



THE HANS INDIA

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WINDOWS



Narcotics Control Bureau officers take Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty, who has been sent in judicial custody till September 22 by a local court, to Byculla women jail, in Mumbai on Wednesday. She was arrested in a drugs case linked to her boyfriend and actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death on Tuesday

Heavy rains lash Kerala, N India remains dry

New Delhi (PTI): Heavy rains lashed several parts of southern India, including Kerala on Wednesday while dry and sultry weather prevailed in the north, even as the IMD forecast widespread rainfall over Peninsular regions in the next four to five days. In Delhi, dry weather pushed the mercury up slightly as the maximum temperature settled at 35.6 degrees Celsius, two notches above normal. According to the Met department forecast, the city's maximum temperature is expected to rise by a few notches as rainfall is unlikely over the next few days. Delhi has recorded just 20.9 mm rainfall against the normal of 58.3 mm -- a deficiency of 64 per cent -- in September so far.

Delhi-born businessman Dy Mayor of UK



London (PTI): An Indian-origin businessman in the UK has been elected as the deputy mayor of London Borough of Southwark for the second time. Sunil Chopra was the mayor of the London Borough of Southwark in 2014-2015, and deputy mayor in 2013-2014, the first Indian-origin person to hold the prestigious office in the Borough. New Delhi-born Chopra who was the general secretary of the Indian Overseas Congress, London, is the first and only Indian-origin elected councillor in London Borough of Southwark Council, which has only 2 per cent Indian-origin people. He is living in London for the last 40 years and actively involved in local community works. Commenting on his election, Chopra said on Wednesday "I feel really proud to be an Indian. It is not only a great honour for me and my family but for the whole Indian community. I will keep working with the community locally and internationally."



Oxford University halts Covid vaccine trials

London (PTI): The human trials of one of the most promising Covid-19 vaccine candidates, being developed by the University of Oxford, has been put on hold after a UK participant had an adverse reaction to it. AstraZeneca, the biopharmaceutical giant in tie-up with the university to produce the vaccine, described the pause as a "routine" one following what was "an unexplained illness". The trials had moved into Phase III after successful Phase I and II testing had raised worldwide hopes of it be-

ing ready by early next year as results showed that it produced a positive immune response.

The vaccine moved to Phase III testing in recent weeks, involving around 30,000 participants in the US as well as in the UK, Brazil and South Africa. "As part of the ongoing randomised, controlled global trials of the Oxford coronavirus vaccine, our standard review process was triggered and we voluntarily paused vaccination to allow a review of safety data by an independent committee,"

said a spokesperson for AstraZeneca on Tuesday evening. "This is a routine action which has to happen whenever there is a potentially unexplained illness in one of the trials, while it is investigated, ensuring we maintain the integrity of the trials. In large trials illnesses will happen by chance but must be independently reviewed to check this carefully," the spokesperson said. Stressing that the adverse reaction involved only a single patient, the spokesperson added that the team is working to expedite

the review of the "single event" to minimise any potential impact on the trial timeline. "We are committed to the safety of our participants and the highest standards of conduct in our trials," the spokesperson said. Phase III trials in vaccines often involve thousands of participants and can last several years. For ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, the so-called Oxford vaccine, clinical trial volunteers are located in countries across five continents, including India, the UK, Brazil, South Africa and the US. **Continued on P5**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with beneficiaries of PM SVANidhi scheme, via video conferencing, in New Delhi

PM gives 3 mantras to street vendors 'Restart business by wearing mask, maintain cleanliness and social distance'

New Delhi (IANS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned Madhya Pradesh street vendors, who are starting afresh battling the pandemic induced crisis to follow three mantras - wearing mask, cleanliness and social distancing.

"Now when you are starting your business afresh, you have to take some precautions. Until the corona vaccine arrives, you have to take full care of yourself and your customers' safety. Masks, cleanliness, do gaaj ki doori - all these have to be adopted," cautioned the Prime Minister on Wednesday as he virtually addressed scores of Street vendors of Madhya Pradesh who availed the centre's PM-SVA Nidhi scheme. Prime Minister spoke to three select beneficiaries through video conferencing. While speaking to one vegetable seller, he asked whether they are organic and if they are, whether his buyers are aware of it. He also spoke to a tikki seller who runs a stall by the name of 'Sharma Tikki seller'.

Taking a subtle dig at his predecessors, Modi claimed that there has been a lot of talk of the poor in our coun-

try, but the work done for the poor in the last six years has never been done before.

"Every area, every sector where the poor-victims-exploited-deprived, were in need, the government's plans came as its backing," remarked the Prime Minister. Making a strong push for the Centre's pro-poor agenda, Prime Minister said that street vendors now have Ujjwala for gas connection, an electricity connection, connected with Ayushman Bharat scheme and are getting the benefit of the insurance scheme. He also said that now they have a roof of their own. He was speaking beneficiaries of the Centre's SVANidhi yojana in MP, which the PM said, has benefited over 1 lakh street vendors in 2 months. "Our poor friends and street vendors heavily felt the crisis. Therefore, since the first day of the Corona crisis, it has been the endeavour of the government to overcome the crisis of the poor," PM Modi said.

The Centre had launched PM SVANidhi scheme on 1st June, 2020 to help poor street vendors, impacted by Covid-19, resume livelihood activities.

Blue, Pink lines reopen Interchange facility at 9 stations begin after 171-day Covid hiatus

New Delhi (PTD): Delhi Metro's Blue Line and Pink Line resumed services with interchange facilities at nine stations on Wednesday after being closed for 171 days due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said. The services resumed with curtailed operations on these two lines at 7 am with strict safety and social distancing measures being in place. Trains are to operate in two batches of four-hour each from 7-11 AM and 4-8 PM in the first stage. "The Blue and Pink lines resumed services today. Slowly and steadily, Delhi Metro will be back to take you places! #MetroBackOnTrack," the DMRC tweeted.

As the day began, some riders wearing face masks were seen entering the premises of key stations like Rajiv Chowk, Noida Sector 15 and Anand Bihar on the Blue Line, which connects Dwarka Sector 21 in Delhi to Electronic City (Noida) and Vaishali (Ghaziabad). Pink Line connects Majlis Park to Shiv Bihar. Raj Ku-



A commuter waits for a Metro train at Rajouri Garden station following resumption of services on the Blue and Pink Line in a graded manner, in New Delhi on Wednesday

mar, who boarded the Metro at Anand Vihar, said that he faced no inconvenience during his journey. "There was no issue regarding social distancing. I have to go to Rajiv Chowk and the journey was smooth, but we

are not sure during our journey which gate is open and which is not," Kumar said.

According to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), the Blue and Pink lines will ensure availability of nine of the exist-

ing 28 interchange Metro stations, including Rajouri Garden (Blue Line & Pink Line); INA Delhi Haat (Yellow & Pink Line); Mayur Vihar Phase - I (Blue Line & Pink Line); Rajiv Chowk (Blue Line & Yellow Line);

Kangana takes on Shiv Sena, tells Uddhav his ego will be crushed



HAL's Indigenous Light Utility Vehicle (LUH) completes hot and high altitude trials in the Himalayan mountain ranges in Leh, Ladakh

China starts fresh build-up north of Pangong Lake

New Delhi (IANS): As India dominates south of Pangong Lake in Eastern Ladakh, China has started fresh build up at Finger area north of the Lake, sources said on Wednesday. It started soon after the skirmish on the southern bank took place on September 7 where warning shots were fired by both sides. The deployment of People's Liberation Army troops have increased since Tuesday evening. They are also bringing in more materials and logistics items.

The troops from both sides are at a short range from each other. "They are within clear visible range and Indian troops are keeping a close watch on the activities," said a government source. The Chinese continue to sit atop Finger 4 ridgeline. The north bank of the lake is divided into 8 fingers that are contested by both sides.

India claims that the Line of Actual Control at

Finger 8 and had been holding on to area till Finger 4 but in a clear alteration of status quo the Chinese have been camping at Finger 4 and have set up fortifications between Finger 5 and 8.

The Indian Army have occupied crucial heights in areas around the south bank of Pangong Lake and the Chinese have made several attempts to take over Indian positions.

It has become the new friction point where Indian Army seems to be in an advantageous position.

The Indian Army has occupied heights that allow it to dominate the Chinese Moldo garrison and the Spangur Gap under Chinese control. Both Indian and China lay claim to some of these heights.

One of the most critical heights the Indian Army is manning is the Rechin La, which the Chinese are protesting against.

Continued on Page 5

Mumbai (PTD): Actor Kangana Ranaut landed here on Wednesday from Himachal Pradesh, angry and caustic as she took on the Shiv Sena, called her home Ram mandir, referred to Bullywood' and described herself as the daughter of Chhatrapati Shivaji. The Queen actor, who has been given Y-plus category security from the Centre, was met with black flags and slogans from protesting Shiv Sena workers. But there was support too from workers of the RPI (A) and Karni Sena, who also gathered at the airport.

Addressing Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray, Ranaut posted a video message saying his 'ego will be destroyed' the way her Bandra home was demolished. The actor said she is working on a project on Ayodhya but now understands the pain of Kashmir Pandits and will also make a movie on their plight.

Ranaut, known for her provocative statements, again compared Mumbai with Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) after the Shiv Sena-led BMC demolished "illegal alterations" at her Bandra bungalow. "Uddhav Thackeray, 'tujhe kya lagta hai' (what do you think)? You think you have taken a huge revenge by destroying my house in collusion with the movie mafia. Today my house is destroyed, tomorrow it will be your ego. The wheels of time keep chang-



Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officers demolish 'illegal alterations' at the Bandra bungalow of Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, in Mumbai on Wednesday

ing, she said in a video message in Hindi, referring to the chief minister in the informal 'tu' rather than the more respectful 'aap'. "Uddhav Thackeray, this cruelty and terrorism, it is good that it happened to me because there is some meaning to it," she said in the video.

In a series of posts earlier in the day, Ranaut said there has been no "illegal construction" in her house. "... also

government has banned any demolitions in Covid till September 30, Bullywood watch now this is what Fascism looks like #DeathOfDemocracy #KanganaRanaut," the actor tweeted.

In another post, she wrote, "I am never wrong and my enemies prove again and again this is why my Mumbai is POK now #deathofdemocracy".

Continued on Page 5

Undue importance: Sharad Pawar

NCP chief Sharad Pawar said undue importance is being attached to Kangana's statements, adding people are not taking her remarks seriously. Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Assembly Devendra Fadnis said the state of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has not seen such a "timid and anti-democracy" government till now, and accused the state government of stifling voices of those holding the other view. Kangana's lawyer Rizwan Siddiqui claimed the BMC was lying about illegal construction at the bungalow. "BMC said they gave stop-work notice. But such notice is given when the construction process is underway. There is no construction going on at the place. It was over about one-and-a-half years ago," he said.

HC stays demolition of Ranaut's 'illegal office'

Mumbai (IANS): The Bombay High Court on Wednesday stayed the demolition drive of Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut's "illegal office" barely a couple of hours after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) squad started bulldozing the premises.

Ranaut's lawyer had challenged the BMC notice earlier in the morning before the high court, contending that there are no illegalities in the office works even as the civic demolition squad swooped on the premises in Bandra West.

The high court has directed the BMC to file its reply to Ranaut's plea challenging the demolition order by 3 p.m. on Thursday.

Even as the high court was hearing the matter, the BMC H-West Ward dozen-strong team, which was accompanied by a strong police posse, halted the demolition process awaiting the court orders.

However, a significant portion of the office premises from the inside and outside appeared to have been razed with massive bulldozers, JCBs,

and other heavy equipment.

The fast-paced demolitions came barely hours after the BMC pasted a notice outside the office rejecting a reply filed by Kangana's lawyer, Rizwan Siddique, to the Tuesday (September 8) notice in which the civic body had listed a series of violations in the ongoing works in her office.

The BMC Executive Engineer said that he was satisfied that the (illegal) works were being carried out and the actress had failed to produce the permissions/approvals/sanction for it as per the BMC laws.

As per the notice, the violations include: merging of two bungalows, converting a ground-floor toilet into an office cabin, converting a storeroom into a kitchen, making an unauthorised pantry in the ground floor, adding toilets near the storeroom and a parking area, illegal partitions in first floor living room, an illegal meeting room in the "puja" room, converting a balcony into a habitable area besides a floor extension, etc.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL


KAMYA SHALABH DANG
@IAMKAMYAPUNJABI

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Jo galat hai woh galat hai
Itna halla kyu?
Use of drugs is illegal..!!! Period.!!!
#WorldUnitedForSSR #JusticeForSushant
SinghRajput Folded hands



YOGA: PHYSICAL AND MENTAL FITNESS

The challenges that life throws at us is what serves to bring out the best in. Yoga is a great example of this; it pushes you out of your comfort zone forcing you to explore your hidden potential. It is a natural tendency to want security, safety and stability; it is what makes us human. In order to become the best version of yourself, you must be willing to experiment with your abilities.

And this means to succeed by overcoming your anxiety and fears which could be your own physical or mental limitations. As a practice, Yoga can elevate your physical body to its peak performance, while calming and de-stressing the mind. Yoga enables a metamorphosis of your body, mind, and spirit. Start with the basic Surya Namaskar completing 3-5 cycles initially. Gradually build this up to as many as 21 or more per day, and follow this up with Pranayama and Meditation for holistic wellness.

Surya Namaskar

Surya Namaskar or the Sun Salutation comprises of a total of 24 counts, done with 12 steps for each side. As Surya Namaskar represents the energy of the Sun, which is said to be contained in the right side of the body, the Surya Namaskar hence begins with the right leg. Repeat the same twelve steps to the left side to finish one complete cycle. Start with a minimum of 4-5 cycles and increase it gradually.

Super Power Meditation is also a highly recommended practice as this influences the rate at which your body can heal itself. Meditation techniques can improve your mood, calm your mind and help relax you.

- To practice this, seat yourself on a peak of the mountain in Sukhasana or any other comfortable pose that gives you the shape of a pyramid.
- The intention is to sit in the shape of mountain atop a mountain.
- In this position, you need to visualize a reverse triangular shield in your chest and then meditate.
- During the meditative process, with every in-hale, this shield allows you to welcome all the positive energies of the world into you. And, as you exhale you release unwanted toxins, miseries, and negativity from within you.

Khand Pranayama

This powerful pranayama affects the functioning of different systems of the body and affords countless benefits. This pranayama will help you develop physically, mentally and emotionally.

Formation

- Sit down in Dandasana, keep your back straight and breathe for some time.
- Fold your legs in Sukhasana and prepare your mind for the practice.
- Sit in any comfortable pose (such as Sukhasana, Vajrasana, Ardha-padmasana, Padmasana or Sidhasana) Ideal posture is Poor-na Padmasana
- Straighten your back and close your eyes
- Place your palms on your knees facing up (in Prapthi Mudra)
- As you inhale, divide your breath into two equal parts
- Without retaining the breath in your lungs, exhale twice
- Duration You may begin by practicing this breathing technique for 1-2 minutes a day and gradually increase it with time.

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



Neem & Turmeric for healthier skin in monsoon

Increased humidity during monsoon aggravates problems related to oily and acne-prone skin. This calls for a change in the way you take care of your skin. Adopting an essential skin care routine can help manage skin troubles such as acne and pimples better.

Due to the lockdown, as you spend a lot of time inside your house, it's quite likely that you might forget to cleanse your face in the evening. Also, since it's humid, moisturising the skin would be the last thing on your mind. But, humidity during monsoon can leave your skin dehydrated and make it dull. It is important to provide your skin with the right care to keep it healthy and keep infections at bay.

Most of us have grown up hearing about the beneficial effects of Neem and Turmeric, but very few of us have adopted it in our lifestyles. With numerous bioactive compounds, Neem has been widely used since time immemorial for its anti-infective properties. Neem is mentioned in Ayurveda texts for its antifungal, antibacterial, and anti-inflammatory properties. Turmeric, on the other hand, helps in dealing with an array of skin concerns with its antiseptic properties. According to Dr Sushrutha C K, Ayurveda Expert, Research & Development, The Himalaya Drug Company, "Neem and Turmeric have been proven to contain incredible properties that are extremely beneficial for our skin. Their antibacterial and antifungal properties relieve skin infections,



providing a healthy and natural glow. Using a soap infused with the goodness of Neem and Turmeric is good for our skin and washes away environmental impurities that cause skin concerns".

Cleansing the skin with a soap infused with Neem and Turmeric helps in fighting many common skin conditions such as redness, itching, irritation, etc., while enhancing the appearance of skin. Furthermore, treating skin with the goodness of Neem and Turmeric has many other benefits too:

Anti-infective properties

Curcumin, the compound which gives Turmeric its yellow color,

is known to act against many pathogens.

Protection against sun damage

Research shows that Turmeric has antioxidative and anti-inflammatory properties that help to reduce the loss of skin elasticity and improve fine lines and age spots caused by exposure to sunlight.

Moisturizing dry skin

Turmeric is extremely helpful in revitalizing skin while alleviating the symptoms of dryness. It works wonders in removing dead skin cells to reveal healthy, glowing, and bright skin.

Fighting acne

Neem and Turmeric are extremely helpful in fighting breakouts. The antiseptic, antibacterial, and anti-inflammatory properties of these herbs help fight bacteria, gently soothe the skin, and help fade pimple scars.

Changes in seasons and temperatures play a vital role in the way our skin responds. Apart from the broad spectrum of benefits, Neem and Turmeric also help even out skin tone. Using a soap infused with the goodness of these herbs helps keep our skin healthy and fight skin conditions in an effective yet gentle way.

QUICK TIP

Pigmentation

This is probably one of the most common skin changes noted by pregnant women. It can manifest as linea nigra- a dark line that runs down from the navel to the pubic bone, darkening of stretch marks, darkening of armpits, neck and groin folds. Other areas like nipples, areola, and labia can also become darker than usual. Generally spots like freckles and moles will also get accentuated. Some patients can develop melasma or chloasma which is also commonly known as the mask of pregnancy, where patients develop brown spots over the cheeks, bridge of nose and sometimes forehead and chin area as well.

All of these pigmentary changes on the skin are attributed to hormonal changes in the body and increased weight gain. Most of it will reduce or disappear in a couple of months post pregnancy. However any pigmentation on the face can be prevented or slowed down from progressing further by routine usage of sunscreens and topical depigmenting agents which have been deemed safe to use by your dermatologist.



Must have skirt trends

Skirts tend to be our favourite items and if you like to follow fashion trends and always have the latest and greatest pieces, we are pretty sure that the following lines will give you what you are looking for ...

Striped skirt

If you are small, then you must have a striped skirt of any material in your closet. Since it can make you look much taller. You can style it with a simple shirt or blouse with a simple design. better if you avoid patterns.

Pencil skirt with a bright colour

It is great to have a skirt with a bright color in your wardrobe as it adds a cheerful atmosphere. And it is preferable if you are in one of the 2020 trend colours like red, blue, yellow, etc.

Denim skirt

Let's accept that we can't live without denim, whether it's pants, skirts, or even shirts, it almost never goes out of style

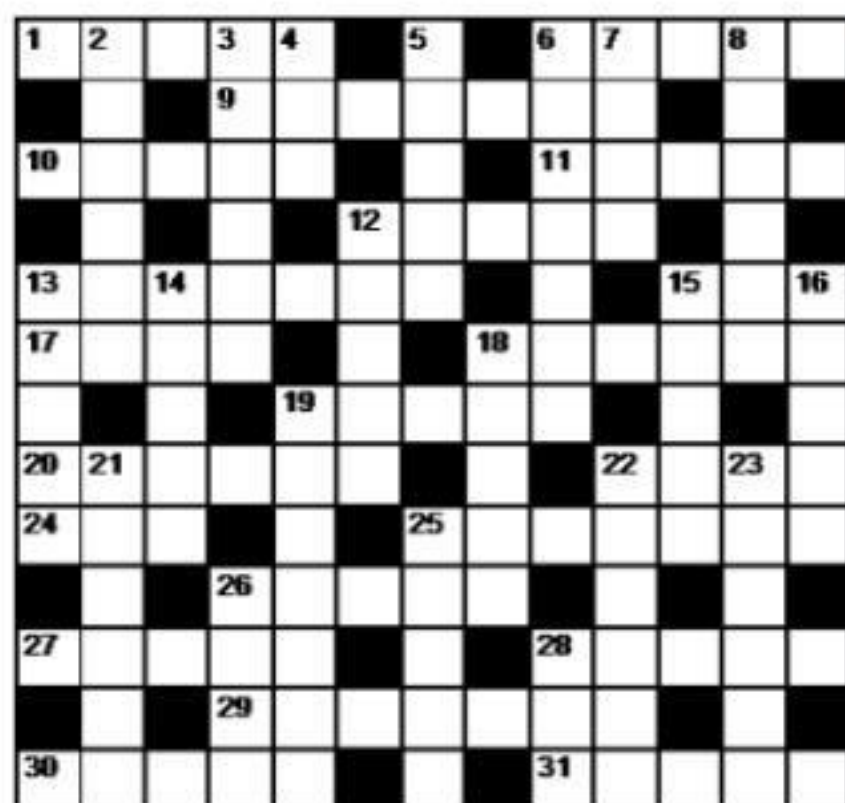
and is suitable for most people. So what's stopping you from having a denim skirt? You can have it in black and you can turn it from a casual look to a work one.

Tulle skirt

Tulle is a favourable fabric of 2020, as it is very light and does not make you feel the heat. So it would be nice to have a fashionable tulle skirt.

Satin skirt

As you know satin is taking over fashion trends since last year, and it seems like it will also be trending for this season. This is why we advise you to have a satin skirt in your closet for 2020. You can easily style it in so many ways, either for work or a casual look.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 9

CROSSWORD

Across

- Nestling pigeon (5)
- Peach ____ : ice-cream and fruit dessert ? (5)
- Container for sweeping up (7)
- Garish (5)
- Incident (5)
- Effeminate, not manly (5)
- Hormone of the pancreas (7)
- Juice of tree (3)
- Cease (4)
- Muse of astronomy (6)
- Dwarf planet (5)
- Tree-lined road (6)
- German river (4)
- Maj.'s superior (3)
- Erases (7)
- More cunning (5)
- Append (3,2)
- Norwegian dramatist (5)
- Flight charge? (7)
- Embellish (5)

- Cutting instrument (5)

Down

- Attractively unusual (6)
- Totals (4,2)
- Purchase (3)
- Blemish (5)
- Great musician (7)
- Grudging feeling (4)
- Dwarfed tree (6)
- Edge (5)
- Gravity discoverer Newton (5)
- French philosopher (5)
- Beastly nose (5)
- Couples (5)
- Absolute (5)
- Steal (7)
- Invalidated (6)
- Type of sandwich (6)
- Concerning this (6)
- Consider as a god (5)
- Talented one (4)
- Annoy (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 9

NEWS ROUNDUP

FLO & Roshni NGO launch 'Say No to Suicide' Video Challenge

Every year September 10 is observed as World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD). It is marked to create awareness, in order to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides, with various activities around the world since 2003.

FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) and Roshni NGO jointly come together. To mark the occasion, they launched the 'Say NO to Suicide' video challenge. Do send in your video or share in social media to create awareness. Let's get the message out that when you 'Reach out...There's always somebody!' Come, let's pledge our allegiance to work together towards this universal problem, announced these two organisations in a press note issued in the city today. Every 40 seconds someone somewhere takes his or her own life. Life, that's immeasurably precious. Irreplaceable. But suicide is not inevitable. It is totally preventable. FLO Hyderabad-Roshni NGO's yearlong campaign - #REACHOUT - aims to create awareness about the very vital issue of mental health.

10th September every year is observed as World Suicide Prevention Day said Usharani Manne, Chairperson of the FLO Hyderabad Chapter. Ushasree Tipirneni, Director Roshni Trust, a NGO in Hyderabad that helps People Struggling With Suicidal Tendencies said, the mental depression is the invisible enemy that takes our lives away. It is a complex problem which doesn't have single treatment like a vaccine for the relief from Corona. 8 million people die annually across the globe. In India, in the year 2019 alone 1.39 lakh committed suicide. One suicide is happening every minute all over the world, she shared.

Depression is treatable. Suicide is preventable. Let us together address this menace she said.



Usha Manne,
Chairperson, FLO
Hyderabad

4,442 cases pending against sitting, former MPs/MLAs, top court told

New Delhi (IANS): Data provided by all the High Courts to the Supreme Court has revealed that 4,442 cases are pending against sitting and former MPs and MLAs in different courts, including special courts designated to try these cases.

A report compiled by amicus curiae and senior advocate Vijay Hansaria said: "In 2,556 cases sitting legislators are accused persons. The number of legislators involved are more than total number of cases since there are more than one accused in one case, and the same legislator is an accused in more than one case."

The report was filed on an order passed by the top court on a PIL by BJP leader and advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, who urged the court to give directions for speedy trial of criminal cases against



sitting and former lawmakers. The top court had directed the Registrar Generals of all High Courts to bring on record the information in connection with pending cases against lawmakers.



"There are 413 cases in respect of offences which are punishable with imprisonment for life, out of which in 174 cases sitting MPs/MLAs are accused," the affidavit said.

Hansaria also provided the state-wise list of cases where trials are pending due to stay orders from superior courts. "Trial of 352 cases have been stayed by the High Courts and this Court," said the affidavit.

According to the report, in Uttar Pradesh, there are 1,217 pending cases, out of which in 446 cases sitting legislators are accused. In Bihar, there are 531 cases, out of which in 256 cases sitting legislators are accused, in Tamil Nadu (324 pending cases), in Maharashtra (330 pending cases), and in Orissa (331 pending cases), among others.

Hansaria has suggested special courts should be set up in every district for MPs/MLAs. "Each High Court may be directed to assign/allocate criminal

cases involving former and sitting legislators to as many Sessions Courts and Magisterial Courts as the respective High Courts may consider proper, fit and expedient having regard to the number and nature of pending cases. Such decisions may be taken by the High Courts within four weeks of the order," said the affidavit.

The affidavit said that many cases are registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, Arms Act, Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and defamation under section 500 IPC. Hansaria suggested that the special courts should prioritise cases involving offences punishable with death or life imprisonment.

"Each High Court shall register a suo

motu case with the title 'In Re: Special Courts for MPs/MLAs' to monitor the progress of cases pending in the state and ensure compliance of directions of this Court," said the affidavit.

Hansaria suggested that forensic laboratories should give priority in furnishing the report in respect of cases being tried by the Special Courts and will submit all pending reports within one month. "Each Special Court will send a monthly status report to the High Court and the High Court, on examination of the same, will issue necessary directions to ensure speedy disposal of cases. The case shall be heard by the High Court at such interval as may be necessary, however, at least once in three months," said the affidavit.

SC: No Maratha quota for now; larger bench to hear case

New Delhi (IANS): A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the implementation of the Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act 2018, and referred the issue to a bench of five judges or more for the final adjudication.

The Act provides reservation in education and employment to the Maratha community.

Justices L. Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and S. Ravindra Bhat held that no appointments and admissions based on the Maratha quota will be made for 2020-21, however, the postgraduate admissions taken place already will not be altered.

The issue of Maratha reservation will be placed before Chief Justice S.A. Bobde, who will con-



stitute a larger bench to hear and decide the matter.

The parties involved in the matter had contended before the bench to refer it to an 11-judge bench, to see whether there could be a breach in the 50 per cent cap on reservation.

The petitioners challenged the Bombay High Court judgement

passed in June 2019. They contended that the Act, which provides for 12 per cent and 13 per cent quota to Maratha community in education and jobs, violates the principle laid in the 9-judge bench judgement of the apex court in 1992, which capped the reservation at 50 per cent.

The High Court had upheld the

Maratha quota, where it ruled that reservation should be 12 per cent in jobs and 13 per cent in education.

The counsel seeking reference to a larger bench contended before the bench that the 50 per cent ceiling was breached in many states, as a result of the 103rd constitutional amendment providing EWS reservation.

The counsel contended that challenge to the EWS reservation has already been referred to a Constitution Bench, therefore the same process should be followed in dealing with this issue.

The counsel, who opposed the reference to a larger bench, contended before the bench the case should be heard on merits, and if, during the hearing the bench thinks reference is required then it should be done.

Plasma therapy not beneficial: ICMR Study

New Delhi: Use of convalescent plasma therapy in Coronavirus-infected patients does not help in reducing mortality or progression to severe COVID-19, a multi-centric study funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has found.

The 'open-label parallel-arm phase II multicentre randomized controlled trial' (PLACID Trial) was conducted across 39 public and private hospitals across India between April 22 to July 14 to investigate the effectiveness of convalescent plasma (CP) for the treatment of COVID-19, it said. The convalescent plasma (CP) therapy involves taking antibodies from the blood of a person who has recovered from COVID-19 and transfusing those antibodies into an active coronavirus patient to help kickstart the immune system to fight the infection. A total of 464 participants (moderately ill COVID-19 patients admitted to hospitals) were enrolled for the study, which has not yet been peer-reviewed and has appeared on medRxiv, a preprint server. The National Task Force for COVID-19, a committee formed by the ICMR to respond to the pandemic, has reviewed and approved this study, it said.



'Plasma therapy safe for children'

New York (IANS): In a major study, researchers have shown that convalescent plasma appears to be a safe and possibly effective treatment for children with life-threatening cases of Covid-19. To date, no therapies have been proven safe and effective for children who develop life-threatening complications from contracting the SARS-COV-2 virus. One possible treatment that has been explored in adults is the use of convalescent plasma, which is derived from patients who have recovered from Covid-19 and can be administered in currently ill patients to generate an antibody response that renders the virus inert. Early positive results were observed in adults who received convalescent plasma, but the treatment had not been studied in children.

4 Maoists gunned down

Bhubaneswar (IANS): At least four Maoists were gunned down during an exchange of fire with the security personnel in a forest in Odisha's Kandhamal district on Wednesday. In this exchange of fire four Maoists have been neutralized and one jawan of Special Operation Group (SOG) has been injured. The injured Jawan is being evacuated,

said an Odisha police statement. It said the combing operation in the forest is underway. On the basis of reliable intelligence input, an operation was launched on Kalahandi-Kandhamal border on Tuesday. Two composite teams of SOG and District Voluntary Force (DVF) had participated in this operation. An exchange of fire

took place at around 11 a.m. on Wednesday. One team of SOG and DVF retaliated fire when they were subjected to heavy firing from the Maoists. This exchange of fire lasted for half an hour, the statement said. More teams of SOG, DVF and CRPF have been sent to the area for combing and search operation.

533 new cases in Maharashtra police

Mumbai: Maharashtra Police Force has reported 533 new Covid-19 cases and three police personnel died due to the novel Coronavirus in the last 24 hours, said the police on Wednesday. "Total number of positive cases in the police force has risen to 17,972 including 3,523 active cases, 14,269 recoveries and 180 deaths till date," said the police.

Maharashtra is leading the COVID-19 tally in the country with 2,43,809 active cases currently. The state accounts for 27 per cent of the total active cases in the country.

India's COVID-19 case tally has crossed the 43-lakh mark with a spike of 89,706 new cases and 1,115 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Wednesday.



89K fresh cases; India's tally reaches 43.7 lakh

New Delhi (IANS): India on Wednesday witnessed a spike of 89,706 fresh cases of novel coronavirus (Covid-19) taking the total tally to 43,70,128 with 1,115 deaths due to pandemic in last 24 hours, the Union Health Ministry data revealed.

The spike of 89,706 cases comes a day after India witnessed a decline of fresh cases on Tuesday with 75,809 cases. India now is the second worst hit country after the US, with 43.7 million Covid-19 cases since the first was reported on January 30. Out of the total 43,70,128 cases, 8,97,394 are active cases; 33,98,844 have recovered so far while 73,890 lost the battle against the deadly virus.

While the recovery rate was at a whopping high of 77.77 per cent, the fatality rate stands at 1.69 per cent, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare shows.



Cong wants Dy Speaker in LS, writes to Speaker

New Delhi (IANS): After the Rajya Sabha set into motion the process for the election of the Deputy Chairman, the Congress demanded that the Lok Sabha should also elect a Deputy Speaker. The post has been lying vacant since the 2019 general elections.

Congress floor leader Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary has written to Speaker Om Birla and said that according to the constitutional mandate the post of the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha should be filled either by "election or consensus" as early as possible after a new Lok Sabha is constituted.

Chaudhary said by convention the post of the Deputy Speaker is offered to the Opposi-

BJP issues whip as Harivansh Singh files nomination

vansh Narayan Singh -- filed his nomination for the post of Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The whip issued by Shiv Pratap Shukla, BJP's Chief Whip in the Upper House, cited, "very important legislative business". The whip instructs, "All members of BJP in Rajya Sabha are therefore, requested to be positively present in the House throughout the day on Monday, September 14, 2020 and support the government's stand".

Army jawan hangs self at Rashtrapati Bhawan barracks

New Delhi (IANS): An Army jawan allegedly committed suicide in the barracks of Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, a police official said on Wednesday.

The police received a call at around 4 a.m. on Wednesday that 38-year-old Tek Bahadur Thapa has hung himself from a ceiling fan inside the barrack. Officials from South Avenue Police Station reached the spot and took the jawan to hospital but he was declared brought dead by the doctors. "The reason for the suicide is not known also no suicide note has been found yet. We are investigating the matter," said Additional DCP New Delhi Deepak Yadav. Sources said that Thapa was undergoing treatment for hypertension in the Base hospital.

Thapa was posted in Gorkha Rifles and was a resident of Nepal. According to the police, he took the extreme step when his roommates were asleep. The body has been sent for post-mortem and an inquiry initiated.



Kangana row backfires on Sena; Sharad Pawar unhappy

Mumbai: The demolition at Kangana Ranaut's office had given her "unnecessary publicity", Nationalist Congress Party Chief Sharad Pawar said, expressing his disapproval of the move by the Shiv Sena-controlled civic body BMC. "I have objection to media's coverage. Media made these things bigger. We should ignore such things," said Pawar, whose party is a part of the Shiv Sena-led coalition government in Maharashtra.



The senior politician suggested that though the BMC or Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation acted "as per rules", the timing of the demolition drive had sent out

a wrong message to the public.

The 33-year-old actor, sharing images on her Twitter handle, replied that she was being targeted because of her fight with the Shiv Sena, which also controls the BMC.

She captioned photos of the BMC team as "Pakistan..." and "Babur and his army".

Meanwhile, Three persons have been arrested for allegedly trespassing into Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's farmhouse in neighbouring Raigad district

of the state, a police official said on Wednesday. The incident took place on Tuesday evening at Bhilawali village, he said. According to the official, two of the accused claim that they are journalists of a leading English news channel. The incident took place three days after a caller allegedly threatened to blow up Thackeray's personal residence in Mumbai.

"After reaching Bhilawali on Tuesday evening, the accused trio asked a man who

was passing by in the village about the location of Thackeray's farmhouse there. The man, however, told them that he was not aware of it," the official said.

Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh received a threat call on Tuesday for criticising actress Kangana Ranaut during the assembly session on Tuesday. The threat call was received at the Minister's Nagpur office, an official confirmed on Wednesday.

Nervous China trying to convince own people it's Army can fight war

New Delhi (IANS): A nervous China is now trying to convince its own people that its Army can fight a war and has the advantage over India.

This clearly shows that China is on the back foot by India's aggressive stance on the border and is trying to give hope to its own people. "China's policy toward India is backed by strength and if ordinary people are not afraid of Indian provocateurs, how could the PLA be intimidated by them? How can the country be weak in dealing with India? Everyone must believe that China has an upper hand over India. We have all kinds of initiatives in our hands and we will not allow India to take advantage of China, no matter it is negotiation or fighting a war," Global Times said in a report.

China state affiliated media Gopal Times said in a report "People familiar with the frontline situation along the China-India border told me that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has a firm control over the overall situation, and that in the event of a war, no matter how it is fought, the PLA will have the absolute certainty of defeating the Indian army. China will not lose an inch of territory along the China-India border. Chinese people can be rest assured," it said.

The report by Hu Xijin, Editor-in-chief of the Global Times said that recent events have shown that China's overall deterrence has not been big enough to deter Indian troops from taking risks. "The Indian side is still taking chances, misjudging and underestimating China's will to never compromise



on the territorial issue. The Indian side always believes that China does not dare, will not or cannot go to war with the Indian side. Perhaps

the fundamental reason is that China has not fought a war for more than 30 years and is committed to peaceful development."

It said: "Some outside forces question our willingness to fight if necessary, arguing that we will compromise beyond the bottom line in

order to ensure development."

China is comparing the situation today to the 1962 war. "Before the 1962 war, India had no fear, encroaching on China's territory and challenging the PLA, and eventually India paid a heavy price. The situation today is very close to that before the outbreak of the 1962 war. As far as I know, the frontline situation is quite tense and there is a serious possibility of direct exchange of fire between the two sides".

"I have close contact with the Chinese military and I am also a former soldier, I must warn the Indian side that the PLA does not fire the first shot, but if the Indian army fires the first shot at the PLA, the consequence must be the annihilation of the Indian army on the spot. If Indian troops dare to escalate the

conflict, more Indian troops will be wiped out. The Indian army, which lost 20 soldiers in a physical clash (many of them froze to death after being injured in group fights), is no match for the PLA. Yes, we have some contempt for the combat capability of the Indian army," Hu wrote for Global Times.

"Many Chinese are regretfully thinking that perhaps peaceful development is not the destiny of China as a great power, and probably fighting a war to demonstrate China's determination that it "dares to fight" is the price China has to pay. I want to warn New Delhi, it should be responsible for its actions, not to force China to demonstrate its strength with striking provocative Indian troops who repeatedly crossed the LAC," the report said.

Will the Revenue Bill be a game changer?

Telangana Government on Wednesday introduced four bills to bring in transparency in land administration and simplify the process of registration. Going by the aims and objectives, it does sound interesting and gives an impression that it is a revolutionary one. It promises minimal human interference.

From the brief explanation given by the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, this bill will make the farmer a king. (Rythu Raju). There will be no more breaking of heads, no more unnecessary litigations. Great and we wish it is so. The Dharani website which would be launched soon will be a ready reckoner for all across the globe to access data pertaining to land records of entire state.

The registration process will be carried out digitally and it will be end of farmers running around the offices of sub registrars and settling deals for payment. It will be end of era of corruption

in the offices of registrars and sub registrars, KCR said.

If this turns out to be a reality in practice, then this certainly would be the most important achievement of the TRS government and KCR will go down as greatest reformer in the history of Telangana in the post-Nizam era.

Indians are known to find loop laws in any law even before it becomes operational. KCR claims that he had visualised this aspect as well and has empowered MROs to carry out registration and mutation of agricultural and Sub Registrars to carry out registration and mutation of non-agricultural lands in real time.

The government also promises safety and security of the database and will install multiple servers in state as part of backup mechanism and disaster management technology. Prior to the launch of Dharani website, the State government will undertake a complete survey of the State with geographical coordi-

ates for each survey number fixed in these records. The coordinates will be based on longitude and latitude data.

Wow, sounds to be highly scientific. But what about the existing litigations pending in various courts pertaining to land. May be this issue the government will clarify when the bill will be taken for day long discussion. The Government has promised to permit in depth discussion for entire day but the opposition only hopes that their voice would not be muzzled in the name of time management.

While the Congress party was unhappy that only six minutes were given to them on a resolution on Tuesday, it was the turn of MIM to protest over brief time allotted to them on Wednesday. Yes, the Assembly rules do say that time should be allotted as per the strength of the party.

However, that is not so rigid that more time cannot be given and the ministers should not object if the Speaker being

the supreme authority in the House allows members to speak for more time than what has been allotted to the party if the issue is of great importance and if it could affect the lives of the people of the state.

But unfortunately, a new trend is being witnessed in many State Assemblies that the opposition voice is being curtailed in the name of rules. It is rather a matter of concern that the ruling parties are increasingly becoming intolerant to voice of dissent and criticism including legislatures.

Let us hope that KCR Government will display its magnanimity and allow a thorough and fruitful discussion and make necessary amendments to the Bill if need be instead of completing the formality of holding a discussion and not agreeing even to a single suggestion from the opposition.

Let us hope that the new Revenue Bill will really become a landmark bill in the history of Telangana and will end cases like revenue officials seeking bribes even to the tune of over Rs one crore and brutal murder of revenue officials, incidents of which were witnessed recently.

PART - II

Those little houses of many mirrors

TALKING OF MANY THINGS



Dr Mohan Kanda

My father found Delhi unsuited to his temperament and accepted an assignment as the Chairman of the Wage Boards for Cotton Textile and Sugar Industries with his headquarters at Hyderabad. I shifted along with him and joined a post graduate course in mathematics in Osmania University. After standing first in the university in MSc (as a measure of compensation for my earlier failure perhaps!) I had enrolled for pursuing a doctorate in the Theory of Relativity under Dr. Vanajha Iyengar as my guide, when I was offered a job as a Probationary Officer in the State Bank of India. While still serving in my first branch and under training, I got selected for the IAS, returned to Hyderabad and proceeded to Mussoorie.

Coming back to the houses in which my wife and I stayed, there were interesting aspects about the time we spent in some of them. The story begins with an outhouse of a Collector's bungalow (in which we stayed when I was in the training in Krishna district), which originally was meant to be a swimming pool.

An abandoned (and allegedly haunted!) bat-infested swimming pool, an attached bathroom, a dressing room and a hall in which people probably had drinks in the olden days (or played cards), was

all that the building comprised of. And one had the occasional giant scorpion to keep one company!

It was during our stay in that house that Dr. C.D. Deshmukh and his wife Durgabai visited the Collector C.S. Sastry and stayed with him for a couple of days. Dr. Deshmukh took a Botany lesson for my wife (which I have referred to elsewhere in this column). Although devoid of creature comforts, it was, after all, our first home. While it certainly did not compare very favourably with Switzerland, (where we had originally planned our honeymoon!), I am glad to be able to record that the time we spent in that house was among the happiest in our married life.

While I have never been obsessed with astrology or palmistry, I am vulnerable to the temptation of seeking advice from practitioners of these disciplines from time to time. Towards the end of my training period an astrologer had predicted that I would get a posting as the sub-collector next to a river. While I was dreaming of the bungalows I had earlier seen my senior colleagues living in at Vijayawada and Rajahmundry, I got posted, of all places, to Ongole! It was only after some diligent search that I finally discovered that there was, after all, a river nearby – called Gundlakamma!

Ongole had been the headquarters of a sub-collector's division until a few months earlier, when a new district (Prakasam) was formed of which the town became the headquarters. Naturally enough, the Collector took over both the office and the bungalow of the sub-collector. I had, therefore, to look for private accommodation. The first one we could locate was a bit like a railway compartment with rooms in a row and practically no ventilation or light. After some effort I was



allotted government quarters. The only consolation about that house was that one could see the bungalow which my predecessors had occupied through the window in the bedroom! I spent some exciting times in that house including the management of floods, adverse seasonal conditions in the shape of a severe drought and the worst part of the long drawn separate Andhra agitation.

Upon promotion to the senior scale I was first designated as Sub Collector grade-I, and then posted as District Revenue officer (known these days as Joint Collector), I was continued at Ongole, although I now had the entire district as my jurisdiction. Within a few months thereafter I was posted as Additional Director, Handlooms and Textiles in a newly created post specially meant for managing the allocation of yarn, produced by the spinning mills in the state, to various consumers including textile mills, master weavers and weavers cooperatives. The headquarters was Hyderabad.

I stayed with my parents as Usha had gone home to Ra-

machandrapuram (her parents' place) for confinement. That posting, however, proved to be a short-lived one as the enactment enabling the allotment of yarn was struck down by a court of law. I was then allotted to the Commercial Taxes Department for an initial stint of training for three months in the Commissioner's Office at Hyderabad. I have mentioned elsewhere in this column how Kuppu Rao, Joint Secretary in charge of Commercial Taxes in (the then) Board of Revenue arranged for me to spend a part of that period at Ramachandrapuram. On duty in my father-in-law's place!

After completion of my training I was posted as Deputy Commissioner, Commercial Taxes, Visakhapatnam. We stayed in two different houses during the stay of one year at Visakhapatnam. It proved to be an interesting stint details of which I have mentioned elsewhere in this column. One notable development was that it was during that stint that I first got obsessed with the idea of selection of options and a certain way addressing them in order of priority or the 'ABC' approach.

We then moved on to Kurnool where I was transferred to as Deputy Commissioner, Commercial Taxes. I once developed an abscess in my hip. One Dr. Krishna Rao, general surgeon in the government hospital, attended to me. He had made meticulous, almost fastidious, arrangements for the surgery, posting it as the first case in a day and taking special steps to keep the Operation Theatre clean. And, promptly, within a week, the wound got infected!

During one of the visits to the hospital at that time B.V. Mohan Reddy, MLA (who subsequently became a Cabinet Minister of the state), took one look at my face, glanced at my palm, and predicted that Usha (who was expecting at that time and was at Ramachandrapuram), would deliver a son. And, sure enough it happened. There were many notable developments on the professional front a detailed account of which I have given elsewhere in this column.

I was next posted as Special Officer Urban Land Ceiling, Hyderabad and chose to live in a small house close to my parents' place. Once again, the legislation that enabled takeover of excess land in urban areas was struck down by a Court, practically the minute I took over. One was able, however, to bring into the exercise of the takeover and allocation of excess government land, a certain amount of method and system, primarily through the use of the ABC approach once again and also using computers. After sometime that then Chief Secretary felt that my hands were not full and decided that I should move to a district.

(To be continued)

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

Of tricks of trade a veteran diplomat picked up from his peers

VISHNU MAKHLJANI

Winston Churchill once defined diplomacy as "the art of telling a man to go to hell in such a way that he asks for directions to it!"

Jawaharlal Nehru explained a diplomat's job rather differently: "I want to assure you that India does not expect to lie on its behalf. Never tell a lie but always remember you have no obligation to reveal the truth. The less said the better; the best is to listen."

Listening to -- and absorbing -- such nuggets as related to him by his peers is exactly what veteran diplomat Pascal Alan Nazareth did during his 35-year journey in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) as he trod many a difficult path during which he served in a dozen missions abroad -- among them as Ambassador/High Commissioner in five African and four Latin American countries. He also held key positions at the South Block headquarters of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi -- and even redefined the concept of cultural diplomacy.

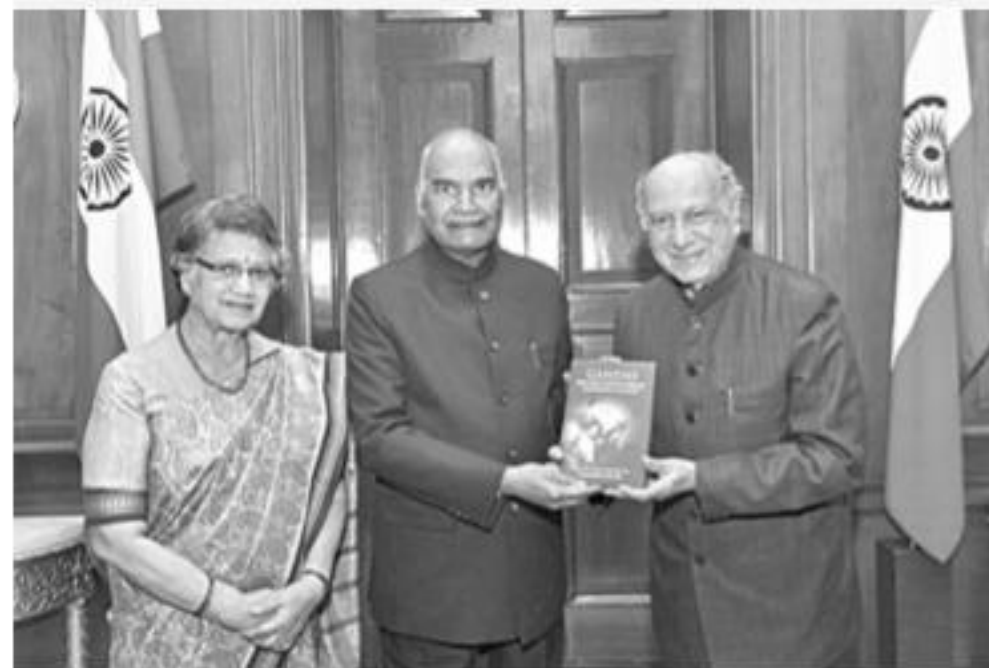
"Challenging, exciting and

(ICCR), "taking it from a lethargic, low-wattage cultural body into the strong arms of India's cultural diplomacy" as he put it. Proof of this was the Festivals of India in Britain, the US and the Soviet Union and a raft of other events worldwide that were held during Nazareth's time.

One particularly memorable event was the India-Greek Symposium held at Delhi in 1984, at which Culture Minister Melina Mercouri ("Never on Sunday" - Best Actress Award at Cannes in 1960) went beyond the usual platitudes to describe India and Greece as the "algebra and geometry of world cultures".

Would Nazareth have done anything differently during his career? "I shall always be grateful to the IPS for the maxims (it taught me). As I have done the best I could at every post I have served in, I would not have done anything differently at any of them," he replied. His varied exposure also served to bring out the philosopher in him, as is evident from the concluding paragraph of the book:

"I pray not only for myself but also for my beloved coun-



educative," is how Nazareth summed up his career in an interview to IANS as his autobiography, "A Ringside Seat To History" (Konark) hit the stands to carry forward the insights he gained while in service and in the 25 years since his retirement in promoting Gandhian ideals, promoting peace with Pakistan and lecturing on board cruise liners.

"I would sum up my IFS career in just three words: challenging, exciting and educative. I use the last word because I learnt many vital maxims during my 35 years in it," Nazareth said.

For instance: "Never hitch your wagon to a political star and always be an upright, in-trepid and thoroughly professional IFS officer" - High Commissioner to Britain B.K. Nehru. "In a crisis, what is most needed are cool heads and not cold feet" - Foreign Secretary T.N. Kaul. "Diplomats are essentially peace makers for it is when they fail that the Generals are called in" - P.K. Banerjee, Charge de Affairs in Peking during the 1962 Sino-Indian conflict and later India's Permanent Representative in Geneva. "Culture is a potent arm of diplomacy..." In the sphere of culture India is the super power," Foreign Secretary M.K. Rasgotra.

All this stood Nazareth in good stead in his many assignments as he relentlessly pursued fraudulent and well-connected shipping magnate Dharma Teja in the US and Costa Rica and ensured his extradition to India, crossed swords with nefarious arms dealers in London, handled the aftermath of military coups and bloody executions of the Heads of State in Ghana and Liberia, witnessed a Japanese politician being assassinated in Tokyo and secured major economic gains for India in West Asia and Latin America.

And, of course, there was his turn-around of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations

try India, the Mother Civilization which has produced more sages and holy men, and over the centuries has culturally enriched more of the world than any other country. I feel privileged to have been born on its soil and blessed to have ample opportunities to serve its interests and stand up for millennial values in various parts of the world...I wish to repay to it as best as I can and all it as generally provided me in physical, mental and spiritual sustenance. I pray to its age old maxims Satyamev Jayate (Truth alone triumphs), Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti (The Truth is One, but has many names) and Udaracharitanam tu Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (For the enlightened, all of humanity is one family) will always be its guiding light and national ethos."

Pressed further during the interview, Nazareth said: "The philosophy that guided me in crafting this paragraph is the Advaita philosophy of Adi Shankara. I first learnt of it from Dr. S. Radhakrishnan's 'Eastern Religions and Western Thought' and subsequently from Gandhi's 'Views on Hindu Dharma' and Volume 1 ('Our Oriental Heritage') of Will Durant's 'The Story of Civilization' in which he lauds Adi Shankara as the "greatest of Indian philosophers, at once the Aquinas and Kant of India".

"Since my younger brother John's sudden and tragic death at Jaipur in May 2014 and the spiritual transformation I underwent thereafter I am a confirmed 'Advaitin' even though I am still a 'practising Roman Catholic Christian'. In Peru I was described as a 'Roman Catholic Hindu!' I now describe myself as a 'Roman Catholic Advaitin!'"

There's a message in this not only for those who conduct diplomacy but also for the world at large - and that is Never Miss the Bigger Picture.

LETTERS

Time to take China head-on

Tensions prevailing at our country's border is very serious. Day to day China is crossing its limits and trying to occupy some parts of our country. It is not only responsible for the central government to act against the problem but every citizen must react about the situation, particularly the political parties in India. They must stop unnecessary criticism against government in this matter and must have a thought of support to the central government at this time.

The Central Government must call immediately an all-party meeting to review the situation. While it is very clear the China is playing double game to continue the peace at the border, it is the right time to teach a fitting lesson to China because no one should not forget the root cause of the spread of the Covid pandemic all over the world. I think that every country will certainly support us in this regard.

J Srinivasa Rao, Srikakulam

Dead body politics

The issue of Bollywood star Sushant Singh Rajput's demise has become a prominent issue in upcoming Bihar elections. Mainly there are two reasons for this. The first one is, there are over five per cent Rajput voters in Bihar. As Sushant is from a Rajput family, political parties are trying to get benefited from Rajputs.

The second one is by raking up the sentiment of his demise, India is best known for death sentiments right from the beginning. After Indira Gandhi's demise, Congress party won the elections with unprecedented majority. And after Rajiv Gandhi's assassination again Congress got huge majority. Even in Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's sudden demise has brought an abundant sympathy for his family and his wife won in by elections with considerable majority.

Like this, instead of talking about issues like employment, education, welfare schemes, health, irrigation etc some political parties are sticking to the issue of Sushant's

demise alone in Bihar. Their only aim is to stir the emotions of people in the name of Sushant and get benefited politically.

K Manoj Kumar, Huzurabad, Karimnagar

The DBT controversy in AP

The AP Cabinet meeting which was chaired by Chief Minister on September 3, gave its nod to extending Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme to nearly 18 lakh agricultural pump sets across the state beginning with Srikakulam district from April 1, 2021 as pilot project. Under this scheme every agricultural pump set in the state is regularised and got fixed smart meter. But the opposition is raising hue and cry forgetting how it harassed the power consumers by increasing power prices exorbitantly. In fact the patent right on free power to agricultural pump sets belongs to YSR family as present Chief Minister's father and former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy affixed his first sign as Chief Minister on free-power file in 2004. He did it sincerely as he got first hand experience of woes of farmers in his walkathon from Chevella to Ichapuram.

So, his son who wanted to remain Chief Minister of AP for thirty years would not dare to deceive the farmers in the name of DBT as alleged by the TDP. But it is because of the Union government which proposed reforms in energy sector and other sectors in the wake of Covid19 and asked the state governments to initiate reforms for getting additional loans. Under these circumstances the AP government has devised the DBT. However the DBT will ensure accountability and transparency in power consumption as Discoms are putting loss of 3 million units of power in the account of agricultural pump sets out of 15 million units but agricultural sector is consuming only 12 million units. In the pretext of free power electricity department is showing indifference attitude towards illegal connections of non-agricultural sector and making a way to pilferage. However fixing meters to agricultural pump sets will bring out new problems to farmers as each farmer in AP has more than one pump set because of scattering of land holdings. If the government allows the farmers to have as many connections as they need then the farmers will not oppose the DBT. Moreover the government must ensure uninterr-

rupted power supply even in the case delayed payment either because of government or the farmers.

Pratap Reddy Yaramala, Tiruvuru

Chariot fire investigation

Investigation into gutting of the chariot of Antaredi temple should be dealt with genuine sincerity. Stock dialogues like, 'We will take stern action against culprits', 'Nobody will be spared' do not serve any purpose. Perfunctory actions will not give any sort of assurance to the Hindu devotees. A series of incidents have been taking place in the state with a view to disturb the communal harmony. Many believe that the government's inaction and appeasement politics are the root cause for these crimes. Now it is the government's responsibility to prove that it is unbiased.

Venkata Seshasai Deevi, Narasaraopet

Tackle joblessness in India

Unemployment is a serious social and economic concern almost all over the world. It gives rise to many social diseases. The cases of Covid-19 in India are going to be close to 43 lakhs and the economy is stagnant. The scope for a complete recovery in the economy seems far-fetched. The economy of the unorganized sector is slowly picking up speed. But the way unemployment rate is increasing day by day is creating a serious problem in front of people. The present central government had made big claims regarding skill development, but so far no concrete result has been revealed. According to an estimate, 400 new jobs are created in India every day and now in the situation like Covid 19, it has reduced a lot more. In view of our uncontrollably growing population, it can be said that cumin is in the mouth of the camel, in view of this, concrete steps should be taken to include unemployment eradication in the priorities of our schemes so as to provide a strong foundation for future building.

Balram Sahu, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)

thehansreader@gmail.com

CM Jagan virtually flags off Kisan Rail

- Thanks PM Modi, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Minister of State for Railways Suresh C Angadi for starting the second Kisan Rail, first from South India, to transport horticulture produce from the State to Delhi
- Says the train is not only carrying 322 metric tonnes of fruits but also carries happiness and smiles of the farmers
- The Chief Minister points out that nearly 312 lakh metric tonnes of horticulture produce is being harvested across the State in 17.42 lakh hectares thus accounting for 15.6 per cent share of fruit production in the country
- The State government has taken up a lot of initiatives in the agricultural sector that benefit farmers and even went ahead in providing Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers by introducing Market Intervention Fund
- During Covid crisis, tonnes of fruits and vegetables have been exported from Anantapur to Mumbai port through 11 special trains

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy from his camp office at Tadepalli along with Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar from Delhi virtually flagged off Kisan Rail from Anantapur to New Delhi on Wednesday fulfilling the long awaited dream of horticulture farmers of Rayalaseema region.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister thanked Prime Minister Narendra



Though the State stands as the fruit capital of South India, it was difficult to tap the market outside of AP, which even worsened during Covid-19 pandemic. During the hard times, the State government didn't abandon farmers and indeed provided many more benefits by collecting the produce and exporting to other States.

Upon making a special request to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, explaining the crisis and asked him to look into the issue, which eventually landed with a boon as Kisan Rail, said Chief Minister Jagan. "The train not only carries 322 metric tonnes of fruits but also carries happiness and smiles of the farm-

ers."

The Chief Minister requested the railway officials to reduce the fares of Kisan Rail as they are slightly on the higher side and asked to provide a good remunerative price for the farmers.

Further, the Chief Minister said that the State government had taken up a lot of initiatives in the agricultural sector that benefit farmers and even went ahead in providing Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers by introducing Market Intervention Fund. During Covid crisis, tonnes of fruits and vegetables were exported from Anantapur to Mumbai port through 11 special trains. Nearly 45,000 tonnes of bananas, 1,185



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy flagging off from his camp office at Tadepalli on Wednesday a Kisan Rail from Anantapur to New Delhi

tonnes of vegetables, 1,471 tonnes of fresh mangoes and 8,000 tonnes of mango pulp were exported to other countries.

The Kisan Rail cargo from Anantapur is carrying 214 tonnes of tomatoes, 138 tonnes of banana, 32 tonnes of sweet orange, 11 tonnes of papaya, 8 tonnes of melons and 3 tonnes of mangoes to Delhi.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of State for Railways Suresh C Angadi, Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Parshottam Rupala, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botcha Satyanarayana and other officials participated in the event.

4 from same family commit suicide

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam: Four members of the same family allegedly committed suicide at a lodge near RTC complex in the city on Wednesday. B Appalaraju (32) of Bandhuvani-palem village near Pendurthi used to work as an LIC agent. Online gambling and other habits led to debts that amounted to crores of rupees. On Wednesday, the family went to a lodge and committed suicide. Appalaraju, his wife Manasa (26) and their two daughters committed suicide. A suicide note was found in the room. The case is being investigated by the police.

2 killed, three injured as two cars collide

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Guntur: Two persons were killed on the spot and three others were injured when two cars going in opposite direction collided with each other at Kanamarlapudi village under Savalyapuram police station limits in Guntur district on Wednesday.

According to Vinukonda rural Circle Inspector M V Subba Rao, one person K Udayeswara Rao was driving a Scorpio while Venkata Subbaiah was travelling in another car along with three women. When both cars collided, Udayeswara Rao (35) and Venkata Subbaiah (53) died on the spot. Another three women sustained injuries and they were admitted to local government hospital for treatment.

While Udayeswara Rao belonged to Kovvur in West Godavari district, Venkata Subbaiah hailed from Nandyala.

Inspector Subba Rao said, "Udayeswara Rao was answering cell phone calls while driving the vehicle. As he was driving the car at a high speed, he lost control over the vehicle which led to the accident." The police registered a case and took up investigation.

Mangalagiri MLA tests positive for Covid-19

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Guntur: Mangalagiri MLA Alla Rama Krishna Reddy tested positive for coronavirus on Wednesday. The doctor who conducted Covid-19 test on him declared him positive for coronavirus. The MLA went on home quarantine.

Earlier, Deputy Speaker Kona Raghupati, YSRCP MLAs Kilari Rosaliah, Annabathuni Siva Kumar and Ambati Rambabu, tested positive for coronairus. Later, they recovered.

BJP demands judicial probe into burning of chariot Party State chief Somu Veerraju alleges that the govt is hiding facts

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Rajamahendravaram: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State president Somu Veerraju has demanded that the State government order a judicial inquiry into the fire mishap at Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Antarvedi in which sacred chariot was gutted.

Speaking to the media at Antarvedi and in Rajamahen-

dravaram on Wednesday, he questioned the government why it was hiding the facts pertaining to the mishap.

The government failed to say that stern action will be taken against the accused who attacked Hindu institutions but was saying serious action would be taken against the persons who attack Christian institutions, Veerraju alleged.

The attitude of the State gov-

ernment was instigating Hindus to take a war path, he averred. He questioned why the government arrested the representatives of Hindu Dharmika Samstas and under which sections. He demanded that the government release the arrested persons immediately.

BJP cannot remain a mere spectator, if the attacks continue on Hindu Dharmika Samstas, the party will launch an agitation

along with the Jana Sena Party (JSP). What is the need of Section-30 in Antarvedi and asked if there were any separate rules for Ministers and others.

BJP will constitute a committee to bring out facts pertaining to the fire mishap into limelight, he said. He demanded that the government publish a white paper on the incident which hurt the sentiments of crores of Hindus across the country.

Parimal Nathwani takes oath as RS member

Thanks CM Jagan for giving him an opportunity to serve people

HANS NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi: Parimal Nathwani, a consecutive third time member of Rajya Sabha, representing Andhra Pradesh this time, took oath here on Wednesday.

Vice-President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha Venkaiah Naidu administered the oath to Nathwani in his chamber in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. Nathwani could not take oath earlier with other newly elected members as he was indisposed and could not travel to Delhi.

Nathwani, who represented Jharkhand in 2008 and 2014, got elected a third time for Rajya Sabha as YSR Congress candidate on June 19, 2020.

"I thank our dynamic and very popular young leader Chief Minister YS Jagan Mo-



Vice-President Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu administering oath to Parimal Nathwani as the member of Rajya Sabha in the former's chamber in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday

han Reddy and YSR Congress Party for giving me the opportunity to serve the people of the State. It is over a year since he became the Chief

Minister and he has fulfilled nearly 90 per cent of the promises made by him and he will do a lot more for the overall development of the State in the remaining four years of his term. The Chief Minister has focused on the 'Navaratnalu' that he had promised to implement, and a lot has been achieved in each of these schemes," said Nathwani after his swearing in at Delhi.

"I am fully committed to serving the people of Andhra Pradesh and will work along with the Chief Minister and his team for the development of the State. I will bring to the table my extensive experience gained during my 12 years as the member of Rajya Sabha from Jharkhand and several decades of experience at Reliance Industries Ltd," said Nathwani.

Kangana takes on Shiv Sena, tells Uddhav his ego will be crushed

Continued from P1

This is the second time she has referred to Mumbai as PoK, a statement that sparked the spat with the Shiv Sena. On Wednesday, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut told India Today, I have never threatened Kangana Ranaut, I only expressed my anger at Mumbai being likened to POK, am not responsible for what action BMC takes.. matter is over for me, Kangana is welcome to live in Mumbai. Ranaut also shared few photographs of BMC

officials at her house, with the captions "Pakistan...#deathofdemocracy" and "Babur and his army #deathofdemocracy".

The actor posted past photos from the building, calling it her own "Ram Mandir". "Today Babur has come there and history will repeat itself. Ram temple will be broken again but remember Babar, this temple will be built again. Jai Shri Ram," she tweeted.

Calling herself the daughter of Chhatrapati Shivaji, Ranaut

claimed that she was fighting for her "honour and dignity". "I have lived the courage, valor and sacrifice of Rani Laxmibai through my film. The sad thing is that I am being prevented from coming to my own Maharashtra. But I will follow the path of Rani Laxmibai. I will not get scared or bow down to anyone. I will continue to raise my voice against wrong, Jai Maharashtra, Jai Shivaji," she said in another post.

China starts fresh build-up north of Pangong Lake

Continued from P1

From here the Indian Army enjoys a vantage point not just over Chinese army military bases on the south bank of the Pangong Lake but can also be within range of the Finger 4 area on the north of the lake on the opposite side. India and China have been engaged in a standoff since May at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Despite several levels of dialogue, there has not been any breakthrough and the deadlock continues.

Oxford University halts Covid vaccine trials

Continued from P1

Given the urgency to control the spread of the novel coronavirus which has claimed thousands of lives around the world, it was hoped the trials would be speedier and that a vaccine may be ready as early as January 2021. The Oxford University's Jenner Institute team started working to develop a vaccine against the SARS-CoV-2, or the virus which causes Covid-19, in January this year and says it has been working with "unprecedented urgency" in a race against the coronavirus. Phase I and II results had proved positive as they showed that the vaccine induced strong antibody and T-cell immune responses for up to 56 days after they were given. T-cells are crucial for maintaining protection against the virus for years.

Goutham Reddy seeks SAIL's support in skill development among youth

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Minister for Industries Mekapati Goutham Reddy urged the Union government support in building steel and allied related sector institutional infrastructure through Skill Colleges.

He addressed a conference organised by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in New Delhi on Wednesday.

He said that AP has been implementing multiple skill development programmes aimed at students in schools, colleges, dropouts and unemployed through the schemes of Central and State governments.

Mekapati added that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has decided to develop an industry-friendly eco-system by supporting them with skilled workforce. In this connection, it is proposed to establish Skill University at apex levels and 30

constituent skill colleges across AP by involving PSU, corporates, Industries as key stakeholders.

Higher education, skill development & training and industries departments have joined together for identifying industry-driven job roles, courses and curriculum, he added. Further, industries are considered as key stakeholders in this project, as they would be imparting finishing skill courses along with the regular curriculum for the students and to absorb the trained candidates.

The proposed skill ecosystem in the State will be evolved in consultation with Central Ministries and will aim at achieving Skill India Mission envisioned by the Prime Minister of India, he added.

Goutham Reddy requested the SAIL to support these aspects for the benefit of the young populace belonging to the newly formed State.

Pestered by ex-boyfriend, TV actress kills self

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Noted Telugu TV actress Sravani Kondapalli (26), who acted in Manasu Mamata and Mounaragam serials, allegedly committed suicide by hanging at her residence in Madhura Nagar on Tuesday night. The incident came to light on Wednesday morning when her brother broke the news to the media.

Speaking to the media, her brother, Shiva, alleged that she had taken the extreme step as she was constantly being harassed by her ex-boyfriend, Devaraj Reddy, a native of Kakinada, whom she met via TikTok.

He further alleged that as Devaraj was interested in acting and wanted to make a career in movies, he started courting Sravani. "However, things went awry between them and Sravani wanted to get rid of him. But



he did not leave her and started blackmailing her threatening to leak their personal pictures online. He also demanded a ransom, to which Sravani obeyed."

"On Monday, she was upset after she received a call from Devaraj. On Tuesday night, she said that she had a shoot the next day and wanted to take a shower. However, she did not come even after 30 minutes. I grew suspicious and I immediately alerted my sister's friend. We both broke open the door only to find my sister hanging in the bathroom," noted Shiva.

According to SR Nagar police, the victim was rushed to the hospital. However, she was declared dead on arrival. V Narsimha Reddy, Inspector of SR Nagar police station said that the actress along with her family had earlier visited the police station and had filed a complaint against Devaraj for harassment. A case under Section 306 of IPC was registered then and he was also remanded to judicial custody.

"However, after releasing on bail, he came into contact with the actress again and this matter was known to her family who advised her sever the ties with Devaraj. But unfortunately, she took the extreme step on Tuesday night. A case of abetment of suicide has been filed against Devaraj. Special teams have been sent to Kakinada to apprehend Devaraj. Further probe is on."

10,418 new cases in 24 hours

74 deaths recorded and toll rises to 4,634

Amaravati: The coronavirus graph of Andhra Pradesh continued its progression on a steep incline and reached 5,27,512 on Wednesday as 10,418 cases were added anew.

The latest bulletin said 9,842 patients had recovered in 24 hours ending 9 am on Wednesday, while 74 more succumbed to the pandemic in the State.

The number of active cases in the State rose to 97,271 after a total of 4,25,607 patients recovered and 4,634 died. Adding 1,399 in 24 hours, East Godavari crossed the 70,000 cases mark while Kurnool inched closer to the 50,000 mark, the top two districts in the State.

Chittoor crossed 45,500 and SPS Nellore district 40,000 cases on Wednesday. Prakasam, whose gross number of cases reached 32,221 including 1,271 new, had the highest number of 14,717 active cases followed by 13,151 in East Godavari. After a total of 43.08 lakh tests at the rate of 80,688 per million population, AP registered an infection positivity rate of 12.24 per cent, the bulletin said.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Advocating for local manufacturing


“Right environment and incentives can propel domestic manufacturing in India, and while China (a production hub) had built an ecosystem over last 20 years, connectivity which is driven by domestic manufacturing is what I would put as my dream number one for India by 2025
- RS Sharma, Trai Chairman



CLEARING UP PENDING TAX REFUNDS

I-T Dept issues ₹1.01 lakh cr to taxpayers

The Income-Tax (I-T) Department has issued refunds of over Rs 1.01 lakh crore to 27.55 lakh taxpayers between April 1 to September 8. This include personal Income Tax (PIT) refunds amounting to Rs 30,768 crore issued to 25.83 lakh taxpayers and corporate tax refunds amounting to Rs 70,540 crore issued to over 1.71 lakh taxpayers during this period.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	77.95	South	
Euro	90.83	African Rand	5.04
UAE Dirham	22.02	Hong Kong Dollar	10.91
Thai Baht	2.69	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	99	New Zealand Dollar	51.23
Australian Dollar	55.89	Saudi Riyal	21.57
Canadian Dollar	58.39	Swedish Krona	9.59
Swiss Franc	83.27	Singapore Dollar	56.38

DELHI THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS



Flipkart onboards 50k kirana shops

New Delhi: Walmart-owned Flipkart has onboarded more than 50,000 kirana shops to strengthen its supply chain and delivery capabilities ahead of the upcoming festive season. In preparation for the festive season and the 'Big Billion Days' sale, Flipkart has significantly expanded its kirana onboarding program to make deliveries to customers in more than 850 cities, a statement said. "With more than 50,000 kiranas on-boarded, Flipkart aims to provide a fast and personalised e-commerce experience to millions of consumers while creating opportunities for digital upskilling as well as additional income for kiranas," it added.

BDL gets ₹770-cr subscriptions

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday said it has received subscriptions worth Rs 770 crore from institutional and retail investors in the offer for sale (OFS) of defence firm Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL). The OFS had the hit the market with the government selling over 2.74 crore shares in BDL at a floor price of Rs 330 a piece. In a tweet, DIPAM Secretary said, "BDL OFS concluded today (on Wednesday) with total subscription of about 2.34 cr shares worth Rs 770 crore from institutional and retail investors. This issue will help the company achieve MPS (minimum public shareholding) norms."

Happiest Minds IPO oversubscribed

New Delhi: The initial public offering of IT services firm Happiest Minds Technologies was subscribed a whopping 126.15 times so far on the last day of bidding on Wednesday. The Rs 702-crore IPO, received bids for 2,93,41,84,140 shares against the total issue size of 2,32,59,550 shares, according to data available till 3.30 pm. The price band for the offer, which opened for subscription on Monday, has been fixed at Rs 165 to Rs 166 per equity share. The offer comprises a fresh issuance of shares aggregating up to Rs 110 crore and an offer for sale of up to 3.56 crore equity shares.

RBI digital payment index soon

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is in the process of constructing a digital payment index to assess the extent of digitisation in the country and innovation in existing modes and channels to bridge digital divide, a senior official of the apex bank said on Wednesday. Observing that digital payments in India have been growing rapidly, RBI Executive Director T Rabi Sankar said there is still a lot of catching up to do as per-capita penetration is still quite low.

Silver Lake picks 1.75% in Reliance Retail for ₹7,500 cr

Investment pegs RRVL valuation at ₹4.21 Lakh cr; Stage set for Ambani's battle with Amazon.com & Walmart Inc for dominance in the retail mkt

New Delhi: US private equity firm Silver Lake Partners will buy 1.75 per cent stake in billionaire Mukesh Ambani-run Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) retail arm for Rs 7,500 crore and may be followed by KKR & Co, an American global investment company. Silver Lake will invest Rs 7,500 crore in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, for a 1.75 per cent stake, the Indian firm said in a statement.

"Reliance Retail Ltd, a subsidiary of RRVL, operates India's largest, fastest growing and most profitable retail business serving close to 640 million footfalls across its about 12,000 stores nationwide," the statement said.

"This investment values RRVL at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.21 lakh crore," it said. This marks the second billion-dollar investment by Silver Lake in a RIL subsidiary after the \$1.35 billion investment in Jio Platforms announced earlier this year. The world's largest tech investor picking up a stake in Reliance Retail cements belief that the firm is set to lead a disruptive, technology-led transformation of the Indian retail sector particularly relevant in post-pandemic India. Reliance Retail Limited, a subsidiary of RRVL, operates India's largest, fastest-growing and most prof-

INVESTMENT SPREE

- RRVL operates India's largest network of JioMart comprising 12,000 stores in 7,000 towns
- After monetising Jio Platforms, Mukesh Ambani is roping in investors in the retail business
- All the 13 investors in Jio Platforms have been offered investing option in the retail unit

KKR & Co, an American global investment company, may invest about \$1.5 billion

itable retail business spanning supermarkets, consumer electronics chain stores, cash and carry wholesale business, fast-fashion outlets, and online grocery store JioMart. It operates almost 12,000 stores in nearly 7,000

towns. The investment will add fire to Ambani's battle for dominance in the retail market that is also being eyed by Jeff Bezos' Amazon.com and Walmart Inc's Flipkart. In May, Reliance launched an online grocery deliv-

ery service JioMart. It has tied up with WhatsApp to connect customers with local kirana stores. After monetising Jio Platforms - which houses the firm's telecom arm and digital ventures, the richest Indian Mukesh Ambani is roping in investors in the retail business. All the 13 investors in Jio Platforms have been offered a chance to explore investing in the retail unit, sources privy to the development said adding KKR may be next in line to make an investment. KKR may invest about \$1.5 billion, they said. Commenting on the Silver Lake deal, Sweta Patodia, Analyst, Corporate Finance, Moody's Investors Service, said, "the proposed divestment is credit positive as it will enable RIL to pursue further growth opportunities while maintaining its zero-net debt status. The deal also establishes a valuation for its retail arm and sets the stage for further stakes sales within the segment."

RIL shares gain nearly 3%; mcap at ₹13.7 trn

New Delhi: Shares of Reliance Industries on Wednesday closed with nearly three per cent gains after US private equity firm Silver Lake Partners picked up 1.75 per cent stake in the retail arm of the company for

Rs 7,500 crore. The company's market valuation was at Rs 13,70,103.80 crore at close of trade on BSE.

The stock of the country's most valuable firm jumped 2.57 per cent to close at Rs 2,161.25 on BSE. Dur-

ing the day, it gained 2.85 per cent to Rs 2,167.20. On NSE, it rose by 2.68 per cent to settle at Rs 2,163.55. In terms of volume, 8.51 lakh shares were traded on BSE and 2.55 crore on NSE.

Despite RIL show, indices end lower as bank stocks weigh

Mumbai: The BSE Sensex languished for the second straight session on Wednesday, largely in tandem with Asian markets as a rout on Wall Street and AstraZeneca pausing its Covid-19 vaccine trials spooked investors.

A strong showing by index heavyweight Reliance Industries -- which rallied after announcing 1.75 per cent stake sale in its retail arm to US private equity firm Silver Lake Partners for Rs 7,500 crore -- was not enough to offset the weakness in banking, IT and finance counters. After slumping 430.09 points during the day, the 30-share BSE benchmark recovered some lost ground to end at 38,193.92, down 171.43 points or 0.45 per cent. In similar movement, the NSE Nifty settled 39.35 points or 0.35 per cent lower at 11,278. "A selloff in US



tech stocks and a setback to one of the vaccine trials kept markets on edge. Indian markets are expected to be in sync with the global markets and also react to the on-going border tensions with China. There are currently no fresh triggers for markets, and we can expect volatility," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

MCA extends AGM deadline till Dec 31

New Delhi: In a major relief for corporates, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has extended the deadline to hold annual general meeting (AGM) for the financial year 2019-20 till December 31 in the wake of the pandemic. The existing deadline was scheduled to end on September 30. According to an MCA statement, the move would provide relief to around 12 lakh companies. "MCA issued directions to RoCs (Registrar of Companies) to issue orders without filing of formal application and payment of fee. Even applications already filed but not approved or rejected are also covered for this relief," it said.

The statement noted that the MCA is extending this timeline due to Covid-19 and to meet the demand from various associations for extending time to hold the AGM.

CYIENT INKS PACT WITH AGAPPE

HANS BUSINESS

Hyderabad: IT major Cyient has signed a manufacturing partnership with Agappe to bring indigenously developed diagnostic machine Count X to market. Mispas Count X is an indigenously designed and developed three-part haematology analyser, involving study and treatment of the blood, by Agappe that enables setting up of well-equipped labs in remote and rural locations across India.

As per the agreement, Cyient will manufacture certain key components of Mispas Count X at its ISO 13485-certified, state-of-art manufacturing facilities in India.



In a regulatory filing, Cyient DLM senior V-P and CEO Rajendra Velagapudi said: "We are proud to support the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) in the healthcare sector."

It is a matter of immense pride that with Agappe's new haematology product, even rural India and other remote locations of the country will have access to the best of diagnostic capabilities."

Air India not to hire trainee pilots

New Delhi: Air India has decided not to go ahead with the recruitment exercise of trainee pilots due to the bleak scenario in the aviation industry and the critical financial condition of the company. Air India said in a statement that it had issued an advertisement in September, 2017, inviting applications from the open market to recruit pilots - both senior trainee pilots (With Endorsement) and trainee pilots (CPL Holders).

The selection process for Senior Trainee Pilots was completed and selected candidates joined the company.

The last batch commenced training from May 17, 2019, Air India said. In the wake of today's bleak scenario in the aviation industry due to Covid-19, it has been decided not to go ahead with the recruitment.

Passenger vehicle retail sales fall 7% in Aug: FADA

New Delhi: Automobile dealers' body FADA on Wednesday said passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales in August declined 7.12 per cent to 1,78,513 units as compared to same month last year.

According to Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), which collected vehicle registration data from 1,242 out of the 1,450 regional transport offices (RTOs), PV sales stood at 1,92,189 units in August 2019. Two-wheeler sales declined 28.71 per cent to 8,98,775 units last month as compared with 12,60,722 units in August 2019. Commercial vehicle sales declined 57.39 per cent to 26,536 units as compared to 62,270 units in August 2019.

Three-wheeler sales declined 69.51 per cent to 16,857 units last month as compared with 55,293 units in August 2019. Total sales across categories declined 26.81 per cent to 11,88,087 units last month as against 16,23,218 units in the year-ago month.

Equity MFs see outflow in Aug on profit-booking

Reasons for the outflow are attributed to withdrawals from liquid, overnight, equity and hybrid schemes

FUNDS

New Delhi: Equity mutual funds (MFs) witnessed an outflow of Rs 4,000 crore in August, making it the second consecutive monthly withdrawal, primarily on profit-booking by investors. Besides, investors pulled out Rs 3,907 crore from debt mutual funds last month after seeing a staggering inflow of Rs 91,392 crore in July, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed on Wednesday.

Overall, the mutual fund industry witnessed a net outflow of Rs 14,553 crore across all segments

during the period under review, compared to a net inflow of Rs 89,813 crore in July. This outflow could be attributed to withdrawals from liquid, overnight, equity and hybrid schemes. As per the data, outflow from equity and equity-linked open-ended schemes was at Rs 3,999.62 crore in August, much higher than Rs 2,480.35 crore in July. Equity MFs saw their first outflow in over four years in July on profit-booking.

Such scheme attracted Rs 240.55 crore in June, Rs 5,256 crore in May, Rs 6,213 crore in

April, Rs 11,723 crore in March, Rs 10,796 crore in February and Rs 7,877 crore in January. In August this year, except equity linked saving schemes (ELSS), focused fund and sectoral categories, all the other equity categories witnessed net outflow.

This could be largely attributed to investors booking profit given the surge in the equity markets, said Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India. In the equity segment, large cap was the worst hit with an outflow of Rs 1,553 crore, followed by multi-cap (Rs 1,157 crore), value fund (Rs 780 crore) and mid-cap (Rs 603 crore).

However, sectoral or thematic funds attracted Rs 379 crore, while the same for ELSS was Rs 29 crore and focused funds saw a marginal infusion of just Rs 5 crore. With equity markets doing well for some time and stable scenario in the fixed income markets, hybrid schemes too witnessed significant net outflows of Rs 4,819 crore with investors viewing this scenario as a good exit opportunity, he added.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches PSB Alliance Doorstep Banking Services and declares EASE 2.0, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Banks catalysts of economic revival: FM

Mumbai: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said banks are going to be the catalysts for economic revival. "At this stage, the catalysts for economic revival, the catalysts who have the pulse of every one of their customers, are banks," the finance minister said. She was speaking after launching PSB Alliance-Doorstep Banking Services. The minister further said banks have to introspect on their core business and also focus on welfare. "You don't forget your core activity, which is lending and making money out of it and that is a legitimate activity. You will do that and also being public sector,

do some things which are welfare related as announced by the government," she said. She emphasized that even private sector banks will have to contribute towards implementation of government schemes. She said all bank staffers should know the details of government schemes which are to be implemented through the lenders. "It is your duty to know about the schemes that the government passes to customers through you. I would want to be sure that your staff at every level has at least some idea of what the government schemes are being passed through you to citizens," Sitharaman said.

Covid-19 deaths less than 1%: Health Minister

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: While reassuring that the government was doing enough to control Covid-19 in the State, Health Minister Eatala Rajender explained that Telangana witnessed 0.62 percent death rate in contrast with the developed nations which suffered huge losses.

In his reply during Question Hour in the Legislative Council, he said the government was spending huge amounts for containing the spread of Covid-19 in the State and had procured 32,800 Remdesivir injections and 2,52,328 Favilavir tablets in its endeavour to provide treatment to coronavirus positive patients. From the available stock, already more than 2 lakh tablets and close to 25,000 injections were already utilised for helping Covid victims. However, the effectiveness of these medicines on the patients is yet to be ascertained.

The Minister also explained that those who reached the critical levels while fighting the virus, when kept on Ventilator support, could rarely survive, as only 5 to

10 % was the rate of survival given the virus had inflicted damage to their lungs.

While emphasising that everyone should continue to follow guidelines issued by the authorities like ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research), the Minister said most of the cases of Covid-19 owed to neglect in following instructions. Putting the onus on spread of virus on international bodies like WHO, Eatala said it was a long-drawn process by any of the governments to understand the phenomenon. "In the beginning, guidelines were issued by WHO and in India ICMR was the authority to make understand things better and later DCGI (Drug Controller General of India) gave permission for what medicines to be used for prevention. As most patients were asymptomatic, things were not that easy, but we made available all the preventive medicines with 10 different kinds of tablets in a kit. All what the people need is courage, moral support from kin, usage of kit and in case of severity availability of oxygen," he explained.

Education Minister allays fears over final year Engg exams

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Giving no room for any apprehension, Education Minister P Sabitha Indra Reddy clarified that the schedule for the final year Engineering exams would be announced by the end of this month.

In her reply during Question Hour, Sabitha Indra Reddy said a decision would be taken shortly about the exams, if they were to be conducted on regular basis or online (due to coronavirus), so that there would not be any impact on the education of Engineering students, who were worried about placements. Over the promotion given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students, she clarified that given the educational standards maintained by the colleges and universities, even these students would have to undergo exams once the situation was suitable.

On the upgradation of the curriculum, she elaborated that some 14 new courses would be introduced in private Engineering colleges, as at least 70 colleges ready to introduce given the demand for skilled professionals in the market for certain skillset.

Bribery blooms: ACB nets six big fish

Arrested officials demand huge amounts for granting NOC on prohibited lands, Medak Additional Collector, RDO are among the arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The sleuths of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday arrested six officials from the revenue department for demanding bribe from a complainant, K Linga Murthy.

The accused officials were Gaddam Nagesh, Additional Collector of Medak, B Aruna Reddy, Revenue Divisional Officer of Narsapur, Abdul Sattar, Tahsildar of Chilipiched, Mohd Wasim, Junior Assistant from the office of AD Survey and Land Records, Medak and Kola Jeevan Goud, a private employee.

According to ACB officials, the complainant and four others entered into an agreement for purchasing a land of 112.21 acres at Chippalaturthi village of Narsapur mandal in Medak district and for registration of the land. No Objection Certificate was required as the land was in the list of 22A prohibitory lands.

The complainant in July submitted an application to Abdul Sattar, Tahsildar of Narsapur, for issuance of NOC for registering the said lands and the copies were also marked to Dharma Reddy



(Collector of Medak district) and Aruna Reddy (RDO of Narsapur). The Tahsildar then forwarded the application to the RDO of Narsapur on July 23 and in turn, the RDO forwarded the application to the Medak Collector on July 25.

However, after the entire processing is done, the Additional Collector of Medak, Gaddam Nagesh demanded a bribe amount of Rs 1.12 crore from the complainant at the rate of Rs 1 lakh per acre for issuance of NOC on the said lands. After demanding the bribe amount, the officer took



Aruna Reddy

the bribe of Rs 19.5 lakh as an initial installment and going further, the complainant made another payment of Rs 20.5 lakh on August 7, said the officials of ACB.

But as the complainant's pocket ran dry, he was unable to pay the remaining amount of Rs 72 lakh and requested the officials to grant the necessary time to pay the remaining amount. As a result, the accused officer Gaddam Nagesh took eight blank signed cheques from the complainant as a surety for transferring five acres of land on the benami account of

one Kola Jeevan Goud, said the officials of ACB.

Apart from it, the officers demanded an additional bribe amount of Rs 5 lakh from the complainant. Md Waseem Ahmed, the junior assistant working at the office of AD Survey and Land records was sent on July 31 to collect the amount of Rs 5 lakh. After collecting the amount, all the officers distributed equally among themselves.

But as the complainant was fed up bribing the officers, he filed a complaint with the ACB. Based on the complaint, searches were conducted at the residences of Gaddam Nagesh and the eight blank cheques, land documents and other incriminating material was recovered from his possession. In the searches conducted in the residence of Aruna Reddy, unaccounted cash of Rs 28 lakh and half-a-kg of gold ornaments were found.

All the accused officers were arrested and will be produced before the special judge for ACB cases. Meanwhile, the searches are still being carried out by the officials of ACB as the investigation is still under progress.

KCR honors poet with Kaloji award

Hyderabad: Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Wednesday presented Kaloji Narayan Rao literary award to a noted literary personality Rama Chandramouli at Pragathi Bhavan here. On the eve of Kaloji's birth anniversary celebrations, the CM handed over cash prize of Rs 1,01,116 and felicitated Rama Chandramouli with a shawl and hailed the latter's efforts in the field of literature. Government's advisor KV Ramanachary, chief secretary Somesh Kumar, cultural affairs secretary Srinivasa Raju and director Mamidi Harikrishna were also present.



Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao presenting Kaloji Narayan Rao Literary Award to noted writer Rama Chandramouli at Pragathi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Wednesday

State govt gets HC notice on mosque demolition

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad: The High Court on Wednesday issued notices to the State government directing to file its counter affidavit to respond to the pleas seeking reconstruction of two demolished mosques at the same places where they stood earlier.

The Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Bollam Vijayen Reddy heard two public interest litigations urging the court to direct the State government to construct the two mosques which were demolished on the Secretariat premises.

One petitioner alleged that the two mosques were demolished intentionally. He further submitted that in an earlier writ petition, before the Single Judge Bench of the High Court, Advocate General gave an undertaking stating that a mosque will be built on the Secretariat premises, but there is no clarity as to whether the mosque will be constructed on the same place or not.



As per the Wakf Act, suitable land should be allocated for the construction of the mosques which were demolished and the government should safeguard the interest of the petitioner adequately

The petitioner counsel further informed the Court that the earlier mosques stood on a larger space viz. 647 square yards, whereas the Advocate General undertaking before the Court says that the mosque would be constructed on a 1500 sq. feet

land. According to Section 51a of the Wakf Act, 1995 clearly says that the Wakf property cannot be transferred and accordingly, the mosque cannot be built at any other place, rather it has to be built on the same place, where it stood, as mandated, he added.

Chief Justice RS Chauhan directed the Advocate General BS Prasad to file a detailed counter affidavit, replying to all the contentions raised by the petitioner counsel and observed "as per the Wakf Act, suitable land should be allocated for the construction of the mosques which were demolished and the government should safeguard the interest of the petitioner adequately.

No Government can deviate from the procedure established by the law, as prescribed by Sec. 51 of Wakf Act, 1991. Even though the Chief Minister has made a statement in the media that a new Mosque will be built, it should be in accordance with the procedure laid down in Sec. 51 of the Wakf Act, 1991, the CJ said. The matter adjourned to October 8.

GHMC apprises court about illegal industries

The High Court Division heard public interest litigation filed by Vinay Palnitkar and another seeking to direct the State government to shift illegal godowns, workshops, warehouses in the residential locality of Shastripuram Colony, Rajendranagar Mandal, Hyderabad.

GHMC Commissioner Lokesh Kumar appeared before the High Court through video conference, informing that out of 345 factories, power connection to 152 factories had been disconnected. Moreover, GHMC Vigilance department inspected and discovered that four units were functioning even at night, those Four units had been seized by GHMC, Lokesh Kumar added.

The Chief Justice bench directed Lokesh Kumar to file an affidavit along with the supporting documentary evidence to the court in the next hearing. The Court adjourned the matter to October 8.

Poor health infra in TS result of Cong rule: CM

K Chandrashekar Rao says health crisis is a world issue, not just of Telangana's; decries meagre Central allocation to combat Covid-19

HANS NEWS SERVICE



(National Rural Health Mission) and other heads. Another 647 ventilators were given but indications are that the amount will be deducted from health grants that the State receives regularly.

Taking exception to remarks of Opposition faulting the government's handling of Covid-19 situation in the State, Chandrashekar Rao pointed out that the present health crisis pertains not just to

Telangana but the entire country and the world. Also, the contradictory statements issued every day by WHO, ICMR and the Centre over vaccine availability, the impact of coronavirus, etc led to more confusion. However, due to the untiring efforts of Health Minister Eatala Rajender, doctors, and medical employees and staff from other departments, Telangana was doing a lot better than other States in the

country, Rao stressed.

The shortage of doctors and nurses and lack of medical infrastructure that Telangana had until now was inherited by the TRS government from the Congress and other parties that ruled for 50 years. However, after the formation of the new State, almost 1,800 vacancies were filled in the Health Department alone and beds with oxygen and ventilator support had been created in all State hospitals including those in districts. Except for NIMS, other government hospitals did not have a proper ventilator facility earlier to corona, the Chief Minister pointed out. He said over 10,000 oxygen beds have been created in State hospitals which would be useful not just for fighting corona, but any kind of health crisis in the future.

Replying to Congress leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's suggestion for appointing a Task Force to curb excesses of private and corporate hospitals, Chandrashekar Rao said that his administration would

not spare any hospital found to fleece patients. He stated that the government would constitute a Task Force headed by a senior IAS officer to look into corona treatment in corporate hospitals and directed the Health Minister to send a weekly report on action taken to Opposition parties every week.

Chandrashekar Rao also took the opportunity to slam the Opposition parties for mudslinging the government in Covid-19 fight which the whole world is engrossed in at the moment. Their statements had affected the morale of the Minister and his department, who were striving hard to save every life, he said. This is why, the CM said, he did not give appointments to meet Opposition leaders. "What is the use of meeting politicians whose only interest is to slam the government on every issue?" he asked.

Chandrashekar Rao said he would examine Opposition's demands to include corona treatment in private hospitals under Aarogya

AKBAR-CM CONFRONTATION

Talasani asks MIM member not to act smart

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Stating that the behaviour of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Akbaruddin Owaisi in the House was not good, Animal Husbandry Minister T Srinivas Yadav on Wednesday asked the Majlis MLA not to act over smart.

The Minister made these comments in an informal chat with the media here on Wednesday. Yadav said Akbaruddin Owaisi tried to act over smart and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao gave him a befitting reply. "It is not proper to make a hue and cry over the statement made in the Assembly. The government said what it had to say in the given statement. All the points cannot be included in the short discussion, otherwise it would be a document of 200 pages," said Yadav.

Srinivas Yadav said he had not entered into politics now and the government was also not too innocent to allow Akbaruddin to

speak whatever he wanted. Why would the government keep quiet when Akbaruddin talked irresponsibly, asked Yadav. The members in the House were allocated time as per the strength of the party in the Assembly and the Speaker had responsibility to provide opportunity to all. This has been a practice in the House for many years, he said. Replying to a question, Yadav said MIM was not the only party to do service during lockdown. "All have done services. Talking out of context in the Assembly would only mean misusing the time of the House," said Yadav.

The Minister said if the Opposition members wanted to criticise the government, they had got their party offices to do so. He also lashed out at the CLP leader alleging that Bhatti Vikramarka was acting like an intellectual. The Minister said the new Revenue Act brought by the Chief Minister was historical and people were happy with the new law.



Dharani to hold all data on land records

State government develops hi-tech multiple servers to preserve valuable land records in digital format

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: In a first of its kind in India, the Telangana government is developing hi-tech multiple servers to preserve the valuable land records in digital format. Even in the time of disasters, the servers will ensure protection of records.

Introducing a new Revenue Bill in the Assembly on Wednesday, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao said that the entire land administration was being upgraded using the information technology to make available every single land document and service through online. The development of multiple servers to protect the land documents in digital format was imminent, he said, adding that if a server was damaged

due to technical glitch or natural disaster, the other server would help as backup up to access the land documents without any delay.

Under the new Revenue Act, the government decided to extend all revenue related services to people through cent per cent IT applications which also required the development of giant servers. The CM said that the development of Dharani portal to provide access to all agricultural and non-agricultural land details also required huge servers to preserve the entire land related information. The government already conducted purification of land records, and the digitisation of all records will help to extend services to people in a more transparent way, he stated.

'State spent ₹4,900 crore on Haritha Haram'

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Forest Minister A Indrakiran Reddy informed that the State government which was committed to increase the forest area from 24 per cent to 33 per cent has spent Rs 4,900 crore in the six years.

Answering during the Question Hour, the Minister elaborated on the way the State government was keen on increasing the green area in the State. He added that the government would plant 230 crore more plants, including 10 crore in Greater Hyderabad and HMDA areas.

"We have equipped 12,750 gram panchayats with all the required tools to ensure we achieve 85 per cent of survival rate. We also made officials answerable if the rate of survival is less in both villages and cities," he added.

Murder mystery solved

Warangal: The police on Wednesday unravelled the mystery surrounding the murder of a vegetable vendor by arresting three persons including a minor. The police arrested A Akash Babu and two of his accomplices and seized Rs 2.71 lakh cash and gold jewellery from them.

It may be recalled here that Dornam Sharada (38) of Tailors Street in Hanamkonda was found murdered and her son Akhil (17) with grievous injuries in their residence on September 3. Disclosing the details here on Wednesday, Commissioner of Police P Pramod Kumar said that after the investigation it was found that Sharada was killed by her brother's son A Akash Babu, to whom she gave

shelter in the past. Knowing that Sharada was saving a part of her income for her daughter's marriage, Akash hatched a plan to loot it. He broke into Sharada's residence in the wee hours of September 3. He killed her by hitting her with a stone. He also attacked Akhil, who was fast asleep. Later, he stole the cash and jewellery from the almshouse.

Before decamping, Akash threw the almshouse on Sharada and Akhil so that to make people believe it as the reason of death. Later, Akash met Mekala Machchender of Pochampally in Yadadri district and the minor for shelter. Based on CCTV footage and other technology, the police arrested the accused, the Commissioner said.

T20I RANKINGS

Rahul, Kohli remain in top 10, England's Malan moves to No. 1

Southampton (IANS): India's KL Rahul and Virat Kohli have been able to remain in top 10 of the ICC T20I player rankings for batsmen which got updated on Wednesday. While Rahul has lost two spots to move down to number four, skipper Kohli has moved up to the ninth position.

England batsman Dawid Malan has seized the numero uno spot after a fruitful home series against Australia, which the hosts won 2-1.

The 33-year-old left-hander has progressed four places after a series-topping run aggregate of 129, which included a player of the match effort of 66 in the first fixture. Malan, whose previous best ranking was second in November last year, is now eight rating points ahead of Pakistan's Babar Azam.

Malan's teammates Jonny Bairstow and Jos Buttler have also made headway in Wednesday's update. Bairstow has gained three slots to reach a career-best 19th position after scoring 72 runs in the series while Buttler has moved from 40th to 28th after scoring 121 runs in two matches, which also won him the player of the series award.

For Australia, captain Aaron Finch's 125 runs in the series have helped him retain third position. Glenn Maxwell also holds on to his sixth position among batsmen while gaining one slot to reach second position in the list



Australia beat England in final T20I, reclaim top spot in ICC team rankings

Southampton (IANS): Australia have reclaimed the top spot in the ICC T20I team rankings after briefly conceding it to England during the recently concluded three-match series at the Ageas Bowl, which the visiting side lost 1-2. The Aaron Finch-led side had started the series at 278 points, 10 ahead of second-placed England, but were overtaken by their rivals after losing the first two matches. Australia and England were both on 273 points at that stage with England marginally ahead on decimal points.

Australia, who were number one for the first time in this format at the time of the annual update on 1 May this year, however returned to the top within two days of being overtaken by England as they defeated the hosts by five wickets in the final match of the series.

On Tuesday, Australia first restricted the Moeen Ali-led side to 145/6 in their stipulated 20 overs and then chased down the target with three balls to spare.



of all-rounders led by Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi.

England leg-spinner Adil Rashid has gained two slots to reach seventh position after finishing as the most successful bowler in the series with six wickets, while Australia left-arm spinner Ashton Agar's five wickets have enabled him retain third position, behind the Afghanistan

spin pair of Rashid Khan and Mujeeb-ur-Rahman.

Australia fast bowler Kane Richardson has moved into the top 10 for the first time in his career after taking three wickets in the series while his compatriot Mitchell Starc (up seven places to 18th) and England's Mark Wood (up 41 places to 79th) have also made notable gains.

ROY ADDED TO ENGLAND SQUAD FOR AUS ODIS

Manchester (IANS): Explosive batsman Jason Roy has been added to the England squad for the three-match ODI series against Australia beginning Friday at the Old Trafford.

In a media statement, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Wednesday also informed that Dawid Malan has been named as a reserve. The middle-order batsman was in explosive form in the T20I series as he top-scored with 129 runs and played a crucial role in England's 2-1 win over Australia in Southampton. Courtesy his performance, Malan has moved to the numero uno spot in ICC T20I rankings for batsmen.

Joe Denly, who was originally named in the squad as a reserve, has left the bio-secure bubble and returned to Kent, the ECB statement further read. England ODI squad: Eoin Morgan (captain), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonathan Bairstow, Tom Banton, Sam Billings, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

Reserves: Sagib Mahmood, Dawid Malan, Phil Salt.

Australia squad: Aaron Finch (capt), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins (vc), Josh Hazlewood, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Riley Meredith, Josh Philippe, Daniel Sams, Kane Richardson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Andrew Tye, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Adam



Cristiano Ronaldo surpasses 100 international goals

London (IANS): Cristiano Ronaldo made history in Portugal's 2-0 win over Sweden, as the legendary footballer became the first European to score 100 international goals with the first of his two goals in the UEFA Nations League.

The reigning champions on Tuesday visited Sweden with their captain Ronaldo back in the squad after the 35-year-old Juventus forward missed their opening Nations League match due to a toe problem three days earlier, reports Xinhua news agency.

The veteran opened the score by firing a freekick before the break, then added a second by curling home from the edge of the penalty area in the 73rd minute.

"I managed to beat this milestone of 100 goals and now for the record (109)," said Ronaldo, who is only outscored by Iran's Ali Daei with 109 international goals. "It's step-by-step. I am not obsessed because I believe the records come in a natural way."

It's the second straight victory for Portugal as they had defeated Croatia 4-1 at home last Saturday. They will visit France in October for their third match in Group 3.

In Paris, France came from behind to repeat their triumph in the final of the 2018 World Cup, beating Croatia 4-2 despite the absence of striker Kylian Mbappe.

Mbappe, scoring the only goal in France's victory over Sweden last Saturday, tested positive for Covid-19 on Monday and was separated from Didier Deschamps' squad right after receiving the result.

Dejan Lovren scored first for the visitors in the 18th minute, but Antoine Griezmann's close-range effort and Dominik Livakovic's own goal gave France the lead before the interval.

Josip Brekalo managed to score an equaliser in the 56th minute, but Dayot Upamecano's header and Olivier Giroud's penalty secured the win for the hosts.

US OPEN

Osaka ousts Rogers, to face Brady in semis

New York (IANS): Japan's Naomi Osaka advanced to the semi-finals of the ongoing US Open, defeating Shelby Rogers in straight sets at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

On Tuesday, Osaka ousted Rogers 6-3, 6-4 in 79 minutes to



make it to US Open semi-finals for the second time in her career.

"I'm aware that the opponents that I play from now on are going to be very tough," 4th-seeded Osaka said, in her post-match press conference as per the WTA website. "For me, I think the last two Grand Slams, everything happened so fast, I wasn't really in the moment, I'm just really happy to be in the semis, and

hopefully I can keep going."

Osaka fired 24 winners, including seven aces, and made only eight unforced errors. The Japanese player, who won the first of her two consecutive Grand Slam titles in New York two years ago, was nearly peerless off of her first serve, winning 83 per cent of points when she got that shot into play.

"The big thing for me was to be the aggressor and to be okay with making unforced errors," said Osaka. "Apparently I didn't make that many. But, yeah, just to accept the unforced errors because I know that I'm going for shots."

Osaka will now face No.28 seed Jennifer Brady in the final four. Brady had dispatched No.23 seed Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan earlier on Tuesday to reach her first-ever Grand Slam semifinal.

CONCACAF postpones 2020 WC qualifiers to March next year

Mexico City (IANS): The first round of FIFA World Cup qualifiers for North America, Central America and the Caribbean have been pushed back to early next year as the region continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic.

World football governing body FIFA and regional confederation CONCACAF announced that the qualifying tournament, which had been due to begin in October, will now kick off in March, reports Xinhua news agency.

"Many parts of the region continue to have very challenging public health situations, and that has been a key factor in this decision," read a statement on FIFA's official website on Tuesday.

"Additionally, several countries across the confederation have travel restrictions and quarantine requirements, which would make international football involving 30 national teams extremely difficult."

FIFA added that a new schedule would be unveiled "in due course" after further talks with CONCACAF officials, confirming only that the first round would be in March.

Under CONCACAF's qualifying format, the winners of each of the six first-round groups will play a two-legged knockout tie for a place in the last phase. Mexico, the United States, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Honduras have already secured a place in the final round by virtue of their rankings. The next edition of the FIFA World Cup will be played in Qatar from November 21 to December 18, 2022.

Vikas Krishan gets nod to train in US till November 30

New Delhi (IANS): Olympic-bound boxer Vikas Krishan's request to train in the United States as part of his preparations for Tokyo Games has been approved by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Vikas will be travelling to the US later this week along with his coach Ron Simms Jr. and they will train at the Alexandria Boxing Club in Virginia till November 30.

In a statement, SAI has said that the foreign exposure was recommended by Indian Boxing High Per-

formance Director Santiago Nieva.

Vikas, who is a part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), has been approved a financial assistance of Rs 17.5 lakh for the duration of the visit, the SAI statement further read. Speaking about his training in the US, Nieva said, "It will be a very good experience for Vikas. He's been in the national team for so many years and for him, it is a good time for him to go and do a little bit different."

"After he comes back, we will focus

on the camps and different tournaments for the Olympic-style boxing ahead of the Tokyo Olympics."

Earlier, the 28-year-old Haryana lad had told IANS: "My aim is to win an Olympic gold and for that I am ready to put my life in danger."

"Flights are on now and I will travel with full precaution so that I can concentrate on my training rather than getting infected and sitting in some hotel room somewhere (in quarantine)."

Japan's Oly minister vows to hold Tokyo Games 'at any cost'

Tokyo (IANS): Japan's Olympic minister Seiko Hashimoto said on Tuesday that the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games should be held "at any cost", trying to clear all doubts amid the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic and worries of policy changes by a new government. "All the people involved with the Games are working together to prepare, and the athletes are also making considerable efforts toward next year under the circumstances they've been handed," Hashimoto said during a press conference, Xinhua news agency reported.

"I think we have to hold the Games at any cost. I want to concentrate all our efforts on measures against the coronavirus," the five-time Olympian said.

Hashimoto, who was appointed as the Olympic minister last year by outgoing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, made the remarks when responding to IOC vice-president John Coates' claim on Monday that the Tokyo Olympics will go ahead next year regardless of the coronavirus situation.

2017 WC revolutionised women's cricket in India: Jhulan

Jaipur (IANS): Veteran Indian cricketer Jhulan Goswami believes a full-fledged women's Indian Premier League will be a big achievement for the country as young players would be able to share the dressing room with top-notch Indian and international talent.

In a recent conversation with SportsTiger's show 'Off-the-Field', Jhulan said: "As far as IPL is concerned, we do wish for the full-fledged tournament should start and we are all waiting for that. Women's IPL will be a big achievement for the country and for young cricketers as they are going to share the dressing room with top-notch Indian and international talent."

The Indian fast bowling legend, now aged 37, has 225 ODI wickets to her name. She believes that age is just a number and what matters the most is the passion for the sport.

"As a professional athlete, you never think about age. You just go on with your passion, hard work and love for the game. You just want to be on the ground as much as possible and that is the most satisfying factor for any athlete. And I am just enjoying myself."

India reached the Women's World Cup final in 2017 and Goswami was a key member of the team but it was a case of 'so near yet so far' for the Women in Blue



as they fell short by nine runs in the summit clash against England at the iconic Lord's.

Reminiscing her memories from the journey in the tournament, she said, "It was a huge achievement to play in front of a full house at Lords in the final. We started the world cup on a high note."

"It was an absolute team effort from the very beginning. Whether you speak about Smriti Mandhana, Mithali Raj, Ekta Bisht, Deepti Sharma, Shikha Pandey or Rajeshwari Gayakwad, everyone had contributed. As a team, we believed and performed."

"We reached the finals and it was the only last 10 overs where we lost the match. For the 90 overs we had dominated the match and it was only the last 10 overs of England's bowling where we couldn't handle the pressure. It is a pain but we have to move on."

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