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Womenia

Beauty care for the winter bride

When it comes to a winter wedding, we generally assume that winter weddings are fuss free. Dry and patchy skin can be a nightmare when it comes to makeup application as everything you apply flakes off or creases. Looking beautiful on the wedding day is not merely a matter of make-up and dress. It needs weeks of care. If a skin care programme is followed a few weeks before the wedding, it can really help. The skin type and the season should also be taken into consideration.

For your daily facial care routine, cleanse your skin twice a day. It's not just the skin on your face that's prone to dryness in the winter; your hands are often left vulnerable to the same envi-



Shahnaz Husain

ronmental elements as your complexion.

Night time cleansing is more important, in order to remove pollutants and make up before bedtime. So, cleanse the skin daily at night and apply a layer of moisturizer before you sleep. You can also apply an all-night mask for your skin. For normal to dry skin, use a cleansing cream or gel and take half a cup of cold milk and add five drops of any vegetable oil. Put this in a bottle and shake well.



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Cleanse the skin with it, using cotton wool. Oily skins also need deep pore cleansing.

Mix rice powder with curd and apply on the face once or twice a week. Rub gently with small circular movements and wash off with water.

The skin on the lips is also thin and lacks oil producing glands. It becomes dry and chaps easily.

Even if you are using the moistest lipstick you cannot apply it on your lips without a coat of lip balm or petroleum jelly. For plump looking lips give them a base coat of lip balm. After cleansing, apply almond oil or almond cream on the lips daily and leave it on all night. Sun-protective lip balms

are also useful.

In winter, the skin of the body also needs nourishing with oils. In the olden days, "ubtan" was made at home for skin care. First the body was massaged with "til" oil. Then homemade "ubtan" was applied. This usually consisted of wheat bran, gram flour (besan), yogurt (dahi) or cream of milk (malai) and a pinch of turmeric (haldi). All these were mixed together and applied on the face and body, before bathing. The "ubtan" was washed off after half an hour, while bathing. It helped to clear the skin of dead cells, leaving it smooth and bright, with a translucent quality.

You can also give your hair a quick conditioning treatment before shampoo. Mix one teaspoon each of vinegar and almond oil with one egg. Beat them together well. Massage the mixture into

the scalp. Leave on the mixture for half an hour and then wash your hair. If you do not wish to use egg, add more almond oil.

You must keep yourself hydrated by drinking 8-10 glasses of water daily which will help flush out toxins, improve skin tone, healthy and glowing skin. You can add fruit juice, coconut water, watermelon, green tea and lassis in your daily routine. Make sure these do not contain too much sugar or sodium. Eating the right kinds of food will help your skin glow even in the winter months. Have a small box of dry fruits when you are travelling. Try to include regional and seasonal fruits, vegetables in your diet on a daily basis. Snacking on naturally hydrating food will keep your body hydrated. Opt for a diet that is rich in Omega 3 essential fatty acids.

TWEET PATROL



SAKSHI MALIK
@SAKSHIMALIK

Har khel ke peeche bahut mehnat lagti hai aur kayi saare logon ki mehnat lagti hai. Yeh trailer dekh ke mujhe apne din yaad aa gaye. Inki kahani zaroor dekhugi. #SonsOfTheSoil, New series, Dec 4 on @PrimeVideoIN



Home remedies for oily skin

Whenever the sebaceous or oil glands in your skin produce excessive oil, you develop oily skin. This is largely influenced by your hormones and genetic makeup. Several natural ingredients can help facilitate the removal of excess oil from the skin and unclog the pores. Make o a patch test to make sure that you are not allergic to any ingredient before applying a mask or scrub to your face.

Make a fuller's earth face mask

Fuller's earth is derived from clay and is widely used for brightening, lightening, and treating marks and spots. The absorbent properties of fuller's earth help in oil reduction. Make a paste by mixing 2 tablespoons of fuller's earth with water. Apply the paste to your face and allow it to dry for 15 minutes. Wash your face with water.

Use turmeric and sandalwood

A turmeric-based face mask with orange juice is beneficial for oily skin. The high vitamin C content of citrus fruits, such as oranges, helps in brightening and rejuvenating the skin as well as treating acne. Mix ¼ teaspoon of turmeric powder with 2 tablespoons of sandalwood powder. Add 2-3 tablespoons of orange juice, and combine to form a smooth paste. Apply the mask to your face, and rinse it off after drying.

Apply an oatmeal and egg white mask

Oatmeal is a natural moisturizer that aids in reducing skin oiliness. It also has anti-inflammatory properties that can prevent acne formation. The vitamin A in egg white can help in unclogging pores and removing oil as the mask penetrates the skin. Break open an egg and separate the egg white from the yolk. Beat the egg white using a whisk. Add ¼ cup of ground oatmeal, and mix them well. Spread the mixture on your face, and let it dry for 15 minutes. Wash your face with warm water.

Scrub with coffee grounds and honey

Coffee is rich in antioxidants and stimulates elastin and collagen synthesis, thus providing firmness to the skin. Honey moisturizes the skin and gets rid of excess oil. It can also help in preventing wrinkles and clearing pores. Honey also has antibacterial properties and aids in the prevention of acne. Form a thick paste using equal portions of honey and used coffee grounds. Gently massage the paste on your face in circular motions, like a scrub. Rinse your

face with warm water.

Use aloe vera gel

Aloe vera possesses antimicrobial and oil absorbent properties. Moreover, it can help even out your skin tone. Apply fresh aloe vera gel to your face and neck. Allow the gel to dry for 15-20 minutes, and wash with water. You can also boil the aloe vera leaf in water, grind it, and mix in one tbs of honey. Apply this mixture as you would use fresh aloe vera gel. You can also use aloe vera-based cleansers and moisturizers.



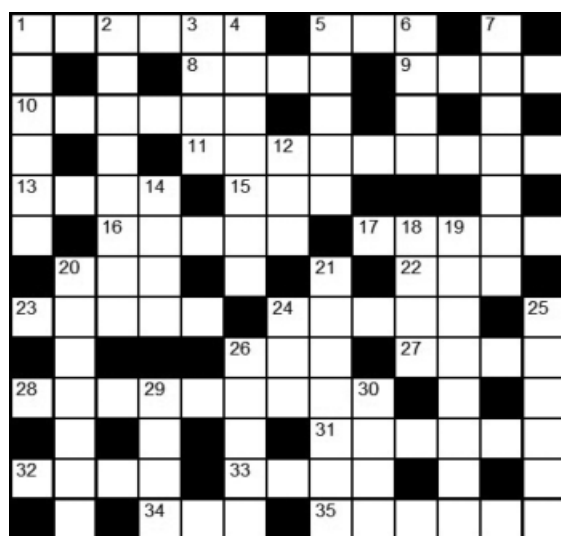
SICA's 62nd Art Festival held

South Indian Cultural Association organised a virtual Vocal concert in association with Hope Advertising Private Limited and telecasted in YouTube and Facebook on Thursday by Sushma Somasekharan. All members of SICA and music connoisseurs watched the program in large on youtube.com/hopeadtv/sica

Sushma Somasekharan is a Carnatic Vocalist based at Singapore and Chennai and supported by Nellai Ravindran on Violin and Sai Akilesh on Mridangam.

Sushma Somasekharan is a Carnatic Vocalist based at Singapore and Chennai. Sushma has performed in several prestigious organisations including Madras Music Academy, wherein she won the Outstanding Vocalist Award for her performance in 2017, Esplanade Theatres by the Bay Singapore, Indian Embassy Brussels, Indian Consulate Luxembourg, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan London and many more.

She recently toured the USA in April 2019 with Dr Gowri Ramnarayan as part of the DK Pattamal centenary celebrations. She also collaborated with in London with Mythili Prakash for her premiere of her production, Here and Now. Passionate about bringing Carnatic Music to the uninitiated, Sushma is also a lecturer at the National Institute of Education, Singapore.



SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 26

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Rabbit's home (6)
- 5 Prefix meaning "beneath" (3)
- 8 Inside of rind (4)
- 9 Augury, foreboding (4)
- 10 Less strong (6)
- 11 Courteous respect (9)
- 13 Mormon state (4)
- 15 Exceed (3)
- 16 A cleaning compound (5)
- 17 The sacred book of islam (5)
- 20 Tankard contents (3)
- 22 Speck (3)
- 23 Extract by force (5)
- 24 Follower of major Indian religion (5)
- 26 Cut off (3)
- 27 Bump off (4)
- 28 Where consciences are found (9)
- 31 Registered, entered or itemised ? (6)
- 32 Amazon valley people (4)

Down

- 33 Prod (4)
- 34 Cheer (3)
- 35 "Our - now are ended" (6)
- 1 Withdraw (3,3)
- 2 Legible (8)
- 3 Article expressing personal opinions (2-2)
- 4 Telephone bug (7)
- 5 Fleecy flock (5)
- 6 Body substance (4)
- 7 British soldier (7)
- 8 A wild animal (3)
- 14 Garden tools (4)
- 18 Against all ____ : come what may ? (4)
- 19 Gambling game (8)
- 20 Laborious (7)
- 21 Involving episodes of both mania and depression (7)
- 24 A large pig (3)
- 25 Daughters of Atlas (6)
- 26 Sometime Olivier co-star (5)
- 29 Arab prince (4)
- 30 Flank (4)

SUDOKU

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1			3	5			
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8		9	6	2		7	5
	1					8	
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		8	9		3		
			6	5			1
9	4		8	3			2

SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER 26

2	6	1	9	4	3	5	8	7
8	5	3	1	6	7	9	2	4
7	9	4	5	2	8	3	6	1
3	4	2	8	9	5	7	1	6
9	1	8	6	7	4	2	5	3
5	7	6	3	1	2	4	9	8
6	2	7	4	8	9	1	3	5
4	8	5	2	3	1	6	7	9
1	3	9	7	5	6	8	4	2

NEWS ROUNDUP

LFW win PETA India Vegan Fashion Awards 2020

PUJA GUPTA

AS awareness of animal abuse and suffering grows and the demand for cruelty-free clothing and accessories skyrockets, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has announced the winners of its Vegan Fashion Awards 2020.

The award recognises brands and individuals ushering forth animal-free fashion. Bollywood actress Richa Chadha has won the award for Best Vegan Style Icon, while Milind Soman's apparel brand Deivee has received the title of Best Vegan Activewear. Here's the complete list of winners in different categories:

Best Fashion Moment: Lakme Fashion Week's Sustainable Fashion Day (which was leather-free) Best Vegan Trainers: adidas India's Unisex adidas Originals Continental 80 Shoes Best Vegan Style Icon: Richa Chadha (who was quoted as saying, "I am one of those people who would always not only wear natural fabric [but also] choose cotton over silk and leather. I am against a lifestyle that goes against nature.") Best Vegan Activewear: Deivee by Milind Soman Best Vegan Wool: Faborg (its WEGANOOL is made from Calotropis plants) Best Vegan Leather: Malai (made using waste from the coconut industry) Best Vegan Women's Shoes: Papa Don't Preach by Shubhika Best Vegan Men's Shoes: The Alternate Best Vegan Bags: Broke Mate Best Vegan Sarees: Ghatkopar Cloth Stores PETA India Senior Media and Celebrity Projects Coordinator Monica Chopra, says, "The forward-thinking winners of PETA India's awards take fashion and compassion seriously. They make it easy to have a killer look without killing animals."



Two soldiers killed in militant attack

SRINAGAR

TWO soldiers were killed in a militant attack on an army Quick Reaction Team (QRT) at Parimpora in the outskirts of the city on Thursday, police said.

They said the Quick Reaction Team came under indiscriminate firing by two-three ultras, who were travelling in a van, this afternoon at a crowded area in Khushipora of Parimpora. Police said the two soldiers were critically injured in the attack and were rushed to a military facility in the nearby Shariefabad camp where they succumbed. A defence spokesperson added, "They (the injured soldiers) were evacuated to the nearest medical facility. However, they have succumbed to their injuries."

The security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to track down the assailants, he said. "Being a crowded area, our troops exercised restraint to avoid any civilian casualty and collateral damage," the spokesman said.

1st polls post Art 370 abrogation

Preparations are on in full swing for the first elections in Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the erstwhile state with political parties making the last last-ditch efforts to woo voters. The first-ever district development council (DDC) elections will be held in eight phases to elect 280 members in 20 districts from November 28 to December 22. In the absence of an elected government in the union territory, these councils are set to become a new unit of governance in the region. Along with the DDC polls, eight-phased polling will be held for by-elections to 230 urban local bodies (ULB) and 12000 panchayat seats. Major regional parties NC and PDP, which boycotted the panchayat polls in 2018, have plunged into the electoral battleground under the banner of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD).

Poaching from jail: FIR against Lalu

PATNA

BJP MLA from Pirpaiti in Bhagalpur district Lalan Paswan lodged an FIR with the vigilance department in Patna on Thursday afternoon in connection with tape-gate.

Paswan claims that Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad called him from Ranchi on Tuesday evening and asked him to remain absent during the voice vote for the post of Speaker in the Bihar assembly on Wednesday. Following this he informed senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi about the development. Paswan has also put the tape of the telephonic conversation with Lalu Prasad on social media platforms. "I have lodged an FIR in the vigilance police station in Patna against Lalu Prasad under the Prevention of Corruption Act for contacting me over telephone and offering ministerial berth. It amounts to bribery and alluring a public

servant. He is a convicted person in custody," Paswan said.

Following the FIR, Sushil Kumar Modi has also tweeted about the development and expressed a similar view.

Neeraj Kumar, former cabinet minister and spokesperson of the JD-U, has alleged that Lalu Prasad has been enjoying the hospitality of the Jharkhand government despite being convicted in the fodder scam. "He has made health issues and infection of corona in Hotwar jail. As he is involved in a criminal act, he should be sent to jail," Kumar said. The FIR by Paswan could have an effect on the bail hearing of Lalu Prasad in the Ranchi High Court scheduled for November 27.

Sources said that the ruling National Democratic Alliance leaders are making such allegations so that Lalu Yadav's bail application is rejected. Lalu Prasad is currently lodged in Ranchi jail after being convicted in four cases pertaining to the fodder scam.

'Punjab's 26/11'

Stop inciting farmers, Khattar tells Amarinder

CHANDIGARH

SHIROMANI Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal on Thursday slammed the Haryana government for trying to thwart farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' march, terming the attempt as Punjab's 26/11. Today is Punjab's 26/11. We are witnessing the end of the right to democratic protest. @Akali_Dal condemns the Haryana govt & Centre for choosing to repress the peaceful farmer movement, said Badal in a tweet.

Haryana has completely sealed its borders with Punjab to prevent farmers from entering the State for their onward march to Delhi to protest against the Centre's farm laws.

The SAD chief also lashed out at the BJP-led government in Haryana for using water cannons against farmers on the Punjab-Haryana border.

The battle for the rights of Punjab farmers cannot be throttled by using water cannons against them. Our resolve will only strengthen further, he said.

Bathinda MP and former Union minister Har-simrat Kaur Badal also condemned the Haryana government for preventing farmers' entry to Haryana, saying it is a murder of democracy.

Murder of democracy on #ConstitutionDay! Farmers' voices stifled, water cannons used on anadana! I appeal to PM @narendramodiji to direct Hry CM @mlkhattar ji to let our farmers' march on peacefully to convey their issues to Centre in Delhi. I stand in solidarity with them, tweeted Har-simrat Kaur.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar slammed his Punjab counterpart, Amarinder Singh, for inciting the farmers. In a series of tweets, he asked Amarinder Singh to "stop inciting farmers".

"Amarinder-ji, I've said it earlier and I'm saying it again, I'll leave politics if there'll be any trouble on the MSP - therefore, please stop inciting innocent farmers," Khattar said.

Khattar asked him to avoid cheap politics. "I've been trying to reach out to you for the last three days but sadly you decided to stay unreachable. Is this how serious you are for farmer's issues? You're only tweeting and running away from talks, Why?" he wrote.

It is absolutely wrong that farmers are being prevented from holding peaceful demonstrations against the Centre's new farm laws and water cannons are being used on them, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Thursday.



Police use water cannons during a clash with farmers, as they marched towards Delhi protesting over the farm reform bills, at Punjab-Haryana border in Ambala district



A langur sitting inside a hollow tree, at Pench National Park in Seoni district, MP. The image gained wide traction on social media after photographer Aman Wilson shared it on his handle.

Trade union strike: Buffaloes used to block Bihar roads

PATNA

THE Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) joined the one-day 'Bharat Bandh' called by the central trade unions as party workers blocked roads in Vaishali district. They even brought buffaloes and cattle to block the road and lit 'diyas', causing traffic jams on the Muzaffarpur-Hajipur road. The RJD workers raised slogans against the "anti-worker and anti-farmer laws" of the Centre.

The impact of the nationwide strike was also seen in Gaya where the working of the banks was affected. The RJD and Left workers also blocked roads and raised slogans against the central government in Begusarai. Farmers also joined the strike called by 10 trade unions against the policies of the Centre. In Patna, agitators assembled at BSNL R-block roundabout and Income tax roundabout, disrupting traffic.

They were contained by local administration and the area was vacated. Similar situation also prevailed in Arrah, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Purnea, Bettiah, Begusarai, Gaya, Jahanabad and Kaimur. Patna DM Kumar Ravi said: "We have deployed adequate police force at strategic locations to avoid untoward incidents."



Protesters burn a tyre during the nationwide strike by 10 central trade unions against various policies of the NDA government, in Kolkata on Thursday

Strike partially affects normal life in Bengal

KOLKATA

NORMAL life was partially affected in West Bengal on Thursday due to the nationwide trade union strike, during which sporadic clashes were reported in several parts of the state. The 24-hour bandh called by a joint committee of the central trade unions in protest against the Centre's economic policies began at 6 am. Bandh supporters, mostly activists of CPI(M) - affiliated outfits like CITU and DYFI, brought out rallies in Jadavpur, Garia, Kalmagazi, Lake Town and Dum Dum areas in and around Kolkata, disrupting vehicular movement and asking shopkeepers to pull down the shutters of their establishments, an official said. They picketed outside Howrah railway station, asking vehicle operators to stop services but a large police contingent was deployed to ensure normal plying of vehicles, he said. Left activists blocked roads in Central Avenue, Hastings, Shyambazar and Moulaik areas of Kolkata, the official said. Protesters clashed with the police in Barasat in North 24 Parganas district during their bid to enforce the bandh, he said.

Rift in Rajasthan NDA as Nagaur MP backs farmers' protest

JAIPUR

NAGOUR MP Hanuman Beniwal, convenor of the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party that is part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), on Thursday said that the central government should lend its ear to the farmers and roll back the farm laws passed in Parliament recently.

In his tweet, Beniwal said, "The central government needs to withdraw the farm laws and listen to farmers coming to Delhi. The governments of nearby states including Haryana should not adopt any oppressive policy on farmers, he added."



The NDA alliance convenor warned the central government that if the police and governments adopted a repressive policy against the farmers, the RLP would demonstrate in favour of the farmers across the country, including Rajasthan. He further said that the Centre needs to implement all the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission so that the farmer community can be benefited.

Beniwal had earlier said that he stands with the farmers on this matter and will not allow injustice to happen with them in any situation. His party objected to the fact that NDA allies were not taken into confidence before the bills were introduced in Parliament.

Beniwal said that RLP's objection is regarding two provisions of the bill. The first is that procurement outside the mandis does not include the minimum support price condition, and the second relates to the role of the third party in the procurement of farmers from private companies.

'Love jihad' is hoax, sinister, unconstitutional: Chidambaram

NEW DELHI

AMID the BJP-led state governments planning laws against the alleged 'Love jihad', former Home Minister P. Chidambaram on Thursday called it a "hoax", "sinister" and part of "majoritarian" agenda.

"Interfaith marriages are allowed under the Indian law, it is even encouraged by some governments."

"The enacted or proposed laws of some state governments will be struck down as unconstitutional," he said.

Many governments led by the BJP are in the process of enacting the law against love jihad. The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has promulgated an ordinance against religious conversions.

This is being done in view of the increasing number of cases of alleged 'love jihad' in the state where Muslim men have concealed their religious identity to lure Hindu girls, sources said. The maximum number of such cases have been reported from Kanpur and Meerut.

According to sources, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, during his two-day visit to Lucknow this week, also raised the issue of religious conversion.

Aditya makes it to top 4 in India Fact Quiz

NEW DELHI

AFTER a gripping regional final for the North zone of India Fact Quiz Championship 2020, Aditya Maurya from Delhi beat three other semi-finalists from Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand to qualify for the final leg of the National Championship. The regional final was conducted virtually via Zoom and aired on TV over the weekend on Times NOW. Aditya, the winner of the North zone final, is student of B. Tech in Mathematics and Computational Engineering from Delhi Technological University (DTU).

India Fact Quiz was launched in February 2020 as India's first ever digitally gamified quiz on data and facts on India. It was conceptualised with the objective of challenging and correcting the biases of India's youth around data and facts on India, in sectors like health, education, gender, climate, welfare and population. The championship, targeting the age group between 17-25, is created as a launchpad to identify the brightest and most factful young minds of India. It was launched with an online quiz content with over 450,000 quizzers participating across India. From this, 16 semi-finalists were selected from the North, South, East and West zones, with a winner from each regional final making it to the final 4.

Aditya has a keen passion towards animal welfare and an ambition to become a tech entrepreneur.

In the regional round, she competed against the following 3 semi-finalists: Parth Choudhary, 17, completed 12th standard and preparing for competitive exams, from Kota, Rajasthan; Anuj Agrawal, 19, B. Tech, (Computer Science), Lovely Professional University, from Orai, Uttar Pradesh; and Pratik Mishra, 23, MBA, Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi; IIITDM Jabalpur, from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.



COVID-19 tally reaches 92.66 lakh

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S COVID-19 caseload increased to 92.66 lakh with 44,489 new infections being reported in a day, while the recoveries surged to 86.79 lakh, the Union health Ministry said on Thursday.

The country's coronavirus tally mounted to 92,66,705, while the death toll climbed to 1,35,223 with 524 new fatalities, the ministry data updated at 8 am showed. The COVID-19 active caseload has risen to 4,52,344, an increase of 7,598 cases from Wednesday, even though it remained below 5 lakh for the 16th consecutive day. The active cases comprise 4.88 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

The total number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 86,79,138, pushing the recovery rate to 93.66 per cent, while the COVID-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.46 per cent. India's tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, 80 lakh on October 29, and surpassed 90 lakh on November 20. According to ICMR, over 13.59 crore samples have been tested for COVID-19 till November 25, with 10,90,238 samples being tested on Wednesday.

26/11: Applaud the unity and acts of kindness, says Ratan Tata

'The wanton destruction that took place 12 years ago will never be forgotten, what is more memorable is the way Mumbai people came together, casting aside all differences, to vanquish the terrorism'

NEW DELHI

Veteran industrialist Ratan Tata on Thursday called for "unity and acts of kindness and sensitivity" that Mumbai showed in response to the terror attack 12 years ago, to continue in the future.

In a social media post, the chairman emeritus of the Tata group said, "The wanton destruction that took place 12 years ago will never be forgotten." But, he said, what is more memorable is the way Mumbai people came together, casting aside all differences, to vanquish the terrorism.

"Today, we certainly can mourn the ones we lost and honour the sacrifice of the brave who helped conquer the enemy but what we must applaud is the

unity and acts of kindness and sensitivity which we should cherish," Tata said. Hopefully, it will continue to shine in the years ahead, he added. Echoing similar sentiments, Mahindra & Mahindra Chairman Anand Mahindra tweeted, "Mumbaikars won't forget the night of the #2611Attack when the air was filled with uncertainty and insecurity. I remember feeling as if the city and the country were being invaded."

Quoting a remark by South African leader late Nelson Mandela -- "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear. But the triumph over it" -- Mahindra added, "But by the end of that week, we brought to life this quote by Mandela. Mumbai -- and India -- did triumph."

Actors Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Urmila



Matondkar and others paid tributes. On November 26, 2008, 10 Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists from Pakistan arrived by sea route in Mumbai and opened fire, killing 166 people, including 18 security personnel, and injuring several others during a 60-hour siege in the city.

Taking to Twitter, Kumar said that 26/11 is a day Mumbaikars will never forget. "My heartfelt tribute to the martyrs and victims of the #MumbaiTerrorAttack. We will forever be indebted to our bravehearts for their supreme sacrifice," the superstar tweeted.

Replying to Mumbai Police's tweet, about never erasing people's sacrifice from history, Bachchan wrote, "Lest we forget." Matondkar shared a collage of the martyrs and wrote citizens will remain grate-

ful to those who laid down their lives saving others. "Heartfelt tribute to martyrs and victims of 26/11 #MumbaiTerrorAttack. Salute to strength and resilience of people of #MumbaiCity. Eternally grateful for your supreme sacrifice and you are forever in our hearts," the 46-year-old actor tweeted. Actors Ranvir Shorey and Raveena Tandon also prayed for the victims and martyrs of the attack, saying they will never forget their sacrifice.

"Never forget. Prayers for all who laid down and lost their lives on the day," Shorey wrote. Tandon said, "Never Forget . Never Forgive . #26/11." Actor Randeep Hooda shared a video of the Bomb Detection Dog Squad of 26/11 attacks, which helped trace several live bombs and RDX during the terror strike.

The many avatars of soccer God Maradona

Could disorder have an order? Is pandemonium ever beautiful? Can chaos be welcome? Yes, if it is Diego Maradona, the soccer legend. Call him a God, as he is to many lovers of the game or christen him a villain, as the British would love to term him (being responsible for their most painful soccer history).

The beauty is that he never aged. In defying the natural life cycle, he forever remained a teenager. Prone to err, he preferred to repeat display of his weaknesses. The news that he is no more has left everyone shocked, however. Because Gods’ never die. Maradona became one of the greatest soccer players who became a household name after leading his country to

the world cup victory in 1986. Still, he was not acceptable to his critics.

“Don’t be a Diego” was the often heard refrain from the elders to the youngsters. It is not strange as fame and notoriety are often companions and prefer to sail together. One moment it is this and the next, it is the exact opposite. As is often with the movie stars and music legends, Maradona too was quick to transform his lifestyle - into the life of addiction.

Neither did he compromise with the quality of the soccer, nor did he come to terms with his wild ways. Perhaps, the only thing under his control was the football and not his life, which erratically spun from one extreme to the other starting with drugs which he cul-

tivated as a habit from the early 80s’. He invariably landed into the lap of the powerful and violent Giuliano clan of the Camorra (an organised crime organisation) and the latter never let him off.

In 2014, El Pibe de Oro (the Golden kid) made a confession of sorts when he admitted how much of a mess he had made his life when he said “I gave my opponents a big advantage due to my illness. Do you know the player I could have been if I hadn’t taken drugs? I am 53 going on 78 because my life hasn’t been normal. I’ve lived 80 years with the life I’ve gone through.”

Drugs were common to Napoli and in various forms, those were available at one’s doorstep. He knew that his ad-

diction would get him caught, hence, he is said to have used clean urine samples from outside sources. The sporting world, possibly, never would come across just fake samples, but also a fake penis that any player would use, often. One such is on display at a museum in Buenos Aires! Of course, Mike Tyson too did it to avoid being caught in the doping tests.

The irony is that the one used (he used several) by him went missing and the Argentina police launched a hunt for it too. He was busted by the Italian police in a wire sting operation in 1991. No doubt, he was used by the Camorra which furthered its interests. His career took the natural course as a result and ended with a ban and later a suspended prison sentence too. He lived hard till the cardiac arrest on November 25. The higher they go, the harder they fall!

Independent education sector



A major source of employment in India

SACHIN GUPTA

IN India too, the ‘new-age’ education system is preparing itself for the learning needs and challenges of enterprise 4.0. The penetration of digital education into the hinterland/rural market is evolving fast and the proliferation of digital tools and applications has further transformed the learning communication practices. It has a re-defined teacher-learner interface, training pedagogies, instructional design, and educational curriculum. Educational institutions play a significant role in the development of a child, society, nation, and the world at large. It has always been found that the developed and strong developing are backed up and supported by robust education systems.

The global educational landscape is undergoing a dramatic transformation wherein many educational institutions and training centers have transitioned towards the online mode of teaching, learning, and training to mitigate the impact of the Corona Virus on education.

At a very basic estimate, in India, about 64.3 per cent of the colleges are private unaided. A majority of the colleges in India are privately managed with or without receiving financial/non-financial aid from the government. Unaided private colleges in the country provide direct employment to millions of people which comprise teaching, non-teaching, and support staff. This translates into livelihood to 12-15 crores citizens of the country, making education one of the top 5 employment providers in the country.

The roadmap of independent education institutions (rather all the educational institutions) is up for a drastic change post-pandemic. The new-age format calls for measures that encourage the transition from rigid campus and attendance-based systems and will move on to: Hybrid model- Online education will eventually become an integral component of school education. Blend of face-to-face and on-line forms of teaching will emerge with significant benefits where the online component can be delivered through both synchronous and asynchronous modes and will enable students to learn at different times in different locations.

AI will personalise learning – Artificial Intelligence will bring many opportunities and challenges to the sector. The traditional ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to education will be ineffective and lead to higher dropout rates. But if utilized properly, big data analytics and artificial intelligence will create personalised learning experiences that will help in resolving some of these challenges and will majorly contribute to decreasing the rate of dropout rates.

Examination and grading – Modern technology will offload teachers from the burden of paper evaluation, assessment, markings, etc. With these tasks taken care of by AI, Teachers will be able to pay more attention to relevant tasks like new teaching pedagogies, course improvement, aptitude development, curriculum innovation, etc.

The pandemic is a reminder for always being prepared for an unpredictable future in terms of knowledge, skills, problem-solving, creative thinking, technology and collaboration. The rapid spread of Covid-19 has undoubtedly demonstrated the importance of technology; but at the same time, it has shown the value of being resilient to face various threats and being agile enough to quickly adapt to changes.

Colleges on their own have been mindful of the economic challenges that certain parental households are undergoing due to the lockdown and have been proactive to provide relief to the extent feasible and sustainable. At the same time Colleges have been working overtime to ensure that they transcend to online learning and keep intact their academic resources and staff community.

In the midst of all these, several circulars have been issued in quick succession raising confusion and false hope among the Parent’s community and have put the continuance of school operations at severe threat. Besides student fees, unaided private colleges do not have any other source of revenue. To conclude, it would be apt to say that the exponentially increasing rate of growth of population is likely to create a large number of job opportunities in the country and hence will become a major source of employment in India.

(The author is Chancellor of Sanskriti University)

Temples must be free of govt control, says top VHP leader

NAVNEET MISHRA

Alok Kumar, International Working President of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), has demanded that temples across the country be freed of government control. Kumar said that such are the laws in certain states that there isn’t even a single Hindu devotee in the temple committees. Only bureaucrats are running the show in governance of temple operations.

“Not just in South India but in West and North India, temples are under the government’s control,” the VHP top leader said in an exclusive interview with IANS. “The same is the case in Uttarakhand. The government’s job cannot be to run temples. There should be a system that has transparency. The government should not control and regulate the temples and devotees must have a greater say in the affairs of the temples.”

Kumar said the present government at the Centre is sensitive to this. “In the future, temples are expected to be freed of government control. State governments should themselves take the initiative for this. There is a separate system for gurudwaras and there is a different system in the Wakf board as well. There should be participation of devotees in the operation of temples too. There is not a single devotee in the committees that run temples in many states.”

Kumar expressed dissatisfaction over what he sees as excessive government involvement in the running of temples and use of temple funds in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, among other states.

Kumar further said, there will be no dearth of funds for the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. The Vishva Hindu Parishad will contact 11 lakh families and 55 crore people in four lakh villages across the country to collect funds for the temple.

On the question of donations for the temple, Kumar said, “Somebody had suggested to me that he would want to fund the entire cost of constructing the temple on his own. So I said then people will know it as your temple and not the Ram temple. Therefore, the temple must be built with the economic cooperation of all Indians.”

One-fifth of ecosystems in danger of collapse

JOHN DEARING

One in five countries are at risk of their ecosystems collapsing, threatening more than half of global GDP (US\$42 trillion, or £32 trillion), according to recent research. This scary sounding statistic raises all sorts of questions.

What does “ecosystem collapse” actually mean? What causes an ecosystem to collapse and how do we know when it’s happened? Perhaps most important of all, what comes next?

Ecologists use the term “collapse” to describe a process resembling a failed soufflé or a burst football. When ecosystems collapse, they rapidly lose their structure and function, with dramatic changes to their size or extent, or the species that comprise them. These losses tend to homogenise and simplify the ecosystem – fewer species, fewer habitats and fewer connections between the two.

Controlling the collapse

When mature forests collapse, they usually transition to more open woodland with scrub and grasses, depending on the grazing animals present and the climate. A vibrant coral reef becomes an ossuary of rubble, which slowly wears away.

In kelp forests where sea otters have been hunted out, unchecked sea urchins can overrun the seaweed, creating a desolate plain with few species known as an urchin barren. Pollution can quickly change lakes from clear waters writhing with salmon to green and turbid pools filled with toxic algae.

These changes effectively mean that the original ecosystem has become locally extinct. The

services which it might previously have supplied – food, carbon storage or water filtration – are lost or diminished. But “collapse” remains a vague term, as the causes and final outcomes differ from ecosystem to ecosystem.

For humans, not all ecosystem changes are bad or recent. People have relied on modifying ecosystems for millennia – draining wetlands, damming rivers, felling forests – to create new farmland. These environments are maintained in an artificially collapsed state for the benefit of maximising a particular form of food and fibre.

They could collapse further if, for example, wind and rain eroded enough soil to shift farmland to a barren state with little or no ecosystem services – think the Dust Bowl in North America during the 1930s. Further degradation within an already simplified ecosystem should at least be relatively straightforward to monitor and manage.

The real dangers come from unplanned collapse, the unintended consequences of over-stressing an ecosystem that was near-natural and not dominated by humans.

Tipping points

Natural ecosystems can resist stresses from human actions or the climate for a long time – but only up to a point. After a while, these stresses drive positive feedback loops that push the system over a tipping point.

Much of the deforestation across the Amazon basin occurs in patches. But as more local patches are cleared, the forest opens up and makes the regional climate drier, which global warming encourages. The entire forest becomes more prone to



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drought and wildfire as a result.

Positive feedback loops figure in other collapses too. The drip-drip of nutrients into a lake from fertilisers running off farmland will cause algae to grow. As the algae bloom and decay, they leach oxygen from the water, which unlocks nutrients in the lake bed, accelerating more growth and more oxygen depletion.

We know that the risk of ecosystems collapsing today is heightened by intense stresses from industry, farming and fishing that often act together and in

tandem with global warming.

Scientists are trying to simulate the effects of stress on ecosystems using computer models to gauge the likelihood of collapse. But it’s early days, we need more careful monitoring of the subtle changes in ecosystem structure and function that form the early warning signs of growing positive feedback mechanisms.

We do know that the duration of a collapse is relative to an ecosystem’s size. The bigger the ecosystem, the slower it will col-

The immortal Maradona

A uniquely gifted footballer with his riveting style, Diego Maradona had the world at his feet. He had a talent unmatched by any other player of his time. In his era he was a player without equal.

With his footballing skills, he held audiences all over the world spellbound. Like the legendary Pele, Maradona was synonymous with football and symbolised the beautiful game.

Incredibly, Maradona began to pick up his skills as a football player in his childhood by repeatedly flicking an orange in the air with both feet and dribbling a rag ball. From humble beginnings as ‘a child of the potrerros’, he became a football icon, a cult figure among football fans and a household name in the 1980s.

The Argentinean player was a sporting legend in his own lifetime. His absolutely superb and scintillating performances produced some of the most magnificent goals ever in the history of football and won him lasting global fame. His gambetas - slalomming glides and dribbles - were a delight to watch. His agility and ball control were phenomenal and energy was inexhaustible. He was buffeted on the football pitch so much that he had to often take cortisone injections and wear a second pair of shin pads to protect his Achilles tendons.

The goal scored by sleight of hand - the so-called Hand of God - (when he couldn’t head it) in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final was perhaps the most talked about goal ever in football history. Then remember that the goal that the soccer superstar scored single-handedly in the same match after four minutes of the controversial goal is hailed to this day as the best goal of all time - ‘a product of pure genius’.

Deified for his impossibly superhuman sporting prowess, Maradona did not fit into the traditional mould of a class player; he individuated himself and led a very intense life and his bohemian and unhealthy lifestyle choices took him to a condition where he had to battle drugs and alcohol. He tested positive for banned substances on several occasions. Nevertheless, the plastic penis and fake bladder that he once used to evade drug testers was displayed in a museum as if it was a holy relic - an amusing anecdote bespeaking his deity-like status.

The immortal Maradona has scaled the peaks of glory and found his place in the pantheon of football’s all-time greats. Pele’s tribute ‘One day, I hope we can play ball together in the sky’ best sums up Maradona’s greatness.

G David Milton, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu



LETTERS

Great loss for Congress party

The death of veteran Congress Parliamentarian, Ahmed Patel, a seasoned trouble shooter, suddenly created vacuum in the party. Picked by then party Chief, and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1977 as MP, Ahmed Bhai, as he was fondly called by his colleagues, gradually elevated into ‘coterie’ of the family, like PV Narasimha Rao in earlier years. Party Presidents, Rajiv Gandhi, PV Narasimha Rao, Sitaram Kesari, Sonia Gandhi came and left from 24 Akbar Road, but Ahmedbhai remained sincere confident to all his party Chiefs. Interestingly, when then Party President Sitaram Kesari was reluctant to give up the post, Ahmed Patel politely switched over to Sonia camp and remained her trusted lieutenant throughout.

A good fund raiser for Congress, he was also its Treasurer. As political adviser to Sonia, he prevailed upon Madam to forge Congress alliance with Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to form the government in Maharashtra in 1999, in spite of the Maratha strongman Sharad Pawar, just then parted ways with his parent party. Interestingly, again in 2019, Ahmed Patel proved his political skill, convincing his party bigwigs to join Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA), this time accepting Shiv Sena as one of the partners, pushing BJP to wall. It’s hard to find a dedicated party leader in present day political era of fence sitters and faction changers. Sonia Gandhi rightly said Ahmed Patel demise is ‘irreplaceable’ loss to her party.

Govardhan R Jilla, Mumbai

KCR is being brave

The saying that “there are many things that seem impossible only so long as one does not attempt” is applicable to the humble attempt of brave KCR at greater things like an anti - BJP front which is a political necessity in Indian democracy today and necessity is the mother of invention (KCR should set his own house in order first. 26 Nov)

As the Constitution envisages, India is a union of States and federal spirit suggests a strong Centre and equally strong States. At the same time, India today badly needs a strong opposition which can act as checks and balances to the mighty ruling party which has massive majority.

Against this background , the brain child of KCR to form a front with non BJP parties is good news as it strengthens the secular Democracy in India. Who knows, in the days to come , KCR may

play the role of shepherd boy “David” and flatten the mighty warrior “Goliath” with his sling shot .

PH Hema Sagar, Hyderabad

Criminals in politics

The Forum for Good Governance needs to be complimented for releasing the list of 49 candidates belonging to

all the parties who have criminal cases pending against them. This would alert the voters and help them make informed choices. 49 candidates is no small number. The only consolation this time being, is that the number has reduced from 72 last time. The other big consolation is that this number of 49 is less than 10 per cent of the total contestants.

N R Raghuram, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

YSRCP LEADERS PAY TRIBUTES TO AMBEDKAR



AMARAVATI

YSRCP chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy paid tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar at camp office here on Thursday on the occasion of National Constitution Day. Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney, MP Nandigam Suresh, MLA Meruga Nagarajuna and several other officials were present on the occasion.

At the party central office, TTD chairman Y V Subba Reddy said that India has become a great democratic country due to the efforts of B R Ambedkar, by bringing a constitution which guarantees fundamental rights. Drawing inspiration from the Constitution, Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has been working towards social justice by implementing various welfare schemes in the most transparent manner, he said and criticised the previous government which violated the Constitution and took the defected opposition party members into the state Cabinet.

Referring to TDP leaders, he said that a few leaders are still going against the Constitution, by influencing the constitutional bodies and managing the systems. Home minister Mekathoti Sucharitha

Ministers and party leaders say CM Jagan is implementing several welfare policies aimed at ensuring social justice to all downtrodden sections of people with the spirit of Constitution provided by Babasaheb

said that Dr Ambedkar had worked to eradicate untouchability in our country and thus brought the Constitution to safeguard the interests of the weaker sections and support the people of backward classes. She said that the Chief Minister had given a place in the Cabinet to all sections, besides implementing 50 per cent reservation to women.

Reiterating that the state government was working on the lines of Ambedkar ideology, minister for education Audimulapu Suresh said that the people had witnessed the land scam in Amaravati and now with Supreme Court order, they feel that justice had been done. The government is dedicated to provide transparent governance leaving no scope for corruption. Ministers Vellampalli Srinivas, Shankara Narayana, YSRCP state general secretary L Appireddy and others were present on the occasion.

Ports, fishing harbours to get priority



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy reviewing status of industrial corridors and ports at his camp office in Tadepalli on Thursday

- During a review, CM tells officials that building 3 ports and 8 fishing harbours, development of Kopparthi industrial cluster, Bhogapuram airport, Metro Rail at Vizag and supply of drinking water to port city from Polavaram through pipeline are high priority projects
- Officials inform that Ramayapatnam port works will be handed over by Dec 15, Bhavanapadu by March next and Machilipatnam works Feb
- CM instructs officials to look into the possibilities of building a port in Rambilli area to ease pressure on Visakhapatnam port and also cut pollution

AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said that priority should be given to the construction of ports and fishing harbours.

During a review meeting held at the camp office here on Thursday, the Chief Minister said construction of three ports and eight fishing harbours, development of Kopparthi industrial cluster, Bhogapuram airport, construction of beach road from Bhogapuram airport to Visakhapatnam

city, Metro Rail at Visakhapatnam and supplying drinking water from Polavaram to Visakhapatnam through pipeline are the high priority projects. He asked the officials to prepare a DPR (Detailed Project Report) for Polavaram-Visakhapatnam drinking water supply project.

The officials said they would finalise tenders and hand over the works of Ramayapatnam port by December 15 and works would begin in February next year (2021). Fifteen MTPA (million tonne per annum) of cargo would be handled with four berths in first phase at Ramayanapatnam port. The Officials said they would finalise tenders and hand over the works of Bhavanapadu port by December 15 and works would begin in March next.

As much as 25 MTPA of cargo would be handled with four berths in first phase in Bhavanapadu port and hand over of

Machilipatnam port works would be by February 15 next year (2021) and works would begin in April next. In Machilipatnam port, 26 MTPA of cargo would be handled with six berths in first phase, the officials said.

The Chief Minister said Bhavanapadu, Machilipatnam and Ramayapatnam ports should be completed within two-and-a-half years. He directed the officials to look into the possibilities of building a port in the Rambilli area so that it would reduce the pressure on the Visakhapatnam port and also reduce the pollution.

The officials explained the development works at Achuthapuram cluster and Nakkapalli cluster of Visakhapatnam node in Visakhapatnam - Chennai Industrial Corridor (VICIC). They explained the activities in Srikalahasti and Yerpedu nodes and stressed the necessity of air cargo. The Chief Minister di-

rected the officials to focus on developing air cargo facilities at Tirupati, Nellore and Kadapa airports. The officials explained the progress of works in Orvakalu node. The Chief Minister said that industries should use desalination water as much as possible and added that desalination water costs only 4 paise per litre and it would save drinking water. He instructed to set up sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in industrial corridors and industrial areas to ensure groundwater is not polluted due to effluents released from industries.

Industries minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy, chief secretary Nilam Sawhney, industries special chief secretary Karikal Valaven, industry director J V N Subramaniam, APIIC VC and MD K Raveen Reddy, AP Maritime Board CEO N P Rama Krishna Reddy, APIIC ED P Prathap attended the meeting.

CM orders steps to assess Nivar losses

AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy held a review on impact of Cyclone Nivar and directed the officials to take necessary measures to control effects of the cyclone here on Thursday.

The Chief Minister ordered the officials to support the family of a person who died due to electric shock in Nellore district. He asked them to prepare the report on the enumeration of crop damage after rains stop and to be ready to provide immediate relief.

The officials explained to the Chief Minister the impact of cyclone and heavy rains.

They said Cyclone Nivar made landfall and the intensity was decreasing. Yerpedu, Srikalahasti, Satyavedu in Chittoor district, and whole of Nellore district have witnessed heavy rainfall and rains battered some parts of Kadapa and Anantapur districts, they said and added, Nellore district received an average rainfall of 7 cm.

The CMO officials said there would be inflow into Penna river and Somasila project was full to the brim and water would be released depending upon the inflow.

There has been crop damage at some places and damage assessment would be carried out as soon as the rains subside.

Naidu laments attack on pillars of democracy in AP

- Recalls the services of BR Ambedkar and other stalwarts to in laying foundations to Indian democracy
- Alleges that in Andhra Pradesh, all dissenting voices are being suppressed, the media is muzzled, the fundamental rights are being trampled upon and false cases and illegal detentions are being resorted to
- Yanamala says YSRCP govt has no moral right to celebrate Constitution Day as it unleashed a reign of terror and intimidation against Dalits and BCs



AMARAVATI

TDP national president and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday paid rich tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar and other stalwarts on the occasion of Constitution Day.

Naidu recalled the outstanding services rendered by our forefathers in laying strong foundations to the vibrant Indian democracy which became an inspiration for many other countries in the world. Unfortunately, it was painful to see Andhra Pradesh becoming a stage for the non-stop violations of the Constitution and unchecked atrocities against all sections of citizens, he said.

In a statement here, the TDP chief deplored that all the four pillars of democracy came under attack under the present regime. It was every citizen's responsibility to protect these institutions from the anarchic forces. Those who had to uphold

the spirit of the Constitution were undermining it, which was highly unpardonable. However highly placed they may be, everybody should abide by the Constitution.

Extending his 71st Constitution Day greetings to all Telugu people, Naidu said liberty, freedom and fraternity were the foundations of a democracy. It was painful that in AP, all dissenting voices were suppressed, the media was muzzled, the fundamental rights were trampled upon and false cases and illegal detentions were resorted to. The flagrant violation of the Constitutional rights was evident from how the atrocities cases were booked against the SCs themselves.

The TDP chief expressed concern that the farmers were handcuffed even as joint suicides were committed, unable to bear harassment from the ruling party leaders. Gangrapes and attacks on the Opposition

became the order of the day. The general public should strongly oppose the suppression of the aspirations and hopes of our elders for shaping a bright future for the young generations, he said.

In a separate statement, party senior leader Yanamala Ramakrishnudu asserted that the YSRCP government had no moral right to celebrate the Constitution Day considering how it had undermined the established systems and Constitutional institutions in the state in the past 18 months.

He said the Jagan government was implementing the faction-driven Raja Reddy Constitution which marked countless and unchecked atrocities on the BC, SC, ST and Muslim minorities. Ramakrishnudu said that the Dalits were being persecuted in Andhra Pradesh like never before in history in any other state in the country. Dalit doctor Dr Sudhakar was attacked, humiliated, arrested, jailed and persecuted. Another Dalit doctor Dr Anitha Rani and Dalit Judge Justice Ramakrishna were humiliated. These atrocities were only possible under the Raja Reddy Constitution. The Pulivendula type settlements were on the rise everywhere. This has struck fear in the hearts of the people, he said.

'We Love Reading' campaign to turn students bookworms

- Says the one-year programme is aimed boosting reading skills among students of Classes 2 to 9
- Main activities to be taken up as part of the campaign will be classroom reading, school book bank, community reading centre, reading fests and provision of two library periods, one for Telugu and the one for English
- ASER data show 77.6% of Class 3 students and 52.2% of Class 5 students can't read Class 2 books

AMARAVATI

MINISTER for education Audimulapu Suresh launched the 'We Love Reading' campaign at Venkateswara Vignana mandiram in Guntur here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy laid a special focus on inculcating the habit of reading among the students and thus brought this campaign. 'We Love Reading', the one year reading fluency campaign takes place in four phases - Preparatory, Foundation, Advanced and Valedictory - to improve the reading skills of children from Classes 3 to 9, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, home minister Mekathoti Sucharitha urged the students to inculcate the habit of reading books, newspapers on a day to day basis to gain knowledge and build their own personality. She said that the government prioritised education sector and implemented various welfare schemes like Amma Vodi, Vidya Kanuka, Vasati Deevana, Vidya Deevana and also bringing a new vibe to the government schools through Nadu-Nedu.

The campaign aims at transforming



Education Minister Audimulapu Suresh along with Home Minister M Sucharitha and officials launching 'We Love Reading' campaign in Guntur on Thursday

non-readers to readers by cultivating the habit of reading. 'We Love Reading' campaign focuses on developing foundational literacy skills both conceptual and skill-based knowledge among students of Class 3 to 9 and intends to build advanced skills after the foundation. The advanced skills include phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, reading fluency, vocabulary among others. Awareness will be created on using e-books and digital libraries wherever infrastructure is available.

The main activities to be taken up in this campaign are classroom reading, school book bank, community reading centre, reading fests and most importantly, providing two library periods, one is for Telugu reading and the other is for English. As part of classroom reading, a reading corner with all the available library books and reading cards will be made available in each classroom.

Similarly, with school book banks, where books of all kinds will be collected from teachers, students and even donors, for reading. The programme also has a

community reading volunteer, where the headmaster and teachers with the help of ward volunteers and village secretariat staff have to identify volunteers who can contribute their time for school students reading campaign during after school hours and holidays to run the community reading centre. In addition, monthly reading fests will be conducted at the village or school level to perform reading skills by the students and to assess the achievement of learning outcomes of students.

The programme will be monitored continuously at various levels, right from the state level to village level. Apart from the state action plan, the headmasters will be preparing school-wise action plans for effective implementation of the programme falling in line with the action plans of mandal level and village level. The school education department will be designing various reading activities in the reading programme by providing world-class literature and research studies on content and pedagogy, teaching methods, assessment procedures, learning styles of students, teaching-learning material preparation and utilization techniques, lesson plans.

The programme is based on a survey provided by ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) data which says that 77.6 per cent of 3rd standard and 52.2 per cent of 5th standard students are not able to read Class 2 books and speaks about how the reading skills have deteriorated over a period of time. So far, 45,359 schools registered under the Readers Clubs and 72 per cent of these schools have libraries. The existing school libraries and available village libraries will be strengthened and utilised for this initiative.

Dams in Tirumala filled to the brim

- TTD authorities open the gates of Gogarbham and Papavinasanam dams
- Due to incessant rains for the past two days, the Chakratheertham is also swirling with water

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

ALL the five dams in Tirumala are full to their capacities and TTD authorities have opened up the gates of Gogarbham and Papavinasanam dams. In the last 24 hours, starting from 8 am of Wednesday till 8 am of Thursday. The rainfall recorded in Papavinasanam is 313mm (697.14FRL as against its capacity of 698.85FRL at Gogarbham-247mm (2,894 FRL and its full to its capacity), Akasaganga is 176 mm (865 FRL and it is also brimming with full capacity) while at Kumaradhara and Pasupudhara the rainfall recorded is 155 mm each (both dams capacity is



898.24 FRL and both are full).

With the opening of gates of the dams in Tirumala the waters cascading from the hills causing inundation of many areas down the hills in Renigunta, Yerpedu and Srikalahasti mandals and also leading to flash floods due to the streams including Rallakaluva in spate causing damage to standing crops in the mandals. The beauty of the Seven Hills enhanced with the streams flashing out at different points

both in up and down ghat roads due to the non-stop downpour in the last two days providing a cynosure to the visiting pilgrims and denizens. The Malavadi Gundem, Pancha Theerthams, Kapilatheertham are seen gushing out from the top of the mountains due to the non-stop rains in the last two days. Pilgrims were seen relishing and capturing the beauties of nature in their mobile braving the inclement weather

at several points on the ghat roads. Meanwhile, due to incessant rains from the past two days, the Chakratheertham is gushing out in full swing. As the Chakratheertha Mukkti is on Thursday, the team of archakas, temple staffs performed the celestial puja to the holy waters by offering turmeric, vermilion, flowers and Harati. After so many years, this torrent is in its full swing during its Mukkti.

PM Modi to visit Hyderabad tomorrow

Continued from P1

Earlier, Modi will visit Pune-based Serum Institute of India, which has partnered with global pharma giant AstraZeneca and the Oxford University for a Covid-19 vaccine.

The BJP was reportedly keen on PM Modi using the trip to campaign for the municipal elections in Hyderabad, but sources said the Saturday's visit will not include any political activity.

Delhi Chalo march: Punjab farmers brave water cannons, push through barricades

Continued from P1

Apart from Shambhu, police used water cannons against protesters trying to enter Kaithal district, and at Khanauri border where farmers are protesting under the banner of Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta-Ugarhan). Union president Joginder Singh said they will hold a peaceful protest there for seven days. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal condemned the Haryana Police action at Shambhu border.

In Gurgaon, Swaraj India president Yogendra Yadav and a group of protesters were detained by police as they tried to march towards Delhi. The Delhi Police on

Wednesday said it has denied permission to farmer organisations which wanted to protest in the national capital on November 26 and 27.

Earlier in the day, there were some demonstrations at Delhi's border with Ghaziabad in UP, and traffic jams at the Gurgaon border. Haryana has sealed its borders with Punjab to prevent farmers from entering their state on their way to Delhi. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPc have been imposed in several parts of Haryana to prevent assembly of protesters. Punjab farmers, representing over 30 farm bodies, had announced they will go to Delhi through several routes - Lahu, Shambhu, Patiala-Pehowa, Patran-Khanauri,

Moonak-Tohana, Ratia-Fatehabad and Talwandi-Sirsa. Farmer bodies said they will hold a dharna wherever they are stopped from moving towards the national capital. BKU (Ekta-Ugarhan) general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokrikalan has said around 25,000 women will participate in the protest march and over 4,000 tractor-trailers have been arranged for it. The organisation claimed that over two lakh farmers associated with it will enter Haryana through Khanauri and Dabwali. The farmers are demanding the repeal of the new farm laws which deregulate the sale of agriculture produce. They say the laws will lead to the dismantling of the minimum support price (MSP) system.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	78.32	South	
Euro	92.42	African Rand	5.61
UAE Dirham	22.12	Hong Kong Dollar	10.96
Thai Baht	2.81	Japanese Yen	0.82
British Pound	102.67	New Zealand Dollar	54.33
Australian Dollar	57.16	Saudi Riyal	21.66
Canadian Dollar	59.65	Swedish Krona	9.97
Swiss Franc	84.54	Singapore Dollar	57.96

BIZ BRIEFS

Piaggio to launch new scooter

PIAGGIO India will soon commence the production of Aprilia SXR 160, a new premium scooter, at its Baramati plant. As one of the much appreciated and accolade winning scooter at Auto Expo, the Aprilia SXR 160 brings the first of its kind combination of style, performance and extraordinary comfort riding experience. Diego Graffi, Chairman and Managing Director, Piaggio India, said, "We are extremely excited to soon introduce the highly anticipated unique premium proposition for our discerning customers. As promised at Auto Expo 2020, we are gearing up for the production of Aprilia SXR 160 in India, it is set to create a new unmatched experience with its highly innovative design that incorporates premium style, high comfort and best in class performance".

Kankatala offers anniversary sale

KANKATALA Sarees is celebrating its 77th anniversary with a discount sale offer of 10 per cent and 15 per cent off on all sarees available across all stores from November 27-30. The sale will showcase more than 1,500 new sarees online and a plethora of weaves across its stores. "It has been a remarkable journey watching 2 generations before me leading the way to offer our customers elegant and regal weaves over the years. Staying true to our roots while evolving with changing times has been our motto. Therefore, while a lot has changed over the years, some things are still the same and that is what makes us who we are and will continue to be," said Anirudh Kankatala, company's Director.

Yes Bank unveils SMS service

Yes Bank announced the launch of SMS Pay functionality on PoS terminals in partnership with Worldline, enabling merchants to accept contactless and remote payments from their customers to support small and medium businesses in restarting their businesses while providing safety to their customers. SMS Pay is a step towards facilitating merchants to accept remote payments on their PoS machines. Rajanish Prabhu, Business Head, Credit Cards and Merchant Acquisition, Yes Bank, said "In line with the bank's strategy of building a transformed digital bank, we along with worldline have been working on supporting our merchant partners through innovative solutions which help them unlock their businesses in a safe and convenient manner. SMS Pay is a simple yet convenient value addition to our merchant POS solutions and provides an alternative channel of payment acceptance for our merchants at zero incremental cost."

Toshiba bags new project

Toshiba Johnson Elevators (India) Pvt. Ltd. (TJEL) on Thursday said it secured its largest residential segment order for design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 161 Toshiba elevators (fully imported) spread across eight residential projects of VTP Group, Pune. Katsuhiko Sato, Managing Director, Toshiba Johnson Elevators (India) Pvt. Ltd. said, "Toshiba has been a trusted name for developers and architects of residential properties for mobility solutions that are safe, durable, environmentally sound, and highly efficient. This order from VTP Realty gives impetus to our commitment of serving the vertical transportation needs using the power of technology while offering superlative customer experience."

IT cos shore up margins on rising offshore revenue

Drop in expenses, fixed costs boost operating margins

DEBASIS MOHAPATRA
BENGALURU

IMPROVEMENT in the operating margins of Indian IT services providers seen in the second quarter of the current financial year is likely to sustain for the next two quarters. According to industry experts and company executives, lower expenses on travel and utilities, a rising share of offshoring revenue, and slow growth in headcount addition are likely to support this trend.

However, they opined that the margin expansion would face headwinds once the IT firms start to roll out salary hikes and bonus payouts to employees. "Most IT firms witnessed margin expansion in the second quarter as less travel, marketing, and utility expenses helped these companies save cost. We expect this improvement in operating margins is sustainable during the third and fourth quarters of this fiscal. Especially, as work from home (WFH) continues and share of offshoring revenue rises, this trend will get support," said Pareekh Jain, an IT outsourcing advisor and founder of Pareekh Consulting.

OPERATING MARGINS AT TOP IT COS MAY CONTINUE TO SWELL IN NEXT 2 QTRS

- **TCS**
260 basis points to 26.2 per cent
- **Infosys**
270 basis points to 25.4 per cent
- **Wipro**
20 basis points to 19.2 per cent



In the second quarter ended September, most Tier-I and mid-tier firms have reported expansion in their operating margins. Market leader Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) posted 260 basis points sequential improvement in the operating margin at 26.2 per cent in Q2 of FY21. Similarly, Infosys' margin rose 270 basis points to 25.4 per cent during this period. The operating margin of Wipro ex-

panded 20 basis points to 19.2 per cent in Q2.

As the Covid pandemic continues, most of the travel and marketing events remain suspended in the first half of this financial year. Most IT firms have also suspended salary hikes and bonus payout to their employees owing to the slowdown. Even, headcount addition remained tepid in H1 of FY21 as IT firms take a cautious approach in

hiring new staffers.

As there is no immediate end in sight to the pandemic, the companies are likely to incur lower travel and utility costs in the coming quarters.

"We don't see any major headwinds to the margin profile of IT firms apart from the likely wage hikes in the third and fourth quarter. So, we expect current margin levels are sustainable in a narrow range," said Sanjeev Hota, Head of Research at Mumbai-based brokerage firm, Sharekhan. "One of the most important factors to support the margin level is the rising share of offshoring revenues. The IT firms have seen the contribution of offshoring revenues in the range of 60-65 per cent in Q2. As the environment becomes more amenable towards offshoring, this can help in supporting margin profiles," he added.

Apart from these factors, even cost optimisation measures taken up by various IT firms is another factor supporting the margin levels. Most tier-I firms including TCS, Infosys, and Cognizant among others are revisiting their cost structure in order to support margins.

RBI sees GDP recovery stronger than expected

RISING COVID-19 CASES DOWNSIDE RISK TO GROWTH: DAS

MUMBAI

AFTER the 23.9 per cent GDP contraction in the April-June quarter following the Covid-19 pandemic, economic recovery momentum has been stronger than expected, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said here on Thursday.

Das, however, said that we need to be watchful of the demand momentum sustaining after the festivities as well, and also warned of downside risks to growth coming from a rise in virus infections in select pockets. The heavy contraction in Q1 was attributed to the near-complete chilling of all economic activity in the wake of one of the strongest lockdowns enforced anywhere in the world. The RBI, which has introduced many unconventional measures to aid recovery apart from cutting key rates by 1.15 per cent, expects the economy to shrink by 9.5 per cent in FY21.

"After witnessing a sharp contraction in the economy by 23.9 per cent in Q1 and a multi-speed normalisation of activity in Q2, the Indian economy has exhibited stronger than expected pick-



RBI chief says a comfortable external balance position, wherein India's forex reserves have risen to \$572.7 billion as of November 13 or sufficient to cover a year's imports, has been a key source of resilience in recent months

up in momentum of recovery," Das said, speaking at the annual day event of Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI). "We need to be watchful about the possible reassessment of market expectations surrounding the vaccine," he added. Analysts at Ica, a rating agency, had earlier this week, raised doubts over the sustainability of demand and attributed the spurt to pent-up requirements following the lockdowns and also the festivities.

IKEA to build its biggest outlet in Noida

Project slated to be completed by 2025

LUCKNOW

SWEDISH flat-pack furniture giant IKEA will soon begin work at its Noida outlet, touted to be its biggest store in India.

The company had signed an MoU with the Uttar Pradesh government in December 2018 for Rs5,000-crore investment in Noida and other cities in the state. It has committed to completing the project by 2025.

State Industries Minister Satish Mahana said 47,833 square metre land had been allotted to the company, but work did not take off due to pending payments.

"All issues have been cleared and the company has committed to finishing the project by 2025. I have issued directions to ensure the company gets quick possession of land," he said on Thursday.

IKEA, which opened its first outlet in India in Hyder-



abad in 2018, has proposed to set up an integrated commercial project in Noida giving direct employment to 1,000 and indirect jobs to another 1,000. The company intends to expand to 40 cities by 2030. Officials said, IKEA initially signed an MoU with the previous government in 2015 to set up three stores in Lucknow, Agra and Noida with an investment of Rs 500-crore in each city. However, its plans evolved over the years and a fresh MoU was signed in 2018. Sources said, a typical IKEA store has an average size of 4,00,000 square feet. The company will develop smaller stores-like standalone ones.

LVB moves Bombay HC against RBI, DBS

KUMUD DAS
MUMBAI

THE promoters of Laxmi Vilas Bank (LVB) have filed a writ petition at Bombay High Court against Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Government and the DBS Bank on the issue of the RBI's decision to give a go-ahead for the bank's amalgamation with DBS Bank. The RBI's move was later approved by Government at the Centre as per which not only the trading of the bank stopped at the bourses, but also the fact that all the branches of LVB will start functioning as the branches of DBS from Nov 27 onwards.

The promoter group holds 6.80 per cent stake in Lakshmi Vilas Bank. The promoters of the bank have challenged the final scheme of amalgamation approved by the government in consultation with the regulator, sources familiar with the development disclosed.

Meanwhile, in the cabinet decision held on November 25, the DB Bank, India taking over LVB also mentioned the fact that trading of shares of LVB be suspended with immediate effect. Arun Kejriwal, Director, KRIS, said, "This is great news not for shareholders, but for the system as a whole."

VW to face action for installing 'cheat devices'

SC dismisses plea to quash FIR by Skoda Volkswagen

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a special leave petition (SLP) filed by German car manufacturer Skoda-Volkswagen (VW) seeking to quash an FIR registered over alleged installation of cheat emissions devices in its vehicles. A bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde dismissed the SLP filed by the German car manufacturer.

Skoda-Volkswagen will have to face prosecution in case registered in Uttar Pradesh under charges of allegedly cheating and conspiracy, after the top court junked its petition to quash an FIR in Noida. The FIR, has named the car manufacturer's top officials, for installing cheat devices to misrepresent emission levels.

On November 4, the Supreme Court had queried Skoda Volkswagen (VW) India Pvt Ltd, why shouldn't the trial against it go on in an FIR registered in Uttar Pradesh over alleged cheat emis-



sion devices installed in its cars.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, representing the German car-maker VW, submitted that in March, 2019, a penalty was imposed on VW by NGT (National Green Tribunal), which was stayed by the top court. Chief Justice S.A. Bobde replied: "I know, I was party to that order. But what that has to do with the criminal prosecution?"

Singhvi replied that vehicle was bought in 2018, and for nearly two and a half years there

were no complaints. "While the NGT matter was pending, this FIR was lodged where the allegations are same as the application before the NGT," argued Singhvi. The Chief Justice replied, "But, why should the trial not go on? NGT will not determine the correctness of your action."

Singhvi cited there are two allegations, installation of cheat device and environmental damage caused and citing stay on NGT order queried, "How can a new complaint start?"

Lee Pharma launches Covid kit

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

LEE Health Domain, a group company of Hyderabad-based Lee Pharma Ltd, launched a single kit with herbal and allopathy medicines to prevent Covid-19 infection.

"This kit will do a great relief to the people who have flu, cold and other influenza symptoms. They can get treatment by taking a phone consultancy from the doctors. This will help people avoid visiting hospitals and incurring expenses for Covid treatment," Leela Rani, Director, Lee Pharma. The newly launched kit includes Lee Pharma's products such as Rolon Cold, Steam Mantra, Vasa Tulasi, Paracetamol tablets and multi-vitamin capsules. Rolon Cold provides relief from headache while Steam Mantra gives relief from respiratory problems. The Covid preventive kit is priced at Rs 900 which includes courier charges.

CFOs to prioritise balance between short-term results, long-term value

NEW DELHI

MAJORITY of chief financial officers feel that achieving a balance between short-term results and creating long-term value will become a priority as they are set to play a critical role in reframing the future of enterprises post the coronavirus pandemic, says a global survey.

Leading consultancy EY's survey covered more than 800 Chief Financial Officers (CFOs), Financial Directors (FD) and senior finance executives of large organisations to understand the challenges faced by a CFO. Around 40 per cent of the respondents were from EMEIA (Europe, Middle East, India and Africa). "79 per cent respondents in EMEIA (globally - 86 per cent) say they will be required to protect their organisation today while enabling future growth."

"At the same time, 79 per cent respondents (globally - 84 per cent) agree that achieving a balance between short term results and creating long term value will be-



come a priority. This will also include traditional mandates, such as corporate reporting, along with new ones like overseeing digital transformation," a release said on Thursday.

As per the findings, 50 per cent of finance leaders surveyed in EMEIA reported limited or no collaboration with Chief Human Resources Officers (CHROs), while 42 per cent of the respondents said the same about their relationship with the Chief Marketing Officers (CMOs). Further, around 76 per cent of the respondents in EMEIA and 82 per cent globally said that they are increasingly seen by key

stakeholders as the stewards of long-term value.

"In addition, 78 per cent of respondents in EMEIA (globally - 79 per cent) say that investors are increasingly requiring much more information on how their organisation creates long term value for all stakeholders," the release said.

A more fluid operating model that extends beyond an enterprise's four walls will likely to be a key factor in enabling finance to play a central role in the connected markets of the future and many finance leaders see such a scenario becoming a reality over the next five years.

Markets reverse losses on F&O expiry

MUMBAI

EQUITY indices resumed their ascent on Thursday after a day's breather, buoyed by banking and financial stocks, as the November series derivative contracts expired amid largely positive cues from global markets.

After a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 431.64 points or 0.98 per cent higher at 44,259.74. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 128.60 points or 1 per cent to 12,987.

TataSteel was the top performer among the Sensex components, surging 5.16 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Auto, HDFC, HCL Tech, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and Titan. However, Maruti, ONGC, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra and Infosys dipped up to 0.87 per cent. Global markets perched near lifetime highs as optimism surrounding the Covid-19 vaccines progress was tempered by rising coronavirus cases in multiple countries. Domestic equities witnessed sharp recovery led by sharp



rebound in banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) stocks and metals, said Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities. "BFSIs continued to remain as a key driving force for the market. Improved prospects of earnings recovery in the backdrop of improvement in collection efficiencies, better outlook for credit costs and possibility of reversal of provisions due to resolution of select large accounts along with better valuations attracted investors in BFSIs," he added.

Heavy buying sentiment was also seen as November derivative contracts expired, analysts added. "Today, the market regained its momentum during the second trading half, on the monthly derivative expiry day, led by bounce in the banking sector."

‘After Central leaders, Donaldji may come’

TRS working president asks if BJP netas bringing funds for city

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MOCKING the BJP for bringing the central leaders of the party for the campaign in Hyderabad, TRS Working President KT Rama Rao on Thursday said that it appears Donald Trump would also come to campaign in the city.

Rama Rao was speaking in a meeting on “Transforming Hyderabad into a global city” at Nizams Club on Thursday. He said that the BJP leaders are coming from Delhi to campaign in local elections. “Amit Shahji is coming, Modi ji is also coming. It appears Donald Trump will also come to Hyderabad for a campaign,” said Rama Rao. He asked the leaders coming from Delhi to first say thanks to the people of Hyderabad for contributing to the development of the country, before saying they have given money to the State. “We are from Telangana... We live here and we will die here. We are not tourists coming from Delhi. Decide if you want Delhi boys or Galli boys? Think before you ink,” said Rao. Rama Rao said that the right-



wing policies and left wing economy was dangerous for the country. “They involve in Hindu Muslim politics. They show Muslims as the enemies of the country.” On Hyderabad and its growth, Rao said, “A city is not about a few concrete structures. It is about having an inherent soul, culture, heritage, and vibe that go with people. Hyderabad is a rare and unique city which has

“ If there were infiltrators in the country, what was Raksha Mantri doing? It's a slap in BJP government's face. I openly challenge the opposition leaders to come for a debate with us on policies, economy and jobs. I'm sure nobody will come. All they know is to create and flame communal differences

— KTR

an old world charm and a new age vibrancy.”

On the question of Rohingyas, Rao asked, “if there were infiltrators in the country, what was Raksha Mantri doing? It's a slap in BJP government's face. I openly challenge the opposition leaders to come for a debate with us on policies, economy and jobs. I'm sure nobody will come. All they know is to create and flame

communal differences,” he said.

The TRS leader said that one side there was leadership with decisive policies and another side there was divisive politics and added do not get carried away by propaganda. Attacking the opposition, he said those who ruled for 60-70 years are now pointing fingers at TRS. 60 years of mismanagement cannot be undone in six years.



Kalvakuntla Kavitha, MLC addressing the media during campaign for TRS at Gandhi Nagar on Thursday

BJP flayed for ignoring PV for Bharat Ratna

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Thursday questioned the integrity of the BJP for not conferring Bharat Ratna posthumously to former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao. Addressing the media during campaign for TRS at Gandhi Nagar on Thursday, she criticised Telangana BJP President Bandi Sanjay of playing a new political stunt revolving around the former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao Ghat. She further questioned the BJP government why they remained silent and did not celebrate the legacy of the legendary leader during the centenary celebrations carried out by the TRS government.

“The Central government has never cared to give Bharat Ratna to either PV Narasimha Rao or former chief minister of state N T Rama Rao even after a long-standing demand. BJP never

TRS leader Kavitha asks why the BJP remained silent and did not celebrate the legacy of the legendary leader and did not take part in the centenary celebrations carried out by the TRS government

speaks on issues that contribute to the overall development of society like falling GDP. Instead it sticks to using the religion card,” said Kavitha, urging the people of Greater Hyderabad not to fall prey to such political stunts at the hands of national parties. She later appealed to them to vote for development, vote for TRS. Later, she met representatives of RTC Union, Advocates, Vaishya and Yadava communities who extended their support to TRS.

Suicide victim's kin protest cops' inaction



BOMMALARAMARAM (YADADRI-BHONGIR)

KIN of the victim's family members staged a protest in front of Bommalaramaram police station alleging police favourism towards Maryala sarpanch on Thursday.

The protestors alleged that the police have not done justice to the complaint lodged by the deceased person's mother.

They said that on November 20, Linga Swami of Maryala village in Bommalaramaram mandal had committed suicide by consuming pesticide after being insulted by the village sarpanch Damodar.

Based on the complaint of victim's family members, local police had registered a case against the sarpanch but the sarpanch had not been taken into custody even after seven days of the incident, they pointed.

Who are out to create trouble?: Kishan to CM

Criticises KCR for trying to create fear among people using police machinery for votes

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy on Thursday said that being the Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao should come out with the details of those conspiring to create communal disturbances in the city.



Responding to the questions raised at a meeting here on Thursday, he said that there was no rule that a youth leader should not enter Osmania University. Referring to BJPYM president Tejaswi Surya barging into the OU, he said that the youth wing leader had gone there to pay tributes to the martyrs of the Telangana movement, besides highlighting the problems concerning people and students. Kishan Reddy dismissed that the BJP was trying to raise national issues, which were unrelated to the city during the GHMC election campaign. He reminded that several issues in the 50 questions posed by Minister KTR to BJP were related to the national level.

Further, he demanded that the CM respond on the statements of AIMIM MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi on the demolition of the memorials of former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao and former Chief

Minister NT Rama Rao in the city. He questioned why the TRS chief was keeping quiet on the issue. He said that his party respected both PV and NTR. It is not the only BJP but all Telugu people respect them. Besides, NTR had also worked with NDA.

On the issue of Rohingyas, Kishan Reddy said, “We have information of their presence in Hyderabad as well as in other places in the country.”

Earlier during his roadshows, the Secunderabad MP lashed out at the TRS chief trying to create fear among the people of Hyderabad. The statements of CM are more to do to reap political benefits during the GHMC elections.

He criticised CM KCR for trying to create fear among people using the police machinery at his disposal. Minister KTR had tried the same during the Dubbaka by-polls. But, failed in his efforts, he said that the TRS party and its leadership is resorting to mudslinging to project the opposition parties in poor light for the sake of votes. “Both KCR and KTR have been competing in speaking lies solely to gain votes in the GHMC elections.” Kishan Reddy cautioned that the centre will not be a mute spectator in case of any disturbance takes place in Hyderabad or any other place in the country.

Contempt notice served on top Health official

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

THE High Court division bench, headed by the Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijayen Reddy, on Thursday has issued contempt notice to Dr G Srinivas Rao, Director, Public Health and Family Welfare for intentionally and willfully not taking initiative to test 50,000 cases for coronavirus from November 19 till date and also 1 lakh tests a week till November 26.

The High Court bench on the day heard a batch of public inter-

est litigations on Covid-19 related matters. The bench pointed out that Dr G Srinivas Rao, who in his report wrote that the number of tests would be increased to 50,000 and 1 lakh once in the week as and when demand arises, has failed to do so. The bench while issuing contempt notice granted Rao of two weeks time to explain in detail as to why action should not be initiated against him for intentionally disobeying the orders of the court.

The bench observed that the language used by Srinivas Rao was contemptuous, and forced to issue

COVID TESTING

a contempt notice against it. The bench wondered at the courage of Srinivas Rao for drafting such a report. “This court can assure that Dr Srinivas Rao will be at the receiving end for his bold, unwarranted and clever drafting of the report,” the bench observed.

Further, the court stated that at the huge congregations taking place in Hyderabad due to marriage functions and by party workers of different political parties in view of the ensuing GHMC elections, none of the persons were wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. “Once the

GHMC elections are over, the effect of the second wave of coronavirus will hit the State hard and I am sure that the State is not prepared to tackle the second wave result,” the CJ opined.

The bench further wanted to know why the Telangana government has suspended the licence of Viranchi and Deccan hospitals, when complaints against Yashoda, Sunshine, Care, KIMS hospitals were galore?

The High Court held that regulations such as masks and physical distance were not properly enforced in the GHMC limits. The

High Court was surprised to see the handing over of responsibility for the implementation of GO 64 relating to corona precautions to GHMC. The court ordered that the power to enforce GO 64 be handed over to the police.

It also directed that action be taken on the complaints of private hospitals and further directed to set up an audit committee on corona deaths and a psychiatric centre to give courage to corona victims. The CJ bench directed the State to file a report by December 15, and adjourned the matter to December 17.

Revanth dares D Sudhir for debate on devp works

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

LAKE encroachments have become rampant in Greater Hyderabad after the TRS government came to power, alleged Telangana Congress Working President and Malkajgiri MP Revanth Reddy. He dared LB Nagar MLA D Sudhir Reddy to come for a debate on development in his constituency in the last six months.

Revanth held a roadshow at Lingoguda Chowrasta as part of electioneering for GHMC polls. He sought the support of locals to en-

sure win for Congress candidate D Rajashekar Reddy.

He accused local TRS corporator of forcefully collecting money

from people for any new construction in the division. The corporator's agents would roam around in the division to exhort money from locals, he said. If this should stop, people must elect Rajashekar Reddy this time who has

been a sincere worker from Congress for the last 20 years, he said. Both TRS and BJP are trying to mislead people, creating a wedge and resorting to lies, and are making provocative statements for electoral gains, the MP added.



One year on, Disha rape horror still haunts State

SRINIVAS GUDUPALLI
RANGA REDDY

IT was exactly this day a year ago a young veterinary doctor was brutally raped, killed and burnt by four barbaric youth on the outskirts of the teeming megalopolis, sending shivers down the spine of civil society in general and hapless women-folk in particular.

Not just Hyderabad, but the whole country was shocked to hear the news and protests erupted across the nation demanding justice to the victim. All four accused were arrested within 48 hours of the gruesome incident by the alert police, but by that time, the incident marred the image of Hyderabad as a safe city for women. However, Hyderabad police, well aware of the intricacies of Indian criminal justice system, shot the four rapists dead in a predawn encounter at the very site where the young doctor was assaulted and killed, a week after the brutal crime.

In that star-crossed evening of November 27 last year, 26-year-old Priyanka Reddy was trapped by the four beasts when she went to consult a dermatologist at Gachibowli. The youth, all below 25, who saw the doctor parking her scooter near Tondupally Toll Plaza in Shamshabad on the Nehru Outer Ring Road (ORR) plotted to commit the offence once she returned. The predators waited for the prey, punctured the tyres of the parked scooter and schemed the felony. When the doctor came back by 9 pm, the youth managed to gain her confidence, offered to help her repair the scooter and in the process, committed the most heinous crime, even as the woman was trying to get some help from her family. She was raped even as she breathed her last after



THE predators waited for the prey, punctured the tyres of the parked scooter and schemed the felony. When the doctor came back by 9 pm, the youth managed to gain her confidence, offered to help her repair the scooter and in the process, committed the most heinous crime, even as the woman was trying to get some help from her family. She was raped even as she breathed her last after the offenders smothered her to silence her screams in the dark recesses close to Hyderabad-Bengaluru highway

the offenders smothered her to silence her screams in the dark recesses close to Hyderabad-Bengaluru highway.

The incident left a deep scar on the social psyche, and remain a blot on Hyderabad city, otherwise known for safety of women. Though there were some hue and cries at certain quarters against the encounter killings of the rapists, the nation as a whole, welcomed the decision of the Hyderabad police to deliver instant justice to the victim by eliminating the rapist killers, sending a message loud and clear for anyone who intends to commit offence on women and girls.

But there are several unanswered questions and unresolved cases that the Hyderabad police are still struggling to crack, after reports came to light that they had five cold cases of charred bodies at hand, all women, found in 2018 who could not be identified.

After the sensational case, there have been several demands for extra-judicial killings in similar cases across the country ever since and Cyberabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar, who had overseen the encounter, has been regarded as a hero by people across the country. The encounter case is still under investigation.

Bar MIM, BJP from GHMC polls for inciting hatred: Uttam to EC

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

STATE Congress chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday demanded that the State Election Commission disqualify BJP and MIM parties from contesting the GHMC elections for inciting communal hatred among people.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, the TPCC chief expressed serious concern over Election Commission and the State police for not taking a serious note of the provocative statements made by the BJP and the MIM leaders during the GHMC poll campaign.

Stating that both the BJP and the MIM were helping each other to polarise the voters, Uttam said that both the ‘communal’ parties should be barred from participating in the elections. The TPCC Chief strongly condemned the ‘surgical strike’ remarks made by Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

“I was born in the Old City of Hyderabad. Later, I joined the Air



TPCC Chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy along with senior Congress leaders addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday Force and fought for the country at borders. I belong to this city. In what way Bandi Sanjay is connected to Hyderabad or Old City? Even Union Minister Kishan Reddy is not making such remarks as he is a Hyderabad. While no Hyderabad is talking in that tone, other BJP leaders are making provocative statements. In what way BJP leaders like Amit Shah, JP Nadda, Yogi Adityanath, Smriti Irani, Prakash Javadekar, Bhupender Yadav, Ram Madhav, etc., are connected with Hyderabad? It's a shame that BJP leaders are making senseless statements to spread hatred just to win a few seats in GHMC elections,” he said.

Uttam also slammed MIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi for his remarks on the memorials of former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and ex-Chief Minister NT Rama Rao. “What is the need for Akbaruddin Owaisi to speak about their memorials? They are not even in the Old City. PV Narasimha

Oz hold the edge in ODI series against visitors

NEW DELHI

WHILE India have had a slightly better record over the last 24 months in ODIs against Australia, winning seven of the last 12 matches between the two sides, the hosts begin favourites in the first match of the three-game ODI series that begins at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

India, apart from missing star opening batsman Rohit Sharma, are also short on bowling options due to the absence of all-rounders. Australia, on the other hand, have plenty of all-rounders to choose from and that gives them options with the bat and ball.

The last time India played Down Under, on their tour in 2018-19, they won the series 2-1 going against the usual trend in Australia over the years which has seen Australia have a dominant record against them. In 51 matches they have played against Australia in Australia, India have won just 13 times including the two last time. They have lost 36 matches to Australia in their den.

For India, Mayank Agarwal is likely

to replace Rohit Sharma. The right-handed batsman, who played for Kings XI Punjab as opener in the recently-concluded Indian Premier League (IPL), scored heavily in the first half of the tournament before his form tapered off in the second half. Nevertheless, he kept getting good starts and finished the tournament with 424 runs.

In all likelihood, he will open the innings with left-hander Shikhar Dhawan, who too did very well in the IPL, scoring over 600 runs and finishing second to KL Rahul in the run-getters' list.

Speaking on Rohit Sharma's absence, Australia skipper Aaron Finch told media on Thursday, "He is obviously a great player, someone who had great success against us. Like I said you want to play against the best players of all time. For Rohit, picking up injury wasn't ideal for him. But whoever is going to replace him, possibly Mayank Aggarwal, he is in great form. So he will be replaced with a quality player."

The fact that India's top-order was in form during the IPL could bode well for them. Skipper Virat Kohli too got some runs, so did Shreyas Iyer. "Form in any format whether it is grade cricket or Test cricket, matters. It is nice to be getting runs and taking the field. Form is form," added Finch who himself couldn't make much of an impact in the IPL for Royal Challengers Bangalore, scor-

ing at just over 22 with one half-century.

For Australia, David Warner scored runs for SunRisers Hyderabad but Steve Smith did not do too well for Rajasthan Royals.

However, the presence of all-round options could be where Australia may score against the Men in Blue. They have multiple all-rounders as options while India have just Ravindra Jadeja. Hardik Pandya, who too is in the squad, hasn't done any bowling recently, including in IPL.

Not having batsmen who can bowl or vice-versa, a lot will hinge on India's main bowlers. If they wilt, then Aussies will score runs by tons. The surface is likely to be batting friendly although Finch said that it is a bit unknown.

"I spoke to Justin Langer but he said that it was covered up. It is a bit unknown. We will get there and see tomorrow," said the Australian skipper.

The first two matches in Sydney will be played at 50 per cent crowd capacity while the third ODI at Canberra will be played at 65 per cent crowd capacity.

"The last time we played in front of crowds in Australia was a very long time ago. There has been a huge amount of work going to allow that to happen - from the public in various states there has been tremendous amount of work done to keep

1st ODI: Black armbands, minute's silence for Jones

SYDNEY



INDIAN and Australian cricketers will wear black armbands and observe a minute's silence in the memory of former Australian batsman Dean Jones before the start of the first ODI at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday. Also, a highlights package from Jones's playing days will be shown on the big screen before the start of the encounter.

Jones, who had represented his country in 52 Test matches and 164 One-day Internationals,

scoring over 9,600 international runs, died on September 24 in Mumbai. "The first celebration will come at Friday's opening one-day international against India at the SCG when there will be a minute's silence before play and both nations will don black armbands. There will also be a highlights package of his grand career on the big screen," said a report in Australian newspaper Sydney Morning Herald.

Cricket Australia has also arranged a tribute on the opening day of the second Test at his home ground -- the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"The biggest honour, however, will be saved for the showcase event that is the Boxing Day Test at the MCG. The tribute will be held at the tea break at 3.24pm on Day One, where Jones's wife Jane and family will be in attendance," the report said.

Jones's friend, writer and poet Chris Driscoll will recite a poem. (IANS)

Crowds to return to stadia for men's cricket after 8 months

SYDNEY

THE three-match ODI series between India and Australia, which will get underway at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday, will also be the first time that men's cricket will see spectators in stadia since March when international cricket had come to a halt following the coronavirus outbreak.

The first two matches at the SCG will be played at 50 per cent crowd capacity while the third ODI at Canberra will be played at 65 per cent crowd capacity.

The coronavirus pandemic had forced all international series as well as domestic competitions, like the Indian Premier League (IPL), to be played behind closed doors.

Australia's limited overs skipper Aaron Finch on Thursday said that the team was excited to play in front of crowds again. "The last time we played in front of crowds in

Australia was a very long time ago. There has been a huge amount of work going to allow that to happen -- from the public in various states there has been tremendous amount of work done to keep coronavirus under control. We are really excited. We know how much of a great atmosphere would it be," said Finch.

"You need to get in quick though as tickets, starting at \$30 for adults and \$10 for kids, are in high demand. Both Manuka Oval, Canberra (65 per cent) and the SCG (50 per cent) will be at limited capacity," cricket.com.au said in a FAQ section about the series.

The Adelaide Oval, which will host the first Test, will allow 27,000 spectators or 50 per cent of its capacity on each match day. For the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, 25,000 fans for each day have been currently allowed by the Victorian government. The SCG, like the ODIs and T20Is, will hold 50 per cent of total capacity for the third Test. Brisbane's Gabba venue can host up to 30,000 fans, or 75 per cent of its capacity for the fourth and final Test. (IANS)



Match begins at 9.10am IST

Maradona & Messi: Two symbolic extremes of a football super star

NEW DELHI

A glance at the statistics and some hard facts would show that as far as their individual careers are concerned, Lionel Messi has eclipsed his legendary former Argentina coach Diego Maradona, who passed away on Wednesday.

At the international level, 33-year-old Messi has 87 goals in 165 appearances, making him Argentina's all-time highest goal scorer. Maradona scored 42 in 106 recorded appearances. Messi's goal-scoring record at club level is off the charts -- he has netted a total of 640 goals in more than 700 senior appearances for Barcelona. Maradona made 588 appearances for Argentinos Juniors, Boca Juniors, Barcelona, Napoli, Sevilla and Newell's Old Boys and scored 312 goals.

And yet, going by most descriptions of Buenos Aires through the prism of its beloved sport of football, the endless murals and graffiti that adorn its streets show Maradona, not Messi, in different forms of divinity. The difference in the way that the two greats are perceived in their home country can perhaps be put down to two factors -- their respec-

tive records at the World Cup and their off-field transgressions.

Both Messi and Maradona have felt the extreme pressures that come with captaining Argentina at the World Cup. The difference, however, lay in the fact that Maradona won the tournament at his second attempt, while for Messi, it has remained an unfulfilled quest in an otherwise illustrious career.

Messi, almost symbolically, trails Maradona by two goals in the World Cup goal-scoring records -- Messi has scored six times in 19 matches while Maradona has eight goals in 21 appearances. Maradona, after all, scored what has to be the most famous brace of all time against England in the quarter-finals of the 1986 World Cup. At the 1990 World Cup, Maradona led Argentina to the final yet again. The tournament featured a bizarre incident in which Brazil's Branco claimed that Maradona and team mate Ricardo Giusti offered him water spiked with tranquilisers during half-time of the round of 16 fixture between the two teams. The press discredited the story at the time but Branco would be proven right many years later by Maradona himself, when the latter confessed to the episode in a TV show.

Maradona then played two matches at the 1994 World Cup before being sent back home for a

failed drugs test, thus bringing the curtain down on his 17-year-long international career.

Anyone who has even remotely followed Messi's career would be able to say that trying to trick an opposition player into taking tranquilisers at half-time and failing a drugs test at a World Cup are all areas that the Barcelona superstar would never come close to. And in here comes the second difference.

A case of tax evasion is perhaps the most prominent of the handful of transgressions one can find on Messi at Barcelona. In the case of Maradona, however, his off-field troubles were as much a headline-maker as were the on-field acts of magic, among which were stories of his wild parties with the Naples mafia, and his dependence on cocaine and alcohol.

Where Messi is known to say the right things most of the times, one could hardly ever predict what might fall out of Maradona's mouth at any point. Messi has continually said that he respected his arch-rival Cristiano Ronaldo while Maradona had, at best, a love-hate relationship with Brazilian legend Pele, despite the fact that the pair hardly played in the

Napoli to rename its stadium in honour of Diego

NAPLES

SERIE A club Napoli on Thursday renamed its stadium in honour of Diego Maradona a day after he died aged 60. Club president Aurelio de Laurentiis said in a statement that the San Paolo Stadium will now be renamed after him.

"I believe it is right to name the San Paolo after you, so we can keep you with us as a witness of the excellent path this team has taken," said de Laurentiis in a statement put up on the club's website. "Your years here remain indelible in the memories of the people of Naples -- symbolic of a coveted redemption and yearned for resurrection. Thank you, Diego. You are, and will always be, with all of us."

Earlier, Naples mayor Luigi De Magistris had urged Napoli to change the name of the stadium in honour of the Argentine football great. "We will name the Stadio San Paolo in honour of Diego Armando Maradona!" he tweeted.

Maradona played for Napoli between 1984 and 1991, winning the Serie A twice, one Coppa Italia, and the UEFA Cup once. Napoli had never won the title before Maradona's arrival, even flirting with relegation many a times. Maradona left as the club's highest goalscorer, a record that stood until 2017 when Marek Hamsik surpassed his record. (IANS)

same era and thus never competed for the same trophies.

This unpredictability has often led to Maradona appealing to a wide array of people around the world. Maradona's thoughts on the revolutionary Che Guevara, for example, was markedly different from what was taught to him and his peers in Argentina's schools at the time. He went on to get a tattoo of Guevara on his right shoulder and with time, Argentina came to accept the latter as well, culminating in a statue of Guevara being erected in Rosario in 2008. Maradona's love for Cuban leader Fidel Castro and other socialist political figures in South America established his political leaning as that of a staunch leftist.

Messi has remained apolitical throughout his life, his social commentary being limited to issues that plague Argentine football. His sudden retirement from international football after the 2016 Copa America final, in which Argentina failed to lift a major trophy for the third time in as many years, came to highlight the disjointed manner in which the sport was run in the country. It was also at this time that Argentina finally showed its love for Messi.

On July 2, 2016, about a week after the Copa America final, about 50,000 people marched to the Obelisco de Buenos Aires chanting 'No Te Vayas Leo' (Don't go Leo).

He came back, of course, and almost single-handedly pulled a stumbling Argentina to qualification for the 2018 World Cup, where they were dumped out in the Round of 16 by eventual champions France. Messi cut a forlorn figure for much of that tournament, famously appearing to cover his face while the Argentine national anthem was being played ahead of their shock 1-1 draw against Iceland. Messi may yet win a World Cup -- 2022 is not too far away and the 33-year-old player remains one of the most reliable forwards in world football, but chances of him becoming the saint-like mythical figure that Maradona became long before his death on November 25, 2020, look rather slim. "He has left us but he will never leave us because Diego is eternal," said Messi in his tribute to Maradona. Messi's legacy may well turn out to be eternal as well. But while it may be perilous to predict the future, it would be safe to say that it would be markedly different from Maradona's. (IANS)



CCOB CA outplay ECDG to lift crown

HYDERABAD

BANKING on an all-round performance by Ansh (41 runs & 3/11) City College Old Boys Cricket Association (CCOB CA) registered a comfortable 33 runs win over Emerging Cricketers Developmental Group (ECDG) in the finals of 4th edition of Teen Premier League Jr Cricket C'ship.

The event organised by School Sports & Games Federation was played at RKS Cricket Grounds, Boduppal, Hyderabad

The prize distribution function was graced by Mohammed Faiyaz uddin Ghazi (Secretary, ECDG)

and Dr. Faheem uddin Khaja (Secretary, SSGF & Principal, Crescent Model English School). **AWARDS:** Most Valuable Player: Ansh; Player of the Tournament: Ashwin; Best Batsman: Ambarish; Best Bowler: Pruthvi; Best Fielder: Aryan; Best Wicketkeeper: Rahul; Best All-rounder: Dharmik; Game Changer Award: Faisal; Emerging Player: Abhiram; The Spirit of Cricket Award: Hrishikesh; Promising Player: Adnan **Brief Scores:** CCOB CA 174 all out in 26 overs (Dharmik 35, Ansh 41; Furkan 3/24, SAKash 4/15) beats ECDG 141 all out in 24.3 overs (Manikanda 36, Sathwik 37; Ansh 3/11, Pruthvi 3/4, Adnan 2/6)



Master of world derbies, Fowler now has Kolkata in sight

PANAJI

THERE is, perhaps, no better match for Robbie Fowler to begin his stint in India than the Indian Super League's (ISL) first-ever Kolkata derby.

Fowler's playing record is glorified with memorable derby moments. From scoring the winner in his very first Merseyside derby (Liverpool vs Everton), finding the net multiple times in the Manchester derby while playing for Manchester City, and even managed to create a goal in the Pennines derby - Manchester United versus Leeds United. And now he gets to experience a fixture that is as old and as intense as any of the others he has experienced so far in the world. However, this time around the 45-year-old will be in the dugout

in his new job as the head coach of SC East Bengal.

"The derbies are huge games," said Fowler as per an ISL media release. "They mean a lot to the fans and of course, they mean a lot to the players. But the important thing is you got to go into them and try to use your head. You got to try and be sensible. In these types of games, the players can't get carried away. You will dive into tackles, you will get too enthusiastic. So in this case, let's try and play sensibly," he added.

Fowler believes this derby is vital for him, not only because of the momentum such games can generate but also because it is his and his club's debut in the ISL. (IANS)

Today's match

SC East Bengal vs ATK Mohun Bagan at Tilak Maidan Stadium 7.30pm