



THE HANS INDIA

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

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



WINDOWS



I am doing well, says Venkaiah Naidu from home quarantine

New Delhi (PTI): Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, who has tested positive for Covid-19, on Wednesday thanked the vice president of Maldives for his message wishing him speedy recovery, and said he appreciates his spontaneous response and sincere concern. Responding to a message from Vice President Faisal Naseem of Maldives, Naidu said, "I am doing well and there is no cause for concern." "I am taking all necessary steps to combat the virus as per medical advice. I am indeed touched by your warm good wishes," the Vice President Secretariat tweeted quoting Naidu. The vice president also thanked ministers, chief ministers and legislators for their messages wishing him a speedy recovery. "I am indeed touched by your warm, good wishes," he responded on Twitter. Naidu had on Tuesday tested positive for Covid-19. He is asymptomatic and in good health. Naidu, 71, has been advised home quarantine. His wife Usha Naidu has tested negative for Covid-19 and is in self-isolation.

India successfully test-fires BrahMos missile

Bhubaneswar (IANS): India on Wednesday successfully test-fired an extended-range supersonic cruise missile BrahMos with an indigenous booster from a test facility off the Odisha coast. The missile was launched around 10.30 am from a mobile launcher at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore district, sources said. An Indo-Russian joint venture, BrahMos missile has a strike range of about 400 km. "Congratulations @DRDO_India on the successful test-firing of an extended range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. The missile with an indigenous booster will further strengthen India's defence capability," tweeted Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. It is the second time that the extended-range version of BrahMos has been test-fired. BrahMos missile was originally built with a range of 290 km.



ALL BABRI DEMOLITION ACCUSED ACQUITTED

Demolition was not a planned incident but a spontaneous act: Special CBI judge SK Yadav

Lucknow (IANS): A Special CBI court hearing the Babri mosque demolition case of December 6, 1992, acquitted all the 32 accused on Wednesday saying it was spontaneous and not a planned move.

Those acquitted in the case that lasted 28 years include former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani, former Union Ministers MM Joshi, Uma Bharti, former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh and Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, among others.

Former BJP MP Vinay Katiyar and Hindu leader Sadhvi Rithambhara, who were among the accused present in court, said: "Sab Ramji ki kripa hai".

As soon as the court announced the acquittal of the accused, jubilation broke out outside the court, in Ayodhya and Lucknow where supporters of the leaders were present to celebrate the occasion.

Special CBI judge SK Yadav, in his verdict, said that the demolition was not a planned incident but a spontaneous act.

He said that Ashok Singhal and other Sangh Parishad leaders wanted to save the structure as Ram Lalla statues were inside.

The court observed that leaders who were present on the dais repeatedly tried to persuade the 'kar-sewaks' against taking any action on that day.

The court further said the CBI has failed to substantiate the charges levelled against the 32 accused persons. The court also said that the video recordings submitted to



the court were 'tampered with'.

The judge pointed out that the prosecution could not produce enough evidence against the accused.

He said that the authenticity of audio, video provided by CBI could not be proven and the audio of the speeches were not clear.

The court also said that those who climbed on the dome, were anti-social elements. The 26 accused persons who were present in court on Wednesday, said that they had always maintained that the demolition was a conspiracy by the then Congress government.

Babri plaintiff, Iqbal Ansari, said in Ayodhya that after the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Ram temple last year, the demolition case had lost its relevance. "I welcome acquittal of the 32 persons by the court. There should be no further dispute on the matter," he said.

'Sab ko sanmatti de bhagwan'

HANS NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi: The veterans, who were among those acquitted in the 28-year-old Babri masjid demolition case, said that the judgement had vindicated the BJP's "commitment towards Ram Janmabhoomi movement." Minutes after the judgement, the former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani, who appeared in the court through video conference said, "I am grateful to my party workers, leaders, saints, and all those through



selfless involvement and sacrifices gave me strength and support during the Ayodhya movement." Former Union Minister Murali Manohar Joshi and BJP veteran, who also appeared in the court through video conference, termed "historic" the ver-

dict by a special CBI court acquitting all the 32 accused, including him. "I will say only one thing 'Jai Jai Shri Ram, Sab ko sanmatti de bhagwan (May Lord, bestow wisdom on all)," he said. VHP international working president Alok Kumar said it took 28 years for courts to deliver justice. "This judgement now hopefully draws the final curtains on an issue that had been agitating the Hindu psyche for some 472 years," he said. The CPI(M) described the acquittal of all the accused in the Babri masjid demolition case by a special CBI court in Lucknow on Wednesday as a "travesty of justice". Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said every Indian who has innate faith in the Constitution and in the spirit of communal amity and brotherhood expects and urges the central and state governments to file an appeal against the decision of the special court.



The judgment has made it clear that then Congress Government had wrongly framed and defamed respected saints, BJP leaders, and office-bearers of Vishwa Hindu Parishad out of its politically prejudice and over its politics of vote bank. The public of this country would not leave those responsible for this controversy

— Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

Union Minister Gadkari recovers from Covid-19

New Delhi (PTI): Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said he has recovered from coronavirus. The Road Transport, Highways and MSME minister was tested positive on September 16. Thanking people for their prayers and wishes, the minister in a tweet said: "I am happy to say that I have recovered from coronavirus with the blessings and good wishes of all".

The former BJP president also thanked well-wishers for their affection to him. On September 16



The minister had also requested all who had come in his contact to follow the protocol.

The monsoon session of Parliament concluded on September 23, eight days ahead of the schedule, due to concerns over the spread of the corona virus among members.

Continued on Page 5

Common cold in past may give protection from Covid-19

New York (IANS): In a big breakthrough, researchers have found that people who have had a bout of seasonal or common cold in the past may get protection from Covid-19. The study, published in the journal mBio, also suggests that immunity to Covid-19 is likely to last a long time -- maybe even a lifetime.

The study showed that the Covid-19-causing virus, SARS-CoV-2, induces memory B cells, long-lived immune cells that detect pathogens, create antibodies to destroy them and remember them for the future. The next time that pathogen tries to enter the body, those

memory B cells can hop into action even faster to clear the infection before it starts.

Because memory B cells can survive for decades, they could protect Covid-19 survivors from subsequent infections for a long time, but further research will have to bear that out, the researchers said.

The study is also the first to report cross-reactivity of memory B cells -- meaning B cells that once attacked cold-causing corona viruses appeared to also recognise SARS-CoV-2.

Study authors believe this could mean that anyone who has been infected by a common coronavirus -- which is



nearly everyone -- may have some degree of pre-existing immunity to Covid-19.

"When we looked at blood samples from people who were recovering from Covid-19, it looked like many of them had a pre-existing pool of memory B cells that could recognise SARS-CoV-2 and rapidly produce antibodies that could attack it," said lead study author Mark Sangster from the University of

Rochester in the US. The findings are based on a comparison of blood samples from 26 people who were recovering from mild to moderate Covid-19 and 21 healthy donors whose samples were collected six to 10 years ago -- long before they could have been exposed to Covid-19.

From those samples, study authors measured levels of memory B cells and antibodies that target specific parts of the Spike protein, which exists in all corona viruses and is crucial for helping the viruses infect cells.

The Spike protein looks and acts a little different in each corona virus, but one of

its components, the S2 subunit, stays pretty much the same across all of the viruses.

Memory B cells can't tell the difference between the Spike S2 subunits of the different corona viruses, and attack indiscriminately.

The study found that was true for beta corona viruses, a subclass that includes two cold-causing viruses as well as SARS, MERS and SARS-CoV-2.

"Now we need to see if having this pool of pre-existing memory B cells correlates with milder symptoms and shorter disease course -- or if it helps boost the effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccines," the authors wrote.

Will you shut up, man: Personal attacks rule first Trump-Biden debate

New York (IANS): "Clown", "Liar", "just shush for a minute" and "keep yapping" were the insults that will forever be the highlight of the first Trump-Biden US presidential debate 2020 with Fox News anchor and moderator Chris Wallace coming in for serious flak based on how he allowed American President Donald Trump to aggressively interrupt his Democratic challenger Joe Biden throughout the first US presidential debate in Cleveland, Ohio.

Trump snarled, grimaced and wagged his fingers at Biden repeatedly throughout the 90-minute debate.

At one point, he said: "I'll tell you Joe, you could never have done the job that we did. You don't have it in your blood."

"Everything he says here is a lie", Biden snapped. "The wrong guy, wrong night, wrong time. This man doesn't know what he's talking about," Biden said several times during the evening.

The US election is 35 days away and it is increasingly likely that in the current Covid-19 situation, the results may not be known for days or weeks after November 3 -- the election date. "I'm 80 per cent sad, and 20 per cent mad as hell", is how

Claire McCaskill, former Senator from Missouri, described her takeaways from the debate. Washington Post columnist Eugene Robinson thinks "much of the nation must have been appalled." "I don't know what the hell we watched."

Donald Trump chased the "television audience away" according to veteran Democratic strategist James Carville. "It was unwatchable, 25 minutes in."

In less than 10 minutes, the debate descended into personal attacks when the moderator failed to keep Trump quiet during Biden's two minute talk time. Biden

shot back at Trump, "Will you shut up, man?"

Reacting to the first debate performance, Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris said "America was given a very clear choice". She cast Trump as a man out of his depth and playing defence.

"What we saw was a dog whistle through a bullhorn," she said on late night television. "That performance tonight is going to convince people Donald Trump is not worthy of another term" David Plouffe, former Barack Obama campaign manager, said in post debate comments.

India not giving accurate Covid death count: Trump

New York (IANS): US President Donald Trump has said that India does not give a "straight count" on the Covid-19 deaths and is dirtying the environment. During the presidential debate on Tuesday night with Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden, they both sparred over the extent of the deaths caused by the pandemic.

Biden said that the 200,000 people who died of the corona virus in America were 20 per cent of the



ROUND ONE

global death toll of 1 million while the US population is only 4 per cent of the world. Trump shot back, "When

you talk about numbers you know how many people dies in China? You know how many people dies in Russia?

You don't know how many people died in India. They don't give you a straight count."

Trump said that the pandemic was China's fault, but Biden tried to deflect China's role wanting to pin the blame for its ravages on Trump.

When climate change and the Paris Climate Agreement, from which Trump withdrew the US came up, he said, "China sends up real dirt into the air. Russia does. India does."

Womenia



Natural feminine care to tribal artisans

TEJAL SINHA

While we are busy normalizing the new normal and fighting a global health crisis, it is so important to make our new normal world a safer, better and happier place for women.

Having women at the core of their product and the brand, Heyday and Okhai have come together to celebrate and honor women to recognize the beauty of their being and also their contribution to their families and society.

The initiative #WeAreEqual, urges all men and women to participate in raising awareness towards women equality in India. Anyone can participate in this initiative by making an equal '=' sign with their hands alone or with anyone. Each time a person uploads an image or story on Instagram, as their participation, Heyday will provide one natural sanitary napkin towards the tribal women artisans of Okhai.

Sharing about the same, Deepanjali Kanoria, founder of Heyday says, "At Heyday, we provide pure organic personal care to empower women and normalize periods

because we believe that half of us cannot be left behind just because we bleed once a month. Each man and woman working at Heyday and Okhai is building a world of opportunity and equality because indeed #WeAreEqual. Every time one of you participate in the initiative with us, we will provide a Heyday natural sanitary napkin to the tribal artisans of Okhai to increase awareness about safe and sustainable menstrual practices."

Okhai is a sustainable fashion brand dedicated towards creating livelihood opportunities for rural women artisans and protecting ancient tribal craft from extinction. Currently Okhai is impacting over 16000 artisans. It continues its march towards fulfilling its vision of being a brand that symbolizes empowerment of rural and semi-

urban women while recognizing and promoting traditional handicraft techniques that are in danger of dying out with increased industrial growth and rapid urbanization. As a brand, Okhai Handicrafts constitutes ladies' wear, men's wear, home décor products and accessories.

Kirti Poonia, Head of Okhai shares, "With plastic pollution on the rise and toxic ingredients found in regular sanitary pads, we think clean menstruation is truly imperative in today's time. With this collaboration we are hoping to spread the message and educate more & more women on the importance of sustainable sanitary products that are not only safe to use but at the same time kind to Earth. We are looking to provide these sanitary napkins to our 1500 artisans in Gujarat who will be very happy to receive these organic & eco-friendly pads by Heyday."

While Heyday aims to make every woman aware about her choices and keep comfort and health as paramount values of the brand, Okhai is continuing to uplift the economic and social status of women and honing their talent. As sustainable brands, they are not only giving back to the society but also taking a step towards making a change in people's lifestyle and pushing them to make more informed choices.

Healthier and Softer way of experiencing hygiene
"Heyday products are derived from corn and bamboo fibres and decompose within two years from disposal saving the Earth from acres of polluted landfills. From a young age, I would struggle with rashes and chafing during my periods and being a taboo topic, the need for an alternative was brushed away as unnecessary. The idea of finding sustainable solutions to everyday problems always fascinated me and being educated at all women's institutions, I was more inclined to helping women overcome problems they faced in their everyday lives through the means of innovation," said Deepanjali.

The campaign begins from October 1-4, with an aim to promote women empowerment and encourage everybody, irrespective of gender, to identify themselves equally

Well-balanced diet while pregnant

A well-balanced meal plan should be a lifelong priority but it is of critical importance when one is planning to have a baby. Yes, you heard right! The foundation of a healthy child begins before he is even conceived. In fact, proper nutrition at this eminent period can ensure optimum health for the following two generations of progeny.

In the same way like a farmer fertilizes the soil before planting his crops, women who plan to get pregnant, need to enrich their bodies and womb in order to properly nourish their future child. As one would try to keep their house spic and span before the visit of a guest, follow my suggestions to prepare

your body for the arrival of your bundle of joy.

A Fool-proof diet that works for every age group, every season and every juncture in life is - 'The Indian Diet'. It is balanced in all nutrients, easily available, malleable to any season and perfect for pre-conception.

Indian whole grains are integral in this period. Whole wheat, Rice are staples we cannot do without. Millets like jowar, nachni, bajra add variation along with a bulk of fibre and important nutrients like calcium and iron. Whole Grains also impart essential. B vitamins like folate that are important for fetal growth and development.

Protein is required to form tis-



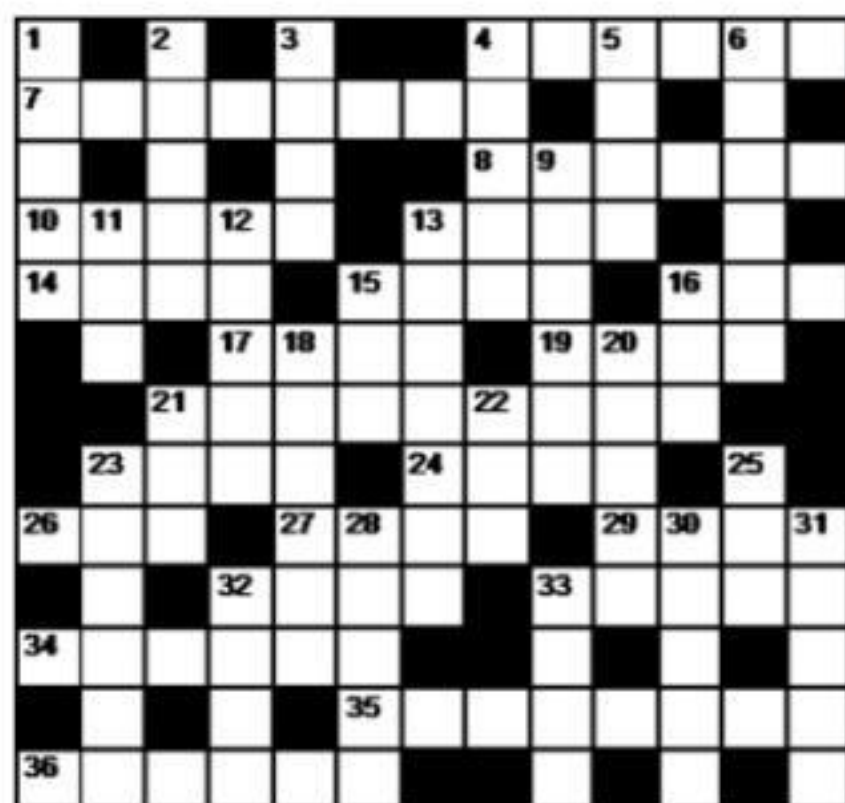
sues and muscles to create the womb lining. Whole pulses like rajma, moong, chickpea, channa and dals like masoor, tur, moogar etc. provide enough protein along with magnesium, zinc, iron, folate.

Every roti is incomplete without ghee and every Indian meal is incomplete without good fats. Fats like ghee and coconut satiate and keep you full for longer as well as act as transporters of all the healing substances found in Indian spices. Nuts like almonds, walnuts and seeds like flaxseed, pumpkin and sesame provide Vitamin E and Omega-3. They are two essential antioxidant nutrients that play a part in neural growth of the future fetus.

Eating plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables is a no-brainer but eating seasonal varieties is more beneficial. You get the goodness of vitamins, minerals, fiber and also a smaller chance of encountering pesticides

and inorganic fertilizers that could be harmful during pregnancy.

The cherry on top of the Indian diet cake are the spices and herbs. Not only do they transform the flavour of a dish but they act as digestive aids, lower blood sugar, protect the heart and fight infections. Cutting out processed sugar, white flour, fried food and unnecessary preservatives is another step towards a healthy future. To prepare for pregnancy, I suggest you to definitely choose 'The Indian Diet' as your fuel and secure your health and that of generations to come.



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 30

CROSSWORD

Across

- 4 Small stone (6)
- 7 Indian mountain range (8)
- 8 Resounds (6)
- 10 Positive pole (5)
- 13 A heavenly body (4)
- 14 Sound quality (4)
- 15 Dolls' partners (4)
- 16 "Over" for the poet (3)
- 17 Orchard product (4)
- 19 Jazz style (4)
- 21 Like most air-raid shelters? (9)
- 23 Former Yugoslav leader (4)
- 24 Fat (4)
- 26 Household animal (3)
- 27 Tense (4)
- 29 Way out (4)
- 32 Slippery fish (4)
- 33 Poetry (5)
- 34 A dress with a full skirt (6)
- 35 Artistic portrayal of Christ crowned with thorns (4,4)
- 36 Dirty animal shed (6)

Down

- 1 Moroccan city (5)
- 2 Artificial fibre (5)
- 3 Brandish (4)
- 4 Godly behaviour (5)
- 5 Physicist Niels (4)
- 6 Looked lasciviously at (6)
- 9 Pollux's twin (6)
- 11 Sign of assent (3)
- 12 A railroad station (5)
- 13 Excess (7)
- 15 Talk or chat idly (3)
- 16 Clumsy fellow (3)
- 18 Acted poorly (6)
- 20 Cowboy show (5)
- 21 A tiny amount (3)
- 22 Large mouse (3)
- 23 Pacific island (6)
- 25 ___ a ___ : in connection with (same word) ? (3)
- 28 Narrow street (5)
- 30 Inert gas (5)
- 31 Misprints (5)
- 32 Concludes (4)
- 33 Not an aristocrat (4)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO SEPTEMBER 30

NEWS ROUNDUP

Kangana: Fashion is nothing but freedom of expression

Actress Kangana Ranaut has shared how her fashion sense has evolved over the years, and defines fashion as freedom of expression.

Kangana took to Twitter and posted then and now photos. In one photo, she is seen wearing a frock and a pearl necklace. In another, she is sitting in the front row of a fashion show.

Explaining how her fashion has evolved over the years, she tweeted, "When I was a little girl I decorated myself with pearls, cut my own hair, wore thigh high socks and heels. People laughed at me. From being a village clown to attending front rows of London, Paris, New York Fashion weeks I realised fashion is nothing but freedom of expression."

Kangana has in the past used her stardom to promote Indian fashion. Earlier this month, she spoke about how we draw inspiration from Europe or Japan for fashion, but handlooms in India are often ignored.



TWEET PATROL



SHILPA SHETTY KUNDRA
@THESHILPASHETTY

Absolutely!! My blood boils ...just thinking of what the family must be going through.. it's heart wrenching. #Hathras #horror



Semi-permanent make-up for alluring brows and lips

PUJA GUPTA

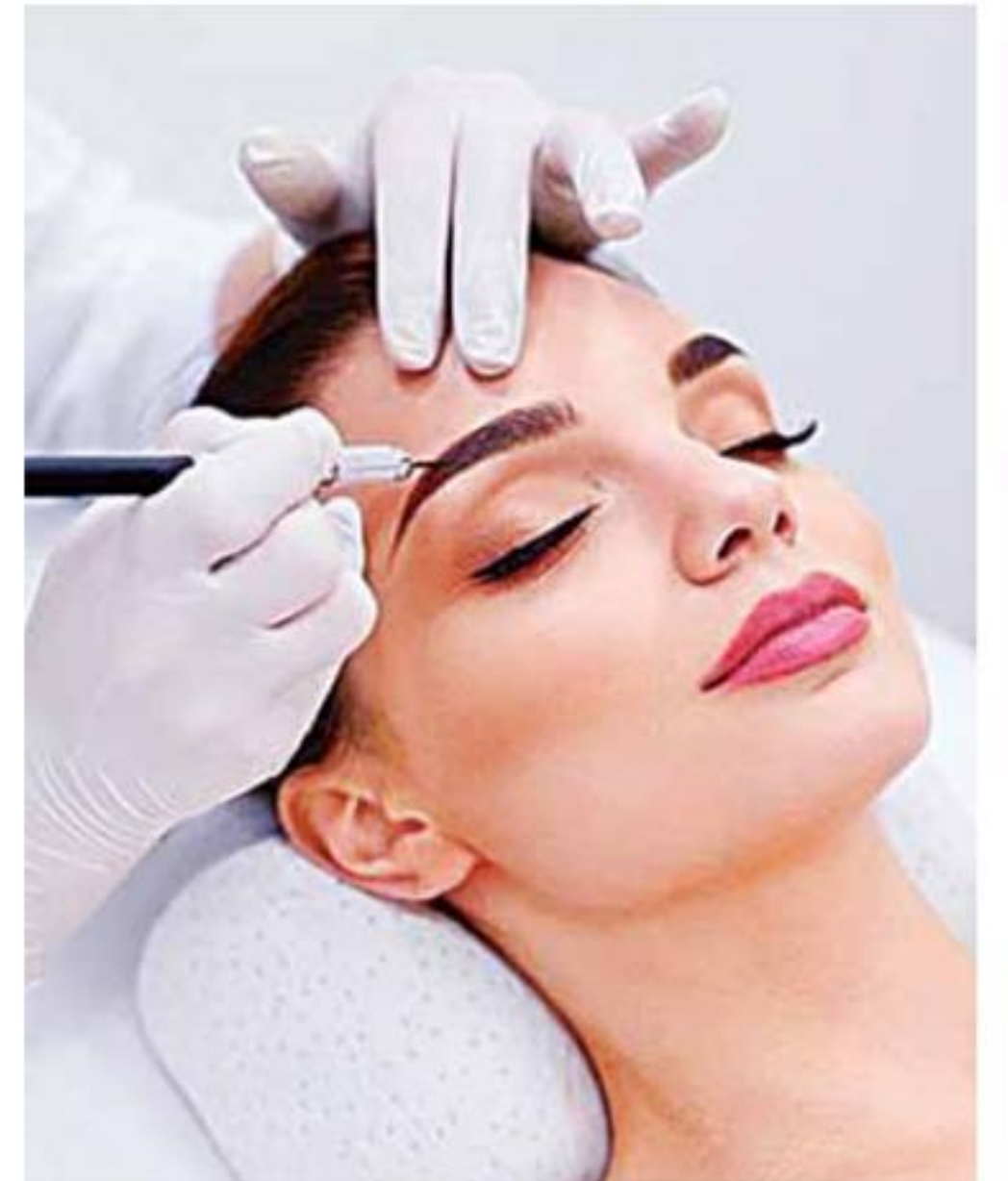
The youth these days are not only concerned about pigmentation, acne or dark circles, but also look for that perfect shaped brow. There are multiple procedures for 'designer eyes', the fox eye lift utilises threads to lift the brows and the corners of the eyes to make your eyes elongated, almond-like shapes a hot red at the moment. With trends like the untouched brows where the brows are elegantly arched with a few hairs sticking out seemingly unruly to give you that untouched look, and bold, defined brows that catch the eye almost instantly, is where Microblading steps in. It aims to give you perfect eyebrows, however clean or dramatic you'd like them to be.

Dr. Mikki Singh, Dermatologist, Bodycraft Skincare Clinic, shares insight into the microblading procedure which is perhaps the most natural looking and popular in the semi-permanent make-up segment.

The procedure involves the manual application of extremely fine hair using pigments and is done by a certified Microblading expert doctor, who also has the hands and the mind of an artist. While the procedure is used to make over-plucked, over-threaded or over-waxed eyebrows appear fuller, it is also employed to give those with naturally gifted eyebrows a bit of a boost and definition.

She shares, "Results of the procedure can last between 12 to 18 months and definitely works in pulling focus from tired, exhausted eyes and dark circles to your beautifully sculpted brows."

The expert points out that an-



other procedure which has been the talk of the town is Lip Micropigmentation, popular amongst both women and men.

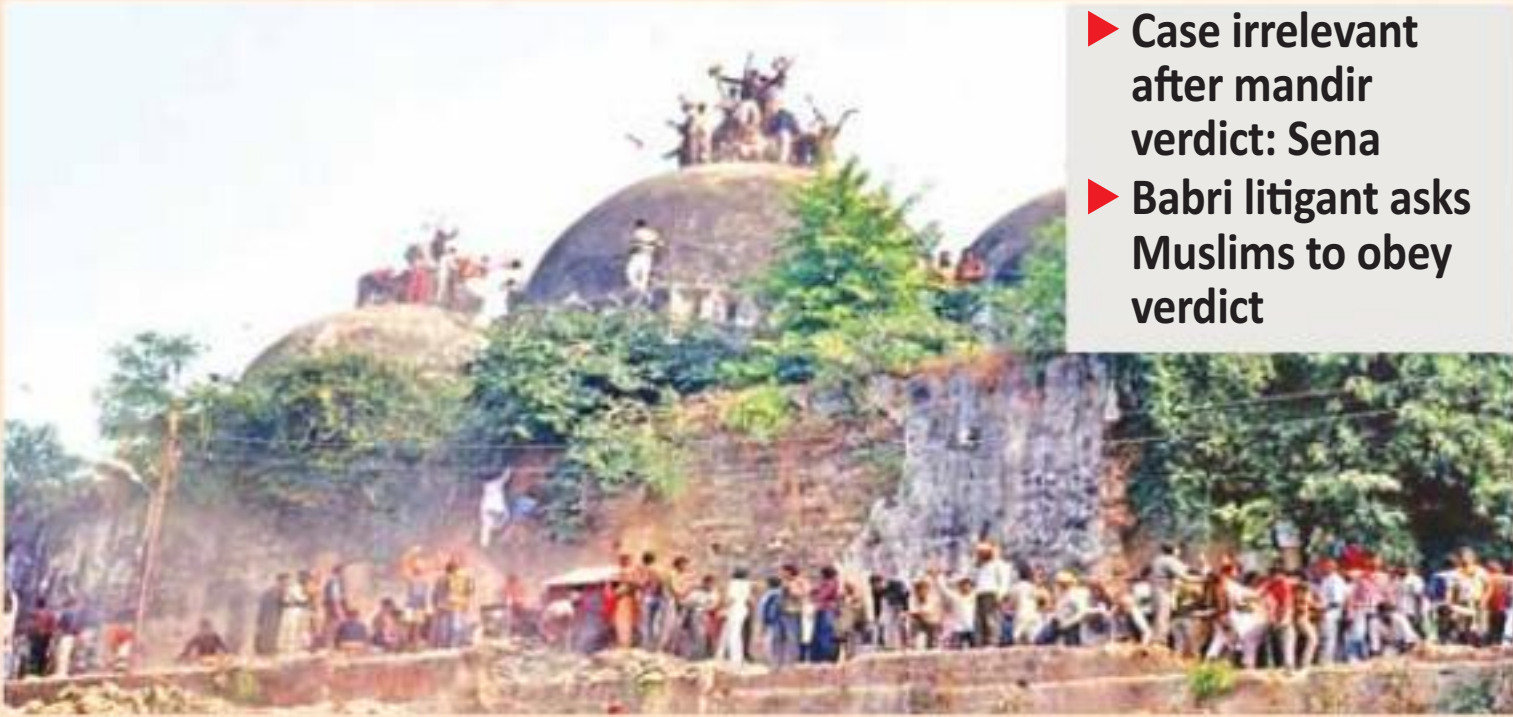
She adds, "The procedure, like microblading, involves the application of colour pigments using thin needles, essentially like a tattoo. Contrary to popular belief, lip micropigmentation is not only for smokers or people with dark lips looking at brightening them, it is for anyone who wants their lip to be defined, symmetrical, blushed or coloured to a shade

of your choosing, semi-permanent -

nently. Lip Micropigmentation is also one of the methods used to transform thin, uneven lips that have lost shape and fullness with age."

With any procedure, assessment, in this case of the face, is crucial and is always the first step. An experienced hand, with the thought process of an artist is a must in designing fabulous brows. This along with a strong knowledge in colour theory and a keen eye for perfection is vital to ensure that your desired brow shape and the colour of the pigments used is what suits you best.

Muslim Personal Law Board to challenge Babri verdict in HC



► **Case irrelevant after mandir verdict: Sena**
► **Babri litigant asks Muslims to obey verdict**

Lucknow (IANS): The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) said that it will appeal against the special CBI court verdict in the Babri Masjid demolition case in the High Court.

AIMPLB Secretary Zafaryab Jilani said that the judgment pronounced on Wednesday by the special CBI court in the case was wrong.

"We will appeal against the judgment in the High Court," said the lawyer, who was also part of the

Babri Masjid Action Committee.

Prominent Sunni cleric and All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) member Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali said everyone knows how the "Babri masjid was demolished in full public view" and the "law of the land was shredded to pieces".

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) President M.K.Stalin said the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) failure to prove the destruction

of Babri Masjid as a planned act is a shame for the country's rule of law.

Stalin said the Supreme Court had said that the entire structure of the mosque was brought down in a calculated act of destroying a place of public worship.

Despite this, if the CBI has not been able to prove the criminal intent in demolishing the Babri Masjid, it is a shame for the country's rule of law.

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S.

RSS TALKS AMITY, TRUST

New Delhi (IANS): Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological mentor to the Vishva Hindu Parishad which led the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, sent out a note of mutual amity and trust after the verdict on the Babri masjid case on Wednesday.

Expectedly, it has also welcomed the verdict. "The RSS welcomes the verdict by a special CBI court in case of the demolition of the disputed Babri structure where all the accused are being acquitted with due respect. After this verdict, all sections of so-

ciety should come together with mutual trust and amity to successfully face the upcoming challenges in the country and take the nation to the path of development," said a statement issued by Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi, the RSS's Sarkaryavah.

Interestingly, even ahead of the title dispute verdict in the Supreme Court last year, the RSS top brass reached out to influential Muslim bodies and held a number of meetings to decide that both sides will abide by the verdict, whichever way it went.

CBI to decide on appealing in HC

New Delhi: The CBI will decide on filing an appeal against the special court verdict in HC, acquitting all 32 accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case after consulting the legal department, its counsel said on Wednesday. "After a copy of today's verdict is received, it would be sent to the CBI headquarters where it would be studied by the legal department and a decision on filing an appeal would be taken as per its suggestion," CBI counsel Lalit Singh said.

pealed to all Muslims to honour it.

"It is good that all have been acquitted. Whatever had to happen happened on November 9 last year. This case should also have ended the same day. This is the CBI's case

and the court has given its ruling today. I appeal to Muslims not to take any further action in this. Just as they honoured the November 9 decision, this verdict too needs to be accepted similarly," he said.

Cong asks govt to challenge acquittal

New Delhi (IANS): After the special CBI court in Lucknow acquitted all the accused charged with conspiracy to demolish the Babri mosque, the Congress on Wednesday demanded that the government go in appeal against the acquittal.

The Congress has said the decision of the court runs counter to the decision of the Supreme Court of India, as the BJP-RSS were part of the conspiracy to demolish the mosque. Congress General Secretary Ran-deep Singh Surjewala said, "The decision of the Special Court to acquit all the accused in the Babri Masjid demolition case runs counter to the Supreme Court judgement as also the Constitutional spirit." He said, "The Supreme Court in its judgement dated November 9, 2019 pronounced by five judges clearly held that the demolition of the Babri Masjid was a clear illegality and 'egregious violation of the rule of law'.

Gang-rape victim cremated in dead of night-‘forcibly’

Priyanka Gandhi demands Yogi Adityanath's resignation

Hathras (PTI): The 19-year-old Dalit woman, who died in a Delhi hospital a fortnight after she was gang-raped in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras, was cremated here in the early hours of Wednesday, with her family alleging the local police forced them to conduct the last rites in the dead of the night.

Leaders of Opposition parties hit out at the BJP government in the state over the manner in which the cremation was conducted, with the Congress demanding Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's resignation.

The woman was raped in a village in Hathras by four men on September 14. After her condition deteriorated, she was referred to Delhi's Safdarjung hospital where she breathed her last on Tuesday.

As news of her death spread, protests broke out in Delhi as well as in Hathras with all sections of society, including politicians, sports and cine stars and activists, expressing their anguish and demanding justice for her. The family left Safdarjung hospital in Delhi on Tuesday night amid heavy police deployment. The body was taken by the Uttar Pradesh police, which reached Hathras earlier than the family members, claimed a kin of the victim.

"The cremation was done around 2.30 am - 3 am," the father of the deceased woman told PTI on



Wednesday morning. In the moments preceding the cremation, a brother of the woman told PTI: "Police have forcibly taken the body, and my father along with them for cremation. When my father reached Hathras, he was immediately taken (to the crematorium) by the police."

Another kin said the woman's father was accompanied by 30 to 40 people, mainly relatives and others from their neighbourhood, to the crematorium near Bool Garhi village, under Chandpa police station limits, in the district of western Uttar Pradesh. Senior police and administration officials were also present at the crematorium in the middle of the night, an official said. According to purported visuals from the site that surfaced on so-

cial media some of the policemen were in anti-riot gears donning body vests and helmets.

"We are unable to understand, what they want... what kind of politics is this, they are giving random statements like the woman has not been raped! We don't know what they want," said the relative who was at home with the grieving family. "They are doing all this to hush up the case."

When contacted, Hathras Superintendent of Police Vikrant Vir told PTI in a text message: "All procedures as per wish of family (sic)."

The manner in which the last rites of the gang-rape victim was carried out led to opposition parties hitting out at the state government.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi said,

"I was on the phone with the Hathras victim's father when he was informed that his daughter had passed away. I heard him cry out in despair." "He had just been telling me that all he wanted was justice for his child. Last night the victim's father was robbed of the chance to take his daughter home for the last time and perform her last rites," she said in a series of tweets.

Tagging Adityanath in a tweet, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi said, "RESIGN. Instead of protecting the victim and her family, your government became complicit in depriving her of every single human right, even in death. You have no moral right to continue as chief minister."

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav tweeted: "In the rape-murder of Hathras daughter, conducting her last rites by police in the middle of the night without the consent of the family is against the rituals.

It is the most condemnable act to erase evidence. The BJP government has committed a sin and crime by doing so."

Will not allow any damage to eco-sensitive zone via mining: SC

New Delhi (IANS): Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde on Wednesday said the Supreme Court will not allow any damage to the eco-sensitive zone and if an area falls in an eco-sensitive zone, then neither the Centre nor state will have the right to mine it.

A bench, headed by the Chief Justice and comprising Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian, said as far as exploitation of natural resources is concerned, the court cannot rely on either the Centre or the state government.

"When it comes to nature, there is always an attempt to make money out of it. If the eco-sensitive zone is hampered, we will not allow it," said Chief Justice Bobde as the bench heard a suit filed by the Jharkhand government challenging the Centre's decision to auction coal blocks in the state for commercial mining.

The bench noted that prima facie, the Centre is entitled to auction coal blocks in the state, as it is not a scheduled area, and asked the Centre to file an affidavit within a week clarifying



whether in the area under question is eco-sensitive or not. The Chief Justice noted that Jharkhand is claiming immunity from the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act). "Politics and law are connected, no doubt about it, but we don't consider it a part of law," he said.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing the state government, submitted that 53 per cent of Jharkhand is forest areas and the state is challenging the auction, which, he insisted, is "contrary to public interest".

As the Chief Justice asked if he was saying that mining lease cannot be granted in an

eco-sensitive zone, Singhvi said it can be done in a small area far away from such a zone. The Chief Justice then sought evidence be placed on record that the area under coal blocks is an eco-sensitive zone.

Senior advocate Fali Nariman, also appearing for the state government, said the government has put forth full details on the areas in eco-sensitive zones.

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal, representing the Centre, said that two weeks before the filing of the suit, the state filed a writ petition asking the Centre to hold back the coal block auction until global investment climate improves, which would

help the state to maximise returns on natural resources.

Querying Singhvi on this submission, the CJI said the court is not an expert on eco-sensitive areas, but it can certainly ask someone to visit and check if these areas are eco-sensitive.

Nariman urged the court to postpone the auction of coal blocks for a few months as the suit under Article 131, filed by the state, needs to be decided. Singhvi submitted there is a large population of tribal people in the state and 30 per cent of the area is a forest area and the MMDR Act will not apply as the state is a scheduled area.

However, the AG objected to these arguments.

After a detailed hearing on the matter, the bench then adjourned the case for two weeks and permitted the state government to file a rejoinder after the Centre files its affidavit.

In July, the top court had issued notice to the Centre on the state government's plea challenging its decision to auction coal blocks and alleging that the announcement was made by the Centre unilaterally.



India not giving accurate Covid death count: Trump

New York (IANS): US President Donald Trump has said that India does not give a "straight count" on the Covid-19 deaths and is dirtying the environment. During the presidential debate on Tuesday night with Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden, they both sparred over the extent of the deaths caused by the pandemic. Biden said that the 200,000 people who died of the coronavirus in America were 20 per cent of the global death toll of 1 million while the US population is only 4 per cent of the world. Trump shot back, "When you talk about numbers you know how many people died in China? You know how many people died in Russia? You don't know how many people died in India. They don't give you a straight count."

India's Covid tally crosses 62-lakh mark

New Delhi: India's Covid-19 tally crossed the 62-lakh mark with a spike of 80,472 new cases and 1,179 deaths reported in last 24 hours. Total case tally stands at 62,25,764 including 9,40,441 active cases, 51,87,826 cured/discharged/migrated and 97,497 deaths: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The overall number of global coronavirus has surpassed 33.5 million, while the deaths have increased to more than 1,006,000, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

As of Wednesday, the total number of cases stood at



33,560,877 and the fatalities rose to 1,006,576, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed in its latest update.


The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 7,190,230 and 205,986, respectively, according to the CSSE.

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra government is seriously considering the resumption of normal local train services in Mumbai by October 15, Shiv Sena mouthpiece Saamana said on Wednesday quoting state minister Aaditya Thackeray.

SC refuses to postpone Civils exam

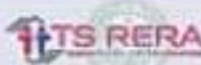
New Delhi (PTI) : The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to postpone UPSC civil services preliminary exam, to be held on October 4, because of COVID-19 pandemic and floods in several parts of the country. A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, B R Gavai and Krishna Murari asked the Centre to consider granting one more chance to those aspirants who may not appear in their last attempt for the exam due to the pandemic. It also refused to consider the plea for clubbing of UPSC civil services exam of 2020 with 2021 exams saying "this will have a cascading effect". The bench was hearing a plea seeking postponement of the Civil Services Exam for two to three months, so that the flood/ incessant rains recede and the COVID-19 curve flattens. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) opposed the plea saying all necessary precautions have been taken and adequate arrangements have been made for holding the exam.



"A premium Co-Living Space"

PROPERTY MULTIPLIER
WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

KT Residency approved by  Approved No. PO2400001598

SAFE

AFFORDABLE

NO MAINTENANCE

Earn extra sft*

9% to 11% Returns

Assured rental income for 20years

+91 95337 76694

www.ktresidency.com | sales@kapilproperties.com

Endless conflict, continuing misery

The dissolution of the Soviet Union was the process of internal disintegration within the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), which began in the late 1980s with growing unrest in the various constituent republics, and ended on December 26, 1991, when the Supreme Soviet voted to dissolve. Little peace has come to some of the countries that exited the Soviet Socialist Republic during the period and Azerbaijan and Armenia are two such nations which have been at war ever since.

There are no diplomatic relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, largely due to the ongoing Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The neighbouring nations had formal governmental relations between 1918 and 1921, during their brief inde-

pendence from the collapsed Russian Empire, as the First Republic of Armenia and the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan; these relations existed from the period after the Russian Revolution until they were occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union.

Due to the two wars waged by the countries in the past century—one from 1918 to 1921 and another from 1988 to 1994—the two have had strained relations. In the wake of ongoing hostilities social memory of Soviet-era cohabitation is largely repressed among citizens in both countries. Now, major military clashes have begun between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, with at least one Azerbaijani helicopter shot down. Armenia said Azerbaijan had

launched an air and artillery attack. It later declared martial law and total military mobilisation. Azerbaijan said it was responding to shelling along the whole front. Both sides have reported civilian deaths.

The long-running conflict has flared up again in recent months. Azerbaijan announced a counter-offensive operation against Armenia and the latter also blamed the former for the fresh offensive. There is double trouble for Azerbaijan as its people have started baying for revenge against Armenia since July this year. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, meanwhile, said in a televised address to the nation that “there are losses among the Azerbaijani forces and the civilian population as a result of the Armenian bombardment”.

He warned that those using intimidation tactics against his country would regret it, adding that Azerbaijan defends its lands and Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to it. In Nagorno-Karabakh, where officials also declared martial law and ordered citizens to mobilise, ombudsman Artak Beglaryan said

“there are civilian casualties” among the population in the region. The worst fighting in years has raised the fear of a new large-scale war between Azerbaijan and Armenia that have been locked for decades in a territorial dispute.

The long-standing conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan started worsening in July, when the two countries suffered their worst losses in four years. This July’s clashes, however, stood out in a number of ways. They occurred not along the oft-contested Nagorno-Karabakh front line but along the borders of Armenia and Azerbaijan proper, far to the north near the border with Georgia, in an area full of critical civilian infrastructure. Both sides deployed new technology, in particular drones.

Things are not as simple as they seem to be. Turkey and Russia are eager to step in any moment and this will lead to an exacerbation of the situation. The two countries cannot afford the war. Sadly, the world does not have time to resolve such conflicts battling with its own faultlines



Civil aviation regulations and international flight operations in India

K SHIVA CHARAN

Covid-19 crisis has severely impacted almost all industries. But disruption in the airline industry is so profound, that it is considered more severe than the combined crises of 9/11 and 2008 global financial turmoil.

Following the Covid-19 global pandemic, the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have issued three orders following the directions of the Government of India on March 23 under Section 88(1) of the Aircraft Act, 1934. Two more on March 26, and April 14.

It directed among other things all aircraft operators to suspend the operations of all the domestic flights and all scheduled international commercial passenger services until May 3.

International flight operations have not resumed yet during the Covid-19 lockdown period. The Bureau of Immigration has announced that all existing visas shall remain suspended till the prohibition on international travel of passengers from/to India is lifted by the Government of India. As of now, international flight operations are to recommence operations from September 30.

It may be noted that all the international and domestic flight operations have to comply with the rules prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Currently, India has allowed the recommencement of the international flight operations from September 30. However, Asian countries like Singapore and a few others are yet to give travel clearance to the air passengers from countries like India. Forcing several air passengers from India to travel to the island nation via Dubai, after going through a 14-day quarantine there.

How do aviation regulations operate in India?

The two authorities, Director General of Civil Aviation and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) function under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in India.

The DGCA take cares of Security of the Airports, Safety of Civil Aviation. It also investigates aviation accidents and incidents. Primarily, it deals with safety issues and is responsible for the regulation of air transport services to/from within India and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards. Besides, it coordinates all regulatory functions with International Civil Aviation Organization.

On the other, BCAS was initially set up as a cell in the DGCA in January 1978. The role of the cell was to coordinate, monitor, inspect and train personnel in Civil Aviation Security matters. The BCAS lays down standards and measures in respect of security of civil flights at International and domestic airports in India. The rules prescribed under DGCA are compiled according to the standards prescribed by the ICAO Rules and Annexes.

International flights may be permitted by Air Traffic Controls (ATC) to operate on domestic Air Traffic Service (ATS) routes. Provided there is no established International ATS route. International flights are not permitted to pick up passengers/load at any place in India and disembark/discharge at any other place in India.

Entry, transit and departure of aircraft

International flights into, from or over Indian territory are subjected to the Indian regulations (from time to time) relating to civil aviation and other national laws relating to immigration, customs, passport and health etc.

These regulations correspond to all essentials to the Standards and Recommended Practices contained in Annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

They are given effect in India by enacting a series of laws like the Aircraft Act, 1934, the Aircraft Rules 1937, the Aircraft (Public Health) Rules 1954, the Indian Aircraft Rules 1920, the Carriage

by Air Act 1972 etc.

The Annexes to the ICAO procedures adopted with such reservations as may be necessary and brought into force from time to time by notification in Notams, Aeronautical Information Circulars and Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) India.

Additionally, every aircraft entering or leaving India must comply with regulations relating to immigration, customs, quarantine and health as laid down by the government from time to time.

Aircraft flying into or departing from Indian territory shall make their first landing at or final departure from, an international Aerodrome. Aircraft may be permitted to land or, depart from any notified customs aerodrome.

Scheduled flights

For regular international scheduled flights operated by the foreign airline into, in transit or across India, have to meet a set of requirements.

They include the State (country) of the airline and India must be a party to a multilateral or bilateral International Air Transport Services Agreement. The airline intended to operate flights to India must be eligible as per the provisions of such bilateral or multilateral agreement. Besides, it should have a permit to operate in-to or in-transit across India.

The schedule of the flights must have prior approval of the DGCA. The airline operator should submit the approved schedule flight operations to the respective Flight Information Center and Aerodrome of intended landing before the commencement of its schedule.

The pilot-in-command should carry with him DGCA Approval Reference Number (ARN) and quote the same if required to do so by the ATC authorities.

The requirement for the grant of operating permit

Designation of airline - The airline shall, following the provisions of the Air Transport Services Agreement, formally designated either through diplomatic channels or by aeronautical authorities of the country whose government has concluded the agreement with the Government of India.

Detailed requirements for the grant of a permit to a foreign airline for the commencement of scheduled international air services are given in Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) No. 8 of 2010. It among others includes that the airline shall submit all documents mentioned in the said AIC at least 60 days in advance before the proposed date of commencement of air services for the issuance of the operating permit.

A detailed security programme under the provisions of contained in Annex 17 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation and the instructions issued of BCAS shall be filed with the Commissioner of Security (Civil Aviation), for approval. An approval copy granted by BCAS shall be furnished to the office of the DGCA.

The airline shall coordinate the allocation of slots with Airports Authority of India (AAI), Operational wing.

Application for obtaining approval for operating scheduled flights shall be filed by the designated airline, at least 30 days before commencement of the scheduled flights, with the DGCA.

The documentary requirement of clearance of aircraft

All airline operators should submit aircraft documents for clearance on entry and departure of their aircraft to and from India. The document formats should be submitted in an acceptable form to the public authorities in India. Details of the same can be seen referring to the relevant appendices to ICAO Annex 9 together with the differences as notified by India. No flight shall leave India without obtaining clearance of immigration and customs authorities on General Declaration.

(The author is Advocate & Research Associate, Centre for Aerospace and Defence Laws, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad)

PART - I

My musical memories...

TALKING OF MANY THINGS



Dr Mohan Kanda

And, a spectacularly eventful one at that, came to an end a few days ago, when the legendary S.P. Balasubrahmanyam, crooner par excellence, in Telugu primarily, and also in several other languages, breathed his last. Actor, conductor, director, singer and guru, all rolled into one, ‘Balu’ was an institution, all by himself. His contribution, to the world of music, especially to the grooming of a whole generation of young singers and music directors, will forever remain etched in the memory of all music lovers.

I had the good fortune of meeting him on a few occasions. Once, at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad, when he was travelling to Chennai. And, on another occasion, again in Hyderabad, in Green Park Hotel, where he and I had separately gone to visit the legendary ‘Bapu’ cartoonist, and film director in a class of his own, and his inevitable companion the ‘Telugu Wodehouse’ Ramana.

I consider myself privileged and honoured to have been asked, recently, to participate in a Zoom meeting, organised by people from countries all over the world, to wish him well, when he was passing through a critical stage of illness. One prays to the Almighty to rest the departed Soul in peace.

In fact, it was in SP’s most cel-

ebrated movie “Sankarabharanam” that the well-known Sanskrit Sloka ‘Sisurvetti Pasurvetti Vetti Ganarasam Phanihi’, occurred - about the appeal music enjoys among living beings - be they children, animals or even snakes.

Shakespeare also had the following to say about a man with no ability to enjoy music. “The man that hath no music in himself, nor is not moved with the concord of sweet sounds, is fit for treason, stratagem and spoils”.

Music plays a great role in providing happiness in the busy, crowded and corrupted environment of the world in which people live today. In the din and bustle of day to day modern life, particularly in testing times such as the one which it is going through today, any source that soothes and comforts is welcome.

From times immemorial several activities have had such an impact on the emotional state of human beings. Physical exercise, engaging in mentally stimulating pursuits such as solving puzzles and riddles, engaging in established and ancient practices such as yoga or meditation, reading, watching a dance performance, listening to good music or sitting through a well enacted play, have all been known to have not only recreational value but to serve the purpose of diffusing mental tension and generally causing the mind to relax.

While many of these are within the reach of the normal person, some, like, for instance, music, drama or yoga may require one to acquire a taste for appreciating the value thereof. Personally, I must confess to being a practically complete philistine in terms of the ability to appreciate the fine arts or undertaking pursuits requiring discipline and training such as yoga.

By the grace of God I have been endowed with enough ability to appreciate good music, be it classical or light, Indian or Western! Before the reader reaches a hasty conclusion I must add a rider that I am not without the ability to enjoy good music, prose, drama or some selected games and sports.

And, given a tolerant and indulgent audience,

things which we are surrounded with. It is music, in fact, which first greets newborn infants as they enter this world.

Studies have shown that melodious lullabies can have the effect of soothing babies as well as their parents and even improve the children’s sleeping and eating patterns while, simultaneously, decreasing the parents’ stress.



I have been known to play the guitar or croon the occasional song without inflicting too much pain on the listeners! My father, in fact used to say that my relationship with music was one more of enthusiasm than expertise!

It is music that I thought I should share some views with the reader about today. Music does not necessarily mean only singing or the melodious notes produced by instruments. It can be found in many day to day

Since ancient Greek times, music has been used to heal the mind and body. In fact, in native American culture, there are more than 1500 songs used for healing purposes. Music therapy has also been used for healing the sick and injured in the Armed Forces in many countries.

Scientific studies have also

LETTERS

Babri Masjid judgement

With due regards to the special CBI court, it’s verdict on the three decades old demolition case is disappointing (September 30). The court’s observation that there was no conspiracy in the incident and that all the 32 accused are innocent is amusing. Yogi Adityanath government had come up with a stringent law recently to recover compensation from those who damage public and private properties during riots and one wonders who will be made responsible for the loss of thousands of innocents in the public violence post- demolition of Babri Masjid. Can the unfortunate incident also be attributed to an ‘act of God’?

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao, Hyderabad

II

The historic Babri masjid demolition had a 28-year long trial and finally all those incriminated have been acquitted including L.K. Advani due to lack of sufficient evidence which raises all eye brows. After previous CJ Gogoi’s judgement that paved way for starting Ayodhya temple construction and bequeathing five acres land for Babri Masjid was largely welcome to set aside long pending unrest. Leaving alone the glaring facts this judgement also looks like appeasing vast multitudes no matter the ever aggravating minorities. Let peace prevail.

Dr T Ramadas, Visakhapatnam

III

Al Krishna Advani and 31 others who were found guilty of instigating kar sevaks for demolishing Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992 were given clean chit by the Lucknow CBI Court after 28 years of trial. The actual criminals were those who demolished Ram Temple in Ayodhya during Moghal period centuries ago. After ex-

amining more than three hundred prosecution witnesses including journalists and other documents, the trial court finally acquitted all the accused. CBI or any other institution is expected not to appeal this case in higher courts as it is not justifiable by any means.

S Sai Tejaswi, S Sai Mani Deepika, Kothagudem

IV

Last, the Lucknow special court has pronounced the Babri verdict in the 28-year long Babri Masjid demolition case acquitting all the 32 accused persons, but right-thinking people are still left to wonder if justice has actually been served. The verdict was disappointing, but not unexpected in the current political climate. No doubt the court has handed over a ‘comprehensive victory’ to the Hindu Right in tune with the times. The dubious verdict has occasioned jubilation among Hindutva outfits, and understandably so. However, the fact remains that the 16th century mosque was indeed demolished by a frenzied mob of kar sevaks in the presence and instigation of some of the BJP stalwarts. Simply put, the mosque did not self-implode.

G David Milton, Maruthanchode

V

The quintessence of two thousand pages judgment is one of the remarkable verdicts in the history of Indian judiciary that highlighted the accused Babri masjid demolition criminals are acquitted without any scar. There was plenty of evidence that a masjid was built five centuries ago by demolishing Ram Temple at Ayodhya, the name of its place denotes the rulers of Rama’s ancestors.

Dr NSR Murthy, Secunderabad

Continuing crimes against women

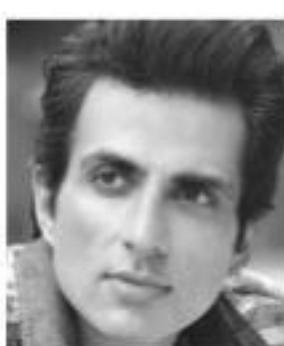
It’s heart wrenching that the Hathras gang rape victim succumbed to her injuries. It’s still pathetic that the mortal remains were said to have been cremated by po-

lice in the wee hours against family members’ wishes, who thought of bringing the body home for the last time before the final rites were performed. It took eight days for police to register a case after the gruesome crime had taken place.

Now the chief minister of UP has formed special investigating team and assured fast tracking of case. That the callousness of police right from registering case to investigating it properly is emboldening criminals more than the assurances of State frightening them. The thing of justice eludes poor victims where total environment is congenial to nurturing injustice. The crimes against women and downtrodden cannot be wished away just with laws on paper. The law should be implemented with iron hands. Unfortunately such crimes are dealt with kid gloves.

Dr DVG Sankararao, Nellimarla

Sonu Sood, a real hero



Sonu Sood richly deserves the U. N. award for his exemplary services which had cost him a fortune, during the corona pandemic initial lockdown when thousands of migratory workers and students were stranded sans food, shelter and transport left in the lurch looking askance for help and rescue which was essentially a concern of the governments which left them to their fate with cold-blooded disdain. But for him many people would have committed suicide en route to their homes. The tinge of humanity in him who acts as a villain deserves encomiums from one and all. We only wish others take a leaf from him and come forward to help people in times of distress.

DSP Rao, Kakinada

thehansreader@gmail.com

Rains, flood damage crops in 1,17,391 hectare

- According to preliminary estimates, paddy crop has been damaged in 58,400 hectare, cotton in 24,071 hectare across the State
- Maximum loss of paddy is West Godavari, in an extent of 14,796 hectare
- Highest loss of cotton crop is reported in Kurnool district where crop in 6,621 hectare is affected by floods

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Guntur: Heavy rains and floods damaged various crops in 1,17,391 hectare in the state in September, according to preliminary crop damage assessment. Paddy, cotton, groundnut, maize, red gram and black gram crops suffered extensive damage.

According to sources in the agriculture commissioner's office here, paddy was damaged in 58,400 hectare in the state. Maximum crop loss is in West Godavari in an extent of 14,796 hectare followed by 14,566 hectare in Kurnool, 14,560 hectare in East Godavari and 5,027 hectare in Kadapa. The damage is insignificant in other districts.

HC dismisses former Intelligence chiefs' petition against State govt

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nelapadu (Amaravati): The single judge bench of Justice M Satyanarayana Murthy of High Court on Wednesday dismissed the petition filed by senior IPS officer A B Venkateswara Rao who sought direction to the state government not to arrest him in a criminal case.

It may be recalled that a criminal case was registered against the former Intelligence chief on the charges of irregularities in purchase of security equipment from Israel.

The HC, after hearing the arguments gave a case reference to the government for registering the case. "If the government does not register the case as per the reference, the IPS officer could file a contempt petition against the state government," the court said. The government should follow the guidelines in registering the case and if it does not follow, it amounts to contempt of court.

During the TDP regime, Venkateswara Rao was the Intelligence chief. After YSRCP government assumed office in the state, the government suspended him stating that he had violated rules in the purchase of security equipment. However, the HC, in a recent order instructed the government to revoke the suspension and take him back into service. The state government was also instructed to pay the arrears of salary to the IPS officer.

It also set aside the decision of the Central Administration Tribunal supporting the suspension of the IPS officer.

Procurement of crops only at MSP: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati : Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said that Minimum Support Price (MSP) of crops would be announced on October 1.

During a review meeting held here on procurement of agricultural produce and MSP, the Chief Minister said that no where should the crops be purchased at a lower price than the MSP, which will be announced on Thursday. Farmers should not suffer any loss and there should be no compromise on this count.

If necessary, state should procure them from the farmers through RBKs to create competition.

Last year the state spent Rs 3, 200 crore to procure various crops to ensure MSP to farmers. An additional Rs 11,500 crores was spent for paddy procurement.

This year too Market Stabilisation Fund is created with Rs 3,300 crore, he said.



Flood water inundated cotton gardens in Amaravati mandal of Guntur district

Similarly, cotton crop was damaged in 24,071 hectare, with maximum extent of 6,621 hectare in Kurnool, followed by 6,555 hectare in Guntur district, 6,304 hectare in Prakasam and 3,040 hectare in Kadapa.

Maize crop was damaged in an area of 12,771 hectare across the state. The maximum damage was in Kurnool where the crop in 12,104 hectare was affected and Prakasam district suffered crop loss in 537 hectare.

The damage to groundnut crop has been reported in 6,718 hectare, of which the maximum extent of 4,174 hectare in Anantapur district.

Black gram crop was damaged in a total of 3,833 hectare. Of this, 1,391 hectare is in

Kurnool district.

Similarly, red gram suffered damage in 3,590 hectare, the highest extent of 2,156 hectare being in Prakasam followed by 1,119 hectare in Kurnool district.

Chillies, ragi, sugarcane, sunflower, jowar, korra bajra, castor, soybean and green gram crops were also damaged but not significantly.

The revenue and agriculture department officials will conduct final enumeration to assess the crop loss and display the details in the Rythu Bharosa Kendras inviting objections from the farmers. The district collectors will send the report on crop damages by October 15 to the government to facilitate payment of compensation.

Varla terms Sawang's letter to Naidu 'unethical'

◆ Denying the top cop's charge that the accused in the case of attack on Ramachandra is a TDP loyalist, Ramaiah says has not been in the party since the local body elections

◆ Asks what authority the DGP has to question the fundamental right of Leader of Opposition and former CM to raise his voice over atrocities on Dalits

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP Politburo member Varla Ramaiah suggested to director general of police D Gautam Sawang to verify facts before writing arbitrary and unconstitutional letters on a murder attempt case, Ramaiah was reacting to a counter letter written by the DGP to TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu regarding the attack on S Ramachandra, brother of suspended judge S Ramakrishna.

In a statement on Wednesday, Ramaiah wanted to know if Sawang has the authority to question the fundamental rights of Opposition Leader and former chief minister to raise his voice in his fight for justice to the victims of atrocities on Dalits. "The DGP's letter to Naidu on September 28 was totally un-

lawful, unethical, undemocratic and unparliamentary going by how he overstepped the boundaries of his police duties," he said. The TDP Politburo member

asked how the DGP could say that the TDP leaders had attacked Ramachandra when the real facts were strikingly in contrast to Sawang's statements.

He said that Pratapa Reddy, who was one of the attackers, was not working in the TDP ever since the local body elections. In fact, Pratapa Reddy got his mother's nomination on TDP behalf withdrawn after accepting inducements from YSRCP leaders. He has been moving with YSRCP leaders ever since. The DGP turned a blind eye to these facts and spoke in such a way as to favour the main accused Kumar Reddy and two other YSRCP leaders, Ramaiah pointed out.



RASS distributes provisions to 829 elderly persons

Tirupati: The city-based NGO Rashtriya Seva Samithi (RASS) on Wednesday distributed essentials, masks, sanitisers and gloves to 829 aged persons at a function held in its Old Age Home set up with the financial support of HelpAge India in Mangalam. Aged persons, who were identified as badly hit due to the pandemic Covid-19, were selected from the villages including Papanaidupeeta, Vikruthamala villages in Yerpedu mandal, Mangalam, BTR colony in Tirupati Rural and in the city were provided the essentials, sops and other items worth about Rs 1,500 each to come over the difficult time they are facing, said RASS Director Nagaraju.

'Complete pending works by March'

Nellore: Collector K V N Chakradhar Babu directed the officials to complete the pending works by March 2021. He reviewed with the officials of Panchayatraj and RWS wings on Grama Sachivalayam, Rythu Bharosa Centres, YSR Clinics, Anganwadi Centres, NREGS works, and collected status of works from the field staff. He said officials have to utilise services of engineering assistants at Grama Sachivalayams and other staff members at mandal and division level in the district for fast completion of the pending works. 665 buildings of Bharosa Centres in the district have to be completed by next March and asked to update the status every week. He directed the Superintending Engineers of Panchayatraj and RWS wings to finish at least 10-20 works per week. He asked the DEEs to visit the final stage of laying slab and regular visits of AEs in the district. He said he would pay surprise visits to the spots for observing any deviations. He appreciated works in Marripadu and Udayagiri.

80 tonnes of PDS rice seized

Nellore: Vigilance and enforcement sleuths have conducted raids on a rice mill in rural mandal and seized 80 tonnes of PDS rice on Wednesday. The officials found the PDS stocks were being recycled for resale in the market. OSD Venkatanatha Reddy, CIs Manikya Rao, Sudhakar Reddy, and Venkata Narayana conducted raids.

State reports 6,133 new Covid cases, 48 deaths

Amaravati: Continuing the declining trend, the state on Wednesday saw an addition of 6,133 new Covid-19 cases that took the overall tally to 6,93,484.

The total recoveries increased to 6,29,211 as 7,075 more patients got cured and discharged in the last 24 hours ending 9 am on Wednesday.

Another 48 patients died while undergoing treatment across the state, pushing the tally to 5,828, the latest bulletin said. The state now has 58,445 active cases.

Government data revealed that the infection positivity rate dropped further to 11.94 per cent, while the recovery rate improved to 90.73 per cent.

In 24 hours, East Godavari district added 983 fresh Covid-19 cases and Chittoor, 925, West Godavari district, which had been reporting around 900 cases daily, added only 464 on Wednesday.

Visakhapatnam district crossed the 50,000 mark in total cases with the addition of 235 anew, while neighbouring Vizianagaram went past the 35,000 mark. Eight out of 13 districts have so far reported total cases of over 50,000 each, with East Godavari topping with 97,174.

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Minister for industries and IT Mekapati Gautam Reddy instructed the officials to strive to bring in more industries keeping in view the ease of doing business policies that state is implementing.

While addressing a review meeting with the officials of industries, MSME, IT and APSFL in the Secretariat on Wednesday, the minister said, "The AP Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) is developing 31 MSME parks throughout the state. These MSME would benefit a lot with the new industrial policy".

He asked the officials to concentrate on establishing at least one MSME in each Assembly constituency and if necessary,

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Home minister Mekathoti Sucharita accused TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu of indulging in politics in the name of Dalits.

Addressing a press conference at her residence in Guntur on Wednesday, Sucharita said that Pratap Reddy, the accused in the attack on suspended judge Ramakrishna's brother Ramachandra, belonged to the TDP.

But, Naidu was blaming the YSRCP government only for his political gains, she added.

She said that Naidu was spreading false propaganda against the YSRCP government regarding the incident. By observing the chronology of events, one could understand the political conspiracy of Naidu, she said.

The minister explained that the attack took place at 4 pm and Naidu wrote a letter to the director general of police by 7 pm, accusing the YS-

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has come up with a mega plan to create a high-tech storage facility for the Dharani portal outside the state. In the wake of growing cyber hacking and frequent technical glitches developed in the heavy data loaded servers, the government has decided to create a disaster recovery (DR) site either in New Delhi or at NIC (National Informatics Centre) in Bhubaneswar.

The DR site will function as a substitute facility in case the main servers installed in Hyderabad face a technical problem or down with glitches. Telangana State Technology Services Limited (TSTS) already invited tech companies to set up the facility in one of the identified places. The TSTS has been entrusted with the responsibility of setting up of the DR facility on behalf of the State Stamps and Registration department. The storage facility should have usable storage of 200 TB (

Botcha flays TDP for false claims on Jala Kala

- Says TDP govt has not drilled even a single bore well in 5 yrs, but is now criticising the CM over Jala Kala scheme
- States that Jagan is keeping his promise of corporation to more BC castes, and giving priority to women in them
- Alleges that Naidu has disbursed Pasupu-Kunkuma amount to women only for the sake of votes

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Describing YSR Jala Kala as a boon to the farmers of arid and dry lands, minister for municipal administration and urban development Botcha Satyanarayana said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has been implementing the poll promises while TDP is confined only to criticise the government without realising what it had done during its term.

Addressing the media at the party headquarters at Tadepalli on Wednesday, Satyanarayana said, "The TDP has been making false claims. It did not drill a single bore well during its tenure and has the audacity to criticise and claim that YSR Jala Kala was their scheme".

He said seeing the plight of the farmers during his 3,648 km pa-



Minister for Municipal Administration Botcha Satyanarayana addressing the press conference at YSRCP Central Office in Tadepalli on Wednesday

dayatra, Jagan promised to stand by them and sort out their issues and thus YSR Jala Kala has come into being.

"The Chief Minister also promised provision of a separate corporation for every BC community, giving political prominence to the BCs. After a careful study, out of 138 castes, 56 were finalised to have separate corporations and funds will be allocated to them. He has taken a decision to implement 50 per cent quota for women and provide more posts to them," the minister said.

He criticised that Chandrababu Naidu had failed to deliver on the

promises he made for BC welfare during his regime and never bothered about them while in power. He said he has been using BCs like vote bank for political gains. He criticised Naidu for misusing and pocketing Aadarana scheme funds, while leaving welfare.

He said that Naidu credited Pasupu-Kunkuma amount to women only for the sake of elections. Unlike Naidu, Jagan has always stood by his promise and implemented many schemes within 16 months of forming the government, he said adding that after NTR and YSR, it was Jagan that gained the trust of the public.

Announcement of Telugu Mahila posts today

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: TDP is all set to name new leaders for its women's wing Telugu Mahila on Thursday.

Dalit leader and former MLA Vangalapudi Anitha has already been made Telugu Mahila state president. Now, the party has selected the Telugu Mahila presidents and general secretaries for each of the 25 parliamentary constituencies.

Names for a total of 50 posts were finalised. All the necessary steps were taken to balance the caste and regional equations while filling these posts with SC, BC, ST and OC women.

Of the total 50 posts, 21 posts were given to the BC women who got 10 president and 11 general secretary posts. Anitha has already taken over as Telugu Mahila state president.

Eight more SC women were given general secretary posts. The TDP has given one president and one general secretary post to the ST women. For OC women, 14 president and five general secretary posts were allotted.

As per the directions of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, priority was given to the youth in the selection of leaders. A 30-year-old woman was one among those selected for Telugu Mahila parliamentary constituency president posts. Also, a 29-year-old woman was among those selected for parliamentary constituency general secretary posts. The total committee was filled with women in the age group of 20 to 60 years.

met the minister to present the latest artificial intelligence equipment which could detect industrial accidents like LG Polymers. They said that the equipment will detect the industrial waste remotely and alert them in case of any chance of accident.

The equipment will also alert the management in advance if there is an explosive material and other waste material on the premises.

Industries department director Subrahmanyam Javvadi, IT special secretary Sundar, MSME CEO Pavana Murthy, APSFL managing director Madhusudan Reddy, IT joint director Nagaraju, IT advisors Vidyasagar Reddy, Lokeswara Reddy, Srinath Reddy and others were present.

- Industries and IT minister urges official to strive hard to bring in more industries
- Suggests that at least one MSME should be set up in each Assembly constituency
- Avineon, an AI firm, presents AI technology pilot project to minister

they could engage more employees. If there are good infrastructure facilities, entrepreneurs would be interested in setting up industries, he added. The minister also discussed with the officials on ease of doing business. The representatives of artificial intelligence firm, Avineon,

Judge kin attacker is TDP man: HM

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Home minister Mekathoti Sucharita accused TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu of indulging in politics in the name of Dalits.

Addressing a press conference at her residence in Guntur on Wednesday, Sucharita said that Pratap Reddy, the accused in the attack on suspended judge Ramakrishna's brother Ramachandra, belonged to the TDP.

But, Naidu was blaming the YSRCP government only for his political gains, she added.

She said that Naidu was spreading false propaganda against the YSRCP government regarding the incident. By observing the chronology of events, one could understand the political conspiracy of Naidu, she said.

The minister explained that the attack took place at 4 pm and Naidu wrote a letter to the director general of police by 7 pm, accusing the YS-

- ◆ Repeats the statement made by DGP that the accused in the case of attack on Ramachandra is a TDP activist
- ◆ Accuses TDP chief of shedding crocodile tears to derive political mileage

RCF for the incident. After inquiry, the police revealed the fact that the accused belonged to the TDP.

She said that both the accused and the victim indulged in a clash over a minor issue of blocking the road. The home minister recalled that when the then MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar manhandled a Dalit tahsildar, Naidu had not taken any action on him.

But, in the case of an attack on a woman employee in the tourism department in Nellore district, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy initiated action against the accused.

That was the difference between Jagan and Naidu, she said.

Sucharita said that the Chief Minister was giving a free hand to all the employees in the government in discharging their duties properly and effectively.

She suggested that the TDP chief rethink before levelling allegations against the government.

Govt uncorks plan for Dharani data storage facility outside TS

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has come up with a mega plan to create a high-tech storage facility for the Dharani portal outside the state. In the wake of growing cyber hacking and frequent technical glitches developed in the heavy data loaded servers, the government has decided to create a disaster recovery (DR) site either in New Delhi or at NIC (National Informatics Centre) in Bhubaneswar.

The DR site will function as a substitute facility in case the main servers installed in Hyderabad face a technical problem or down with glitches. Telangana State Technology Services Limited (TSTS) already invited tech companies to set up the facility in one of the identified places. The TSTS has been entrusted with the responsibility of setting up of the DR facility on behalf of the State Stamps and Registration department. The storage facility should have usable storage of 200 TB (

terra bites) and be scalable to at least 2 PB (Penta Bites) on the same set of controllers, top officials said, adding that the DR site will be used to store every land revenue related document which is being used for property registrations through online.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had recently announced the digitisation of all land records to help the Revenue and Stamps and Registration departments to register the properties and also do mutations in a single day. To achieve the goal of transparency in the registrations, the government has developed Dharani portal to access every property information to all including officials and common people from anywhere in the world. The successful bidder will have to set up the entire facility and also maintenance the same as per the norms set by the government, officials said. The advantage of the DR site is it will function as an alternative if the main server in Hyderabad goes down during the busy hours.

Union Minister Gadkari recovers from Covid-19

Continued from P1

The session, which started on September 14 amid Covid-19 pandemic, was otherwise scheduled to conclude on October 1.

Many MPs, including some ministers, had tested positive for Covid-19. In a first in Indian parliamentary history, some members of the Lok Sabha were also seated in the Rajya Sabha chamber and visitor galleries to ensure social distancing.

The Rajya Sabha also followed

similar practice, with its members seated in the Lower House. During this session, while the Rajya Sabha met in the first half of the day, the Lok Sabha assembled at 3 pm. Members wore masks and face shields in both Houses. In the Lok Sabha, fibre glass shields were placed in front of the benches and on either side of the seats to prevent the spread of the virus. The members were not allowed to speak while standing.

Obnoxious, says Asaduddin Owaisi

Continued from P1

"Was it a some sort of magic that on December 6 the masjid was demolished? Who called for the assembling of the people over there? Who made sure that they entered over there?" he asked. Owaisi said the CBI should appeal against the judgement "to protect its independence."

He said he would urge the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) to appeal against the verdict.

The case relates to the razing of the disputed structure in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992, which triggered riots for several months leaving nearly 2,000 people dead across the country.

TODAY'S QUOTE

We will remove entry barriers for new investments

Central government is opening up the economy for greater participation of private sector and has been working in different ways to remove entry barriers for new investments. The government opened up defence manufacturing for domestic industry and coal mining for commercial engagement

— Industry Minister Piyush Goyal



GST

QR Code on B2C invoices deferred to Dec 1

The central government deferred by two months the requirement of printing dynamic QR code on B2C invoices till December 1. Quick Response Code or QR Code help users verify the details in the digitally signed e-invoice. Under GST, companies with a turnover of over Rs 500 crore will have to generate e-invoice

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)

US Dollar	78.18	South	
Euro	90.69	African Rand	5.04
UAE Dirham	22.09	Hong Kong Dollar	10.94
Thai Baht	2.68	Japanese Yen	0.8
British Pound	98.43	New Zealand Dollar	50.95
Australian Dollar	55.12	Saudi Riyal	21.62
Canadian Dollar	57.87	Swedish Krona	9.93
Swiss Franc	83.19	Singapore Dollar	56.54

DELHI THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2020

BIZ BRIEFS

Adani Wilmar unveils sanitisers

Hyderabad: Adani Wilmar, the maker of Fortune brand of edible oils and food products has expanded its range of personal care products by foraying into handwash and sanitizer segments. It will market these products under Alike brand. "Awareness regarding handwash and sanitizers has gone up in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Demand has also risen sharply. We feel that this is the best time for us to foray into handwash and sanitizer segments," said Ajay Motwani, Head-Marketing, Adani Wilmar. The market for handwash products is estimated at Rs 1,000 crore. However, the penetration of handwash is just 10 per cent compared with 95 per cent for soaps. The handwash category has grown at a CAGR of 15 per cent over the last three years.

Mochi celebrates 20th anniversary

Hyderabad: Mochi, a footwear and accessories brand, has turned 20 this year. Since its debut in the year 2000, the brand has expanded its presence in 74 cities with 144 stores. To mark the occasion, the brand launched pre-celebration of 14 days till October 9. It will celebrate its anniversary for two days on October 10, 11. The brand is celebrating this milestone with special offers, lucky draw prizes, special surprises and engagement with its followers on its digital platforms. Alisha Malik, VP-Marketing and Ecommerce, Metro Brands Ltd, said, "Mochi is turning 20 and that's a milestone all of us are very excited about. It is a brand that is very special to all of us. These 16 days of birthday celebrations will also bring a positive vibe to our customers in this current pandemic".

Godrej Expert's new product

Hyderabad: Godrej Expert, a hair colour brand, launched Godrej Expert Easy, a shampoo-based hair colour. The new offering is a convenient way of hair colouring. The shampoo-based hair colour format has had a dramatic growth in India in the last 4 years. Currently, the market size of shampoo hair colour is pegged at Rs 330 crore, growing at a CAGR of 61 per cent. Sunil Kataria, CEO- India & SAARC, Godrej Consumer Products, said, "Godrej Consumer Products is the biggest hair colour company in India. Our brand Godrej Expert aims to be the first hair colouring experience of every Indian. The new product is an innovation in the hair colour category sized at Rs 4,876 crore and growing at a rate of 6.6 per cent".

Pega expands leadership team

Hyderabad: Software firm Pegasystems Inc expanded its India leadership team with two new leaders- Deepak Visweswaraiiah, Vice President, Platform Engineering, and Cynthia S Srinivas, Vice President, Technical Service Operations. The senior appointments fortify Pega's commitment to driving growth and deliver digital transformation for its clients. Visweswaraiiah joined Pega from NetApp, where he served as Managing Director at NetApp India. He is a technology veteran with over 30 years of experience in the enterprise software development industry. He will lead the development of Pega Platform. Ms Srinivas is an engineering leader with 30 years of experience in product delivery and operations, spanning various technology industries. She joined Pega from Intuit India.

CORE INDUSTRIES OUTPUT CONTRACTS 8.5% IN AUG

Barring coal and fertiliser & all sectors record negative growth due to Covid

New Delhi: Contracting for the sixth consecutive month, the output of eight core infrastructure sectors dropped by 8.5 per cent in August, mainly due to decline in production of steel, refinery products and cement.

The production of eight core sectors had contracted 0.2 per cent in August 2019, showed data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Wednesday.

Barring coal and fertiliser, all sectors - crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity - recorded negative growth in August. During April-August 2020-21, the sectors' output dipped by 17.8 per cent as compared to a growth of 2.5 per cent in the same period previous year.

The rate of contraction in the eight key sectors has increased from July (- 8 per cent). The output of steel, refinery products, cement, natural gas, crude oil and electricity declined by 6.3 per cent, 19.1 per cent, 14.6 per cent, 9.5 per cent, 6.3 per cent and 2.7 per cent, respectively.

On the other hand, coal and fertiliser sector production grew by 3.6 per cent and 7.3 per cent, respectively, during

the month under review as against (-) 8.6 per cent and 2.9 per cent rise in August 2019.

Commenting on the numbers, Icria Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said that based on these mixed trends, "we expect the contraction in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to ease modestly to 6-8 per cent in August 2020, from the initial 10.4 per cent in July 2020". The eight core industries accounts for 40.27 per cent in the IIP.



The rate of contraction in the eight key sectors in August has increased from July

India reports \$19.8 bn current account surplus

Mumbai: India's current account surplus increased to \$19.8 billion or 3.9 per cent of GDP for the June quarter as merchandise imports declined amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Reserve Bank said on Wednesday.

The country's current account surplus had come at \$0.6 billion or 0.1 per cent of GDP in the preceding March quarter, while it had reported a current account deficit of \$15 billion or 2.1 per cent of GDP in the year-ago period.

"The surplus in the current account in Q1 of 2020-21 was on account of a sharp contraction in the trade deficit to \$10.0 billion due to steeper decline in merchandise im-

ports relative to exports on a year-on-year basis," the RBI said.

The current account balances, which represents the net of the



country's export and imports of goods and services and also payments made to foreign investors or inflows from them, are considered as an important indicator of a country's external sector. In a recent re-

port, domestic ratings agency Icria had said that India's current account will swing to a surplus of \$30 billion in FY21 or 1.2 per cent of GDP on a slowdown in imports during the pandemic, but added that it will be a "temporary" phenomenon.

The RBI on Wednesday said net services receipts remained stable at \$20.5 billion, as against \$20.1 billion in the year-ago period, primarily on the back of net earnings from computer services. Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, amounted to \$18.2 billion which is a decline of 8.7 per cent from their level a year ago, the RBI said.

Purnachandra Rao elected IACC president

Hyderabad: City-based industrialist Purnachandra Rao Surapaneni has been elected as national president of Indo American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), the apex bi-lateral body synergizing India-US business relations.

He, the second Telugu entrepreneur to get elected to this position, was chosen unanimously in a board meeting of IACC, headquartered in Mumbai, on Wednesday. The board meeting was attended by IACC senior directors Lalit Bhasin, Naushad Panjwani, Sekhar and others across the regions.

Rao is currently the Managing Director of city-based Global Infovision Pvt Ltd., a player in IT/ITeS segments.

An expert Indo US bilateral trade, Rao held many key positions in IACC.



Markets edge higher amid choppy session

Mumbai: Equity benchmarks closed with modest gains after a choppy session on Wednesday, propped up by buying in select finance and banking stocks amid mixed cues from global markets.

After trading on a volatile note through the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 94.71 points or 0.25 per cent higher at 38,067.93. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty rose 25.15 points or 0.22 per cent to finish at 11,247.55.

Tech Mahindra was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 2.84 per cent, followed by Titan, Nestle India, HUL, HDFC Bank, HDFC and ITC. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel led the losers' chart, slumping 3.34 per cent. Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, M&M, Sun Pharma and ICICI Bank were among the other laggards, shedding up to 2.77 per cent.

According to traders, domestic equities traded on a choppy



note following mixed global cues after the first US presidential election debate failed to cheer markets.

US President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden clashed in a no-holds-barred debate filled with personal attacks and name-calling, hoping to sway undecided voters ahead of the November 3 election.

Indira IVF opens 4 new centres

Hyderabad: Indira IVF, a player in the infertility treatment space in India, has added four new centres in tier-III cities including Warangal, Nanded, Sira and Gulbarga in the first half of FY21. The infertility specialist clinics chain now runs 92 centres across the country helping desirous couples fulfil their dream of parenthood.

Dr Kshitiz Murdia, CEO, Indira IVF, said: "We are living in unprecedented times and everyone is dealing with a number of challenges and uncertainties in their lives.

The inability to bear children can be emotionally distressing for desirous families. Living by our vision to make infertility treatment affordable and accessible to all desirous couples, we have improved our reach by adding four more centres".

BoB launches 3rd edition of Baroda Kisan Pakhwada

HANS BUSINESS

Hyderabad: Bank of Baroda, the country's third-largest public sector bank, inaugurated the third edition of 'Baroda Kisan Pakhwada' which is being organized from October 1 to 16, 2020.

'Baroda Kisan Pakhwada' is a pan-India initiative to encourage farmers to get connected with the services offered by the Government and the bank. This year, the bank has focused on organising similar programmes in virtual mode for the benefit of farmers at large and will also include promotion of new schemes under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The initiative will conclude on October 16 with

the celebration of 'Baroda Kisan Divas', coinciding with the 'World Food Day'.

The bank recently took initiatives to bolster tractor financing in India by providing better financial service to farmers as a step to support and empower them for farm mechanization.

P Sreenivas, General Manager, Hyderabad Zone, Bank of Baroda, said that the bank's ED Vikramaditya Kichchi stressed that Bank of Baroda had been organizing Baroda Kisan Pakhwada since 2018 to reach out and lend support to the farmers of our country, in recognition of their immense contribution to India's economic progress through the decades.



Natural gas prices hit lowest on record

Centre has cut gas price by 25% to \$1.79 mmBtu; ONGC's revenues to take a hit

New Delhi: Natural gas price in India touched the lowest rate on record after the government on Wednesday slashed the price by 25 per cent to \$1.79, denting revenues of producers like ONGC.

The price of gas, which is used to generate electricity, make fertiliser and CNG for automobiles, has been cut to \$1.79 per million British thermal unit for six months beginning October 1 from the current \$2.39, an order of the Oil Ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) said.

This is the third straight reduction in rate in one year. The price was cut by a steep 26 per cent to \$2.39 in April. The rate paid to producers of new gas from difficult fields such as deepsea has also been cut to \$4.06 per mmBtu from \$5.61. Natural gas price is set every six months — on April 1 and October 1 — each year based on rates preva-



lent in surplus nations such as the US, Canada and Russia.

The rate from October 1 is equivalent to the price paid to Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) prior to May 2020 when a formula based pricing was first introduced. While the cut in prices would mean widening of losses for India's top oil and gas producer

ONGC, it may also lead to lower cost of production of electricity and CNG as well as lower piped natural gas prices.

ONGC, sources said, had posted Rs 4,272 crore loss on gas business in 2017-18, which is likely to widen to over Rs 6,000 crore in the current fiscal (April 2020 to March 2021), they said. ONGC has seen incurring losses on the 65

million standard cubic meters per day of gas it produces from domestic fields shortly after the government in November 2014 introduced a new gas pricing formula that had "inherent limitations" as it was based on pricing hubs of gas surplus countries such as the US, Canada, and Russia.

Sources said ONGC in a recent communique to the government has stated that the break-even price to produce gas from new discoveries was in the range of \$5-9 per mmBtu. In previous years, loss from the gas segment was getting offset from the gain from the oil business. But with oil business itself coming under severe strain due to a sharp slump in benchmark prices, it has become difficult for the company to meet even the operating expenses, they said.

In May 2010, the government had raised the rate of gas sold to power and fertilizer firms from \$1.79 per mmBtu to \$4.20.

Transport Minister reviews non-agricultural property survey



Minister for Transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar explaining about non-agricultural property survey to the people in Khammam on Wednesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Khammam: Transport Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar reviewed the non-agricultural property survey in the divisions of 39, 40, 44 under the Corporation in Khammam. He met people, interacted with them and cleared their doubts on the survey.

Informing the people, Minister Ajay revealed that government is giving everyone property right, conducting the

survey. He said that during the survey, the people who are living in government places and other areas without any papers shall be noted and appealed the people to provide required information to the survey staff and extend co-operation to them while they discharge their duties.

He also said that the lands on which the poor had built houses would be regularised without any further delay. This would

provide security for their land besides helping them raise loans from the banks.

He directed the officers that every information should be recorded under the survey and asked them to clear the doubts of the people about the survey. He said, the Chief Minister has taken the decision giving the property tax to the very poor people in the State. He said, maroon colour pattadar passbooks will be issued to non-agriculture

land holders in the State. Collector RV Karnan, Commissioner Anurag Jayanthi, Mayor Dr Papalal, SUDA Chairman

Bachu Vijay Kumar, Deputy Mayor B Murali Prasad, corporators and others participated in the programme.

Puvvada inaugurates oxygen plant

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Khammam: Everyone should take care of oneself and not neglect the coronavirus disease, said the Minister for Transport, Puvvada Ajay Kumar.

The Minister inaugurated a liquid oxygen plant costing Rs 50 lakh in the main hospital, here, on Wednesday.

Speaking at the inauguration programme, Puvvada said, this oxygen plant is the second unit after the one Siddipet in the State and informed that oxygen is being supplied to the

256-bedded hospital, through nearly 1,400 oxygen cylinders from the plant.

The government is taking necessary steps and setting up the facilities in all hospitals for the Covid patients, he said.

Puvvada also directed the officials to setup the Covid testing centre in Khammam main hospital and store all medicines along with clearing oxygen scarcity established in the plant. Recovering Covid patient's rates are increasing in the State, the Minister asserted.



Collector reviews arrangements for online classes in rural areas



District Collector RV Karnan speaking at a review meeting with Education department officers in Khammam on Wednesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Khammam: District Collector RV Karnan directed the Education Department officers to make necessary arrangements for conducting digital classes in rural villages in the district. He instructed the arrangements to be made in a meeting held with the Education officers, here, in the office on Wednesday.

He then asked the officers to collect the information on online classes which are conducted in private schools and directed them to set up the television sets and other instruments required for the digital classes for the

Gotti Koya people who have been living in the mandals of Kampepalli, Enkoor, Singareni.

He said that the officers shall observe the attendance of the teachers regularly online. Nearly 67,578 number of students from 1,258 government schools in the district attended the classes that started on September 1, he pointed and instructed every sectoral officer and mandal level officer to observe the classes regularly.

District Education Officer Madan Mohan, Urban Mandal Education Officer Srinivas Rao attended the meeting along with others.

TRS activists hail Revenue Act, conduct tractor rallies

On one hand Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy says Revenue Act will resolve farmer issues and give no scope for corruption and on the other he criticises Centre's Agriculture Bills calling them pro-corporate

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Narayanpet: Tractor rallies were conducted by TRS activists and leaders across the district on Wednesday hailing the new revenue Act brought by the State government to mitigate the land related disputes of the people.

Taking part in the tractor rally in the district, Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy flagged off a tractor rally taken out by the farmers at Ambedkar Chowk. While speaking on the occasion the Minister said that the new Revenue Act is a historic decision of the government which is brought to mitigate the land related disputes of the people.

"All disputes in the rural and urban areas were related to land. Because of dual registrations and due to delay in mutation process the earlier Revenue Act gave scope for tampering of land records and lead to corrupt activities as the revenue officials deprived the rights of the true owners of the land. But, now with the new Revenue Act coming into force, all



these issues will be resolved as the Act is transparent and gives no scope for corruption," said the Agriculture Minister.

Reddy also took a strong objection at the Central government's new Agriculture Bill passed in the Parliament and said that the new Bill is against the interest of the farmers as it is more pro-corporate and less favouring to the farming community.

Along with the Agriculture Minister Narayanpet MLA Rajender Reddy, ZP Chairperson Vana-

jamma and other TRS leaders also took part in the programme.

Similar tractor rallies were also conducted in Kodangal mandal where in TRS activists along with Kodangal MLA Patnam Narendra Reddy, Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy, Excise and Prohibition Minister Srinivas Goud and Agriculture Minister Sinigireddy Niranjan Reddy took part in the programme and hailed the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao by pouring milk on his portrait.

Sand tractor mows woman

As the sand mafia instructed tractor drivers not to put on headlights while moving in the village, driver could not see the woman coming in the way of tractor

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Kodangal: The sand tractors which were stealthily mining sand from Desaipally village in Doulatabad mandal crushed a woman to death on Wednesday.

It is learnt that the sand mafia has been running six tractors transporting sand from the Yanki village via Desaipally to Doulatabad mandal. During the wee hours on Wednesday, when the woman Komati Shobhamma had gone out for nature's call, she was hit by the sand laden tractor and died on the spot. It is also learnt that the sand mafia who are regularly transporting sand illegally have instructed the tractor drivers not to put on the headlights while moving in the village. Because of this, the tractor driver could not see the woman coming in the tractor's way and crushed her to death.

The family members of the deceased woman who lodged a complaint in the Doulatabad police station also alleged that the police who were initially reluctant to file the case against the sand mafia had later agreed to book a case against the tractor driver and seized the tractor. The family members of the deceased demanded the police to speed up the investigation and give justice.

New-born baby girl found in bag

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nagarkurnool: A new-born baby girl was found abandoned on the outskirts of Kondareddypally village in the district on Wednesday.

The baby girl was found stacked in a handbag and left abandoned on the roadside on the way to Kondareddypally village. The Shepherds heard the little girl crying and approached the abandoned bag only to be shocked to see a baby girl inside the bag.

Later, the information was passed on to the Vangoor police who reached to the spot and shifted the little girl to Kalwakurthy Hospital for a medical checkup. The doctors

Her condition stated to be stable



who conducted tests and provided primary treatment informed that the condition of the baby is stable and said they will shift the baby to Shishuvihar in Mahabubnagar. "The little baby girl's health condition is stable and she will be discharged after conducting all formalities. We are planning to the baby to State Children's Home in Mahabubnagar for further care," informed Dr Ramesh Chandra, Hospital Superintendent of Kalwakurthy Hospital.

Woman hangs self

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nakrekal (Nalgonda): A young woman committed suicide in Kadaparthi village of Nakrekal mandal in Nalgonda district after doubting her boyfriend of cheating on her.

The deceased was identified as Yatakula Swathi.

According to the sources, Swathi who belonged to Kadaparthi village fell in love with a person from Panagal village but was mar-

ried to another person.

However, it was believed that the former lover would marry the woman and believing in him blindly, the woman divorced her husband.

The boyfriend rejected her proposal when she asked him to marry her and upset over her lover's decision Swathi took the extreme step and hanged herself to death.

It is learnt that the father of the Swathi's lover is an ASI in the police department.

Tourist places to be thrown open for public from today

Visitors urged to follow safety measures strictly



HANS NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad: The heritage sites, monuments, forts, museums, sports grounds and State art galleries would be opened for the public from Thursday. Tourism Minister V Srinivas Goud on Wednesday said that the tourist places would be opened following the Covid-19 guidelines. The tourist sites were closed for public after the implementation of nationwide lockdown since March 22.

Urging the visitors to wear face masks, the Minister said the tourism personnel should wear hand gloves besides face masks and ensure six feet distance is maintained.

The Minister directed the sports centres, both government and private, to strictly follow the Covid-19 guidelines. The personnel have been asked to frequently use hand sanitizers. He asked the officials to ensure tourist buses have seating arrangements as per Covid protocols and fix boards explaining people about the precautions to be followed.

Govt uncorks plan for Dharani data storage facility outside TS

A SERIES OF REASONS...

- Govt takes the decision in the wake of growing cyber hacking and frequent technical glitches developed in the heavy data loaded servers
- The data recovery site will function as a substitute facility in case the main servers installed in Hyderabad faces technical glitches
- The disaster recovery (DR) site either be located in New Delhi or Bhubaneswar
- Govt has already invited tech companies to set up the facility in either of the identified locations

PATAN AFZAL BABU

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has come up with a mega plan to create a high-tech storage facility for the Dharani



portal outside the state. In the wake of growing cyber hacking and frequent technical glitches developed in the heavy data loaded servers, the government has decided to create a disaster recovery (DR) site either in New Delhi or at NIC (National Informatics Centre) in Bhubaneswar.

The DR site will function as a substitute facility in case the main servers installed in Hyderabad face a technical problem or down with glitches. Telangana State Technology Services Limited (TSTS) already invited tech companies to set up the facility

in one of the identified places. The TSTS has been entrusted with the responsibility of setting up of the DR facility on behalf of the State Stamps and Registration department.

The storage facility should have usable storage of 200 TB (terra bites) and be scalable to at least 2 PB (Penta Bites) on the same set of controllers, top officials said, adding that the DR site will be used to store every land revenue related document which is being used for property registrations through online.

Chief Minister K Chan-

drashekar Rao had recently announced the digitisation of all land records to help the Revenue and Stamps and Registration departments to register the properties and also do mutations in a single day. To achieve the goal of transparency in the registrations, the government has developed Dharani portal to access every property information to all including officials and common people from anywhere in the world.

The successful bidder will have to set up the entire facility and also maintenance the same as per the norms set by the government, officials said. The advantage of the DR site is it will function as an alternative if the main server in Hyderabad goes down during the busy hours. The DR site will also come into operation soon after the launch of Dharani portal on the auspicious Dussehra festival this year.

The DR site capacity will be enhanced and will be updated every day depending on the number of property registrations are done on daily basis. Stamps and Registration department will maintain the site with the help of TSTS and the service provider, officials added.

DIG lauds head constable for humane services

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Nalgonda: DIG Ranganath appreciated the invaluable services of head constable Prasad who took the Covid patients to the hospital.

On Wednesday, along with other officials, the DIG felicitated Prasad who discharged his duties with a touch of humanity during the present corona time.

Speaking on this occasion, SP said that Prasad not only took the corona-infected employees of the police department to the hospital but also went to their homes and provided them with essentials and helped them.

The SP also said that even when the family members have not been coming forward to bury the corona dead bodies and the blood relatives have also not taken care of corona affected victims with a fear of infection, Prasad came forward and did a good job by taking care of his corona-infected colleagues in all aspects.

Despite the fear of virus, the head constable Prasad bravely coming forward to take the victims to Hyderabad hospital for treatment is appreciable.

The department's image in the society will increase with people like Prasad, he added.

Additional SPs Narmada, Satish Chodagiri, Motor Transport Inspector Spurgeon Raj, DPO AO Manju Bhargavi, Police Officers Welfare Association District President Jayaraj, leaders Somaiah and others also participated in the programme and lauded Prasad's services.



'Take on the bowlers' was on my mind: Rahul Tewatia

ARCHANA SHARMA

Jaipur (IANS): Rajasthan Royals' latest hero Rahul Tewatia revealed that when he was promoted and sent to bat at No.4 against Kings XI Punjab he followed a specific plan: 'Go and take on the bowlers'.

The result was that Tewatia, a leg-spinner, smashed a 31-ball 53 and played a key role as his team won the game by four wickets at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. But the man from Sihhi village in Haryana said that he had miles to go and needed to learn a lot.

Talking to the media in a Zoom session, Tewatia, 27, said

that he played with a focussed mind to prove himself. "I simply adopted the 'go and take on the bowlers' mindset with a focussed approach and it worked," he said.

"When Steve Smith decided for me to play at No.4 position, it was a big time opportunity for me and I wanted to do my best to prove myself. Hence, with a clear mind, I went with a 'go and take on the bowler' mindset. I knew the team was trusting me and hence I wanted to retain that trust," said Tewatia.

Answering a question on whether he is working to improve his batting and bowling, Tewatia said: "As a cricketer, we



need to work on different grounds to improve ourselves. Presently, I am working to improve my bowling and batting, both. As a sportsman, we can't stay stagnant; we need to learn something from each training session. The only motto, at this hour, is to improve myself. I strongly believe in the fact that work should never stop and there is scope for improvement each day. Each day is a new day," he said.

When asked if Wednesday's match between Rajasthan Royals and Kolkata Knight Riders can slip into another Super Over and if he would get the chance to showcase his talent,

he said: "I will thoroughly abide by what our management, the coach, and the captain says. I will do my best if given a chance to ensure my team wins. Basically, it is a management, coach and captain's decision."

Tewatia's seven sixes and an amazing innings helped Rajasthan seal the deal against KXIP with three balls remaining as they chased a mammoth 224. Royals' 'Brand Ambassador' Shane Warne showered praise on Tewatia on Sunday night in his tweet: "Firstly what courage and heart shown by Tewatia, especially after his poor start with bat, well done young man awesome."

Was looking to bowl dot balls: Rashid

'Dedicate the Man of the Match award to my parents'

Abu Dhabi (IANS): Leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who played an instrumental role in SunRisers Hyderabad's first win in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), has revealed that all he tried was to bowl dot balls in order to put Delhi Capitals's batsmen under pressure.

On Tuesday, Delhi Capitals chose to field first and saw SRH score 162/4 with contributions from Jonny Bairstow (53), David Warner (45) and Kane Williamson (41) at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

In reply, the Shreyas Iyer-led side never looked comfortable during their chase and could muster 147/7 in their allotted 20 overs, losing the match by 15 runs.

Rashid starred with the ball for the SunRisers as he returned with figures of 3/14 taking wickets of Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant and Shikhar Dhawan.

"Initially, when I bowled my first ball, I was able to get turn, so I realised the ball is turning and I also summarised that the ball is turning more when I am bowling it quicker," Rashid told his teammate Abdul Samad in a video posted on iplt20.com after the match.

"I tried bowling in just the right areas and was looking to bowl dot balls to create pressure on the Delhi batsmen," he added.



Rabada grabs purple cap

Abu Dhabi (IANS): KL Rahul continues to hold the Orange Cap while Kagiso Rabada has taken over the Purple Cap from Mohammad Shami following the conclusion of Monday's Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 clash between SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH) and Delhi Capitals.



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

In the bowlers' list, Rabada leads the bowling chart with seven wickets in three matches, having an average of 10.71. Shami (seven wickets in three games with average of 11.71) and CSK pacer Sam Curran (five wickets in three games) are the next two top wicket-takers. These running caps are presented to the leading run scorer and wicket-taker and keep changing hands throughout the duration of the tournament.

An emotional Rashid Khan dedicated his player of the match award to his parents. The 22-year-old Rashid's mother died in June and his father died in December 2018. "Tough one and a half years for me, first lost my dad and then my mom three-four months ago. This performance and award goes to both of them," said Rashid in the post-match presentation ceremony.

"My mom was the biggest fan of cricket and IPL. She was always watching me and enjoying my cricket. Especially when I won a man of the match, whole night she would talk to me. That is something I am missing a lot. Their best memories are always with me but, yes, a tough few years for me."

Meanwhile, all-rounder Samad - who made his IPL debut against DC - said the six that he hit against Anrich Nortje gave him the confidence to perform well in the upcoming matches.

"Yeah, I felt really good playing my first match in the IPL. I also hit a big six off the bowling of Anrich Nortje, it gave me confidence that I will be able to do good in the coming games. People back home have a lot of expectations from me and I hope to do well," said 18-year-old Samad who scored 12 runs from seven balls.

"Before coming out to bat, the team management had told me

to express myself and to play the way I normally do. I started hitting from the first ball, I missed one-two balls, but the six I was able to hit, I got a lot of confidence from that," added the all-rounder from Kashmir.

SRH will next take Chennai Super Kings on October 2 in Dubai.

Iyer fined for slow over-rate

Abu Dhabi (IANS): Shreyas Iyer, captain of the Delhi Capitals, has been fined Rs 12 lakh for maintaining slow over-rate during his side's 15-run loss against SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 encounter played at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Earlier, Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli was also fined after his side maintained a slow-over rate against Kings XI Punjab.

Delhi Capitals have dropped to the second spot in the points table - behind Rajasthan Royals - with two wins from three matches. They will now face Kolkata Knight Riders in Sharjah on October 3.



Have been training hard for death overs: Warner

Abu Dhabi (IANS): Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have been working hard on their performance in the death overs, according to captain David Warner.

SRH on Tuesday recorded their first win of the season with a 15-run victory over Delhi Capitals (DC) at the Sheikh Zayed stadium here.

After scoring 162/4, the SRH bowlers did not allow the DC batsmen to get going and restricted them to 147/7. They gave away just 31 runs between the 15th and 20th over, resulting in DC needing to score 27 off the last over.

"We lost the toss tonight and won the game, so it feels good," said Warner in the post-match presentation ceremony. "Unfortunately, Mitch Marsh was injured and we had to figure out how to get the overs in, but young Abhishek Sharma came in. We have been

working really hard in our training with death bowling, and today they were fantastic because they can be called up at any stage," he said.

Losing captain Shreyas Iyer said that they were surprised with the way the pitch behaved during their innings.

"It was surprising that in the second innings, it (pitch) was two-paced. When I went in, the ball wasn't coming onto the bat. But we can't give any excuse at this moment. We didn't execute our plans the way we wanted to," said Iyer.

The DC captain, however, admitted that they were outplayed by SRH. "We were pretty much happy with 162, it was a par score on this wicket. We had no idea how this wicket would behave as this is our first game here. They outplayed us in all three departments and credit to them for that," he said.



Need to put 'brilliant' KL under pressure, says MI coach Bond

Abu Dhabi (IANS): Mumbai Indians bowling coach Shane Bond has made it clear that his team would have to keep Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul in check when the two teams face each other in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 encounter at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Thursday.

Rahul has been in terrific form in the ongoing competition, having scored 222 runs in three innings and currently sits at the top of the list of leading run getters. He is followed by Mayank Agarwal, who has scored 221 runs in the three innings he has played.

"KL Rahul has got runs against us in the last few games, he is a brilliant player. He is a dynamic player and scores all throughout the ground. We also know that he takes his time during the middle overs. So it will be an opportunity for us to create pressure on him if he gets that far in his innings against us," Bond said on Wednesday while speaking to media in a virtual press conference.

"In the end, we cannot allow

him to score runs in the areas he is strong at. We have a quality bowling attack, so we have to put him under pressure. We are confident with our batting lineup and have scored runs in all our matches. We are aware about the conditions as we have played two matches here," he added.

Mumbai Indians have two points from three games and had lost their last match against Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Super Over in Dubai. According to Bond, adapting to the conditions in Abu Dhabi is something which Mumbai would aim to work upon.

"Look, I think what we are trying to do is adapt to the conditions. When you turn up in Dubai or Abu Dhabi, you have some idea as to how it will play looking at the history, but the fact is that you have to adapt as quick you can," said the former New Zealand pacer. "We have a simple theory - we try to bowl seven metres as fast bowling group and 5 metres as a spin-bowling group. We try to keep it simple and to adjust as soon as we can," he added.

30 candidates, including Sandhu, to attend online goalkeeping course

New Delhi (IANS): Arjuna awardee Gurpreet Singh Sandhu will take part in the first-ever online goalkeeping introductory course next month. The three-day course will kick-off on October 2. Thirty selected candidates from 200-odd applicants will take part in the course.

"I am looking forward to attending the online goalkeeping coaching certificate course. It will be my first-ever coaching certification and I am eager to learn from the esteemed instructors," Gurpreet stated as per an AIFF media release.

Following that, the online scouting workshop is scheduled from October 12 to 16. The registration window for the same will be open till October 4. The online goalkeeping introductory is considered as a prerequisite for the AFC goalkeeping level 1 course along with AFC/AIFF c-certificate.

Essex under fire after alcohol poured over Muslim cricketer

London (IANS): County Cricket Club Essex is under fire after one of their players was pictured pouring alcohol over his Muslim teammate while celebrating their Bob Willis Trophy victory. While many demanded that the club issued an apology, the club stopped short of doing so, saying that "further work needs to be done across both sport and society in general, to widen people's knowledge and make them more aware of cultural differences".

The photographs of the players celebrating on balcony of their dressing room at Lord's showed Feroze Khushi having beer poured over him by a team mate. "As an organisation, Essex County Cricket Club prides themselves on their work within multi-diverse communities throughout the county and the surrounding areas," said Essex in a statement.

"For a substantial period of time, Essex have had a multi-diverse team with players from different backgrounds, religions, and races, where cricket is at the heart of these communities. The club has worked extremely hard and will continue to bring cricket to anybody and everybody, and educate on diversity, but further work needs to be done across



both sport and society in general, to widen people's knowledge and make them more aware of cultural differences. Essex County Cricket Club are in regular dialogue with the ECB and the PCA around the education and development in this area."

Sajid Patel, the co-founder of the National Cricket League in Essex and East London, was livid. He found the occurring "offensive" and also cited the example of the England national team and how they deal with it of its Muslim members Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali.

FRENCH OPEN

Djokovic, Pliskova advance to 2nd round

Paris (IANS): World number one Novak Djokovic dominated his first round match at the French Open 2020 as he swept aside Sweden's Mikael Ymer in straight sets.

On Tuesday, Djokovic defeated Ymer 6-0, 6-2, 6-3 in just 98 minutes and during the course of his win, one of the most notable features was his use of the drop shot.

"I think it's a great variety shot, the dropshot. I think it's important tactically to have it and to use it at the right time so that you can keep your opponent always guessing what the next shot is," he said as per the ATP Tour website.

"I may have played too many today, I agree. Maybe I exceeded what I should have played. But I think it worked well in the moments when I needed to get the



point I did. And I thought that I kept my opponent today on the back foot constantly, because I felt comfortable to hit really any shot, being aggressive or coming to the net or mixing it up," he added.

Djokovic, who is chasing his 18th Grand Slam crown, will face Ricardas Berankis of

Lithuania in the second round.

In women's singles, former world number one Karolina Pliskova had to really struggle in her opening round contest against an inspired Mayar Sherif, surviving the Egyptian qualifier after three sets to reach the second round.

Pliskova defeated 6-7(9), 6-2, 6-4 after two hours and 15 minutes on Court Philippe-Chatrier to pass the first hurdle at the clay court grand slam.

"Let's not talk about my level," Pliskova said after the match as per the WTA website. "I think there is big room for improvement, but it is what it is and I'm in the next round, which counts," she added.

She will next face 2017 champion Jelena Ostapenko.



Serena withdraws due to injury

Paris (IANS): Twenty three-time grand slam champion Serena Williams has withdrawn from the ongoing French Open due to achilles injury.

Williams, bidding for her 24th Grand Slam title, announced her withdrawal ahead of her second-round match against Tsvetana Pironkova slated to be played on Wednesday.

"I really wanted to give an effort here. It's my achilles that didn't have enough to properly heal after the Open. I was able to get it somewhat better, but just looking long-term in this tournament, will I be able to get through enough matches? For me, I don't think I could," the 39-year-old told a news conference as per the WTA website.

"(I'm) struggling to walk so that's a tell-tale sign that I should try to recover. I warmed up and it was a very short warm-up. I talked to my coach and I was like, what do you think? What are your thoughts with this? We both thought about it and we really realised that more than likely it wasn't the best to try and play today," she added.

Williams had kicked off her French Open campaign on Monday with a 7-6(2), 6-0 win over Kristie Ahn in the first round. A three-time champion at Roland Garros, Williams had injured her Achilles tendon during her semifinal loss to Victoria Azarenka at the US Open a fortnight ago.