



THE HANS INDIA

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WINDOWS



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with a payload of approximately 60 satellites for SpaceX's Starlink broadband network stands pad 39A moments before the launch was scrubbed due to weather concerns at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral on Monday

Cong MP moves SC over farm Bills

New Delhi: As farmers' organisations and Opposition and regional parties continue to protest against the contentious new farm laws, a Congress MP from Kerala moved the Supreme Court on Monday challenging the constitutional validity of one of the Acts. TN Prathapan, the Lok Sabha MP from Thrissur, has alleged that the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 is violative of Article 14 (right to equality), 15 (prohibition of discrimination) and 21 (right to life and liberty) of the Constitution. He argued that the law, which was accorded Presidential assent on Sunday, is "liable to be struck down as unconstitutional, illegal and void".

Pakistan Oppn leader arrested

Lahore: In an eventful day, top leaders of major Opposition parties were indicted by Pakistani courts in cases of money laundering and corruption. Shahbaz Sharif, President of Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) and leader of the Opposition parties in Parliament, was arrested from the courtroom after the Lahore High Court (LHC) rejected his bail plea. The two-judge bench of the Lahore High Court rejected Shahbaz's bail plea and he was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). Shahbaz Sharif had sought pre-arrest bail in cases of assets beyond means and money laundering.

BUSINESS



RBI defers MPC meet as 3 posts lie vacant P6

SPORTS



Don't compare Samson with Dhoni: Gambhir, Sreesanth P8



BRAHMOS, NIRBHAY, AKASH

INDIA ROLLS OUT TOP MISSILES TO TAME CHINESE THREAT

Nirbhay missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, can reach up to 1,000 km and is capable of low-level stealth strikes on targets

New Delhi: In a major boost to India's long-range defence, the security forces have rolled out BrahMos, Nirbhay and Akash missiles to deter Chinese misadventures in eastern Ladakh, where the two countries are locked in a standoff.

The 500 km-range Brahmos cruise missile, 800 km-range Nirbhay cruise missile along with Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) with a capability to target aerial threats 40 km away are at the core of India's stand-off weapon deterrence to People's Liberation Army (PLA) missile deployment in Xinjiang and Tibet regions.

While the PLA's western theatre command has deployed stand-off weapons up to 2,000 km range and long-range SAMs in Tibet and Xinjiang after the Ladakh stand-off, the supersonic Brahmos, subsonic Nirbhay as well as Akash have been deployed to counter

them by India in the worst-case scenario.

India's main stay in the stand-off weapons is the Brahmos air-to-air and air-to-surface cruise missile with its 300-kilogramme

MKI fighter. Besides, the Brahmos can be used to create choke points in the Indian Ocean using the Car Nicobar air base in India's island territories. The IAF's Car Nicobar air base is the advanced landing ground for SU-30 MKI's which can use air-to-air refuellers to protect against any PLA warship threat coming from the Strait of Malacca to Sunda Strait across Indonesia, a senior government official

warhead which can take care of airstrips in Tibet and Xinjiang, or a warship in Indian Ocean.

The Brahmos missile has been deployed in sufficient numbers in the Ladakh sector with the option to deliver the stand-off weapon from a Su-30



India's main stay in the stand-off weapons is the Brahmos air-to-air and air-to-surface cruise missile with its 300-kilogramme warhead which can take care of airstrips in Tibet and Xinjiang, or a warship in Indian Ocean

The surface-to-surface Nirbhay missile has a reach of up to 1,000 km. It is capable of low-level stealth strike on targets. It means it is capable of flying between 100 metres to four km from ground and pick up the target before

engaging it.

The Nirbhay missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and has been in the testing for 7 years. This is Nirbhay missile's first deployment.

The third stand-off weapon used by Indian military is the Akash SAM, which has also been deployed in sufficient numbers to counter any PLA aircraft intrusion across the LAC in Ladakh sector. The PLA Air Force fighter activity in occupied Aksai Chin continues albeit at a reduced level. However, there is concern over PLA air activity across the Daulat Beg Oldi sector near Karakoram Pass.

The Akash missile with its three-dimensional Rajendra, a passive electronically scanned array radar that has the capacity to track 64 targets at a time and simultaneously engage 12 of them. The missile has the capacity to engage all aerial targets including fighter planes, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles.



Punjab Youth Congress activists set on fire a tractor near India Gate during a protest against the new farm laws, in New Delhi, Monday

Youth Congress workers torchy tractor at India Gate

New Delhi: A day after President Ram Nath Kovind signed the Agriculture Bills and made them laws, Punjab Youth Congress workers on Monday set ablaze a tractor in the high security India Gate area to protest against the contentious legislation. The Delhi Police detained five people involved in the incident.

About 10-15 Punjab Youth Congress activists arrived in the national capital in a truck to protest against the controversial farm laws around 7.15 am on the birth anniversary of revolutionary Bhagat Singh. The activists offloaded a tractor from the truck and set it on fire.

"If the deaf are to hear, the sound has to be very loud: Bhagat Singh," the IYC quoted the martyr in a tweet. **Continued on Page 5**

No 'Annadata' burns 'venerable' tractor: Tejaswi Surya

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: MP and National president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Tejaswi Surya condemned the burning of a tractor by Youth Congress activists in New Delhi on Monday. "Farmers worship the tools used in their farming and they won't burn tractors useful in farming. Instead of burning, it would have been better if the Youth Congress had presented a tractor to a poor farmer," he said. Surya alleged that the Congress had been trying to provoke farmers of the country on the subject of agricultural Bills, which were passed in Parliament. **Continued on Page 5**

PENDING WAGES

13,000 Delhi municipal teachers stage protest

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: More than 13,000 Northern and Eastern Municipal Corporation teachers on Monday staged protest demanding payment of pending salaries immediately.

The teachers claim that it has been more than

three months that they are not being paid. The striking teachers have threatened to block the proposed municipal meeting on Monday and Tuesday if wages are not paid.

According to the Teachers' Association, the teachers of the Northern Municipal Corporation were last paid in the month of May. At the same time, the teachers of Eastern Municipal Corporation were last paid in June.

A group of teachers sit on a two-hour strike outside the Municipal Corpo-

ration headquarters every day for the last 26 days demanding payment of arrears.

MCD Teachers Association General Secretary Ramnivas Solanki said, "We sit here on a two-hour strike every day after working here. We will not allow the corporation to

work peacefully until our outstanding salaries

are paid. We are working in this epidemic regardless of our lives. They are not even giving our salary. In such a situation, EMI of loan, house rent, and tuition fees of children are also difficult to pay. Our accumulated capital is also getting depleted."

There are around 9,000 teachers in North Delhi Municipal Corporation schools, while 4,200 teachers are working in East Delhi Municipal Corporation schools.



'Trump firms paid \$750 in taxes in US, \$145,400 in India in 2017'

Washington: Donald Trump paid just \$750 in federal income taxes in the year he was elected US president and also in his first year in the White House, according to a media report, which also said that he or his companies paid \$145,400 taxes in India in 2017. Trump entered the 2016 Presidential race as a Republican and was elected in a surprise victory over Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. "Donald J Trump paid \$750 in federal income taxes the year he won the presidency. In his first year in the White House, he paid another \$750," the New York Times reported on Sunday, citing tax return data extending over 20 years.

First Covid vaccine to be available in India by early 2021

New Delhi: As the world races to develop a potential vaccine against Covid-19, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Monday said the first vaccine in India will most likely be available by early 2021. The Health ministry said the research to develop a Covid-19 vaccine is being "done expeditiously".

During a media briefing, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said, "Research to develop a vaccine is being done expeditiously. There are at least 3 viable such vaccine candidates that are in the phase of clinical trials right now in the country. We're hopeful that within 1st quarter of 2021 it will be available."

With a spike of 82,170 new coronavirus cases in last 24 hours, India's Covid-19 tally crossed the 60-lakh mark on Monday, according to the data provided by health ministry.

The Health ministry on Monday also released the 100-year timeline history of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).



Vaccine portal launched

New Delhi: The Union Health Ministry on Monday launched an online portal about Covid-19 with all the latest information on the coronavirus disease. The web portal will have data on research development, clinical trials on potential Covid-19 vaccine in India, its launch date and other information, Union Health Minister Harsh

Vardhan said. "An online portal about Covid-19 vaccine has been launched. Everyone will be able to go online to that portal and look up all contemporary research-development and clinical trials related information. It will also provide information about other vaccinations provided in the country," Vardhan said.

CIVILS SERVICES PRELIMS

SC seeks UPSC response on not postponing exam

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the UPSC as to why the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examinations, scheduled on October 4, should not be postponed in the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic and heavy rain and floods in several parts of the country. A bench comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar, B R Gavai and Krishna Murari asked the Union Public Service Commission counsel to file an affidavit by Tuesday. The UPSC counsel objected to the plea for the deferment of the exams, as it would upset the schedule of the exams.

After a brief hearing on the matter, the bench asked the UPSC counsel to bring on record the reasons for not postponing the exams. The bench will continue to hear the matter on Wednesday.

The plea, filed by Vasireddy Govardhana Sai Prakash and others through advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava, sought that the Civil Services exam should be postponed for two to three months, as Covid-19 cases have been peaking currently and the curve may flatten in this time period. The petitioners also cited incessant rains disrupting daily life in many parts of the country.

In the earlier hearing on the matter, the top court had said: "Liberty is granted to serve advance copy on the Standing Counsel for the Union Public Service Commission as well as on the Standing Counsel for the Central Agency representing Union of India through email/online."

The plea contended that the exam, being a recruitment examination, is altogether different from an academic examination and thus in the event of its postponement, there would not be any question of delay or loss of any academic session.

Delhi airport's Terminal 2 to resume flight ops from Oct 1

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: Flight operations at Terminal 2 of Indira Gandhi International Airport will resume from October 1, more than six months after it was shut due to coronavirus pandemic.

The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), which operates the Indira Gandhi International Airport, said on Monday that all flights of GoAir and IndiGo 2000 Series will depart from T-2 from October 1.



Dial said that 96 pairs of flights will be operational on T-2 from October 1. This number will be increased to 180 by the end of October. The terminal will have 11 counters for GoAir and 16 for IndiGo. The first flight will leave at 6:25 am on October 1. This IndiGo flight will fly from Delhi to Srinagar.

IndiGo will operate all its flights with series code between 6E2000 and 6E2999 from Terminal 2 when operations start. Entire flight operations of

GoAir will be conducted from the same terminal.

Presently, flights at the Delhi airport are operational from the T3 terminal. IndiGo operates 105 domestic flights from this terminal, Mint reported. "As the capacities grow, operations from Terminal 2 will also allow adequate space to maintain social distancing guidelines while providing a safe and hassle-free travel experience," said Wolfgang Prock-Schauer, IndiGo's chief operating officer and president.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



PRANITHA SUBHASH
@PRANITASUBHASH

My kind
of Monday
blues



Flying high on all fronts

TEJAL SINHA

Maybe there can be no other saying than, 'One day all those late nights and early mornings will pay off!' that can give you a hint on the journey of this Pilot mom and an influencer, Ritu.

Ritu is a Pilot by profession, a YouTuber, a popular blogger, and a social media influencer in her own right. One cannot ignore one of the main person of their blogs, their 2 year old daughter Kaira Taneja (known as Rasbhari and Chikloo).

Ritu says, "Initially YouTube was never something that we planned. Gaurav was always into gymming and body building. Even after we got married he continued to do it. I used to go with him for his competition and helped him backstage. People used to comment saying how can a girl come here, especially backstage where they would practice or get ready for the competitions. My main aim was to support him in following his passion. He had a lot of knowledge of body building and one day Randomly he put a video on Facebook that just got viral and that is how FitMuscle TV got started."

The struggle

Ritu belonged to a typical 'Jat' family of Haryana. Being from a family, where girls were not promoted to do higher studies, she managed to overcome all the hurdles to become a pilot.

Sharing about the same, she says, "I was good in studies as well as in motor skills. The main thing was the society pressure. I



Ritu Rathee Taneja and her husband Gaurav Taneja, both are a very well known personalities of the digital platforms and have three YouTube channels 'FitMuscle TV', 'Rasbhari Ke Papa' and 'Flying Beast'

had to convince my father a lot for my training. It was the first time in my family that a girl alone from my family traveled abroad. It was a tough decision for my parents to take. I still remember there were many people who just stopped being in contact with my dad. My dad had to also go through a lot of things. When I came back after my training another big hassle was funds. We were a middle class family and it was not easy to raise funds for me as I had 4 siblings. Ultimately I had to take a loan. After my training the kingfisher airlines got shut and the aviation market went down. There was no job and then loan. During this my mother also passed away. My dad couldn't sleep at night," adds Ritu.

From a Rs 12k job to a Pilot

Being from a financially middle class family, funds was a huge barrier for her training, for which her dad managed to take a loan. However, by the time she returned back, one of the biggest airlines was shut down which led to the loss of jobs of many in the aviation market.

"I then decided to do a job for Rs 12k and used to ride my karizma bike from Gurgaon to Delhi everyday. I was always a tomboy kind of personality. Later, I went to Ahmedabad for another job which was paying me around 25k. The scenario of aviation got better and there were some vacancies. My daily routine was very hectic. After doing all the work I used to study from 9 pm to 3am. Then sleep and wake up in between

studying and then going to my work. I could never hangout with my colleagues," shares Ritu.

There were many pilots and engineers in the company. She was the only one girl out of 40-50 pilots who managed to clear interviews of all the 3 vacancies.

Being an influencer

Their vlogs have a different vibe that hits off their audience. Originality, humour, and their chemistry as a couple and as a family has endeared Flying Beast to its viewers. Some of her popular recent vlogs include 'The struggle of a Haryanvi Jat Girl', 'When she went into labour pain', 'This custom-made gift made her emotional' and many more.

Ritu says, "There was no change in our lifestyle. We uploaded vlogs

of what we are and people liked it. But yeah when we went to the first YouTube fanfest we felt very special. Honesty is something I think that hits off our audience. Being an influencer is not a tough job but you have many responsibilities as an influencer, you need to be true and not people who you are not."

Sharing about how she has to manage to keep her personal life away from her mind while flying, she says, "When I enter the cockpit I make sure I don't think about anything else. There are days when I feel bad when my daughter gets sick and I cannot be with her. I just don't look at my phone. Because you're always instructed to be stress-free before entering the cockpit. And you have a lot of procedures to follow by the end you don't have it in your mind. After I land, that is when I use my phone."

#Rasbharichai

It is an initiative they started on Women's Day in Tripura, which is a combination of her daughter's name and Gaurav's love for chai.

Ritu explains, "I always feel that we are so busy in our life that we cannot do anything for the ones who are in need. We searched for a chaiwala who has a daughter, and then we held a meet up with our fans and requested them to donate whatever they liked in exchange for a selfie and a cup of chai. We multiplied that amount and opened a fixed deposit for Rs 51,000 in the girl's name with her mother as nominee. We want to take this initiative across India and help as many girls as possible."

Fashion Forward, FDCI releases dates for India Fashion Week

Riding the success of the first ever Digital India Couture Week, the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) announces Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week (LMIFW) Spring-Summer 2021 will take place in phygital format from October 14 to 18, 2020.

The impressive line-up of designers showcasing at the event includes Varun Bahl, Tarun Tahiliani, Suneet Varma, Shivan & Narresh, Shantanu & Nikhil, Rohit Gandhi, Rahul Khanna, Rina Dhaka, Rajesh Pratap Singh, Payal Jain, Nitin Bal Chauhan, Namrata Joshipura, Geisha Designs, Dhi, Ashish Soni, Abhishek Gupta among many others.

"We have 40 established and young designers, who are a part of this phygital showcase. This edition of the LMIFW is going to be eventful, as we have adapted to new technology. We are happy to have Lotus Make Up continue their partnership and welcome DLF Emporio/The Chanakya as our new collaborator, on board," said FDCI Chairman, Sunil Sethi.

In keeping with the Council's aim to promote, support and encourage its members and the fashion industry, it has set up a physical MSA (Main Stage Area), ensuring strict safety protocols, wherein designers can

shoot and create their content for the shows. Designers are free to shoot at the facility or create their own content, thus giving them unparalleled freedom and support to showcase their collections.

The FDCI, has made a robust blueprint for the future, this includes a studio set up with screens and bespoke lighting, where designers are shooting their fashion films/videos. Alternatively, they can also shoot their own films. These pre-shot films will be streamed across various FDCI digital platforms --- Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and the FDCI website. These will play according to a preset show schedule.

In keeping with the ethos, an online 'Designer Showroom', is being created, a dedicated space, where designers can upload their lookbooks and place orders, with their domestic and international buyers, through virtual meetings.

This year, with many new additions, observing the success of the online edition of Designer Stockroom, the FDCI will open this B2C platform once again, for participating designers, after fashion week.



Collection By Shantanu Nikhil @ FDCI-ICW-2020

Skin care tips for women over 30

Keep yourself hydrated

Drinking plenty of water not only promotes overall health but also makes your skin healthy. Keeping yourself replenished is a way to avoid dry, dull, and flaky skin.

Use sunscreen regularly

No matter the weather, ensure you use sunscreen. It shields you from the harmful UV rays and protects your skin from photo-aging. Make sure you are using a sunscreen with at least SPF 30 and a PA+ rating. While SPF protects you from the UVB rays, the PA rating means protection from the UVA rays. Look for products with a PA +++ rating; the higher the rating, the more the protection.

Look for key ingredients in your skin care products

In your 30s, your skin demands special



ingredients. It is time your skin starts to show subtle signs of aging. You would need targeted skin care products with specific ingredients that work to solve specific problems. When buying toners, creams, serums, and other skin care products, look for ingredients like AHAs (such as glycolic and lactic acids), antioxidants such as vitamin C, and resveratrol. Other important ingredients include niacinamide, retinol, and

ceramides. These ingredients take care of your skin, promote exfoliation, improve cell turnover, and keep your skin looking youthful.

Go for regular facials and use face masks

Facials boost radiance and keep your skin healthy. They help improve blood circulation to your skin. When combined with anti-aging products, they may also delay signs of aging.

Do facials at home. You may also try face masks to provide the additional nourishment your skin needs. You may use DIY ingredients or buy sheet masks.

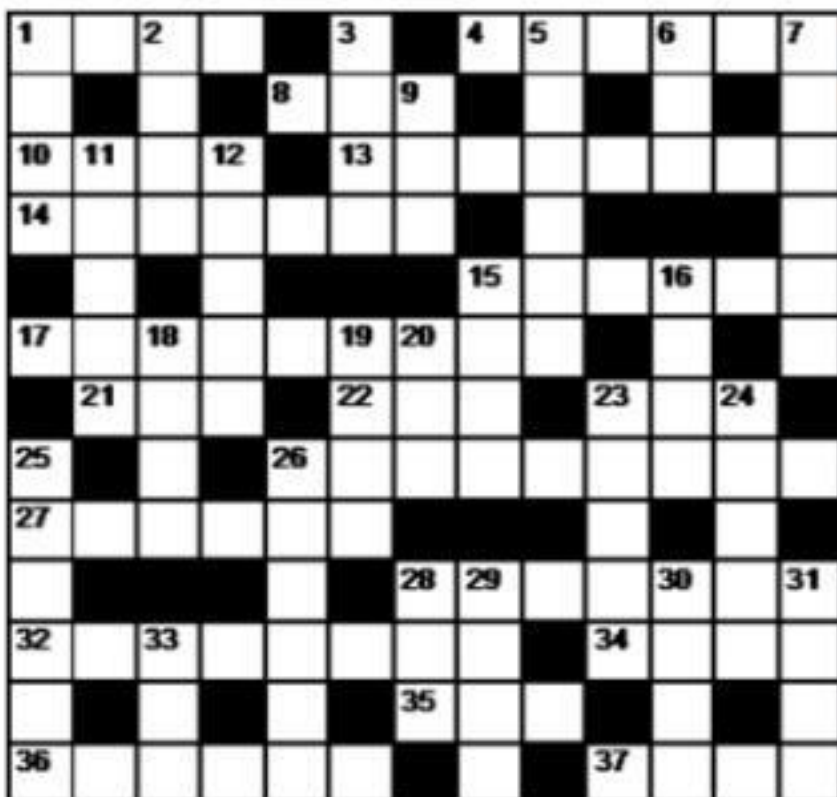
Use an under eye cream

The 30s can also present other skin issues like puffy eyes, dark circles, and dryness around the eyes. To fight these, you need a specialised under-eye cream. Since

the skin under your eyes is more delicate and thinner than the rest of your face, and under-eye cream can help.

Take care of your body

Your skincare routine should not be limited to your face. The skin on the rest of your body needs attention as well. As you use your face cream or serum, you may apply the same to your neck. Use hydrating hand cream. The skin on the back of the palms is thinner and can age faster. Exfoliate the skin on your body once a week with a body scrub. Use a moisturising body lotion every day and try to apply it to damp skin (as this ensures maximum absorption).



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 28

CROSSWORD

Across

- Feeble individual (4)
- Capital of Chhattisgarh (6)
- ___ Salvador : South American island ? (3)
- Extended (4)
- Powerfully (8)
- Daft (7)
- Caper (6)
- Tied the knot again (9)
- Gloomy (3)
- Go astray (3)
- Grow old (3)
- Spotted (9)
- Salad plant, in sticks (6)
- Clique (7)
- Rear curtain of a stage (8)
- Unwanted plant (4)
- Novel (3)
- Over there, poetically speaking ? (6)
- Chief Norse god (4)

Down

- A large wild canine (4)
- One prefix (4)
- Go by (4)
- On deck (6)
- Fastener (3)
- Corresponded in sound (6)
- Last in a long line (3)
- Drained slowly (5)
- Derive (5)
- Hairdo (4)
- Almost (4)
- Ponder (4)
- ___ on : trust or be dependent on ? (4)
- Choler (3)
- Awry (5)
- Strangely frightening (5)
- Mangy (6)
- Card game (6)
- To cheat (3)
- Begin bidding (4)
- Rip apart (4)
- The perfect garden (4)
- Is able (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 28



NEWS ROUNDUP

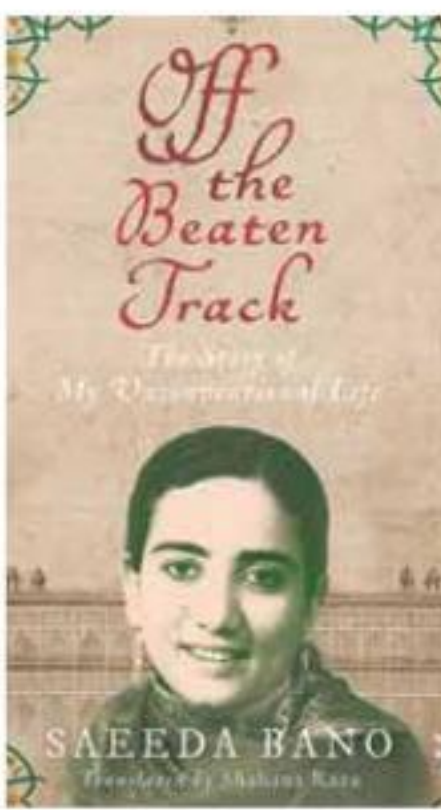
Memoir of India's 1st woman radio newsreader to be out in October

The life and times of India's first woman radio newsreader Saeeda Bano will unravel in a new book, originally written as a memoir in Urdu, Penguin Random House India announced on Monday.

The book, "Off the Beaten Track", has been translated into English by Bano's granddaughter Shahana Raza from her 1994 memoir "Dagar Se Hat Kar".

The memoir takes the reader through events of great personal impact in her life such as walking out of a suffocating marriage, witnessing the violence of the Partition, moving to Delhi from Lucknow as a single mother, eating toast with prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, and falling in love with a married man -- Nuruddin Ahmed, who would, in the course of their twenty-five-year relationship, become the Mayor of Delhi. "Unflinching and riveting, 'Off the Beaten Track' offers a personal account of the Partition and the burgeoning capital city of a newly-independent India. 'A story of hope and resilience, it's an unforgettable exploration of a fascinating woman; beckoning readers to reflect upon what it means to live and love passionately in the face of conformity and social pressure,'" the publishers said in a statement.

The book, co-published by Zubaan Publishers, will hit the stands on October 12.



Top BJP leader says will hug Mamata if infected by corona



Baruipur/Siliguri (PTD): Newly-appointed BJP national secretary Anupam Hazra has said that he would hug Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee if he is infected by the coronavirus to make her feel the pain of the families of COVID-19 patients. A police complaint was filed by the Trinamool Congress in Siliguri for the comments Hazra made at a party programme in Baruipur in South 24 Parganas on Sunday evening. "Our workers are fighting a bigger enemy than corona. They

are fighting Mamata Banerjee. When they (BJP cadres) have been able to fight it out against Mamata Banerjee without a mask, they think they can also fight against COVID-19 without wearing a mask," Hazra said. "I have decided that if I get infected by the coronavirus, then I will go and hug Mamata Banerjee," he added. Hazra, a former TMC MP who joined the BJP last year, said the way the bodies of COVID-19 patients were being cremated in the state was pathetic.

"She (Banerjee) treated victims of the disease pathetically. Their bodies were burnt with kerosene. Sons were not allowed to see the face of their parents who died of COVID-19. We don't even treat dead cats or dogs like that," he said. Senior TMC leader Saugato Roy condemned the comments and said such remarks reflect the mindset of the BJP. "Such words and statements can only come from BJP leaders. This reflects the mindset of the party. We condemn such in-

sane statements," he said. The Trinamool Congress's Siliguri unit held a rally against Hazra and lodged a police complaint against him. "We have lodged a police complaint against Anupam Hazra. We have urged the police to take immediate action against him," a senior TMC leader from the north Bengal city said. Reacting to the police complaint, Hazra told PTI that Banerjee too has made several controversial remarks against

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "If my comments are demeaning, then Mamata Banerjee too had made such comments against the prime minister. Secondly, if one FIR has been filed against me, then at least 10 FIRs should be lodged against TMC leaders," he said. The state BJP leadership, however, distanced itself from Hazra's comment. "We don't support such comments. We should avoid making such remarks," a state BJP leader said.

Sushant Singh Rajput case

No conclusion, all aspects being probed, says CBI

New Delhi: The CBI has not reached any conclusion in the death case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput and all aspects are under investigation, the agency said on Monday.

"The Central Bureau of Investigation is conducting professional investigation related to death of Shri Sushant Singh Rajput in which all aspects are being looked at and no aspect has been ruled out as of date," a CBI spokesperson said in statement.

Rajput, 34, who made his silver screen debut in the critically acclaimed 'Kai Po Che' seven years ago, was found dead in his apartment in suburban Bandra in Mumbai on June 14 this year.

The CBI had taken over the probe from Bihar Police into the alleged abetment to suicide case filed by the actor's father K K



Singh in Patna against Rajput's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and her family.

Singh in his complaint to Bihar Police had alleged that Chakraborty along with her fam-

ily members had misappropriated Rajput's wealth, which was denied by Chakraborty in TV interviews.

Last week Singh's lawyer Vikas Singh had expressed "helplessness" over the slow pace of the CBI probe into Rajput's death. The pace of the CBI probe into Sushant Singh Rajput's death has suddenly slowed down and all attention is being diverted to drugs-related issues with the NCB conducting "fashion parade" of Bollywood stars, the late actor's family lawyer Vikas Singh had alleged on Friday. "Today, we are helpless as we don't know which direction the case is going in. Normally, a press briefing is done by CBI. But in this case, till today, CBI has not done a press briefing on what they have found out. This is a very serious issue," Singh had alleged at a press conference.

The probe agency had earlier also issued a statement calling media reports attributed to it as speculative.

IPS officer assaults wife, relieved of duties as video goes viral

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday said a senior state IPS officer has been relieved of duties, after a video showing him assaulting his wife went viral on social media.

In the video, Madhya Pradesh Director General of Police (Prosecution) Purushottam Sharma is seen thrashing his wife, while the latter is seen resisting the assault.

"The officer has been relieved of his duties. Action will be taken against anyone who holds a responsible position, but indulges in illegal activities and taking law into his hands," the chief minister said.

There is no official confirmation to reports that the IPS officer was caught red-handed by his wife of 32 years at a woman's house, after which he assaulted her. Sharma's son Parth, a deputy commissioner in the In-



come Tax Department, sent the video to state Home Minister Narottam Mishra and some senior bureaucrats, and requested that a complaint be registered against his father.

Sharma, who has been married for 32 years, told PTI that if he has done anything wrong, then his son should say why was

his mother living with him for so long.

"My son should say why was she taking money (from me) since 12-15 years and going on foreign trips. After enjoying so much comfort in life, she has an obligation towards her family, to save its reputation," Sharma said.

Kerala woman loses twins after being turned away by hospitals

Malappuram (PTI): A pregnant woman was allegedly denied timely medical treatment at hospitals in north Kerala while she was in labour, resulting in the loss of twin babies she was carrying. Taking serious note of the incident, the state government on Monday ordered a high-level probe.

The 20-year old woman hailing from Kondotty in Malappuram district was taken to three hospitals after she complained of labour pain in the wee hours on Saturday.

The hospitals allegedly denied her timely treatment citing COVID-19 protocols.

Finally, she was admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital here in a serious condition on Saturday evening.

She lost her twin babies on Sunday while being treated at the hospital.

The woman, who continues to be in serious condition, is being treated at the intensive care unit of the Government Medical College Hospital, sources said.



Over 60L Covid cases in India

New Delhi (IANS) With a spike of 82,170 coronavirus cases and 1,039 deaths in 24 hours, India's tally on Monday breached the 60 lakh-mark with a total of 60,74,702 cases. Out of these, 9,62,640 are currently active; 50,16,520 have been discharged, while 95,542 lost the battle against the viral disease.

On July 17, India had logged 10 lakh cases, which then doubled to 20 lakh on August 7. The country added another 10 lakh on August 23 and went past 40 lakh on

September 5. In 11 days, it added another 10 lakh cases, mounting to 50 lakh cases. Twelve days later the tally has mounted to 60 lakh.

While the recovery rate stands at 82.58 per cent, one of the highest in the world; the fatality rate has come down to 1.57 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said. Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 13,39,232 cases including 35,571 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

CRPF jawan held for raping 17-yr-old girl

Banda (PTI): A CRPF jawan was arrested for allegedly raping a 17-year-old girl in Uttar Pradesh's Banda, police said on Monday.

According to a complaint lodged by the minor on July 12, CRPF jawan Brijesh Kushwaha (39) allegedly thrashed her and raped her on June 5 when she had gone to his house looking for a room on rent. An FIR was registered against him under relevant sections of the IPC on the basis of the complaint filed by the girl, a resident of Chitrakoot, police said. Senior Sub-Inspector A Singh said the arrest could not be made then as the jawan had left for duty in Jharkhand by the time the FIR was registered. Kushwaha was arrested on Sunday when he returned home on leave, the SSI said.



Agri bills are death sentence for farmers: Rahul

New Delhi (PTI): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday alleged that the agriculture-related laws are a "death sentence" for farmers whose voice has been crushed both inside and outside Parliament.

"The agriculture laws are a death sentence to our farmers. Their voice is crushed in Parliament and outside. Here is proof that democracy in India is dead," he said on Twitter.

Gandhi tagged a news report along with his tweet that claimed that Opposition members demanding a division of votes were on their seats when the farm bills were passed in the Rajya Sabha, while the government said they were not.

Gandhi and his Congress party have been demanding that the farm bills be withdrawn as they are not beneficial for farmers, who will be enslaved at the hands of private players and big businesses.



Punjab CM to move SC over new Farm Laws

Amritsar: Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday said that his government will approach the Supreme Court over the issue of new farm laws. He also slammed the BJP-led central government, accusing it of snatching away the rights of states.

Amarinder Singh, Rawat and others held a sit-in protest against the new farm laws. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister slammed the Centre for bringing the farm laws, claiming they would "destroy" the farming community. "I have said we will take this matter forward. The President has passed these bills and now we will take this matter to the Supreme Court," Singh said.

Hathras rape survivor shifted to AIIMS, Delhi

Aligarh (PTI): The 19-year-old Dalit woman, who was raped by four men in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district, was shifted to AIIMS, Delhi on Monday after her condition showed no signs of improvement. The woman was gangraped a fortnight ago, following which she was admitted to the AMU's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital.

The accused had also tried to strangle her to death as she resisted their attempt and in the process, she had also ended up biting her tongue and suffering a severe cut on it.

Her condition continues to remain critical and she is still on ventilator, Dr Harris Manzoor Khan, the superintendent of JNMC, told PTI. A spokesman of the hospital said that the woman's legs have been completely paralysed and arms partially paralysed. After her family members expressed their desire to take her to Delhi, she was referred to AIIMS on Monday morning, he said.

Goa DGP tests corona positive

Panaji (IANS): Goa's Director General of Police Mukesh Kumar Meena on Monday tested positive for coronavirus and was admitted to a private hospital near Panaji. "The Goa DGP tested positive on Monday morning and admitted to Manipal Hospital for treatment," a government spokesman said. Meena was appointed as the DGP of in June this year.

1,200 inmates in UP jails infected

Lucknow (IANS): In the 71 jails across Uttar Pradesh, there are 1,200 inmates who have been infected with Covid-19. According to Anand Kumar, Director General, Prison Administration and Reform Services, till date about 1,40,000 tests, including (those on) 5,000 staff members, have been conducted in the state's temporary and permanent jails, and over 7,000 had tested positive so far. Two inmates have died of the virus. The official said that in the past one week, at least 128 prisoners have tested positive for Covid in Fatehgarh Central Jail.

Lifer for IS recruit Subhani Haja

Kochi (IANS): A special NIA court here on Monday sentenced Islamic State recruit Subhani Haja Moideen for life and ordered a fine of Rs 2.10 lakh for waging war against the Government of Iraq.

The court on Friday had found Moideen guilty of the charges and said the punishment would be delivered on Monday.

Among the charges that the court found against Moideen include criminal conspiracy, besides Sections in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) also. Moideen was arrested by the agency in October 2016. Incidentally Moideen pleaded innocence in the court and said he has not undertaken any terror related activities and has not waged a war against any country.

However, Moideen is alleged to have received arms training along with Salah Abdeslam, an accused in the 2015 Paris terror attack which left 130 people dead.



Covid-19 may cause global tsunami of mental health problems



alarming rate. There are so many issues which affect large sections of the population, including worries about jobs and income security, social exclusion, school closures and working from home creating huge pressure on families," Patel said. "There are also disruptions to

medical services and care, potential domestic violence situations, and the varying levels of fear people have of being infected by this new virus," he stressed.

The pandemic threatens to reverse years of global development, including in the countries

that can least afford to start going backwards.

In August 2020, World Bank President David Malpass predicted as many as 100 million people will be pushed back into extreme poverty.

As a result of the global economic recession, the mental health tsunami is going to sweep through all countries, rich and poor.

"The 2008 recession, which largely affected only the US, was followed by a wave of 'deaths of despair' in the US, driven by suicide and substance use," Patel said.

He pointed out that Covid-19 arrived, there was already a global mental health crisis.

According to the researchers, the relative burden of mental and substance use disorders increased by nearly 50 per cent in the past 25 years.

Battle against Covid pandemic is far from over

According to the Union Health Ministry on September 27, COVID-19 claimed 1,124 lives (in 24 hours), which pushed the country's fatality count to 94,503. The ministry had said on September 26 that 75 per cent of COVID-19 cases were found concentrated in 10 States and union territories - Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh. The ministry also said that India had conducted a total of seven crore (70 million) tests for the detection of coronavirus infection till September 25 with the country's testing capacity having crossed 14 lakh (1.4 million) tests daily. Asserting that India has substantially ramped up its testing infrastructure, it said as on date, there were 1,823 laboratories, including 1,086 government and 737 private ones. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on September 26 that over 500,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) per day were being pro-

duced by the 110 PPE manufacturers in the country. The minister also said that India's recovery rate was around 82 per cent and the fatality rate was around 1.6 per cent. The Prime Minister has pledged at the United Nations that his country's vaccine production capacity would be made available globally to fight the coronavirus crisis, earning praise from the World Health Organisation (WHO). Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his annual United Nations General Assembly address on September 26 that the country's vast vaccine production industry would serve the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. "As the largest vaccine-producing country of the world, I want to give one more assurance to the global community today," Modi said in a pre-recorded speech. "India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis." The Prime Minister's good gesture on sharing the vaccine with the rest of the world came amid questions about how India would provide such protection to its own people. Just hours before his address was broadcast, Adar Poonawalla, the CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine maker, said that the country's

Health Ministry would need close to \$1 billion in the next year for a mass vaccination campaign. His question is not answered yet. Will the Centre have Rs 80,000 crore to spend over the next one year? The Ministry of Health needs to buy and distribute the vaccine to everyone in India. This is the next challenge we need to tackle. Our politicians need to respect scientific evidence and not provide false optimism to people amid the raging coronavirus crisis. Even our media does not seem to be doing an honest service. They keep talking about the record recoveries everyday forgetting the fact that, however high our testing rates are, we still are not doing enough. We are a 1.35 billion people country. Will the positive spin on the situation help us? Questions are being raised about the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)'s "political motives". Let us keep this in mind while being optimistic: the epidemic is far from over, with a potentially huge burden of mortality and morbidity to come unless public health measures are used and adhered to. Above all we need a clear and honest communication with the people to handle the situation effectively. Hope the politicians understand this.

Parliament without Question Hour is like a library without books!



Dr Gummadidala Padmaja

The Monsoon Session of Parliament which started on September 14, 2020 will go down as a dark day in our constitutional history for reasons more than one. The primary reason is the resolution to do away with the Question Hour and Private Members' Bills and the shrinking of the Zero Hour. What is Parliament without the Question Hour? Parliament has multiple roles all of which are essential for the democratic functioning of the polity. The various roles of Parliament are: ensuring the Executive accountability to the people through their elected representatives in

both the Houses; legislation; constitutional amendment and budgetary approval, to put it in a nutshell. Accountability of the Executive to Parliament is involved in these various processes to some extent, but it is most pronounced through the device of question. Question is the most important weapon Members have to keep the government of the day on its toes. The efficiency of the ministers and their ability to run their departments is incisively put to test through the Question.

That is why the Question Hour has a great sanctity in our parliamentary traditions. It gives an opportunity for Members to raise issues of importance to their constituencies as well as their conscience. They can raise any issue under the purview of the Union government and the government is bound to answer Members questions adequately. Based on the answers given, supplementary questions can be raised seeking further clarification about the position of the Government on any given issue. That is why Question Hour is a time when full attendance of Members and the Media is seen. Both Members and the Ministers come fully prepared to put their best foot forward and what ensues is a vibrant exchange of views between Members and Ministers cutting across party lines about the performance of the Ministries.

The government also does not want to miss out on the Question Hour because it presents an opportunity for the Ministers to demonstrate their administrative abilities and leadership skills in full glare of the Media. There are many occasions when the Opposition demands for the suspension of the Question Hour to take up a matter of urgent public importance, but the government resists such attempts citing the sanctity of the Question Hour to the institution of Parliament. But, ironically, this time it is the government which wanted the Question Hour to be put in cold storage. The purpose of the Session is defeated without the Question Hour because what is at stake is the power of Parliament to ensure Executive accountability to the people.

Today, Parliament is meeting under extraordinary circumstances. The Budget session was curtailed due to Covid-19. Subsequently, many developments have taken place in the wake of the Covid such as the sudden national lockdown resulting in untold misery for millions of migrant labour; the virulent spread of the virus across the country and the collapse of the health sector, the impact of the unlock process on the spread of the virus, etc. These are which deserve to be discussed by Parliament as people are waiting for a sense of direction and clarity from the government on a host of issues. Without the Question Hour, how will members raise issues of concern? Why should there be a Session if Members cannot ask questions? Is it merely to meet constitutional requirement that the interval between two sessions should not be more than six months? Is the role of Parliament reduced to merely passing the government business bills? Private members Bills have a symbolic significance, but even that device is put aside! This is like putting the head on the ground and toes in the air! The government is shying away from critical issues confronting the nation at a crucial time. Instead of this farce, the Monsoon Session itself could have been suspended; who is going to ask? When London was under attack during World War II, the House of Commons did discuss the issue, but our Parliament cannot discuss the stand-off at the India- China border! The Defence Minister makes a statement and that is the end of the matter? Parliament is there merely to be apprised and then to approve and applaud what the Government says by thumping the benches?

Avenues of questioning the government outside of Parliament are also considerably weakened. The current dispensation shows scant respect for Parliament. On September 14, election to the office of the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha is duly held. It is a welcome development. But what is deplorable is the glaring fact that the office of Deputy Speaker is vacant and no attempt is made to fill up this constitutional position. Who is going to ask? The Media and Members are conspicuously silent on this issue. The Deputy Speaker Lok Sabha is perhaps a politically insignificant office with all the power vested in the Speaker; but so is the case with the Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha! But, that is filled promptly while the slot in Lok Sabha goes unnoticed. Why so? Who is going to ask is the attitude of the political leadership.

In the last session, a Member of Rajya Sabha was told by the Chairman not to sit in the House wearing a mask! There was considerable discussion in the House on this issue and the Chair was urged to leave it to the Member's will. Today, the Chairman is also wearing a mask and sitting in the House! In the Lok Sabha, the current Speaker took special interest in stretching the Zero Hour, after the normal business of the House, till 9 PM or sometimes even 10 PM because he wanted to give opportunity to as many Members as possible to raise issues of public importance. It was a laudable initiative. But, the same Speaker approves the freezing of the Question Hour, Private Members' bills and the shrinking of the Zero Hour. In our polity, the two constitutional institutions which have witnessed a great deal of decline are the Speaker and the Governor. The Speaker is a quasi-judicial constitutional institution in our polity and calls for a non-partisan approach on the part of the incumbent. But, they go by political expediency than constitutional principles. This deserves to be discussed subsequently and separately as it a very important subject.

(The writer is Asst. Professor, Dr BR Ambedkar Law College, Hyderabad)

A STRONG ORDER OF GUJARAT HC IN FAVOUR OF RTI

Why the SIC did not punish callous PIO?



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

There are three types Public Relations Officers: One- who diligently understand the disclosure of the information sought and promptly provide it within 30 days. Two- the PIO who wants to act independently, but not allowed to do so by the superiors; do not allow them to give information; do not support them with necessary funds and infrastructure. Three- the PIO himself has a mindset not to give any information.

Major problem is with these third class PIOs who have strong mind bent upon not giving any information. They do not respond, allow 30 days to lapse, does not care the first appeal to authority within the department, who generally takes the stand of the PIO. They say, let Information Commission direct, then we will see. This is the prevalent attitude of the PIOs in general, and that is the main problem of implementation of 15-year-old RTI Act. Most of them are callous.

We can admonish and advise to apply mind, without imposing penalty on the first set of PIOs for their inability to give information, but the second set of PIOs deserve punishment. They are fortunate that imprisonment provision was removed from the draft. Otherwise, they should have been jailed for malicious, or negligent denial of information. They deserve maximum penalty.

87-year-old RTI seeker harassed
An applicant, Sureshchandra Maneklal Dholakiya under RTI has been compelled to file a writ petition to get the information which could have been provided without any problem under RTI Act. The saga of 87-year-old applicant resulted in Gujarat High Court's command on September 10, 2020, to State Information Commission to initiate penal proceedings against the callous Public Information Officer

Dholakia, resident of Gujarat asked on April 19, 2018 specific details about the information and documents required, the Public Information Officer and Mamladar, Bhachau had refused on the ground that such information pertains to the third party, and therefore, it is privilege information under Section 8(1)(d) of the Right to Information Act. As usual the first appellate authority (FAA) did not respond to the appeal filed against the denial. Most of the times the First appeal is a time killer without serving any purpose. The Act expected FAA would act as a filter to prevent appeals to escalate to Information Commission level, which is outside and independent of public authority. First Appeal provides a scope for the public authority to review the decision of denial within the same organization so that information seeker is not unnecessarily



Another major hurdle in seeking information is the Information Commission, where the most of the Commissioners in most of the appeals, if inclined to give information, not interested in penalising the PIOs even though they noticed the illegality and lack of justification for not sharing information.

Gujarat State Information Commission found reason in second appeal, discovered that request was rejected callously, and allowed the appeal directing the public authority to furnish the information asked for. The only stand, which was taken before the State Information Commissioner was that the information pertains to the third party, could not be provided in view of Section 8(1) (d) of the Right to Information Act. The PIO never said that information was destroyed or not available. The SIC did not agree with that.

pushed to take next step.

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Surprisingly, after the direction of the State Information Commissioner, the public authority took altogether different

stand that the information was not available, saying that it had no record to be produced before the State Information Commissioner, as that was destroyed or was not available. The public authority in its affidavit in reply to the writ petition stated the affidavit in reply to the respondent, wherein, in paragraph no.10, it was categorically stated that on account of the earthquake natural calamity, the area of Bhachau had faced considerable damage even to the government offices and hence, information was not available with the authority.

Petitioner submitted that this flip flop right from the beginning till the order passed by the State Information Commissioner, by the authorities for not providing the information should not be accepted.

The High Court acknowledged the conflicting stand of the respondent authorities more particularly the Public Information Officer, at the relevant time, before the State Information Commissioner that the information, as sought for, by the petitioner pertains to the third party, and therefore, refused to give him. The court was critical about this kind of attitude of PIO, it said:

"As against that stand, now, stand being taken that the record is not available cannot be accepted by the Court. At the first stage when the response was given to the petitioner by the Public Information Officer as well as State Information Commis-

sioner about the information of the third party, and therefore, not provided would be at the presumption that the respondent authorities had the record with them and after perusal of such record have found that the information sought for by the petitioner is missing, and thereafter, change their stand of no record being available. Therefore, the same cannot be accepted by this Court."

By changing the stand the PIO gave rise to a suspicion that record was available at the time of filing application under RTI, but after the positive direction by the State Information Commission to give the information, they invented a plea of non-availability, for which they preferred to use 'earth quake' as an excuse. The High Court concluded: "Therefore, there is no hesitation in holding in aforesaid fact situation that the respondent authorities more particularly, Public Information Officer and Mamladar, Bhachau has acted in a callous manner as a result of which the petitioner had been deprived of from the right of Right to Information.

Justice A Y Kogje observed, "The Court is of the view that this is a fit case where the proceedings under Section 20 of the Right to Information Act needs to be initiated in view of non-compliance of the order passed by the State Information Commissioner as well as the casual manner in which the application of the petitioner to seek the right to information under the Right to Information Act has been dealt with."

The matter was relegated back to the State Information Commissioner to initiate proceedings under Section 20 of the Right to Information Act.

Another point that was missed by the High Court is that even under third party excuse, the information cannot be denied. The RTI Act mandates the PIO to consult the third party giving him opportunity to explain his objections against disclosure. If the objection is not convincing, the PIO has to share the information after giving a notice of such decision to the third party. Before consulting the third party, the PIO must justify his conclusion how it was considered as third-party information. There was no such examination in this case. Changing a stand after SIC directed the information is absolute fraud on the RTI Act. He is liable on two counts-one for unjustifiable denial of information under RTI Act, two- the non-compliance of the order of the SIC by the public authority. Section 20 of RTI Act makes the PIO liable on these two counts. The appellant needed the documents he sought under RTI, to use them in a pending litigation. It is not sure whether story, that has come back to State Information Commission, ends there with delivery of information.

(The writer is Dean, School of Law, Bennett University, and former Central Information Commissioner)

SPB's departure a huge loss to music industry

S P Balasubrahmanyam's (SPB) demise has shocked the entire nation. The iconic playback singer was known for his immense contribution in the music industry and enthralled millions with his mesmerising voice. He was a giant of the music industry. SPB had a rare distinction of rendering maximum number of songs in a single day. His singing voice dominated five decades, lending his voice to many super stars of Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Hindi films. SPB's death is irreparable loss to the film fraternity. His death has left a void in the music industry which cannot be filled. His mesmerising voice will echo in every household and continue to live with us for generations to come. Singers may come and go but SPB was not just a phenomenon but an institution onto himself. May his soul rest in eternal peace. May the God give enough strength to his family members to bear the loss.



Kodihalli S Rao, Thane, Maharashtra



LETTERS

Is CSK losing momentum?

Chennai Super Kings is one of the top-notch performing teams in the IPL history. The team has been outstandingly discharging well, with its immensely experienced squad, playing under the top-class leader Dhoni. The CSK as a team, is a complete composition in all the four areas which are batting, bowling, fielding and finally ability to win under pressure. When we take an in-detailed comparison between CSK and other teams, it is quite evident that the cricketing experience and pressure capabilities of CSK players are way ahead in the race with the other teams. But in the current ongoing IPL, we have been seeing CSK failing to make it a big day under the lights. The team has lost the initial momentum in the last two games, with openers failing to accelerate the match. The team would have been much better if Bravo would be in the eleven, as we saw him earlier with his match winning performances in CPL. When bowling and middle order is concerned, CSK has got some good set of talents, but the momentum of starting the match with some good runs in Power-Play is creating a big delta between the chasing score and team's performance. With the available players in hand and considering experience, in my view Bravo would be a good option, Dhoni at a little top of the order and kick-start opening batsmen would certainly make a match winning team.

T Bharath Bharadwaj, Nacharam, Hyderabad

Modi raises India's voice in UN



This is with reference to the report 'Modi pushes for UN reforms' (Sept 27). Prime Minister Narendra Modi forcefully raised issues at the UN that have been pending for a long time that concerned India's legitimate voice and maturity in leadership that can be garnered and effectively used and utilised for the general good of the world. India strongly pitched for structural reforms in the Security Council that is pending for a long time. The permanent members as well as other members of the United Nation have wanted India to be made a permanent member in the UN Security Council, but this is yet to become a reality despite so many years that have passed. India cannot be kept away perennially from granting permanent membership in the UNSC, along with other eligible and deserving countries like Japan and Brazil, among others. India's strong assertion and assurance in the production and distribution of Covid-19 vaccine that is already into third phase of clinical trial to be made available to all in the world, is a lucid and wholesome announcement by a country that puts wellbeing and social concerns of others as a driving force for all its actions, must make others assured of Indian's intentions in combating Covid-19

crisis that the world is facing today. India is the first country in the world to make such a wholesome and unequivocal commitment in this regard.

S Lakshmi, Meenangadi, Wayanad, Kerala

Migrant labourers' plight is much older than pandemic

Every day we come across a story about a migrant labourer who has been through several hardships ever since lockdown had been implemented. Why is it that no one spoke about the hardships that these people faced on a daily basis even before we were struck by a deadly pandemic? Why is it that these people were left to look after themselves with absolutely no resources provided by the government? The neglectful attitude of the society towards these migrants is clearly visible as they became headlines only when their service is no longer available to the greedy capitalist minds. The fact that migrant labourers were miserable even before the lockdown says a lot about how our system is designed to neglect the needs of the poor and needy. It is time that we as a nation stand up for the rights of migrant labourers because they are the building blocks of a nation and need to be treated just as respectfully and humanly as every other citizen.

Joel Augustine, Kalamassery, Kochi, Kerala

thehansreader@gmail.com

Temple crimes unrelated: DGP

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Director general of police (DGP) Damodar Gautam Sawang on Monday said that crimes reported from different temples across the state were isolated ones and not linked in any manner.

He claimed that 12 of the 19 temple attack cases since the Antarvedi Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple chariot blaze had been cracked. “Bounty hunters, criminal elements, people with superstitious beliefs and others were found involved in crimes at temples in Andhra Pradesh, which registered the lowest such cases in 2020, compared with the past five years,” the DGP said in statement on Monday.

“All these incidents are stand-alone and each one has a different motive. Various other attacks were executed by gangs hunting for treasures supposedly hidden under idols. Therefore, all these incidents have different motives and are completely unrelated,” Sawang added.

The DGP was reacting to allegations that Hindu temples were deliberately targeted in the southern state. “Rather, aggressive attempts seem to be on to link all these incidents to give a spin to the narrative, which is wrong,” he said.

Presenting statistics on temple attacks, Sawang said 228 cases were identified in 2020, which were lower than the previous years. In 2019 the state witnessed 305 cases involving temples.

During the TDP regime, the state saw 290 cases in 2015, 322 in 2016, 318 in 2017, and 267 in 2018, indicating that the temples were reporting damage in some form or the other through attacks or elements of nature or bounty hunters, the DGP reasoned.

Political parties such as the TDP, BJP and Jana Sena are attempting to corner the state government on rising attacks on temples. Even on social media, targeted propaganda is occurring relentlessly. Commenting on the latest Nandi idol sacrilege in a Chittoor temple, Sawang said police had sent a notice to the temple management and

- All these incidents have different motives and unrelated to each other
- Police asks temple authorities to install CCTV’s at temple premises
- Compared to past 5 years, 2020 has register less cases on temple crime



was investigating it from all possible angles.

“We have mapped a total of 47,593 places of worship in the state, of which 28,567 are tem-

ples. Only 10 per cent have CCTVs,” he said, elaborating on security at religious places. Police has issued notices to temple authorities to take measures like

surveillance cameras, increased illumination around the complexes for security.

“A comprehensive social audit of all these structures has been completed. The department itself has installed CCTVs at over 880 locations. The police have bound over 8,204 persons who had committed similar offences in the past six years,” the DGP asserted.

He requested the people not to get carried away by false propaganda. “If any citizen has any concern or information, I request him or her to approach the police. I personally assure that we will respond promptly and look into the matter,” he said.

Thieves targetted only private temples, says report

- Assistant Commissioners of Endowments from various district in their report to Endowments Commissioner say that no temple run by the department has been targeted
- Private temple managements have been instructed to take all precautionary measures like setting up of CC cameras and deploying security guards



CC TV footage of thieves committing theft at Anjaneya Swamy temple at Nallajerla in West Godavari district on Sept 26 night

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: The six-member gang that resorted to thefts in various temples in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts in the past few months has committed the offenses only in private temples but not the ones managed by the endowments department, said P Durga, assistant commissioner of endowments at Visakhapatnam in a report submitted to the endowments commissioner P Arjuna Rao.

While thanking the senior police officials for nabbing the accused, Durga said on Monday that the department has already instructed those managing such temples to take all the necessary measures to prevent such incidents from being recurred. Closed

circuit (CC) cameras need to be installed and security personnel should be deployed, particularly during nights, she said.

The local temple committees and the department, too, will take all the necessary measures to check such incidents from being repeated, be it in the private temples or those managed by the department, the assistant commissioner stated.

The Anjaneya Swamy temple at Nallajerla in West Godavari district, in which the temple hundi was robbed on Saturday night, is also being managed by a private committee.

Assistant commissioner D Ramesh on Monday informed the commissioner that the accused were caught within 24 hours as the CC cameras are

working well. According to local residents, only Rs 5,000 was there in the hundi when it was robbed by the duo—both of them were juvenile delinquents.

Viswanath, assistant commissioner of endowments at Chittoor, said in a report to Arjun Rao that some unidentified persons damaged the Nandi idol located on the precincts of the Lord Abhayanjaneya Swamy temple also managed by a committee at Agan-galam of Gangadhara Nellore mandal on Saturday and the temple committee members lodged a complaint with the local police. Taking a serious note of the incident, Chittoor SP Senthil Kumar is personally investigating the case, the assistant commissioner informed Arjun Rao.

Antarvedi chariot to be ready by Dec

- The chariot making work has commenced on Sunday with traditional homams and puja
- Multi-disciplinary team of expert artisans and workers is engaged for wood-carving

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: The construction work of the chariot (ratham) of Lord Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy at Antarvedi village of Sakshinetipalli mandal in East Godavari district is going on a brisk pace and will be ready for the ensuing calendar of festivals.

Commissioner of endowments P Arjun Rao said that as per the Telugu calendar, the annual Rathotsavam of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy falls on February 23, and all the necessary measures are being taken to get the chariot ready much before the due date. Based on the recommendations of the committee constituted for the purpose, high quality Bastar teakwood is being used for making the chariot by adopting all the traditional and customary methods, he added. The services of a multi-disciplinary team of expert artisans and workers are engaged for wood-carving and to religiously follow the norms laid down the purpose. Going by the pace of work, the Commissioner expressed confidence that the chariot will be ready by December of this year.

Stating that the chariot making work has already commenced on Sunday with traditional homams and puja in the presence of ministers and public representatives.

Denying the allegations that a particular community is being neglected, he said that the presence of the MLA, who belongs to the same community at the ceremonial function to launch the chariot works itself, is an indication that the sentiments of all the communities are being honoured. The traditional systems will be strictly followed, Arjun Rao said. “The temple has a total extent of land measuring 927.27 acres but not 2,000 acres as is being claimed,” he clarified.

Rescue farmers from flood havoc, demands Naidu

- Demands the govt to take up immediate preventive measures and to launch relief efforts for the flood victims
- Seeks urgent steps to provide remunerative prices to crops so that farmers can tide over debt crisis caused by lockdown

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP president and Leader of Opposition N Chandrababu Naidu demanded the state government to launch immediate rescue efforts to save the lives and properties of the farmers who have been suffering from frequent floods in the state.

In a letter to chief secretary Nilam Sawhney on Monday, Naidu stressed the need for immediate steps to ensuring remunerative prices for the crops of farmers to help them tide over the debts. The government’s assistance is immediately needed considering the fact that the

farmers were steeped in financial crisis due to coronavirus crisis. The flood losses are causing greater losses in agriculture, he added.

He demanded the government to take up immediate preventive measures and to launch relief efforts because of heavy rains in Godavari districts and floods in the Krishna river. Heavy rains have caused flooding in low-lying areas and crops were submerged in many places. Despite this, there were no preventive steps by the government anywhere. There were no efforts to rescue the families which were badly hit, he observed.

‘Naidu using BCs as vote banks’

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Rajya Sabha member Mopidevi Venkataramana has ridiculed Chandrababu Naidu for using backward classes (BC) as vote bank and recalled that not a single scheme was implemented by the TDP for the upliftment of BCs during its tenure. Speaking at a press conference at the party headquarters at Tadepalli on Monday, he said that opposition leader Chandrababu Naidu had been repeatedly taking BCs for a ride and had done nothing for their welfare during the TDP regime. He stated that Chandrababu Naidu failed to deliver his promises made to the welfare of BCs during his regime and never bothered about the BCs while in power. It is quite evident that Chandrababu has been using BCs as a vote bank and for playing caste politics, where his version on BC quota changes like a chameleon when in power and in opposition.

Jashua Kalapranaganam in Guntur

Amaravati: The state government will build Joshua Kalapranaganam at Guntur in memory of the legendary poet, Gurram Joshua as per the orders issued by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, said Education Minister Audimulapu Suresh.

Addressing the gathering during the function held here on Monday to mark the 125th birth anniversary of renowned poet Gurram Joshua, the minister recalled the works of Joshua and his rich contribution against untouchability and social awareness through his literary works.

Stating that the Sahitya Akademi Award winner and Padma Bhushan Gurram Joshua was known for his literary works against untouchability and casteism,

- State has allocated Rs 3 cr for building Jashua Kalapranaganam, renovation of the tomb and installing his statue
- CM is striving hard to develop Dalits financially, socially, politically and appointed Dalits as Ministers of Home and Education, says Education Minister Audimulapu Suresh

Suresh said Jashua Kala Pranganam would be built in Guntur for which the state had allocated Rs 3 crore, including for renovation of his tomb and developing it as a memorial as also installing his statue. He said

Yanamala dismisses Jala Kala another betrayal by Jagan

- Says the govt is deceiving farmers with false promises of free power and pumpsets even while fixing meters to agriculture motors
- Alleges that an additional burden of Rs 10,000 cr has been imposed on farmers and the poor after Jagan came to power

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Stating that newly-launched YSR Jala Kala would not benefit the poor farmers, TDP senior leader Yanamala Ramakrishnu criticised the Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government for deceiving the farmers with false promises of free power and pumpsets without transferring the real benefits on ground level to them.

In a statement on Monday, the former minister said that the Jagan government had unveiled the Jala Kala scheme while on the other hand fixing meters to existing pumpsets.

“The escrow accounts are being opened only to rob the farmers of their Rs 4,000 crore benefit under the free power scheme. On the other hand, power bills have been increased by three to four times which imposed a burden of Rs. 4,000 crore on the people,” he said.

He said that after Jagan came to power in the State, a burden of Rs. 10,000 crore was imposed on the farmers and the poor. Free power scheme was being used to punish the farmers in an indirect way. The new promise to provide 2 lakh pumpsets was undoubtedly a gimmick to mislead the people. In every new scheme, the ruling YSRCRC leaders were committing a scam running into thousands of crores, he alleged.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy was working relentlessly for the welfare of the SC and STs in tune with the ideology of Gurram Joshua, he added.

He flayed TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu and his party for making false allegations against the government citing Dalit issues. It is unfortunate that some Dalit leaders are supporting Naidu, he said. “They should approach government if they have any problems and the government is ready to address the real issues,” said the minister. The Chief Minister has been striving hard to develop Dalits financially, socially and politically and appointed dalits as the Home Minister and the Education Minister, he added.

Jagan urges Centre to confer Bharat Ratna on SPB

Amaravati: Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday requested the Government of India to confer the nation’s highest civilian award ‘Bharat Ratna’ upon legendary singer S P Balasubrahmanyam, who passed away on September 25.

“This will be the highest recognition to his (SPBs) remarkable work which lasted for five decades and stays in our memory forever,” he said in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“Our state of Andhra Pradesh is fortunate being the birthplace (SPS Nellore district) of the great music maestro S P Balasubrahmanyam. His untimely departure not only caused much distress to fans and celebrities in India, but has also affected the international music fraternity,” the Chief Minister said.

- In a letter to the Prime Minister, the CM recalls that stalwarts like Lata Mangeshkar, Bhupen Hazarika, M S Subbulakshmi, Ustad Bismillah Khan and Pandit Bhimsen Joshi were honoured with the highest civilian honour of the land

SPBs immense popularity and the deep impact he left on the global music industry in his 50 years of legacy could be gauged by the continuous flow of rich tributes from music aficionados all over the world.

Jagan noted that the “un-ending saga of his staggering achievements go beyond music”.

With his unparalleled talent, SPB lifted compositions to sublime levels, he said.

Besides six National awards, he won 25 Nandi awards from the Andhra Pradesh government and numerous other awards from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

He received the Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2011 from the Government of India and the Silver Peacock Medal in 2016 as the Indian Film Personality of the Year, the Chief Minister recalled.

“Music stalwarts like Lata Mangeshkar, Bhupen Hazarika, M S Subbulakshmi, Ustad Bismillah Khan and Pandit Bhimsen Joshi were conferred the Bharat Ratna. As a tribute to the legendary singer for his outstanding contribution in the field of music and art, I request you to confer Bharat Ratna upon Balasubrahmanyam,” the Chief Minister requested. (PTT)

Lokesh writes to Smriti on NHDC office

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP general national secretary wrote to Union textile minister Smriti Irani urging her to retain the regional office status of the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) branch in Vijayawada city.

In his letter on Monday, Lokesh requested the Union minister to drop the plan to downgrade NHDC branch here from regional office to branch office. He pointed out that being a home to more than 3 lakh active weavers families, Andhra Pradesh stands in second place in south India in terms of number of weavers.

Stating that the handloom sector showed a robust growth ever since the NHDC opened its office

in Vijayawada, Lokesh said that the good results were the reason for upgrading the branch office to regional office here. Over 200 weavers’ cooperative societies have drawn immense benefits from this office. The turnover of the Vijayawada office has also grown to reach Rs 80 crore as against the Rs 16 cr of Hyderabad regional office, he explained.

He said that as a result of the downgrading, the cooperative societies, yarn depot and AP State Handloom Weavers Coop Society were facing problems. The weavers were incurring losses due to lockdowns for the past six months. There were no fresh orders while previous products were not being sold. The NHDC decision would cause greater loss at this juncture, he pointed out.

State govt encouraging Dalits in different fields: Muttamsetti



Borewell drilling trucks proceed ahead as Minister M Srinivasa Rao launches YSR Jala Kala in Visakhapatnam on Monday

Photo: A Pydiraju

- The Minister pays rich tributes to eminent poet Gurram Jashuva on his birth anniversary
- Takes part in slew of programmes on Monday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam: Tourism Minister Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao paid homage to the statue of famous poet Guram Jashuva on Monday at Ramakrishna Beach.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said after the YSRCRC came into power,

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy sanctioned a ‘Kala Kshetram’ in the name of Jashuva and allotted Rs 3 crore. Gurram Jashuva art gallery will be built to be known to the future generations. He recalled his efforts for social activism, his books for the tribals and Dalits.

His literature was understandable to the common man and that’s the reason Jashuva would live as long as the Telugu States exist. Speaking about Dalits, he said the State government was encouraging Dalits in many fields.

Later, the Minister launched the ‘YSR Free Agriculture Power’ scheme poster

at the Collectorate. District Collector V Vinay Chand, CMD, APEPDL S Nagalakshmi, Anakapalle MP B Satyavathi and MLA B Mutyala Naidu took part in the programme.

At the Collector’s office, Muttamsetti launched ‘YSR Jala Kala’ – free borewells through the ‘Navaratnalu scheme’. The Minister said it would benefit small and marginal farmers at large as the scheme aims at utilising the available groundwater resources for improving the livelihoods of the farmers.

In the later part of the day, the Minister paid tributes to Bhagat Singh, marking his birth anniversary.

No ‘Annadata’ burns ‘venerable’ tractor: Tejaswi Surya

Continued from P1

He alleged that there is no harmony between the Youth Congress and its parent party Congress.

Surya alleged that the Congress only renounces all policies, principles and promises to protect the interests of the “family”. Due to the agricultural Bills of Modi government, farmers will now get complete freedom to sell their produce at reasonable prices, as they wish. They will no longer be controlled by middlemen. The agricultural Bill will play an important role towards increasing the income of the country’s donors, he added.

Youth Congress workers set tractor ablaze at India Gate

Continued from P1

“In honour of the memory of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Punjab Youth Congress protested against the BJP government’s apathetic treatment of farmers by lighting a tractor at India Gate. Wake the sleeping govt. Inqilab Zindabad.”

It also attached a video of the act that was carried out metres away from the India Gate and not far from the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Delhi Police spokesperson in a statement said, “Today at around 7:15 am, 15-20 persons carrying a tractor in Tata 407 vehicle came to Rajpath, Man Singh Crossing.” He said that they off loaded the tractor and tried to set it ablaze.

“They claimed to be members of Youth Congress Punjab. Appropriate legal action has been taken. Five persons have been detained till now and one vehicle impounded. Affiliation of these persons is being verified,” he said.

Delhi BJP media cell chief Neelkant Bakshi said that he will be filing an FIR against the Youth Congress workers. He alleged that the Youth Congress workers brought the tractor and set it on fire to spread violence. “They are trying to spread riots in the country, and I will be filing an FIR to stop this conspiracy,” Bakshi added.

BIZ BRIEFS

Mahindra Treo in Telangana

Hyderabad: Mahindra Electric Mobility Ltd, part of the Mahindra Group, announced the launch of its new electric three-wheeler Mahindra Treo in Telangana at ₹ 2.7 lakh post FAME subsidies (ex-showroom, Telangana). The new electric vehicle is now completely designed and developed in India and offers best-in-class performance with higher speed of 55 kmph, better acceleration from 0-20 kmph in just 2.3 seconds and a gradeability of 12.7 degree. Mahesh Babu, MD & CEO, Mahindra Electric, said, “The recently announced Telangana EV policy by will ensure EVs are more accessible and affordable in the State. In line with the government’s vision to promote e-mobility, we are very proud to launch the new Mahindra Treo electric auto across Telangana. With nearly 5000 Treo vehicles plying across 400 districts, Treo has already covered 1.6 crore km on Indian roads”.

Vestige's e-training

Hyderabad: Vestige, a direct selling company, has launched a custom-built e-training programme called V-Enhance. This special training programme helps distributors with hearing and speech impairment to augment their understanding about Vestige Marketing's health and wellness products and their benefits through sign language. The aim is to empower and support them to sell products with utmost confidence and build a rewarding and sustainable career with Vestige. This unique initiative will help them realise their own potential to become successful and self-reliant entrepreneurs in the future. Company's Managing Director Gautam Bali said: “Vestige has provided equal opportunity to a diverse range of people globally and there are thousands of extraordinary success stories that highlight the same. For us, each distributor joining the system is a valued partner in our business”.

Lanxess India wins awards

Hyderabad: Specialty chemicals company Lanxess India has received multiple awards from the Indian Chemical Council (ICC). The awards recognize the organization's commitment and outstanding performance in the areas of environment and human resource management under the 'large companies' category. It also won the certificate of merit for best compliant company for two codes under responsible care - process safety code & distribution code. Additionally, based on the Nicer globe initiative of ICC for transportation safety, two of the top three drivers who were engaged by Lanxess were awarded as the 'best drivers' for their disciplined performance towards road safety. Nee-lanjan Banerjee, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Lanxess India, said “This is an extremely proud moment for us as we have been continually striving to set newer benchmarks in the areas of business processes.”

Ather Energy unveils e-bike

Hyderabad: Electric vehicle maker Ather Energy unveiled the collector's edition of Ather 450X electric two-wheeler. Called Series1, this limited-edition scooter is available only to those Ather Energy enthusiasts who pre-ordered the scooter before the national launch of the Ather 450X on January 28, 2020. Series1 has been conceptualized and designed to celebrate the amplified performance of the Ather 450X.

RBI defers MPC meet as 3 posts lie vacant

The all-important interest rate-setting panel lacks quorum as appointment of independent members delayed

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank on Monday postponed the meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the all-important interest rate-setting panel, over a possible lack of quorum as the appointment of independent members is delayed.

The Reserve Bank in a press release said that the MPC meeting, which was to begin for three days beginning Tuesday for a bi-monthly monetary policy review, has been rescheduled and new dates will be announced shortly.

“The meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) during September 29, 30 and October 1, 2020 is being rescheduled. The dates of the MPC’s meeting will be announced shortly,” the RBI said.

The government moved the interest rate-setting role from the RBI Governor to a six-member MPC in 2016. Half of the panel, headed by the RBI governor, is made up of external independent members. The four-year terms of three external members of MPC ended last month and they are yet to be replaced by the government.

Rules require at least four members to be present at the meeting, with at least one being the Governor or his deputy, who is a member of the committee. It was expected that the MPC would hold interest rates at the upcoming meeting as inflation was still



above the comfort zone.

The government in 2016 appointed Chetan Ghate, a professor at Indian Statistical Institute; Pami Dua, director at Delhi School of Economics (DSE); and Ravindra Dholakia, professor at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, as independent members of the MPC for four years.

The external members can hold office for a period of four years and are not eligible for re-appointment. The other ex-officio members of the MPC are Reserve Bank Governor, Deputy Governor (in-charge of monetary policy) and one RBI officer to be appointed by the central board. The MPC, which must have a quorum of four, cannot meet unless the central government appoints new independent members.

The government earlier this

ICra downgrades TAJGVK Hotels & resorts

HANS BUSINESS

Hyderabad: Rating agency ICrA has downgraded TAJGVK Hotels & Resorts Limited long-term loans and short-term credit facilities.

The low rating was on account of expected decline in revenue and margins during this financial year, the hotel chain said.

In a regulatory filing, the firm said has received a letter from ICrA informing it of the “downgrade in the credit rating of the company’s long-term loans (aggregating to Rs 165.63 crore) to ICrA A- from ICrA A and short-term credit facilities (aggregating to Rs 30 crore) to ICrA A2+ from ICrA A1”. The company’s earnings would be weak during Q2FY21 and this trend is expected to continue over the next several quarters with continued muted demand, the rating agency said.

With sharp fall in operating profits, the debt coverage indicators are likely to deteriorate in FY21, ICRA further said.

The company’s reported meagre revenues of Rs 3.3 crore and operating losses in Q1FY21 owing to the pan-India lockdown resulted in only one of its six properties apart from Taj Santacruz, which is under a JV with a GVK group company, being operational during the period.

Markets soar for 2nd day on stimulus hopes

Sensex surges 593 points; Financial, auto stocks lead rally

Mumbai: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty surged as much as 1.6 per cent on Monday, lifted by intense buying in financial stocks on hopes of capital support to public sector banks and stimulus measures for the economy.

The BSE Sensex settled 592.97 points or 1.59 per cent higher at 37,981.63, while the NSE Nifty surged 177.30 points or 1.60 per cent to 11,227.55 -- the second straight session of rise for the indices. In the Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank was the top gainer, rising around 8 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, PowerGrid, ONGC, Sun Pharma, ICICI Bank and M&M. On the other hand, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys and Nestle ended in the red.

All sectoral indices ended with gains, with BSE power, bankex, auto, realty, utilities, finance and metal rallying up to 3.40 per cent. Broader midcap and smallcap indices surged outperformed the benchmark, rising up to 2.68 per cent.

“Key Indices ended high as bulls led the charge backed by financials and well supported by auto and pharma. Expectations of a stimulus coupled with capital support to state-run banks fuelled the rally in late afternoon trade,” S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, said.

According to traders, domestic equities also tracked strong buying sentiment in global equities ahead of the first US presidential debate. Global investors are eye-



Rupee settles 18 paise lower against \$

Mumbai: The rupee pared initial gains to settle 18 paise lower at 73.79 against the US dollar on Monday on account of suspected oil related dollar buying. The local unit opened 3 paise lower at 73.64 at the interbank forex market.

During the session, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 73.53 and a low of 73.86. It finally closed at 73.79 against the greenback, down 18 paise over its previous close. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.16 per cent to 94.49.

₹3L cr PLI scheme to boost manufacturing

New Delhi: In a major push to domestic manufacturing in the country, the government proposes to pump in over Rs 3 lakh crore through an umbrella production linked incentive (PLI) scheme that will run simultaneously in 10 identified sectors for a period of five years.

Sources privy to the development said that the Niti Aayog has been entrusted with the task to finalise a cabinet note proposing extension of the PLI scheme with separate budgetary allocation for each identified sector for the next five years starting FY22.

The allocation will have to be worked out within the confines of the suggestions given by the expenditure department based on expected savings from the withdrawal of the existing Merchandise Exports India Scheme (MEIS) introduced in April 2015 to promote manufacturing and exports of specified goods from India.

“A plan for a mega Rs 3 lakh crore PLI scheme has been finalised by an empowered group of secretaries chaired by the cabinet secretary early this month. The allocation under the expanded PLI has been worked out on the basis of savings made by withdrawal of the MEIS scheme and liabilities on account of the new export incentive scheme, Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP). This will ensure that there is no imbalance on account of introduction of PLI,” said the source quoted above.

SBI waives processing fee on select loans

New Delhi: To enlarge retail loans and online business, lending major SBI on Monday announced a 100 per cent waiver in the processing fee for car, gold, and personal loans availed through its integrated digital banking platform – Yono.

“The bank is offering the lowest interest rate starting from 7.5 per cent to customers opting for the car loan. They will also get 100 per cent on-road finance on select models,” the lending major said in a statement. “To enhance the availability and affordability of credit to individuals in the times of the current crisis, the bank is offering personal loans with lending rates as low as 9.6 per cent.”

RBI appoints 3-member panel to oversee Lakshmi Vilas Bank

New Delhi: After shareholders ousted seven directors of the board, the Reserve Bank of India has approved appointment of three-member Committee of Directors (CoD) to run the daily affairs of debt-ridden Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB).

This CoD will exercise the discretionary powers of MD & CEO in the ad-interim, the bank said in a statement on Monday. The RBI on September 27 appointed the CoD composed of three independent directors Meeta Makhan, Shakti Sinha, and Satish Kumar Kalra, it said, adding that the committee will be headed by Meeta Makhan. On Friday, shareholders of LVB ousted seven directors, including its MD & CEO and auditors at the AGM. The



truncated board sought to assuage investors stating that the bank's liquidity situation was comfortable and assured the depositors that their monies were safe.

“With Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) of about 262 per cent as on September 27, against minimum 100 per cent required by RBI, the deposit-holders, bondholders, account holders and creditors are well safe guarded,” the statement said.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank will continue to share information on the developments in public domain as and when they materialise, and as required by applicable law, it added.

India will be 2nd largest economy by 2050, avers Adani

DEBUNKS GDP RHETORIC, SAYS INDIA HAS EDGE OVER GLOBAL PEERS IN BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

New Delhi: Billionaire Gautam Adani has debunked the narrow fixation on GDP numbers, saying fundamentals are intact and India will be the second-largest economy by 2050 and has an edge over global peers in terms of business opportunities.

Speaking at the JP Morgan India Summit - Future in Focus, the Adani Group chairman said the Aatmanirbhar Bharat programme will be a game-changer. “I will state without any hesitation – that – in my view – over the next three decades, India is the world’s greatest business opportunity,” he said. India’s geostrategic position and massive market size give it an edge over its global peers amid the fundamental political realignment of nations taking shape, he said adding opportunities for India are likely to accelerate on the other side of the pandemic.

“For the sake of the fans of the GDP metric, let’s look at some statistics. The global GDP in 1990 was \$38 trillion. Today, 30 years later, this number is \$90



India needs \$1.5 to 2 trillion of capital over the next decade but despite key structural reforms, capital structure challenges, and lack of independent regulators remain bottlenecks to nation-building and investment opportunities

Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group

country as its fundamentals remain intact. “The current focus on standardised GDP predictions as against truly understanding what a nation could look like over a decade has unfortunately become one of the primary elements for measuring the health of an economy. In my view, patience and long-term planning and most importantly, an alignment with the government’s business agenda are what creates the greatest value,” he said.

Speaking of challenges holding back India, Adani said that India needs \$1.5 to 2 trillion of

Re 1 invested in Adani Enterprises yielded 800-times returns

New Delhi: A rupee invested in Adani Enterprises two-and-a-half decades back has given over 800-times return, billionaire Gautam Adani said as he saw his infrastructure conglomerate evolve into an integrated ‘platform of platforms’.

Speaking at the JP Morgan India Summit - Future in Focus, the Adani Group Chairman said the seaports-to-airports-to-energy group’s incubation model has created six publicly-traded companies with thousands of jobs and unprecedented shareholder value.

“A one-rupee investment in Adani Enterprises (at the time of) our first IPO in 1994 has returned over 800x,” he said. A college dropout, Adani, 58, started with trading in commodities and went on to build a conglomerate that is the country’s biggest sea-port operator and is poised to be India’s largest private airport developer.

It has interests spanning energy, mining, gas, renewables, defence and agro-commodities.

“We basically build infrastructure that enables ‘flow’ - the flow of goods and materials, the flow of electrons, the flow of people, and the flow of data. This focus on helping build India’s infrastructure forms the core of our philosophy,” he said.

ital structure challenges, and lack of empowered and independent regulators remain bottlenecks to nation-building and investment opportunities.

Bars unsure of biz in Covid times

“The operation of bars completely relies on government decision. If the government do not provide relief, the managements would be forced to shut them. The response from people is already poor unless the required safety measures are taken and delicious food is served,” says State Wine Dealers Association president D Venkateswar Rao

PATAN AFZAL BABU

Hyderabad: While the licenced liquor outlets, wine shops, generated the highest ever revenue of Rs 8,000 crore through liquor sales in just five months, from May 6 to till date, the corona pandemic has put a big question mark on the existence of 1,300 plus bars in Telangana. The bar managements are apprehensive of the business prospects in the time of crisis besides with the exorbitant annual licence fee being collected by the State government.

With the term of annual bar licence ending on September 30, the State government has given its nod to open the bars and clubs from Saturday onwards. While many bars resumed liquor serving facility in the existing well-furnished buildings in Hyderabad and also other major urban areas in the State, some of them are yet to reopen due to non-availability of staff.

Against the expectations, the bars opened in the busy Hyderabad limits received lukewarm response when compared to other parts of the State. The managements attributed the poor response from the visitors to the fears on safety inside the bars. In Greater Hyderabad limits, 800 bars have been permitted and the remaining 500 are opened in other urban local bodies.

While on one side, the bar owners are struggling hard with staff crunch especially the bar tenders



- Most of the bars in the State capital have opened to lukewarm response
- With the corona cases increasing, bars footfalls are yet to pick up
- Non-availability of staff and exorbitant licence fee are pushing the bar owners to reconsider their prospects

and chefs, on the other side, they will have to shell out an exorbitant fee of Rs 41 lakh as annual licence fee by October. As per the government norms, the liquor traders will have to pay the fee in one installment or two in every six months.

The representatives of the bars associations said that the bars have been closed since March and incurred huge loss for almost six months. Most of the managements who paid the licence fee in a single installment in the current year bore the brunt of corona pandemic. Traders who paid the half

licence fee are waiting for a relief of the waiver of the remaining 50 per cent fee to continue running the bars for next year also. Those who paid cent per cent licence fee have been demanding to permit them to pay only 50 per cent fee for next year.

“The operation of bars completely relies on government decision. If the government do not provide relief, the managements would be forced to shut them. The response from people is already poor unless the required safety measures are taken and delicious food is served,” said State Wine

Dealers Association president D Venkateswar Rao. He added that a representation requesting to give relief in the payment of licence fee was already submitted to Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, and they were awaiting a positive response. Bars alone in State fetch a revenue of at least Rs 2,000 crore every year.

Meanwhile, the government has targeted to generate Rs 20,000 crore revenue through liquor sales in 2020-21 financial year. If the bars closed, the impact on the revenues is evident, officials said.

Power utility rubbishes charge of excess billing

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: TSSPDCL CMD G Raghuma Reddy said that some unscrupulous elements were circulating false information regarding the meter reading and billing every month. The official denied the allegations that they were not taking meter readings within 30 days and delaying the billing intentionally for generating excess bills.

The TSSPDCL (Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited) has been implementing the days billing as per TS Electricity Regulatory Commission directive for the last five years in order to avoid excess billing due to delay in taking meter readings.

A special software was also installed in spot billing machines for making necessary changes for calculating the bill for 30 days, automatically. Further, the power utility of TS has taken all necessary measures for providing appropriate bills to all its 1.56 crore consumers, Reddy said and appealed to its consumers not to believe false information being circulated in various social media platforms. The consumers can directly approach concern Electricity Revenue Offices for clarifications about the electricity bills.

After Revenue, Police depts, now GHMC under ACB radar

Of late, there have been a lot of calls about corruption in GHMC and other municipalities in the State and the anti-graft agency is collecting evidence to conduct raids, says an ACB official

CHAND AHMED

Hyderabad: After Revenue and Police departments, it appears that the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) will zero in on GHMC soon to net big fish of the civic body.

An officer from the ACB, on condition of anonymity, said that the department acts on any complaint received from whomsoever. But of late, there have been a lot of calls about the corruption in the GHMC and other municipalities in the State.

“The department is in the process of doing the groundwork for now and once the details of such corrupt officials are collected, the sleuths will then be ordered to conduct raids and catch the corrupt ones red-handed,” he said.

“Also, it has been observed that there are lots of internal complaints from the GHMC wherein the employees are indulged in bribing the officers to get their works done such as postings or promotions and the problem is much persistent in district municipalities.”

“Apart from that, it has also been witnessed that the lower rank officials from the GHMC are involved in a lot of corruption because they are the gateways to the entire process of moving files. Though there are many complaints about the issue we are still waiting for the proper evidence against any such corrupt officials and once we get the evidence then we



will conduct raids and nab them red-handed as we are hopeful of rooting out the problem of corruption from GHMC forever,” explained the officer.

Meanwhile, an employee of GHMC who did not wish to be named said that the problem of corruption exists in GHMC since years. The officials of ACB conduct raids on an officer and he/she is suspended for a few years and they are later on posted somewhere else.

“Though everything is digitalized in GHMC but still the corruption happens. Recently a batch of 20 senior assistants bribed the senior official who is responsible for promotions and got their promotions, though the same was due in the next year around April or May. In fact, the 20 senior assistants were not even eligible for promotion. It clearly indicates that there is corruption and the laws have been compromised. Similarly, there are many such instances wherein the corruption happens, but it gets buried due to the silence of the masses,” said the official.

MANUU holds entrance exam

Around 10,000 candidates are expected to attend the entrance test during three days

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The entrance examination for admission into various regular courses at Maulana Azad National Urdu University started on Monday in all 16 centres across the country amidst high precautionary measures in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The entrance will continue till September 30.

According to Prof Siddiqui Mohd Mahmood, Registrar in-charge, MANUU has taken all precautionary measures as suggested by University Grants Commission. Covid self declaration forms were provided to candidates at the examination centres to ensure their safety. PPE clad staff members were seen checking the body temperature of the aspirants at various centres.

According to Mirza Farhatullah Baig, Controller of Examination around sixty five percent candidates appeared for the test in the forenoon session on the first day. The entrance exam, is being conducted simultaneously at centres situated at Asansol, Aurangabad, Azamgarh, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bidar, Cuttack, Darbhanga, Delhi, Kadapa, Kishanganj, Lucknow, Patna, Sanbhal and Srinagar besides MANUU Headquarters at Hyderabad. Around 10,000 candidates are expected to attend the entrance test during three days.



Even as the State capital has been left high and dry following incessant downpours for the past several days, a group of children in one of the otherwise parched colonies having a rollicking time in the floodwaters that entered into their settlement in Hyderabad on Monday. Photo: N Shiva Kumar Meru

FUN IN FLOOD TIMES...

KTR holds daylong meet with Ministers, MLAs on land issues

Hyderabad: Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao on Monday asked the MLAs to encourage citizens to participate in the uploading programme of non-agricultural properties on Dharani portal in their constituencies.

The MA&UD Minister had a day-long meeting with the Ministers and MLAs on the public issues in municipalities here on Monday. Rama Rao said that the government was trying to bring solutions to the title rights of the

citizens living in towns in the State. He pointed out that there were more litigations on title rights in municipal areas rather than the rural areas. “There are many reasons for these litigations. The government has provided relief to the people, who are staying on the government properties for decades by bring-

ing GO 58, 59. Still there are some problems in the towns. The government will solve their issues in municipalities,” said Rama Rao.

The Minister called upon the people of the State to come forward and support the government, which is trying to make entry of every inch of land in

records and safeguarding their properties. Already the government has started uploading the non-agricultural properties into Dharani portal, he said, asking the Ministers and MLAs to supervise the programme.

The Ministers and MLAs handed over the available data relating to the revenue and land related issues in their towns and constituencies to the Municipal Minister and they would be giving more details by Tuesday.

- A PAN card is all that they need to start fruit and vegetable business
- Individuals, residential bodies, varities etc can purchase directly from farmers
- Agri-startups can enter into an arrangement with farmers directly
- Street vendors can kickstart vegetable, fruit and flower business
- They can avail loans under PM SVANidhi



New agri reforms ‘win-win’ for farmers

VRC PHANIHARAN

Hyderabad: Do you have a PAN card? Are you an individual or a housing welfare society? Then, here is how you can either start your own business or make purchases of vegetables, fruits and other commodities for all the residents of your society in any Agriculture Market Committee-run yards selling fruits, vegetables and other commodities.

Courtesy, the recently enacted farm reforms Act that allows farmers to sell their farm produce anywhere in the country. It may be mentioned here that until recently farmers have to bring the fruits, vegetables and other commodities cultivated to the designated AMCs to sell their produce.

The AMCs run by the politically appointed bosses have been facing allegations of being hand in glove with the wholesalers, commission agents and forming cartels. In turn, artificially controlling the prices of various commodities farmers bring to the AMCs. For long, it helped only those who had the licences to lift the stocks and to sell the same in the open markets.

The new reform allows any citizen with a PAN card without paying any fee to the AMCs can enter the market and purchase fruits, vegetables and other commodities without paying any fee.

Secunderabad MP, and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy said that the farm reforms have opened doors for the farmers. They can sell their agriculture produce, anywhere in the country, without paying any fee to anyone.

In turn, people who can make small investments and wants to

start their own vegetable and fruit business can lift stocks offering reasonable price to the farmers. They can lift stocks either from the market yards or from the fields of the farmers.

Universities, colleges, private-run hostels, corporates and a host of other entities also can now purchase vegetables, fruits and other required items directly from the farmers without the hassles of middlemen.

That apart, the large residential welfare associations can directly enter into an arrangement with the farmers cultivating various vegetables and fruits for supply on a weekly and monthly basis. The agri-business startups too have an ample space open for lifting stocks directly from the farmers.

Kishan Reddy said that the Centre rolled out the Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme. It provides small loans of up to Rs 10,000 to the street vendors from the banks. The Centre has a set target to provide loans to about two lakh street vendors in the Hyderabad city alone. All that a street vendor need is an identity card from the GHMC, he added.

Further, the right of farmers to sell to anyone and anywhere helps even for the street vendors engaged in selling vegetables, fruits, flowers etc. To directly make purchases based on their daily and weekly required stocks from the farmers. Doing away with the cumbersome rules and regulations restricting farmers on different fronts with the new reforms will give them the choice of where to sell and whom to sell, Kishan Reddy said.

HC slaps ₹ 50k fine on LIC for frivolous appeals

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad: To send out a strong message to frivolous litigations, the High Court Chief Justice bench on Monday slapped a fine of Rs 50,000 on Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), who filed three writ appeals challenging the High Court Single Judge order.

The bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijayes Reddy heard the tag of three writ appeals filed by LIC against the High Court Single Judge order dated July 18, 2019 for 50 vacancies of non-joined posts in LIC to consider the temporary staff who are the meritorious candidates in the merit list.

The counsel for LIC has raised objections before the Court that the petitioners could not be appointed against the vacancies as they were not within the zone of consideration.

Chief Justice pointed out that in case the LIC wanted to plead that the petitioners were not in the zone of consideration, it was free to stick to that stand and not to make any offer before the court. Once the LIC has chosen to argue in the alternate, the appellant is unjustified in claiming that the contention raised before

the single judge has not been dealt with.

The CJ bench observed that this plea was highly misplaced and an absolutely frivolous appeal to be filed against the impugned order. The impugned order fairly reveals the counsel for the LIC, while raising the petition that the petitioners are not in the zone of consideration.

Moreover, it also made an offer before the court that in case the petitioner's file for fresh representation for consideration for an appointment, the case will certainly be considered in an appropriate order. Once this offer was made by the LIC, the single judge was certainly justified and accepted the said offer and passed the order. Therefore, this court does not find any fault with the order passed by the Single Judge, CJ bench opined.



LEGAL NOTES

olous appeals have been filed before this court, CJ Chauhan stated.

The Court dismissed the three appeals of LIC and imposed a fine of Rs 50,000. The LIC is directed to pay the said amount within a period of two weeks. In case of non-payment, the court is free to issue a contempt notice against the LIC. The proof thereof shall be submitted to the registry, the Court ordered.

Always knew Tewatia would get IPL stardom: Coach Vijay Yadav

New Delhi (PTD): “I always told Rahul (Tewatia) that he will have his day in the IPL and it would be because of his batting,” the excitement and satisfaction was palpable in childhood coach Vijay Yadav’s voice while talking about his ward’s match-defining 31-ball 53 for Rajasthan Royals in an IPL encounter.

IPL throws up unlikely stars and Sunday was a “day of Rahuls” when the lesser known Tewatia from Haryana’s Sihi village in Faridabad district stole the thunder from the uber cool India star KL Rahul, striking five sixes in an over from Sheldon Cottrell that changed the course of RR’s match

against Kings XI Punjab. And icing on the cake was Royals Brand Ambassador Shane Warne’s praise.

“Firstly what courage and heart shown by Tewatia, especially after his poor start with bat, well done young man awesome,” Warne summed it up in a tweet that Tewatia would remember for a long time.

Haryana has had a tradition of producing leg-spinners and Tewatia followed in the footsteps his much illustrious colleagues Amit Mishra and Yuzvendra Chahal despite being in their shadows for the better part of the last seven years in senior cricket.

But Yadav, a former hard-hit-



ting India wicketkeeper-batsman (best known for advising Sachin Tendulkar to bowl the last over in the Hero Cup semi-final against South Africa), remembers a shy kid who came at his “Cricket Gurukul” in 1998-99 as an eight-year old.

“His father is a lawyer in a Faridabad court and they are a middle-class family. But what struck me was his family’s enthusiasm even though he was a shy kid,” Yadav fondly remembers.

“Not just his father but his uncles would also come to drop him and they were like any aspiring parent if their kid didn’t get a chance to bat or bowl. “Sir kya kar rahein hain, Rahul ko khilate kyun nahi”, “Yadav remembers.

“It was like the whole family wanted to make him a cricketer.”

In fact, Tewatia’s career ran parallel with Chahal as they played U-15s and U-19s to-

gether. “A player must be aware about his strengths and when Rahul was in his teens, he was always competing with Chahal, I made him aware about a few things,” Yadav said.

What was his Guru Mantra?

“Simple. I told him he will be a useful leg-spinner but Amit and Chahal are more skilful bowlers. His advantage was his batting which was in a different league. I told him that you can win an IPL game with this batting,” said Yadav, who has been an India A fielding coach.

“I told him that white ball was his calling and at the National Under-22, he scored 90 plus on debut in Raipur. He is

an asset as a batting all-rounder,” Yadav said.

Even during lockdown, Tewatia, along with Uttar Pradesh and Kolkata Knight Riders player Rinku Singh, would come for nets at his academy and the balls would land on the road when it hit the middle of his bat.

“I am not surprised he hit five sixes in an over. He is capable of doing that Remember his first stint in IPL with KXIP when he got two games. He showed glimpses,” explained Yadav.

Sachin Tendulkar termed Tewatia’s knock as “terrific” while expressing his surprise at why KXIP bowlers “didn’t bowl yorkers” at the death.



Hoffenheim ends Bayern's 23-game winning run

Berlin (IANS): Andrej Kramaric scored twice as Hoffenheim defeated Bayern Munich 4-1 in the final match of the Bundesliga second round to end defending champions’ 23-game winning run in an emphatic fashion.

On Sunday, Bayern named Robert Lewandowski on the bench after claiming the UEFA Super Cup, thanks to an extra-time win over Sevilla in Budapest. With a full week’s rest behind them, Hoffenheim took full advantage in the game.

Christoph Baumgartner had already fired off a warning shot when Ermin Bicakcic powered a header from Dennis Geiger’s corner past Manuel Neuer in the 16th minute. The home side doubled up soon after when Kramaric drove over halfway and played a pass, via the boot of Benjamin Pavard, into the path of Munas Dabbur eight minutes later.

DON’T COMPARE SAMSON WITH DHONI: GAMBHIR, SREESANTH

Sharjah (IANS): While all the limelight was taken away by Rahul Tewatia during Rajasthan Royals’ historic win over Kings XI Punjab, it was the incredible innings from Sanju Samson which laid the platform for the Steve Smith-led side during their chase at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Samson scored 85 runs as Royals chased down the target of 224 -- highest ever in history of the Indian Premier League -- with four wickets in hand and three balls to spare. His 42-ball knock was studded with four 4s and seven 6s.

Taking note of Samson’s innings on Sunday, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said on Twitter: “What an absolutely incredible win for Rajasthan Royals! I’ve known Sanju Samson for a decade and told him when he was 14 that he would one day be the next MS Dhoni. Well, that day is here. After his two amazing innings in this IPL, you know a world-class player has arrived.”

However, Gautam Gambhir and S Sreesanth don’t want the 25-year-old to be compared with the former India captain.



“Sanju Samson doesn’t need to be next anyone. He will be ‘the’ Sanju Samson of Indian cricket,” tweeted Gambhir replying to Tharoor.

“He is not next Dhoni, he is Sanju Samson the one and only. He should have been playing from 2015 regularly in all formats. Please don’t compare him, if he had given right opportunities then, he would have been playing like this for India and would have won World Cups,” said Sreesanth while replying to the Congress MP.

“I am sure he will still keep playing well and it’s not just these two innings...He is gonna break a lot of records too and win many

bassador Shane Warne had praised Samson and said it was shocking to see that a talent like Samson is not a part of Team India across all formats.

“I have said for a long time and I think Sanju Samson is probably one of the most exciting players I have seen for a long time. I am surprised that he is not playing all forms of cricket for India,” Warne had said in an Instagram live session done by the Royals

before Sunday’s game.

“He is that good. He is an absolute champion, he has got all the shots, quality and class. So, hopefully he has a consistent year and helps Rajasthan Royals lift the IPL trophy and I hope to see in him Indian colours in all three forms of cricket,” he had added. Samson has so far represented India in just four T20Is in which he has amassed 35 runs in total.



RAHUL HOLDS ORANGE CAP, PURPLE WITH SHAMI

Sharjah (IANS): Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul has got hold of the Orange Cap while his teammate Mohammad Shami took the Purple Cap from Delhi Capitals’ Kagiso Rabada following Sunday’s Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 match against Rajasthan Royals.

Rahul has so far scored 222 runs in three matches, including one hundred and a half century for Kings XI and sits at the top of the charts in the list of leading run scorers. He is followed by teammate Mayank Agarwal (221 runs in three games) and Chennai Super Kings’ Faf du Plessis (173 runs in three games).

In the bowlers’ list, Shami leads the bowling chart with seven wickets in three matches. Rabada (five wickets in two games) and CSK pacer Sam Curran (five wickets in three games) are the next two top wicket-takers.

Smith hails Tewatia's knock

Sharjah (IANS): Rajasthan Royals skipper Steve Smith was all smiles after his team pulled off a record chase to beat Kings XI Punjab by four wickets on Sunday in Sharjah. Rahul Tewatia turned it around for himself and his team when he hit give sixes off the 18th over bowled by Sheldon Cottrell and Smith said that this exactly what the team sees the 27-year-old do in the nets all the time. “What we have seen from Tewatia in the nets is what we saw in that Cottrell’s over,” said Smith. “I told someone as along as he gets one, floodgates will open. He showed heart. He told me during the timeout we still believe.” Tewatia was hardly able to get ball on bat before he went after Cottrell and RR were banking on Sanju Samson yet again. Samson scored his second consecutive half century and was dismissed on 85 off 42 balls. “Sanju is striking the ball cleanly all over the ground. Taking pressure off everyone. We will have to adapt to the bigger grounds, but these shots would clear everywhere,” said Smith.

Today's fixture

Delhi Capitals

vs Sunrisers

Hyderabad, 7.30 pm

Best save ever seen in my life: Sachin on Pooran’s fielding effort

Sharjah (IANS): Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar was full of praise for Nicholas Pooran after the West Indian came out with a stunning fielding effort during Kings XI Punjab’s crushing defeat by Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 clash at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

In the eighth over of Rajasthan Royals’ chase of 224, Sanju Samson played a pull shot off Murugan Ashwin and it was then that Pooran, standing at deep mid-wicket, dived full length over the rope to catch the ball. The West Indian caught the ball while hanging in the air and realising that he wouldn’t be able to come inside the boundary line, he threw the ball -- all while being in air -- back inside the boundary line to save his team vital six runs.

“This is the best save I have seen in my life. Simply incredible!!” Tendulkar



tweeted during the match on Sunday.

Responding to the praise from the batting legend, Kings XI fielding coach and one of the greatest fielders the game has ever seen, Jonty Rhodes said: “When the God of Cricket Sachin Tendulkar says it is, then there really is no question about it being the best save, ever.”

“Fantastic work by Nicholas Pooran who inspired the rest of the Kings XI Punjab fielders to put on 1 of the best defensive fielding displays I have ever seen #proudcoach,” he added.

Hockey India conducts online course for improving coaching standards

New Delhi (IANS): In a bid to continuously improve the standard of coaching across the country, Hockey India has been conducting the ‘Basic’ Level coaching course (online) for over 130 candidates from all 31 state member units. The candidates are divided into six groups and the course is being conducted from September 23 to October 10. The course delves into the objectives of the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway, introduction to the origins and history of hockey, rules of the game, various playing formats, field specifications, coaching equipment, training equipment, playing equipment, qualities of a coach, preparation for a training session and the conduction of a training session.

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French Open: Konta knocked out in opening round, Halep advances

Paris (IANS): American teenager Coco Gauff caused the biggest upset on the opening-day play at the Roland Garros, defeating ninth seed Johanna Konta of Great Britain in straight sets.

Playing her first-ever Roland Garros main-draw match, Gauff on Sunday defeated the 2019 semifinalist 6-3, 6-3 in a match that lasted an hour and 41 minutes. Gauff, ranked 51, converted five of 12 break points, while Konta could only get two of seven over the line. The Brit outwinned Gauff by 22 to 14, but Konta was wholly undone by 41 unforced errors on the day.

“I don’t really take anything for granted, because



I’m just happy to be playing,” Gauff was quoted as saying in her post-match press conference by the WTA website. “I don’t think maybe winning matches at slams is something I’m used to, especially this is my first main draw at Roland Garros. When I’m on the court, I can act like I’m used to it.

When I’m off the court, I’m just happy to be here.”

She will now face Italian qualifier Martina Trevisan in the second round.

Meanwhile, No.1 seed and 2018 champion Simona Halep notched her 15th consecutive match-win with a straight-set victory over Sara Sorribes Tormo to

advance to the next round at the clay court grand slam. Halep celebrated her 29th birthday in style with a 6-4, 6-0 over Tormo in one hour and 22 minutes.

“The perfect present was that I won today, of course,” Halep said after the match. “It was a really special day playing on Roland Garros on my birthday. So it’s going to be pretty unique, maybe forever.”

Halep will face another tough test in the second round against fellow Romanian Irina-Camelia Begu.

A maximum of 1,000 attendees have been allowed at this year’s French Open in response to the resurgence of the Covid-19 cases in and around Paris.