



CLEARED OF DOPE TAIN, SANJITA CHANU TO FINALLY GET ARJUNA AWARD FOR 2018

BORUSSIA DORTMUND CONFIRM FAVRE WILL REMAIN HEAD COACH NEXT SEASON



GALLERY

Rohit begins outdoor training

India's white-ball vice-captain Rohit Sharma was back on the field on Thursday as he had his first outdoor training session post relaxation of Covid-19 lockdown. Rohit, who last played competitive cricket during the T20 series in New Zealand before hamstring injury ruled him out. "Good to be back on the park getting some work done, felt like myself after a long time," Rohit wrote on his Instagram page.

Clare Connor to be first female president of MCC: Former England women's captain Clare Connor is set to become the first female president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), guardian of the laws of the game, in its 233-year history. Connor was on Wednesday named as the successor to current chief Kumar Sangakkara, who steps down from the post next year.

Vince Carter retires after 22 NBA seasons: Eight-time NBA All-Star Vince Carter announced his retirement Thursday after a 22-season career that included 2000 Sydney Olympic gold and spectacular slam dunks during his "Vinsanity" heyday. Carter, who turned 43 in January, came off the bench for the Atlanta Hawks this past season and played his final NBA game on March 11, the same night the league shut down after Utah's Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19.

Young Vaishali enters semis; Humpy out: Young Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali, on Thursday beat IM Munkhzul Turmunkh of Mongolia to storm into the semifinals of the first leg of FIDE chess.com Women speed chess championships but the country's top player Koneru Humpy bowed out in the opener. It was a comfortable win for the Indian against the Mongolian after her hard-fought victory over former world champion Antoaneta Stefanova in the opening round. Vaishali, who beat Turmunkh 7.5-3.5, faces grandmaster Anna Ushenina in the semifinals on Friday.

Oz, NZ to co-host 2023 Fifa Women's WC: Australia and New Zealand will co-host the 2023 Fifa Women's World Cup. The expanded 32-team tournament is expected to open in July 2023. AGENCIES

MINISTRY WITHDRAWS RECOGNITION TO 54 FEDERATIONS ON DELHI HC ORDERS

NSFs Now Ineligible For Govt's Financial Grants For Training And Competition

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New Delhi: An unprecedented situation has developed in Indian sports. 54 national sports federations (NSFs) – including nine belonging to the 'high priority' category – have been left without the sports ministry's annual recognition, rendering them ineligible for the government's financial grant and assistance for training and competition. Add to this list the Indian Golf Union (IGU), School Games Federation of India (SGFI) and Rowing Federation of India (RFI) and the count grows to 57 NSFs.

The federations, which had been crawling back to normalcy after three months of countrywide lockdown, received a shocker from the sports ministry on Thursday afternoon when they were told that their provisional annual recognition stood 'withdrawn' on the directions of the Delhi High Court. The ministry had granted recognition to NSFs on two separate occasions. For 54 NSFs, the ministry had issued notification earlier this month on June 2, while the affidavit to grant recog-



This is something they have brought upon themselves because of their sheer arrogance, the double speak and arbitrariness in their decision-making. The ministry has opted to take the ostrich route where they would find it convenient to go with full force and use the national sports code's violation against particular federations while leaving the rest as per their convenience.

-Rahul Mehra | PETITIONER

nition to IGU, SGFI and RFI was sent to the court on June 16.

"...to this ministry's letter of even dated 02.06.2020 regarding 'Renewal of annual recognition of National Sports Federations for the year 2020' and to say that in compliance of the order dated 24.06.2020 passed by the Hon'ble Delhi Court, the department's letter of even number dated 02.06.2020 granting provisional annual recognition to 54 NSFs stands withdrawn," wrote SPS Tomar, ministry's deputy secretary, to Sports Authority of India (SAI)

director general Sandeep Pradhan.

It's been learnt that the ministry is contemplating filing a 'Special Leave Petition' (SLP) next week with a higher bench of the court, seeking directions to implement its June 2 order and grant the provisional annual recognition to all NSFs. The ministry isn't particularly happy with the legal team for its abject surrender and recalling the affidavit filed on June 16, which stated grant of provisional recognition to IGU, SGFI and RFI. The ministry is of the view that it can't go to the court every time for its approv-

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

According to annexure 15 of the 2011 sports code, the ministry is supposed to receive the performance chart of every NSF latest by December 15 of every year and, after evaluating and considering the submission, grants the annual recognition by January end. This time, the ministry didn't follow the procedure and delayed granting the recognition. Mehra alleged that the ministry chose the pandemic time to arbitrarily grant the provisional recognition to shield those NSFs which had committed irregularities. The way forward for the ministry is to file a 'Special Leave Petition' (SLP) with a higher bench of the court after it withdrew its affidavit filed on June 16.

WHY IS THIS ANNUAL RECOGNITION IMPORTANT?

NSFs, priority or non-priority sports, largely depend on the government funding to manage their everyday expenses. In its absence, they would struggle to hold their national championships and certificates won at the meet wouldn't have any validity. NSFs would find it difficult to organise national camps and hold tournaments. Railways concessions can't be availed any longer to travel for camps and meets. For Tokyo Olympic probables, the NSFs in 14 sports disciplines would struggle to fund training camps. No business house and corporate will like to associate itself with a de-recognised federation, leading to a sponsorship crunch. Smaller NSFs will suffer the most as the CSR activities aren't

happening due to economic setbacks suffered because of the pandemic. For SAI, it would be difficult to arrange and fund camps for all NSFs.

WHAT'S THE ROLE OF IOC AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES?

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and international federations (IFs) have limited role to play in this development. The IOC calls for autonomy in the IOA and NSFs, with no government interference. But granting recognition or de-recognising an NSF is the ministry's prerogative. The ministry can argue that it was following the law of the land and was acting on the court's directive. It could very well say that the government wasn't directly interfering into the matter.

Red alert

Liverpool Sniff Title Glory With A 4-0 Thrasing Of Crystal Palace

Liverpool: For once, Liverpool's players were alone. But even though the Kop was quiet, Liverpool's relentless title charge roared on.

The Reds moved to the brink of a first league title in 30 years with a 4-0 victory over Crystal Palace on Wednesday at an empty Anfield - a stadium that normally has such a raucous atmosphere it has become one of the most intimidating venues in world football for visitors. "Imagine if the stadium could have been full today," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said. "It would have been amazing."

When you read this, Liverpool could even secure their first league title since 1990 if Manchester City do not win at Chelsea. The rout of Palace was a reminder of Liverpool's dominance before the season was paused because of the coronavirus. There many moments to savour on the night Liverpool moved 23 points clear of City.

Trent Alexander-Arnold curling a free kick over the wall for the opener in the 23rd

minute. Fabinho lifting the ball over the defence for Mohamed Salah to bring down with his chest before slotting past goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey just before halftime. Fabinho drilling in a powerful shot from distance 10 minutes into the second half.

And Sadio Maneracing onto Salah's throughball before completing an electric break in front of the empty Kop in the 69th minute. "I have never missed them more than tonight," Klopp said of the fans.

MARTIAL HAT-TRICK

Manchester: Anthony Martial scored his first hat-trick for Manchester United in a 3-0 win over Sheffield United to take his tally in all competitions to 19 goals for the season. The win kept United in fifth.

Norwich are six points from safety after Michael Keane's header gave Everton a 1-0 victory over the last-place team. Aston Villa remained in 19th place but is level on points with West Ham in 17th after a 1-1 draw at Newcastle. AP



ON THE WAY: Mo Salah scores Liverpool's second just before the first-half whistle

I liked the game so much. 4-0 up in the 87th minute and four players chasing one Crystal Palace player like it's the only ball in the world, I like it so much, wonderful result and a wonderful game. Imagine if this stadium would have been full today and all the people could have experienced it live.

-Jurgen Klopp, LIVERPOOL MANAGER

"THIS CITY DID NOT WIN IT FOR A LONG TIME. LAST YEAR WE HAD A CHANCE BUT MAN CITY ALSO PLAYED REALLY WELL AND DESERVED IT. IT'S OUR TIME TO WIN THE LEAGUE."

-Mo Salah

HFC midfielder Stankovic hangs up his boots

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Hyderabad: Hyderabad FC midfielder Marko Stankovic has announced retirement from professional football, drawing curtains on a 17-year career.



my family, my friend, teammates, my supporters. Keep supporting me, I'll always stay in football." The Austrian made 38 ISL appearances between 2018 to 2020, with FC Pune City and Hyderabad FC. He registered four goals and five assists over the three seasons, with a passing accuracy of 72%.

Announcing his retirement on Instagram, the 34-year-old posted, "Hello guys, I'm officially retiring from professional football. Hard decision, but well prepared. Thank you to everyone who supported me, first of all, thank you to

As one of Hyderabad FC's key players in the 2019-20 ISL season, he scored two goals and one assist in 15 matches. Playing as a central midfielder, Stankovic often controlled the midfield, deliver-

ing 833 passes, 29 shots and 5 crosses. He contributed to the defence as well, making 39 tackles, 34 clearances and 20 interceptions. Starting out at the youth team of Austrian club DSV Leoben, Stankovic joined the senior team and made 96 appearances between 2003 to 2007. The midfielder joined SK Sturm Graz on a free transfer in 2007.

After a brief stint with Italian club Triestina, he joined Austria Wien on a free transfer in 2010. He scored 23 goals and provided 15 assists in 126 games from 2010 to 2014. He helped the team

win the 2012-13 Austrian Football Bundesliga.

In 2014, he returned to Sturm Graz and played 53 games across 3 years. In 2018, Stankovic joined ISL club FC Pune City on a free transfer, and worked with former Hyderabad FC manager Phil Brown. The midfielder won a national team cap for one match in 2008.

Stankovic was described as an experienced midfielder who was creative and energetic, had good ball control in the midfield and was adept at decision making during the game.

TIMES NATION

India crosses 15k deaths, 82% cases from 5 states

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

India crossed the tragic milestone of 15,000 Covid casualties on Thursday with 402 fresh deaths pushing the cumulative toll to 15,300. While the first Covid death occurred on March 10 and it took 81 days to breach the 5,000-casualty mark, it took just 17 days to breach the 10,000-mark. It took even a shorter period – just nine days – to cross the 15,000-mark. Of the total casualties, 9,896 have been recorded in June alone.

Just five states account for 82.6% of India's fatalities with Maharashtra taking the lead with 6931 deaths, followed by Delhi (2429 deaths), Gujarat (1754), Tamil Nadu (911) and Uttar Pradesh (611).

India also recorded the highest single-day spike for third straight day with 17,835 patients testing positive for the virus across the country, taking the country's caseload close to the five-lakh mark at 4,90,964. The biggest single-day hike witnessed by Maharashtra and the twin Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana pushed the overall number of fresh cases on

A day after Delhi, Mumbai became the second city in the country to cross the 70,000-mark, with total 70,878 Covid cases

Thursday. Maharashtra recorded the highest single-day spike for the second consecutive day, surpassing the previous record of 3,890 cases on Wednesday by crossing the 4,000-mark for the first time with 4,841 cases, taking the state's caseload to 147,741. With 1,350 fresh cases, Mumbai accounted for 28% of the patients testing positive for the virus on Thursday. However, with 98 fresh deaths, the city accounted for more than half of Maharashtra's 192 fatalities on Thursday. Mumbai on Thursday crossed the 4,000-mark with total 4,062 fatalities. The city's case fatality rate is much higher at 5.73% against Maharashtra's figure of 4.69%.

A day after Delhi, Mumbai became the second city in the country to cross the 70,000-mark with total 70,878 Covid cases. Delhi recorded 3390

fresh cases, lower than 3,788 cases recorded the previous day, taking the total caseload to 73,780. With 64 fresh deaths, the national capital's toll rose to 2,429.

Tamil Nadu crossed the 900-mark with 45 fresh deaths, taking the toll to 911, even as the state recorded the highest spike in fresh cases for the second consecutive day which took the state's caseload near the 70,000-mark to 70,977. Tamil Nadu crossed the three-thousand mark for the first time by adding 3,509 cases. Just a day ago, the state had registered a record with 2865 fresh cases.

Gujarat recorded its second highest surge in fresh cases with 577 patients testing positive (the highest, 580, was on June 21), taking the caseload near the 30,000-mark to 29,578. With 18 deaths – the lowest single-day casualty in 56 days – the state's toll has reached 1,754.

With 15 more deaths, UP crossed the 600-mark, taking the toll to 611. Bengal, too, crossed the 600-mark with 15 fresh deaths, pushing the state's toll to 606. Haryana recorded 10 more deaths, pushing the state's toll to 198.

web special

With QR codes, face shields, vendors give shopping a new look

Amar Kumar, a fruit seller in Mathura, was looking forward to brisk business this summer when Covid-19 hit. Post-lockdown there was a major dip in sales as long-time customers started choosing online deliveries. To win back their trust, he started wearing a face shield and spraying sanitiser on grocery packs before handing them to customers. Within days, sales doubled. Across cities, vendors in face shields have become a common sight. Some shops are refusing to sell to customers without masks while others are keeping disposable gloves for people, report Anuja Jaiswal & Jaideep Deogharia.

Full report on www.toi.in

Unpaid for 6 mths, Covid docs strike

Bhopal: As many as 76 doctors on Covid duty at Bundelkhand Medical College (BMC) in MP's Sagar went on strike because they have not been paid for six months. This, despite Supreme Court's directives to all state governments to ensure doctors fighting coronavirus are paid in time. TNN

CBSE and ICSE cancel remaining board exams

AmitAnand Choudhary & Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: In view of increasing Covid-19 infections across the country, CBSE has decided to cancel the remaining Board exams for Class XII and X which were scheduled to be held in July. The Board told the Supreme Court on Thursday that Class XII students, not happy with the marks to be accorded to the pending papers, will also be given an option of taking the exam to be conducted when the atmosphere becomes "conducive" while the re-exam option will not be available for Class X.

The ICSE Board also cancelled the exams and informed the bench that it would not be giving re-examination option to students of Class X and XII and results would be declared on the basis of past performances. The bench asked CBSE to file an affidavit on Friday giving all information for it to pass order on the plea by a group of parents seeking scrapping of Board exams so that students are not exposed to the deadly virus. Noting that "conducive atmosphere" may vary from

Academicians laud CBSE's decision to cancel board exams

New Delhi: Academicians and parent bodies on Thursday welcomed the CBSE's decision to cancel pending board exams in view of the spike in COVID-19 cases, but said it may affect the performance of students, many of whom do not take pre-boards seriously. The remaining CBSE and ICSE board examinations for classes 10 and 12, scheduled to be held in July, have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court was informed on Thursday.

The examinees of Class 12 students of CBSE board will have an option of either taking the exams later or to move ahead with the assessment based on their performance in the last three internal exams. The re-exam option will not be available to Class 10 students.

Jyoti Arora, principal of Mount Abu School in Rohini, said, "The decision to cancel the exams in the current situation is a child-friendly one. There would have been many challenges in conducting the exam in a scenario like this. Safety of students is paramount during this time". PTI

state to state depending on the spread of infection, the Bench asked the Centre and CBSE to give a time-frame when they will review the situation. It also asked them to file details of the scheme on how marks will be awarded for the pending papers and when the results will be declared.

As per the new scheme of things being prepared by CBSE, marks will be awarded to Class XII students based on combined assessment of marks scored in the practical/internal assess-

ment and those papers for which a candidate has already appeared in the exams, sources said.

The sources said results will be announced for all Class XII candidates based on the internal assessment criteria. However, students not satisfied with the marks accorded for the papers for which exams could not be conducted will get another opportunity to improve their performance in an exam which will be conducted at a "conducive" time. Full report on www.toi.in

Bids invited for 2cr desi masks, 50L RT-PCR kits

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The central procurement agency HLL Life-care Limited (HLL) has invited online bids for supply of personal protection equipment, viral transport and detection kits.

The bid document lists a tentative annual requirement of 2 crore 3 ply masks, 50 lakh real time RT-PCR kits, 1 lakh pulse oximeters, 1 crore bottles of different quantities of hand sanitisers, 50 lakh Viral Transport Medium kits and 50 lakh Viral Lysis Transport Medium kits, 50 lakh RNA extraction kits and 50,000 dead body covers.

The tender document was floated by HLL on June 23 and the last date for filing bids is June 30. The date of opening of e-tender is July 1.

The finalised bidders will have to enter into a rate contract for 12 months. The products offered in the tender must be only manufactured in India and relevant manufacturing licenses along with product list will have to be submitted by applicants. The bid document makes it clear that suppliers must ensure strict compliance to all statutory regulations and quality standards. Full report on www.toi.in