



THE HANS INDIA

• Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Amaravati | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi: RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095 •

• Follow @ /thehansindia | /thehansindiaweb | /thehansindia | /thehansindia | /thehansindia •

To advertise
or
to subscribe
give a
missed call to
88823 96396

ART No. WG5335
MRP ₹ 299.00*

ART No. WG5319
MRP ₹ 289.00*

ART No. WG5020
MRP ₹ 239.00*

ART No. WL7737
MRP ₹ 299.00*

U4IC INTERNATIONAL PVT. LTD., Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh-520015. Ph: +91 8499803629. www.vkgroup.com

WINDOWS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his 151st birth anniversary, at Rajghat in New Delhi on Friday

Nirbhaya's lawyer to fight case of Hathras victim

Hathras: Seema Kushwaha, lawyer of the 2012 Delhi rape victim, known as Nirbhaya, will now fight the case of the Hathras victim. Seema tried to

meet the victim's family on Thursday but was prevented from meeting them by the police. "I will not leave Hathras without meeting the family. They have requested me to stand as their legal counsel, but the administration is not allowing me to meet them," she told reporters.

BUSINESS



L&T Group looks to exit from Hyd Metro P6



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addressing a protest meeting over Hathras gangrape at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Friday

'HANG THE GUILTY'

Says Kejriwal at Delhi protest over Hathras rape

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad and their supporters assembled at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Friday evening in protest against the BJP government for what they say not doing enough to stop crime against women. Hundreds of people including leaders from Opposition parties gathered there to demand justice in the alleged gangrape and murder of a 20-year-old woman in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras.

"We have assembled here in grief. I pray to God that our daughter's soul gets peace. I request the Uttar Pradesh government with my hands folded, hang the guilty as soon as possible. They should get such a punishment that no one will dare commit a crime like this again," Kejriwal said.

"I will visit #Hathras. Our struggle will continue till the time UP CM doesn't resign, & justice is served. I urge SC to take cognizance of the incident," Azad tweeted.

After the sunset, the protesters lit up candles and stood holding them in the dark, as policemen watched over them.

The Delhi Police had imposed restrictions on crowds at India Gate, after which Azad said the agitation had been shifted to Jantar Mantar, 3 km away. While the police order said only 100 people would be allowed at Jantar Mantar,

at least 500 turned up at the protest meeting.

Earlier, Kejriwal criticised the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh for the manner in which it treated the Hathras gangrape victim and cremated her mortal remains in the night against Hindu religious customs.

Kejriwal said the victim was not only inhumanly

treated, raped, and killed by the savages, she and her family were also "wrongly" treated by the ruling BJP in UP. "We are living in democracy and people in power should not forget that they are not the owners of this country but the servants," he added.

Kejriwal had tweeted in the morning that the victim of Hathras was raped by a few men first and then by

the whole system. The whole episode is very painful, he tweeted.

The body of the 19-year-old Dalit woman, who died in Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, a fortnight after she was gangraped, was cremated in Hathras in the early hours of Wednesday, with her family alleging that the local police forced them to conduct the last rites in the dead of the night.

Priyanka seeks justice for Hathras victim

Attends prayer meet at Delhi Valmiki temple

New Delhi: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday attended a prayer meet at the Valmiki temple in Delhi for the 19-year-old Dalit girl who was allegedly gang-raped in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras. The woman died earlier this week.

The UP police are accused by the family of forcing the cremation of the woman in the dead of the night. District officials contended that they had consent from the woman's family, but the way the developments took place raised questions over the conduct of the administration and law enforcement.

"We have come here to offer our condolences, but more than that we are all here to ensure that the family and our sister get



AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra offers prayers during a prayer meet for Hathras victim, at Valmiki temple in New Delhi on Friday

justice. We will not stop until we get justice," said Priyanka Gandhi at the prayer meeting. The Congress leader urged every woman in the country to raise her voice against this injustice.

"The family has received no help from the government. Instead, they weren't even allowed to light the funeral pyre. It is not the culture of our country that the father and the brother don't conduct the last rites. It is not the tradition of our country to

cremate any one after sunset," she added.

A tribute for the victim of the brutal gangrape victim in Hathras has been organised by the temple trust. Senior Congress leaders PL Punia, Sushmita Dev and Anil Choudhary have already offered a floral tribute and are sitting in solidarity.

On Thursday, Priyanka Gandhi and her brother Rahul, the Congress says, were briefly arrested as they tried to visit Hathras. The UP police escorted them back to Delhi.

A teenager who emerged from the village on Friday morning alleged the police had seized mobile phones of the rape victim's family and the family wanted to make a statement to the media.

INDIA LIKELY TO GET COVID VACCINE BY JAN

Effective production and distribution a challenge: AIIMS Director

New Delhi: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Director Dr Randeep Guleria said an effective Covid-19 vaccine can be expected in India by January 2021, if everything goes as planned.

Speaking during an event, Guleria admitted that it is hard to say when a vaccine will be available in the country and that it depends on a lot of factors - from the ongoing trials to the effectiveness of the vaccine against Covid-19 infections.

If all things go as planned, the vaccine could be available in the market by early next year, he said. However, Guleria made it clear that the initial availability of doses will not be enough for the entire population in the country.

Highlighting the next big challenge after the vaccine is ready, Guleria said, "The second challenge after the vaccine is deemed effective is production and distribution on such a large scale."

When asked how the Covid vaccine will be distributed among Indians considering the shortfall, the AIIMS director said discussions on the matter have already started and indicated that "vaccine prioritisation" model will be followed. Explaining the model, Guleria said



AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria

those groups with the highest risks will be prioritised over others. "There are two groups that will be prioritised. Those who have a higher risk of infection including healthcare workers and other corona warriors. And those who have higher chances of mortality," Guleria said. "If we prepare a priority list and follow it effectively, then

the vaccine distribution can be done equitably." Dr Guleria reminded people that it is a global pandemic and strict prioritisation guidelines need to be followed to effectively eradicate the virus. If the prioritisation model is not followed, it will lead to more deaths and the pandemic will keep spreading, Guleria said. **Continued on Page 5**

GOOD TIDINGS

Prioritisation of vaccine is very crucial. Corona warriors and those who have higher chances of mortality will be given priority. If we prepare a priority list and follow it effectively, then the vaccine distribution can be done equitably.

US okays \$90 mn sale of aircraft spares to India

Washington: The Pentagon has approved India's request to buy equipment, spare parts and logistical support for its fleet of C-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft worth \$90 million.

In its notification to the Congress, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said the proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the US by helping to strengthen the US-India strategic relationship and improve the security of a major defence partner, which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia region.

The items ordered by India are aircraft consumable spares and repair/return parts; ground support and equipment; Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD) fire extinguisher cartridges; flare cartridges; BBU-35/B cartridge impulse squibs.

India has also ordered for one spare AN/ALR-56M Advanced Radar Warning Receiver shipset; spare AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispenser System shipset; ten Lightweight Night Vision Binocular (F5032); ten AN/AVS-9

India also seeks instruments and lab equipment support, joint mission planning system, cryptographic device spares and loaders' software

Night Vision Goggle (NVG) (F4949); GPS and Electronic Warfare.

It is also seeking instruments and lab equipment support; joint mission planning system; cryptographic

effectively to serve the needs of the Indian Air Force, Army and Navy transport requirements, local and international humanitarian assistance and regional disaster relief.



device spares and loaders; software and software support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; contractor engineering, technical and logistical support, and other related elements of programme support.

According to the notification, the proposed sale ensures that the previously procured aircraft operates

This sale of spares and services will enable the Indian Air Force to sustain a higher mission-ready status fleet, it said.

India will have no difficulty absorbing this additional sustainment support, it said, adding that the proposed sale of this equipment and support worth USD 90 million will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

Covid strikes Trumps, poll campaign goes awry

New York: After belittling precautionary measures against the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, US President Donald Trump has tested positive for the virulent disease just 32 days ahead of the November 3 election that will determine his future, throwing his campaign and the world into a vortex of uncertainty.

Taking to Twitter late on Thursday night, Trump said: "Tonight, @POTUS and I tested positive for Covid-19. We will begin our quarantine and recovery process immediately. We will get through this together."

Also in a tweet shortly, the First Lady said: "As too many Americans



have done this year, @POTUS & I are quarantining at home after testing positive for Covid-19. We are feeling good and I have postponed all up-

coming engagements.

"Please be sure you are staying safe and we will all get through this together."

The Covid-19 infection is a personal and political blow to Trump who had shown disdain for many of the precautions prescribed by health authorities to fight the pandemic. It could shake the confidence of his hardcore supporters who had followed his example by not wearing masks and questioning the health codes.

Following the development, the White House sent out a revised press schedule listing only "a phone call on Covid-19 support to vulnerable seniors" for Friday, adding that several events have been cancelled, including a fundraiser in Washington and a campaign rally in Florida.

Continued on Page 5

Woménia

Protect your beauty from pollution

When the entire nation lockdown was announced in the month of March, there was an unusual fresh air with high decrease in pollution.

Meanwhile, when the government slowly eased the lockdown normal, pollution is peaking once again, slipping back air quality to unhealthy levels. Sadly, it's not just the lungs and heart that are vulnerable to air pollution. The skin takes some abuse as well. The daily exposure to pollution dramatically impacts skin's health and appearance.

I think the biggest concern is an increase in hyperpigmentation, but that's not all. This also leads to clog pores, compromises skin function and even leads to premature signs of ageing, dull and fatigued skin including lines and loss of firmness.

Chemical pollutants also disrupt the normal balances of the skin and scalp, leading to problems like dryness, sensitivity, rashes, acne, irritation or allergic reactions, dandruff and related conditions. Of course, for working women, the job may involve travelling long distances to work. The skin is thus more exposed to the pollutants in the air.

Cleansing of the skin assumes more importance in order to get rid of the impurities and pollutants that are deposited on the skin. If you have a dry skin, use a cleansing cream or gel. For oily skins, cleansing milk or face wash may be used.



Shahnaz Husain



Look out for products with ingredients like sandalwood, eucalyptus, mint, neem, tulsi, or aloe vera, when you buy cleansers.

If the skin is prone to eruptive conditions like acne, pimples, rash, it should be protected with specialized creams that not only protect but also reduce oiliness and deal with the problem.

After cleansing, wipe the skin with a rose-based skin tonic or rose water, to complete the cleansing process and refresh the skin. Soak cotton balls in chilled rose water and tone the skin with it, patting briskly. It also improves blood circulation to the skin surface and adds a glow. Green tea also makes a good skin toner. If there is a rash or eruptions, add a little rose water to sandalwood paste and apply on the face. Wash

off with plain water after 15 minutes. Sandalwood soothes the skin and protects it from irritative reactions and eruptive conditions.

The hair also needs frequent washing if one regularly travels long distances for their work. Shampoo, hair rinses, serums and conditioners help to restore the normal balances if they contain ingredients like amla, Brahmi, triphala, bhringraj and henna.

Mix one teaspoon each of vinegar and honey with one egg. Massage the mixture lightly into the scalp. Leave on for half an hour and then wash the hair. Rinse well with water.

Give your hair hot oil therapy. Heat pure coconut oil and apply on the hair. Then dip a towel in hot water, squeeze the water out and wrap the hot towel around

the head, like a turban. Keep it on for 5 minutes. Repeat the hot towel wrap 3 or 4 times. This helps the hair and scalp absorb the oil better. Leave oil on overnight and wash hair the next day.

The impurities and pollutants can also affect the eyes, causing burning or redness. The eyes should be washed with plain water several times. Soak cotton wool pads in chilled rose water and use them over the eyes as eye pads. Lie down and relax for fifteen minutes.

Keep yourself hydrated by drinking 10 to 12 glasses of water in a day to replenish moisture. Opt for coconut water, Nimbu Pani, Juices and Soups to detoxify the body. Your diet plays a big role in the fight against pollutants.

TWEET PATROL



KRITI SANON
@KRITISANON

Every time she's fallen down, she's gotten up stronger! That's me
#BeMyPoetry
#JustScribbling



Mindful process of creation

PUJA GUPTA

The pandemic has made sustainability and slow fashion a center-stage conversation, which would have otherwise taken a little more time to happen. In the times to come, we will see a greater focus on sustainability, call for transparent supply chains, increased impetus on local artisan craft and hopefully a reduction in fast fashion consumption, believes Arundhati Kumar, Founder of Beej.

Beej is a fashion accessories brand that vouches for the use of sustainable materials and fabric that are innovative alternatives for regular fast fashion fabric resulting in a major carbon footprint. They use leather made from pineapple leaves, cork and recycled sarees to make high-end luxury bags. Arundhati Kumar, Founder of Beej says, "At Beej, we work with a variety of plant-based leather alternatives that we have

Accessories brand Beej uses sustainable material like leather made from pineapple leaves, cork and recycled sarees to make high-end luxury bags

carefully selected for their manufacturing process and environmental impact. We work a lot with cork. The cork we work with comes from Portugal, which is also home to most of the cork oak forests found in the world. The bark of the cork oak is harvested every nine years, which is then used to make the cork fabric/leather we use for our products. All our cork is FSC certified."

Khesh is upcycled handloom material that's made from old cotton sarees.

"We also work with upcycled leather. These are usually leather scraps that would have otherwise found their way to some landfill. We use these scraps to create leather panels that are then used

as accents or trimmings in our bags. The latest material we've added is Khesh. I discovered Khesh on a chance visit to a weekly village market in Shantiniketan and the first thing that attracted me was how good it looked. When I then found out how it's made, it was a perfect addition to materials we work with. The fact that it uses what's already existing to create something new makes it more sustainable than most other materials. The beauty about khesh is that no two materials look the same and this is because the weaver can only specify the colour of the weft and not the warp."

The Pandemic and Sustainable fashion

In a way COVID-19 has made sustainability and slow fashion a center-stage conversation, which would have otherwise taken a little more time to happen. Today almost all fashion brands are looking to make a shift towards sustainability as it's no longer an option.

"Sustainable fashion" is one of the fastest growing categories in e-commerce globally today having grown 3x in the last two years.

She shares, "The accessory space is still very new and almost unexplored. Knowing about these materials and its impact is one thing, but willing to switch from leather and put your money on trying something new when you are not sure about quality, durability etc. is very different. I see a lot more independent small labels making their foray. Social media has today allowed young brands and designers to showcase their designs and reach out to potential customers without huge investments and costs." People are a lot more comfortable in their own skin today, six months of not having to dress up has changed the way a lot of us view our wardrobes. It's about being more relaxed, easy and laid back.

Dealing with your make-up allergies

Looking and feeling good about one's self go hand in hand. That is one of the reasons we spend time choosing the right clothes, footwear, accessories and we also pick the best and most well-known skin products. The primary reason for us to put makeup on is to enhance our beauty. But what if our most trusted makeup products suddenly start irritating our skin.

Many of us might remember a time or incident when a super cool new make-up product formed allergy or breakouts on our face. Although all of us do not have sensitive skin, some of us certainly cannot tolerate certain brands and ingredients that are used in beauty products.

Dr Sravya Chowdary Tipirneni, Consultant Dermatologist & Cosmetologist, Columbia Asia Hospital Whitefield shares, "There are many signs that our skin might showcase if a product is not gelling well with our skin. For instance, mascara or eyeliner causing itchy eyelids on the area of application or a foundation that causes dry, scaly, flaky irritated skin or certain unhygienic make-up brushes or applicators causing infections, all these signs should be immediately taken care of. Signs can range from simple rash to a full blown skin reaction." All the symptoms

can start immediately after the use of a new product or even years after using the same product with no problem. The latter situation occurs due to our body's immune system. Let's understand the types of skin reactions that can occur due to make-up products:

Irritant Contact Dermatitis

Usually happens immediately or within a few hours of application. Co relates to the area of application. For instance, Eyeliner on the eyelids. Shows symptoms like burning, stinging, itching, redness etc. Severe cases can get secondary infection resulting in blistering and oozing.

Allergic Contact Dermatitis

This type of skin reaction can happen on any part of the body though the face is the most common part. This can happen with long term use of the same product as well. Hives, redness, swelling and associated itching can happen. You can have either one or in a combination of both the above. The reaction may last from a few hours to a few months. The symptoms and the duration vary depending on different factors. Almost all the cosmetics containing water will need some preservatives. Even the ones labelled

as non fragranced may have fragrances, which can cause allergies.

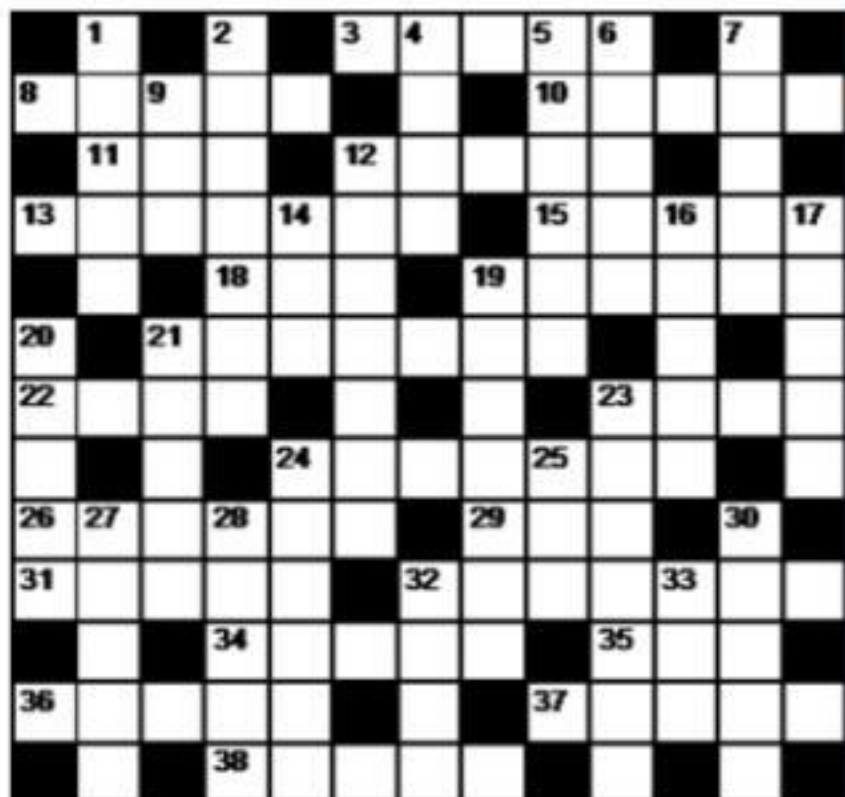
How to prevent

- To avoid these reactions always conduct a patch test before using any product.
- Apply a small amount of the new product and observe for 48-72 hours. It's safe to use if none of the above symptoms occur.
- Also try to look for products with least ingredients/fragrances etc.
- Perfumes are to be sprayed only on the clothes and to be avoided directly on the skin.

How do we treat this?

If you develop any allergy, immediately stop using the tested product and only use soothing applications or anti allergic depending on the diagnosis and severity. They usually subside on their own if not severe. You can also deal with them at home by applying ice for soothing, Aloe vera gel, Petroleum jelly and Coconut oil

It is preferable to consult a Dermatologist at the earliest for these reactions. Your Dermatologist will also help you identify which ingredient on the label triggers irritation or problem in your beauty regimen.



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 02

CROSSWORD

Across

- Ghost (5)
- Gray (5)
- Code of conduct (5)
- Call for help (3)
- First letter of the Hebrew alphabet (5)
- Frontier settlement (7)
- Weird (5)
- Choose (3)
- Disorderly (6)
- Unsafe or not well-grounded (7)
- Gripped (4)
- Sandwich shop (4)
- Like some sweaters (1-6)
- Looked at (6)
- Fluid lubricant (3)
- Times long past (5)
- Item (7)
- City of the Ruhr (5)
- Governor (3)
- Electronic valve (5)
- Cut into strips (5)
- Toss (5)

Down

- Descendants (5)
- Answer (7)
- Stop (4)
- Trust or rely on (6)
- Anaesthetic (5)
- Watch (5)
- Peppery (3)
- Amaze (7)
- Wife of Saturn (3)
- ___ out : excluded, pronounced irrelevant? (5)
- High nest (5)
- Mythical creature (7)
- Comedian Chase (5)
- Sore (5)
- Rapture (7)
- Container (6)
- Equipment (3)
- Classical Greek style (5)
- Unwanted herbs (5)
- Young eel (5)
- An epoch or an era (4)
- Mongrel (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 02

NEWS ROUNDUP

Bhumi Pednekar: I have to use my voice to educate people about climate change

Actress Bhumi Pednekar, who has taken up the cause of climate conservation to raise awareness among fellow Indians, says she wants to use her voice to bring about positive change.

She says, "I always had this fear. It started from my childhood. 'What would happen to this world when the water dries up?' That was the first question in my head. So, I started reading up on climate change. I have always been conscious, and I tried to have a sustainable style of living, especially since I became an adult. But then I realised I wasn't really doing enough and that's when I started Climate Warrior."

Bhumi's online and offline initiative Climate Warrior is an initiative to mobilise citizens of India to contribute towards protecting the environment. The initiative has turned a year old. She wants to use her fame to educate people about climate change. Bhumi feels every individual must participate in raising community awareness about environment protection.

"I have become an actor. I have the power to reach out to so many people and I have always tried doing that through my cinema. I have to use my voice, my social media platforms to bring about positive change in the world and educate people about climate change. When we speak about love for our family, when we speak about love for our nation, do we actually mean all this because we should be doing more to protect our families and our nation and our future generations. These were all the looming questions in my head and that's when I realised I should start Climate Warrior," she said.



US judge blocks H-1B visa ban, says Trump 'exceeded his authority'

Washington: In a major relief to thousands of Indian IT professionals, a federal judge in the US blocked the enforcement of a temporary visa ban by the Trump administration on a large number of work permits, including the most sought after H-1B visas, ruling that the President exceeded his constitutional authority.

The order issued by US District Judge Jeffrey White of Northern District of California applies to members of organisations that filed a lawsuit against the Department of Commerce and Department of Homeland Security - the US Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufactur-

ers, National Retail Federation, TechNet, a technology industry group, and Intrax Inc., which sponsors cultural exchanges.

The ruling places an immediate hold on a series of damaging visa restrictions that prevent manufacturers from filling crucial, hard-to-fill jobs to support economic recovery, growth and innovation when most needed, the National Association of manufacturers said.

In June, Donald Trump had issued an executive order that had put temporary bar on issuing of new H-1B visas, which are widely used by major American and Indian technology companies, H-2B visas for non-agricultural seasonal



workers, J visas for cultural exchanges and L visas for managers and other key employees of multinational corporations till the end of the year.

President Trump had argued that the US needs to save and protect

jobs for its domestic work force at a time when millions of them lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic.

A number of IT companies and other US companies and those representing them had voiced their opposition to it.

Manufacturers went to court to challenge the administration's ban on certain visas because the restrictions both undermined the industry at a critical time and conflicted with the law, said NAM senior vice president and general counsel Linda Kelly.

We are competing with the rest of the world to find and develop top talent to support innovation in

our industry. Today's decision is a temporary win for manufacturers committed to building that innovation in the United States, he said.

A long-term win for manufacturers requires policymakers to support meaningful reforms to our immigration laws that recognize the critical link between smart immigration policy and America's competitive advantage, Ms Kelly said.

In his order, the federal judge said that the President "exceeded his authority".

Congress's delegation of authority in the immigration context does not afford the President unbridled authority to set domestic

policy regarding employment of nonimmigrant foreigners. Such a finding would render the President's Article II powers all but superfluous, Judge White wrote in his 25-page order.

The judge noted that the text of Article I and more than two centuries of legislative practice and judicial precedent make clear, the Constitution vests Congress, not the President, with the power to set immigration policy.

If the fact that immigrants come from other countries inherently made their admission foreign relations subject to the President's Article II power, then all of this law would be superfluous, the judge

said.

The ruling by Judge White is in difference with an order passed by District Judge Amit Mehta of the District of Columbia in August, who ruled that he does not have the power to enjoin the ban while the litigation is under way.

The H-1B visa, most sought after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

Dalit woman raped in UP's capital

- ▶ No gatherings allowed around India Gate, Section 144 imposed
- ▶ Nirbhaya's lawyer Seema Kushwaha to fight case of Hathras victim

Lucknow: Amid mounting anger against the rapes in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras and Balrampur, another incident of gang-rape was reported from Lucknow on Friday. The incident took place under the jurisdiction of Gudamba police station area where a Dalit woman went to meet the accused and was allegedly raped.

The accused, identified as Vipin, had allegedly called a meeting on August 22 on the pretext of getting the woman a job. When she reached the accused's house, she

Hathras horror: Update yourself on rape law, Cong tells UP ADGP



Police personnel detain Samajwadi Party activists during a protest against the death of a 19-year-old Dalit woman in Hathras, in Lucknow.

saw three to four more men there as well, including one Shakeel. The

woman has alleged that all the men took turns to rape her and kept her captive for about a week.

Uttar Pradesh Minister Ajit Singh Pal called the Hathras gang-rape and death case a "small matter". "The government is working towards the case. The opposition does not have any solid matter so they are picking up small cases. The medical report does not confirm rape in the case," he said at a BJP programme.

Tempers ran high in Hathras on Friday after the district administration banned the entry of the media in Boolgarhi village where the Hathras assault victim lived. Samajwadi Party (SP) workers on Friday faced a lathicharge when they were marching towards the

Gandhi statue here to observe a silent 'satyagrah' in protest against the alleged deterioration in law and order, rising crime against women, unemployment and the recent farm and labour laws.

A day after Uttar Pradesh ADGP Prashant Kumar claimed that the forensic report did not mention rape of the Hathras victim, the Congress on Friday asked the IPS officer to go back to a law school and update himself on the amendments made in relevant law in 2013.

Former Union Home Minister P Chidambaram said: "The ADGP of UP would be well-advised to go back to a law school and update himself on the amendment made in 2013 to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (rape)."

"He should also read the 1994 Supreme Court judgment in 'State of UP vs Babul Nath' on what was rape even before the amendment. Absence of traces of semen is of no relevance at all.

"The UP Police seems to be a law unto itself. The ADGP has donned the role of a court and is articulating absurd propositions of law that are contrary to the law declared by the Supreme Court," added Chidambaram, a Supreme Court lawyer. The Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) had said in a statement: "The forensic report clearly stated that no semen was found (on the body). We think some people took advan-

Phones of Hathras victim's kin seized

Hathras: A family member of the Hathras gang rape victim has alleged they are being stopped from speaking to media as the administration has imposed a ban on large gatherings in their village. A minor from the victim's family was sent to reach out to the media. The minor said they were asked to switch off their mobiles and some mobiles were being taken from them. The family member crossed farmland to reach media waiting outside the entrance of the village. "They have taken the phone. My family has sent me here to call the media for speaking. I ducked down and came from the field. They are not letting us come out are they not allowing the media to come in. They are threatening us as well," said the family member.

tage of the situation, tried to disturb communal harmony, and create a caste conflict. We are examining this and will arrest those who try to vitiate the atmosphere."

Seema Kushwaha, lawyer of the 2012 Delhi rape victim, known as Nirbhaya, will now fight the case of the Hathras victim. Seema tried to meet the victim's family on Thursday, but was prevented from meeting them by the police.

81K new cases in India

New Delhi (IANS): With a spike of 81,214 coronavirus cases and 1,095 deaths in 24 hours, India's tally on Friday mounted to 63,94,069 cases. Out of the total cases, 9,42,217 are currently active, 53,52,078 have been discharged, while 99,773 lost the battle against the viral disease. While the recovery rate stands at a whopping high of 83.70 per cent, the fatality rate has come down to 1.56 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 14,00,922 cases, including 37,056 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

According to the data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India conducted 10,97,947 sample tests in a single day on Thursday, taking the total number of samples tested so far to 7,67,17,728.



'Covid hug' BJP leader tests +ve

Kolkata: BJP leader Anupam Hazra, who had threatened to hug West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee if he got infected with COVID-19, has tested positive for the disease, health officials said. Hazra, who has recently been appointed as a national secretary of the saffron party, was admitted to a private hospital in Kolkata on Friday, they said. He had complained of uneasiness and his samples were tested for coronavirus, the report of which returned as positive on Thursday night, the officials aid.

UP cops push O'Brien, manhandle women MPs

Hathras: Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien, who was on his way to Hathras where a 20-year-old was gang raped and tortured about two weeks ago, was pushed to the ground in a confrontation with police when he and three other party leaders tried to enter the village where the victim lived. In a 32-second video, a man in a white shirt and a helmet can be seen grabbing TMC MP Pratima Mandal by the shoulders to prevent her from walking to the village. Derek O'Brien rushes to rescue her and the man then pushes him to the ground. Earlier, TMC MPs Pratima Mandal and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and ex-MP Mamata Thakur could be seen urging policemen with folded hands to let them enter the village. Derek O'Brien could be heard telling the cops: "Let the women go at least." However, their path was blocked by the policemen.



Doc surfaces as key witness in UP rape & murder case

Balrampur (IANS) A key witness in the case of alleged gang-rape of a 22-year-old Dalit woman from Balrampur district, who later succumbed to her injuries, has shown up.

He is a local doctor, who was first called to treat the victim by the two accused at a room behind a grocery store run by one of the accused in a nearby market. The doctor told reporters on Friday that one of the accused visited his clinic to take him to his house to treat the victim, introducing her as a family member at around 5 p.m. on Tuesday. The doctor said he became suspicious when he saw the victim lying alone on a sofa.

"I returned immediately, saying that I will treat her only in the presence of her family members and started asking for her father's

name and contact number. The youths then told me that they would bring the victim to the clinic with her father for the treatment, but they did not do so. Later, I came to know that she had died," he said. The victim's mother had earlier alleged that some youths had abducted her while she was returning home from the college and taken her to a room where she was raped and brutalised. The incident occurred on Tuesday when the woman had gone to take admission in a college near her village but did not return home till late in the evening, said Superintendent of Police (SP) of Balrampur, Dev Ranjan Verma.

The woman later returned on a rickshaw with a glucose drip inserted in her hand while the family members were searching for her.

SC: Emergency led to fertile conditions for destruction of liberty

SUMIT SAXENA

New Delhi (IANS): The Supreme Court said the experiences gained from the Emergency era are sobering lessons, which should warn against endowing a statute, susceptible of grave misuse.

The observation by the top court was made on the contentions of the Gujarat government that the pandemic has resulted in an internal disturbance. This was used to justify its notification to extract additional hours from workers without paying wages for the overtime.

The apex court has quashed this notification.

A bench comprising Justice D. Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices Indu Malhotra and K. M. Joseph cited the emergency declared in 1962

and 1971, when India fought wars with China and Pakistan; and the Emergency in 1975, where the government declared that a "grave emergency exists whereby the security of India is threatened by 'internal disturbance'."

The forty fourth amendment to the Constitution sought to limit recourse to emergency powers under Article 352 to prevent their abuse.

The bench said a proclamation of emergency now cannot be issued on a mere internal disturbance and must reach the threshold of an armed rebellion threatening the security of India.

Citing the bitter experience of the Emergency, the bench said the experiences gained from the excesses of the emergency, experiences about the violation of human rights, is in fact ex-



periential learning, which establishes amalgam of uncontrolled power and unbridled discretion provide fertile conditions for the destruction of liberty. "The sobering lessons learnt from our not-too-distant history should warn us against endowing a statute with similar terms of a content which is susceptible of grave misuse," said the bench.

The top court said even if it were to accept the government's argument that the pandemic has resulted in an internal disturbance, yet the economic slowdown created by the Covid-19 pandemic does not qualify as an internal disturbance threatening the security of the state.

The bench noted that the pandemic has put a severe burden on existing, particularly public health, infrastructure and has led to a sharp decline in economic activities. "However, it has not affected the security of India, or of a part of its territory in a manner that disturbs the peace and integrity of the country. The economic hardships

caused by Covid-19 certainly pose unprecedented challenges to governance. However, such challenges are to be resolved by the State Governments within the domain of their functioning under the law, in coordination with the Central Government," said the top court. The Gujarat government had argued that the Covid-19 pandemic was leading to financial chaos and the situation was on "the brink of internal disturbance".

The government urged that the economic slowdown caused by the pandemic constitutes a public emergency, warranting the need to issue the impugned notifications curtailing the applicability of certain provisions of the Factories Act.

The notifications, issued first in April and then in July, exempted the factories from some of the requirements under the Factories Act, which led to an increase in working hours from 9 to 12 and weekly hours from 48 to 72 without paying double the wages for overtime.

Nanakramguda, Hyderabad **Hub**

A brilliant solution for additional **monthly income**

Start achieving higher returns on your investment

Safe ○ Affordable ○ Maintenance free ○ Immediate income after OC

Assured monthly returns

Assured commercial income for **20 Years**

Investment Starts from **18 Lakhs**

sales@kapilproperties.com

www.kapilkavurihub.com Live Chat Available

95337 76694

Will Trump ride the corona challenge?

U.S. President Donald Trump said on October 2 that he and his wife Melania had tested positive for Covid-19 and were going into quarantine, disrupting the race for the White House. Trump, 74, is at high risk for the deadly virus both because of his age and because he is considered overweight. His handling of the pandemic drew a lot of flak and has become one of the mainstays of the Biden campaign. More than 2 lakh have died from Covid-19 in the US. He has just completed his first campaign at Cleveland. The President can no longer boast about his pandemic management. It would, after all, be ironic to make that claim.

It's cruel that the President has been taken out of the campaign trail just when he was hitting the peak – but then, again, if he becomes sick, it could raise questions about whether he should remain on the ballot at all. Even if he does not become seriously ill, the positive test could prove devastating to his political fortunes given his months of diminishing the

seriousness of the pandemic even as the virus was still ravaging the country and killing about 1,000 more Americans every day.

He has repeatedly predicted the virus “is going to disappear,” asserted that it was under control and insisted that the country was “rounding the corner” to the end of the crisis. He has scorned scientists, saying they were mistaken on the severity of the situation. The President is trailing in the polls by five to six points in the recent survey, but this is not much anyway. Trump has refused for months to wear a mask in public on all but a few occasions and repeatedly questioned their effectiveness while mocking Biden for wearing one.

Trailing in the polls, the president in recent weeks increasingly held crowded campaign events in defiance of public health guidelines and sometimes state and local governments. When he accepted the nomination on the final day of the Republican National Convention, he invited more than 1,000 supporters

to the South Lawn of the White House and has held multiple rallies around the country since, often with hundreds and even thousands of people jammed into tight spaces, many if not most without masks. It is now up to his immune system to fight back to restore his health. So far as his chances in the upcoming election are concerned, his critics are already writing his political obituary.

But if there is one thing you know about Trump, it is this – he fights till the end. He will remain positive regardless of his positive diagnosis. Trump is full of positivity and a fighter till the very end. How will he use this strike of fate now is to be seen. Biden's campaign too gets affected now as he cannot attack Trump on coronavirus stridently any longer as Trump plays the victim now. Trump may not transfer power to the Vice-President and recuperate instead, preferring to ask his voters to rush to vote for him ahead of others.

Trump has to capitalise on it now to take on Biden. Will he do it? Brazilian President Bolsonaro did it after coming down with Covid-19. He became immensely popular with his people. Trump may be hoping to do the same.



‘Liberhan report on Babri was unfounded; Cong govt rightly dumped it’

AARTI TIKOO SINGH

Satya Pal Jain, senior advocate and a member of the national executive committee of the BJP, has said that the Liberhan Commission report, which had indicted BJP's top leadership in the Babri Masjid demolition case, was unfounded and based on misrepresentation of facts.

Jain had represented the accused BJP leaders before the Liberhan Commission.

“The Congress government had rightly dumped it and the report met the fate which it deserved,” Jain, who also happens to be the Additional Solicitor General of India in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, told IANS in an exclusive interview following the special CBI court's verdict in the case.

On September 30, a special CBI court in Lucknow acquitted all the 32 accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case, including BJP veterans L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti and several others, on account of inconclusive evidence and the event not being pre-planned.

A 500-year-old dispute, the Babri Masjid was built on the site of what Hindus believe to be the birth place of Lord Ram. On December 6, 1992, the mosque was demolished by a large group of activists, at a time when the country was run by the Congress headed by Prime Minister P.V.R. Narasimha Rao.

Incidentally, Satya Pal Jain was also present with other BJP and RSS leaders in Ayodhya on the day of the demolition.

The Liberhan Commission, led by retired high court judge M.S. Liberhan, was commissioned by the Central government in December 1992 to investigate the demolition of the disputed structure and the subsequent riots in Ayodhya.

Though the Commission was supposed to submit its report within three months, it received extensions 48 times.

Finally, after a delay of 17 years, the one-man commission submitted the report to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in June 2009. The report, tabled in the Parliament in November 2009, indicted 68 people, mostly top leaders of the BJP, as having pre-planned the demolition of the mosque.

“First, the entire top leadership of the BJP and the RSS appeared before the Commission. No one evaded questioning,” Jain argued.

The senior advocate had represented Advani, Uma Bharti and others before the Commission.

Second, throughout the period of 17 years of investigation by the Commission, non-BJP parties (Congress, United Front and Congress-led UPA) were in power for 11 years. After the Liberhan report was tabled in 2009, the Congress was in power for another five years.

“But they could not come up with any evidence to establish their charges against the top leaders of the BJP during the trial,” Jain said.

It was the responsibility of the governments of Narasimha Rao, Deve Gowda, I.K. Gujral and Manmohan Singh to collect proof against the leaders, the Additional Solicitor General said, adding that they failed miserably to produce any cogent evidence.

Even after the Liberhan Commission report was released, the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government could not collect any evidence till 2014. “Clearly, it was not worth their time,” Jain said.

Third, at the time of the demolition by young activists, Jain recalled, all the top leaders of the BJP were sitting on the dais, over 1000 meters away from the Babri Masjid domes. “In 28 years, nobody could produce a single photograph of any of the leaders demolishing the structures,” he said.

Fourth, all the leaders on the dais had made several appeals to the violent mobs to climb down and follow the law. “The Liberhan report was unfounded and based on misrepresentation of facts,” Jain said.

Former Chandigarh MP and senior advocate Jain has been reappointed as the Solicitor General of India in the Punjab and Haryana High Court by the Centre for another term till June 30, 2023.

AMIT KHANNA

The term “soft power” was coined by academic Joseph Nye of Harvard University to describe “the ability to attract and co-opt rather than coerce, use force or give money as a means of persuasion” in his 1990 book Bound to Lead: The changing nature of American Power. Since then, the term has also been used in the context of increasing social and public perception of a nation's strength. Today, a nation's power is measured not only because of its economy, geopolitics and military might but also its culture, food, fashion, films and music, heritage etc -- its soft power.

In recent years, the University of Southern California (USC, Portland) has been publishing the Global Soft Power Report. The report says, as governments grapple with a volatile international political landscape and look to adjust their foreign policy strategies accordingly, they will need to re-evaluate their current approach to generating and leveraging soft power. In international diplomacy, where perception matters, it is soft power which gives nations an edge. Where does India stand in the latest rankings? Not in the Top 20 in spite of being the largest democracy. The only consolation being neither does China.

Globalization has not only created global brands but certain omnipresent cultural imprints. A classic example is Hollywood, which has become the world's favourite entertainment. Or Chinese food, French wine, yoga, ayurveda, soccer, samba. With an estimated turnover of over \$2.5 trillion annually, culture (excluding tourism and travel, which is a similar amount) is one of the world's largest industries. France, for instance, draws over 70 million tourists and India a mere 10 million to savour its food, fashion and sights. India's rich heritage of architecture and craftsmanship, music and dance, food and clothing, spiritualism and colourful pageantry and festivals should make it an ideal tourist destination. Unfortunately, ‘Incredible India’ is still just a catchy slogan. While a small country gets three times more travellers, India is handicapped by lack of adequate and friendly tourist infrastructure. Even international destinations like Taj Mahal do not even have enough loos. Beggars and touts

and greedy ill-informed guides and touts can put off any visitor.

In the last couple of years, attempts have been made to improve tourist infrastructure but this still falls short of global standards. In my travels around the world, I found smaller countries like Vietnam, Croatia, Peru, Morocco and Norway have leveraged tourism as a major economic activity. Not only have these governments made travel into and within the countries convenient but an enjoyable experience as well. The present government is hoping to change all this but the pace of change is slow. There is too much red tape and obstacles around.

We have not been able to capitalize even on yoga which is practised by millions in over 100 countries today. By getting the United Nations to designate June 21 as International Yoga Day, the Prime Minister achieved a breakthrough but where is the follow-up by the ministry of culture or tourism? Why can't we compile a list of the best yoga gurus and the best ashrams in India and publicise it? Today American and European yoga teachers are more popular than the more accomplished gurus in India. Similarly, we have not been able to cash in on our rich spiritual heritage. India, besides being home to Hinduism, is also the spiritual home of Buddhism. The much talked about Buddhist circuit (in spite of money pumped in by Japan) is still languishing for want of travel and infrastructure. Gaya does not have an international airport.

Hindu pilgrimage sites continue to be dirty without even a clean toilet in places like Varanasi or Puri. Though there has been some improvement in the temple towns in the recent past, a lot more needs to be done immediately. I wish Tirupati, Guruvayur, Vaishno Devi, Amarnath or Nathdwara and other temples were on an organised pilgrimage circuit for travellers. The much talked about Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand is not only unknown outside India but there is hardly enough information and infrastructure for even domestic travellers. Another tour for travellers could be built around Sikh gurdwaras or various Sufi dargahs. Tourist information and information booklets are scarce and out of date.

One must acknowledge that the Incredible India campaign has been successfully run for the past few years but ease of travel



is still an issue. Government has opened the doors for visa on arrival to travellers from dozens of countries but now we need to reduce bottlenecks in travel and hospitality. Again, given the craze for holistic healing, the push needed for ayurveda is also inadequate in spite of the fact that we have a dedicated ministry for alternative and traditional medicine. Kerala's nature cure by itself can be a big brand. Similarly, Indian handicrafts, specially eco-friendly khadi, can become a great 21st century brand if marketed aggressively.

One of India's best known global brands is Bollywood but even this is not exploited well. Fifty years ago, Indian cinema was extremely popular across Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe and South East Asia with the locals. In 1957, ‘Mother India’ became an international hit. Actor-director Raj Kapoor was mobbed on the streets of Moscow and Beijing. Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand and Nargis also had millions of fans in various countries. In the 1970s and 80s, Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan demonstrated the same cross-border appeal. Today, except for an occasional Shahrukh Khan (Germany) or Aamir Khan (China) starrer, Indian films are basically being watched only by the South Asian diaspora. The people who go as ambassadors of our films -- many are second raters and bureaucrats -- are unable to sell Bollywood well enough. Making India a filming location is hardly a priority yet that's what successive governments keep harping about. Films help tourism no doubt but we need to hardsell our entertainment abroad. The recent controversy and its amplification in local media is hardly conducive for growth.

The Government and the industry must work together to monetise the Bollywood brand well.

Unfortunately, besides talking, the Government has done precious little to leverage this globally. Indian entertainers too, like our politicians, are happy to engage with the Indian diaspora rather than with the world at large. While smaller countries like South Korean and Iranian films which are finding widespread acceptance, we are happy with our captive audience. Our share of the global revenue is less than 2 per cent. The Government, through an impoverished NFDC, does participate in international festivals but India's presence is abysmally small and insignificant. Bollywood is happy participating in dubious awards shows and Indian film stars and singers are happy to perform for diaspora audiences overseas. Indian TV channels, including State-run Doordarshan, too suffer from the same malaise -- narrow focussing on the diaspora.

Some of you may recall that Indian musicians like Pandit Ravi Shankar and Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and others were an international craze, what with the Beatles coming to learn from the sitar maestro. Even now, Indian music has many followers abroad but have we used it beyond an occasional concert organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations or some other Indian concert promoter? Interestingly today, even Bollywood music has got its fans around the world. Bhangra is big in some parts of the world. Is there any effort to promote this? Both the Government and the private sector have to work together in this with a definite plan in mind. From its present \$500 million annually, we

should aim to raise direct Indian entertainment export to at least \$10 billion by 2030. Of course, leveraging the soft power of films, music and other art forms is worth several times over.

Indian food is one of the top four cuisines in the world along with Italian, Chinese and French. Have we leveraged the sheer diversity of our food? Every state in India has its unique flavour but it's difficult to actually sample local delicacies in any major tourist destination in India. It's easier to get fast food in India than local delicacies for a traveller. On trips across India, I had to seek help to eat local food instead of burgers, pizzas, dosas and biryani. Indian cuisine can become the global favourite if marketed well. Indian missions abroad should be holding food popups and festivals regularly.

In the post-pandemic world, soft power is transformative. Time has come to bolster India's soft power and use it as a force multiplier both economically and strategically. Why can't we have more festivals of India overseas? ICCR and the External Publicity Division of the foreign ministry as well as the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation and the three national academies -- Sangeet Natak Akademi, Sahitya Akademi and Lalit Kala Akademi -- desperately need a revamp. The G20 summit in 2022, which is to be held in India to coincide with the 75th anniversary of India's independence, could be leveraged to showcase India's soft power to the world.

(Amit Khanna is a writer, filmmaker, media guru and social commentator. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS

IPL is a trendsetter for sure

IPL, at present is a stress-buster for cricket fans. But, there are many cricket leagues all over the world to bring a sigh of relief in the audience. In 2008, no one expected that IPL will be a trend-setter including Lalit Modi. Big Bash League (2011) took over the momentum from IPL and succeeded equally to its senior.

During the early 2010s these two leagues competed in the World Cup. Many branches like Caribbean Premier League (2013), Pakistan Super League (2015) etc, arose from the tree planted by BCCI. Because of all these leagues many players came out of shades and represented their respective countries (except a Windies player who was selected for England playing IPL). Players like Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya (India), Chris Lynn, Darcy Short (Australia), Nicholas Pooran (West Indies) came on the screen by performing in leagues. All these players represented the national team and changed the fate of their country's cricket.

These national tournaments also gave economic security for players by giving them huge amounts. Leagues are beneficial in both enter-

tainment and economic aspects. Even cricket boards are satisfied with the progress of leagues. 12 years ago, India had set a trend by conducting Indian Premier League. Now it's a chance for India again to create history by conducting IPL successfully. If it happens, all the cricket playing countries will resume their progress.

DVSSP Gowtham, Hyderabad

Cut down public holidays

Do not declare holiday on my death, instead work an extra day if you really love me—said Dr APJ Abdul Kalam who was People-President of a country where there are too many political holidays on birth and death anniversaries of leaders both at central and state level including like birth anniversaries of Dr BR Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi. Earlier UP government then led by Akhilesh Yadav in the year even declared holiday on death-anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar

Every great leader always called people for hard work. Therefore best tribute to great leaders is to declare their birth and death anniversaries as extra-work day by increasing of five-hours by half-an-hour on those special days. Such a bold announcement quoting Dr APJ Abdul Kalam will not attract political re-



sistance in name of vote-bank politics. System will automatically stop unholy political demands coming to declare such holidays for birth and death anniversaries of more and more leaders.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal, Delhi

Indian society and rape incidents

The fact that the country is witnessing cases of rapes now has been there earlier too. The victims and their families thought to re-

main silent, without lodging a police complaint to avoid social stigma. But, the equation is now stands altered as victims and their families are gathering courage to register a complaint at police station; but the sad reality of rape continues unabated. Single woman travellers in taxis or while returning from work are often targeted. A recent case of such a kind near Mahabubnagar in Telangana brought to light the gory incident of a student studying veterinary science to be waylaid, abducted, brutalised and killed is fresh in our memory. Similar situation is prevailing in many other countries too. It is important to devise a methodology to curb and curtail similar incidents in our country.

Respect and dignity for women must begin from home among children from their tender age. Parents have to be true role models in this regard. Movies and television serials must be strictly curtailed from showing women in bad light. The unwarranted and disgusting scenes of sexual violence and ill-treatment of women-folk must not be encouraged to be viewed by children. The trend of telling children our relics and epics related to women and their talent have to be stressed on the psyche of growing children to behave respectfully with ladies of all ages, without any dirty intentions lurking in the mind.

Despite prevailing laws for the protection of

women from being misused and disrespected, the police force must form the first frontier of confidence building and protective entities who are either victims or under the threat of molestation. The political clout must keep away from such incidents to rescue the perpetrators. If the police are convinced of the crime and the severity, they must not hesitate to slap all relevant charges against the accused. The Opposition must learn to play a constructive role to be supportive of the ruling party, without being inimical or fault-finding. Unfortunately this became a general trend in our country, when a political party is in the Opposition, continues to think that it is its duty to be always a stumbling block for the party in power.

The migrant workforce from different parts of our country seeking employment must not be regarded as an easy prey. The society as whole must prevent any high-handedness by some individuals to exploit them. It is purely at the hands of the people that the enforcement of laws rest, the police too must include such social groups that are willing to be useful in preventing social evils like abduction and rape.

S Lakshmi, Meenangadi, Wayanad

thehansreader@gmail.com

CM to launch Vidya Kanuka on Oct 5

- Education Minister Suresh inspects progress of Naadu-Nedu works at ZP High School in Kankipadu where CM will launch Jagananna Vidya Kanuka
- Students will be given a kit containing three pairs of school uniform, belt, tie, socks and shoes under Kanuka
- Admitting that Naadu-Nedu works have been delayed by pandemic, Minister says target will be met by speeding up them

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will launch the prestigious programme Jagananna Vidya Kanuka at Kankipadu in Krishna district on October 5.

Education minister Audimulapu Suresh, revealed this on Friday during a visit to Zilla Parishad high school and Model primary school at Kankipadu. Government programmes coordinator Talasila Raghuram, principal secretary B Rajasekhar, Penamaluru MLA Kolu Partha Sarathi, district col-



Education Minister Audimulapu Suresh enquiring about the progress of Naadu-Nedu works with district officials during his visit to ZP High School in Kankipadu on Friday

lector A MD Intiaz, joint collectors K Madhavi Latha and L Siva Sankar accompanied him.

Speaking to media at Kankipadu, Suresh said that the Chief Minister would observe the Naadu-Nedu works at Kankipadu on October 5. Later, he would formally launch the Vidya Kanuka programme in which the students would be given a kit comprising three pairs of school uniform, belt, tie, socks, and shoes.

He said that under the Naadunedu programme, infrastructure was developed for each and every government school throughout the state in three phases. Likewise, the infrastructure for junior colleges and degree colleges would also be developed in phases. All government schools would compete with the private and corporate schools, he said.

Admitting that Naadu-Nedu programme was delayed due to

corona pandemic, he said that the target would be covered by expediting the works.

The minister announced that the YSR pre-primary school programme would be implemented from the next academic year after developing the 1,000 Anganwadi centres as pre-primary schools.

District education officer Rajyalakshmi and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan project officer Ravindra were also present.

Biometric must for Vidya Kanuka

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Guntur: For the first time the state government introduced bio-metric authentication to check irregularities in distribution of Jagananna Vidya Kanuka kits. According to guidelines issued by school education commissioner Vadarevu China Veerabadrudu on Friday, the mother or guardian along with the student should come to school give her bio-metric authentication to get the kit.

According to the norms, headmasters should distribute the kits to 50 mothers a day in the presence of parents committee members in schools. All the participants should wear masks and maintain social distance besides washing hands with sanitisers. The HMs must invite collector or joint collector, or any district officer identified by the DEO for launching Vidya Kanuka scheme. The DEOs must ensure that the scheme should be launched at 10 am on October 5 in all the government and aided schools in the state.

According to sources in the school education department, over 52 lakh students studying in government and aided schools from Classes I to X class will get the kits..

Municipal Teachers Federation state president S Rama Krishna thanked the government for implementing the bio-metric authentication system. In a statement, he recalled that they had requested this system to check irregularities in distribution of the kits.

Govt sets target to collect ₹986 cr taxes in next quarter

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: Chief Commissioner of taxes Piyush Kumar instructed the officials of the commercial taxes department here on Friday to prepare the plans to exceed the target of collecting Rs 986 crore taxes, including arrears, in the next quarter from October to December.

He said in a statement here that necessary guidelines would be issued to the officials every day division-wise and circle-wise to reach targets.

He also asked the officials to focus on bogus dealers and traders and bogus bills. He warned the bogus dealers and traders who issue bogus bills that raids would be conducted on right time.

However, the traders who pay taxes honestly would not be caused inconvenience. He said that the officials were given clear instructions in this regard.

Piyush Kumar said that the joint commissioners and other officials were given directions through videoconference to achieve the target of collecting taxes of Rs 986 crore.

Harsha Kumar to return to Cong

- Says he is inspired by agitations of Rahul and Priyanka on various issues
- States SCS to the state is only possible with Congress
- Alleges that attacks on Dalits are rising under BJP rule at the Centre and YSCRP rule in the state

HANS NEW SERVICE,

Rajamahendravaram: Former Amalapuram MP G V Harsha Kumar will return to Congress shortly. Earlier, he was elected to Lok Sabha as Congress candidate from Amalapuram in 2004 and 2009 general elections.

Announcing his decision at a press conference at his house here on Friday, Harsha Kumar said he was inspired to return to Congress by the agitations of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi on various



Former MP GV Harsha Kumar speaking to reporters at his house in Rajamahendravaram on Friday. Congress leaders are also seen.

issues. "I am not expecting any positions in the party except to serve the people as well as the party. Congress is the saviour of the country and it will bounce back to power again.

Special Category Status to the state is possible only with the Congress. Preventing Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi in Uttar Pradesh by the BJP government shows its intolerance of Congress," he said.

Stating that attacks on Dalits

were increasing under the BJP rule, Harsha Kumar said they would stop only if Congress returned to power. He added that the BJP government was working for the benefit of corporate sector only.

He observed that Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy was occupied with only how to come out of his cases and not showing any interest on the development of state. Attacks on Dalits in the state have also risen, he said.

Gandhi practised what he preached: Naidu

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Mahatma Gandhi rose to the greater heights of supreme excellence in human history, said TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu while paying rich tributes to him on his birth anniversary on Friday.

Naidu lauded Mahatma for practising what he preached and that his ideals would be long enduring and timeless. Gandhi strove hard for establishing an egalitarian and equitable society.

In a statement here, the TDP chief termed it as unfortunate that today, Andhra Pradesh rose to become the country's top most state in incidents of atrocities against Dalit communities. This should be opposed and resisted with the same non-violent ideals that Gandhi had shown for everybody. Naidu called for a fight against the suppression

Calls for a fight against the suppression of Dalits and caste bias in the spirit of Mahatma's ideals

of Dalits and caste discrimination by following in the footsteps of Mahatma. The real tribute to Gandhi would be to achieve equality and fraternity for which he laid down his life. Gandhi Jayanti should be celebrated to motivate one and all to move forward and achieve the Mahatma's ideals, he added.

In a separate statement, TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh said that Gandhi had given inspiration to many statesmen, social activists and philosophers across the world with his idealistic life. Mahatma's struggle gave motivation to many movements that were launched to fight against discrimination and oppression.

Reviving of Sachivalayams a huge hit: Peddireddy

Chittoor: No state in the country has experimented Grama Sachivalayam system except in Andhra Pradesh which has been proved efficient to attend all the needs of people at their doorsteps, hailed Minister for Panchayat Raj Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy.

He said over 1.34 lakh of village/ward secretaries and 2.6 lakh of volunteers were recruited under the able leadership of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy with an objective of lending above 534 services through the Sachivalayams. Earlier the Minister has paid rich floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion his 151st birth jayanthi and recalled the sacrifices of great nation leaders for achieving independence to our country.

Later he inaugurated Sachivalayam building in Rompicherla and reiterated that Chief Minister has been committed to the welfare of all sections irrespective of caste, creed, and community.

Singhal gets emotional farewell

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal said that he was fortunate to serve as the chief of the prestigious and world-known Hindu religious institution TTD administering the famed Sri Venkateswara temple, Tirumala and had a very satisfactory stint in TTD.

Speaking at a get-together with TTD officials in Tirumala, Singhal, who was transferred and posted as medical and health principal secretary, thanked the officers for their cooperation and wanted them to continue the same spirit for providing better service to the visiting pilgrims.

Additional EO AV Dharma Reddy said Singhal, who was the 25th EO of TTD, made his mark with his efficient functioning in TTD and also got the distinction of working for three years and

Says he is fortunate to serve such a prestigious temple as Tirumala as EO

five months which is the longest stint after P V R K Prasad in TTD as its EO. He was responsible for many historic developmental works in TTD, he added. SVBC

chief executive officer Suresh Kumar, Superintendent Engineer Nageswar Rao, Tirumala Temple deputy EO Harndranath and others were present.

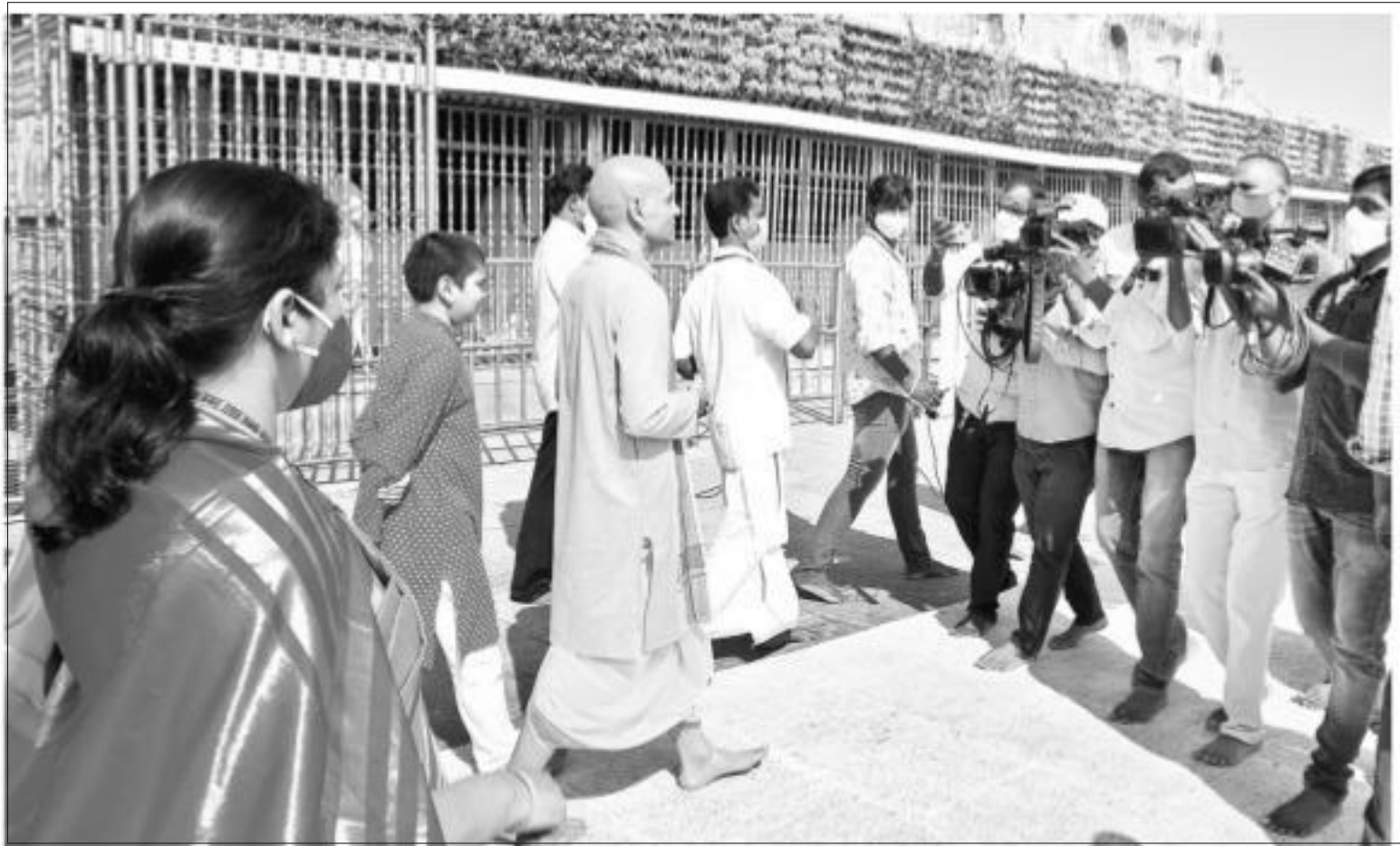
Endowments Secy sworn in as TTD board Ex-officio member

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirumala: AP endowments secretary M Girija Shankar was sworn in as Ex-officio member of TTD trust board at the Srivari temple on Friday. TTD EO Anil Kumar Singhal who is also the Ex-officio member secretary of the trust board administered the oath of office to Girija Shankar. Later, af-

ter darshan, the Ex-officio member was also rendered Vedasirvachanam at Ranganayakula Mandapam followed by the presentation of Srivari theertha prasadam.

TTD additional E O A V Dharma Reddy, JEOS P Basant Kumar, Sada Bhargavi, temple DyEO Harindranath, DyEO Boardcell Sudha Rani were also present.



Transferred TTD EO Anil Kumar Singhal leaves Tirumala temple along with his family after being given a farewell by TTD officials on Friday

National Med Council okays online MBBS theory classes

- The clarification comes in the wake of reports that MBBS theory classes have no approval

- In a letter to colleges, the NMC says the media reports might be referring to erstwhile MCI's response regarding foreign varisities teaching only online

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The online theory classes for the MBBS students will continue as per National

Medical Commission's circular, said National Medical Commission (NMC) which stated that in view of Covid-19, online classes are valid and are approved for teaching during the current pandemic situation.

The commission in a letter to the dean and the principals of all medical colleges/institutions stated: "Attention of National Medical Commission has been drawn to some media reports that online classes for teaching of MBBS curriculum were not approved by erstwhile Medical Council of India. In this regard, it is clarified that in view of pandemic Covid-19 the medical colleges/institutions in India are conducting online theory

classes for MBBS students. Online classes are valid and were approved for teaching during the current pandemic Covid-19 only. Such online theory classes are required to be supplemented by practical and clinical training as per the current curriculum in all MBBS subjects in the colleges/institutions and affiliated hospitals as and when colleges reopen."

The release also said that the media reports appeared to have relied upon the reply given on August 13 by erstwhile Medical Council of India in response to an RTI query which was regarding the conduct of MBBS teaching curriculum by the foreign medical university through online medium only.

CM claps to appreciate village volunteers

Amaravati: Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday came out and clapped in recognition of the services being rendered by village and ward volunteers, carrying the benefits of his welfare schemes to the doorsteps of thousands of people.

At the appointed hour, the Chief Minister, accompanied by municipal administration minister Botcha Satyanarayana, Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, DGP D Gautam Sawang and other senior officials, stepped out of his camp office in Tadepalli to applaud the village and ward volunteers of the state. Many people clapped for the volunteers at several places in the state while some also honoured them.

Earlier, the Chief Minister had appealed to the people of the state to pay their tributes to the volunteers by giving them a round of applause as the state's village secretariat system completed one year on Friday.

Police foil 'Chalo Madanapalli' protest



Dalit leaders stage protest against police for the house arrest of leaders in various towns in Chittoor district, in Tirupati on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: The police on Friday foiled the Dalit and Left party leaders attempt to protest at Ambedkar statue in Madanapalli condemning the increasing incidents of attacks on Dalits after the YSRCP government came to power in Andhra Pradesh.

RPI state president P Anjaiah condemned the police for placing leaders and activists in Tirupati, Nagari, Karvetinagaram, Srikalahasti and Palamaner under house arrest so as to prevent them going ahead with 'Chalo Madanapalli' protest programme planned by

Praja Sngalaha Ikya Vedika, a confederation of various Dalit organisations in the state condemning the growing attacks on SCs and STs in the state including the recent attack on Ramachandraiah, brother of Judge (under suspension) Ramakrishna, in B Kothakota, near Madanapalli. Later Anjaiah along with leaders including CPI district secretary A Rama Naidu, TTD SC, ST Association president M Prasad Rao, Ambedkar Yuvajana Sangham leader Gali Ravi and others staged a protest. Later they left for Madanapalli to meet Judge Ramakrishna.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Merchandise exports grow 5% in Sept

“ Amid a push for a self-reliant India, the country's merchandise exports registered a 5.27 per cent growth in September on a year-on-year basis. Merchandise exports from India stood at \$27.40 billion last month, compared to \$26.02 billion in September 2019.

– Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal**



SMBS

Microsoft to end Open License Programme

Microsoft has announced to end its 20-year-old Open License programme for small and midsize organisations from January 1, 2022. The organisations can continue to renew and purchase new software licenses, software assurance and online services through the Open License programme until December 31, 2021.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	77.53	South	
Euro	90.06	African Rand	5.01
UAE Dirham	21.9	Hong Kong Dollar	10.85
Thai Baht	2.66	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	97.92	New Zealand Dollar	50.9
Australian Dollar	54.88	Saudi Riyal	21.44
Canadian Dollar	57.65	Swedish Krona	9.39
Swiss Franc	82.79	Singapore Dollar	56.22

DELHI SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Oyo elevates Hyd executive

Hyderabad: Keeping its commitment to recognising the role certain leaders have played in managing operations as well as motivating teams during the on-going impact of Covid-19 on business, Oyo Hotels & Homes has elevated Ankit Gupta, a business executive/leader originally from Hyderabad to CEO, Frontier & Workspaces. Ankit Gupta joined Oyo last year as COO & SVP, Frontier Businesses, and is now CEO, Frontier & Workspaces. Ankit led the self-operated portfolio (including Oyo Townhouse), Oyo Life, Oyo Campus, and Oyo Home, and strengthened Oyo's capabilities in these businesses by driving business outcomes. In the past few months, when the Frontier business model profitability was affected by the pandemic, Ankit led from the front to ensure business turnaround and put them on the path to growth while prioritizing Oyo's partners' interests, which ultimately enhances Oyo's offerings to guests.

Sonalika tractor sales jump 46%

Hyderabad: Sonalika Tractors has reported a 46 per cent year-on-year jump in overall tractor sales to 17,704 units, including exports, for September. While domestic sales grew 51.4 per cent to 16,000 units in September 2020 as compared with 10,571 units in the year-ago month, exports rose 9.8 per cent to 1,704 units as against 1,552 units a year ago. The tractor manufacturer also sold 6,400 units of implements during the month, registering a 135 per cent growth over September 2019. The industry sales growth for both tractors and implements during the previous month stood at 28 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively. Sonalika Tractors outperformed the industry in sales during September. The cumulative tractor sales in the first half (April-September) of the financial year 2020-21 stood at 63,561 tractors, which was the highest-ever half yearly sales for the company.

L&T GROUP LOOKS TO EXIT FROM HYD METRO

It's a part of the infra major's plans to move away from non-core biz; losses also weighing

P MADHUSUDHAN REDDY

Hyderabad: Infrastructure major Larsen & Tourbo Ltd (L&T) is looking to exit from Rs 18,000-crore Hyderabad Metro Rail, the world's largest metro rail project executed in public-private-partnership model, as a part of its overall plans to move away from non-core businesses. The tight financial position that the mega project is in and the mounting losses are also said to be forcing the infrastructure behemoth to explore the exit option.

In a recent media interaction, SN Subrahmanyam, Chief Executive Officer, and Managing Director, L&T, made it amply clear that L&T would exit from the Hyderabad Metro Rail project. "We have invested in the Hyderabad Metro and the project has been completed in a very efficient way, very beautifully done and a lot of international acclaims have come for that, but we are not operators of the metro. So, we would like to divest it in the future," he told a business television channel recently. Henceforth, L&T intends to concentrate on the business areas of EPC projects, defence manufacturing and IT services.

As a part of its strategy to exit from non-core businesses, L&T



Hyderabad Metro suffered a net loss of Rs 382 crore in the last fiscal. Its total revenues stood at ₹1,370 crore. The company reported a net loss of ₹149 crore in FY19

earlier this year sold its electrical and automation business to Schneider Electric for Rs 14,000 crore.

Next in the line for the divestment are Nabha Power Plant, L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Limited (L&T IDPL) in which L&T has 51 per cent stake, and Hyderabad Metro. The group is planning to use proceeds from these divestments for future investments.

However, sources say that mounting losses in the Hyderabad Metro are also forcing the infrastructure major to explore the exit option from the PPP project. According to the 2019-20 Annual Report of L&T Metro

Rail (Hyderabad) Limited (L&TMRHL) which operates the Hyderabad Metro, the metro operator suffered a net loss of Rs 382 crore in the last fiscal. Its total revenues stood at Rs 1,370 crore. The company reported a net loss of Rs 149 crore on a revenue of Rs 1,634 crore in the previous financial year. It has liabilities of over Rs 16,000 crore.

Further, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic compounded the mega project's financial woes. The Hyderabad Metro has lost over Rs 300 crore due to Covid-induced lockdown which lasted for 170 days. Though it resumed operations last month, the passenger traffic is yet to reach pre-Covid

levels. "Serious efforts are underway to divest L&T's stake in the project. We are also discussing with the government for its support. Hopefully, something positive comes out," the sources further said.

When contacted, a spokesperson for L&TMRHL said: "To overcome the huge financial burden on us, and for some respite, we are exploring different options with all related stakeholders".

Due to Covid-19, HMR operations were suspended for about 170 days. Presently, our prime focus is to continue operations adhering to safety norms, the spokesperson added.

Tax devolution to States may fall 36%

New Delhi: Ratings agency Icria has estimated that central tax devolution (CTD) to the States will be 36.2 per cent lower than the budgeted amount in the FY21 Union Budget.

Accordingly, the CTD is expected to be around Rs 5,00,500 crore in FY21 from the budgeted Rs 7,84,200 crore.

"If the State governments exhaust a large portion of their permitted borrowing for FY21 within 9M FY2021, the anticipated YoY decline

in CTD in Q4FY21 could lead to fiscal and liquidity stress for the states in that quarter," Icria said in a report. At present, open market borrowings or State development loans (SDLs) are the chief source of funding the fiscal deficit of the Indian state governments.

"The gross SDL issuance expanded by a substantial 56.8 per cent to Rs 3,53,600 crore in H1FY21 from Rs 2,254 billion in H1FY20," the report said.



New Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) on Friday launched the all-new version of its sports utility vehicle Thar, priced between Rs 9.8 lakh and Rs 13.75 lakh (ex-showroom).

MAHINDRA THAR GETS NEW AVATAR

The company has introduced the model in two trims AX and LX with both petrol and diesel powertrain options. The petrol trims come with a 2-litre powertrain that generates 150 bhp of power, while the 2.2-litre diesel variants churn out 130 BHP of power. All the variants of new Thar come with a four-wheel drive set up.

The company said it has opened the booking of the model from Fri-

day and the deliveries would begin from next month. "Over the years, the Thar has been a part of Mahindra's rich history and has found its way into the hearts of many as an object of desire," M&M Managing Director Pawan Goenka said. In its all-new avatar, Thar is a notch higher in its appeal, owing to its ability to be as comfortable on paved roads, as it has always been off-road, he added. "We are confi-

dent that the Thar tribe will grow stronger as a new set of customers come into its fore, in addition to the traditionalists," Goenka said.

Designed and engineered in India, the new Thar will be manufactured at the company's Nashik plant.

The iconic model now comes with various features like 17.7 cm touchscreen infotainment system, adventure statistics display, cruise control, among others.



REAL CORNER



Hyd data centre capacity to triple



Hyderabad data centre capacity is expected to grow from 32 megawatts in H1 2020 to 130 MW ending 2025, according to JLL's H1 2020 '(re)imagine Data Centres: Running India's Digital Economy' report. The city is likely to attract hyper scalers due to various incentives provided for data centers and the presence of global in-house centres. During June-December 2020 India is expected to see 57 MW new capacity, twice that of 27 MW new supply during H1 2020.

India's data center capacity is expected to grow from 375 MW in H1 2020 to 1,078 MW by 2025, presenting a USD 4.9 billion investment opportunity.

According to JLL's H1 2020 report, the impact of data protection laws, increased shift from captive to colocation (colo) data centres and implementation of new technologies like 5G, edge computing and the internet of things (IoT) will drive sustained investor demand for this asset class over the next five years.

"India's data center market will outperform over the next five years, supported by a combination of growing digital economy, increased investor interest

and stable long-term returns. Growth in the sector will be further powered by co-location sites

Housing supply falls 60% in Jan-Sep

New supply of residential properties fell nearly 60 per cent in January-September this year as low demand due to Covid-19 forced developers to go slow on launching new projects, according to property consultant Anarock.

Fresh housing supply in January-September 2020 across seven major cities declined to 75,150 units from 1,84,700 units in the same period previous year. This is in line with sales that plunged 57 per cent to 87,460 units, the data showed.

As per the Anarock data, new supply of residential properties in Hyderabad fell to 8,290 units from 11,050 units. In Chennai, it decreased to 5,240 units from 9,580 units.

New supply of homes in the national capital region (Delhi-NCR) dipped to 13,010 units in January-September 2020 from 27,390 units in the year-ago period. In Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), where

the spread of the coronavirus disease was high, new supply plunged to 18,380 units from 63,930 units.

Bengaluru saw a decline in fresh supply to 15,020 units from 29,440 units, and Pune witnessed supply going down to 12,720 units from 36,540 units. In Kolkata, the fresh



supply went down to 2,490 units in January-September period of this calendar year from 6,770 units in the corresponding period previous year. Anarock said that most of the launches of new housing projects after April have been done on virtual platforms due to the pandemic.



Demand for housing on the rise in smaller cities

This can be attributed to reverse migration due to Covid pandemic: Report

Online enquiries and virtual demand for housing units is gaining momentum in the tier 2 and tier 3 cities post the nationwide lockdown, according to a report by Housing.com.

The report titled "Time for Internal Globalisation - Small Cities Setting the Tone for Revival" noted a surge in virtual residential demand from 'shadow cities' (Tier 2 and 3 cities). The recently launched Virtual Residential Demand Index states that the demand from small cities had been increasing steadily but saw a significant spike in August 2020.

Overshadowing the metros, the index jumped to 210 points for 'shadow cities' compared to 150 for the metros post the nation entering into Unlock Phase 4.0

"Reverse migration of the corporate workforce and increased flexibility due to remote working is one of the key drivers cited for this surge in virtual residential demand," the report said.

It noted that, though develop-



Though development in tier 2 and 3 has moved at a snail's pace, the current pandemic driven crisis, has brought structural changes, which has notably accelerated the process of deeper market penetration in 'shadow cities' across sectors

ment in tier 2 and 3 has moved at a snail's pace, the current pandemic driven crisis, has brought structural changes, which has notably accelerated the process of deeper market penetration in 'shadow cities' across sectors.

Driven by the thrust of increasing digitisation, and an aspirational consumer cohort in the 'shadow cities', these cities now are exhibiting a readiness for big brands across the categories of fashion, luxury cars, jewellery and real estate among many others, it said. The disruption in the economy and job uncertainty caused

by the coronavirus pandemic led to a significant 'reverse migration' of the population - both informal migrant population and employees in the formal service sector who have either lost their jobs or are working remotely.

"This reverse migration, with workforce moving back to their hometowns or smaller cities is one of the key drivers that is rallying the growth of not only the e-commerce platforms but is also surging the online search traffic for buying and renting residential spaces in the 'Shadow Cities'," the report said.

"On our Housing.com platform during the last few months, we have seen a noteworthy increase

in interest levels for residential properties especially from non-metro cities such as Amritsar, Chandigarh, Vadodara, Nagpur, Vijayawada and Coimbatore," said Dhruv Agarwala, Group CEO, Housing.com.

The 'Virtual Residential Demand Index' shows this trend more saliently post May 2020, he added.

As per the report, the interest in the smaller cities has been gradually increasing and the share increased to 27 per cent in the first half of 2020, as compared to 18 per cent in the same period in 2019.

Cities such as Agra and Amritsar witnessed an impressive growth of more than 100 per cent in the virtual residential demand over pre-Covid times, while cities of Vadodara, Ludhiana, Mangaluru, Chandigarh and Lucknow saw more than 80 per cent growth in the residential demand in the same period.

In contrast, the top eight cities have witnessed a relatively lower growth in virtual demand for residential spaces over the pre-Covid period. Agarwala said: "Reverse migration driven by remote working could have 'powerful reverberations' on the future of residential demand."

Two new hospitals will come up in State: Eatala

New OP coming up at Rs 250 crore cost at NIMS



Health Minister Eatala Rajender inaugurating a Stem Cell Laboratory in NIMS on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Health Minister Eatala Rajender inaugurated a Stem Cell Laboratory in NIMS on Friday. Eatala said that the lab would be of a big help to people suffering from blood cancer. It can take up over 10,000 tests per day, he added.

The Health Minister informed that steps are being taken to build

a state-of-the-art new OP facility at NIMS with a cost of Rs 250 crore. He further stated that Health Department would set up a few state-of-the-art hospitals on the outskirts of Hyderabad. While one will come up in Shamirpet-Medchal route the other will come up in Kongarkalan, he said.

Commenting on the corona situation in the State, he pointed out a survey by ICMR's NIN that

predicted antibodies have developed in almost 40 lakh people of the State. He said that virus symptoms are being seen in some people and not at all showing in others. Notwithstanding decline in cases off late, Telangana government has not let the guard down, he stated and appealed people to be alert as they have been till now taking all safety precautions.

KCR shattered dreams of people: Cong

AICC TS in-charge Manickam Tagore appeals to people to ditch TRS in the upcoming elections for their bright future

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The All-India Congress Committee In-charge Manickam Tagore appealed to the people of Telangana to think about their future and defeat Telangana Rashtra Samithi in next elections, as it has let down the aspirations of the people after coming to power.

While unveiling 'Vision 2023', towards achieving the Congress goal of winning at least 79 seats in next Assembly elections, he said people should not get lured by Rs 1,000 or Rs 2,000 which TRS leaders were paying to get their votes. Instead, they should vote for the Congress party to ensure a bright future for their children. The AICC In-charge was accompanied by TPCC president and Nalgonda MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy and other leaders, who participated in Kisan Mazdoor Bachao Diwas at Sangareddy as part of Congress party's nationwide agitation against the three new farm bills introduced by the BJP government.

Addressing the meeting, Manickam Tagore said that the 'Vision 2023' was unveiled in Sangareddy as this was the place from where former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi filed her nomination papers to contest for Medak Lok Sabha constituency in 1980. He hoped that Sangareddy would turn



AICC Telangana In-charge Manickam Tagore flanked by TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy and other Congress leaders addressing Kisan Mazdoor Bachao Diwas meeting at Sangareddy on Friday

lucky again for the Congress party and it would come to power in 2023. He expressed confidence that the next CM of Telangana would be a Congress leader and also assured that Sangareddy MLA Jagga Reddy would be made cabinet minister. "When Congress party could fight and defeat British to get freedom for the country, it is not difficult for us to beat

K Chandrashekar Rao in the next elections," he said.

Tagore said that Congress president Sonia Gandhi granted statehood for Telangana to ensure that all sections of the society benefit from it. However, he said except for Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and his family, no one benefitted from the formation of Telangana. Stating

that the original dream of Telangana has remained unrealised, he alleged that K Chandrashekar Rao and his family were accumulating huge wealth illegally and soon he might become richer than Mukesh Ambani. "While Mukesh Ambani is earning money doing business, KCR is earning money by taking commissions," he alleged.

NHRC SUMMONS DGP

Karimnagar resident complains against ACP

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has summoned the Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana State Police, M Mahender Reddy, to appear before the Commission in a case related to communal remarks passed by an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) to a protester during anti-CAA protests.

The Commission issued conditional summons to DGP because it was submitted that no action was taken from the police after filing of the complaint. The NHRC took

cognizance of the petition filed by Muhammad Abdul Mujeeb of Karimnagar, wherein the petitioner alleged that the ACP and Inspector threatened him for taking out a rally against the CAA.

The petitioner, in his complaint to the NHRC, noted that, after the peaceful rally was over he went home and the next day, he received a call from an Inspector of Special Branch and was informed to visit the Commissioner office to meet the Commissioner of Karimnagar, VB Kamalaseen Reddy.

He further noted, "So I visited the Commissioner and was in-

structed to meet the ACP at the police station for counseling. When I visited the ACP, he verbally abused me and also passed on remarks by saying that fanaticism and terrorism were more in Islam. I kept quiet for a while and when I asked the officer to not defame the religion, he threatened me to book under more cases and said that I won't be able to come out of jail."

"I also informed the police officers that I was not an organiser of the protest, rather I was only a participant. But they kept on abusing me for participating in the protest which went on peacefully. How-

ever, I filed a complaint with the NHRC about the issue and the Commission took cognizance of the issue and instructed the police to submit a report about it, but they haven't submitted it till now," stated the petitioner.

As the police department has failed to reply to the notice issued by NHRC, the Commission has taken serious note of the non-responsive attitude of police and hence for this reason, the DGP is summoned on or before February 21, 2021 with an appropriate report, read the notice issued by the NHRC.

Telangana bags 'Gandagi Mukht Bharat' award

The virtual award was presented by Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: On the occasion of Swachh Bharat Diwas on Gandhi Jayanti, Telangana has been honoured with Gandagi Mukht Bharat Award under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) for securing 1st position. The Gandagi Mukht Bharat was a week-long campaign from August 8 to 15, 2020 organised by Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), to free India of garbage and waste.

The virtual award was presented by Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and was received by Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Secretary, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development and M Raghunandan Rao, Department's Commissioner and VSLV Prasad, Special Commissioner, Telangana Ku Haritha Haram at the award ceremony.

According to officials, the DDWS had launched three campaigns in the last year. The first was a six-month campaign, 'Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shauchalaya (SSSS)' from November 1, 2019 to April, 30, 2020. The second campaign over four months was called 'Samudayik Shauchalaya Abhiyan (SSA)' from June 15, 2020 to September 15, 2020 to mobilise districts and villages to construct and maintain their community toilets.



Welfare Minister Koppula Eashwar inaugurating the State-level function of International Day of Older Persons on Friday

Man kidnaps 1-year-old, arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Gopalpallam police on Friday arrested a person for kidnapping a one-year-old girl on Thursday night. The accused was identified as Shankar, a plumber from Ambedkar Nagar in Bodupal.

According to police, the accused kidnapped the daughter of Deena, a beggar, near Secunderabad railway station. The accused kidnapped her when the mother handed over her child to a person named Ajay as she went into the washroom to change her clothes before boarding a train to Punjab to meet her husband.

The accused who was waiting for a soft target near railway station saw that the woman handed over her child to another person as she went into the washroom to change her

clothes. The woman was planning to board a train to Punjab to meet her husband. However, within a few minutes the accused diverted the attention of Ajay and took the child away, said the police.

The woman then filed a police complaint about her missing child. Based on the complaint, the police stations in the city were alerted and finally the kidnapper was traced in Medipally when he was walking with the girl at night. The Medipally police suspected him and when questioned about the girl, he tried to escape, but was caught and later the child was handed over to her mother, said the police. The accused Shankar confessed that he planned to kidnap a child for selling to the mafia which indulges in child prostitution. Hence, he was arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

Medical Council takes note of Nirmal quackery incident

Council chairman to write to Nirmal DMHO seeking necessary action against the erring doctors

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Telangana State Medical Council has taken notice of Nirmal incident relating to quackery and is initiating action against erring qualified doctors. Chairman Dr E Ravindra Reddy has stated that a letter would be addressed to Nirmal District Medical and Health Officer for necessary action against the institution.

He called upon Indian Medical Association, THANA and other doctor associations to bring such incidents to council's notice for immediate action. "In the past, we have addressed letters to Station House Officer of concerned police stations and DMHOs of concerned districts whenever we received such complaints relating to quackery," he said.

PV Narasimha Rao Pride India Award presented to Bandari Latha

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Bandari Latha, TPCC Organizing Secretary has been awarded with PV Narasimha Rao Pride National award at a programme in Chikkadpally Hyderabad.

The award was conferred to the TPCC organizing secretary commemorating the centenary birth celebrations of PV Narasimha Rao, the late former Prime Minister of India. The award was presented by MBC Chairman Taduri Srinivas, and Kacham Satyanarayana, Chairman of V3 TV Channel. Sikharam Krishna also present on the occasion.

While speaking on occasion Taduri Srinivas said that Bhandari Latha has been very much active and serving for the welfare of the people. "Bhandari latha is very much active and doing a novel serv-



Bandari Latha, TPCC Organising Secretary receiving PV Narasimha Rao Pride National Award in Hyderabad on Friday

ice for the welfare of the people. She has been actively involved in resolving the problems of the people and has

earned good name. She is having a very good future in politics," said the MBC Chairman.

Moti Darwaza wallows in utter neglect, apathy

Even though locals and conservationists took the issue to the notice of Archaeology department officials, nothing has been done

MD NIZAMUDDIN

Hyderabad: Not far away from Golconda fort where thousands of visitors make bee-line each day, Moti Darwaza, one of the gateways to the majestic monument, remains the most neglected structure of archaeological significance. Every year, some or the other section of the Darwaza crumbles during the monsoon season putting a question mark on the restoration claims of authorities. Within a year after a huge block comprising of several rooms crumbled during the monsoon of 2019, the locals found that one of the merlons at the gate's entrance fell apart. Upon closer look, they found that several others remained under of risk of breaking down. Even though some of the conservationists and activists reported the matter to the Archeological authorities, it was of no use.

"This was the most significant gateway which was used by the rulers in the past to



take the route towards now non-existent Moti Mahal. If any restoration works were taken up here it was during the 1940s, but

later the gateway is completely neglected. I brought the issue to the notice of officials of the Archaeology department after a huge

structure that was used by soldiers near the gateway completely crumbled. Once the rubble is removed, I fear this land will be encroached upon by land sharks," bemoaned Mohammed Arif, a law student and heritage activist.

Outside the gate, besides turning the buffer space between gate and start of the entrance into garbage collection point, the civic authorities clear chocking points of drains at gate with impunity. "On one hand nature is slowly damaging the structure, while on the other hand heavy machines enter the drains while completely damaging the stone structures which border the road," he pointed out. Arif has met Archaeology officials at different levels to bring to their notice about the grave scenario in the last one year. "Since it is under Archaeological Survey of India, the State's Archeology department is least bothered," he added.

ACB nabs 8 in Malkajgiri ACP scam

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The sleuths of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday arrested eight persons who were indulged in a land scam associated with the ACP of Malkajgiri, Y Narasimha Reddy.

The accused were identified as, Gopaguni Sajjan Goud, Poreddy Tirupathi Reddy, Yerra Chandrasekhar, Arjula Jaipal, Madhukar Sri Ram, Bandi Chandrar Reddy, Bathini Ramesh and Aluguvally Srinivasa Reddy.

According to ACB officials, the accused persons in the year 2016 had committed a fraud of gulping away the government lands belonging to APIIC and HUDA. All the accused involved in the case had encroached the lands and cre-

ated fake documents without mentioning the survey numbers and fabricated the documents in such a way that they received the lands from their fathers through gift deeds. Apart from that, the accused persons also sold 4 plots admeasuring 1,960 square yards to the tainted ACP for Rs 80 lakh and had shown as it was sold for Rs 4 crore, though the government value of these lands was Rs 6 crore. In such a way the accused persons and the ACP committed a scam and purchased the government lands, said the officials of ACB.

However, all the arrested accused were produced before the special judge for ACB cases and they were sent to judicial custody. The case is further being investigated.

FRENCH OPEN

Djokovic storms into third round, equals Federer's record of 70 wins

Paris (Agencies): World No. 1 Novak Djokovic cruised into the third round of the ongoing French Open after defeating Lithuanian Ricardas Berankis in straight sets.

On Thursday, the Serbian beat Berankis 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 in one hour and 23 minutes to improve his 2020 record to 33-1.

This was Djokovic's 70th win at the Roland Garros, moving him into a tie for second-most all-time alongside Roger Federer. Only Spain's Rafael Nadal (95) has more wins.

"Of course, winning that many matches on each Slam is a great achievement, and of course it makes me proud, makes me happy," Djokovic said after the match as per the official tournament website. "I always aim to play my best tennis in Grand Slams. I think Federer, Nadal, the biggest players in the last 10, 15 years, aim to always play their best in slams," he added.

"It was difficult for Ricardas in the third set as he had an injury and couldn't move very well," said Djokovic whose quickfire 83-minute win was eased by his opponent needing treatment on a back injury after the second set. "But I felt good just as I did in the first round and I want to continue like that." Djokovic also only dropped five games in his first round match against Mikael Ymer who likened facing the Serb to a snake killing its prey.

The world number will aim to get past Federer when he meets Colombian lucky loser Daniel Elahi Galan in the next round.

"I don't know much about him, to be honest. I have never seen him play, so I'll have to obviously look at his matches, the videos, and try to prepare myself with my team," Djokovic said. "It's always dangerous facing opponents you never faced before." Shapovalov Dumped

Meanwhile, ninth seed Denis Shapovalov crashed out in the second round following a 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 3-6, 8-6 loss to Roberto Carballes-Baena. Spanish World No. 101 Carballes-Baena prevailed after a five-hour battle on Court Suzanne Lenglen to set up a clash with 18th seed Grigor Dimitrov in the Last 32.

Dimitrov downed Slovakia's Andrej Martin 6-4, 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 to reach the third round for a fourth successive year.



Courtney Walsh named Windies women's head coach

Barbados (IANS): Courtney Walsh has been appointed as the new head coach of the West Indies women's team. Cricket West Indies have confirmed that Walsh will lead the preparation and development of the women's team at least up until the end of 2022, including competing in the next World Cup and T20 World Cup. The former fast bowler has served as an assistant coach with the Bangladesh men's team, and subsequently worked on a short term contract with the West Indies women's team, including at the World Cup 2020 held in Australia earlier this year. "It's an exciting challenge and I've always wanted to give back in any way I can and help with the development of the game in the West Indies. The experience I have, my knowledge of the game, and my overall organisational skills will be key aspects as we try to develop a winning team culture," said Walsh in a statement.

Rohit Sharma breaches 5,000-run mark in IPL



Today's fixture

Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Rajasthan Royals at 3.30pm
Delhi Capitals vs Kolkata Knight Riders at 7.30pm

Abu Dhabi (IANS): Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma has become the third batsman in Indian Premier League (IPL) history to score 5,000 runs.

He achieved the feat during Mumbai Indian's emphatic 48-run win over Kings XI Punjab on Thursday night at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium.

Batting first, Mumbai posted a monstrous total of 191/4, in which Rohit contributed with 70 off 45 deliveries. In reply, Kings XI could muster 143/8 in their allotted 20 overs.

Rohit is currently placed at the third position in the list of highest run-scorers in IPL. He has so far scored 5,068 runs in 192 IPL matches, including a hundred and 38 half centuries.

Suresh Raina and Virat Kohli are the other two players to cross the 5000-run mark in the cash-rich league. Kohli has scored 5,430 runs in 180 matches for the Royal Challengers Bangalore. Raina, on the other hand, has scored 5,368 runs in 193 games (4,527 for Chennai Super Kings in 164 games and 841 runs in 29 games for Gujarat Lions). David Warner (4,793 runs in 129 matches) and Shikhar Dhawan (4,648 runs in 162 matches) complete the top five.

Mumbai Indians, currently placed at the top of the points table in IPL 2020, are slated to next take on SunRisers Hyderabad on Sunday in Sharjah.

IPL: 5 young Indian batsmen showing their mettle this year

New Delhi (IANS): One of the highlights in the IPL 2020 matches that have been played so far has been the performance of young Indian batsmen who have announced themselves on the big stage against some of the best bowlers in world cricket.

Batsmen like Shubman Gill, Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan, Rahul Tewatia and Devdutt Padikkal have impressed many in the cricket fraternity with both their batting skills and ability to handle pressure while playing at the big stage in the Indian Premier League being held in the United Arab Emirates.

25-year-old Sanju Samson, who plays for the Rajasthan Royals, has been in astounding form in the ongoing tournament, scoring 167 runs in three matches for the Steve Smith-led side. He has scored these runs at a brilliant strike rate of over 200, including two half centuries and has in fact guided his team to two wins in the three matches they have played so far.

Another Rajasthan batsman who has shot to fame in this IPL so far has been Rahul Tewatia. While he has scored 77 runs in three matches for the Royals, his five sixes against Sheldon Cottrell during his match-winning 53-run knock against Kings XI Punjab has turned him into an overnight star and he has become one of the talking points this season.

Defending champions Mumbai Indians too have found a new batting star in Ishan Kishan. Kishan, who scored a brilliant 99 and almost took his side to clinching an emphatic win over Royal



Challengers Bangalore (a match which MI lost in the Super Over), has amassed 127 runs in the two innings he has played so far. His strike rate of over 140 has been mighty impressive and he is expected to play a huge role in the upcoming games for the Rohit Sharma-led side.

Another youngster who has been catching the limelight in this year's IPL edition is Devdutt Padikkal. The 20-year-old, who made his IPL debut this year, is currently the Indian top-scorer for RCB, which has batting stalwarts like Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers and Aaron Finch. The left-handed Karnataka batsman has scored 111 runs in three games for the Challengers and has played an instrumental role in the two wins which

the side has been able to register in the three matches played till date.

For Kolkata Knight Riders, Gill is considered to be one of the key batters alongside the likes of Eoin Morgan and Andre Russell. The 21-year-old has scored 124 runs in the three innings he has batted, with a best of unbeaten 70. Although his strike rate has been not that high - 115, his ability to hold the innings together has been one of the key factors because of which KKR has been able to clinch two wins so far.

Apart from these, other young Indian batsmen such as Riyan Parag and Prithvi Shaw are yet to set the IPL stage on fire - something which many in the cricket fraternity would be keen at looking.

ICC WOMEN'S TEAM RANKINGS

India 2nd in ODIs, 3rd in T20Is

Dubai (IANS): India have overtaken New Zealand to grab the third spot in the ICC women's team rankings for T20Is after the annual rankings update carried out on Friday.

The rankings table sees Australia and England retain the top two positions, their points tally remaining 291 and 280, respectively. India, who made the final of this year's Women's T20 World Cup in March, have overtaken the White Ferns, in what is the only change in the top 15 of the 56-team list.

In ODIs, six-time World Cup champions and winners of both editions of the ICC Women's Championship, Australia's stellar display during the rating period saw them win 20 of 21 ODIs, increasing their tally by eight points to 160 and because of that they have maintained their top position.

Their massive lead of 39 points over second-placed India is the largest by any team (men or women) in any form of the game.

It comes on the back of 3-0 series wins over India, Pakistan, New Zealand, England, West Indies, Sri Lanka and an earlier 2-1 win over England at the start of the ICC Women's Championship, only a few months after England had won the World Cup in 2017.

India (121) and England (119) have lost four points each while clinging on to their second and third positions, respectively, while South Africa (107) enjoy a 13-point lead over New Zealand (94), with the West Indies (85), Pakistan (77), Bangladesh (61) and Sri Lanka (47) following in that order.

The latest update expunges results from the 2016-17 season, weights the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons at 50 per cent and the 2019-20 matches at 100 per cent.

Lewandowski named European Footballer of the Year 2020

Nyon (IANS): Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski has won the 2019/20 UEFA Men's Player of the Year award.

"It's an amazing feeling. I would like to thank the teammates and coaches I work with every day. Obviously I'd like to thank my family as well," said Lewandowski as per the Bayern's official website on Thursday. "As a little boy I dreamed of playing in the big stadiums. Standing here now means a lot to me," continued the 32-year-old.

The Pole scored 55 goals in 47 games on the way to the 2020 treble - he only

missed five games - and was the top scorer in the Bundesliga (34 goals), Champions League (15) and the DFB Cup (6). He also provided 10 assists.

Meanwhile, his teammate Manuel Neuer became goalkeeper of the year, Joshua Kimmich was chosen as best defender, while De Bruyne won the prize for the best midfielder.

Bayern coach Hans-Dieter Flick received the UEFA Men's Coach of the Year 2019/20 award. The jury was composed of the 80 coaches of the clubs which participated in the group stages of the

2019/20 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League, together with 55 journalists selected by the European Sports Media (ESM) group from each of UEFA's member associations.

In women's category, Pernille Harder, finalist with Wolfsburg, now with Chelsea, won the 2019/20 UEFA Women's Player of the Year, her second time taking the accolade after her success in 2018. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the late finish to the 2019/20 season, the player awards ceremony took place in Switzerland.



ATHENS MARATHON CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

Athens (IANS): The 2020 Athens Marathon, which was slated to take place on November 7-8, has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Hellenic Athletics Federation (SEGAS) in a statement on Thursday said that they had discussed several measures to hold the annual event in a safe manner, such as staging only the full 42km race and not the shorter distances, reducing the number of participants and having all participants undertake a Covid-19 test before the race. "We be-

lieved that the above actions could ensure the full protection of the health of runners, which SEGAS and the Organising Committee of the Athens Marathon have as an absolute first priority. Unfortunately, although the design-proposal submitted to EODY has not been officially answered, we are obliged to cancel the Race today," SEGAS said. Registered runners will now have the choice to defer their registration into next year's event or receive a refund of their entry fee.

David Hemp named Pakistan women's head coach

Lahore (IANS): David Hemp, former Bermuda captain, has been appointed as the head coach of the Pakistan women's cricket team. He takes over from Iqbal Imam. The 49-year-old, based in Australia, played 22 ODIs for Bermuda along with 271 first-class games for Glamorgan, Free State and Warwickshire. He is also a qualified UK level four coach and has previously coached the Melbourne Stars' and Victorian women's cricket teams in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) between 2015 and 2020.

Martins signs 2-year deal with ATK Mohun Bagan

New Delhi (IANS): Midfielder Glan Martins has joined ATK Mohun Bagan FC ahead of the 2020-21 Indian Super League (ISL) season. The 26-year-old from Goa played 14 matches for Churchill Brothers SC during the 2019-20 I-League season and will now increase the competition for places in the centre of the park for the Kolkata giants. Martins was part of the SESA Football Academy in Goa and signed his first contract with Sporting Club de Goa in 2014. He made his I-League debut against the erstwhile Bharat FC and went on to make 13 appearances for Sporting across two seasons. ATK Mohun Bagan have built a strong team to



challenge for the ISL trophy as well as the AFC Cup. Martins will look to partner Javi Hernandez in the middle of the park for the Kolkata giants, with the likes of Pronay Halder and Michael Regin also available to head coach Antonio Lopez Habas. The ISL, in its seventh edition, will be played behind closed doors at three venues - Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Fartora; GMC Athletic Stadium, Bhubaneswar; and Tilak Maidan Stadium, Vasco.