



THE HANS INDIA

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WINDOWS



Fears of 2005-like flood situation amid downpour in Mumbai

Mumbai: Police issued a warning asking the people to stay indoors as heavy rains and winds lashed the city and its neighbouring areas. "We request Mumbaiers to stay indoors and not venture out unless it is extremely essential. Practice all necessary precautions and do not venture out near the shore or waterlogged areas," said the police as the downpour brought up fears of the 2005 floods that had submerged large parts of the city. Some local train and bus services were affected due to water-logging on rail tracks and roads, officials said. Rains also lashed Pune, Satara and Kolhapur districts in western Maharashtra, they said.

Stalemate in disengagement at Ladakh continues

New Delhi: The high-powered China Study Group (CSG) met on Tuesday to assess feedback from the August 2 meeting of Indian and Chinese military commanders in Moldo-Chushul even as ground reports indicate that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is dragging its feet in restoring status quo in eastern Ladakh. It is understood that the military commanders' marathon meeting ended in a stalemate with both sides holding their ground and the PLA commander asking for concessions for complete disengagement. The CSG will convey to the Indian Army the next steps to be taken on the ground; restoration of the pre-April 20 positions at four frictions points in eastern Ladakh is a prerequisite for normalisation of bilateral ties. The meeting was attended by the senior most ministers and officials of the government.

NATION



LORD RAM ULTIMATE EMBODIMENT OF HUMAN VALUES, SAYS RAHUL

P3

BUSINESS



RIL 2ND BIGGEST BRAND GLOBALLY AFTER APPLE

P6



RISE OF RAM'S INDIA

PM lays silver bricks for Ram Temple construction

- Ram is everywhere, Ram belongs to all: Modi
- Lord Ram is common thread of unity in diversity
- Ram Temple will inspire humanity, says PM

Ayodhya: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid the foundation of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the culmination of a campaign that fuelled the rise of the BJP and marked the fulfillment of one of its core poll promises. The wait of centuries has ended, the PM said after performing the groundbreaking ceremony here for the temple at the spot where many devout Hindus believe Lord Ram was born.

People across the country remained glued to their television sets as Modi performed the bhoomi puja at the Ram Janmabhoomi, the site of a bitter Hindu-Muslim conflict that lasted decades before being settled by the Supreme Court last year.

Beginning his speech with "Jai Siya Ram", the Prime Minister told the gathering that a grand temple will now be built for "Ram Lalla", the infant Ram, who had been living in a temporary tent for years. "Many people made sacrifices for the Ram temple. I pay my respects to all of them," he said in the speech that followed the laying of the foundation for the Ram temple. "Ram is everywhere, Ram belongs to all," the Prime Minister said.

He also released a postage stamp to mark the event, an occasion which is also being seen as an ideological victory of the BJP over its rivals. Some leaders of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, including former deputy prime minister L K Advani, were not at the venue, where the organisers had invited only 175 people, keeping the guest list short because of the threat of COVID-19.

Continued on Page 5



Prime Minister Narendra Modi performing the groundbreaking ceremony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Wednesday

Lord Ram lived under tent for years... Now a grand temple for him: PM

Ayodhya: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after laying the first brick for a Ram Temple at Ayodhya at a mega ceremony on Wednesday, described it as an emotional moment for the entire country. A long wait had ended today, he said. "Every heart is lit; it is an emotional moment for the entire country. A long wait ends today.. Crores won't believe that they have seen this day in our lifetime. For years, our Ram Lalla (infant Lord Ram) lived beneath a tent, now he will reside in a grand temple built by Ram bhakts. Today, Ram Janmabhoomi has been liberated," said the Prime Minister. He chanted "Siyavar Ram Chandra ki Jai!" and "Jai Siya Ram" as he started addressing a gathering of spiritual leaders at Ram Janmabhoomi after laying a 40-kg silver brick to mark the start of temple construction. "Today, this chant is not only reverberating in Ayodhya but across the world," said the Prime Minister.



WHO SAID WHAT

President Kovind

Felicitations to all for the foundation laying of Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Being built in tune with law, it defines India's spirit of social harmony and people's zeal. It will be a testimony to ideals of RamRajya and a symbol of modern India

Venkaiah Naidu

The construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya is much more than a religious affair and the structure will stand as a tribute to the best of timeless human values

Mohan Bhagwat

RSS and other like-minded organisations worked for nearly 30 years to fulfil the resolve of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya. This day brings the confidence needed to make India self-reliant.

Continued on Page 5

India celebrates historic Ram Mandir event

New Delhi: The excitement on the foundation laying ceremony of Ram Temple reverberated across the country as Ram bhakts gathered celebrating the groundbreaking

occasion. People across the country were seen chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' and waving saffron flags. Fireworks were also burst and sweets were distributed to mark the day.

Young women paint Jai Shri Ram on their hands and faces celebrating the groundbreaking ceremony of proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya, in Amritsar and other places. At

many places people were holding the model of proposed Ram Temple in Ayodhya as they celebrate the stone laying ceremony. At some places Ram bhakts carry a girl

dressed like Goddess Sita as they celebrate the ground breaking ceremony.

Also many places, people were seen distributing sweets during a live screening of the stone laying ceremony of the Ram Temple. People shout slogans during the live screening of the stone laying ceremony of the Ram Temple. Members of the Muslim community also performed aarti of Lord Ram as they celebrate the ground breaking ceremony of the temple in Ayodhya.



Centre's nod for CBI probe into Sushant Singh's death

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the truth behind the death of "gifted and talented artist" Sushant Singh Rajput should come out, even as the Centre informed that it has accepted the recommendation of the Bihar government to initiate a CBI inquiry into the matter. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the apex court that the Bihar government's recommendation for a CBI investigation in the case has been accepted.

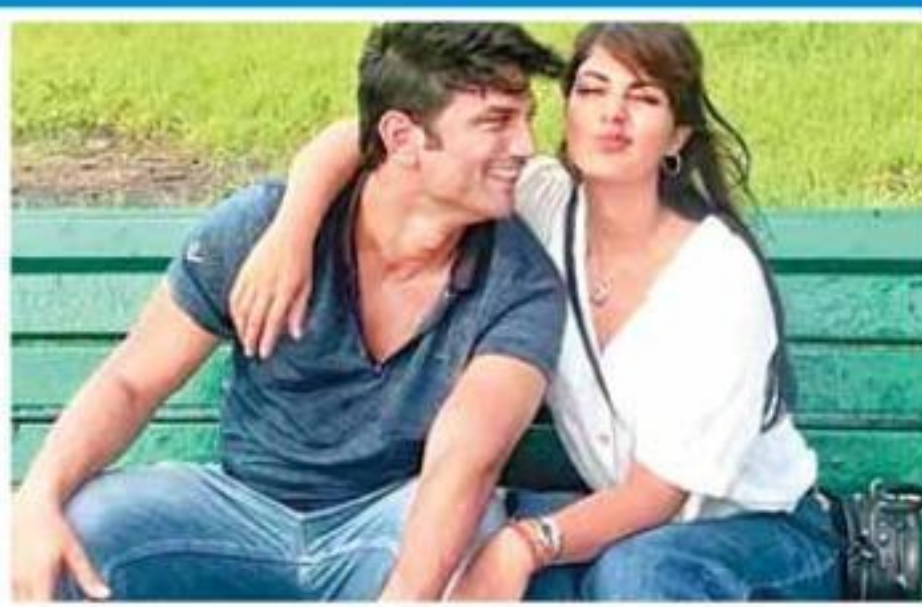
A bench of Justice

Hrishikesh Roy directed Maharashtra, Bihar and Sushant's father KK Singh to file their replies within three days on a plea by actress Rhea Chakraborty, who is seeking transfer of an FIR, accusing her of abetting the suicide of Sushant, from Patna to Mumbai. The apex court also asked the Mumbai police to place before it the status report of the probe conducted so far in the case. The apex court also pulled up the Maharashtra government over putting Bihar's IPS officer Vinay Tiwari in quarantine.

SC asks Mumbai police to submit case files in 3 days

Tiwari came to Mumbai from Patna to investigate Sushant's death case on Sunday but was "forcibly quarantined" by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

"It doesn't give the right message. He was there to do his job. You must do everything in a professional manner," the bench said. The bench also said that Sushant's death took place in "unusual" circumstances and "the truth should unravel."



ED SUMMONS RHEA FOR QUESTIONING

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday issued summons to Sushant Singh Rajput's former live-in partner Rhea Chakraborty asking her to appear before the agency on Friday at 11 am, said officials privy to the development. Rhea Chakraborty is said to have gone out of public view ever since she posted a video appeal claiming innocence and wishing that the truth behind Sushant Singh Rajput's death comes out one day clearing her name. The Enforcement Directorate is probing the financial misconduct aspect of the investigation.

TS files SLP against AP in apex court

Seeks directions to halt AP from taking up Seema project

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Telangana Government has filed a Special Leave Petition before the Supreme Court seeking directions to Andhra Pradesh Government to stop the on-going process of tenders and construction of the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project (RLIP) and enhancement of Pothireddypadu Head Regulator by diverting Krishna water from the Srisaillam reservoir.

The Irrigation officials said that the government filed the petition through e-filing system and hoped that the issue will come up for hearing in two or three days.

The Government has brought to the Apex Court's notice that the neighbouring State was moving fast to divert Krishna water without seeking any approval from the Krishna River Water Board and Apex Council also. As per the provisions in the AP Reorganisation act, it is mandatory that the two Telugu States will have to seek the permission from central bodies, including the Central Water Commission to take up new projects on Krishna

and also on the Godavari river.

The Telangana government has informed the court that AP Government had issued a GO (203) on May 5, 2020 specifying its plans to take up RLIP and to expand Pothireddypadu to increase its water drawal capacity to 80,000 cusecs.

In the petition, the TS government pointed out that the Andhra government was planning to draw 8 tmc ft of water by taking up the two projects without any consent from the upper riparian State also.

Chief Minister, who also holds Irrigation portfolio, already instructed a group of senior Irrigation officials to pursue the issue seriously and make strong arguments before the court with valid evidences in the hearing.

Meanwhile, the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti has informed the Telangana and AP Governments about the postponement of the meeting and next date for the meeting will be intimated soon to discuss the objections raised by TS and AP government against the projects taken up by two States.

AP govt inks pact with ISB for setting up public policy lab

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday signed a pact with the Hyderabad-based Indian School of Business (ISB) for setting up a public policy lab to help achieve economic recovery and growth in the post-Covid-19 period.

According to the MoU, the laboratory called "GoAP-ISB Policy Lab" would be set up that would drive evidence-based policy decisions, the state government said in a statement.

"The lab is modelled on the lines of the policy lab in the UK cabinet that will enable greater synergistic functioning of departments and work towards the objective of economic monitoring, recovery, and development," the statement said.

The lab aims to create a knowledge bank for strategic planning, policy analysis, data analytics and action-research essential for sustaining higher growth rate. It would focus on investment flows, their efficacy in terms of value addition, employment generation and wealth creation, it said. In addition, the state government



said it has also collaborated with ISB in developing indicators for monitoring economic recovery in the state, project on Visakhapatnam as growth engine, focus on food processing in the Rayalaseema region, improving e-governance, data analytics unshackling informal sector growth and reshaping the skilling programmes.

"The data analytics is designed to move from hindsight to foresight and insight i.e. from mere descriptive analytics to predictive and prescriptive policy analytics which is going to be a game-changer in the days to come," it added.

CEO of Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board J V N Subramanyam and ISB Dean Rajendra Srivastava signed the MoU in the presence of Industries and Commerce Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy in a virtual event.

Womenia

WEIGHT LOSS MANTRA

PLANNED DIET & EXERCISE

Diksha Chhabra's story isn't just another tale of an incredible weight loss. It's a journey of hard work, patience and a lot of determination

ASKARI JAFFER

Diksha Chhabra, wife of an army man, mother of a ten-year-old son, second-runner up of Mrs Earth 2017, Mrs Body Fit 2017, social media influencer and fitness guru who has trained over 300 men and women across the globe, is an inspiration to many.

Her deterring health, PCOD, hypothyroidism led to massive weight gain, lethargy and weakness. In such a situation, Diksha thought, "It was high time I change my priorities towards my health, hence I became health conscious and started working towards fixing my lifestyle by following a scheduled plan like eating healthy diet and regular exercises. I looked at my past self as an inspiration. I was always an active child during my college and school days. I was lucky to have a very supportive family. They always encouraged me to chase my dreams."

She is an MBA graduate and also holds certification in Nutrition and Physical Education. She was plump but an active child participating in sports, dramatics and dance.

She was close to 100 kg and managed to lose 35 kg in a year.



She started with walking and running and home workouts whatever she knew as a beginner. Gradually she got into strength training and joined gym.

She followed a balanced diet which helped her in overcoming her vitamin deficiency also helped me in losing weight. She says it is not the amount of time

you spend at gym, 'a quality workout one hour a day' would make you achieve your goal.

There were many instances where she faced body shaming. In family functions, school reunions and other social gathering. People think it's funny to make fun of someone who is struggling with weight issues,

but it definitely hampers that person's self confidence.

She says, "As I lost my weight, I wanted to do something for people suffering from weight issues, hence I decided to take my passion as profession. I got my certificates done in Nutrition and Training and rest is history. In a span of 2.5 years we registered brand Diksha Chhabra Fitness Consultations in the field of fitness and helped more than 600 individuals worldwide."

It was a taboo when she started and was also demotivated by many in the beginning but she continued as she saw remarkable results in her body and followed her heart to continue what she started. But now, many girls are taking fitness training as a profession.

It acted as a great platform for her self-development. She needed a push to boost her confidence which she lost during the years of body shaming and depression to go out and face the world eye to eye. Mrs India pageant indeed helped her in becoming what she is today, she said. Eat clean and well nourished food with all the macro and micro nutrients focus on attaining good health; weight loss is just a small part of the bigger picture, she added.

TODAY

Balloons to Heaven Day

Releasing balloons into the sky is hugely symbolic in today's age. It represents hope, innocence, and a way for people to reach out to life. However, Balloons to Heaven Day is about mourning loved ones, specifically from the aftermath of gun violence. Because gun violence has become a prominent issue within the United States, Balloons to Heaven Day is a time for families everywhere to raise their balloons to the sky in hopes of ending gun violence.



Yogic techniques to transform a negative mind

Stress, worry, anxiety, anger, envy are some of the many negative emotions that cause us to stumble in life. While these emotions are natural, they can be destructive if we do not practice awareness. There are many dimensions to health i.e. physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional. It is important to maintain a balance between all these aspects. Here are five ways in which you can become aware of your mind. Creating this fine balance will help you stay aligned and positive.

Physical fitness- Asanas

Everyone should definitely focus on their physical health, and this includes fitness through Surya Namaskar, Chandra Namaskar, and various other asanas. Exercise allows you to channel your frustrations or negative emotions by sweating it out. Working out releases endorphins in the body

You may begin by practicing this breathing technique for five minutes a day and gradually increase it with time. When you control your breath, you can control your mind and emotions. With these simple, yet effective yogic techniques, you can take care of your emotional well-being and mental health. Yoga has the power to transform you from the inside out, and change your perspective on life

Grand Master Akshar



that make you feel good, and lift your mood instantly.

Taking care of your mental health

Spend a few minutes each day in the morning, at night or both planning ahead for the day. Evaluate the day's activities and in-

cidents at night for a self-check. Developing this sense of clarity of how you want your day to be will ensure you play an active part in making it happen. This form of self-care will help you remain calm, and keep you prepared for whatever the day

brings. Avoid stress and anxiety by setting up a process of planning into your routine.

The power of nature

In order to lead a stress-free life, it is important to connect with nature. Nature has a profoundly

positive impact on our thoughts, and attitude. Nature helps put many things into perspective and also encourages the habit of gratitude. Find a few minutes every day for a walk anywhere in a garden or a park. Breathe in the fresh air, and admire the beautiful flowers.

Meditation benefits- Bheej Dhyani/Aarambh Dhyani

The mind is very much like a fertile land where we plant the seeds of our thoughts, and actions for our life. For a plant to grow beautifully, it needs its share of sunlight, fertilizer, and water. Much like a plant, how we nurture our mind and our energies will be reflected in the way that we grow. Bheej Dhyani is the meditation technique that teaches us to pause in life. We can use this method to sow the seeds that can bring about great improve-

ment in our life. Whether we want to start a new habit, change our response, or behaviour all depends on the mind.

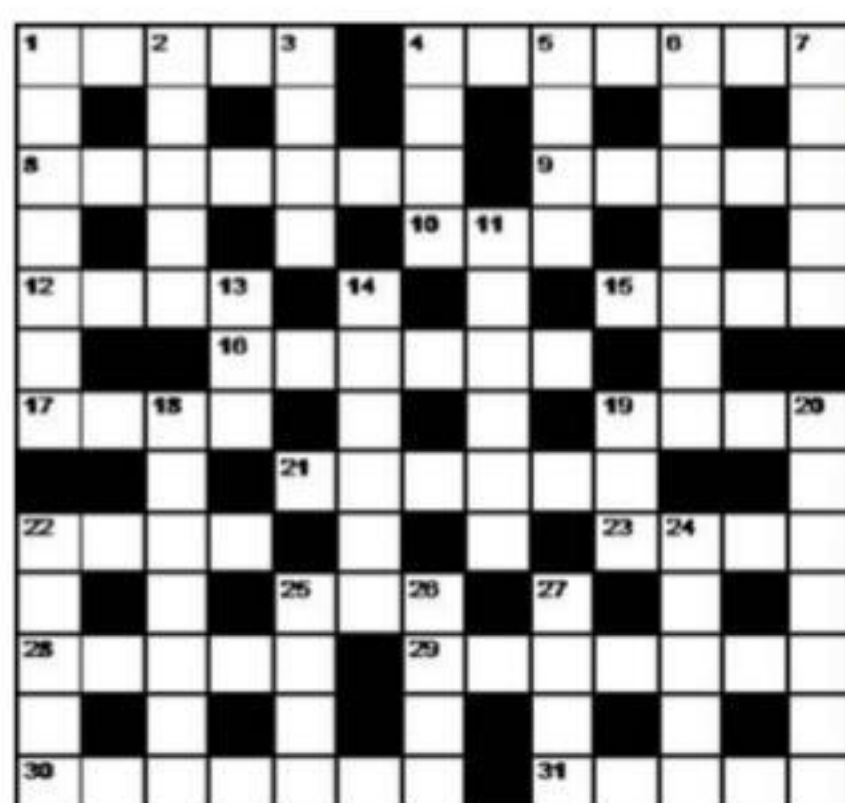
Master your breath

Bhastrika Pranayama

Method

- Sit in any comfortable pose (such as Sukhasana, Ardha Padmasana or Padmasana)
- Straighten your back and close your eyes
- Place your palms on your knees facing up (in Prapthi Mudra)
- Inhale and fill your lungs with air
- Exhale completely
- Inhalation and exhalation should be done in a 1:1 ratio. For example, if you breathe in for 6 counts, you must take 6 counts to exhale

(The writer is a philanthropist, spiritual master, lifestyle coach, yoga-preneur and author)



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 5

CROSSWORD

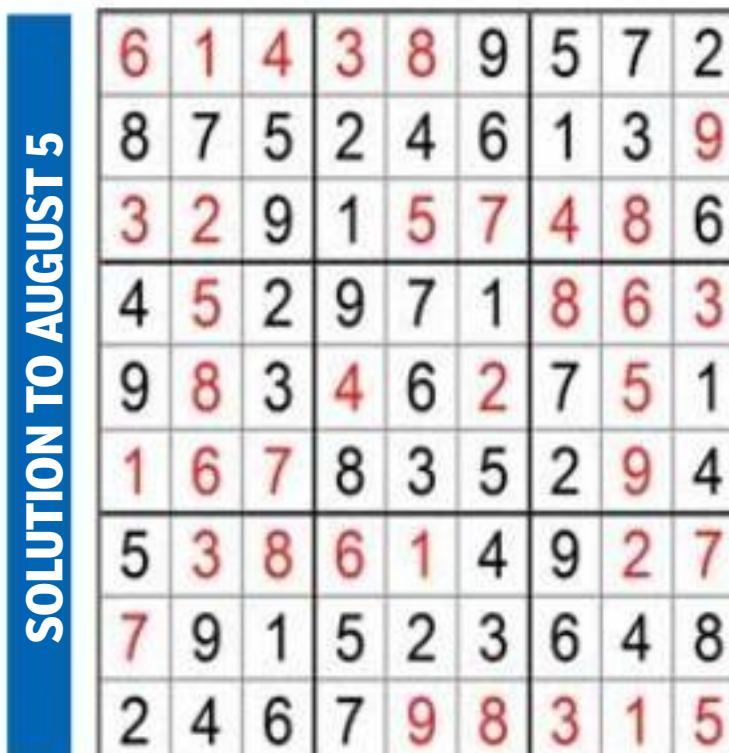
Across

- 1 Scottish island (5)
- 4 Gazes, stares or ogle (7)
- 8 Habitué (7)
- 9 Lasso feature (5)
- 10 Fuel economy letters (3)
- 12 Strong string (4)
- 15 Not firm or rigid (4)
- 16 Positive change ? (6)
- 17 Stopper (4)
- 19 Action word (4)
- 21 Buddhist enlightenment (6)
- 22 Listen closely (4)
- 23 Newts (4)
- 25 Last in a long line (3)
- 28 A feather (5)
- 29 Suffer (7)
- 30 Burdensome, taxing (7)
- 31 Racket (5)

Down

- 1 Pipe type (7)
- 2 African river (5)
- 3 With skill (4)
- 4 Microbe (4)
- 5 Chime (4)
- 6 Like a lion (7)
- 7 Fleecy flock (5)
- 11 A portion of time (6)
- 13 Used a fork or spade (3)
- 14 Sea route (6)
- 18 Upbringing (7)
- 19 Contend (3)
- 20 Made to individual order (7)
- 22 River horse (5)
- 24 U.S. physicist born in Italy (5)
- 25 Bad Roman emperor (4)
- 26 Embraces (4)
- 27 South Yemen port (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO AUGUST 5

NEWS ROUNDUP

Gauhar Khan loses 3.5 kilos in 20 days

Actress Gauhar Khan has lost 3.5 kilos in just 20 days. Taking to Instagram, Gauhar posted a picture of her "lean" look.

"Orange and the New black. I've lost 3.5 kgs in 20 days! Loving this lean look," she captioned the image, in which she is seen sporting an orange tank top.

Netizens were impressed with Gauhar's transformation. A user commented, "I think you lost weight due to continuous up down from Bombay to Pune."

Responding to the user, Gauhar wrote: "kinda true".

Gauhar travelled to Pune last month to take care of her ailing father, who reportedly underwent surgery at hospital there.



Ram's pic in original copy of Constitution

New Delhi (IANS): On the special occasion of the 'Bhumi Pujan' of Ram Mandir, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, who has been a long standing lawyer of the Ram Lalla deity, on Wednesday shared an original document of the Constitution.

He said, "Original document of the Constitution of India has a beautiful sketch of Lord Ram, Mata Sita and Laxman returning to Ayodhya after defeating Ravan. This is available at the beginning of the chapter related to Fundamental Rights. I felt like sharing this with you all," said the minister. The Union Minister also termed the day as a day of India's self respect.

Prasad had represented 'Ram Lalla', a petitioner in the Ayodhya title suit which was decided in September 2010 by the Allahabad High Court. The court had ordered



the disputed site to be equally distributed among the claimants.

Prasad, a persuasive debater on news television was came to be known as Lord Ram's lawyer. After the Supreme Court gave its verdict, where lawyer K. Parasaran led the argument for Ram Lalla, Prasad had called it a "historic verdict".

On Wednesday, when the union minister shared the photo of lord Ram from the original document of Constitution, after "defeating Ravan", the political message was also unmistakable.

Lord Ram ultimate embodiment of human values, says Rahul



People perform 'aarti' of Lord Ram as they celebrate the ground breaking ceremony of proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya, in Varanasi

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said Lord Ram is the ultimate embodiment of supreme human values and can never appear in cruelty, hatred or injustice.

The former Congress president's reaction came soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the 'bhoomi poojan' of a Supreme Court-mandated Ram temple in Ayodhya, bringing to fruition the BJP's 'mandir' movement that defined its politics for three decades and took it to the heights of power.

In a tweet in Hindi, Gandhi said, "Maryada Purshottam Lord Ram is the ultimate embodiment of supreme human values. He is the core of humanism embedded deep in our hearts".

"Ram is love, he can never appear in hatred. Ram is compassion, he can never appear in cruelty. Ram is justice, he can never appear in injustice," he said.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were among those who attended the event at the site where a large number of devout Hindus believe Lord Ram was born.

The guest list, including religious leaders who formed part of the movement that started in the 1980s, was restricted to 175 in view of the COVID-19 crisis.

Terming the foundation laying of Ram temple in Ayodhya as a "historic and proud day" for India, Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said it heralds the beginning of a new era. He said by starting the con-

struction of the grand Ram temple in Ayodhya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written a golden chapter in the history of the great Indian civilisation, and asserted that the government remains committed to the preservation of Indian culture and its values.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that the nation has always upheld its legacy of unity in diversity.

"Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Isai, Aapas mein hain Bhai Bhai! Mera Bharat Mahaan, Mahaan Hamara Hindustan (Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Isai are our brothers, India is great. Hindustan is great)," Banerjee tweeted.

She also said that India has always upheld the age-old legacy of unity in diversity. "And we must preserve this to our last breath," Banerjee added.

No dispute after SC decision: Iqbal Ansari

Ayodhya (IANS) Almost nine months after the Supreme Court delivered its verdict in favour of the Ram temple, for which the 'Bhumi Pujan' is being held on Wednesday, the main litigant for the Babri Masjid says that there is no 'Mandir-Masjid' dispute now.

Speaking to IANS exclusively, Iqbal Ansari asserted: "Now, no dispute is remaining after the Supreme Court's November 9, 2019 verdict. Whoever wants to say anything, let him speak."

"Now, personal differences have been ended with the Supreme Court's verdict.

Ayodhya stayed glued to TV sets

Ayodhya: From blowing of conch shells and ringing of bells to ceaseless chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Siyavar Ramchandra Ki Jai', streets of this temple town got immersed in a religious fervour on Wednesday as the foundation laying ceremony for a Ram Temple got underway. Some jewellery shops in the famous Shriga Haat area turned into places for community television spots as passers-by and even some security personnel and mediapersons joined shopkeepers to watch the live telecast of 'bhoomi poojan' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the temple and his speech.

Many recalled that these scenes were similar to ones quite common in late 1980s when 'Ramayan' serial was telecast on Doordarshan and people used to gather at few houses and shops having TV sets.

Rooftops of buildings in the

area, close to Hanumangarhi Temple, became hubs and vantage points for video journalists and photographers, while roadside trees provided the much-needed shade to security forces deployed for the occasion.

Some shopkeepers were also seen distributing laddoos (sweets), while saffron flags with pictures of Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman were seen on many balconies, verandahs and rooftops. While only a few shops were open and police barricades stopped people well before the ceremony area, crowds gathered on rooftops with social distancing making way for heavy jostling among people to get a glimpse of what many described as a historic moment for Ayodhya, a Sanskrit word that means 'unconquerable' and has long been known as birthplace of Lord Ram.

Chants of Jai Shri Ram, blowing

of conch shells and ringing of bells reached a crescendo the moment the word got around about Modi's arrival at the main venue, where access was highly restricted due to safeguard measures in place to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another round of chants began when the prime minister began his speech with 'Jai Siya Ram' and crowds in front of TV sets also responded loudly to Modi's 'Siyavar Ramchandra ki Jai' slogan. Wearing a green-coloured mask, 60-year-old Shanti, who was glued to a TV set at a jewellery shop, said, "I feel extremely overwhelmed to experience this glorious and historic moment. I feel happy that now the Ram temple will be built." Mahendra Yadav, seated next to Shanti, said, "It is a very important moment in my life, and I am going to cherish it to the hilt. If possible, I will tell stories about this day to my grandchildren."

RSS worked for 30 years: Bhagwat

Ayodhya: The Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh and other like-minded organisations worked for nearly 30 years to fulfil the resolve of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said here on Wednesday.

Bhagwat was one of the selected invitees at the 'bhoomi puja' ceremony of a Ram temple at



Patanjali to establish gurukul in Ayodhya

Ayodhya: Yoga guru Ramdev said, "It is India's biggest fortune that we're witnessing the Ram Mandir event... To establish 'Ram rajya' in this nation, Patanjali Yogpeeth will make a grand 'gurukul' in Ayodhya. People from all over the world will be able to study Ved, Ayurved here." He called August

5 a historical day ahead of the foundation stone-laying ceremony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya. "It will be an

end of encroachment of all the cultural, financial and political issues. The establishment of Ram Temple will initiate a new culture in the country," Ramdev further said.

Portrait of Lord with a typewriter



Bengaluru: AC Gurumurthy, an artist from Bengaluru created a portrait of Lord Ram using a manual typewriter. He says, "I dedicate this portrait to Ram Temple. I hope world recognises our culture and religion."

3 lakh left homeless after Beirut blast

100 killed, nearly 4K injured; 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate explode

Beirut: A huge blast in Beirut has left 300,000 people homeless and caused damage across half of the city estimated to cost more than \$3 billion, its governor told AFP on Wednesday.

"I think there are between 250,000 and 300,000 people who are now without homes," said Marwan Aboud, adding that the estimated cost of the damage from Tuesday's explosion was between \$3.0 billion and \$5.0 billion dollars.

Engineers and technical teams have yet to conduct an official assessment, he said, adding that damage from the blast in the port area seems to have extended over half of the city.

As many as 100 people were killed and nearly 4,000 injured in two huge explosions that rocked downtown Beirut, the Lebanese Red Cross said on



A general view of the scene of an explosion that hit the seaport of Beirut, Lebanon

Wednesday. The blasts took place on Tuesday evening (around 6.10 p.m. local time), shaking buildings all over the city while also causing severe damage and casualties, Xinhua reported.

President Michel Aoun said that 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, used in fertilisers and bombs, had been stored for six years at the port without safety measures. He said that was "unacceptable". Officials did not say

what caused the blaze that set off the blast. A security source and media said it was caused by welding work being carried out on a hole in the warehouse.

"It's like a war zone. I'm speechless," Beirut's Mayor Jamal Itani told the media while inspecting the damage on Wednesday that he estimated would lead to losses in the billions of dollars.

"This is a catastrophe for Beirut and Lebanon."

IAS wife's complaint sends husband to jail

Muzaffarnagar (IANS): Shailja Sharma, a 37-year-old 2013 batch IAS officer, has accused her husband of breaking into her house and trying to strangle her and her father. Shailja belongs to Muzaffarnagar and is currently posted in Bihar.

She filed the FIR in Muzaffarnagar and her husband, Rajeev Nayan, who is a senior official with the Haryana government, has been arrested.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Dhananjay Kushwaha said, "The accused is a regional deputy commissioner in Haryana government's labour department and is posted in Gurugram. He has been arrested and sent to jail. Further investigation is on and the action will be taken accordingly."

BEL equips govt schools with smart class facility

Bengaluru: Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), as part of its CSR initiatives, empowered around 13,000 children studying in 122 Government High Schools of Yadgir district, Karnataka, by equipping these schools with solar-powered Smart Class facilities. The total cost of the project is Rs.3.84 Crores.

Prabhu B Chauhan, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry, Hajji & Waqf Board, Government of Karnataka, and Minister-in-charge for Yadgir & Bidar districts, Karnataka, inaugurated the new facilities on August 4, 2020, at the Govt Girls High School Yadgir, in the presence of Dr Umesh G Jadhav, MP (LS), Kalburgi; Mr Raja Amareshwara Nayaka, MP (LS), Raichur; Mr Venkata Reddy Gowda Mudnal, MLA, Yadgir; Mr



Kurma Rao, IAS, District Collector & District Magistrate, Yadgir; Mr Basavaraj Yadiyapur, President, Zilla Panchayat, Ms Shilpa Sharma, IAS, CEO, Zilla Parishad; and Mr Hrishikesh Bhagawan Sonawane, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Yadgir.

The Solar-powered Smart Class facility offers visually attractive content that helps students to assimilate information more effectively. It facilitates teachers to explain difficult concepts easily, improves teaching effectiveness and enhances the academic performance of the students.

Dr Kafeel Khan's wife launches campaign to free him

Gorakhpur (IANS): Jailed paediatrician Dr Kafeel Khan's wife Dr Shabista Khan has launched a campaign on the social media seeking support for her husband's release.

The campaign was launched on the eve of the hearing of the Habeas Corpus plea in Allahabad high court.

The campaign, #DrKafeelKhanKoAzaadKaro, was trending on Twitter.

Shabista Khan, in a video message, urged people to come with her to run a campaign for release of her husband.

According to Kafeel's brother Adeel Ahmad Khan, the Habeas Corpus plea has been filed by their mother Nuzhat Parveen.

HC rejects plea against ban on servicemen using social media

New Delhi (IANS): The Delhi High Court on Wednesday turned down a petition which sought court's direction to the Director General of Military Intelligence (DGMI) to withdraw its policy which had ordered the Indian Army officers to delete their accounts from social networking platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

A division bench of the High Court presided by Justices Rajiv Sahai Endlaw and Asha Menon passed the said order dismissing the petition filed by Lieutenant Colonel P.K. Choudhary.

While the matter was being heard earlier, the bench had remarked, "If Facebook is so dear to you, then put in your papers. You'll have to make a choice."

The court had also said that he has to take a call and asked the army officer to delete his FB account as the policy to ban the use of social networking platforms for army personnel was initiated



keeping in view the security concerns of the country.

Choudhary contended that once he deletes all the data, he would lose all his contacts which are there on the social media platforms.

The petition filed through advocates Shivank Pratap Singh and Sanandika Pratap Singh stated that the said policy issued by the DGMI banned usage of 89 applications and websites and directs deletion of accounts on the said websites and applications. The ban and direction of deletion is

applicable to all ranks of the Indian Army.

"The Soldiers while posted in remote locations rely on social networking platforms like Facebook to address various issues arising in their families and often use the virtual connect to compensate for the physical distance existing between themselves and their families," the plea said.

The plea further stated that the Indian Army soldiers serve in remote areas, extreme weather conditions, difficult terrain, with the lingering

threat of an enemy attack at all times. The aforesaid conditions, in addition to taking a great toll physically, also have a considerable adverse impact on the mental health of the Soldiers.

"With the advent of the Internet, particularly high speed connectivity over mobile networks, soldiers found an effective way to come closer to their friends, family and loved ones in the virtual world.

This greatly eased the stress suffered by them on a daily basis due to the harsh conditions of service," the plea said.

The petitioner states the he believes that the provisions pertaining to ban usage of social networking platforms including Facebook and Instagram and the direction to delete accounts violate various fundamental rights under the Constitution including the right to freedom of speech and expression and right to privacy.

VIT B. Tech admission results

Vellore: A total of 1,83,059 candidates from 28 states, 8 union territories and twelve countries (Middle East, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, UK and Singapore), have applied for Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) B.Tech. Admissions 2020.

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) Chancellor, Dr. G. Viswanathan, said that admissions would be only on merit, based on the normalised PCM/PCB marks, JEE/SAT scores obtained by the candidates while declaring the ranks on 5th of August, 2020. These ranks are for admission to the 36 B.Tech. and B.Des. Programmes offered by



VIT at its Vellore, Chennai, AP and Bhopal campuses. The top ten rank holders are: 1st Rank: Chagari Koushal Kumar Reddy (Sri Chaitanya Junior Kalasala, Telangana); 2nd Rank: Goutham Jyothilal (Kurikose Elias English Medium School, Kerala); 3rd Rank: Rishit Tyagi (Primus Pub-

lic School, Karnataka); 4th Rank: Sai Viswanath Chowdary Devalla (Sasi New Gen College, Andhra Pradesh); 5th Rank: Rahul George (Bishop Cotton Boys School, Karnataka); 6th Rank: Thrinesh Reddy D (Narayana Junior College, Telangana); 7th Rank: Neeraj Gunda (Sri Chaitanya Junior College, Telangana); 8th Rank: Ankit Guha (Prafulla Nagar Vidyamandir, West Bengal); 9th Rank: Udit Mimani (Shri Bhartiya Adrash Vidhya Peeth SSS, Rajasthan) 10th Rank: Sourit Saha (Nabadwip Bakultala High School, West Bengal).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my client Smt. Archana Jain W/o. Shri Sudhir Jain R.O. 9/791, Shyam block Kailash Nagar, Delhi has debarred & disowned their son Shri Rajneesh Jain S/O. Shri Sudhir Jain along with his wife Smt. Nikita Jain (Daughter-in-law) W/O. Shri Rajneesh Jain D/O. Late Shri Gokul Kashyap At: Moradabad and their minor son etc., from their movable and immovable properties and other benefits etc. due to their disrespectful behaviour & disobedience towards my client and their family member and out of their control. My client has also severed all their relations with the above stated son & daughter-in-law in any manner whatsoever. If anybody deal with them, will do so at their own risk, cost & consequence. My client along with family members / relatives etc. as mentioned above shall not be held responsible or liable with regard to the above stated son & daughter-in-law for any acts & omissions, fraud, cheating etc. in any manner whatsoever
Kamal Khurana
Advocate
Dated : 05-08-2020 09891508216

Ayodhya, Amaravati, holy water and mud

August 5 is certainly a historic day as the long-cherished dream of the majority of people of India who wanted to see a grand temple of Lord Rama at Ayodhya would soon become a reality. Of course, this issue had been mired in several controversies for the past three decades and witnessed a long-drawn battle. It was also the main agenda on which the BJP fought several elections and is likely to be used by the BJP during the next elections as well.

The positive sign in this matter is that the minorities who fought legal battle finally decided to accept the decision of the apex court. A Muslim leader of Fizaabad, who was one of the main contestants against the construction of temple on the land where Babri Masjid was demolished showed magnanimity by accepting the invitation for the foundation stone ceremony and said that perhaps Lord Rama himself wanted him to participate in it. This indicates the unity in diversity and the bonding between the people of the country.

There has also been an unnecessary controversy that the Prime Minister should not go for laying foundation stone. No one questions if a Prime Minister or a Chief Minister participates in Christmas celebrations or attends Iftar parties or even host Iftar parties. That is called secularism. But if he goes to lay foundation stone for a Hindu temple, he becomes communal. This is rather unfortunate. Why can't political parties and leaders feel that this could usher in a new chapter and ensure greater bonding between the Hindus and Muslims and become another step towards territorial integrity of nation. It is not Modi as individual who has gone to lay the foundation stone, but it is the Prime Minister of India. The objections raised by politicians against Modi's foundation stone is nothing but pseudo secularism. As part of Hindu tradition, water and earth was collected from the "thousands of holy rivers and shrines" across the country. The earth and water came from Nagpur, the birthplace of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS); from Kashi, the birthplace of Sant Ravidasji; the Maharshi Valmiki Ashram at Sitamarhi, Bihar; Kachargad in Gondia District in Vidarbha (Maharashtra); Ramrekhadham of Jharkhand; Tantiya Bheel's holy land in Madhya Pradesh; Shri Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) of Amritsar; Mhow, the birthplace of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar; the Jain Lal Mandir in Delhi and the Valmiki Temple in Delhi, where Mahatma Gandhi lived for 72 days. There is also a controversy over the Muhuratam for laying foundation stone. It is said that on Wednesday there is no Abhijit

Lagnam. While it is certainly a matter for celebration, one also needs to ponder over the rituals like carrying holy water and mud. Is it just a matter of ritual or does it have any sanctity? Does it purify the land where it is sprinkled? This question arises because similar exercise was made regarding Amravati as well. Soil and water from 16,000 villages in the State and prominent pilgrim centres in the country were brought to the capital region to be used in the construction of the capital city. The idea is to promote a sense of belongingness among the people, it was claimed. It was the same Narendra Modi who laid the foundation stone for the new capital of Andhra Pradesh at Uddandarayunipalem village in Guntur district. Modi said this symbolism had the message that Delhi would be working with AP at every step to make sure the growth of the capital and State takes place properly. Amaravati will be a benchmark for the development of new cities. Andhra Pradesh is taking up a new initiative on Vijaya Dasami of building a new capital at the place where in history it commanded respect for its culture. Though Modi said Amaravati was truly people's capital, the issue has now landed into legal controversies and the fate of about 30,000 farmers is hanging in balance. The only difference between Ayodhya and Amaravati is that the legal complications regarding Ayodhya are over while Amaravati farmers are still fighting for their rights.

Next year, the United Nations will host the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), one of the most successful international security agreements. It contains the only treaty-based commitments undertaken by the five largest nuclear-armed countries to pursue the elimination of nuclear weapons and imposes verifiable obligations not to acquire or develop nuclear weapons. Its near universal membership means the vast majority of the international community is bound by these commitments. The NPT Review Conference is an opportunity to stem the erosion of the international nuclear order. Fortunately, most United Nations Member States remain committed to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOMBINGS OF HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI



TIME TO END THE NUCLEAR MENACE

ANTÓNIO GUTERRRES

This month marks the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, when humanity learned of the devastation a single nuclear bomb can unleash. The lingering suffering caused to the survivors, the hibakusha, should give us daily motivation to eliminate all nuclear arms. They have shared their stories so the horror experienced by Hiroshima and Nagasaki will never be forgotten. Yet the nuclear threat is growing once more.

A web of agreements and instruments has been constructed to prevent the use of these uniquely destructive weapons and ultimately to eliminate them. But that framework has idled for decades and is starting to erode. The potential that nuclear weapons will be used – intentionally, accidentally or as a result of miscalculation – is dangerously high.

Fuelled by mounting international tensions and the dissolution of trust, relations between countries that possess nuclear weapons are devolving into dangerous and destabilising confrontations. As governments lean heavily on nuclear weapons for security, politicians are trading heated rhetoric about their possible use and devoting vast sums of money to improving their lethality, money that would be much better spent on peaceful, sustainable development.

For decades, nuclear testing led to horrific human and environmental consequences. This relic of a former age should be confined there forever. Only a legally-binding, verifiable prohibition on all nuclear testing can achieve this.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has proven its worth, yet some States have still to sign or ratify the treaty, preventing it from fulfilling its full potential as an essential element in the framework to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Along with climate change, nuclear weapons represent an existential threat to our societies. Most of the roughly 13,000 nuclear arms currently in global arsenals are vastly more destructive than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Any use would precipitate a humanitarian disaster of unimaginable proportions.

It is time to return to the shared understanding that a nuclear war cannot be won and must not be fought, to the collective agreement that we should work towards a world free of nuclear weapons, and to the spirit of cooperation that enabled historic progress towards their elimination.

The United States and the Russian Federation, as the possessors of some 90 per cent of nuclear weapons, are expected to lead the way. The "New START" treaty retains verifiable caps. Its extension for five years would buy time to negotiate new agreements, including by potentially bringing in other countries possessing nuclear weapons.

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Fortunately, most United Nations Member States remain committed to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. This is reflected in the 122 countries that supported the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. They understand that the consequences of any use of nuclear arms would be catastrophic. We cannot risk another Hiroshima or Nagasaki or worse. As we reflect on the suffering of the hibakusha, let us view this tragedy as a rallying cry for humanity and recommit to a world free of nuclear weapons. (The writer is Secretary-General, United Nations Organisation)

PART-II

Budding bureaucrat's dates with disasters

TALKING OF MANY THINGS



Dr Mohan Kanda

That was when the Governor thought of establishing an organisation in the Raj Bhavan, not merely for the post-cyclone activities currently on, but also generally to take up rural development activities. The idea was that the autonomous body would also be able to leverage institutional finance. Dr B Venkatappaiah, the legendary civil servant who had played a historical role in the process of revamping and resurrecting the rural credit sector in India, suggested the name 'Chetana' for the proposed organisation. One of the significant activities with which nascent 'Chetana' started its life was the organisation of a workshop in rural development attended by such distinguished luminaries as Dr Y Nayudamma and Dr V Kurien. I was given the privilege and honour of editing the proceedings thereof in a book named 'The Tintured Canvas' (the name was actually suggested by Dr Nayudamma), which was very graciously published by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

The organisation soon started to function actively and took up important relief and rehabilitation activities especially in Guntur district. Substantial assistance had also been received from the Tata Relief Committee (TRC) of which Mrs Moolgaonkar was the Chairman. I accompanied her and her team on a visit to the affected areas of Guntur district. Mrs Moolgaonkar, initially, was in a bit of a hurry to firm up the plan of action. Upon finding that her plan would have meant large investments on a small number of activities, and even that very capital intensive, I made a bold suggestion to her that the assistance provided by the TRC should be used to leverage institutional finance. She was receptive to the idea and a project was drawn up for supplying mechanised boats at the rate of five families for each unit to help the affected fishermen rehabilitate themselves and find remunerative livelihoods. Necessary supporting infrastructure such as purchase arrangements by the Andhra Pradesh Fisheries Corporation (APFC), refrigerated transport and marketing, once again by the APFC, were also worked out. It was a very sensible and well thought out arrangement, although, over time, the whole scheme was unfortunately diverted by the Sarpanch of the village to his personal benefit. I came to know of that because I grew suspicious of the regular reports received from the district and the banks that repayments were regular and prompt. That should not normally have been the case when poor fishermen were involved, and the activity was seasonal and risky. Further investigations revealed that the Sarpanch had actually taken on the management of all the boats in the village using the fishermen, in effect, as workers! Given the arrangements we had already put in place and the economy of scale his ingenious plan offered, no wonder everything was working out well!

After a two-year stint in Raj Bhavan, I was posted as Collector of Krishna district where, again, through an organisation, I had started there (known as 'Anveshana'), and I continued my association with 'Chetana'.

It was nearly ten years later that I resumed my contact with the field of disaster management (except for the occasions when I was asked to accompany Central teams sent to the State in the wake of disasters). I was the Secretary, Agriculture and Corporation, in 1989, when a severe drought occurred in the State. By then, all arrangements had already been put in place for me to go for a very attractive scholarship in Harvard University. When I met Jayabharat Reddy, Chief Secretary at that time, to take leave of him on the eve of my departure, the discussion



It was a common practice in the Ministry of Agriculture to ask a Joint Secretary to lead an inter-ministerial Central team to assess damages and to recommend assistance whenever a natural calamity occurred in a State and that State (or Union Territory) requested for Central assistance. Following a cloudburst that had caused extensive damage in Kinnair district of Himachal Pradesh, I was asked to lead such a team. Upon reaching the village, one found that the whole habitation had been razed to the ground. A sudden, intense and short-lived cloudburst at the top of a nearby hill had caused the formation of a massive body which hurled down and hit the village. Houses, offices and even the electric substation had all been completely flattened or washed away. And there were practically no survivors. It was a heartrending scene. But one had one's duty to do. After the visit was over, we went back to the guest house as a team, sat down, finished the report and recommended a generous quantum of assistance to be given by the government of India

turned to the conditions in the State. When the Chief Secretary asked whether I was quite comfortable with the idea of going away in the prevailing situation, I promptly changed my mind, cancelled the programme, and started in the right earnest to get busy with the drought relief activities.

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Senior colleague Valliappan was the Collector of Chittoor and

the district was experiencing severe drought conditions. The then Chief Minister, P V Narasimha Rao had come on a visit. And, by the time the Chief Minister could undertake the inspection of the affected areas, pouring rain greeted him! A typical example of how delayed VIP visits turn infructuous, if not almost farcical!

The rain, in itself, was not unwelcome as the monsoon season had begun by then. In a manner of speaking, Narasimha Rao was like a modern day 'Bhagiratha' of Hindu mythology, who had brought the river Ganges down to earth!

(Concluded)

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

Temple in Ayodhya, a colossal waste of money

The government of India has determined to invest crores of rupees for the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, which is welcomed by the Hindu fanatics. It shows that the Central government is favourable towards the Hindus. One may doubt whether it will come forward to construct churches, masjids, etc. I strongly feel that instead of wasting public money on traditional activities, the Central government should establish some industries where a number of people can be employed. It is unwise on our part to make money using religion which resulted in many casualties over the controversy of Babri Masjid and Ram Janmabhoomi. The valuable time of the honourable courts was squandered to give the final verdict. The exchequer of the government will become empty if holy shrines of all religions are being erected here and there besides offering freebies to win the vote bank. I pray to the government that the constitutional matters should be scrupulously followed without giving special importance to one particular religion. Let free education and free health facilities be provided to the poorer sections of society so that poverty can be driven out of our country. The policies of the government should be productive to fulfil the constitutional values.

Tulluri Venkateswarlu, Chirala, Prakasam dt, AP

II

The 'Bhumi Pujan' of Ayodhya was held on Wednesday with full glory, and officials have taken stringent measures

LETTERS

to prevent the spread of Covid-19 among attendees. The ceremony was presided over by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other officials participated in limited number. The Chief Ministers of all States were also invited to this grandeur. It all happened because of the Modi governance and by the trust of Indians on Modi's decisions. The construction of Lord Rama temple in Ayodhya is a great honour for every Hindu who tirelessly fighting on the issue of Babri Masjid case nearly for the past two centuries. Many governments were involved in the dispute, but they had not resolved the issue. When the Modi government came into power, it has taken historical decisions like abrogation of Article 370, the National Education Policy 2020 etc. Modi is a people's leader and is transparent in discharging his duties. He is always ready to do anything for the nation. India has good alliances with other nations because of his foreign visits. Many big countries like USA, France, Japan and Russia came forward to help us when we were facing bad times. We also have strong military relationships with other countries. He also urged us to strive hard for the welfare of our nation. I personally believe in Modi that he will always make our India proud by his decisions in the future.

Subbaiah Vankaraju, Lakshimpalem, Kadapa

III

Got goosebumps after seeing the Bhoomi Pujan of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya. Lord Ram treated everyone with

V

Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed Bhoomi Pujan for the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya on the

banks of the River Sarayu - which he described as the fulfilment of an inter-generational dream - blurring the distinction between a Hindu nationalist acting as the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister acting as a Hindu nationalist. The messaging at Ayodhya was that it was a political victory for the Hindu right. But actually, it was a Pyrrhic victory. The Bhoomi Pujan passed off as a purely Hindu religious event and not as a cross-religious or cross-cultural event to hail it as a herald of civilizational renewal. Hindu revivalists are insistent on creating a false equivalence between Hindu nationalism and Indian nationalism. It is a pointless exercise because India is disparate in its races and religions, heterogeneous and culturally composite and its defining characteristic is "unity in diversity". One monolithic ideology or culture cannot subsume other ideologies or cultures. India is a secular democracy for any party or leader to make use of superiority in numbers to bring religion into statecraft or lend the polity a religious hue. Ours is a deeply religious country in which religion and culture are inextricably intertwined. But it cannot sanction or justify the encroachment of religion into politics or the tapping of religious identity for political ends. Those who exult at the construction of an imposing and magnificent three-storey temple in full architectural grandeur at Ayodhya should ask themselves if they are not morally obliged to spare a thought to the deep hurt caused to Indian Muslims and heal it. That the temple will transform Ayodhya into a popular tourist destination and boost the economy is only a footnote. Most importantly, India should stay secular, pluralist and humanistic.

G David Milton, Maruthancode, TN

thehansreader@gmail.com

CI kicks, abuses Dalit youth, suspended

- DGP Gautam Sawang orders action on Kasibugga CI Venugopala Rao after the video footage of the incidents goes viral on social media
- A criminal case has been registered against the CI

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Srikakulam: Kasibugga circle inspector (CI) P Venugopal Rao was suspended and later booked for abusing, insulting and beating a Dalit youth. The government acted after a video clip of the incident went viral on social media.

According to information, two youth, T Ramesh and P Jagan, had a quarrel at Tekkalipatnam village in Palasa mandal on Tuesday and both of them lodged complaints against each other with Kasibugga police.

After receiving complaint, police called the two as part of investigation. CI Venugopala Rao started abusing and kicking Jagan, a Dalit, in front of the police station which was shot on a mobile phone.

As the video clip began circulating, Ambedkar India Mission (AIM) Srikakulam district in-charge and digital media monitoring committee state member B S S Prasad Kumar alias Taekwondo Srinu brought the issue to notice of DGP D Gautam Sawang.

Expressing serious concern over the issue, the DGP directed the Visakhapatnam range DIG, L K V



A grab of video in which Kasibugga CI seen kicking a Dalit at Tekkalipatnam police station

Ranga Rao, to suspend the CI and the DIG issued orders on Wednesday.

Deputy Chief Minister (Revenue) Dharmana Krishna Das, who hails from the district, condemned the inspector's highhanded behaviour and said the government was committed to the protection of Dalits.

He said the Visakhapatnam Range Deputy Inspector General of Police has been asked to conduct an inquiry and submit a report.

Prasad Kumar and Human Rights Forum (HRF) AP state vice-president K V Jagannadha Rao demanded registration of criminal case against the CI under the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. They also demanded that the police higher-ups to mention the reason for suspension of the CI correctly in the orders as he had insulted and abused a Dalit misusing his power.

This was the third such incident in the last two weeks where some police personnel were found behaving

allegedly in a highhanded manner and in all these cases Dalit men were at the receiving end. The first incident happened in Rajamahendravaram, where a Dalit man had his head tonsured and was beaten up allegedly by police and the second at Chirala where a Dalit man died after local police allegedly beat him up.

As former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu tweeted the Srikakulam video clip and alleged that the ruling YSRCP Congress men were behind the incident, the DGP responded saying "there is no involvement of any political party as alleged."

Meanwhile, a criminal case has been registered against Venugopal Rao under various sections of IPC and SC, ST Act.

SP Amith Bardhar also confirmed the registratin of criminal case. "The victim is a Dalit and we have registered a case against the CI at Kasibugga police station," the SP said late on Wednesday.

SEB to check sanitiser units, medical shops

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) teams, police and drug department carried out raids on sanitisers manufacturing units and inspected medical shops and others selling sanitisers and verified the invoices, bills on Tuesday. The raids come in the wake of deaths of some persons after consuming sanitisers in Prakasam and other districts.

Director general of police (DGP) D Gautam Sawang directed the SEB to conduct raids and told medical shops not to sell the sanitisers to alcohol addicts, beggars, destitutes and other vulnerable sections.

Under the supervision of the commissioner of SEB, Vinit Briljal, the officials conducted raids across the state. In Vijayawada, the SEB officials and the police inspected the sanitiser manufacturing units under the limits of Gannavaram, Ibrahimpatnam, Patamata, Machavaram police stations and verified the stocks, bills, invoices, etc.,

The SEB teams also verified stocks in the sanitiser manufacturing units in Nandigama and enquired about the sales. Nandigama DSP Ramana Murthy, excise and drug inspectors participated in the inspection. The officials have warned the medical shop owners and sanitiser producers not to sell the sanitiser to drug and liquor addicts.

The SEB is making efforts to create awareness on the ill-effects of consuming sanitiser and cheap liquor.

20.22 acre Swaraj Maidan land allotted for Ambedkar Memorial

- The historical grounds in the centre of Vijayawada will disappear, with no open space

- Now only 10.33 acre of the total allotted land is available

- Collector orders officials to clear buildings in the remaining land, including irrigation offices, judicial staff quarters and Exhibition Society polytechnic to be demolished and the land handed over to Social Welfare Dept



A view of Swaraj Maidan in Vijayawada

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: The Krishna district administration earmarked 20.22 acre land belonging to Public Works Department to the proposed Ambedkar Memorial in the heart of the city here. District collector Mohmmad Imtiaz instructed the irrigation department on Wednesday to hand over the land, which was originally called PWD Grounds and renamed as Swaraj Maidan in the later years, to the social welfare department. In all likelihood, the foundation stone for the Ambedkar Memorial would be laid by the end of August.

Addressing a review meeting on the memorial project at the camp office here on Wednesday, the collector said that the state government would install 125-foot Ambedkar statue, memorial

building, study centre and an open theatre in the Swaraj Maidan. At present, only 10.33 acre land is vacant out of the total of 20.22 acres of land where 32 buildings are situated, including the irrigation offices, women's polytechnic college and Rythu Bazaar. All these buildings would be razed so that land could be handed over to the social welfare department.

The collector instructed the marketing department officials to shift the Rythu Bazaar which is situated in 2.16 acre to a suitable place elsewhere. The Krishnaveni Exhibition Society Women's Polytechnic which is situated in 0.25 acre has taken the land on lease and the lease period expired two years back. He said that the management of the polytechnic needs to make alternative arrangements.

The collector assured that the

students of the women's polytechnic would be admitted to other polytechnic colleges in order not to lose an academic year.

He also instructed the officials to look for alternative arrangements for the quarters of the judicial officers, which is situated in 0.21 acre. The officials should also make alternative arrangements for the offices of Indian Waterways office, Raj Bhavan staff quarters, State Information Centre and others.

Joint collector Dr Madhavi Latha, municipal commissioner V Prasanna Venkatesh, joint collector (welfare) K Mohan Kumar, sub-collector H M Dhayanchandra, DRO A Prasad, irrigation SE K Narasimha Murthy, social welfare D D Saraswati, irrigation EE Swaroop, marketing deputy director M Divakar Rao and others were present.

RISE OF RAM'S INDIA

Continued from P1

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust head Nritya Gopal Das were on the dais along with the PM, consecrating the very first bricks that will go into building the temple, possibly over the next three years.

Sending out the message that "Ram is everywhere, Ram belongs to all", Modi said the temple symbolises India's rich heritage and will be an inspiration to all of humanity.

Despite efforts to eradicate Lord Ram's existence, he lives in our hearts and is the basis of our culture, Modi said. Citing Lord Ram's message, Modi said the more powerful India gets, the more it will be loved and remain peaceful.

"Social harmony was the core principle of Lord Ram's governance," the prime minister said. The construction of the Ram temple is an instrument to unite the country, he said, adding that it will lift the economy of the entire region.

"We have to join stones for the construction of Ram temple with mutual love, brotherhood," he said, asserting that everyone's sentiments have to be taken care of. The groundbreaking in Ayodhya was marked by smaller events elsewhere -- from the blowing of a conch at a jewelry shop beyond the barricades in Ayodhya itself to more elaborate rituals in Delhi's Chattarpur temple complex.

Devotees started arriving there around 6 am, just after the morning puja ended, temple's administrator Kishor Chawla said. "A puja has been going on non-stop for three days. The 'Ram darbar' has been decorated. A replica of the 'shila' (foundation stone) has been prepared and it will be sent to Ayodhya along with other material," he said.

President Ram Nath Kovind said the foundation-laying ceremony defines India's spirit of harmony. "Being built in tune with law, it defines India's spirit of social harmony and people's zeal. It will be a testimony to ideals of Ram Rajya and a symbol of modern India," he tweeted.

AMARAVATI

Jagan running away from challenge, says Naidu

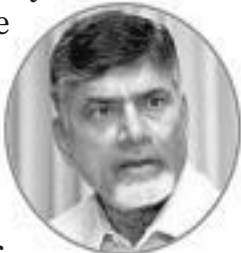
- Says he is ready to sacrifice his membership of Assembly if CM assures to keep capital in Amaravati

- Wants the Centre to come to the rescue of farmers as the situation is similar to Power Purchase Agreements where govt acted 'unilaterally by annulling them

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu said that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy ran away from the challenge threw by the opposition party on the dissolution of the Assembly and going for fresh mandate on trifurcation of capital.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, after the passing of his 48 hours deadline for Jagan to dissolve Assembly and going for fresh verdict from people, Naidu said that he was ready to sacrifice his MLA position if Jagan assures that he would continue Amaravati



as capital, reacting to the comments of YSRCP leaders.

Naidu demanded Jagan to explain whether he assured that Amaravati would be capital or not. "He promised the farmers and people that the YSRCP will not shift the capital from Amaravati, but now he went back on his word," he said. He screened clips of Jagan and YSRCP leaders assuring continuation of Amaravati as capital.

The TDP chief said that even in the case of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) too Jagan had reneged on the agreements drawing criticism from investors, the Union government and courts. In the case of Amaravati, he was reneging on the agreements entered into with the farmers by the government.

Hence, he called upon the Centre to come to the rescue of farmers. He urged the YSRCP leaders also to come forward and question the Chief Minister along with the farmers and opposition parties for the sake of future generations of the state.

JC Prabhakar Reddy, son get bail



HANS NEWS SERVICE

Anantapur: Former MLA J C Prabhakar Reddy and his son Ashmith Reddy, facing charges relating to creation of fake transport documents and lodged in Kadapa central jail, were granted bail on Wednesday evening, according to I Town police.

District SC,ST court granted bail to the accused here in the evening. Both of them are likely to be released from the Kadapa jail on Thursday.

It may be recalled that the district police had arrested Prabhakar Reddy and Ashmith Reddy on charges of forging insurance documents on June 13 in Hyderabad and later shifted to Kadapa jail. A case was registered against the duo for allegedly registering BS-3 vehicles as BS-4 category vehicles illegally. The JC Brothers had been maintaining that their arrest was a political witch hunt being carried out by the YSRCP government against its political rivals.

EMOTIONAL HANUMAN



A picture of Lord Rama embracing an emotional Hanuman, drawn by veteran Tollywood comedian Brahmanandam, marking Bhumi Puja in Ayodhya for Ram Mandir, created quite a buzz on social media on Tuesday

WHO SAID WHAT

Continued from P1

Cong leader Rahul Gandhi

Ram is love, he can never appear in hatred. Ram is compassion, he can never appear in cruelty. Ram is justice, he can never appear in injustice

Home Minister Amit Shah

A historic and proud day for India. By starting the construction of the grand Ram temple, PM Modi has written a golden chapter in the history of the great Indian civilization.

BJP president JP Nadda

On this historical, auspicious occasion, I thank PM Modi who fulfilled the wishes of the public and our oath of constructing the Ram Janmabhoomi temple by bhoomi puja.

West Bengal CM

Mamata Banerjee

Hindu Muslim Sikh Isaa, Aapas mein hain Bhai Bhai! Mera Bharat Mahaan, Mahaan Hamara Hindustan. Our country has always upheld the age-old legacy of unity in diversity, and we must preserve this to our last breath.

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal

May we continue to receive Lord Ram's blessings. May his blessings also help the country get rid of poverty, starvation and poverty and India emerges as the world's most powerful country and guide the world in the coming times. Jai Shri Ram. Jai Barjng Bali.

TTD brings Kalyanotsavam online

- From Aug 7, devotees can buy tickets for Arjita Seva tickets to participate online
- The tickets can be bought on www.tirupatibalaji.ap.gov.in by paying Rs 1,000
- They will get Srivari Prasadam through India Post

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirumala: In a first-of-its-kind, TTD has decided to take Nitya Kalyanotsavam of Lord Venkateswara onto virtual platform from August 7, Friday, in view of Covid-19 restrictions.

Following the success of Sri Varalakshmi Vratam of Goddess Padmavathi, Tiruchanur, online and on a virtual platform, the TTD is introducing the Arjita Seva too online.

TTD is releasing the online tickets for the period August 7-31 for Srivari Kalyanotsavam from 11 am of August 6, Thursday, and devotees can buy them by clicking on the TTD website

No right to life for Dalits in Jagan rule: APCC

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: Demanding immediate convening of the SC,ST Vigilance Committee headed by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy in the wake of increased attacks on Dalits, tribals and other weaker sections in the state, the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee exhorted the Dalit intellectuals, and democratic-minded people

to raise their voice against the atrocities by the ruling dispensation in the state with the active connivance of the BJP at the Centre.

APCC president S Sailajanath said in a statement here on Wednesday that it appears that the Dalits and Adivasis had no right to live under the rule of Jagan Mohan Reddy. He said that not a day passes without atrocities committed

against the oppressed sections of people with the latest instance wherein a police officer kicked a Dalit at the Tekkali police station for complaining against the ruling party leaders.

Moreover, the youth who filmed the incident on their mobiles were also tortured by the police. He demanded immediate arrest of the accused police officer in the Tekkali police station incident.

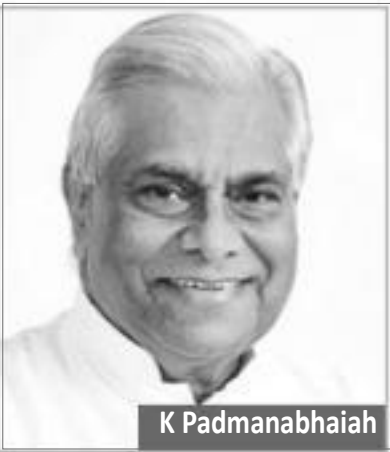
Padmanabhaiah, Nageswara Rao in GITAM governing body

While Padmanabhaiah, Chairman of Administrative Staff College of India, served Indian bureaucracy in various positions, Dr Nageswara Rao is a renowned ophthalmologist and the founder of LV Prasad Eye Institute

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam: Two eminent personalities, chairman, Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad, K Padmanabhaiah and founder of LV Prasad Eye Institute, Dr Gullapalli Nageswara Rao, joined as members in GITAM's (GITAM Institute of Technology and Management) governing body here on Wednesday.

While former Home Secretary of India Padmanabhaiah served the bureaucracy, Nageswara Rao contributed to the healthcare.



K Padmanabhaiah



G Nageswara Rao

GITAM president Sribharath extended a warm welcome to the new members here at the governing body meeting, and said it was an honour to have them on board. He added that each of them has decades of leadership in their respective fields and that they were well-aligned to the institution's goal of changing the world for better through education and add value to the academic standards of the institution.

The meeting was attended by all the governing body members including the institution's vice-president M Gangadhara Rao, secretary B V Mohana Rao, joint secretary M Bharadwaj and treasurer B S S N Raju.

Padmanabhaiah, a 1962 batch IAS officer, served the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of India in various

capacities in crucial sectors such as internal security, energy, aviation, urban development and agriculture. He was the Central government's key interlocutor for peace talks with the Naga militants for over a decade. He also chaired the committee set up by the Central government tasked with suggesting structural changes in the Indian Police system. In 2008, he was conferred with Padma Bhushan. Currently, he is serving as the chairman of Administrative Staff College of India at Hyderabad.

G Nageswara Rao is an ophthalmologist. He returned to India from the USA in 1987 to set-up the not-for-profit LV Prasad Eye Care Institute (LVPEI) in Hyderabad which introduced quality eye care to Andhra Pradesh and India. Since then, LVPEI, which works towards preventing avoidable blindness, has made a difference to over 1.5 crore people.

He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2002 and inducted to the Ophthalmology Hall of Fame in 2017.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Indian economy might recover faster

“Indian economy may recover relatively faster from Covid-induced downturn, as it did from the global financial crisis. The Indian economy is quite resilient and long-term economic prospects are promising which augur well for the automobile business.

– Maruti Suzuki CEO **Kenichi Ayukawa**



STARTUPS

FB unveils 2 'Accelerator' programmes

To help nurture the startup ecosystem, Facebook has launched two new Accelerator programmes that will focus on product themes and exploration of collaborative partnerships. Called 'Facebook Accelerator: Connectivity' and 'Facebook Accelerator: Commerce', the 12-week programmes will take on a new format and will be completely virtual

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	79.44	South	
Euro	93.2	African Rand	5
UAE Dirham	22.44	Hong Kong Dollar	11.12
Thai Baht	2.78	Japanese Yen	0.81
British Pound	102.3	New Zealand Dollar	52.32
Australian Dollar	56.75	Saudi Riyal	21.98
Canadian Dollar	59.32	Swedish Krona	9.92
Swiss Franc	85.69	Singapore Dollar	57.45

DELHI THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Uber starts hiring again

Hyderabad: After a wave of lay-offs due to Covid-19 disruptions, ride-hailing major Uber on Wednesday said it is recruiting 140 more engineers for its tech teams in Bengaluru and Hyderabad. The engineers will build products in areas such as rider and driver growth, delivery, marketplace, customer service, digital payments, risk and compliance, safety, and finance technology, Uber said. The announcement came after Uber recently hired Jayaram Valliyur as senior director to lead its global finance technology team, spread across multiple geographies. Prior to Uber, Valliyur worked for Amazon for 14 years, where he was responsible for scaling its India development centre. "We're leveraging India's outstanding product and engineering talent to fuel our next wave of products and services," Jayaram said on Uber's tech hiring drive.

NAM India's new fund

Hyderabad: Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India) (formerly known as Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management Limited), Asset Manager of Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF), announces the launch of the Nippon India Multi-Asset Fund (NIMAF). It is an open-ended scheme looking at providing one stop solution which may help to reap the benefit of growth of equity, stability of debt and diversification from commodities. The primary investment objective of the new fund is to seek long term capital growth by investing in equity and equity related securities, debt & money market instruments and exchange traded commodity derivatives and gold ETF. Saugata Chatterjee, co-chief business officer, NAM India, said, "Asset allocation is the key to long term wealth creation. Over the last decade, we have seen divergent returns among asset classes".

IDP to host virtual fair

Hyderabad: To address the various challenges faced by the students and their families due to Covid, IDP Education, an international education services provider, will be hosting a virtual education fair. Spread over eight weeks, this education fair will begin from August 10, 2020 and will continue till October 10, 2020. Over 150 institutions from Australia, UK, US, Canada, New Zealand, and Ireland will participate in the fair to interact with Indian students and help them with their overseas education plan. The organisers will students connect with their preferred institutions over a 1-on-1 video call from the comfort of their homes. Piyush Kumar, Regional Director (South Asia), IDP Education, said, "IDP recognizes that going for higher education abroad entails a high expense, so it is important to take the correct decision the first time itself".

Suzuki sells 34,412 units

Hyderabad: Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd (SMIPL), the two-wheeler subsidiary of Suzuki Motor Corporation, Japan witnessed a revival of demand in the second full month since resuming its manufacturing in May 2020. SMIPL recorded nearly 37 per cent jump in July 2020 sales as compared to the previous month in the same year. The company sold 31,421 units in domestic market and exported 2991 units in July 2020 amid the Covid-19 outbreak. Koichiro Hirao, Managing Director, Suzuki Motorcycle India, said, "With the unlock phase, the automobile industry is now marching towards normalcy in terms of production, distribution and sales while continuing to adhere to all the precautionary measures".

RIL 2nd biggest brand globally after Apple

New Delhi: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries has been ranked the second biggest brand after Apple on the FutureBrand Index 2020.

"This year's highest entrant at number two, Reliance Industries excels on every attribute," FutureBrand said, releasing its 2020 Index.

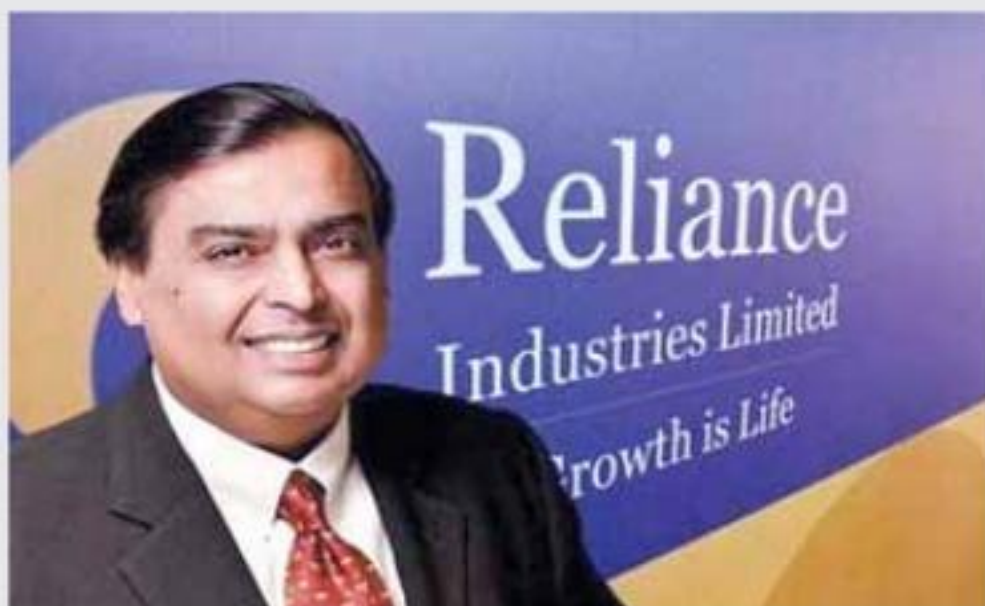
One of the most profitable companies in India, Reliance is, 'very well respected' and 'seen as behaving ethically' as well as being associated with growth, innovative products and great customer service, it said. "In particular, people have a strong emotional connection with the organisation."

FutureBrand, which is a global brand transformation company, said part of Reliance's success could be attributed to Mukesh

Reliance's success could be attributed to Mukesh Ambani's recasting of the firm as a one-stop-shop for Indians - says FutureBrand

Ambani's recasting of the firm as a one-stop-shop for Indians.

"The chairman built on the existing petrochemicals business, transforming it into a digital behemoth designed to meet every customer need. Today, this company is engaged in a number of sectors including energy, petrochemicals, textiles, natural resources, retail, and telecommunications. Now that Google and Facebook are taking equity stakes



in the firm, we may see Reliance jostling for the top spot in the next Index," it said.

FutureBrand said six years on from the first FutureBrand Index, the world has changed dramatically, priorities have shifted and the globe's top 100 companies are dealing with challenges unthink-

able even 12 months ago.

"The FutureBrand Index is a global perception study that re-orders PwC's Global Top 100 Companies by Market Cap on perception strength rather than financial strength," it said. "While the FutureBrand Index 2020 has uncovered a number

of seismic shifts in the way companies work and how they present themselves to the outside world, one key theme has stood out: individuality."

The 2020 list is topped by Apple, while Samsung is ranked third, followed by Nvidia, Moutai, Nike, Microsoft, ASML, PayPal and Netflix. Reliance ranks 91st on PWC 2020 list, it said.

"A slew of new entrants to our Index include ASML Holdings, PayPal, Danaher, Saudi Aramco, and American Tower Corporation. In total, there are 15 new entrants this year, seven of which make it into the top 20, including Reliance Industries slotting in at number two," it said.

The FutureBrand Index is not based on consumer research. Unlike most other rankings, the Index offers a rigorous assessment of how prominent companies are

doing and are likely to do over the next few years.

"We are living in unprecedented times," it said, adding the world is living through the worst healthcare crisis in a century.

"But out of this will emerge a reimagined world, and it will be up to leading companies and the people who work for them to respond to new demands and new expectations," it said.

The FutureBrand Index 2020 examines the world's leading firms and determine how they have fared over the past year.

"Our unique perspective shines a light on the innovators as well as the brands which have successfully navigated sector-specific rough waters. As we discovered, it can be premature to write off a company in difficulty and risky to extol the virtues of a seemingly unbreakable brand," it added. (PTI)

SERVICE SECTOR STILL IN GLOOM AS COVID BITES

Contracts for 5th successive month in July as corona curbs stifle demand: PMI

- Slowdown forces cos to cease operations
- Business activity, new orders drop again
- Substantial recovery may take many months

New Delhi: India's services sector activity remained in deep slump in July as coronavirus-induced restrictions stifled demand and forced companies to cease operations and further reduce staff numbers, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index stood at 34.2 in July, slightly higher than 33.7 in June. Despite the rise, the Indian services sector activity contracted for the fifth successive month in July. A print above 50 means expansion and a score below that denotes contraction, as per the IHS Markit India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

"With such prolonged and significant downturn, any substantial recovery will take many months, if not years. Latest IHS



Markit estimates point to an annual contraction in GDP of over 6 per cent in the year ending March 2021," said Lewis Cooper, Economist at IHS Markit.

Survey respondents linked falls in both activity and order books to the adverse impact stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic, with frequent mentions of lockdown measures, weak demand conditions and the temporary suspension of company operations.

"The coronavirus pandemic and subsequent introduction of lockdown measures continued to weigh heavily on the Indian service sector in July. Business activity and new orders dropped again, with the rates of decline remaining rapid overall," Cooper stated.

With overall demand conditions severely muted, service providers made further job cuts in July. The rate of job shedding was the fastest on record, with panellists blaming weak client

demand and temporary business closures

"July data, as a whole, provide no real signs that the downturn is slowing down. That's not surprising with lockdown measures still in force, but undoubtedly these will have to be loosened and companies reopen before the sector can move towards stabilisation," Cooper said. Looking ahead, the 12-month outlook for output was negative for a third successive month, with fears of a substantial economic downturn common among survey respondents.

The Composite PMI Output Index, which measures combined services and manufacturing output, fell from 37.8 in June to 37.2 in July, signalling a further rapid contraction in private sector business activity in July.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Tuesday started its three-day brainstorming on the bi-monthly monetary policy meet. The six-member committee will announce its decision on August 6.

Mkts pare early gains to end flat; RIL tumbles

Mumbai: Domestic equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty surrendered early gains to end flat on Wednesday a day ahead of monetary policy decision as profit-booking emerged in market majors Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank.

After rallying 452 points during the day, the BSE Sensex slipped in the red to end 24.58 points or 0.07 per cent lower at 37,663.33. It opened at 37,892.3 points and touched an intra-day high of 38,139.96 and a low of 37,550.60. Similarly, the NSE Nifty inched up 6.40 points or 0.06 per cent to close at 11,101.65.

HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries were among the top laggards, tumbling over 1 per cent, as investors booked profits after their recent bull run. Power Grid, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Nestle India and HCL Tech too ended with losses.

On the other hand, Tata Steel rallied over 6 per cent, followed by Titan, Maruti, Bharti Airtel and M&M.

According to traders, despite



positive cues from global markets and sustained foreign fund inflows, stock-specific action dictated domestic market movement during the day.

According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services: "Indian benchmark indices were volatile in trade before closing flat with a positive bias. Global cues were also positive while gold again jumped to record highs. Positive earnings reports are driving stocks and markets around the world, and the same trend is visible in the Indian markets too."

Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul settled with gains, while Tokyo closed lower. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a positive note in early deals.

Liquidity to MSME rises as bank loans cross ₹1.38 lakh cr

New Delhi: The central government is going all out to ensure that liquidity concerns of the MSME sector are addressed on priority under its Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

As of August 3, 2020 public sector and private banks have sanctioned loans worth over Rs 1.38 lakh crore under the 100 per cent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, of which close to Rs 92,000 crore has already been disbursed.

There has been a big jump in sanctions in the last 18-20 days with sanctions increasing rapidly by about Rs 15,000 crore while disbursement increased even rapidly by close to Rs 25,000 crore.

In a tweet, office of finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said: "As of Aug 3, 2020, the total amount sanctioned under the 100 per cent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme by #PSBs and private banks stands at Rs 1,37,586.54 crore, of which Rs 92,090.24 crore has already been disbursed."

The ECLGS scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the

Centre says there has been a big jump in sanctions in the last 18-20 days



Rs 20-lakh crore Self-Reliant India Mission package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May.

To ensure that the scheme achieve its objective of providing adequate liquidity to the MSME segment during the current difficult period, the finance ministry has regularly held meetings with the banks.

A finance ministry statement said that banks from both public and private sector have con-

New Delhi: Gold prices jumped Rs 1,365 to Rs 56,181 per 10 gram in the national capital on Wednesday following a strong rally in global market.

Silver also depicted a strong trend as it zoomed Rs 5,972 to Rs 72,726 per kg from Rs 66,754 per kg in the previous trade, it said. The precious yellow metal had closed at Rs 54,816 per 10 gram in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi rose by Rs 1,365 with strong rally in international prices," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

In the international market, gold was quoting with gains at \$2,032 per ounce, while silver was trading at \$26.40 per ounce.

"Gold prices scaled new highs on weak dollar and concerns over economic growth amid rising virus cases," Patel said.

Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said, "Investors continue to remain buyers in the safe-haven gold as they expect that the metal will hold its

value better than other assets as fallout from Covid-19 cripples the global economy."

Kishore Narne, Head - Commodity & Currency, Motilal Oswal Financial Serv-



ices said gold and silver have been the best performing assets so far this year with 40 per cent and 50 per cent returns, respectively, and the uptrend is likely to continue.

With central banks pushing 'unprecedented amounts' of liquidity, trade war concerns, geo-political uncertainty, rising Covid-19 infections and threat of a second wave of infections, prices of both precious metals are likely to go higher, Narne added. (PTI)



Rupee up 10 paise to 74.94 against \$

Mumbai: The rupee settled with gains of 10 paise at 74.94 against the US dollar on Wednesday tracking positive domestic equities and weak American currency. At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened strong at 74.93 against the US dollar, then shuffled between an intra-day high of 74.83 and a low of 74.95 against the US dollar. The domestic unit finally closed at 74.94 against the greenback, registering gains of 10 paise over its previous close of 75.04 against the US dollar. Forex traders said positive trend in the equity markets, weak American currency and sustained foreign fund inflows supported the rupee. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.19 per cent to 93.20.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan being discharged from Chirayu Hospital after he recovered from COVID-19, in Bhopal on Thursday

Shivraj discharged from hospital

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was on Wednesday discharged from a Bhopal hospital after recovering from COVID-19, an official said. Doctors have advised Chouhan, who was in the hospital for 11 days, to be under home quarantine and self-monitor his health for a week. Chouhan, 61, who tested COVID-19 positive on July 25, had tweeted on Sunday that he was healthy and not showing any symptoms of the infection, adding he would be discharged if a sample collected for tests during the day returns negative.

Recovered Maha Minister donates plasma

Mumbai: Maharashtra Housing Minister Jitenra Awhad, who recovered from the COVID-19 infection nearly three months ago, on Wednesday, donated his plasma for treatment of other patients. Awhad donated his plasma at a collection centre in Thane city. "I chose this day to make the donation as it is my birthday," he said. NCP's Thane city chief and former MP Anand Paranjpe, who had also recovered from the infection, donated his plasma at the same centre.

Airport staff demand more tests

Bengaluru (IANS): After the detection of coronavirus cases in the cargo section of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) here, employees are asking for more tests as well as a temporary stop to the work. An airport official admitted to corona infections in the cargo section on Wednesday but did not give the numbers. Nearly 10 cases have been reported there so far, including of four Customs officials. Menzies Bobba and Air India SATS buildings at the airport have recorded coronavirus infections, with the employees pointing out that the virus is spreading in these two buildings. As many as 500 employees on an average work out of these two buildings daily, with quite a few staff above the age of 50 and suffering from comorbidities.



Israel's daily deaths hit record high

Jerusalem (IANS): Israel's Ministry of Health reported 15 new coronavirus death cases on Tuesday, bringing the total death cases to 561. This is the highest daily increase of death cases since the outbreak of the pandemic in Israel in late February, as the previous record was 14, registered on Saturday, Xinhua reported. The total number of coronavirus cases has reached 76,198, with 1,768 new cases, the ministry said. The number of patients in serious condition increased from 331 to 341, out of 750 patients currently hospitalised. The number of recoveries rose to 49,834, with 2,263 new recoveries, while the number of active cases dropped to 25,801.

Siddaramaiah's condition stable

Bengaluru: Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is undergoing treatment for coronavirus, is now stable and has no fever, the hospital where he is admitted said on Wednesday. "Presently he has no fever and his vital parameters are stable," Manipal Hospitals said in a statement. The hospital said the 71-year-old leader of the opposition in the state assembly has been given appropriate treatment and is being closely monitored by medical experts. "His symptoms have improved since admission and he is comfortable at present," the hospital added. Siddaramaiah was admitted on Monday night after having fever in the morning, according to his son Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah.



Gyms to resume in TN from Aug 10

Chennai: Gyms in Tamil Nadu are all set to resume services from August 10 after remaining closed for over four months due to Covid-19-induced lockdown. Meanwhile, Novavax Inc said on Tuesday its experimental coronavirus vaccine induced high levels of antibodies against the novel coronavirus, as per initial data from a small, early-stage clinical trial. The company said it could start a large pivotal Phase III trial as soon as late September, and added that it could provide 1 billion to 2 billion doses of the vaccine in 2021.

14 days of home quarantine in Goa

Panaji: Goa government has ordered all passengers arriving in Goa to undergo 14 days of home quarantine or opt for 14 days of paid institutional quarantine. Passengers with Covid-19 negative certificate issued by ICMR-recognized lab, not older than 48 hours prior to the arrival in Goa, will be exempted from home quarantine. Meanwhile, more than 10,000 Maharashtra Police personnel have till now tested positive for coronavirus and 107 of them have died due to the viral infection, an official said on Wednesday. The police personnel who tested positive for the infection included 1,035 officers, he said.



'Increase fine for not wearing a mask'

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat High Court has directed the state government to increase the fine for not wearing a mask in public places to a minimum of Rs 1,000. In its order in a public interest litigation (PIL) about the state government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, a division bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice J B Pardiwala observed that "masks are logically the best defense individuals have against the COVID-19". The order in the suo motu (taken up by the court on its own) PIL was passed on July 24 and became available on Tuesday.



NEET, JEE Mains aspirants want exams in Sept

New Delhi: With the NEET and JEE-Mains examinations rescheduled for September, students seem to be breathing a sigh of relief at finally having a date for the UG engineering and medical entrance tests.

With several delays in the examinations due to the coronavirus pandemic, the exams are now finally scheduled to be held in September.

JEE-Mains exams which were initially meant to be held in April have been postponed to September, as has been the NEET exam which was delayed twice due to rising cases of coronavirus across the country.

As news of the exam dates was announced, many students and parents expressed relief



and said that they did not want further deferment of the exams.

As per a report in The Indian

Express, coaching centers had been informed by students regarding their displeasure with the many delays in the compet-

Novavax vaccine elicits immune response in trial

New York (IANS) A Covid-19 vaccine developed by US-based Novavax elicited robust antibody responses and appeared to be safe in a Phase-I human trial, the company has said.

No serious adverse events were reported and safety follow-up continues, Novavax said on Tuesday, while releasing the results of the study about its Covid-19 vaccine, NVX-CoV2373.

The trial evaluated two doses of the vaccine across two dose levels -- 5 and 25 microgram -- in 131 healthy adults ages 18-59 years.

The trial was supported by funding from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and was conducted at two sites in Australia.

"The Phase I data demonstrate that NVX-CoV2373 with our Matrix-M adjuvant is a well-tolerated COVID-19 vaccine with a robust immunogenicity profile," Gregory Glenn, President, Research and Development at Novavax, said in a statement.

"Using a stringent wild-type virus assay performed by investigators at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, NVX-CoV2373 elicited neutralising antibody titers greater than those observed in a pool of COVID-19 patients with clinically significant disease."

NVX-CoV2373 is a vaccine candidate engineered from the genetic sequence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19



Zyklus Cadila to begin phase-2 clinical trials

New Delhi (IANS): Drug firm Zyklus Cadila on Wednesday announced that its plasmid DNA vaccine to prevent COVID-19 -- ZyCoV-D -- was found to be safe and well tolerated in the phase I clinical trial. The company will now commence phase II clinical trials from August 6.

The company stated that the doses of the vaccine administered to healthy volunteers in the phase I clinical trial, which began on July 15, were well tolerated.

"We now begin the phase II clinical trials and look forward to evaluating the safety and immunogenicity of the vaccine in a larger population," said Pankaj R. Patel, Chairman of Zyklus Cadila.

He also said that all the subjects in the phase I clinical trial were closely monitored in a clinical pharmacological unit for 24 hours post dosing for safety and for seven days thereafter and the vaccine was found to be very safe.

The statement came a day after Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research Balram Bhargava said that the DNA vaccine by Zyklus Cadila has completed phase I trials and embarked on phase II at 11 sites.



disease. It was created using Novavax' recombinant nanoparticle technology to generate antigen derived from the coronavirus spike (S) protein

and contains Novavax' patented saponin-based Matrix-M adjuvant to enhance the immune response and stimulate high levels of neutralizing antibodies.

India's tally crosses 19L-mark

New Delhi (IANS): With 52,509 new coronavirus (Covid-19) cases and 857 deaths in the last 24 hours, India crossed 19 lakh-mark with the total case-load standing at 19,08,254 while the total fatalities increased to 39,795, data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare revealed on Wednesday.

The country had crossed the 18-lakh mark on Monday. Currently, 5,86,244 cases are active and 12,82,215 people have recovered from the disease.

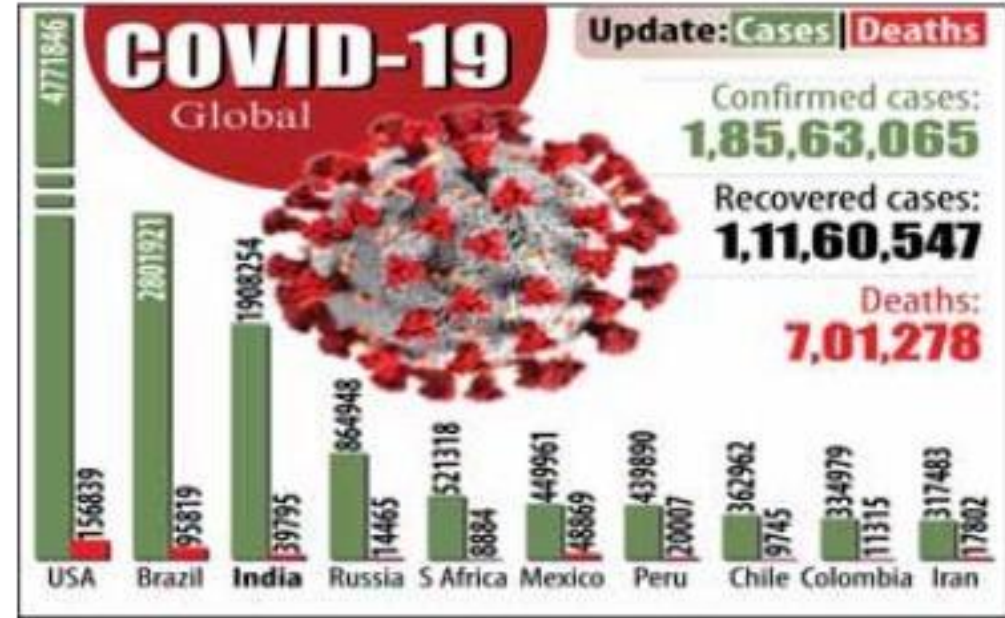
India has one of the lowest Case Fatality Rate (CFR) at 2.08 per cent as compared to the global average.

With a recovery rate of 67.19 per cent, a total of 51,706 people were discharged in the last 24 hours, the Ministry said.

In the last 24 hours, 6,19,652 samples have been tested.

Maharashtra remained the worst-hit state with 4,50,196 cases and 15,842 deaths.

Tamil Nadu comes in second with 2,63,222 cases and 4,241 deaths. Delhi, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh saw a decline in the number of active cases. Mizoram, Tripura and Uttarakhand too witnessed active cases plummeting.



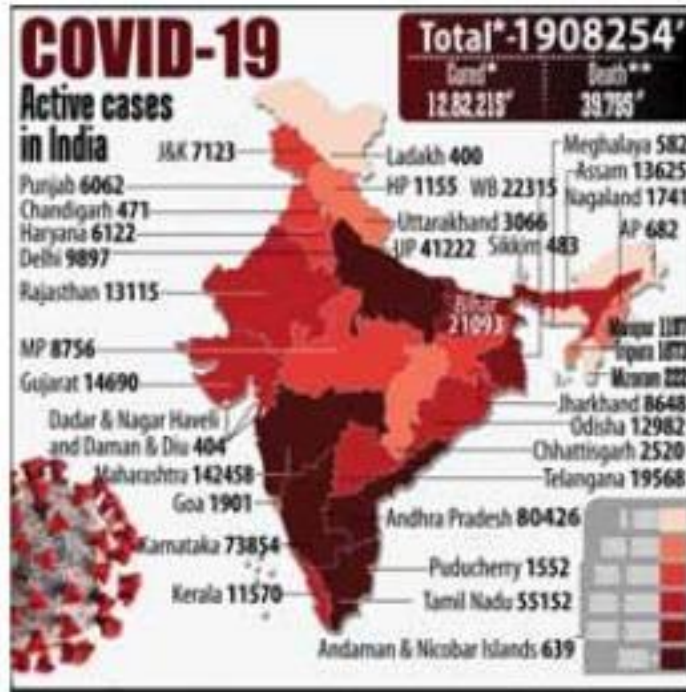
Singer SP Balasubrahmanyam infected

Chennai: Veteran singer-actor SP Balasubrahmanyam on Wednesday said he has been admitted to a hospital after testing positive for coronavirus. The 74-year-old singer, who has worked across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi and Malayalam film industries, shared the news in a video message on Facebook. Balasubrahmanyam said he was feeling chest congestion, cold and "on and off" fever since two-three days, following which he got himself tested for COVID-19. "They said it is a very mild case of coronavirus positive. They said you can stay at home and self quarantine and asked me to take some medications." But I didn't want to do that with all my family members being very concerned for me. So, I got admitted to a hospital, my friends are here and taking good care of me," the veteran singer said.



body should worry. I'm perfectly fine, except for the cold and fever, which has also subsided. In two days, I would be discharged and back home.

Thank you for the concern," he added. Since his singing debut in 1966 with the Telugu film Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna, Balasubrahmanyam has bagged multiple National Awards and recorded over 40,000 songs in 16 Indian languages. The singer went on to become superstar Salman Khan's on-screen voice, crooning popular tracks for him in films like Maine Pyaar Kiya (1989), Saajan (1991) and 1994 blockbuster Hum Aapke Hai Koun....



Global cases top 18.5 mn

Washington (IANS): The overall number of global coronavirus cases has topped 18.5 million mark, while the deaths have increased to over 700,000, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

As of Wednesday morning, the total number of cases stood at 18,540,119 and the fatalities rose to 700,647, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed in its latest update.

The US accounted for the world's highest number of infections and fatalities at 4,771,080 and 156,801, respectively, according to the CSSE.

Brazil came in the second place with 2,801,921 infections and 95,819 deaths.

In terms of cases, India ranks third (1,908,254), and is followed by Russia (859,762), South Africa (521,318), Mexico (449,961), Peru (439,890), Chile (362,962), Colombia (334,979), Iran (314,786), the UK (307,256), Spain (302,814), Saudi Arabia (281,456), Pakistan (280,461), Italy (248,419), Bangladesh (244,020), Turkey (234,934), France (228,576), Argentina (213,535), Germany (212,828), Iraq (134,722), Canada (119,659), Indonesia (115,056), Philippines (112,593) and Qatar (111,538), the CSSE figures showed.

90% of recovered patients in Wuhan suffer lung damage

Beijing: Ninety per cent of a sample group of coronavirus-recovered patients from a prominent hospital in China's Wuhan city where the pandemic broke out have reported lung damage and five per cent of them are again in quarantine after testing positive for the virus, according to a media report on Wednesday.

A team at the Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University led by Peng Zhiyong, director of the hospital's Intensive Care Unit, has been conducting follow-up visits with 100 recovered pa-



tients' since April. The first phase of this one-year programme fin-

ished in July. The average age of the patients

in the study is 59.

According to the first phase results, 90 per cent of the patients' lungs are still in a damaged state, which means their lungs ventilation and gas exchange functions have not recovered to the level of healthy people, state-run Global Times reported.

Peng's team conducted a six-minute walking test with the patients. They found that the recovered patients could only walk 400 metres in six minutes while their healthy peers could walk 500 metres in the same period.

Some recovered patients have to rely on oxygen machines even three months after being discharged from the hospital, Liang Tengxiao, a doctor from the Dongzhimen Hospital, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, was quoted as saying by the report.

Liang's team is also conducting follow-up visits with recovered patients aged above 65. The results also showed that antibodies against the novel coronavirus in 10 per cent of the 100 patients have disappeared.

India’s Nagal gets direct entry into US Open men’s singles draw

New York, (IANS): India tennis star Sumit Nagal has gained direct entry into this year’s US Open men’s singles draw after a string of top-ranked players pulled out of the competition citing coronavirus concerns.

Nagal sneaked through as top 128 ranked ATP players made the cut with the 22-year-old ranked at 127 in the world currently. He remains the only Indian to make the cut.

Nagal, last year, caught the imagination of tennis fans worldwide, following his courageous performance against 20-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer.

In the first round at Arthur Ashe Stadium in 2019, Nagal took



a set off Federer before going down 6-4, 1-6, 2-6, 4-6 against the Swiss star.

World No.1 Novak Djokovic

leads the men’s singles entry list for this year’s US Open which is devoid of star names like defending champions Rafael Nadal and

20-time Federer.

“After many thoughts, I have decided not to play this year’s US Open,” Nadal said on Twitter on Tuesday. “The situation is very complicated worldwide, the COVID-19 cases are increasing, it looks like we still don’t have control of it.”

“We know that the reduced tennis calendar is barbaric this year after 4 months stopped with no play, I understand and thank for the efforts they are putting in to make it happen,” the 19-time Grand Slam champion added.

The US Open is currently scheduled to be held from August 31 with the Cincinnati Open being held at the Flushing Meadows before that from August 22.

Dybala voted Serie A MVP ahead of Ronaldo

Turin (IANS): Juventus forward Paulo Dybala has been voted as Serie A’s Most Valuable Player (MVP) following a strong campaign with the Italian giants.

Dybala played an important role in helping Juventus secure their ninth successive Serie A title this term. He was rather prolific in front of the goal as he netted 17 times across competitions (11 in league). The MVP award to Dybala was interesting in the sense that teammate Cristiano Ronaldo had a better personal campaign than the Argentine this term. Ronaldo ended up being the second-highest goalscorer in the Italian top-division as he scored 31 goals to star in Juventus’ title-winning campaign. His form post coronavirus stoppage helped the team



remain at the top of the pile till the end of the season. Meanwhile, European golden boot winner Ciro Immobile was voted as best striker in the league while Juventus custodian Wojciech Szczesny won the best goalkeeper award. Inter centre-back

Stefan de Vrij was voted as best defender while Atalanta’s Alejandro Gomez was named as the best midfielder in the top-division.

All the winners will have special badges printed on their respective jerseys for next season.

Bundesliga willing to help revive football in Delhi

New Delhi (IANS): Football Delhi’s endeavour to bring back the golden days of the game in the national capital got a boost when a top official from the German Bundesliga extended a helping hand to the officials who run the game here.

Speaking recently at an e-summit organised by Football Delhi, Peer Naubert, the head of global marketing for Bundesliga international, said: “We can extend our expertise and support to football in the capital city to assist the development of football. By engaging with the local football fans, we will have the opportunity to increase the fan following of Bundesliga in Delhi. “Clubs must have some social responsibilities to connect with the society. Top tier football must be connected with local football.”

The state association has



been trying to engage at every level of the football pyramid and its activities have increased 10-fold in the last 30 months.

Bundesliga’s promise, which comes at the back of the Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju’s pan-India scheme to scout talent, thus comes at an appropriate time.

Shaji Prabhakaran, President of Football Delhi, said: “It is vital to have a collaborative approach not only at the local level but at the national and

global levels. This approach would bring the best out of our local clubs and then Delhi would lead by example.”

Delhi once hosted two of India’s most prestigious football tournaments – the Durand Cup and the DCM Trophy. Top corporates speaking at the e-summit wanted a “good product” that would attract sponsors and the media.

Siddhant Narayan, head of marketing, OnePlus, said: “If you have a good mix of players then it would be better to bring the corporates for investment.”

“Football Delhi should build a good package for brands to be part of football in the capital city which would be a win-win situation as cities like Delhi are the target markets for the brands and data indicates that football following among youths are significant from metro cities.”

ENGLAND V PAKISTAN 1ST TEST, DAY 1

Woakes, Archer put visitors on backfoot

Manchester (IANS): Jofra Archer and Chris Woakes bowled with venom and snared two wickets to disturb Pakistan’s watchful start as they reached 53/2 at Lunch on Day 1 of the first Test between England and Pakistan at Old Trafford here on Wednesday. At the break, opener Shan Masood and Babar Azam were batting on 27 and 4 respectively. Electing to bat first, the tourists were off to a steady start as openers Shan Masood and Abid Ali put away the early threat from veteran new-ball bowlers James Anderson and Stuart Broad.

England captain Joe Root introduced the slippery Archer and it worked as the gun-quick rattled Ali’s stumps with a full delivery after setting him up with a barrage of bouncers in the previous over. Ali made the long walk back to the dressing room scoring 16.

Pakistan skipper Azhar Ali soon joined the opener as he was trapped in front by Woakes, failing to open his account. Pakistan’s best batsman Babar was out in the mid-



dle with the team suddenly in need of a solid partnership. Masood looked composed at the other end with Archer mixing it up and Woakes hitting the deck hard and using the crease well to probe the batsmen. It took Babar 15 balls to get off the mark, as he took a single to bring up Pakistan’s score to 50. The first session was interrupted by light rain.

Brief Scores: Pakistan 53/2 (Masood 27 batting, Babar 4 batting; Archer 1/7, Woakes 1/14) vs England

Front foot no-ball technology to be used

Manchester (IANS): The three-match Test series between England and Pakistan will see the usage of front-foot no ball technology, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Wednesday.

“Front foot no-ball technology to be used in ICC World Test Championship series featuring England and Pakistan, with the

support of both teams,” ICC said in a statement. “Performance of the technology in these Tests will be reviewed before any decisions taken on its future use in Test cricket,” it added. The third umpire will monitor the front foot landing position after each ball and communicate to the on-field umpire if the delivery was a no ball. The on-field umpires

will not call any front foot no balls unless instructed by the third umpire, but will remain responsible for other on-field decisions in the usual way. The benefit of the doubt will lie with the bowler, and if a late no ball call is communicated, then the on-field umpire will rescind a dismissal (if applicable) and signal a no ball.

To chase down such a total against Eng was satisfying, says Balbirnie

Southampton (IANS): Ireland skipper Andrew Balbirnie heaped praise on opener Paul Stirling after the duo starred in thumping seven-wicket over England in their third and final ODI at the Ageas Bowl on Tuesday.

Riding on centuries from Balbirnie and Stirling, Ireland chased down a mammoth target of 329 with one ball to spare. The visitors also grabbed 10 crucial points in the Cricket World Cup Super League.

“We didn’t perform with the bat at all in the first two ODIs. To come back in the field and to chase down such a total against a good England team is very satisfying,” Balbirnie said during the post match presentation.

“(At the halfway stage) We absolutely thought we could chase. We knew that we needed to bat well. We bowled really



Ireland’s Harry Tector (left) dives to make a catch but misses, during the third ODI match against England, at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton, England

well, we picked regular wickets which was great and 320-330 we were in the game.

“I tried to be positive whenever I could, obviously it’s a different positive the way Paul bats. We created a big partner-

ship which essentially went a long way to winning the game.

England skipper Eoin Morgan, meanwhile, said they missed out on crucial opportunities to win the match. He, however, pointed towards the

young players in the side who did well in the series. Their performances were the big positives for the home side, according to Morgan.

“I think Ireland outplayed us today, we had an average day. Being 3 down early, then rebuilding and the guys rescuing later,” Morgan said.

“We have more than enough wicket-takers in our group. Stirling had a good day, but we missed out on the opportunities.

“We are learning more and more about the players who are coming in and getting opportunities. Billings with two fiftes, Banton with a fifty today. Willey the way he’s playing - it seems he has a point to prove,” he added.

Stirling was named the man of the match for his blistering 142 but he downplayed his own innings and pointed towards

WC Super League: England pick 20 points from Ireland series

Southampton (IANS): England have earned 20 points and Ireland 10 after the opening series of the World Cup Super League finished with a 2-1 score-line in favour of the home side despite Ireland winning the final ODI at the Ageas Bowl.

Brilliant centuries from captain Andrew Balbirnie and Paul Sterling helped Ireland comprehensively beat World Champions England by seven wickets on Tuesday.

In a match full of twist and turns, the visitors, who had al-



ready lost the series, on Tuesday chased down the target of 329 with a ball to spare. Introduced to bring context to ODI cricket, the Super League is being played to determine qualification for the 2023 World Cup to

be played in India. Featuring 13 teams, the 12 ICC Full Members and the Netherlands, who qualified by winning the ICC Super League 2015-17, the tournament is slated to see each side play four home and four away three-match series. Teams are awarded 10 points for a win, five for a tie, no-result or abandoned match and none for a loss in the Super League. India and seven other teams will make it directly from the league with the remaining two getting a second chance through a Qualifier.

the crucial win that helped them deny England a white-wash in the series.

England’s David Willey was named the man of the series for all-round show and he ex-

pressed his happiness regarding helping the team with the bat as well.

Top seed Wang Qiang suffers shock exit at CTA Tour

Kunming (IANS): China’s top female tennis player Wang Qiang crashed out of the Chinese Tennis Association (CTA) Tour after losing in a three-set thriller 6-4, 4-6, 6-10 against Yang Ziwei in the round of 16 on Wednesday. Wang, world No. 29 and top seed of the tournament in southwest China’s city of Anning, had a good start against 22-year-old Yang in the match and won the first set with a comfortable 6-4 margin, reports Xinhua news agency. Yang battled back in the second set 6-4 to level the score, with strong serves and solid baseline play. In the final set, a 10-point tiebreaker, Yang won four points in a row after a 6-6 tie, securing a surprise victory against Wang. “I found Wang’s serves became weak in the final set and decided to play more aggressively,” said Yang, who was thrilled to beat her idol, Wang. “This is so far the best match of my career. I’ll be more confident,” Yang added.

ISL has provided financial security to players, says Jeje

Kolkata (IANS): Indian footballers are being valued much more since the advent of the Indian Super League (ISL), says India striker Jeje Lalpekhlua who believes financial security as a result of playing in the league has helped strengthen his mental resolve while being out injured.

The Mizoram-born last featured for Chennaiyin FC in April 2019 and had to miss out on the entire 2019-20 season due to a knee injury. Lalpekhlua feels he could focus in a row after a 6-6 tie, securing a surprise victory against Wang. “I found Wang’s serves became weak in the final set and decided to play more aggressively,” said Yang, who was thrilled to beat her idol, Wang. “This is so far the best match of my career. I’ll be more confident,” Yang added.



the money was coming on time. I have to thank the club there. That really helped my recovery. We give everything to the club and I feel we deserve to be

looked after,” Lalpekhlua told ISL Media. The ‘Mizo Sniper’ had remained a one-club man with Chennaiyin FC, scoring 23 ISL goals in five seasons, until

the end of his contract this summer. “It is very difficult for a player both mentally and physically when you are injured. The club and the

players have to work together. The clubs have now started valuing the players much more. In the past, there have been times when players failed to get support from their clubs when injured, this becomes very difficult for the player,” he said.

Lalpekhlua, who began his career in 2009 as an 18-year-old at Pune FC felt levels of professionalism has got better in Indian football ever since the ISL came about in 2014.

“I think nowadays Indian football has changed a lot. Things have been getting better day by day and I hope this gets better. In the ISL, clubs support players way better when you are injured or face any difficult situation. This is very important for both clubs and the players to grow,” he said.

Cardiff’s appeal against transfer ban delayed for 2nd time

Cardiff (IANS): British football club Cardiff’s appeal against a transfer ban with respect to the payment related to deceased Emiliano Sala has been delayed for the second time. According to a report in BBC Wales Sport, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) was set to hear the appeal this spring but has been delayed once again. Football’s world governing body FIFA had earlier directed Cardiff to pay Nantes the first installment of Sala’s total transfer fee of 15 million pounds. FIFA’s players’ committee, in November, had directed Cardiff to pay the initial amount within 15 days of receiving the bank details from Nantes or face transfer ban for three windows. Cardiff had challenged the ruling and the appeal was set to be heard by CAS. “The parties to the procedure have agreed to lengthen the regular time limits for the filing of the written submissions,” CAS said.