



WINDOWS

India enters elite club



Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully demonstrated the hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology with the flight test of Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha, in Bhadrak district on Monday

India test fires HSTDV missile

New Delhi (IANS): India has successfully flight tested hypersonic technology that will pave the way towards development of missiles travelling at six times the speed of sound. With this successful demonstration, the country enters an elite club to become a member of the hypersonic regime. This is a step towards manufacture of advanced Hypersonic Vehicles. India became the fourth country after the United States, Russia and China to get this technology. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully demonstrated the Hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology with the flight test of Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV) at 11:03 am on Monday from the APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has appreciated the DRDO for achieving this milestone. "The Hypersonic cruise vehicle was launched using a proven solid rocket motor, which took it to an altitude of 30 km, where the aerodynamic heat shields were separated at hypersonic Mach number," said the DRDO in a statement.



Metro resumes after 169-day hiatus

PURNA SINGH

New Delhi: Delhi Metro, which has been closed for 169 days due to the Covid epidemic, returned back on track on Monday. The first metro left for the Samaypur Badli from Gurugram's Huda City Centre at 7 am on Monday.

According to the sources, the Metro will be operational on Yellow Line (Samaypur Badli to Huda City Centre). It will run for four hours in the morning and evening in two shifts. Delhi Metro, which is being opened in a phased manner, will start operating trains on all lines by 12 September. Also, the operating time will also be extended.

Earlier, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has completed all preparations to prevent infection by making arrangements of seats to ensure social distancing. On Monday morning, Delhi's Joint Police Commissioner (Traffic) Atul Katiyar said that a police force has been deployed to control the crowd at every station. Also, arrangements have been made to ensure social distancing and masks.

Only limited gates of the station were kept open for entry and exit. Marking has been done to maintain distance from entry gate to AFC gate, platform to coach inside. To make the entire journey cashless and contactless, only smart card passengers will be allowed to travel. Thermal screening of all passengers will be done. Also, admission will be given only after sanitisation is done.



A commuter sits in the designated place in a Metro train after Delhi resumed services with curtailed operation of the Yellow Line and Rapid Metro amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in New Delhi on Monday

Mask required

A face mask will be necessary to enter the station. Sick passengers will not get admission. Social distance has to be followed. It is also important to have the Arogya Setu app in mobile. Only 2 to 3 passengers will be allowed to enter the lift. Station boards and hoardings have been installed for awareness, on which information about what to do and what not to do is given.

Longer wait

On normal days, where the metro train frequency was 2 minutes 44 seconds, it will now be available at 5 minutes 44 seconds. This will increase travel time. The metro has appealed passengers not to rush and bear with the speed and time.

Metro Phase 4 hit

A part from the operation and revenue from the metro, construction of Metro Phase 4, which has already been delayed, got further affected due to the lockdown. Delhi Metro has been delayed by about five months on Phase 4. A total of three lines are to be built in Phase 4. This includes Majlis Park from Shiv Vihar, Janakpuri West to RK Ashram and Saket-Tughlakabad line. Now work has started on all three lines.

All lines from September 12

The Yellow Line of the Delhi Metro starts operating from 7 September. Only the Yellow Line will be operational on Monday and Tuesday from 7 am to 11 am and 4 pm to 8 pm. After that, two more lines will open on Wednesday. After that, all lines will be opened by 12 September. Operating hours will be extended.

TS puts land registrations on hold

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: In a major move ahead of the transfer of powers of the Sub Registrars to the Revenue Officials, the government on Monday stopped the land registration services indefinitely across the state from Tuesday.

The Stamps and Registrations department was instructed to confine only to extending the services of registration of will deeds, marriage and franking services. The top officials said that government will incur a loss of Rs 8 crore to Rs 10 crore per day due to the closure of land registration services.

"Stopping the registrations is a big move ahead of the restructuring of the entire Stamps and Registrations department. The department is one of the major revenue-generating departments. According to officials, the first major step would be to bring transparency in the Registrations department and introduce 100 per cent paperless online services and link it with the Revenue department to check the tampering of the documents and false registration of properties.

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Govt should've least interference in education policy: PM

New Delhi (IANS): Praising the new National Education Policy 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that the government should have the least interference in it.

Addressing a Governors' conference, Modi said: "To fulfil the aspirations of the country, education policy and system are important tools.

In this system, the central and state governments and the local bodies are interlinked; it is also correct that in the education policy, the government should have the least interference and less influence."

The NEP is focused on learning rather than studying and the curriculum emphasis is on critical thinking, the Prime Minister pointed out.

"The focus is on passion, practicality, and performance. The National Education Policy is, in a way, without pressure and without influence to learn democratic values."

Modi also raised the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the inaugural session of the Governors' Conference on the National Education Policy through video conferencing, in New Delhi on Monday

Proper nutrition vital to build prosperous nation

New Delhi (PTI): Asserting that proper nutrition is vital to build a prosperous nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called for undertaking efforts to reach out to people across the country to spread awareness on eradicating malnutrition. With the 'Poshan Maah' (nutrition month) 2020 starting from Monday, Modi said in tweets that this exercise will help India's youth and women force. He noted that India is home to numerous healthy dishes and asked people to share them on

@mygovIndia, the citizen engagement platform of the Union government. "Let's be #Local4Poshan! Our nation is home to dozens of healthy dishes, which have high nutrition value. Share them on a specially created space on @mygovIndia. May your family recipe contribute to a nutritious as well as healthy India. #POSHANMaah2020," he said. The PM posted a short clip of last 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast in which he had spoken about the importance of nutrition in people's development.

issue of heavy school bags carried by children and said that the NEP seeks to address the issue in the sense that the children should not be under pressure vis-a-vis bags, board exams, and society.

The Prime Minister said that the NEP has been framed after many years of labour by a panel led by Dr K Kasturirangan and feedback of more than 2 lakh people, including stakeholders.

He said that it was for the first time that everyone was hailing the NEP because everyone ranging from teachers to students and parents were part of the formulation process.

The new policy focuses on foundational learning and languages, learning outcomes, and teachers' training.

"The world is changing with time and there is discussion on jobs and nature of work and this policy will prepare the youth for appropriate knowledge and skills," Modi added.

Pak, China planning against us: BSF chief

New Delhi: The role of the Border Security Force has become more important as "our neighbouring countries" are planning against India, BSF Director General Rakesh Asthana said in an apparent reference to Sino-India border situation in Ladakh and frequent ceasefire violations by Pakistan.

Asthana, who arrived in Jammu after a three-day tour with a visit to Forward Defence Locations along the Line of Control in the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch where he took stock of the prevailing situation, a BSF release said late on Sunday.

Without naming China and Pakistan, the BSF chief in his address to 'Sainik Sammelan' at the force's Paloura camp in Jammu said, "This is a very crucial time for all, as both our neighbouring countries are planning against us. Our role has become more important now as we are the first line of Indian defence."

On the third day of his maiden tour, the release said, the DG was briefed by Deputy Inspector General, sector headquarters, Rajouri, I D Singh and field

commanders on the LoC regarding the operational preparedness and the present situation.

He was accompanied by Additional Director General (WC) S S Panwar and Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier, N S Jamwal.

Appreciative of the measures adopted by the troops while maintaining domination along the LoC, Asthana emphasised on meeting the security challenges more effectively.

He lauded the excellent synergy amongst all the security forces and exhorted all ranks to maintain a high standard of discipline and professionalism.

He was very appreciative of the vigilant BSF jawans who guard the nation's border round-the-clock defying all hostile conditions, the release said.

Asthana, who took over as the chief of the border-guarding force recently, visited forward areas along the International Border, including Samba where the BSF detected an underground tunnel last month and frustrated Pakistan's design to facilitate infiltration of terrorists and smuggling of narcotics.

Centre gives Kangana Y+ security; actor says no one can crush a patriot

New Delhi/ Shimla (PTI): Kangana Ranaut has been given Y-plus category security and will be protected by about 10 armed commandos, the Union Home Ministry said on Monday, prompting the Bollywood actor to thank Home Minister Amit Shah and declare that no one could crush a patriot.

The decision to provide 24X7 security comes two days before Ranaut, who is in her home state Himachal Pradesh and had likened Mumbai to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, plans to visit Mumbai on September 9. Ranaut,

whose comments led to a spat with Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, had said she felt unsafe in Mumbai after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput and also spoke of drug use in a section of the film industry.

Describing the "Queen" star as a daughter of Himachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur issued a video statement on Monday welcoming the decision to provide her with CRPF security. He said the Central and the state governments are providing security to the actor and would do whatever necessary for her security. "I



have got information that an 11-member commando team of the CRPF has been provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs for her security yesterday. I welcome this decision and also express my

gratitude to union home minister... her security is important for us," he said.

A Union Home ministry official explained that Y-plus category central cover entails the deployment of about 10

armed commandos who will work in shifts around the clock, he explained.

Ranaut, often in the eye of the storm for her provocative comments, went on Twitter to express gratitude for the security being provided to her. "This shows that no one can crush a patriot in the country. I am thankful to Home Minister Amit Shah," she said. "Had he (Amit Shah) wanted, he would have told me to visit Mumbai later but he respected India's daughter and acknowledged my self-respect. Jai Hind," Ranaut added.



An ambulance at Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut's residence, in Manali on Monday. A police team and a health team have been deployed outside her residence in view of protests against her over her statements after actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



TANISHAA MUKERJI
@TANISHAAMUKERJI

Okay Monday im
ready for u! Lets go!
#keepmovingforward
#evolving



Hair care essentials during monsoon

We all love rains but that's also a season that demands extra care for our tresses. Rain water is not the best for your hair, which can lead to all sorts of troubles when your hair faces the damp, humid monsoon. One of the most common problems faced during the monsoon is hair fall. This happens mainly because your scalp isn't clean and dry, and with the excess of moisture, it leads to all sorts of troubles.

The kind of comb one should use during monsoon

In combs, you generally have two options. You have the wide tooth comb which is mainly used for de-tangling. It's also good to use as a conditioning comb. You can use this while you have conditioner in the hair. Use this to evenly spread the conditioner.

Another comb is a pick or teasing comb which adds volume to your hair.

The oil one should use during monsoon

There are lots of oils in the market that can help with your hair this monsoon. But one must remember if your hair is very weak and you do a rigorous oil massage you are damaging your hair more. Also, what happens with oil is when you oil your hair very often you tend to over shampoo to remove the oil. This does a lot of damage to your hair.

The shampoo one should use during monsoon

Basically you must keep your hair and scalp clean in

the monsoon. Try and avoid getting your hair wet in the rains, as the pollutants in the rain may weaken the shaft bonds, making your hair dull and limp. Cover your hair before going out to protect them from humidity. Use a shampoo and conditioner that strengthens your hair from the root to the tip.

Special care for Frizzy hair

During monsoon, the humidity level is very high so your hair is bound to frizz. Also, your hair tends to get wet and generally we don't tend to wash our hair every time it gets wet. Very often one will simply towel dry their hair which adds to the frizz. You should use a slightly stronger conditioner and definitely a serum to combat frizzy hair. To reduce the frizz, try using your finger pads while washing your hair and do not be very rigorous in washing.



Mix & match styles with kurtis

Lessons of morality through 'folklore'

Ramaa Raavi, a Sanskrit scholar and a storyteller, feels that her stories act as a bridge between the older and the younger generations

ASKARI JAFFER

It is sheer coincidence or accident that Ramaa Raavi, a Sanskrit scholar, embarked on a professional journey of storytelling. It all started when her close friend introduced her to the executives of Suman TV.

Ramaa says, "Reading books was a staple in my family so I picked it up naturally. I pursued MA Sanskrit and worked as a Sanskrit

lecturer for over a decade, the storytelling career was a recent venture that started no more than 3 years ago."

Her stories are basically told to the mothers as they are the ones who narrate stories to their kids. Later, kids also started watching her videos with utmost attention.

The stories that she tells are usually the ones that have been running through the minds of the older generations but are lost to the newer generations.

"The stories are aimed at imparting



lessons of morality to the listeners. Though I'm not a writer, but the stories I penned down acts as a bridge between the older and newer generations. Some stories are indeed tweaked a bit to include 'Chanakya neeti', so that they are relevant even in the current era. I also include other topics in my talks like the importance of festivals, spirituality in general, parenting advice, I also throw in recipes and home remedies every now and then," adds Ramaa.

Her stories talk about good and bad things, tips related to teenager, motivational topics and on the struggles of the middle class woman. Earlier, she thought that no one would listen to her but she was surprised when her viewership got around 1 lakh views and when

she talked about child psychology topics she received more views than before. She currently has more than 500 videos.

During this lockdown, she has been making videos on her phone at her home. She has been picking up story topics from the spiritual and inspirational books. Later, she started narrating her own stories.

'Thagubothu piloudu', is her first own story which became very popular. Seeing her videos everyone asked their mothers to listen to her and use her stories in real life.

She also says that it is important to have an elder who teaches good things. These days she is also getting many opportunities from TV channels and now she is telling about Panchatantra in news channels.

QUICK TIP

For thick hair

For thick and natural hair a drop of oil is good. Wash it twice a week and shampoo very gently. And maybe use a dry shampoo mid week with a blow dry. Don't use too much of comb or hair spray when your head is wet.



We all know with what and how we can wear our kurtis and tunic kurtas, but what you all didn't know is that it can be worn in new ways to add that drama and chic statements. Get over with wearing kurta with Jeans and Kurti with leggings, go for the new trendy styles by trying on to mix and match your kurta collection.

Kurti with Palazzo Pants

You would already know this style as it's been in trend and has seen so many already trying it on. So why are you waiting to find your complete pair? Go for a kurta from

your closet and math up palazzo pants in contrast colors or styles from elephant palazzo to full flared ones.

Wear Kurtis as a Dress

Go raving your party in a kurta or tunic to wear it alone like a dress. You can choose any kind from georgettes, cotton, and calf-length or above knee-length the choice is yours. Add a waist belt to add more style and heels or boots.

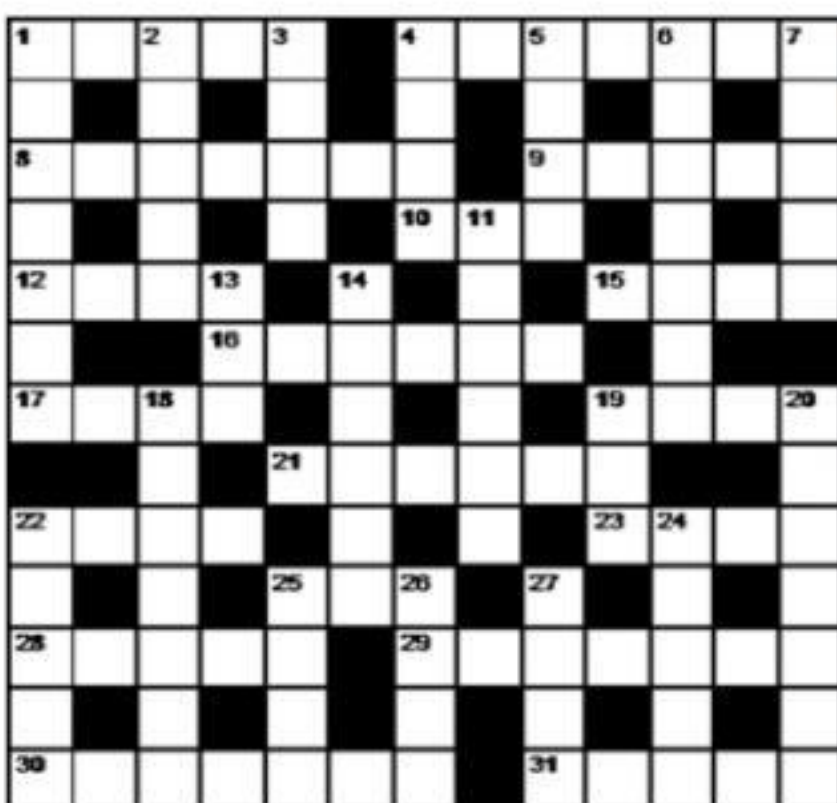
Wear Kurti with Skirt

Go for those lovely long kurtis in

your closet and pair up your long maxi skirts for a Boho Princess look. A complete Bohemian style will stun your audience. Grace the look with different kinds of kurtis from Brocade kurta and skirts

Kurti and Dhoti Pants or Ankle-length pants

Go for the Indo chic look for an Ultra classy appearance. We have seen our Celebrities dressed in these styles by Designers. Mix up your kurtis in such a way that you create your designer outfit for a perfect party or wedding occasion.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 7

CROSSWORD

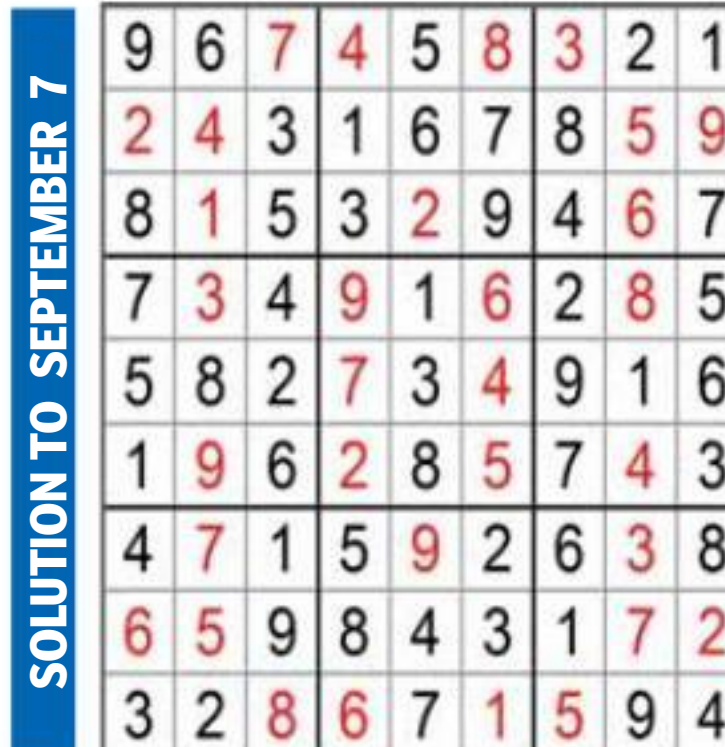
Across

- 1 Light meal (5)
- 4 Junkies (7)
- 8 Trouble grievously (7)
- 9 Form (5)
- 10 And so on (3)
- 12 Speech problem (4)
- 15 Camp shelter (4)
- 16 Real (6)
- 17 Feeble individual (4)
- 19 Chinese boat (4)
- 21 Plan (6)
- 22 Pith (4)
- 23 Commanded (4)
- 25 Did possess (3)
- 28 Consisting of a single element (5)
- 29 Tangle up (7)
- 30 Add taste to food (7)
- 31 NW Canada territory (5)

Down

- 1 Not deep (7)
- 2 Raises or elevates (5)
- 3 Platform (4)
- 4 Gaming stake (4)
- 5 Record (4)
- 6 The French mansion (7)
- 7 Perspire (5)
- 11 Exercises (6)
- 13 Soft food for infants (3)
- 14 Badge of shame (6)
- 18 Eye makeup (7)
- 19 Punch (3)
- 20 Citadel of Moscow (7)
- 22 Rough-voiced (5)
- 24 Toward the back (5)
- 25 Shot shooter (4)
- 26 Animal (4)
- 27 Glance or look at (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 7

NEWS ROUNDUP

SARA ALI KHAN'S TRICK TO HIDE FROM 2020



Actress Sara Ali Khan shows fans how to hide from the year 2020, in a new social media post on Monday. Sara's latest Instagram picture sees her in the lap of nature. She stands amid sprawling greenery and what catches your eye is her camouflage-printed short dress. She

completes the look with a sling bag and sunglasses.

"Hiding from 2020 like... #camouflage #mondaymood #mondaymotivation," she captioned the image.

Sara had recently shared a picture in a hot-pink bikini paired and heart-shaped dark shades. She tries focusing on a book, seated a pink tube in the swimming pool. The actress will soon be seen opposite Varun Dhawan in the remake of the 1995 hit film "Coolie No. 1". The new version is directed by David Dhawan, who also helmed the original film of the same name, starring Govinda and Karisma Kapoor.

The actress also stars with Akshay Kumar and Dhanush in "Atrangi Re". Shooting for the film is set to commence in October.

'Think about our future,' 12-year-old climate activist writes to Modi

New Delhi (IANS) On the occasion of the first 'International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies', a 12-year-old environmental activist wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding clean air for all, cautioning that if nothing is done, everyone will have to carry oxygen cylinders.

In a hand-written letter to the Prime Minister, Ridhima Pandey, belonging to Haridwar in Uttarakhand, said, "Sir, kindly help us by making sure that an oxygen cylinder does not

become an essential part of the life of children, which we have to carry on our shoulders everywhere in the future."

She wrote that the air is so polluted that her "biggest nightmare" is to go to school with an oxygen cylinder. "I worry if a 12-year-old like me finds it hard to breathe, what must it be like for babies or children younger to me living in cities like Delhi and others," the 12-year-old rued.

Every year, in many parts of India,



the air becomes very polluted and it becomes very difficult to breathe after October, she said, adding that if nothing is done about this soon, people will have to carry oxygen cylinders to breathe clean air and survive in the coming years.

Ridhima further raked-up the issue of linkage of air pollution and Covid-19 related mortality and called the situation worrisome. She said that air pollution in densely polluted cities is very high, making it hazardous for

people living there, causing severe health issues.

"As our Prime Minister, you have accepted climate change as a reality. Today, on the 'International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies', on the behalf of all children of India, I would like to make a request to you. Please think about our future," Ridhima said.

She sought strict directions from the Prime Minister to all the concerned authorities and officers-in-charge managing pollution across In-

dia. "Ask them to strictly implement all the rules and regulations so that citizens of India can breathe clean air."

Last year, the United Nations General Assembly had adopted a resolution to hold an International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies during its 74th session. The day aims at raising awareness at all levels -- "individual, community, corporate and government --about the importance of clean air.

Rhea files case against Sushant Rajput's sister

Mumbai: Rhea Chakraborty on Monday filed a police complaint against Sushant Singh Rajput's sister Priyanka Singh for allegedly prescribing illegal drugs to the late actor. In her complaint, Rhea alleged that Priyanka gave psychotropic drugs to Sushant for which action should be taken against her under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. On the other hand, Rhea reportedly informed the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) that late Sushant Singh Rajput was "habitual" in using marijuana. She also reportedly admitted to having procured drugs through Sushant's house staffer Dipesh Sawant but said it was for SSR and his friends. Rhea allegedly blamed Sushant and his friend circle including some Bollywood names for consuming drugs.

Rhea appeared before the NCB for questioning for the second straight day on Monday in the drugs case linked to the death of Sushant Singh Rajput. She was questioned for about six hours by the agency for the first time in this case on Sunday. The NCB said that once Rhea deposes, it wants to confront her with her younger brother Showik Chakraborty (24), Rajput's house manager Samuel Miranda (33) and his house staffer Dipesh Sawant to ascertain their roles in this alleged drug racket after it obtained mobile phone chat records and other electronic data



Actress Rhea Chakraborty arrives at NCB office for questioning in connection with the death by suicide case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, at Ballard Pierd in Mumbai on Monday

that suggested some banned drugs were allegedly procured by these people. The NCB, over the last two days, has arrested these three men in this case.

After a verbal slugfest between Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut and Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, the Congress on Monday said that it respects her right to dissent but criticised her Mumbai-PoK comment.

The Congress is an alliance partner in the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra, along with the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party.

"Unlike Modi ji and the BJP, I will defend the right to dissent of the biggest critic of mine -- that is the principle of the Congress and of the alliance partners in

Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena and the NCP," Congress chief Spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said at a press conference.

The Congress leader slammed Kangana for comparing Mumbai to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and said that it is "politically motivated".

"Despite a particular film actress carrying on the agenda of Modi ji and the BJP, she will be given adequate protection," added Surjewala.

But, the Congress leader said, describing the business capital of India as PoK is "naive, incorrect and politically opportunistic, and reprehensible". The party said it rejected such allegations and politically motivated statements.



Apex court seeks detailed reply on plea for elderly care amid corona

New Delhi (IANS): The Supreme Court Monday asked states to file a detailed affidavit within four weeks on a plea seeking directions to provide masks and sanitisers for senior citizens, who are living alone, amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

A bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, R. Subhash Reddy and M. R. Shah was informed by former Union Minister and senior advocate Ashwini Kumar that the affidavits filed by states based on August 4 direction of the court lack detail on actions taken to address the issue. Kumar submitted before the bench that except Orissa and Punjab, the affidavits on record lack details.

On August 4, the top court had directed that all pensioners should be regularly paid pension, and states should provide them necessary medicines, masks, sanitisers and other essentials amid the ongoing pandemic.

Kumar had argued that the elderly amid the pandemic need more care and protection. Today, Kumar insisted that priority should be granted to senior citizens who are undergoing treatment at various hospitals. He cited the affidavit filed by Manipur and contended that state governments should file better affidavits with more details on the actions taken so far.

The Supreme Court had directed the Centre and the state governments to ensure timely pension to the elderly, besides ensuring availability of sanitisers, masks and PPE kits to them, wherever required, during the coronavirus pandemic.

"We, in this application, which is specially confined to Covid-19 crisis, direct that all old age people who are eligible for pension should be regularly paid pension and those identified as older people should be provided necessary medicines, masks, sanitizers and other essential goods by respective states", said the bench.

India surpasses Brazil in Covid cases

New Delhi (IANS) : With a highest single-day spike of 90,802 cases, India's Covid-19 tally on Monday crossed the 42 lakh mark and the country surpassed Brazil to become the second worst-hit nation after the US. Out of the total 4,204,613 cases, 8,82,542 are active, 32,50,429 have recovered, while 71,642 lost the battle against the deadly virus, the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare showed. In the last 24 hours, 69,564 patients have recuperated.

While the recovery rate



was at a whopping high of 77.32 per cent, the fatality rate has come down to 1.72

per cent. India has added almost two lakh cases in two days.

UNICEF to lead supply of vaccine

London: In what could possibly be the world's largest and fastest ever operation of its kind, UNICEF has announced that it will be leading the procurement and supply of coronavirus vaccines to ensure that all countries have safe, fast and equitable access to initial doses when they are available. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is the world's largest single vaccine buyer, procuring more than 2 billion doses of various vaccines annually for routine immunisation and outbreak response on behalf of nearly 100 countries. With several vaccine candidates showing promise, the UN agency, in collaboration with the Revolving Fund of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), will lead efforts to procure and supply doses of COVID-19 vaccines on behalf of the COVAX Global Vaccines Facility for 92 low and lower middle-income countries, whose vaccine purchases will be supported by the mechanism.



Malaika Arora tests positive

Actor-host Malaika Arora has announced that she has tested positive for Covid-19 and is quarantining at her home. The Bollywood diva said she is asymptomatic and following all the required protocols. "Today I have tested positive for coronavirus but I want to inform you all that I am feeling fine," Malaika wrote in a statement posted on Instagram. "I am asymptomatic and following all the required protocols and will be quarantined at home as instructed by my doctor and authorities. I request you all to stay calm and safe. Thank you for all your support," she added. On Sunday, her beau, Arjun Kapoor tested positive for Covid-19.



Ram Madhav attends slain Tibetan soldier's funeral

Ladakh : The Indian Army and BJP leader Ram Madhav on Monday paid tribute to the deceased Special Frontier Force (SFF) Company leader Nyima Tenzin, who was killed near the shores of the Pangong Tso in Ladakh as Indian and Chinese forces came close to direct confrontation in the area at the end of August.

Madhav laid a wreath for Tenzin as he attended the funeral and paid his last respects along with hundreds of others, and met his family. The BJP leader shared pictures of the funeral in a tweet, which was later deleted. The visit is seen as an attempt by the government to create a larger pro-India solidarity with Tibetans amid the tensions with China.

IIT-Delhi clarifies on dog handling row

New Delhi: A faux pas in a job advertisement for the position of a dog handler posted by the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi created quite a buzz on social media, prompting the institute to issue a clarification and cancel the recruitment. On August 26, IIT-Delhi had sought applications for the post of a dog handler, and the notice stated that the eligibility criteria was "B.A./B.Sc/B.Com/B.Tech or any equivalent undergraduate degree".

This led to a social media storm. In a statement issued on September 6, the institute said, "In reference to a job advertisement dated 26-08-2020 for a post titled 'Dog Handler' (on purely contract basis), IIT Delhi would like to clarify that the minimum qualification as mentioned in the advertisement got inadvertently copied. The qualification intended in the advertisement was 'Bachelor of Veterinary Science', it said, adding that the recruitment process was cancelled after the mistake was brought to the notice of the higher authorities. "A fresh process in due course will be initiated to hire a Consultant (on purely contract basis) with suitable minimum qualification required for the job profile that involves proper care of a large number of stray dogs on the campus (providing them medical aid like vaccination, medicine, IV drip etc. and food), handling of issues and challenges relating to stray dogs, liaison with campus community- students, employees, construction workers etc., local government bodies and NGO," the statement said.



Parents delay kids vaccination for fear of getting Coronavirus

New Delhi: Parents are delaying vaccination for kids by avoiding hospital visits to prevent their exposure to coronavirus, even as pediatricians call it a disturbing trend as skipping timely administration of vaccines can have long-term impact on children's health.

The experts said parents should take their children for timely vaccination, especially in the first year of a child's life. "I had a patient who came to me after three months for vaccinating their child for polio. There are certain vaccines that you cannot catch up. For instance, the rotavirus vaccine is limited to a specific time. The last dose can be given by seven months. The vaccines act best when they are administered on time," Rahul Nagpal, Director, Pediatrics, Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj said.



Vineet Kwatra, Head and Senior Consultant, Department of Pediatrics and Neonatology, Medeor Hospital said there were few patients in the first three to four months of the pandemic outbreak due to the lockdown, fear of contracting the infection and lesser number of clinics which were functional. "Parents are still very hesitant and are unnecessarily delaying vaccination. There are vaccines which are administered at six weeks, 10 weeks and 14 weeks, and they should not be missed. They can wait for a month or so but not beyond that. "Under normal circumstances, a vaccine can be delayed by seven days. In the second year of a child's life, vaccines can be delayed by one or two months but not beyond that," Kwatra explained.

Mob lynches murder accused in UP

Kushinagar (IANS): In a shocking incident, a man was lynched by an angry mob in Kushinagar district after he allegedly killed a local who was sleeping in his house on Monday.

The deceased first shot dead a teacher, Sudhir, who was sleeping on his terrace. Hearing the gunshots, the local residents surrounded the house and caught one of the assailants while one of



them managed to escape.

The accused opened fire at the mob to scare them away but was caught. The mob beat him even after the police arrived on the scene and left him only after he

became lifeless. It is not known yet as to why he killed the teacher. The man had come to Kushinagar from Gorakhpur on Monday morning. His identity is yet to be ascertained.

In another incident, the UP police have arrested a 30-year-old man who was absconding after killing his sister-in-law and attacking his mother, two nephews and a neighbour in the

Awais Vikas Colony in Gonda on Saturday night. The police said that the National Security Act (NSA) would be invoked against the accused Pawan Yadav. According to reports, accused, Pawan Yadav, took his nephews, aged 3 and 8 years, to the terrace on the pretext of playing with them. There he attacked them with knife, slashing the tongue of the 8-year-old boy.

Xi Jinping angered by Indian defiance at Line of Actual Control



Beijing: China has reacted angrily to successful Indian military action along the Line of Actual Control, with the People's Liberation Army caught napping when Indian troops moved to occupy hill-top features near Lake Spanguur on the night of August 29-30.

This anger allegedly ascends all the way to the top of China's military hierarchy, Chairman Xi Jinping.

China has for a long time relied on India behaving re-actively rather than preemptively, as it

manufactured seizures of territory along the troublesome undemarcated border.

This time the PLA has been on the receiving end, and Chinese Communist Party leadership is not happy.

Some media reports alleged that the CCP leadership was "enraged" that a PLA commander withdrew forces to avoid physical conflict at Spanguur, though evidence to substantiate this is yet to emerge.

This latest embarrassment

came on top of the bloody fracas in the Galwan Valley on 15 June, which occurred on none other than the auspicious occasion of Xi's 67th birthday.

Losing casualties, with Chinese numbers still a state secret, represented a severe loss of face to Xi on his birthday.

Dissatisfied with their level of CCP and personal loyalty, it is also rumoured Xi is on the brink of a "brutal purge" of the PLA and regular law enforcement agencies.

China denies knowledge of civilians' abduction

Beijing: China on Monday adopted a decidedly unfriendly posture to the Indian Army's question asking if five civilians who went missing from Arunachal Pradesh days ago were in the custody of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). China has never recognised the "so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh', which is China's south Tibet region", the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told a news briefing on Monday in response to a question about the missing Indians. "We have no details to release yet about question on Indian Army sending a message to PLA about the five missing Indians in the region," he added, denying knowledge of the abduction.

The Indian Army had told its Chinese counterpart about the five civilians, who were engaged as guides and porters by the Army in the Upper Subansiri district on the Sino-India border, on Saturday.

Tibet central to Indo-China conflict

He who holds Tibet dominates the Himalayan piedmont; he who dominates the Himalayan piedmont threatens the Indian subcontinent, and he who threatens the Indian subcontinent may well have all of South Asia within his reach, and with that, all of Asia -George Ginsburg and Michael Mathos. Hence, China holds Tibet and continues to exploit it.

But, why is India hesitant to call China an occupying force in Tibet? How many years do we need to call a spade a spade? Here is China blaming India for "using" Tibetans in exile against it in the Himalayas. Of course, no one would have known this fact if India were not to say so. That an elite force was used against China by India the other day to thwart its attempts is seen as a sin committed by India by China.

Its ruling party mouthpieces like Global Times that circulate as newspapers and media in the world

are unable to digest the fact that India has outwitted China in the icy heights due to which it could not illegally occupy some more Indian territory. That it did by using exiled Tibetan youth and not its regular army seems to have riled China further. Now Tibetans are asking India the question that has been in the back of their minds since their occupation by China.

Why does not India acknowledge the centrality of Tibet to Indo-China equations or its conflicts?. The Britishers have left India a troubled legacy all along with its borders before leaving India. And Jawaharlal Nehru did little service to India in acknowledging China's right over Tibet without understanding the full implications of the same for India and its future. As Tibetan scholars put it with clarity Mao employed a strategic ingenuity in terms of looking at Tibet as the backdoor for China's expansion and dominance in Asia. On the other hand, some of India's elite still consider it as a buffer zone between India and China.

This difference in approach to the Tibet issue has become the crux of the Sino-India rivalry. Both India

and China are increasingly aware of the geostrategic importance of Tibet and the intimate connection their strategic interests have with Tibet. If Tibet is a designated "core issue" in Beijing's national interest, it is equally vital to the Indian national security. Tibet thus presents itself, even today, as central to the Sino-Indian conflict. However, given the asymmetric nature of India-China relations, the Tibet issue in Sino-India relations has been consciously pushed towards the shadows of the diplomatic corridors between the two nations. But, times have changed.

It is time India acknowledged the centrality of Tibet in dealing with China. India should remember that China holds on to Tibet to lay its claim on 'southern Tibet' a part of India. It refuses to acknowledge the Shimla agreement entered during the British rule by it. Hence we have the Galwans. Using more Tibetans seething in anger against China should be encouraged. Not just as a mercenary force but by acknowledging their contribution. After all, it is a common cause. Remember China uses Pakistanis against us.



Why are power meters being fixed on agri pumpsets in AP?

S SARALA VANDANAM

In Andhra Pradesh State, the history of power sector is long and highly notable. We all know the inspiration for APSEB and there is no need to mention instances. Needless to say power became nowadays an essential life saving tool particularly in this digital era where every transaction is going to digitalised.

The reading and calculating the consumption of power by agricultural sector is a long time demand. Different organisations such as Indian Statistical Institute, KPMG gave recommendations in this regard. It is high time to revision the consumption in agricultural sector wherein it is highly misconsumed. The paradigm shift to fixing meters to agricultural pump sets is somewhat to benefit the power sector as well as general public. The reasons are as under:

There are no separate agricultural feeders in AP State such as Tamil Nadu to segregate the power consumption between domestic, industrial and agricultural consumers. The mismanagement like theft of power by domestic consumers and cottage industries via nearby agricultural power lines couldn't be averted by power companies. Corruption prevalent in the employees of power sector is also a reason behind the loss to companies as they show the consumption of power as agriculture consumption.

In agricultural power consumption, the farmers often resort to selling the power by supplying water to adjacent landholders which do not come under power reading. Similarly, the power consumption in all sectors went on without any accountability. In the year 2013, these melt in air accumulated consumption charges were collected by distribution companies from domestic consumers with a special drive by naming them as surcharge, adjustment charge etc. in their regular electricity bills.

Thus the disappeared power consumption charges were skillfully thrown into agricultural power consumption. These free power consumption accounts were again thrown into the allocation of budget towards 9-hour free power supply account of State government. In fact, the subsidy inputs for the agricultural power consumption increase drastically year by year in the State budget. These operational and financial inefficiencies in power transmission and distribution lead to allocation of more budget by the State government as agricultural subsidy to the distribution companies at the cost of other welfare schemes to vulnerable sections.

Highest procurement costs through PPAs (Power Purchase Agreements) with private companies are the main financial burden to the DISCOMs. As a result, the DISCOMs fall into financial crisis. On the other hand due to insufficient power generation of state power utilities, it does not meet the energy demand of consumers.

The Electricity Amendment Bill, 2020 was introduced by the Central Government with some changes to the Electricity Act, 2003. As per the new bill, Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority will be established by Government of India. This Authority will enforce performance of contracts of purchase or sale or transmission of a power between a generating company, distribution licensee and transmission licensee. These franchisees supply the power to any particular part of the area in free market and for their profit.

At present, the electricity subject is in concurrent list, therefore the State Governments are supplying free power to vulnerable sections such as farmers, weaker section housing colonies and for promoting MSMEs as per industrial policies. Power tariffs decided by the franchisees will defeat the purpose of welfare activities of the State governments to supply power to all vulnerable sections.

Steps to reduce monetary loss and energy loss
1. Normally power is generated through hydro, thermal, solar, wind etc. Power generated through solar energy has the potential to fulfil the requirements due to its lower cost compared to the current average procurement cost of DISCOMs. Therefore the Government took a decision to establish solar parks generating 10,000 MW solar energy in high irradiation areas of Anantapur, Kadapa, Kurnool and Prakasam districts. For this purpose AP government established AP Green Energy Corporation Ltd. The allocation of supervisory staff and other employees to APGEC Ltd from AP Genco to these districts was completed. APGEC with the assistance of District Collectors identified government lands and assigned lands suitable for establishment of solar parks. Government issued orders on proposed modalities for payment of land lease in entering agreements with farmers.

The Budget requirement will be borne by Power Finance Corporation and DISCOMs on sharing basis. In addition to this, A.P. Solar Power Corporation Ltd a Joint Venture Company of Government of India and AP State will obtain financial support from central government to establish solar parks with minimum 500 mw capacity. The maximum time required for establishment of a solar energy power station is five to seven months and to generate solar energy, very less staff is required for control room maintenance and solar panel periodic inspections. The administrative budget is very less when compared to thermal and hydro projects for operation and maintenance of solar parks.

Generally solar power is generated during day time, it could be well utilised for agricultural needs. Due to the lower cost for generation of Solar Energy, the DISCOMs can reduce their high procurement costs. The Government has designed fixing of meters to agriculture pump sets and direct money transfer to farmers on lines similar to the distribution of social security pensions. The pension budget is released centrally every month from Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and punctually reaches the village beneficiary.

In such a way, the direct money transfer to the farmer and opening a separate bank account to the beneficiary from village level to government level is being done in convergence with the departments of Revenue, Agriculture, Energy Assistant of Village Secretariat, Linemen at village to the Finance Department, Energy Department at State level. All the power utilities will be accountable and unaccountable energy consumption will be gradually reduced due to reading and calculating each consumption point through direct money transfer to the farmer.

(The author is Spl Grade Deputy Collector, Government of AP)



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

Allahabad High Court pointed out how the detention of Dr Kafeel Khan was bad, not based on material, without reading the complete text of speech against CAA, and ordered his release. Dr.Kafeel Khan was questioning the Uttar Pradesh government about the 2017 oxygen tragedy in the BRD hospital in Gorakhpur in which 70 kids died. His speech criticising the CAA and NRC was used to slap a false case under Section 153A IPC allegedly spreading communal hate, and he was detained under National Security Act, after he was ordered to be released on bail.

The Allahabad High Court on September 1 has set aside the National Security Act charges against Dr. Khan terming it illegal and directed his release. A Division Bench of Chief Justice Govind Mathur and Justice Saumitra Dayal Singh, hearing a habeas corpus writ filed by Dr. Khan's mother, also declared the extension of the period of his detention under NSA as "illegal."

The Supreme Court requested the Allahabad High Court on August 11, to decide the question of release of Kafeel Khan, as early as possible. A campaign to release the Gorakhpur doctor took the Twitter by storm on July 20. With over a lakh tweets in four hours, 'ReleaseOurDrKafeel' was the top trending hashtag. The campaign for release of the suspended paediatrician was announced by the All India Students' Association.

His mother Smt. Nuzhat Parveen, filed a petition for a writ of Habeas Corpus assailing validity of the detention order dated February, 13 passed by the District Magistrate, Aligarh invoking powers under sub-Section (2) of Section 3 of the National Security Act, 1980. With the degree of Doctor in Medicine (MD), Dr.Kafeel Khan, joined as Lecturer at Baba Raghav Das Medical College, Gorakhpur (B.R.D. Medical College, Gorakhpur) in 2016. He took part in a meeting addressed by Dr Yogendra Yadav on December 12, 2019, protesting Citizenship Amendment Act at Aligarh Muslim University, and spoke, for which he was arrested on January 29 under Section 153 A of IPC.

He was released on February 10 on bail on production of two sureties of Rs 60,000 and a surety of same amount with the condition that he will not repeat the crime in future. He was not released and not produced before the Magistrate, hence the Chief Judicial Magistrate passed another order on February 13, directing the officers to ensure his release. This order was not accepted by the Superintendent of District Jail, Mathura, intentionally and purposefully (as stated by C.J.M Aligarh).

On the same day of February 13, the Aligarh Police recommended the District Magistrate, Aligarh for detention of Dr.

Kafeel Khan under Section 3(2) and (3) of the National Security Act, 1980. District Magistrate Aligarh gave on order of detention of Kafeel on February 13. After rejecting various representations, he was given an opportunity to present his case on March 17 by the State Advisory Board, after which on April 1 the detention was confirmed. On May 6, the state invoked powers under 12(1) of NS Act and extended detention for a period of 6 months from February 13, which was extended further for another six months.

Dr Kafeel's mother challenged that the order of detention is passed only to frustrate the release order passed by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Aligarh on February 10. Opposing release state argued that the subjective satisfaction of District Magistrate after consideration of the material available is not open to be examined and interfered by Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. He said: The contents of the speech clearly indicate that the detainee was intending to harm communal harmony, peace and tranquility and for the purpose he prompted student community to be aggressive. As a consequence to the address made by him to a gathering of about 600 students on February, 12, nearly 10,000 people gathered at Bab-e-Syed gate Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh on February 13 and caused violence at high level. His mother argued that the note containing grounds for detention does not satisfy the requirements of Article 22 and the provisions of NS Act as authority did not look into the complete speech by Dr. Kafeel. An intentional effort was made for not providing complete lecture. A compact disk was supplied but no device was made available to play the same.

The National Security Act, 1980 that was enacted to provide for preventive detention, which is an exceptional mode to curtail liberty in exceptionally rare circumstances. Under Article 21 along with the right to life, the right to personal liberty is a precious fundamental right. Every citizen is at equal status with equal opportunities. Court noticed that no proceedings for detention of Dr. Kafeel Khan were initiated for about good two months and he was arrested after 45 days. There was no recommendation for invoking powers under Section 3(2) of the National Security Act, 1980. It is only after passing of the release order dated 12th February, 2020 police recommended to invoke powers under NS Act. The Additional Advocate General argued that the satisfaction of the detaining authority is "subjective in nature" and the Court cannot substitute its opinion over it.

High Court said: "... it does not mean that the court cannot look into the material on which detention is based. The expression "subjective satisfaction" means the satisfaction of a reasonable man that can be arrived at on the basis of some material which satisfies a rational man. It does not refer to whim or caprice of the authority concerned.

While assessing "subjective satisfac-



The Supreme Court requested the Allahabad High Court on August 11, to decide the question of release of Kafeel Khan, as early as possible. A campaign to release the Gorakhpur doctor took the Twitter by storm on July 20. With over a lakh tweets in four hours, 'ReleaseOurDrKafeel' was the top trending hashtag. The campaign for release of the suspended paediatrician was announced by the All India Students' Association.

tion Court has to look into the record to examine whether the subjective satisfaction is acceptable to a reasonable wisdom. It heard and scripted complete speech of Dr Kafeel, who said: Before even entering the gate, I received a call from the C.O. City and he said that don't go there or your will be put behind bars. - (Shame - Shame-Shame by students). Since our childhood we all are taught that we will neither become Hindus nor Muslims, but humans and our Mota Bhai teaches us that we will become Hindus, Muslims, but not humans. How would they know the meaning of Constitution, since the day RSS came into being in 1928, they don't believe in Indian Constitution?...We are humans first. Islam has taught us that our deeds should be right. Our intentions should be right. You choose the path and God will take you to the destination. In-shallah (if God wills).So, I request you all that you try to reach to your non-Muslim friends, sit and talk to them and tell them we are not the ones who repair cycle-punctures, fridges, mobiles and who marry four times or Jihaadis, Pakistanis. We are also doctors, engineers. Come, sit and eat with us someday for the distances that are created".

After reading the entire text, the HC said: No doubt, some part of the phrases used in the grounds for detention are there in speech, but apparently in different context. The speaker was certainly opposing the policies of the government and while doing so certain illustration are given by him, but that nowhere reflects the eventualities demanding detention. A complete reading of the speech prima facie does not disclose any effort to promote hatred or violence... Our anxiety is only to assess that as to whether a reasonable man could have arrived at a conclusion as arrived by the District Magistrate, Aligarh? Prima facie, the speech is not such that a reasonable man could have arrived at a conclusion as the inference drawn by the District Magistrate, Aligarh".

In Khudi Ram Das Vs. State of West Bengal & 3 Ors., reported in 1975 (2) SCC 81, a three Judge Bench of the Supreme Court while discussing the nature of satisfaction required to be recorded by the executive authorities before preventively detaining a person. While recognizing the grounds on which such a subjective satisfaction could be challenged, the Supreme Court definitely recognised the following grounds of challenge:- (a) non application of mind; (b) dishonest and improper exercise of power; (c) acting under dictation of another authority; (d) if the authority had disabled itself from applying its mind by self-created rules of policy, etc; (e) applying a wrong test and misconstruction of statute; (f) if the satisfaction is not grounded on "materials which are of rationally probative value"; (g) the grounds for satisfaction are such as a rational human-being may not consider connected with the fact in respect of which the satisfaction is reached and must not be extraneous; (h) the action taken must be within the discretion of the authorities that is according to the rules of reason and justice and not private opinion. Thus, it cannot be arbitrary, vague or fanciful but must be legal and regular. The HC finally issued a writ in the nature of habeas corpus to release Dr.Kafeel Khan.

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

LETTERS

Mandir, Masjid and new Secretariat

The construction of two mosques, a temple and in addition to these (which will be in place of the demolished ones) a new church, all at government expense within the Secretariat area is firstly subversive of the secular ideal enshrined in the Constitution, and secondly destructive of work culture essential for officials, government servants working in the Secretariat (and other government offices) Muslims will desert work places at least twice during working hours for prayers; (five times a day). If they are let off, Hindus and Christian workers will for their prayers also claim the right not to work for the period the Muslims desert work places for prayers. Further, Christians go to church on Sundays which are not working days for government offices. Why then is a church in the Secretariat?

If mosques, temples and churches are built in Secretariat, why are they not built in collectorates and other government offices, school and college compounds all over the State? The mosques in the Hyderabad Secretariat compound were a legacy of the Nizam's Islamic rule in his territory. During his rule mosques were built in government lands in all prominent places like that in front of the Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad. The construction of Haj Houses on government land with government money (as the one at the RGI Airport in Shamshabad, Hyderabad and in the city) are all obnox-

ious use of government land and money for patronage to some religions.

Dr T H Chowdary, Hyderabad

The scourge of malnutrition

India has not been faring well on nutrition front. The stunting and wasting among children are rampant. Half of the world's poor live in India. It's lagging behind poor African countries in some of the human development indices. It's continuing to be at the top in the league of countries in case of hunger index. The accessibility and affordability, but not lack of awareness regarding nutritious food are the main reasons for prevailing malnutrition among people.

So the focus of the government should be on making the food affordable and accessible for the masses in its fight against malnutrition. Creating awareness is secondary. The ongoing pandemic has made things worse, taking away jobs, income and health. First they should be assured nutritious meals at cheaper prices. Next they should be assured some sort of employment. There couldn't be more opportune time than now to start urban employment guarantee scheme on par with MGNREGA to help out urban poor. To fight against malnutrition will certainly help in fighting against corona also.

Dr D V G Sankara Rao, Nellimarla

Govt schools show the way

The worst effect due to corona has been on any area, then it is the Education Department. This department has not only affected the schools and students but

also the employment of hundreds of people is at stake due to this department.

Now people are abandoning private schools and turning to government schools. This shows both aspects. According to this year's CBSE results, the results of many government schools were better than private schools. Due to this reason, parents and students now have increased confidence in the government school.

People try to hide the reality by talking about the economic recession and financial crisis of the people, but the reality is that the parents of this new India will eat less of a bun but will provide better education to their children. Therefore, financial constraints cannot be the logical reason for this issue.

For this, the quality of education improving government schools, changing government's attitude towards education is responsible. Within the last one year, the states whose budget has been released, all the states have given special attention to education. This has also increased the confidence of people over government schools.

The increasing number of students in government schools should be seen as a feedback of the New Education Policy. For some time, financial constraints are considered as the reason for this, but for the city people, it cannot be so tight that it cannot teach even its children. And most of the children of the village people also studied in government schools earlier, so there is no question of changing the school.

Narayan Hari, Chandigarh

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EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

Credit goes to YSRCP: Goutham

- Strongly rejects claims of TDP that the indicators on which ranking is based are from the TDP tenure
- Explains that YSRCP govt submitted its respondent data by June 30 last year but the process continued till Feb-March 2020
- Claims clearing of dues of the previous TDP govt to MSMEs by Jagan instilled a much-needed confidence among the businesses in the state

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: The achievement of the first rank in Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) by Andhra Pradesh itself explains the commitment of the state government towards promoting industrial development, said industries minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy.

Addressing a press conference at APIIC in Mangalagiri on Monday, the minister rejected the claim of TDP that the ranking was based on the decisions and policies pursued by the previous government. He said that the survey was conducted in the month of June, 2019, and the YSRCP government had executed all the parameters required for the ranking.

Explaining the chronology of events that took place before announcement of the rankings, the minister said that the DPIIT issued Guidelines on February 4, 2019, but the reforms implementation memo was issued on June 15, 2019. By then the YSRCP formed the government. The state government submitted the respondent data by June 30, 2019 and the compliance submission took place on August 14. The Government of India accepted the compliance in November 2019 and the perception survey for the feedback was taken



Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy, Special Chief Secretary, Industries, Karikala Valevan, APEDB CEO J V N Subrahmanyam greet Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on State achieving 1st rank in Ease of Doing Business, at Tadepalli on Monday

“Interestingly, the Centre gave 100% weightage to feedback from the end users, including industrialists and entrepreneurs. Even lawyers have given feedback on the measures of the state govt.”

between February and March 2020. In this entire process, the YSRCP government played a key role in getting first rank, despite effectively fighting the Covid-19 in the state, he said.

The interesting development in this year's ranking is the Government of India gave 100 per cent weightage to feedback from the end users including entrepreneurs and industrialists. Feedback was taken even from lawyers, architects, engineers and chartered accountants, minister said.

He said that by clearing the dues pertaining to subsidies to the MSMEs to the tune of Rs 1100 crore of the last five years, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has instilled confidence among the entrepreneurs in the state. He said that the state government faced a tough fight from Uttar Pradesh, yet got first rank. The UP is in second position, while Telangana is in third rank in Ease of Doing Business.

He said that TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh was bluffing on the facts, despite knowing that it

‘Apple likely to invest in Kadapa’

Amaravati: Apple Inc. likely to invest at Kopparthi in Kadapa district providing employment to at least 50,000 people. Discussions are in progress with the company, according to minister for industries Mekapati Goutham Reddy. He said that there are six factories in China for the Apple, where the employment is between 1 lakh to 6 lakh at each manufacturing unit. The state government is also negotiating with the company to encourage them to establish such a huge

manufacturing unit in the state.

The minister said major pharma companies are interested to invest in the Bulk Drug Park proposed in the state. The government will allocate the land to the companies only after providing hundred per cent infrastructure like drainage, water, road connectivity, electricity and other essentials.

He said the YSRCP government would not come out with false MoUs for the sake of publicity, like the previous TDP government.

forms and effective delivery of services, awareness on newly implemented reforms and digital reach out through various media, regular interactive meetings by district officers and confidence created by the release of incentives to all MSMEs pending since 2014-15 are some of the key factors that instilled confidence in the state government, among the industrialists, the minister said.

Immediate resolution to investors queries and grievances during workshops, alignment of relationship managers to handhold investors, training to field officers and front-end staff on re-

ANTARVEDI CHARIOT BURNING

TDP suspects role of ‘anarchic forces’

- ◆ Party chief expresses concern over rising number of attacks on Hindu idols and temples since the YSRCP govt came to power in the state
- ◆ Recalls incidents of idols being destroyed in six temples in Pithapuram, burning of chariot in Nellore and razing of a temple in Guntur city among other incidents

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu expressed concern over the increasing attacks on the properties and idols of Hindu temples across the state in the past 15 months under the YSRCP government.

Naidu said that the burning of Antarvedi temple chariot in East Godavari should not have been an accident but an “a heinous act” carried out by anti-social and anarchic elements.

In a statement on Monday, Naidu noted that 23 idols were destroyed in six temples in Pithapuram in January. In the last November, devotees associations and the Hindu Mahasabha had condemned demolition of Kanaka Durga temple opposite Market Yard in Guntur city, he recalled.

The TDP chief also referred to burning of chariot at Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy temple in Nellore district. There seemed to be no end to the vandalism of anarchic elements ever since the YSRCP came to power in the state, he lamented.

“Attacks, harassment and violence were on the increase everywhere. The YSRCP has converted Andhra Pradesh into a state of vandals and criminals,” he said.

Meanwhile, TDP senior leader and former home minister N Chinaraippa led the TDP fact-finding committee to find out the reasons for the chariot burning. He demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident at the Antarvedi Lakshminarasimha Swamy temple. The real facts should be known to the world and the culprits should be brought to the book, he demanded.

ANTARVEDI TEMPLE EO TRANSFERRED



Endowments Minister Vellampalli Srinivas addressing the media at his camp office in Vijayawada on Monday

- New chariots will be built for Nellore and Antarvedi temples, says Endowments Minister
- Says TDP has no moral right to talk about the incident as its govt demolished 40 temples in the name of Pushkaralu

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: The executive officer (EO) of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Antarvedi was transferred with immediate effect, said endowments minister Vellampalli Srinivas while addressing the media at his camp office here along with Pedapati Ammaji, chairperson of SC Corporation, on Monday.

Expressing deep pain over the burning of the temple chariot, the minister said that the government took the chariot burning incident

seriously. The investigation would reveal whether it was human mistake or a deliberate act of arson by miscreants. Anyway, the new chariot would be built at a cost of Rs 95 lakh by February next year, he said.

Assailing TDP for forming a fact-finding committee over the incident, Srinivas said that the TDP had no moral right to talk about Hindu temples. “In the name of undertaking Pushkaralu works, the TDP government demolished 40 temples,” he recalled.

He said that the government issued instructions to set up closed circuit cameras in all the temples to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Referring to the action initiated, he said that the executive officer was transferred and the CCTV staff was suspended. The minister said that the government would strive not to hurt the sentiments of Hindu devotees. He appealed to people not to believe the rumours in the social media.

Shirdi temple seeks TTD advice on reopening

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Shirdi Sai Baba Sansthan has sought the advice of TTD on resumption of darshan at Baba temple. The authorities want to reopen the temple for devotees after a break of six months due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The Shirdi Sai Baba Sansthan wants to follow the system adopted by TTD which opened the temple for devotees. TTD chairman Y V Subba Reddy, trust board member K Siva Kumar, EO Anil Kumar Singhal and additional EO A V Dharma Reddy reached Shirdi on September 6 evening. They were received by the Shirdi Board secretary and CEO Kanhuraj Harischandra Bhagate and others.

HC halts CID probe against poll panel

- Court is hearing the quash petitions filed against the State Election Commission and its assistant secretary Samba Murthy in relation to a letter that Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar sent to Union Home Secretary seeking protection



- Govt pleader argues that Nimmagadda has nothing to do with the case and hence his prayer for quashing of CID FIR is invalid
- The single bench orders a halt in CID probe into FIRs, posts the matter to next week

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nelapadu (Amaravati): Justice D Ramesh, presiding over the single bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, here on Monday directed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) not to proceed with the investigation into the case filed against the State Election Commissioner (SEC) Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar.

Justice Ramesh heard the arguments of the counsel for the SEC and the government pleader Sumon in the two quash petitions filed against the First Information Reports (FIRs) registered against the State Election Commission and the assistant secretary Samba Murthy of the State Election Commission.

Justice Ramesh during the arguments wondered as to who filed the criminal cases and against whom. “Is there permission to file criminal case against the SEC?” he said. Earlier, the government pleader Sumon attached to the Advocate General's office, presenting the arguments stated that the State Election Commission represented by the State Election Commissioner filed a quash petition alleging interference in the independent functioning of the SEC among other grounds to quash the FIR. Moreover, the quash petition was filed by the accused himself.

The government pleader also objected the maintainability of the writ itself as the SEC is a stranger to the prosecution and he has not been named in the FIR. It's only an employee of the SEC who has been named and accused of deleting files from the computer. There are many Supreme Court judgments which have held that third parties and strangers cannot seek quash of an FIR.

It was further argued that the SEC cannot speak about its independence in the light of the private meeting he had in a hotel in Hyderabad with certain political leaders. Also the political leaning of the SEC is quite known in the public. So the writ has to be dismissed, he argued.

As far as the second writ petition seeking to quash the FIR is concerned, the investigation has been carried out and the FSL report shows that the accused had in fact tampered with the computer documents. Hence the ingredients of Section 65 of the Information Technology Act have been satisfied.

Justice Ramesh enquired whether any permission was required to prosecute the State Election Commissioner.

The single bench judge directed the respondents not to proceed further with the investigation and posted the matter to next week asking the respondent to file the counter.

AP Covid tally crosses past 5 lakh mark

State reports 8,368 fresh cases and 70 deaths in 24 hrs

Amaravati: State on Monday crossed the five-lakh mark in Covid-19 cases, riding on a rapid surge particularly in the last month.

As 8,368 cases were added afresh in 24 hours ending 9 am on Monday, the state's Covid-19 aggregate touched 5,06,493, while 70 more died, pushing the toll up to 4,487.

The latest bulletin said 10,055 more patients recovered, taking the overall number of those cured to 4,04,074.

The state now has 97,932 active cases.

It broke a 12-day streak of reporting over 10,000 infections per day as only 8,000-plus cases were added on Monday, though relatively fewer tests were done on Sunday.

The overall infection positivity rate climbed further up to 12.16 per cent while the recovery rate also increased to 79.78 per cent.

The mortality rate remained stable at 0.89 per cent, according to the bulletin.

Prakasam district now has the highest number of 14,024 active coronavirus cases, pushing East Godavari to the second spot with 13,941.

Moving closer to the 25,000 total cases mark, Vizianagaram showed 9,002 active cases, the third highest in the state.

Andhra Pradesh reached the one lakh mark on July 27, two lakh on August 7 and three-lakh mark on August 18 and four lakh on August 28.

It took 180 days for the state to go from just one case to five lakh cases after the first person tested positive for the contagion on March 12, with the last two lakh coming in just 20 days

Anil refutes Naidu charge on Gandikota package

- ◆ Says it is the Jagan govt which has increased Rs 3.25 lakh additional compensation to the displaced families
- ◆ According to him, the YSRCP govt released ₹676 cr under the R&R package out of the ₹972 cr announced by CM
- ◆ Accuses the TDP chief of ‘carrying out false propaganda’ on the relief to Gandikota reservoir oustees



Irrigation Minister P Anil Kumar Yadav speaking to media in Vijayawada on Monday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Refuting the allegations of opposition leader N Chandrababu Naidu on Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) package under Gandikota reservoir project in Kadapa district, irrigation minister P Anil Kumar Yadav said it was Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy who announced Rs 972 crore for R&R package to the project and released Rs.676 crore within 15 months of coming to power. He said the remaining Rs 296 crore will be released soon.

Speaking to media here on Monday, the Anil Kumar flayed Naidu for propagating false information on R&R package and said Gandikota reservoir would have been able to store 26 tmc ft of water had Naidu completed R&R package during his term. He said it was Jagan Mohan Reddy who increased compensation by Rs 3.25 lakh to the displaced families.

The minister said Naidu neglected R&R package of Polavaram, Gandikota and Veligonda projects and ques-

tioned him how much money he released for R&R package during his term. “He is trying to instigate violence with the help of his party people by propagating false information on R&R package for Gandikota Project,” he said.

Anil Kumar said the YSRCP government has started Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme to provide irrigation water to Rayalaseema and Nellore districts. Uttarandhra Sujala Sravanthi project will be completed soon. The government will start lift irrigation scheme at a cost of Rs 1,500 crore at Palnadu region to cater to the water needs of the region. Two barrages will be build downstream Prakasam Barrage, said the minister. The minister said Naidu drove the state into a debts of Rs 2.70 lakh crore in addition to the pending arrears of Rs 70,000 crore and the YSRCP government is clearing the dues. Naidu was not available in Amaravati hardly for 10 days in the last six months and he was “indulging evil politics” sitting in Hyderabad, he alleged.

TS puts land registrations on hold

Continued from P1

As a relief to the property owners who purchased plots in the illegal ventures, government recently introduced the LRS scheme. It came to the government notice that some realtors are regularising the illegal layouts through backdoor which resulted in huge revenue loss to the government, officials said, adding that this could be one of the main reasons for stopping the registration services in the entire state.

Class 9 to 12 students can visit schools

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Chief secretary Nilam Sawhney issued GO No 390 permitting students of Classes 9 to 12 to visit their schools, in areas outside the containment zones only on voluntary basis for taking guidance from their teachers.

However, this will be subject to written consent of their parents or guardians and will be permitted with effect from September 21.

In the containment zones, schools, colleges, educational and coaching institutions will continue to remain closed for students and regular class activity is not allowed up to September 30, 2020.

The chief secretary said in the order that online and distance learning shall continue to be permitted and shall be encouraged.



“Students of Classes IX to XII of schools outside the containment zones can visit their schools to take guidance from their teachers from Sept 21. This is voluntary. But such visits are subjected to written permission from their parents. No such visits are allowed in schools in the containment zones

Nilam Sawhney | Chief Secretary

The administration may permit up to 50 per cent of teaching and non-teaching staff to be called to the schools at a time for online teaching or tele-counseling and related work, in areas outside the Containment Zones only, with effect from September 21.

However, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will be issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare which should be strictly

followed.

In the higher education institutions, only for research scholars (PhD) and post-graduate students of technical and professional programmes requiring laboratory and experimental works will be permitted by the Department of Higher Education (DHE) in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Social, academic, sports, enter-

tainment, cultural, religious, political functions and other congregations with a ceiling of 100 persons, will be permitted with effect from September 21 with mandatory wearing of face masks, social distancing and provision for thermal scanning and hand wash or sanitiser.

However, marriage related gatherings with a number of guests not exceeding 50 and funeral/last rites related gatherings with a number of persons not exceeding 20 will continue to be allowed upto September 20, after which the ceiling of 100 persons will apply.

The movie theatres, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres and similar places will remain closed.

However, open air theatres will be permitted to open with effect from September 21.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Auditing airports, airlines for fin health

“ We have upped the ante on not just physical but even financial safety aspects of airports, airlines. This ensures that no compromise is made with safety issues due to strained financial condition of the airlines. - DGCA Director **General Arun Kumar**



ECONOMIC WOES

Covid causes rise in smuggling in NE

Industry body FICCI said the recent rise in smuggling in the northeastern region can be attributed to economic distress insinuated by Covid-19 pandemic. It said loss of jobs and lack of income due to recurrent lockdowns have left citizens without a means of livelihood.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	77.74	South	
Euro	91.1	African Rand	5.05
UAE Dirham	21.96	Hong Kong Dollar	10.88
Thai Baht	2.69	Japanese Yen	0.79
British Pound	100.6	New Zealand Dollar	51.65
Australian Dollar	56.09	Saudi Riyal	21.51
Canadian Dollar	58.75	Swedish Krona	9.63
Swiss Franc	83.46	Singapore Dollar	56.36

DELHI TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Luminous' celebrations

Hyderabad: Luminous Power Technologies marked successful 10 years of its association with cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar by releasing two digital films to celebrate this partnership with a promise of more prosperous years to come. In one of the digital films, Sachin talks about his philosophy that victory or success does not belong to an individual but instead belongs to the whole team and this same philosophy played a role in the success of his decade long journey with brand Luminous. The video showcases the journey that Sachin and Luminous have embarked upon together while also highlighting the milestones they have achieved together as the brand evolved. Another short film unveiled on the occasion shows a mutual respect and gratitude for the long lasting and solid partnership between Sachin Tendulkar and Luminous. "My association with Luminous has been a fantastic one and I have thoroughly enjoyed it," said Sachin.

Oyo rolls out discounts

Hyderabad: Hospitality aggregator Oyo has rolled out discounts on its app and website for students appearing for national entrance examinations such as NEET and JEE in addition to those appearing for State level examinations. To further support parents, guardians, and students with the convenience of booking safe and quality accommodation, Oyo has also set up a helpline. This initiative is a part of Oyo's ongoing efforts to serve the larger community dealing with various uncertainties and challenges due to Covid-19. In the past couple of months, the hospitality chain has facilitated accommodation support to international tourists, repatriated Indians as part of 'Vande Bharat Mission', engaged with multiple foreign embassies and diplomatic missions in India.

Offers from Brand Factory

Hyderabad: Ahead of the festive season, Brand Factory is offering a comprehensive range of shirts for men from prime brands at lowest prices. The extensive collection has something for everyone, be it casual wear to give a cool look or dress to impress with a professional look, be it day wear or evening apparel, all under one roof. Suresh Sadhwani, CEO, Brand Factory, said: "Rock Bottom Days have been specially curated so our customers can get top brands at the lowest prices, especially keeping in mind the economic crises amid this global pandemic. Also, the enhanced safety measures taken across our stores offer the much-needed reassurance to all our customers that at Brand Factory because we offer big discounts on shopping but absolutely no discount on safety".

Treeview enters India

Hyderabad: Treeview Co Ltd., Thailand's LED TV & appliances manufacturer, announced its India entry with the launch of a range of smart Android full HD TV models. The company has entered into a global partnership with QThree Ventures to introduce its products in India, Middle East, European and select African countries. The TV units will be available widely across India at partner consumer electronics stores. Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan will be the brand ambassador for Treeview in India. Jubin Peter, Chairman, QThree Ventures, said, "Given our expertise and experience in the Indian consumer electronics market, we understand that Treeview has packed in a host of features that provides consumers with the latest technology at extremely competitive prices."

Steep fall in GDP alarming: Rajan

Says bureaucracy should come out of complacency, take meaningful action

New Delhi: Terming the 23.9 per cent fall in the economic growth in June quarter alarming, former Reserve Bank Governor Raghuram G Rajan has said bureaucracy should come out of complacency and take meaningful action.

The current crisis requires a more thoughtful and active government, he said, adding "unfortunately, after an initial burst of activity, it seems to have retreated into a shell".

"The sharp decline in economic growth should alarm us all. The 23.9 per cent contraction in India (and the numbers will probably be worse when we get estimates of the damage in the informal sector) compares with a drop of 12.4 per cent in Italy and 9.5 per cent in the United States, two of the most Covid-19-affected advanced countries," Rajan wrote in a post on his LinkedIn page.

He further said the bureaucracy needs to "be frightened out of their complacency and into meaningful activity. If there is a silver lining in the awful GDP numbers, hopefully it is that".

Rajan, currently a professor at the University of Chicago, said the Covid-19 pandemic is still

Government officials who hold out the possibility of a stimulus when India finally contains the virus are underestimating the damage from a more shrunken and scarred economy at that point - Ex RBI Guv Raghuram G Rajan



raging in India, so discretionary spending, especially on high-contact services like restaurants, and the associated employment,

will stay low until the virus is contained. The eminent economist pointed out that the government's reluctance to do more

Plan must to deal with loan defaults

New Delhi: Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has said that as the payment moratorium allowed by the central bank, along with other repayment relaxations, comes to an end and several entities are expected to default, the government should come up with a 'well-thought-out' whole-some plan to deal with the upcoming financial stress, rather than going for 'piece-meal' solutions. In a note on LinkedIn, the noted economist said that a variety of structures should be in place to help debtors and claimants, such as landlords and banks, reach agreements to restructure the obligations, including writing off unpayable amounts.



"As the various payment moratoria come to an end, a number of entities will be unable to repay. Instead of reacting in a piece-meal way, the government should have a well-thought-out plan to deal with the coming financial distress," he said.

Vodafone Idea unveils new brand identity

Hyderabad: Vodafone Idea Ltd on Monday unveiled a new brand identity even as the issue of payment of statutory dues weighs on the country's telecom major.

VIL, which had about 280 million subscribers as of June, said that Vodafone and Idea brands will now be called 'Vi'. It communicated its new unified consumer brand identity and positioning through a virtual launch on Monday.

"Vodafone Idea came together as a merged entity two years ago. We have, since then focussed on integrating two large networks, our people and processes," said Ravinder Takkar, MD and CEO, Vodafone Idea.

The brand integration not only marks the completion of the largest telecom merger in the world, but will also set the company on its future journey to offer strong digital experiences to 1 billion Indians on its 4G network. "VIL is now leaner



and agile, and the deployment of many principles of 5G architecture has helped us transform into a future-fit, digital network for the changing customer needs. The new brand launch signifies our desire to not just deliver, but delight our customers, stakeholders, communities and our employees and signals our passion and commitment to be a Champion for Digital India," Takkar added.

The announcement comes close on heels of Vodafone Idea board, last week, approving fund-raising plans of up to Rs 25,000 crore through a combination of equity and debt instruments, to keep the company afloat.

₹1.61 lakh cr loans sanctioned to MSMEs

New Delhi: Banks have so far sanctioned loans amounting to Rs 1.61 lakh crore to MSMEs under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), the government said on Monday.

"As of 03 Sept 2020, the total amount sanctioned under the 100 per cent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme by #PSBs and private banks stands at Rs 1,61,017.68 crore, of which Rs 1,13,713.15 crore has already been disbursed," said a tweet by the office of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Public sector banks have so far sanctioned Rs 78,067.21 crore under the scheme, and Rs 62,025.79 crore has been disbursed as of September 3.

"Compared to 24 Aug 2020, there is an increase of Rs 5,022.06 crore in the cumulative amount of loans sanctioned & an increase of Rs 7,786.16 crore in the cumulative amount of loans disbursed by both #PSBs and private sector banks combined as on 03 Sept 2020," said another tweet.

'Reliance will now focus on monetising commerce layer'

New Delhi: In the next four years, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)'s focus would be to add a third layer of commerce and monetize the existing investments across different formats.

According to a research report by BofA Securities, in the last four years, with Jio, RIL has been able to build a digital layer on top of the existing physical layer of retail shops across electronics, grocery and apparels.

"We believe the next four years, RIL's focus would be to add a third 'layer of commerce' and monetize the existing investments across different formats," the report said.

The company continues to invest in technology and is partnering with world's best (Google, Facebook, Microsoft) as well as India's best (invested in 20 plus startups). "We believe RIL is uniquely positioned with a sustainable competitive advantage to monetize this," it added.

"In our view, the biggest take-away from Jio's last 4-year journey

Company continues to invest in technology: Report



was that - 'India is a supply-constrained market and not a demand-constrained market,' the report noted.

So, as long as any company could efficiently provide goods and services at affordable prices, this market would consume.

"Jio proved the hypothesis and with potentially tariffs moving up in the future, we could see profitability also improving in cellular space," the report said.

"Over the next 3-4 years we believe RIL will offer 'value for money' proposition across fiber broadband, SME & enterprise

market, offline/online retail market and areas like Education, Healthcare, Agriculture and media/Gaming markets," the report added. The company may be successful in a few domains and potentially look to acquire startups in spaces where it is struggling. Indeed, it has acquired 20 plus startups already, in process looking to improve its value proposition to consumers. One of the reasons why companies like Amazon, Alibaba, Tencent etc. have been able to create "shareholder value" is because they owned their customers. Due to their value proposition customers come back again and again to them.

"We believe RIL also has potential to do this. Infact RIL's approach appears to owning the 'pipe' as well as the 'services' offered on the pipe," it said.

"Over the next 3-5 years, we expect RIL to have 500 million mobile users, offer broadband services to 20-25 million households & cater to 12-15 million SMEs.

World economy not likely to be on track before 2022

Unemployment will keep rising above the pre-pandemic baseline: Report

New Delhi: With Covid-19 still dominating major developments globally, the world economy is not likely to re-attain pre-pandemic output levels before 2022, says a report.

According to Dun & Bradstreet Country Risk and the Global Outlook, "nothing about the pandemic can be classified as over, despite recoveries in activity levels in some economies in Q3, as evident in PMIs (Purchasing Managers Indices), Google Mobility data and monthly economic data".

Unemployment will keep rising above the pre-pandemic baseline as government programmes are phased out and cease to protect workers, while the pace of what recovery there is may yet weaken in Q4, said Arun Singh, Global Chief Economist, Dun & Bradstreet.

Singh further said "we do not expect the world economy to re-attain pre-pandemic output levels before 2022. The biggest question mark is not over the

In India, the pace of economic revival will depend on how quickly the health concerns abate as the country is yet to witness a Covid peak



depth of the recent shock but over its persistence."

According to Singh, "in India, the pace of economic revival will depend on how quickly the health concerns abate as India is yet to witness a peak, economic activity restarts with 'Unlock 4' and importantly the psychological impact of the Covid-19 ebbs away."

The steady rise in case-loads,

even as India demonstrates one of the highest recovery rates, and the spillover effects of the strict lockdown measures undermines the growth impulses in Q2 and Q3 of the fiscal year, he added.

India's economy suffered its worst slump on record in April-June, with the gross domestic product (GDP) contracting by 23.9 per cent as the coronavirus-related lockdowns weighed on the already-declining consumer demand and investment.

On the employment front, all countries that Dun & Bradstreet covers (with the exception of Serbia) are showing year-on-year declines, the report said.

"Indeed, we believe that the road ahead will be one of further spikes and troughs in economic activity, with considerable regional variations. Even if all jobs were to be saved, the decline in 2020 corporate profits in most OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) economies would be at least 5 per cent," it said.

Markets end higher amid see-saw trade

Mumbai: Markets broke their two-session losing run to end with slim gains on Monday as investors made a cautious return to equities amid mixed global cues.

A depreciating rupee and concerns over economic recovery contributed to the risk-off sentiment, traders said. After fluctuating between mild gains and losses during the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex finally settled 60.05 points or 0.16 per cent higher at 38,417.23.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty advanced 21.20 points or 0.19 per cent to close at 11,355.05. HUL was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 1.77 per cent, followed by TCS, ITC, Asian Paints, HDFC, HCL Tech and Nestle India.

On the other hand, M&M, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, UltraTech Cement, ONGC and Bharti Airtel were among the major laggards, dropping up to 3.46 per cent.

"Indian markets traded with volatility and finally ended the day with a positive bias. Virus infections continued to rise unabated and this fear combined



Sensex settles 60 points higher; Nifty at 11,355

with a selloff seen in the US markets in the previous trading session served to bring in doubts regarding the continuation of the momentum seen in recent times in the market. "Investors would do well to stay nimble, watch global sentiments and trade cautiously," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. BSE IT, FMCG, tech, metal, consumer durables, healthcare and energy indices ended up to 0.81 per cent higher, while realty, utilities, basic materials, oil and gas, auto and capital goods closed with losses. In the broader markets, the BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices fell as much as 0.78 per cent.

CARS24 launches operations in Warangal

Hyderabad: CARS24, the leaders in the pre-owned vehicles segment, has announced the launch of its operations in Warangal, Telangana, marking its presence in the 100th city in India. With this expansion, the company has further strengthened its presence across the country including tier 2, tier 3 and tier 4 cities with over 230 branches.

Apart from this, the company has also retrieved the 100 per cent business as of pre-Covid levels. Manika Tondon, Vice President, CARS24, said, "We envision to transform the way people sell and buy used cars and intend to offer a reliable and safe platform to our customers. We have been working to deliver the world class services to our customers and are delighted to see that our constant efforts have resulted in our presence in 100 cities with over 230 branches." Founded in August 2015 with an aim to streamline the buying and selling process of pre-owned cars by leveraging cutting edge technology, the company has expanded its presence from 155 outlet in 35 cities to 230 outlets in the past one year despite the ongoing pandemic.

Two Maoists killed during exchange of fire in Cherla

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Kothagudem: Two Maoists died in an exchange of fire between police and Maoists at Chennapuram village of Cherla mandal in the district on Monday. According to District Superintendent of Police Sunil Dutt, they have received reliable information that armed underground formations of Telangana State Committee were planning to commit sensational action against security personnel and public representatives to enforce bandh on Sunday.

"We also received further inputs that Maoist teams were moving in Cherla area to destroy public property and cause harm to public life. We launched combing operations in most suspected areas in Cherla area," he informed.

At around 3 pm on Monday, while special parties were combing in the forest located between Vaddipeta and Pussuguppa vil-

Maoists blast land mine in Cherla

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Bhadrachalam: The agency villages of Cherla mandal terror stricken after a landmine blast by Maoists during the late night hours of Sunday.

According to sources, Maoists blasted a strong land mine at Pagidivagu on Tippapuram - Peddamidisileru road in Cherla mandal. The road was damaged leaving behind three-meter radius pit on the road and no casualties were reported.

It might be noted that on account of the en-

counter at Gundala in Yellandu mandal, Maoists called for one day agency bandh on Sunday. The Maoists dropped two letters at the incident site. They condemned fake encounters in the State alleging that they were aimed to kill Maoists. The letters had the names of Sabari- Cherla Committee and Mahadevpur Area Committee.

Reacting to the blast, police said that Maoists exploded the IED just to prove their existence and there is no need for the people to panic.

Majority services set up online in transport department and conducting new systems of auction for fancy numbers in the department. Minister Ajay explained how he has been taking up development works in his constituency, Khammam. All devel-



The blast site on the road near Pagidivagu in Cherla mandal on Sunday night

lages, an exchanging of fire took place between a group of armed underground extremists and district police special party.

The exchanging of fire lasted for about 20 minutes. On searching the area, police found bodies of two male extremists. Police



SP K Apoorva Rao interacting with the complainants at Prajavani programme in Wanaparthy on Monday

Dispose all complaints received at Prajavani: SP Apoorva Rao

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Wanaparthy: District Superintendent of Police K Apoorva Rao directed the police officials concerned to immediately dispose of all the complaints lodged at Prajavani held at district police headquarters on Monday.

The SP received as many as 11 representations from several people complaining about land, personal and family related disputes. The SP spoke with the complainants leisurely and tried to understand their problems and issues. Later the SP in-

structed to the police officers to conduct detailed investigation into the issues and problems and directed them to resolve them as early as possible.

The SP informed that of the 11 applications received, six complaints were related to land disputes, three were personal fights and two complaints were related to disputes between wife and husband. These complaints were forwarded to the police stations concerned and clear instructions were given to the officials to resolve them at the earliest, the SP stated.

VROs hand over all records to revenue officials

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Mahabubnagar: With the State government deciding to end the Village Revenue Officers (VROs) system, the VROs across 65 mandals of the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district handed over land and other village records under their possession to the revenue officials on Monday.

As there have been various allegations of corruption and intricate delay in the updating of land records and due to various complaints against the VROs by the people, the State government has decided to scrap the VRO system and has directed revenue officials of all mandals of the five districts - Gadwal, Mahabubnagar, Wanaparthy, Nagarkurnool and Narayanpet of the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district.

Reacting to the State government's decision, many people welcomed the decision as they felt that it would pave way to curb corruption in the revenue



VROs of Nagarkurnool district sorting out the records of their respective villages to hand over to revenue officials on Monday

department that was rooted deep underneath that starts right from the VROs to higher up levels.

"I think the State government has taken a wise and daring decision to reorganize the revenue system. However, the govern-

ment should move cautiously as its decision should not cause problems to the people for availing government services, which it used to do through the VROs earlier," observed Bukka Venkatesham, Jadcherla sarpanch.

'Development works worth nearly ₹1000 cr underway'

Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar speaks on completion of one year in office

PV SATYANARAYANA

Khammam: "The first year in the office has been a challenging period. I faced many challenges like RTC strike and Covid-19 crisis successfully," stated Minister for Transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar.

On completing one year as the Transport Minister, speaking to The Hans India, he said after taking charge as the Transport Minister, he had concentrated on the development of RTC in all aspects. "with the profits of the RTC, launched new development works in one year; started CARGO services for the first time in the State and ran successfully; and earned nearly Rs 10 lakh income per day with the RTC services," he stated.

Majority services set up online in transport department and conducting new systems of auction for fancy numbers in the department. Minister Ajay explained how he has been taking up development works in his constituency, Khammam. All devel-



Minister for Transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar opment works are going on at a brisk pace in the constituency. He informed that he is spending nearly Rs 1,000 crore for various development works in the constituency and will complete all the works by Dasara festival. The IT hub will be inaugurated on Dasara festival, he informed.

Khammam district secured best place in Palle Pragathi and Pattana Pragathi programmes across the State. The farmers in the erstwhile Khammam district yield their best crops during the years, he said.

Nearly 400 Rythu Vedikalu are being constructed in all mandals in both the districts. The Minister

reminded that he had constructed Rythu Vedika building from his pocket worth Rs 40 lakh in Raghunadapalm in the district. The State government's prestigious programme of double bedroom houses is going on fast in the district, he added.

Minister Ajay Kumar expressed happiness as the dream project of Chief Minister K Chandrababai Naidu - Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project (SRLP) would be completed in next March. 75 per cent of all the major works of the project were completed already and one package of 3rd out of the eight were also completed. Once the project completes, nearly six lakh acres will come under cultivation, he stated.

The Minister also informed that tender works of Sitamma vagu project were completed and the works will start soon and will be completed in two years. After both projects were completed, the erstwhile Khammam district will be turned into an agricultural hub in the State.



Family members of farmers from Veliminedu village organising 'Vanta Varpu' as a protest in front of the RDO office in Nalgonda on Monday

Farmers stage vanta varpu

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nalgonda: Opposing the State government's move to acquire lands assigned to them for setting up an industrial park at survey number 418 in Veliminedu village of Chityal mandal in the district, victims along with their families staged a protest 'Vanta Varpu' before RDO office in Nalgonda on Monday.

As many as 62 farmers of assigned lands took part in the protest demonstration and displayed placards of rollback of government's decision and justice to them. A delegation of farmers submitted a memorandum of their concerns and demands to RDO Jagdishwar and urged him to bring

their grief to the notice of the government.

Speaking to the media, victim farmers said that the government had assigned 64 acres to 62 families in survey number 418 in Veliminedu about 50 years ago. Survey number 418 has 123 acres of government land. Stating that all the assigned landowners got notices from the officials that the lands will be acquired to set up industrial park, they lamented that they will lose their livelihood as they have been cultivating the lands for the past five decades.

They urged the government to exempt them by acquiring the private lands located adjacent to survey number 418 for setting up industrial park in their village.

Now, yummy dishes to lure Covid patients in Hyd

- They are now offering a special, protein-rich diet with a variety of recipes to the Covid-19 patients admitted in their hospitals
- The menu consists of non-veg dishes, boiled eggs, paneer curries
- Food charges per day ranges from ₹550 to ₹1,200 depending upon patient's food requirements

MAHESH AVADHUTHA

Hyderabad: Corporate hospitals in twin cities that usually serve simple and plain diet to patients admitted in the hospital have changed their menu this season.

They are now offering a special, protein-rich diet with a variety of recipes, snacks, soups, fruits and fruit juices to Covid-19 patients admitted in their hospitals. These hospitals never used to serve non-vegetarian dishes, but the pandemic has set a new precedence. Some of the hospitals, if not all, are offering fish and chicken curries while almost all

DAY'S MENU IN A CORPORATE HOSPITAL

BREAKFAST:

- Idly/Upma, dry fruits, fruit juice /Ragi porridge

LUNCH:

- Dry curry, wet curry, pulka, rice, dal, curd, salad, boiled egg, dessert or fruits, soup, rice/ dal rice, or curd rice (for diabetic patients)



EVENING SNACKS:

- Tea, Legumes/ puffed rice/ rice flakes/ namkeen

DINNER:

- Dry curry, paneer curry, pulka, sliced fruit, rice/dal rice or curd rice (for diabetic patients)

of them have included boiled eggs as a part of their menu. Due to the emphasis on protein-rich diet, hospitals had to give in to the demands and tastes of patients and hence the

decision to offer non-veg dishes. As an alternative, some hospitals are offering paneer dishes.

Due to the intake of various kinds of anti-viral drugs and

steroids during corona treatment, patients are experiencing an increased appetite and hence they are being offered rich nutritious food during breakfast, lunch, evening snacks and dinner.

Due to the special diet being served now corporate hospitals are charging anywhere between Rs 550 to Rs 1,200 per day as food charges. Patients per day costs are going up to Rs one lakh per day which is why they are not holding back when it comes to filling their hunger pangs. Some patients are seeking the one-on-one meetings with dieticians so as to ask them to include some of their taste choices on the menu.

Sujatha Stephan, a noted dietician and wellness expert stated that they are offering high protein normal diet and high protein soft diet depending on whether the patient is diabetic or non-diabetic. The diet composition per day in food given to patients is around 2,000 to 2,600 calories and 60 to 80 gms of protein. She said that dietician and nutritionist's role has become very important in Covid treatment as nutritious food decides the recovery of patient and in restoring immunity levels in the body.

Woman ends life over husband's harassment

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirumalagiri (Suryapet): A woman has committed suicide by consuming pesticide unable to bear harassment by her husband. This incident took place at Edulaguda Thanda hamlet of Bhukya Naik Thanda in Tirumalagiri mandal on Monday.

According to the family members, Bhukya Nehru of Bhukya Naik Thanda was already married and he followed Gugulothu Saritha, daughter of Gugulothu Mali and Kamali, saying that he loved her. After one year, he married her.

Bhukya's family members were torturing Saritha for the last few days. On September 4, Saritha's husband Bhukya Nehru along with his family members cut her hair after beating her blue and black and left



Wedding photo of Saritha and Bhukya Nehru

her on the outskirts of Edulaguda village.

Saritha filed a complaint with the police on September 5 and the village elders conducted panchayat on September 6 and postponed the matter to September 11. Saritha was depressed with the injustice meter out by her husband

and his family members.

On Monday, she consumed pesticide near an agriculture well and died after reaching her parents' house.

Following a complaint by the deceased father Gugulothu Manu, police filed a case and took up investigation.

Pay ₹25 L compensation to kin of deceased in Gollapadu issue: BJP

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Khammam: Former MLC and BJP core committee member Dr Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy spewed fire on the officials over Gollapadu issue and condemned the officers' action of forcibly vacating the villagers from their houses.

Speaking to the media here on Monday, Sudhakar Reddy stressed that the death of Yellaboina Yashodamma, who died of cardiac arrest, was caused by the officers. He asked the police to take immediate action on the officers, who were responsible for the death of Yashodamma and also asked them to file cases against revenue officers and TRS

leaders, who forcibly vacated the places of the victims.

Ponguleti demanded the government for immediate action and called for a judicial enquiry on Yashodamma's death. He also discussed the issue with State party president B Sanjay, who condemned the action of the officers in the issue. Sudhakar Reddy warned the officers to behave like government officials but not like TRS leaders. He demanded the government to announce compensation of Rs 25 lakh to Yashodamma's her family members immediately. He also sought action to be taken on the officers, who were responsible for her death.

Bahubali shows love for wild; donates ₹2 cr for forest growth

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: Noted Tollywood actor Prabhas has adopted a reserve forest on the outskirts of Hyderabad and handed over Rs 2 crore to the forest officials for the development of the reserve forest, spread in 1,650 acres.

Prabhas along with the State Forest Minister A Andra Karan Reddy and TRS MP J Santosh Kumar, brain behind the Green India Challenge, laid foundation stone for the development of urban forest park in the Khajipalli reserve forest near Dundigal of Medchal-Malkajigiri district on Monday. The Forest department will convert a small portion of the reserve forest into an urban forest park while the rest of the forest would be a conservation zone. The Forest department will fence

the entire 1,650 acres and immediately start the works. Park gate, a see-through wall, walking track, view point, gazebo and a medicinal plant centre would be constructed in the first phase. All the steps to prevent the encroachment of forest land are also being taken by the Forest Department.

The Baahubali actor, on the occasion, said that he would donate more depending on the progress of works, and requested the Forest officials to develop the reserve forest so that it would create an additional lung space in HMDA limits.



Collector pays surprise visit to Munagala

Munagala (Suryapet): District Collector Vinay Krishna Reddy confirmed the orders of scrapping of VRO system by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar at a review meeting with Tahsildar and VROs in Munagala on Monday. He paid a surprise visit to Tahsildar office of Munagala. At the meeting, the Collector informed that as per the orders of CS Somesh Kumar, all the records have to be collected from VROs by 3 pm on Monday and to be sent to CCLA by 5 pm. He directed Tahsildar to collect all the records including Panahis, ROR, mutation, record room registers, village maps, pending as well as inquiry completed files, caste and revenue certificates, all original and xerox copies.

US OPEN

Djokovic disqualified after hitting line official with ball

New York (IANS): World No.1 Novak Djokovic was disqualified in the US Open fourth round match against Pablo CarrenoBusta after accidentally hitting a line umpire with a ball.

After CarrenoBusta broke to lead 6-5 in the first set on Sunday, Djokovic angrily hit a ball that made contact with a lineswoman. Following an extended discussion between Djokovic and tournament officials, the match was ended.

"In accordance with the Grand Slam rulebook, following his actions of intentionally hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences, the US Open tournament referee defaulted Novak Djokovic from the 2020 US Open," the USTA said in an official statement.

"Because he was defaulted, Djokovic will lose all ranking points earned at the US Open and will be fined the prize money won at the tournament in addition to any or all fines levied with respect to the offending incident," the statement added.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion also released a statement on social media saying,



"This whole situation has left me really sad and empty. I checked on the linesperson and the tournament told me that thank God she is feeling ok. I'm extremely sorry to have caused her such stress. So unintended. So wrong.

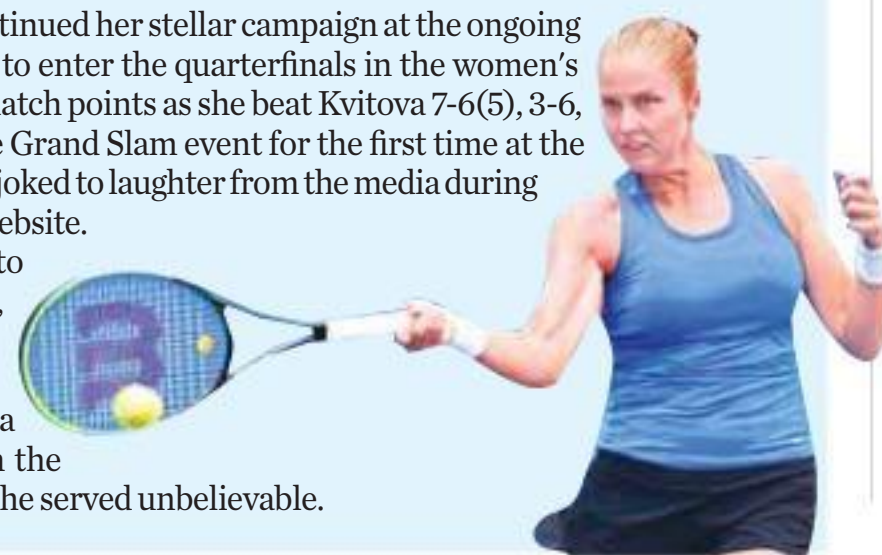
"As for the disqualification, I need to go back within and work on my disappointment and turn this all into a lesson for my growth and evolution as a player and human being.

"I apologise to the US Open tournament and everyone as-

Rogers causes Kvitova upset, advances to quarters

New York (IANS): World No.93 Shelby Rogers continued her stellar campaign at the ongoing US Open as she defeated No.6 seed Petra Kvitova to enter the quarterfinals in the women's singles event. On Sunday, US Rogers saved four match points as she beat Kvitova 7-6(5), 3-6, 7-6(6) to make it to the quarter-finals at her home Grand Slam event for the first time at the Flushing Meadows. "Day 72 in the bubble," Rogers joked to laughter from the media during her post-match press conference as per the WTA website.

"It's been a long time here in New York. I'm happy to be sticking around for some more." "The tiebreaker, the whole match actually, was a little bit of a roller coaster for both of us," said Rogers. "The first set, you know, a tiebreak. (Kvitova) upped her level a little bit in the second there. I was up a break in the third, she breaks back. She's just hitting missiles. She served unbelievable.



sociated for my behaviour. I'm very grateful to my team and family for being my rock support, and my fans for always being there with me. Thank you and I'm so sorry," he added.

After the match, CarrenoBusta told reporters: "I didn't watch the moment when he (hit) the ball-I was looking to my coach, celebrating the break."

"I asked the Colombian guys who were in the crowd if the ball hit the line (umpire). I was in shock...I hope the best for her. I hope that she will be okay as soon as possible," he added.

CarrenoBusta will now face 12th seed Denis Shapovalov in the quarter-finals.



Fati's landmark strike helps Spain beat Ukraine in Nations league

Madrid (IANS): AnsuFati became Spain's youngest-ever goalscorer and Sergio Ramos scored twice as Spain cruised past Ukraine 4-0 in Madrid in the ongoing UEFA Nations League.

In just the third minute of the first half on Sunday, 17-year-old Fati drew a foul from SerhiyKyrstov to earn a penalty that Sergio Ramos converted clinically, reports Xinhua news agency.

The captain scored his and Spain's second by looping a header over AndriyPyatov just before the half-hour mark, only for Fati to steal his thunder with a wonderful strike just three minutes later.

The Barcelona wonderkid cut inside from the left flank again before fizzing a spectacular finish beyond Pyatov

from outside the area. Ferran Torres later completed the scoring for Spain.

Spain now move top of Group A4, one point ahead of second-placed Ukraine. Germany are third on two points after they lost 0-1 to Switzerland.

Also on Sunday, Wales edged Bulgaria 1-0 to top the second-tier Group B4, while Ireland lost 0-1 at home to Finland.

Russia maintained their winning start in B3 with a 3-2 triumph in Hungary to build on their opening success over Serbia, who were reduced to 10 men in a 0-0 draw with Turkey.

Greece won 2-1 in Kosovo to top Group C3 on goals scored from Slovenia, who saw off Moldova 1-0.

India's Aus tour likely to begin either in Adelaide or Brisbane

Melbourne (IANS): Indian team's tour of Australia, slated to begin towards the end of the year, will begin either in Adelaide or Brisbane and not in Perth after Western Australia state government said that there won't be any relaxation in quarantine rules in their territory.

According to a report in ESPNcricinfo, the Adelaide Oval is prepared to host back-to-back Tests, including a day-night match as well as the Boxing Day against India later during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in case the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) is not available because of rising coronavirus cases in the state of Victoria.

"We didn't think it was acceptable to have the team return from a high-risk overseas location and then take part in normal training activities outside of quarantine, before flying out to another state to play games," Mark McGowan, the Premier of the WA state government, was quoted as saying in the report.

"There were just too many risks in the model put forward by Cricket Australia. We need to remain vigilant and do the right thing by all Western Australians and not take unnecessary chances."

We need to feature in every AFC Asian Cup, says Gouramangi Singh

New Delhi (IANS): Former India captain Gouramangi Singh has said the team needs to keep trying to feature at the AFC Asian Cup every time.

In a live chat with AIIFF TV, Gouramangi, talking about the significance of the qualification after a gap of 27 years, mentioned "we are on the right track."

"The 2011 Asian Cup made us realise that we can do it -- hang with those top teams. The belief, the confidence -- everything was at a high," he said.

"The World Cup is a long-term project but I think we are now on the right track. We have to keep focusing, keep trying to feature at the AFC Asian Cup every four years and try and finish among the top ten teams," he added.

"That should be our immediate target which we can use to build on. The number of teams in the World Cup is set to increase. So the chance is going to grow and be there. We have to keep working hard and be the top ten in Asia," the 34-year-old added.

Since making his India debut in 2006, Gouramangi has won a plethora of trophies with the national team, including multiple



Nehru Cup and SAFF titles -- along with the AFC Challenge Cup in 2008. A member of the iconic 'Class of 2011', he was named the AIIFF Player of the Year in 2010.

Currently an A-Licence coach with Bengaluru United, Gouramangi pointed out the increase in exposure for players over the years with both club and country will continue to "benefit" the players greatly.

"We talk about the exposure tours with clubs, which is new, and also with the national team. We have been travelling abroad, getting foreign exposure and playing overseas clubs. Players in the national team set-up are used to it more or less as they have been getting to do it a lot in the last few years," he said.

33 sportspersons apply for diploma course in coaching

New Delhi (IANS): As many as 33 eminent sports personalities across 15 sports disciplines have applied for direct admission for the diploma course in sports coaching at the NetajiSubhash National Institute of Sports (NSNIS) Patiala. The list of applicants include 2008 Olympics Rowing participant BajrangLal Thakur, boxer Manoj Kumar, participant at the London 2012 Olympics as well as Rio 2016 Olympics participants Kunhu-Muhammed (Athletics) and Poonam Rani (Hockey). They, along with the other sportspersons, have applied for the diploma course under the direct admission category and hence are exempted from the online test. "In view of the encouraging participation of eminent sportsperson in the sports coaching sector and align the course intake with evolving needs of the sports ecosystem, the Sports Authority of India brought forward a revamped diploma course in sports coaching to be made effective from the academic year 2020-2021," SAI said in a statement. For the first time ever, 46 eminent athletes (1 male, 1 female coach in each discipline) across 23 sports, would get direct admission to the flagship Diploma Course, as announced in May by Union Sports Minister KirenRijiju.

Southampton (IANS): Wicket-keeper batsman Jos Buttler, who guided England to a comprehensive win against Australia in the second T20I of the ongoing three-match series, has said he loves opening the batting. "It probably is my favourite position to bat in T20 cricket," said Buttler as quoted by Sky Sports.

"I've had most of my success in T20 at the top, but that's natural - if you bat in the top three in T20, it's the best place for everyone. "We've probably got eight or nine guys who'd stick their hand up to bat in the top three; I'm very happy there, but I'm also very happy to do whatever the team needs of me," he added.

On Sunday, Buttler played an unbeaten knock of 77 runs as England comprehensively defeated Australia by 6 wickets. The wicket-keeper-batsman explored all corners of the ground as he smashed eight 4s and two 6s during his 54-ball knock and helped the hosts chase down 158 with seven balls to spare and seal the three-match series being played at the Ageas Bowl. "I've played a lot of my career - T20 and one-day cricket - batting in the middle, so I'm very comfortable doing that as well. It's really for the coach and captain to decide," said Buttler. "We've got lots of strength in depth; it's something that is the mark of good teams, good players fighting over positions and that will

‘Opening the batting my favourite position in T20s’



serve us well going forward.

"It was a great feeling to be able to walk off at the end, having won the game for your team - obviously a big game for us, with the chance to win the series, which we were determined to do.

"Once I came through the powerplay - it was one of those wickets where you felt like you needed a few balls to get used to the pace of it - and then the game was set up like a one-day chase.

"Irrelevant to me opening, I just saw it as if I was coming in the middle-order of a one-day game, the equation of trying to chase those runs down," he added.

Jos Buttler to miss final T20I

Southampton (IANS): England wicketkeeper-batsman Jos Buttler will miss the third and final T20I of the ongoing series against Australia scheduled for Tuesday at the Ageas Bowl. In a statement, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed on Monday that Buttler left the bio-secure bubble on Sunday evening following the team's victory over Australia to be with his family.

Delhi Capitals' assistant physio tests Covid-19 +ive

Dubai (IANS): Delhi Capitals' assistant physiotherapist has tested positive for coronavirus, the franchise has revealed ahead of the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) slated to start on September 19 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Late on Sunday, the franchise confirmed that the physio had been in quarantine and not in contact with any other member of the team. He had travelled independently to the UAE earlier last week and tested negative in the first two tests, conducted on days 1 and 3 respectively after arrival. The third RT-PCR test, conducted on day 6, however returned a positive result. Delhi Capitals will begin their campaign against Kings XI Punjab at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on September 20.

Even after 150 games, Kramnik & I are exactly at same score, says Anand

New Delhi (IANS): Former world champion VishwanathanAnand's rivalry with Vladimir Kramnik is one of the most revered rivalries in the history of modern day sports.

During the second episode of 'The Finish Line' -- an eight-part web series conceptualised by Baseline Ventures -- Anand spoke at length about his rivalry with Kramnik and delved into how both of them are on identical scores even after a whopping 150 games.

When quizzed about his rivalry with Kramnik and what makes it so special and memorable, Anand said: "Well we joined the top of the world chess roughly at the same time, I joined two years ahead of him. At that point I did not remember it yet, but later on he told me that we had met three years ago."

"I played him once in 1989 which kind of slipped my mind but I met him again in 1992 and that year was his breakthrough moment. Out of the 20 odd years we have



swapped the number 2-3 position.

"We were always very close to each other in terms of points, so close that when he

retired our scores were absolutely identical even after more the 150 games," he added. Anand was a 1E4 player and Kram-

nik had always been a 1D4 player but the Indian decided to go with 1D4 in the big match for the world title.

"Well it was a big risk to take for sure in such a scenario, I looked at my recent games with him where I found that I was finding it very difficult to land the punch in E4. I did not want to get to a position where we were playing some sort of a boring attrition chess, then I suddenly thought why not play with D4 as I have dabbled with it even though I am not very good at it," said Anand.

"It wasn't a logical decision, If I would have written down pros and cons after a while I would have convinced myself to not pursue it. For someone who might not understand, in exaggerated words, it is the equivalent of Federer switching to his left hand against Nadal in a grand slam," he added.

Snooker legend PankajAdvani will feature in the next episode of 'The Finish Line' this Friday.

Bob Willis Trophy: Match abandoned after player tests corona positive

Bristol (IANS): The Bob Willis Trophy match between Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire was abandoned after one of the non-traveling members of Northamptonshire, who came in contact with the playing squad, was found positive for Covid-19. The match was called off before the lunch break on Sunday at the Bristol County Ground. "Just before lunch of the first session of play, it came to light that a member of the Northamptonshire playing squad has tested positive for COVID-19," the Northamptonshire County Cricket Club said in a statement. "Although the player was not part of the group that travelled with the squad to Bristol (and has been self-isolating at home), further members of the Northamptonshire squad have been in contact with the player within 48 hours of the player developing COVID-19 symptoms."