focus would be laid on the protection of children, women and the aged people and there would be no compromise in protection of the weaker sections. Severe action would be taken against terrorists and anti-social elements and crime in the name of

caste, creed and women would not be tolerated.

The Chief Minister recalled the sacrifices made by the police personnel and paid homage to the martyrs. The motto of Satyameva Jayathe embedded on the caps of the police indicates their service to the people, he added.

The police was in the forefront during corona, and bracing up to meet the challenges being thrown by modern technology besides working hard in checking the illegal activities in sand and liquor, he said.

The government has taken a bold step in curbing crime against women by bringing in the Disha Act, he said and expressed hope that the Centre would soon give

clearance to it. He said 18 Disha police stations were set up in the state by appointing women police officers and special public prosecutors to deal with cases of crime against women. Steps were also being taken to set up special courts for women.

"Reduced crime rate is also an indicator of development as is in the case in Finland, Norway and Switzerland. We cannot achieve that overnight, but our police force is working hard to bring down crime rate," he said.

Home minister M Sucharitha, DGP Goutam Sawang, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney and other officials were among those present and contributed to the Police Welfare Fund.

- Andhra Pradesh CM says the govt will pay Rs 510 cr every year for the scheme though the Centre has withdrawn from it
- Vows to help the families who lose their breadwinners by extending financial assistance through insurance
- In addition to the insured amount, immediate assistance of Rs 10,000 will be provided to the families through village and ward secretariats

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday launched YSR Bima scheme, which would benefit 1.41 crore families by providing insurance cover.

Speaking at the launch of the scheme, the Chief Minister said that the state government will be paying Rs 510 crore every year as a premium, despite the Central government withdrawing from this scheme. Terming the loss of primary bread earner as the worst nightmare for any family, the Chief Minister stated that the state govern-



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launching YSR Bima at his camp office in Tadepalli on Wednesday

ment shall stand by such families in the hard times by providing financial assistance through insurance cover.

All the families with white ration cards are eligible for this scheme and the village/ward volunteers shall visit the families and enrol the names of the primary householders. The list of the enrolled insurance-holders will be displayed in the village secretariats. Under this scheme, insurance amount for accidental death and total permanent disability for people aged between 18-50 years is Rs 5 lakh and for those between 51-70 years Rs 3 lakh.

Similarly, for natural death cases (18-50 years) Rs 2 lakh and for partial permanent disability in an accident case (18-70 years) Rs 1.5 lakh assistance will be provided.

The Chief Minister assured that the claim amount will be

directly credited into the beneficiary bank account within 15 days of the claim being made. In addition, he also announced that immediate assistance of Rs 10,000 will be provided to the families through village and ward secretariats.

Moved by the plight of the poor families who were facing hardships due to the lack of insurance coverage, Jagan Mohan Reddy promised during elections to bring insurance coverage scheme and thus brought YSR Bima to provide security for those families in need and stand by them.

Deputy Chief Minister Dharmanna Krishnadas, ministers Botcha Satyanarayana, Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Gummanuru Jayaram, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney and other officials along with bankers were present at the launch.

Naidu salutes police martyrs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu paid tribute to the police personnel who sacrificed their lives to maintain unity and integrity of the country.

In a statement on Wednesday, Naidu said that the Police Commemoration Day was being observed all over India in memory of the sacrifices made by the brave souls. The martyrs' services in protecting the law and order in society, preventing crime, protecting fundamental rights of citizens and Constitutional rights were unforgettable, he said.

The TDP chief said that the police who lost their lives in the fight against anarchic and anti-social forces will find a permanent place in the hearts of the people of all sections.

AP govt releases ₹39 L to SEC after petition

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state government on Wednesday released the budget of Rs 39 lakh to the State Election Commission (SEC), after State Election Commissioner N Ramesh Kumar filed a writ petition in the High Court against the government. The SEC, in the petition, alleged that the state government was not supporting the smooth functioning of the commission in many areas, including the financial matters. Reacting to

it, the government pleader informed the High Court that the government released the funds on Wednesday. Former advocate general Seetharam Murthy and Aswini Kumar, counsel for the AP SEC, argued that it would be difficult to discharge the Constitutional duties and obligations of the commission, if the government does not extend support. On the other hand, the advocate of the state government argued that there were no specific actions mentioned by the SEC on the alleged non-cooperation.

Delhi air quality remains poor

Continued from P1

The Delhi government has also kick-started its 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' anti-pollution campaign for which it has deployed 2,500 environment marshals at 100 traffic signals across the city to generate awareness and curb vehicular pollution. The drive will go on till November 15 from 8 am to 8 pm. It is an awareness drive by the Delhi government and no person will be challaned, the government has said.

TTD defamation case posted for Nov 2

- TTD files a defamation case against Ramana Deekshitulu and YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy in 2018 for making allegations that the rare pink diamond has been missing from the temple
- But after change of govt, the TTD decides to withdraw the case and submits a petition to this effect in X additional district judge court this year
- But a Hindu outfit files a plea seeking the court to implead it in the case

TIRUPATI

THE withdrawal of the defamation suit filed by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) against Tirumala temple former chief priest Dr A V Ramana Deekshitulu and YSRCP senior leader and MP V Vijayasai Reddy which came up for hearing before the X additional district judge here on Wednesday has been



BJP leader G Bhanuprakash Reddy addressing the media in Tirupati on Wednesday

posted to November 2.

With a Hindu outfit from Telangana which decided to implead in the case filing a petition before the court seeking to include it as a plaintiff, the judge ordered the TTD advocate to file a counter and postponed the case.

TTD filed the defamation suit against Deekshitulu and Vijaisai Reddy in the court of X additional district judge, Tirupati, seeking an amount of Rs 200 crore as compensation from the duo for the damages caused by them by making wild and baseless allegation of blue diamond, to the image and reputation of TTD in 2018 (OS NO 264/2018).

Following the TTD Trust Board's decision to withdraw the case in its meeting in February this year, a petition was filed by TTD in the court for the withdrawal of the case which took up an unexpected turn with the Hindu outfit filing implead petition.

It may be recalled that Deekshitulu and Vijayasai Reddy alleged that the most precious and rare pink diamond donated by a

devotee to Lord Venkateswara was missing from the temple treasury creating nationwide flutter.

Rattled by the allegation, the then TDP government saw the TTD file defamation suit by executive officer Anil Kumar Singhal against the two in the court in 2018. An amount of Rs 2 crore was paid from TTD funds as court fee for the Rs 200 crore defamation suit which then raised many eyebrows.

Meanwhile, BJP state spokesperson G Bhanuprakash Reddy speaking to media here on Wednesday demanded the two respondents, Deekshitulu and Vijayasai Reddy, to respond and wanted them to clarify their position on their allegation of missing pink diamond from Tirumala temple treasury.

He further said that if the TTD withdraw the case, it has to forfeit the Rs 2 crore paid as court fee and demanded that the amount should be collected from the then chairman and members of the trust board who decided to file the defamation case and also the present chairman and members of the TTD trust board who resolved to withdraw the case since it is the money of the devotees.

Malayappa Swamy rides Hanumantha Vahanam



Lord Malayappa Swamy taken on Hanumantha Vahanam as part of Navaratri Brahmotsavam on the sixth day on Wednesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUMALA

ON the sixth day of Navaratri Brahmotsavam, Sri Malayappa Swamy donned the avatara Kodandaramudu and blessed devotees on Hanumantha vahanam.

The vahanam was observed at Kalyanotsava mandapam inside the temple in view of Covid guidelines.

Hanumantha vahanam is usually considered as an icon of devotional bliss. Hanuman represents the tenets of devotion and Sharanagathi in its both physical and intellectual form.

Sri Malayappa Swamy by riding Hanumantha Vahanam sent message to His devotees that he is always blessed people who are humble and surrendered to him.

In the evening of Day-6, the Lord blessed devotees on Push-

- Hanuman represents the devotion and Sharanagathi
- In the evening, the Lord blesses devout on Pushpaka Vimanam

paka Vimanam in Govardhana Krishnudu Alankaram.

The Pushpaka vimanam is a fete observed in Srivari temple once in three-year mode on the occasion of the Adhika Masam Navaratri Brahmotsavams.

The Pushpaka vimanam vahanam is conducted inside Srivari temple for Sri Malayappa swami and his consorts to take a breather after a busy schedule of events like Snapana and vahanam.

The vimanam is decked with idols of Anjaneya and Garuda on both sides. The idols of Ashta Lakshmi are in the middle and the second layer has elephants and parrots. Finally, the hooded ser-

vants embellish the vimanam.

Twenty workers from Salem, Tamil Nadu, and 10 workers from TTD garden department strived for 10 days to build the Pushpaka vimanam, said Sri Srinivasulu, deputy director of TTD garden department.

The Sri Ramaprasad Trust of Chennai donated material for making the vimanam.

Later, Gaja vahanam was conducted in the shrine. The processional deity atop tastefully decorated Gaja vahanam blessed the devotees. Tirumala pontiffs Pedda Jeeyar, Chinna Jeeyar, TTD EO K S Jawahar Reddy, additional EO A V Dharma Reddy and others were present

Jagan announces ₹70 cr for Durga temple development

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy announced sanction of Rs 70 crore for the development of the temple after he presented the silk robes to the presiding deity Goddess Kanakadurga here on Wednesday. Devasthanam chairman Pyla Somi Naidu addressing the media after the chief minister left the temple premises

that the chief minister would issue the orders soon on the sanction of the funds of Rs 70 crore for the development of the temple.

The funds would be utilised for constructing revetment to the hill to avoid landslides, solar power plant for the kitchen, and for the construction of the shed for tansure and for other development works. EO M V Suresh Babu, district collector A Md Imtiaz, Devasthanam members Sujata and Kanugu Bala were also present.

JAC to mark 5th yr of capital event

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

- Exactly five years ago on this day, i.e. Oct 22, 2015, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation for capital Amaravati

buildings like interim government complex.

After the the government changed in the state, the new Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy put the entire concept of the Amaravati in cold storage and came out with three capitals proposal.

For the last 10 months, farmers who gave 34,000 acre land in Amaravati have been protesting against the decision of three capitals.

The Amaravati Joint Action

Committee planned various programmes to mark the five years on this occasion and opposing three capitals on Thursday.

In a press release, the Amaravati JAC said it will organise the Andhraites Walk from Rayapudi village to Uddandarayunipalem where the foundation was laid, at 9 am. The Dalit JAC leaders will organise 'Dagapadda Amaravati Dalit Bidda Padayatra. At 10.30 am, they will conduct all-faith prayers.

Later, the farmers and JAC leaders will conduct an innovative programme named 'Amaravati looks towards Narendra Modi'. At the end of the day, all the farmers and leaders will participate in a candle light rally.

3 injured in AP temple landslide

Continued from P1

Earlier, it was feared that there would be some casualties and some people were buried in the debris. Much to the relief of everyone, there were no casualties. The temple authorities and police were seen clearing the debris. The Chief Minister who inspected the place, asked the authorities to find a permanent solution to this problem of rocks falling down. The temple executive committee is likely to hold a meeting soon and come up with some proposals.

Telangana tanks face breach threat

Continued from P1

Efforts were on to restore normalcy at the breached tanks before the city received another bout of heavy rains. The government has earmarked Rs 10 crore for the temporary restoration of tanks. It would require another Rs 40 crore to take up the repairs on a permanent basis. It has also been decided not to allow people to visit the lakes till situation returns to normal.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Market recovery since March broad-based

“While one repeatedly hears that the liquidity and low interest rates are the only prime factors driving up the markets, we have observed that the recovery in the market has been broad-based. Daily cash market turnover increased 54% to Rs 60,000 crore

— Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi



CAIT

Offline retailers are still struggling

As e-commerce platforms and online channels raked in the moolah during the seven-day festive sales that began on October 15, offline retailers in India are still struggling to find footfall in the pandemic times, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said on Wednesday.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	78.1	South	
Euro	91.6	African Rand	5.16
UAE Dirham	22.04	Hong Kong Dollar	10.92
Thai Baht	2.71	Japanese Yen	0.81
British Pound	99.94	New Zealand Dollar	51.23
Australian Dollar	54.77	Saudi Riyal	21.57
Canadian Dollar	58.94	Swedish Krona	9.68
Swiss Franc	84.64	Singapore Dollar	57.01

DELHI THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

SLG Hospitals opens centre

SLG Hospitals, a Hyderabad-based hospital, has launched an advanced resuscitation learning centre. The centre has obtained latest mannequins for training. The learning centre trains doctors, hospital staff and neighborhood population. “The first few minutes after the collapse of any patient is critical and therefore a prompt and high-quality resuscitation saves lives. The training focuses on the same,” SLG Hospitals said in a statement. The new centre was inaugurated by D Siv Rama Raju, Managing Director & Chairman, SLG Hospitals. The centre works from Monday to Saturday. Interested people can book a slot and get trained. The training session extends up to half a day. A test is conducted and if a trainee passes the same, the Centre will issue a BLS certificate which is valid for one year, it added.

New devices from Itel

TO tap the festive demand, mobile handset brand itel launched two new smartphones – A48, A25 Pro. Featuring Waterdrop display 6.1 inch HD screen, itel A48 is equipped with multifunctional fingerprint sensor, face unlock and high capacity battery. itel A25 Pro also features big battery and face unlock. Arijeet Talapatra, CEO, Transsion India, said, “Since its inception in India, itel has witnessed tremendous growth and launched many ‘industry firsts’ for its customers. We have been successful by virtue of the trust and faith reposed by the people of India for our efforts in bringing innovative, affordable and trendy product portfolio backed with strong distribution, efficient service network and localised communication suiting every markets”.

Oyo ropes in Sonu Sood

HOSPITALITY firm Oyo said it has roped in Bollywood actor Sonu Sood as the face of its campaign ‘Sanitised Before Your Eyes’ that seeks to showcase its sanitisation efforts and build trust within the travellers. The campaign is an on-request initiative through which guests can request the hotel’s on-ground staff to sanitise high touch spots or frequently touched surfaces right in front of their eyes, Oyo Hotels & Homes said. “Sonu has been an Oyo asset owner with us since 2019 and we’re extremely happy to have him as the face of our campaign. We believe that his ideologies and our brand fit perfectly well together,” Oyo India and South Asia CEO Rohit Kapoor said. On the development, Sood said: “Witnessing the sanitisation process will reduce guests’ anxiety and worries”.

Westinghouse unveils offers

AMERICAN consumer appliance brand White-Westinghouse which forayed into the Indian market earlier this year, announced discounts on its range of semi-automatic machines to mark the festive season. On offer is an instant discount of additional 10 per cent for HDFC card holders. Its product range is priced from Rs 7,299 and the company is aiming at capturing two per cent market share by end of the current financial year. Pallavi Singh, Senior Vice President, SPPL, India Brand Licensee White-Westinghouse, said: “Recoveries in consumer and home appliance sales are indicative of a positive and growing sentiment in the online market. Even during the ongoing pandemic, we have seen demand grow back to the pre-Covid times. In hindsight, this has benefitted the sector”. We are elated to be a part of Amazon’s Great Indian Festival Sale, she added.

Dhoot family offers to clear ₹30k cr bank loans

Looks to pull out 13 Videocon group companies from the insolvency proceedings

NEW DELHI

THE Dhoot family has offered to pay Rs 30,000 crore to lenders to settle their outstanding loans and pull out 13 Videocon group companies from the insolvency proceedings.

A proposal for paying the amount has been forwarded to the Committee of Creditors (CoC) of the Videocon Industries, said Venugopal Dhoot, who was the Chairman and Managing Director of the suspended board of Videocon Industries. The company’s board was suspended following initiation of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). The Dhoot family -- erstwhile promoters of the group -- expects a final decision on the settlement offer by the end of this year, provided the lenders and the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) agree to it. The settlement offer has been made for 13 out of the 15 Videocon group companies that are currently under CIRP. Two group companies -- KAIL and TREND -- are not covered under the offer. The Mumbai bench of NCLT has clubbed the 15 group companies together to speed up the resolution process as well as ensure better value.

“I expect the final decision to be taken within the next 30 to 60 days,” Dhoot said. Under Section 12A of the IBC, the tribunal



The total debt, for which restructuring was considered, was for Rs 31,289 crore ie. without any haircut in the original proposal. I expect the final decision to be taken within the next 30 to 60 days.

— Venugopal Dhoot, former CMD, Videocon Industries

can permit withdrawal of an ongoing insolvency process against a company subject to certain conditions. The resolution professional concerned has to move a proposal for withdrawal of insolvency process with the approval of 90 per cent members having voting rights in the Committee of Creditors (CoC). Dhoot said the latest proposal under Section 12A is similar to the one which was made in October 2017 and approved by Joint Lenders’ Forum and recommended to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

“As per our original proposal of October 2017, the total debt, for which restructuring was considered was for Rs 31,289 crore ie. without any haircut in the original proposal,” he said.

Flipkart delivers 1 cr products in five days

BENGALURU

Flipkart on Wednesday said that it delivered 1 crore shipments in the first five days of its Big Billion Day sale which is a massive 10 times growth compared to the last BBD when only 10 lakh deliveries were made by the ecommerce marketplace in the same period. The platform witnessed 110 orders placements per second and the momentum was across mobiles, fashion, electronics, BGMH (books, general merchandise and home) and home furnishing categories. In a cheer for MSMEs, over 66.6 crore visits were recorded during the Big Billion Days, with over 52 per cent of these visits coming from tier III cities and beyond. Out of 1 crore deliveries, more than 3.5 million deliveries were done through Kirana partners in the first five days of TBBD, the company announced.

LIC launches New Jeevan Shanti scheme

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

LIFE Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced its new deferred annuity ‘New Jeevan Shanti’ scheme, which is a non-linked, non-participating, individual and single premium plan. The annuity rates are guaranteed at the inception of the policy and annuities are payable post-deferment period throughout the life time of annuitant(s). This plan can be purchased offline as well as online from October 21, 2020, onwards.

LIC is offering two annuity options under the plan. Option-1 is a deferred annuity for single life. After Deferral period, the annuity payments, as per the chosen mode, shall be made in arrears for as long as the annuitant is alive. In case of unfortunate death, during or after deferral period, death benefit



will be payable to nominee of the annuitant. Under the option-2, deferred annuity for joint life after deferral period, the annuity payments, as per the chosen mode, shall be made in arrears for as long as the primary annuitant and/or secondary annuitant is alive. On death of the last survivor, during or after deferral period, the death benefit will be payable to the nominee.

The joint life annuity can be taken between any two lineal descendant/ascendant of a family (i.e. grandparent, parent, children, grandchildren) or spouse or siblings. The minimum purchase price is Rs1.50 lakh (subject to minimum annuity criterion.)

Equitas Small Finance Bank IPO subscribed 67%

NEW DELHI

THE initial public offer of Equitas Small Finance Bank was subscribed 67 per cent on the second day of bidding on Wednesday. The IPO received bids for 7,80,26,850 shares against 11,58,50,001 shares on offer, according to data available with the NSE. The portion reserved for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) was subscribed 5 per cent, non-institutional investors 5 per cent and retail individual investors 1.42 times. The initial public offer comprises a fresh issue of Rs 280 crore and an offer for sale of 7,20,00,000 shares. Price range for Equitas Small Finance Bank IPO is at Rs 32-33 per share. Equitas Small Finance Bank has raised Rs 139.68 crore from anchor investors. JM Financial, IIFL Securities and Edelweiss Financial Services are the managers to the offer.

India at doorstep of GDP revival, says RBI Guv

NEW DELHI

RESERVE Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said the country is at the doorstep of economic revival on the back of accommodative monetary and fiscal policies being pursued by the central bank and the government.

Das was speaking at the launch of the book ‘Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside’, written by former bureaucrat and current chairman of the Finance Commission N K Singh.

“We are almost at the doorstep of revival process and it’s very important that the financial entities have adequate capital (to support growth),” he said. Many of them have already raised capital and others are planning, he said, adding they would



certainly do so in the coming months. Das further said India followed the fiscal expansion path to deal with Covid-19-related challenges.

“I think post Covid, once there is containment of pandemic, the government will certainly have to spell out a fiscal roadmap that India should adopt,” he said. Both fiscal and monetary policies are in an accommodative stance, he added.

Job loss threat looms large on employees

50% working adults worry over future; 2/3rd expect employers help them retrain: WEF

NEW DELHI

MORE than half of the working adults globally are concerned about losing their job in the next 12 months, including 57 per cent in India, but more than two-thirds are hopeful that their employers will help them retrain for new employment opportunities, a global survey showed on Wednesday.

The survey, released at the World Economic Forum’s (WEF) ‘Jobs Reset Summit’ being held online, also showed wide variations between countries, while an average of three in four workers in Russia feared job losses, it was just one in four in Germany. In India, nearly 57 per cent of respondents said they are concerned about their jobs -- over 25 per cent are ‘very concerned’ and 31 per cent are ‘somewhat concerned’. Globally, 54 per cent concerned about job losses in the next 12 months, the WEF-Ipsos global survey of more than 12,000 working adults



in 27 countries showed. The prevalence of job-loss concern was highest at 75 per cent in Russia, followed by 73 per cent in Spain and 71 per cent in Malaysia. Germany scored the best with 26 per cent, while it was 30 per cent in Sweden, and 36 per cent in the Netherlands and the US. However,

67 per cent of workers worldwide said they can learn skills needed for the jobs of the future through their current employer.

Nearly nine in 10 workers in Spain think they can gain essential new skills on the job, whereas fewer than half in Japan, Sweden and Russia. Across the 27 coun-

tries, perceived ability to learn and develop those skills on the job was found to be the most widespread in Spain (86 per cent), Peru (84 per cent), and Mexico (83 per cent) and the least common in Japan (45 per cent), Sweden (46 per cent), and Russia (48 per cent). India also scored very high at 80 per cent. WEF Managing Director Saadia Zahidi said, “the current crisis means that the job creation rate has gone significantly down compared to two years ago, but there is an optimistic scenario overall compared to the rate of job destruction.”

The countries where those who can gain new skills on the job outnumber those who are concerned about losing their job by the largest margins are the US and Germany (by 40 points). In reverse, job loss concern is more prevalent than perceived ability to acquire skills in Russia (by 28 points) and, to a lesser extent in Malaysia, Poland, Japan, Turkey, and South Korea.

KVIC rolls out khadi footwear

NEW DELHI

EYEING the Rs 50,000-crore footwear market in India, Khadi Village Industries Corporation (KVIC) on Wednesday launched a range of footwear made of khadi fabric and said that it targets a Rs 1,000-crore market share in the first year.

The footwear range for both men and women was launched by MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari, Minister of State for MSME Pratap Chandra Sarangi, and KVIC Chairman Vinai Saxena.

Speaking at the launch, Gadkari said: “Global footwear industry is valued at Rs 1.45 lakh crore. KVIC will generate immense demand for khadi footwear with its range of products. Khadi footwear is a unique

Eyes ₹1,000-cr market share

product. International quality and use of fine fabric like Patola silk, Banarasi silk, cotton, and denim will attract youngsters who can purchase it online. These footwear are cost-effective.”

He said that Khadi India needs to also tap the accessories items like women’s purses, wallets and women’s bags made of khadi, which have high global demand, particularly in the European countries.

Sarangi said that khadi footwear were not only environment- and skin-friendly but also reflected the hard work of artisans put in to make fabrics for these footwear.

Harish rips into BJP, Cong for spreading canards about TRS

Says he is ready to resign from his post if BJP leaders prove their allegations of Centre contributing to the pension of beedi workers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

EQUATING the BJP and the Congress to oasis, Finance Minister and TRS leader T Harish Rao on Wednesday asked people not to get deceived by other parties.

The TRS leader addressed the people during a road show from Dubbaka bus depot to Telangana Talli statue in Dubbaka on Wednesday. Harish asked the electorate to not to believe the lies of BJP and Congress, alleging that they were spreading false propaganda against the TRS.

Harish once again challenged the BJP leaders to prove that the Centre was contributing Rs 1,600



Finance Minister and TRS leader T Harish Rao addressing at a road show in Dubbaka on Wednesday

towards pension of beedi workers. He offered to resign if the BJP leaders proved their allegations.

“The BJP government is not even giving 16 paise for the pensions. The BJP’s social media is full of lies. Even in Gujarat, the

government is giving pension of just Rs 500. But in Telangana, people are getting Rs 2,000. Will people believe BJP leaders words?” asked Harish, alleging that the BJP leaders were spreading lies that the Centre was giving funds to the State government

schemes.

He sought to know whether any of the BJP-ruled States were having schemes like free power, pensions to beedi workers, Rythu Bandhu, Kalyana Lakshmi etc. Harish Rao said that people of Dubbaka love Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, who was born in Chintamadaka and studied in Dubbaka, and not the leaders who are outsiders.

The TRS leader asked as to what the BJP leaders would tell people while seeking votes. “Will they say they will fix motors to the pump sets? Will they take away the livelihood of farmers by importing foreign corn? The BJP leaders should answer as to why they were bringing foreign corn?”

Addressing the people, party candidate S Sujatha said that her husband Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy had worked for the people till his last breath. Appealing to people to vote in favour of TRS, she promised to take up development works like her husband.

TRS using money, muscle power to win Dubbaka bypoll, says BJP

Party leader K Krishna Saagar Rao demands Election Commission to take immediate steps to check misuse of police and official machinery to benefit the ruling TRS

- Holds the State Election Commission responsible for failing to provide level-playing field to BJP candidate in Dubbaka by-election
- Exploiting police and administrative machinery has exposed TRS’ fear of defeat in the election



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

STATING that the Election Commissioner will be responsible for not providing level playing field to the party candidate, Telangana BJP alleged that the ruling party is using official machinery and police to win the Dubbaka bypoll.

Party’s chief spokesperson K Krishna Saagar Rao alleged that the TRS government is indulging in blatant abuse of power in Dubbaka and added that BJP strongly condemns the undemocratic, unethical and illegal meth-

ods being used to create obstacles in the election campaign of the party MLA contestant M Raghunandan Rao. He said that BJP will lodge a complaint with the Election Commission and will also explore all legal options against the State government.

The low-level tactic being used by the TRS exploiting police and administrative machinery has exposed its fear of defeat in the election. He said that his party will hold the State Election Commission responsible if the level playing field is not provided to BJP candidate in Dubbaka by-election, he added.

Addressing media BJP State general

secretary Gujjula Premender Reddy alleged that the ruling TRS is using money and muscle power, besides, misusing the official machinery to win the Dubbaka bypoll.

He alleged that police are taking the BJP workers to the police stations and calling their parents and threatening against working for the party in the bypoll.

That apart, police are visiting the houses of active members working for the party at night to create fear. Similarly, the police are slapping bind-over cases against the BJP men, he added.

Further, he alleged that money is being transported in police vehicles to distribute and demanded the Election Commission to take immediate steps to prevent the misuse of the police and the government machinery. The BJP leader alleged Finance Minister T Harish Rao is peddling false propaganda claiming that the State government has erected an electricity substation installed in Dubbaka. But, it was sanctioned by the Centre at Rs 7.5 crore under Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS), he said.

Centre announces ₹4 lakh ex-gratia to flood victims

- The amount will be paid to the kins of those who lost lives in torrential rains, says UM Kishan Reddy
- A five-member Central team to visit TS to assess the damage caused due to rains

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy said that the Centre will provide an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh from the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) to the kin of those who have lost their lives in the torrential rains in the State.

Addressing media on from his official residence at Delhi on Wednesday, he appealed the people to take necessary precautions and added that a five-member team headed by Joint Secretary Praveen Vasista of Union Home Ministry will visit Hyderabad to assess the loss caused during the three-day torrential rains in Telangana.

The Minister said that under the National Disaster Management of 2015, the Centre will pay an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of those who have lost their lives in rains. Similarly, those lost

their limbs will be paid Rs 2 lakh, injured Rs 12,700 and Rs 2,800 towards damage caused to the household items.

He said that the Centre will announce its assistance after the Central team submits its report on the crop loss caused due to the rains.

The State government can spend from the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) to provide relief to the rain-affected people in the State which will be reimbursed by the Centre, he added.

He advised the Telangana Ministers to focus on providing the much-needed relief to the people than criticising the Centre for not providing assistance to the State.

The Centre has decided to send a team during the current situation to assess the damage caused in Telangana, Kishan Reddy said.

The Union Minister said that no work has been done after the formation of the Musi Corporation. The State government should pay some serious attention as the tanks, water bodies and Musi riverfront are being encroached upon as it had happened during the earlier regimes.

Extending the Dasara wishes to the people of the State, Kishan Reddy asked the BJP leaders and workers to be in the forefront and join the government relief teams in assisting people.

Govt stands by people in time of crisis, says KTR

The Municipal Administration Minister distributes cheques for ₹10,000 flood-affected people in Secunderabad, assures more help

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MUNICIPAL Administration Minister KT Rama Rao on Wednesday said that the government is taking steps to hand over the immediate financial assistance to as many families as possible in a short time.

The Minister visited various flood-affected areas in the city and offered the financial assistance of Rs 10,000 to the families. Talking to the people, Rama Rao said that this amount is immediate relief and the government is ready to provide more money for the completely damaged properties and partially damaged properties. He assured the people in colonies that the government would stand by them in the time of crisis.

The Minister visited Lalapet in Secunderabad, Boduppal, Amber-



MAUD Minister KT Rama Rao along with the Labour Minister Ch Malla Reddy distributing financial assistance to a flood-affected woman in Boduppal on Wednesday

pet, inundated colonies in Nallakunta. He first visited Lalapet and interacted with the people living in huts and handed over Rs 10,000 to them. Later, he visited Boduppal Municipal Corporation and saw the shelter camps set up by the Corporation. He enquired about the food and medical assistance being provided there. The officials informed the Minister that they were providing food even to the people who did

not come to the camps. The Minister later visited the damaged Nalla Cheruvu and inspected the repair works and also directed the officials to complete the works immediately. He visited Netaji Nagar in Ramanthapur adjacent to the lake. He later visited Ratna Nagar near Nallakunta lake in Amberpet constituency and gave few suggestions to the officials on repair works of the lake.

RAIN FURY

TS to present detailed report to Centre

- Central team to study damage caused in the State from Thursday
- Officials have prepared a report on mainly the destruction of roads and civic infrastructure under the influence of heavy rains in the city

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana government will present a detailed report on the rain related disaster in the Greater Hyderabad limits to the Centre and seek adequate compensation for rebuilding the city. A team from Centre will visit Telangana from Thursday to study the damages due to recent heavy rains in Hyderabad as well as in other parts of the State.

Officials said that state Municipal Administration and Urban Development department has pre-

pared a report on mainly the destruction of roads and civic infrastructure under the influence of heavy rains in the city.

The State Agriculture and Roads and Building departments also prepared a report on farm related damage mainly to the standing crops in the current Kharif season and the erosion of road network including the national highways. Preliminary estimations insisted the rain fury incurred the damage to the tune of Rs 5000 crore. The team is likely to meet Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao before winding up the visit.

CM calls on former HM Naini Narsimha Reddy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Wednesday visited Apollo Hospitals and enquired about the health condition of former Home minister and senior TRS leader Naini Narsimha Reddy.

The TRS leader was admitted to the corporate hospital after complaining about breath-related ailments recently. His condition is stated to be critical as he was put on ventilator.

The CM accompanied by TRS general secretary and MP J Santosh Kumar and another leader Sravan Kumar Reddy rushed to hospital this evening.

Doctors explained KCR the health condition of the veteran TRS leader. Earlier, TRS working president KT Rama Rao and Finance Minister T Harish Rao and other Ministers also visited ailing TRS leader.



ASP M Rajesh Chandra producing the arrested Maoist before the media at his office in Bhadrachalam on Wednesday

legedly supplying to Maoists. The police produced him before the court, the ASP said. On other hand, police have seized ganja worth Rs 88 lakh and arrested three persons on Wednesday in Bhadrachalam.

Teams formed to disburse aid to flood-affected

The teams will extend the financial assistance at the doorsteps of victims’ sans any further delay

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a move to check the misuse of funds meant for instant relief to flood-affected families in Greater Hyderabad limits, the State government has prepared a systematic plan to expedite the distribution of financial assistance to the beneficiaries.

Nearly 300 teams in GHMC and 50 teams in neighbouring municipalities have been constituted to distribute financial assistance at the doorsteps of the households without any delay, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar said, directing the authorities concerned to set up a control room at the GHMC office and also at the office of CDMA, to monitor distribution.

Somesh Kumar held a high-level meeting with Municipal Administration Secretary Arvind Kumar, Finance Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao and GHMC Commissioner Lokesh Kumar on the arrangements made for the dis-



tribution of money to the flood-affected families.

The Chief Secretary asked the officials to prepare route-plans, identify affected localities and mobilise required manpower from the districts as required. He directed that 10 teams should be constituted for each circle comprising three members to disburse the amount. The official also advised that route-officers should be appointed in each circle for arranging required cash to the teams. Banks have been requested to ensure adequate cash in high denominations even during holidays to ensure uninterrupted distribution.

Relief work by new groups stings MIM

- New groups hope to throw a challenge the party in GHMC elections
- The way MIM workers reacted to the presence of Congress, newly formed parties and voluntary groups involved in relief works is invoking strong reactions



MIM leaders and workers having a heated exchange with Congress leaders during the latter's relief operation in Malakpet recently (File photo)

they want to use women. It is shame on their part to treat women inhumanely and for political purpose,” said Abdullah Bahmaid, an advocate and activist from Barkas.

Meanwhile, several parts under MIM’s control had naturally submerged in the flood situation, but the breach of Gurram Cheruvu (Balapur lake) has developed mistrust between Barkas and Hafiz Baba Nagar under Chandrayangutta constituency.

This stranglehold of the party is represented by Leader of Opposition in Telangana Assembly, Akbaruddin Owaisi and traditionally enjoys support from different groups. Breach of the lake has become a contentious issue, particularly after it damaged the areas which never expected floods.

The local Corporator representing the party stopped short of opening sluice gate and breach was made to the bund prompting the water flow on the other side. “A game is being played involving two localities Barkas and

Babanagar,” said a resident, expressing concern on the issue of lake breach.

Apart from Congress and voluntary groups who faced the ire of the AIMIM workers, activists of other newly-formed parties not only faced hostility but also allegedly physically assaulted and kidnapped.

In a complaint to Chandrayangutta police station, Mohammed Iqbal Asif alleged that there was attack and kidnap attempt by unruly elements of AIMIM. Interestingly a young woman also made complaint against him at same police station alleging misbehaviour.

M A Qavi Assasi, leader Majlis Inqilab-e-Millat party, also known as new AIMIM party, has challenged Asaduddin Owaisi that they would be posing strong challenge in GHMC elections.

“This is the high time that the people stop voting them and teach them a lesson. People should ensure there is a revolution, if they wish a change” he said.

Cops arrest Maoist, seize explosives

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHADRACHALAM

THE district police have arrested a Maoist in Bhadrachalam on Wednesday.

According to Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) M Rajesh Chandra, Circle Inspector Swamy and Traffic Inspector Suresh were conducting regular vehicle checking at Ambedkar Centre in the town and found a man moving suspected from Rajpet colony. The police caught him and after searching found out explosive items in his bag.

He was identified as Joga alias Sandeep alias Ramesh, native of Puttapadu village of Sukma district in Chhattisgarh State. He joined the banned Maoist group in 2007 and worked till 2014. Later he worked for Bhumkal Militia from 2016 to 2017 and was involved in several incidents at various police stations.

The police seized five detonators and 50 gelatine sticks from him, which he was al-

Delhi's 'Gabbar' roars with record back-to-back IPL tons

Dhawan was, however, unaware of the record he broke. 'I didn't know,' he said when asked about it.

DUBAI

SHIKHAR Dhawan etched his name in history books by becoming the first player to score back-to-back centuries in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Dhawan, who was yet to score a century in T20 cricket before he scored an unbeaten 101 against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) last Saturday, was unbeaten yet again, on 106 off 61 balls, during Delhi Capitals' (DC) match against Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) at the Dubai International Stadium which his team lost by five wickets on Tuesday.

Dhawan took just 57 balls to score his century. He hit 12 fours and three sixes and accounted for more than half of what his team managed with DC ending their innings on 164/5 off 20 overs batting first. Although he ended up on the losing side, no one can take anything away his magnificent effort.

The left-hander's first century against CSK ended the longest

streak for any batsman without a century in the IPL -- 167 innings. He is also the seventh Indian player to have scored more than two centuries in the IPL and joins Virat Kohli (5), Ajinkya Rahane (2), Virender Sehwag (2), Murali Vijay (2), KL Rahul (2), and Sanju Samson (2) on the list.

"I really enjoyed it today. I was this fluent on my Test debut. It's good that I am scoring consistently, you gain confidence. I make sure I take proper rest and am fresh for the match," Dhawan said in the post-match presentation ceremony during which he was declared player of the match.

"Today, it happened that way otherwise the boys have been playing very well. I took the responsibility of holding one end up and was also hitting the boundaries when I got the chance," he added.

Dhawan joined DC ahead of the 2019 season before which he had played 85 times for SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH) and scored 2,518 runs. At SRH, he won the

IPL title in 2016 when he scored 501 runs at an average of 38.53 with four half-centuries. His performances were, however, overshadowed by that of his teammate and captain David Warner, who smashed 843 runs at 60.57 with nine half-centuries.

The Delhi batsman was also

digit score only twice this season but managed to score a 30-plus score in only three of his first six innings this season.

Dhawan broke that run against Mumbai Indians on October 11 but



the highest scorer for the Delhi Capitals last season with 521 runs at an average of 34.73. It was his first year back with the franchise, having been part of their squad in the maiden season in 2008 when they were called the Delhi Daredevils.

Interestingly, there were murmurs of the 34-year-old being past his prime after the early part of the first half of the season. Dhawan has been out for a single

the fact that he scored just 69 runs off 52 balls despite playing through the innings, and that MI went on to cruise to a five-wicket win, hardly helped his case.

He finally switched gears in their next match against Rajasthan Royals, hit six fours and two sixes on his way to a 33-ball 57 as part of an explosive 85-run stand for the third wicket with DC captain Shreyas Iyer. He subsequently took it to the next level

against CSK, often keeping his team in the chase single handedly in the 'death' overs. Axar Patel's blitz in the last over allowed him to finish the match at the non-striker's end with 101* off 58 balls.

On Tuesday, Dhawan was seemingly batting on a different pitch to his teammates with the second highest score after his unbeaten 106 being 14, a score that Shreyas and Rishabh Pant scored individually. (ANS)

Aashi named 'impressive new driver' in FIA's rising stars programme

MUMBAI

INDIA'S Aashi Hanspal has been named the most deserving and impressive new driver in the FIA Girls On Track - The Rising Stars Program, held at Paul Ricard Karting Circuit in France.

FMSCI's women's commission chairperson Sita Raina revealed this on Wednesday, hailing the award as a milestone moment for Indian motorsports.

Aashi, 13, was one of 70 young girls selected from different parts of the world for the Rising Stars Shootouts held earlier this week.

Although she had taken up racing a little over a year ago and had no experience in driving Formula 4 cars, Aashi managed to impress the top honchos of FIA. The three-day program pitted the young girl against the most promising talent in the 12-16 age-group across the world and she underlined her prowess in the shootout round.

Aashi recorded four podium finishes in the JK Tyre FMSCI National Karting Championship 2019, beating many talented boys on her way, and was conferred the outstanding



women in Motorsports Award 2020 by FMSCI for her remarkable progress.

"I will cherish this experience all my life. I have come back with great memories, a fabulous racing experience and valuable exposure to the sport," Aashi, a class nine student of Bombay Scottish School in Mumbai, said as per a media release.

"I hope to improve over the years and carve out a career for myself in racing and make India proud in the near future," she added. (ANS)



Bangla cricketer's wedding photoshoot on pitch bowls out social media

NEW DELHI

BANGLADESH woman cricketer Sanjida Islam has taken social media by storm after posting her wedding photoshoot on a cricket pitch in a strikingly orange sari with proper 'maangtika', 'chur' (heavy bangles) and ornaments made of flowers.

Sanjida recently got married to Mim Mosaddeak, a first-class cricketer from Rangpur.

Sanjida can be seen playing a cover drive and a pull shot and giving all cricket-lovers couple goals. Coming out with an out of the box idea, the 24-year-old gave the International Cricket Council (ICC) the opportunity

to tweet the pictures: "Dress, jewellery, cricketer bat. Wedding photoshoots for cricketers be like,".

Sanjida made her international debut against Ireland in a T20I game in August 2012. In June 2018, she was part of Bangladesh's squad that won their first ever Women's Asia Cup title, winning the 2018 Women's T20 Asia Cup tournament.

The right-handed batswoman has so far played 16 ODIs and 54 T20Is in her eight-year-long international career for Bangladesh. She has scored 174 runs in ODIs and 520 runs in T20Is. (ANS)

'Bubble to bubble' cricket not sustainable, say Morgan & Holder

DUBAI

ENGLAND skipper Eoin Morgan and West Indies' Jason Holder believe it is "untenable" to expect players to continue to spend extended periods in bio-secure bubble amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Both Morgan and Holder are currently in the UAE, taking part in the 2020 IPL edition. While Morgan is leading Kolkata Knight Riders, Holder is playing for SunRisers Hyderabad.

England played West Indies in a bio-secure environment back home. They then hosted Pakistan and Australia and now some of their players are playing for different IPL franchises in the United Arab Emirates.

"We managed to fulfill all of our international fixtures for the summer. That was an unbelievable achievement for the teams that came across and the commitment of the ECB showed. The level of dedication from staff involved was extraordinary. We're extremely fortunate enough to be back playing." ESPNcricinfo quoted Morgan as saying during the Chance to Shine event aimed at raising funds for the charity's Street program.

"But to keep that level of bubble for a 12-month period, or 10 of the 12 months that we normally travel, I think is untenable. I don't think it's possible. I actually think it's probably one of the more challenging times for anybody involved in the cricket industry," he added.

The World Cup-winning England captain further stated that as a team, they have accepted that players would come in and out of the bubble as and when they feel it's affecting their mental health. "Their health is a priority. So I do think we'll see more players pull out of tours. That's just the reality of things. And I don't think people should look down upon it: they shouldn't feel like they're not doing their job or not committing to their country," said Morgan. (ANS)

Pooran's stance, backlift reminds me of Duminy: Tendulkar

DUBAI

LEGENDARY Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has heaped praise on Kings XI Punjab's Nicholas Pooran, saying the West Indies batsman is a "clean striker" of the ball and has stance and backlift similar to that of former South Africa batter JP Duminy. On Tuesday evening, Pooran scored a gutsy half century as Kings XI chased down the 165-run target against Delhi Capitals to register their third consecutive win in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) edition. The left-handed batter scored 53 off just 28 balls, which included three 6s and



six 4s at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

"Some power-packed shots played by Nicholas Pooran. What a clean striker of the ball he has been. His

stance and backlift reminds me of JP Duminy," Tendulkar tweeted after the match.

Pooran has been in good form in the ongoing tour-

nement, having scored 295 runs in 10 innings so far. His runs have come at a very impressive strike rate of over 180. He has so far hit 21 fours and 22 sixes.

Kings XI, after suffering six consecutive defeats, are back on the winning track and are currently placed at the fifth spot in the points table with four wins in 10 matches. They will next take on SunRisers Hyderabad on Saturday. (ANS)

TODAY'S MATCH
Rajasthan Royals vs
Sunrisers Hyderabad
at 7.30pm



Messi extends Champions League scoring record to 36 teams

BARCELONA

FOOTBALL legend Lionel Messi scored a historic goal during his side's 5-1 win over Ferencváros at the Camp Nou in the ongoing Champions League.

After his goal on Tuesday night, Messi now has scored goals against 36 different teams in the Champions League. Of the 41 teams the Argentinian has faced in the competition, only Rubin Kazan, Atletico Madrid, Benfica, Udinese and Inter Milan have managed to survive unscathed.

The goal moved him three ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo and Raul Gonzalez with 33 goals each, and Karim Benzema and Zlatan Ibrahimovic with 29, according to official FC Barcelona website. (ANS)



IT was in 2012 against Azerbaijan that Adil Khan made his senior India debut, but after a spate of injuries, his hopes of returning to the national team appeared bleak. However, like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the 32-year-old made an inspiring comeback to the Indian football team in 2019, the foundation for which was laid in the Second Division League, where he played for Lonestar Kashmir in 2016.

"Playing in the second division was one of the best decisions I have ever taken in my career. I was playing regularly and getting game time under my belt. It helped me immensely to regain my confidence and then I came back to Goa to play for Dempo and then got the call to play in the I-League with Churchill Brothers," Adil recalled in a chat with AIFF TV.

"Things went step-by-step in a proper way. Playing football is something I love to do and I could never give up on it. Maybe it was my destiny or a result of hard work - I don't know," he added.

The defender revealed that despite his critical injury, he was 'hopeful' of coming back to the national team fold. "I didn't lose my hopes of playing in the national team. I knew if I had a few good seasons in the domestic circuit, I will get the opportunity to perform in the national team. I want to convey my thanks to Salgaocar, which allowed me to train for one month and helped me regain my confidence. Then I realised that I still have a lot of football left in me and I wanted to explore and go step-by-step," Adil said. (ANS)

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