



# THE HANS INDIA

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## WINDOWS



### 1 in 10 may have Covid: WHO

**Geneva:** The head of emergencies at the World Health Organisation says its "best estimates" indicate that roughly one in 10 people worldwide may have been infected by the coronavirus. Dr Michael Ryan, speaking on Monday to a meeting of the WHO's 34-member executive board focusing on COVID-19, said the figures vary from urban to rural, and between different groups, but that ultimately it means "the vast majority of the world remains at risk". The estimate -- which would amount to more than 760 million people based on current world population of about 7.6 billion -- far outstrips the number of confirmed cases as tallied by both WHO and Johns Hopkins University, now more than 35 million worldwide. Experts have long said that the number of confirmed cases greatly underestimates the true figure.

### Modi, Xi to attend virtual BRICS meet

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping will be face to face virtually for the first time amid India-China LAC tensions on November 17 at BRICS meet. India and China have held several rounds of military and diplomatic talks in the last two-and-half months but no significant headway has been made for a resolution to the border row in eastern Ladakh. The face-off began on May 5 following violent clashes between the two armies in the Pangong lake area. The incident in Pangong lake was followed by a similar incident in north Sikkim on May 9. The India-China border dispute relates to the 3,488-km-long LAC that stretches from the Ladakh region in the north to Sikkim. Prior to the clashes, both sides have been asserting that pending the final resolution of the boundary issue, it is necessary to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas.

## SPORTS

**Dhoni 2<sup>nd</sup> wicketkeeper to take 100 catches in IPL**



P8



## China digging in Ladakh for winter: IAF Chief

**New Delhi (IANS):** India sees China digging in for the winter along the disputed border in eastern Ladakh, the Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria said on Monday.

The Air Force chief said that the next three months will depend on how talks between Indian and China progress. "Current progress is slow, what we see is [an] effort to dig in for the winter. We are taking action accordingly. Our further action will depend on the ground realities," Bhadauria said.

He also said that India realised in May that the border situation was unlike normal times. Chinese troops generally exercise at this time of the year. "We



never expected them to move towards the border. But both the Indian Army and the IAF responded quickly and in record time," he said.

The chief further pointed out that there is no question that China can get the better of India in any conflict scenario. He also said that the force is fully prepared to take on any adversary.

"We have deployed strongly in Eastern Ladakh.

Under no circumstances can the Chinese get the better of us," he said during the annual press conference in Delhi.

Bhadauria also said that there was no moment where the force came close to an air strike in the last five months of stand-off with China. He, however, said the force was fully prepared.

He said that the force's immediate offensive deployment of combat ready units in response to the stand-off along the LAC in the North is indicative of the operational state today.

"We are determined to handle any contingency - undoubtedly our capability and intent would deter," said Bhadauria adding, "Our airlift capability was

## Pune boy tops JEE exam

**New Delhi (PTI):** Pune boy Chirag Falor has bagged the top rank in the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Advanced, results of which was announced by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on Monday, according to officials.

IIT-Delhi was responsible for conducting the exam this year. In total, 1.6 lakh students had registered for the exam and 1.5 lakh appeared for it. Over 43,000 candidates, including 6,707 girls, have cleared the exam. While Falor has scored 352 out of 396 marks, Vijaywada's Gangula Bhuvan Reddy and Bihar's Vaibhav



Chirag Falor

Raj bagged the second and third rank respectively. Kanishka Mittl, who bagged the 17th rank, is the topper among girls. She scored 315 out of 396 marks.

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' took to Twitter to congratulate the candidates who cleared the exam. "I

congratulate all students of #JEEAdvanced who got their desired rank and request them to work for #AtmanirbharBharat in the near future. Plenty of opportunities are available for students who couldn't get their desired rank. Students should remember that an exam cannot define them," the minister said.

JEE-Advanced was conducted on September 27 amid strict precautions in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Main for admission to engineering colleges was conducted from September 1 to 6.

## IT stocks surge as US judge blocks H-1B visa ban

**Mumbai (IANS):** IT stocks witnessed a rally on Monday on the back of a recent order by a US federal judge blocking the enforcement of a temporary visa ban by President Donald Trump's administration on several work permits, including the H-1B visa.

In June, Trump had issued an executive order temporarily barring the issue of new H-1Bs and other foreign visas including H-2B, J and L visas, till the end of the year. The ban would have severely impacted IT professionals from India, as well as the companies. In its order last week, the federal judge said that by en-

forcing the ban, Trump exceeded his constitutional authority and such a change does not serve any public interest.

The IT stocks on the Indian exchanges witnessed a healthy buying on Monday. The S&P BSE IT index rose by 3.30 per cent. At 12.12 pm, shares of Tata Consultancy Services on the BSE were trading at Rs 2,672.80, higher by Rs 150.05, or 5.95 per cent from the previous close.

TCS has also announced that its Board of Directors will consider share buyback in its meeting on October 7. This also has boosted the stock price.

## Jagan to call on PM ahead of river meet today

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will be holding a crucial meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday morning. The Chief Minister, who took part in the memorial meeting held for his father-in-law late Dr EC Gangi Reddy in Pulivendula on Monday morning, later flew to Delhi from the Ganavaram airport.

After reaching Ganavaram from Kadapa on Monday afternoon, Jagan took off to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi, he drove straight to his residence in the national capital.

YSRCP MPs Vijayasai Reddy, Mithun Reddy, Bharat, Mopidevi Venkata Ramana and Balashowri were among those who received the CM.

## Covid-hit Trump makes surprise drive-by to greet supporters outside military hospital

**Washington (PTI):** US President Donald Trump made a surprise drive-past to greet his supporters outside a military hospital where he has been admitted since Friday for the treatment of the deadly coronavirus, drawing criticism from Democrats and a leading medical expert.

The brief drive through Rockville Pike in Bethesda, a Maryland suburb of Washington DC, that separates the National Institute of Health and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, brought cheers to his supporters who have been praying for the 74-year-old president's health ahead of the presidential election next month.

"I really appreciate all of the fans and supporters outside of the hospital. The



President Donald Trump drives past supporters gathered outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre in Maryland

fact is, they really love our Country and are seeing how we are MAKING IT GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE!" Trump said in a tweet soon after his unannounced drive-past.

On Sunday, before going out to wave at his supporters, Trump in a video posted on his Twitter handle said he will give "a little surprise to some of the great patriots, who have been on the streets, and they have been out there for a long time." "They love our country. I am not telling anybody but you, I am about to make a little surprise visit," Trump said.

The president was seen wearing a mask and waving at his supporters from inside the black SUV. The windows were closed. "When I look at the enthusiasm. We have enthusiasm like probably nobody ever had," he said. Trump in his short video message said he has learnt a lot about Covid-19, literally by going to school.

## 3 win Nobel prize for discovering hepatitis C virus

**Stockholm (AP):** Americans Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice and British-born scientist Michael Houghton won the Nobel Prize for medicine on Monday for their discovery of the hepa-

titis C virus, a major source of liver disease that affects millions worldwide.



Announcing the prize in Stockholm, the Nobel Committee noted that the trio's work identified a major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the previously discovered hepatitis A and B viruses. Their work, dating back to the 1970s and 1980s, has helped saved millions of lives, the committee said. "Thanks to their discovery, highly sensitive blood tests

for the virus are now available and these have essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in many parts of the world, greatly improving global health," the committee said.

Continued on Page 5

## CM launches drive to curb air pollution

PURNA SINGH

**New Delhi:** With the onset of winter, the risk of smog and air pollution has increased in Delhi. In such a situation, Kejriwal government has started a big campaign against air pollution from Monday. Giving this information during his digital press conference, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the government is taking up 'anti-dust campaign' to prevent soil from blowing and 'war against pollution' against stubble burning.

The Chief Minister said that due to the soil blowing there is a lot of pollution, so

to prevent the soil from blowing, we are starting an 'Anti Dust Campaign' from Monday. "We are waging a war against pollution. Wherever there is straw in Delhi, the Delhi government will make a solution and spray it. The Delhi government is starting a slurry under the supervision of Pusa Institute," he said.

Earlier, Chief Minister Kejriwal held a meeting

with officials of the Environment Department to formulate a strategy against increasing pollution in Delhi. Officials of Transport, Development, PWD, Delhi Development Authority, Delhi Jal Board, Traffic Police and Municipal Corporation were present in the meeting.

The Chief Minister said that the government is trying to keep pollution and environment better in the coming years, especially

amid corona infection. As part of the campaign, along with awareness campaign from Monday, people are also being made aware of the use of technology to keep the environment better. The CM said that in the last five years, the government has not allowed pollution in Delhi to increase. While traffic increased in the national capital as well as industrial activities. Pollution in Delhi decreased by 25 per cent from 2014 to 2019. The CM said that his government has already launched electric vehicle policy, which is the best policy in the world, not only the country.

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# Womenia



## Indian salsa wows AGT

ASKARI JAFFER

Colors Infinity and Voot Select is the home for reality show – ‘America’s Got Talent’. Indians have left no pages unturned to make their presence on global platforms. One such talented group ‘Bad Salsa’ reached the finale of ‘America’s Got Talent’ held during the pandemic.

After V Unbeatable won the last edition of ‘America’s Got Talent’, the Indian salsa duo, Bad Salsa reached the finale of this year’s competition. The duo are past winners of ‘India’s Got Talent’ (2012) and have also participated in ‘Britain’s Got Talent: The Champions Season 1’.

Sonali comes from a village near the Bangladesh border named Bagdah, Saluadari in West Bengal. The only child of a farmer couple, shares her journey, “I am dancing since I was 3 years old. I used to see dance performances in my melas (fairs) and that became a passion for me. When I came under Bivash Sir he taught me everything that is seen in my performances.” Her dance partner Sumanth is from Bhubaneswar, Odisha and comes from a middle-class family.

He shares, “My parents had to work very hard to fulfill the necessities of the family. I was like any other school going boy, but dance changed my life. I have been dancing since I was 7 years old. Initially, I learned dancing through videos and tapes that I

used to bring home and tried to copy steps of the celebrities. The moment I met Bivash Sir I explored a life that I never thought really existed. I started living my dreams.”

According to the talented duo, It’s the vision and creation of their sir which motivated them. Picking up salsa as a dance form was his vision.

“We stay in the sir’s Gurukul. We have everything planned and scheduled accordingly. As it is an open university it allows us the privilege to invest our focus and time on dancing and we have study hours which helps us in passing the academics,” shared the duo.

“Our futures became more secure and now we are getting opportunities to represent our country which we feel is the greatest thing in one’s life. We always wanted to perform on global stages representing India and getting the opportunity and converting it into a real chance is really an overwhelming experience for us. Everyone was so supportive and encouraging we never felt like outsiders. Everybody respected our art form and the way we performed. The judges loved us, and the host of the show Terry Crews said he got starstruck seeing us. So much good happened during the show despite the pandemic. Our videos went viral, we were watched worldwide and we represented our country very proudly,” concludes the duo.

**The Bad (Bivash Academy of Dance) Salsa team of Sonali Majumdar and Maraju Sumanth is runner-up in ‘America’s Got Talent’, season 15**

## BE A FASHIONISTA!



### ● CROSSWORD ● SUDOKU

#### Across

- 1 Explodes like balloon (6)
- 7 Affluent (4-2-2)
- 8 Food shop (4)
- 10 Chinese religion (6)
- 11 Scene of an event (6)
- 14 Terminus (3)
- 16 Dull (2-3)
- 17 Wimp (4)
- 19 Let (5)
- 21 Reel (5)
- 22 Low tree (5)
- 23 Former Italian coin (4)
- 26 Hot chocolate (5)
- 28 Indian dish (3)
- 29 Make possible (6)
- 30 Breakfast dish (6)
- 31 Cameo stone (4)
- 32 Soaps segments (8)
- 33 Author Aldous \_\_\_\_ (6)

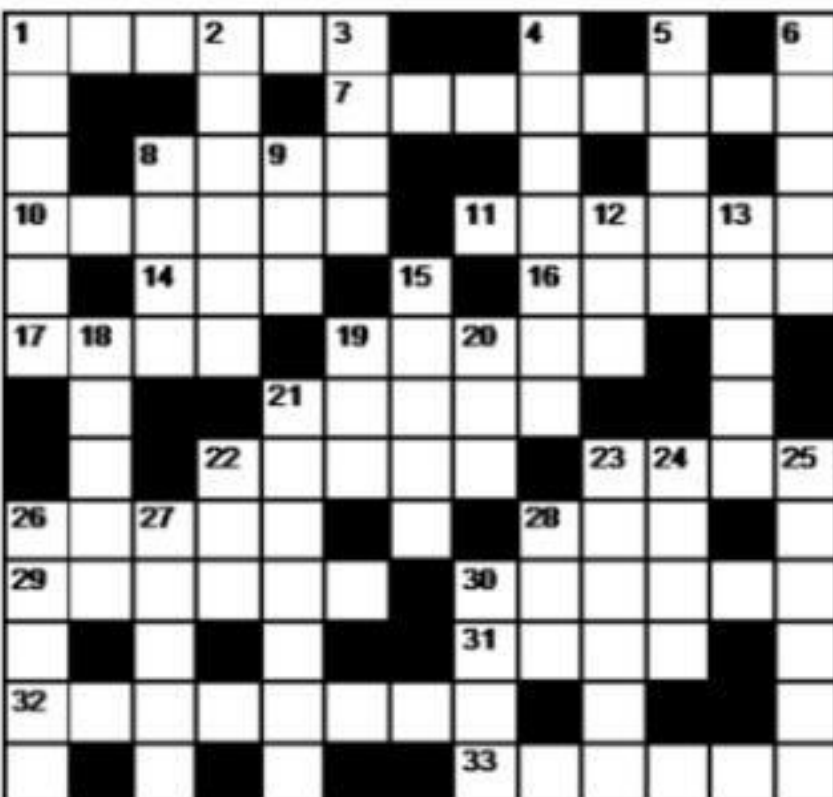
#### Down

- 1 Confer upon (6)
- 2 Beer mugs (6)
- 3 Manage to float on water ? (4)
- 4 Intoxicating liquor (7)
- 5 Jewish scriptures (5)
- 6 Animal as clan symbol (5)
- 8 Performs (4)
- 9 Psychedelic drug (3)
- 12 Intimidate (3)
- 13 Of the moon (5)
- 15 Treat with disdain (5)
- 18 Workers’ organisation (5)
- 19 Mar follower (3)
- 20 Lofted ball (3)
- 21 Not deep (7)
- 22 Weep (3)
- 23 Voice box (6)
- 24 Holm oak (4)
- 25 Speech of praise (6)
- 26 Gives in (5)
- 27 Seaport in SW Spain (5)
- 28 Private room or a lair ? (3)
- 30 Bludgeon (4)

### ● SUDOKU

2	1		9	6		8	4
			7	8			
6							9
	9		5	3		4	
5			2	9			3
	8		4	7		9	
4							7
			6	2			
3	2		1	4		6	5

6	8	5	7	2	1	3	9	4
7	3	2	9	5	4	6	1	8
9	4	1	6	3	8	2	5	7
5	2	4	3	9	6	7	8	1
3	1	7	2	8	5	4	6	9
8	6	9	1	4	7	5	3	2
4	9	6	8	7	3	1	2	5
1	7	8	5	6	2	9	4	3
2	5	3	4	1	9	8	7	6



SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 05

SOLUTION TO OCTOBER 05

### NEWS ROUNDUP

## Aahana Kumra recounts early theatre days

SIDDHI JAIN

Lipstick Under My Burkha’ actress Aahana Kumra, despite attaining popular success in cinema and web entertainment, remains deeply attached to the stage and theatre acting.

Sharing about her tryst with theatre and how was it like when she got on stage for the very first time, the 35-year-old actress told: “I was very actively involved in theater in school, and I think I took to being on stage and I absolutely loved the idea of performing and constantly being on stage when I was like 10-11 or maybe younger. But my first professional tryst with theater was I think when I was 15, when I performed with Neeraj Kabi for a play called ‘Aham’ and I was still in college at that time. It was pretty fantastic and it was the first time I performed at Prithvi Theatre.”

Calling Prithvi Theatre “a very special place” for her, she says she has “literally spent (her) formative years understanding performance and backstage and everything that requires understanding about theatre from Prithvi.”

“It really has been school for me. It has been a school playground for me. It has been home for me. I remember, the first time I went to Prithvi House and I saw the Prithvi theater, I was just completely in love. It felt like a place out of the world, whether it was playing with puppets, or painting our faces and doing actions and speaking Shakespeare, all of that was just fantastic.”



### TWEET PATROL



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## Home remedies to get rid of dandruff

The most embarrassing thing that could happen when you’re dressed up for an interview or a formal dinner, is an all-consuming need to scratch an itchy scalp and also know that a cascade of white flakes would follow, onto a jet black blazer- laid bare for all to see. Dandruff is a medical problem that has managed to unite over half the adult population across the world - beyond gender, age and race.

Dandruff is a scalp condition which is caused by a fungus, Malassezia, which feeds on sebum and the dead skin cells which occur naturally due to formation of new skin. If you’re looking for home remedies for dandruff, here are a few to help you out.

### Do not oil hair and keep it on for long

It’s a pure myth that oiling is good for hair with dandruff. Applying oil will lead to more dandruff as oil is like food for Malassezia which leads to dandruff. Applying oil to a dry, itchy scalp may sound like heaven but may only exacerbate your dandruff condition, especially when you let it sit on your scalp for longer periods of time.

### Vinegar

Vinegar helps in treating itchy, dry skin and also helps to kill dandruff-causing fungus and bacteria. The acidic content of vinegar is supremely beneficial to drastically reduce flaking. Apply an equal quantity mixture of white vinegar with water on the scalp skin about half an hour before a head wash.



### Baking soda

Baking soda, acts as a scrub and exfoliator the scalp gently, without irritating it and removing dead skin cells. Exfoliation is essential to ensure there is no build up of flakes on the scalp that make dandruff even more visible. Baking soda, along with its exfoliation and anti-fungal properties, also soothes the scalp and reduces redness and itching.

### Neem

All of us are aware of the role that neem extract plays in almost all skin medications because of its antibacterial and antifungal qualities. Since dandruff can mostly be attributed to fungal colonization of scalp, it is only right to turn to this age-old remedy for skin ailments.

### Tea tree oil

All anti-acne and anti-fungal medications boast of tea tree oil due to its exceptional power to fight fungal and bacterial infections. Add a drop or two of tea tree oil to your shampoo and wash normally and notice the

results sitting in the comfort of your home!

### Garlic

The pungent smell of the occasional garlic clove may make it a No-No for some but its medicinal value is definitely something that cannot be overlooked. Garlic is immensely beneficial as an anti-fungal natural product and the benefits of raw or crushed garlic have mesmerized man for centuries. Pound a clove or two of garlic and after mixing with water, use it on your scalp to see quick results. The smell? You could always mix in a little honey and ginger!

### Aloe vera

Not only is aloe vera cooling but also mildly exfoliates the skin and has antifungal and antibacterial properties. It is best to directly extract some from the aloe vera plant- it is transparent and has a thick consistency. It can be applied in the scalp and then washed off with a medicated anti-dandruff or mild shampoo.

The casual ensemble. Pick for an edgy and polished belt to complete the look. A suitable belt can transform a normal outfit into something chic.

### Say yes to knot

Another way to define your waistline is to knot yours top at the middle. It is a creative and playful fashion to add a twist to the look. Try knotting a shirt or a top over a dress or wear it as a crop top.

### Scarves

Comes a long way in all seasons like woollen, silk, satin, linen, etc. These are not always meant to be just draped around your neck or shoulders. There are a numerous number of ways in which you can tie a scarf. Some work wonders in winters, while some are best for summer and the others are perfect for fall fashion.

### Love to wear bag

It’s always all about what you carry and how you carry. Go for basics with an innovative spin. The trend of bags like bucket bag and boxy structured bag are big this season.



## SOCIAL DISTANCING AT MECCA



Muslims practice social distancing while praying around the Kaaba, the cubic building at the Grand Mosque during the first day umrah pilgrimages, in the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia on Monday

## Netflix releases 3 episodes of 'Bad Boy Billionaires' amid legal tussle

**Mumbai :** Netflix has partially released its much-awaited series on four Indian tycoons facing fraud allegations after a state court lifted an injunction over the weekend, a lawyer representing Netflix said on Monday. The "Bad Boy Billionaires: India" documentary series about liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya, Subrata Roy of the Sahara group, IT executive Ramalinga Raju and jeweller Nirav Modi was set for release last month. Netflix, the world's largest streaming service, suspended the show's release after an order from the Araria district court in Bihar where the Sahara group argued it would damage Roy's reputation. Late on Saturday, the court lifted the injunction, said Amit Shrivastava, a lawyer for Netflix. He declined to comment further and it was not immediately clear why the court overturned its previous order. The official order is yet to be released. Netflix did not respond to a request for comment. A spokesman for Sahara also did not respond. Roy is currently on bail, having been ordered by a court to repay billions of dollars to investors in a scheme which was found to be illegal. Roy denied wrongdoing in the case and his counsel has said he already has repaid investors.



## Don't vote for JD(U): Chirag Paswan

**Patna:** A day after walking out of the Bihar elections after an FIR targeting Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) president Chirag Paswan appealed to people against voting for Kumar's JD(U) and claimed that an alliance of his party and the BJP will come to power in the state after the Assembly polls.

In an open letter, Paswan told the voters of Bihar that a vote for the Janata Dal (United) will force the migration of their children tomorrow as he sought their support for his party candidates in the three-phase poll starting October 28. "This is the most decisive



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav presents party member slip to JD-U senior leader Vishwa Mohan Mandal as he joins the party, in Patna on Monday

moment in the history of the state of Bihar. It is a question of life and death of the 12 crore people of the state and we have

no time to lose.... The road ahead is not easy for the LJP but we will fight and win too," Paswan said.

All LJP MLAs will work under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, he added.

The 37-year-old leader also made a reference to his ailing father, Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, who has undergone a heart surgery at a private hospital in Delhi and is expected to remain hospitalised for some time. He spoke of his "Bihar first, Bihari first" vision document and said his father would be proud that his son has stuck to the issue he had raised through it.

### Dalit leader's murder case

## FIR against Tejashwi, Tej Pratap

**Purnia (IANS):** A political storm has erupted ahead of the Bihar elections after an FIR was registered in the Khajanchi Haat police station in Purnia against Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav and his brother Tej Pratap Yadav. The duo has been named in an alleged case of murder of Shakti Malik, a Dalit leader and former state unit secretary of the RJDs SC/ST cell.

A police official said on Monday that Malik was shot dead by some unidentified assailants at his residence in Purnia on Sunday.

Based on the written statement of the deceased's wife Khushboo Devi, an FIR was lodged at the Khajanchi Haat police station which al-

legedly names RJD leader and Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Assembly Tejashwi Yadav and his brother and former Health Minister Tej Pratap Yadav. The other accused named in the FIR include Kalo Paswan, Anil Kumar Sadhu, Suniti Devi and Manoj Paswan. A video of the de-

ceased Dalit leader shot a month ago has gone viral on the social media in which he speaks about the possibility of getting killed. The video says that if Malik is killed, Tejashwi Yadav and Anil Sadhu should be held responsible for his death.

Purnia Superintendent of Police Vishal Sharma said an FIR has been lodged in the Khajanchi Haat police station and the police are investigating the case. "Prima facie it appears to be a case of murder. The family members of the deceased have alleged that Malik was preparing to contest the Bihar elections which is perhaps the reason behind his murder," the Purnia SP added.

## Active Covid cases in India under 10 lakh for 2 weeks

**New Delhi:** Crossing a landmark milestone, the number of active Covid-19 cases in India has remained below the 10 lakh mark for 14 days unabated, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Monday.

The ministry, in a statement, said that new recoveries have exceeded the new cases in the recent days. While 76,737 recoveries have been registered in the last 24 hours in the country, only 74,442 the new confirmed cases have been reported in the same period.

"The Centre-led strategies of "TEST TRACK TRACE TREAT TECHNOLOGY" have been fol-

lowed by the State and Union Territory Governments, as part of the Whole of Government approach. Early identification of the cases through aggressive and accessible countrywide testing combined with other measures such as prompt and efficient tracking and tracing of the contacts have borne results," the statement said.

It said that the Central government has issued the Standard Treatment Protocol which has ensured a standardised standard of treatment and cure across various hospitals and

health facilities, public and private. "India's total recoveries stands at 55,86,703 on Monday. The higher number of single-day recoveries has resulted in a sustained increase in the national recovery rate, currently pegged at 84.34 per cent," the statement said.

"75 per cent of new recovered cases are recorded in 10 States and Union Territories. Maharashtra alone has contributed more than 15,000 to the new recovered cases followed by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh with more than 7,000 cases each," it added.



## 2 CRPF personnel killed, 3 injured in terrorist attack

**Srinagar:** Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed and three others wounded after militants attacked security forces at Kandzal area of Pampore in South Kashmir's Pulwama district this afternoon, a CRPF spokesman said. Soon after the attack, a massive search operation has been launched by the security forces. Jammu and Kashmir IG Vijay Kumar said that the two terrorists who opened fire at our personnel have been identified. One terrorist is of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) who had earlier also attacked the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel twice while the other one is a local terrorist.



Security forces during a search operation after a militant attack at Srinagar-Jammu National highway on Monday

### SUSHANT CASE

## Sena seeks apology for defaming Mumbai Police

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra's ruling Shiv Sena on Monday cited AIIMS report ruling out murder in Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death and slammed those who defamed and targeted the Mumbai Police over its investigations in the case.

The party has also sought an apology from those who 'defamed' Maharashtra over the death.

In an editorial of its mouthpiece Saamana, the Shiv Sena said truth finally prevailed in the actor's death case, and alleged that it was a conspiracy to malign Maharashtra's image using the episode. It also said the Maharashtra government should file a defamation case against those who were part of the conspiracy. The medical board of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) last week ruled out murder in Rajput's death and termed it "a case of hanging and death by suicide".

Referring to it, the Sena publication said, "Are the blind devotees going to reject the report of AIIMS in connection with



Sushant's death? It has been 110 days since Sushant's unfortunate death."

"The politicians and news channels which bark like dogs, who defamed the Mumbai Police and questioned its probe, must apologise to Maharashtra now," the editorial said.

Without naming anyone or any party, it said those who remained tight-lipped in connection with the alleged gang-rape incident in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras should not test the manliness of Maharashtra. The Mumbai Police observed ethics and maintained secrecy during its probe to see one is not defamed after Rajput's

death, but the CBI dug out the actor's drug episode within 24 hours of its investigation, it said.

It also accused Nitish Kumar and other Bihar politicians of raising the issue since they allegedly lacked campaign issues for the upcoming Assembly polls there.

Sushant's case is a "slap" for those who had "defamed" the Maharashtra government over the actor's death, State Minister Jayant Patil said on Monday.

Speaking to media, the Water Resources Minister said the AIIMS report has also proved the Mumbai Police handled the case properly before it was taken over by the CBI.

## Rules for schools: parents' written consent a must

**New Delhi:** Students will attend schools only with the written consent of parents and there will be flexibility in attendance, say guidelines issued today by the government for the reopening of schools.

The SOPs were released by the Department of School Education and Literacy. In its Unlock 5 announcement, the home ministry had said states and Union Territories can decide when to reopen schools and coaching centres.

According to the SOPs, students can opt for online classes. Schools must ensure proper sanitisation of equipment and classrooms. Schools have been asked to form task forces for ensuring hygiene and quick re-



sponse to emergency situations. The SOPs say physical distancing must be maintained at schools and students and teachers must wear face masks at all times. Schools will be required to make a comprehensive academic calendar for the whole year focusing on the learning outcomes, following the alternative calendar prepared by the NCERT. Schools must also ensure smooth transition from home-based schooling to formal schooling, the guidelines said.

## INCREASING RAPE CASES

## Indian women from weaker sections at greater risk: UN

**New Delhi:** Calling for attention to cases of sexual violence against women and girls in India, the UN in India said the alleged rape and murder in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras and Balarampur are a reminder that those from disadvantaged social groups are at greater risk of gender-based violence.

In a statement, the UN in India said it is essential that authorities ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice speedily and families are empowered to seek timely justice, social support, counselling, healthcare, and re-

habilitation.

"The recent cases of alleged rape and murder in Hathras and Balarampur are another reminder that despite the impressive progress made on a number of social indicators, women and girls from disadvantaged social groups face additional vulnerabilities and are at greater risk of gender-based violence," it said.

The steps being taken by the Indian government to strengthen safety measures for women and girls are welcome and urgent, the United Nations said.



"We support the Prime Minister's call for strict action against the culprits. Entrenched social norms and behaviour of men and boys that lead to gender-based violence must be addressed," it said. "The UN stands committed to providing continued support to the government and civil society to address violence against women. As we fight the challenge of COVID-19 with the determination to build back better India, building respectful relationships devoid of prejudices and gender biases is a top priority," it added.

The recent case of violence and sexual assault of a Dalit woman in Hathras has led to nation-wide protests and agitations.

Deputy Country Representative and Officer in Charge, UN Women, Nishtha Satyam said, "We fully stand by and wholeheartedly support the statement given by our Resident Coordinator regarding the brutal rape and murder of two girls in Hathras and Balarampur.

A 19-year-old woman was allegedly raped at a village in Hathras by four men on Septem-

ber 14. She was admitted to Aligarh Muslim University's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital and later shifted to a Delhi hospital on Monday in an extremely critical condition with spinal injuries, paralysis and cuts in her tongue.

In Uttar Pradesh's Balarampur district, a 22-year-old Dalit woman died after allegedly being raped by two men. The victim's mother has alleged that the rapists broke the legs and back of her daughter, a charge denied by the police.



## Why moral power is important than politics

The Hathras crime of Uttar Pradesh has rightly erupted onto the national limelight not only because of the manner in which the alleged rape has taken place but also in the manner in which the victim's body was cremated in the wee hours and in the absence of the victim's family members. There are conflicting claims since then with the authorities claiming that no rape had taken place and no torture signs found on the victim. The accused and the upper castes which are supporting them claim that rape was a false accusation.

The Yogi government is content with ordering a SIT inquiry first and then asking the CBI to take over after suspending some police officials. Next, the political developments take over and it is now the ruling party vs the Opposition and a section of the media vs another. Every crime poses a problem becomes it gets politi-

cised. Prejudice may be justifiable in most of the cases because of lack of confidence in the ruling dispensation and authorities. Justice is often denied and even the police do not do their job sincerely. Everything is justified in the name of democracy. Did we ever ponder over what should be at the core of the political theory?

Mahatma Gandhi preferred moral power at the core rather than politics. If at all there was violence, it was only because of the failure of the legitimate political power. Nowadays there are only forces that curb and threaten liberty. Here is where Gandhi sought to consider democracy not as a political regime, but as a value, which needed to be breathed and cherished. Electoral politics are at the core of democracy and not moral values. In the name of democracy someone wields the power and claims legitimacy over the same. Gandhi's defence of institutions of the liberal constitutional state did not mean that he justified them in terms of his political philosophy.

To the contrary, politics for Gandhi, was an act of consciousness, not a mode of living taken for granted. Gandhi did not see the goal of political action as the

immediate capture of office. According to him, the basic condition of political action was the elimination of violence. His principal aim was to civilise modern politics from within, by shorting the circuit of resentment, hatred and coercion. The problems of the minority must never be overlooked. The individual was of too great an importance to be disregarded in favour of the abstract "good of the many". Gandhian philosophy diverges from the utilitarian principle of striving to maximise the happiness of the majority. Truth could not be measured by the majority vote, therefore.

A votary of ahimsa cannot subscribe to the utilitarian formula. But that was Gandhi and he was never a politician. Look at the cases of 'Nirbhayaa' and 'Dishaa' in the country. In case of Hathras too each party justifies its stand, by the utilitarian standard and according to its idea of utility. This case too only flares up further into a political clash and 'woo-the-voter' politics soon making us forget the larger debate - the fate of SCs/STs in this country. If the ruling dispensation wonders why its version does not prevail, it should read Gandhi once again.

## IS IT INEFFICIENCY OR DELIBERATE FAILURE?

# Death of Babri Case: A post-mortem



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

It is an open secret that Sangh Parivar has destroyed the Babri structure in Ayodhya under the supervision of L K Advani and Kalyan Singh, the then Chief Minister. It was their declared political agenda. Rath Yatras, kar sevak mobilisation with tools of destruction and collection of bricks for temple were known to all. One can understand investigating agencies failing in establishing 'conspiracy' to destroy the masjid among high-profile leaders of BJP and Karsevaks is almost impossible. But failing to establish that at least a few accused physically demolishing the structure is a shame.

It is obvious that more than failing it is CBI's unwillingness to prove the provocative speeches of the leaders. Around the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the largest state of UP has shown that the rulers or not willing to investigate crimes against downtrodden to save the highly powerful sections and not interested in proving the political crimes like demolition of Babri structure. It is not failure of justice system, but deliberate destruction of investigating mechanism.

The Special CBI Court referring to the Central Bureau of Investigation said: "The charge sheet has no evidence on the basis of which it can be established that the named accused had incited any riot or were part of it."

Following paragraphs of the Judgment has exposed the working of CBI in such an important international controversy which disturbed the communal harmony and constitutional governance in India.

### No voice samples presented

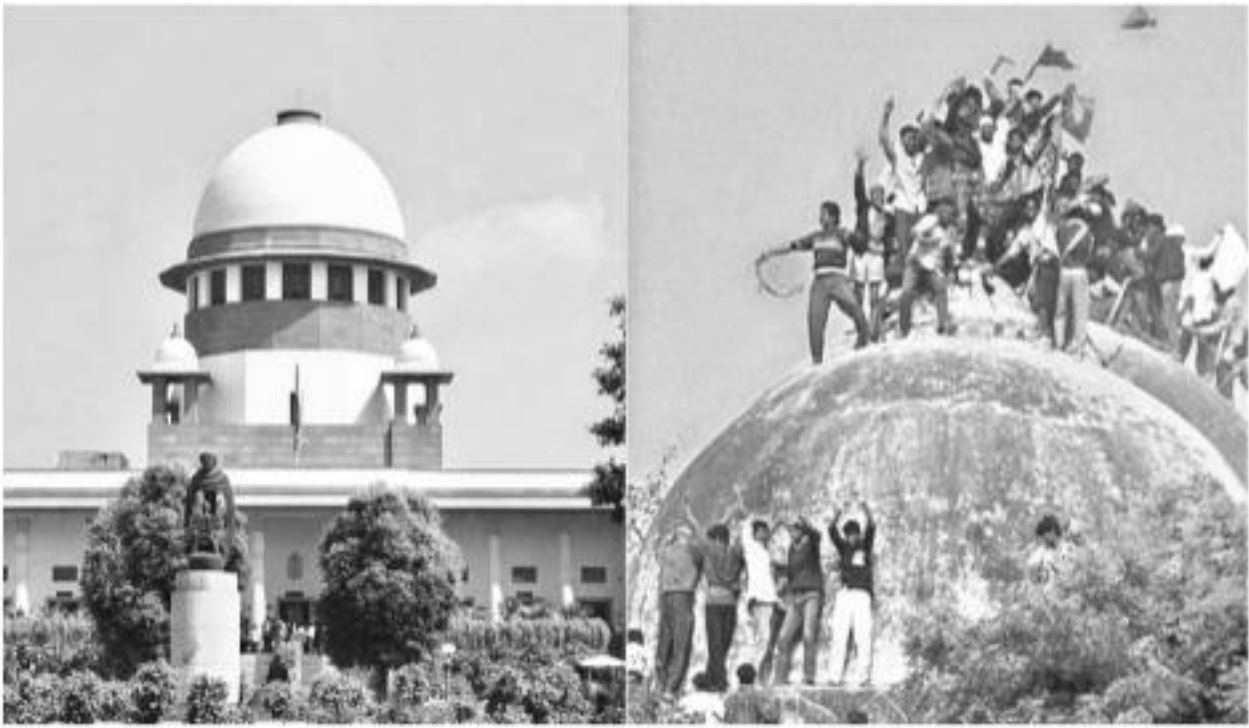
"As far as the prosecution witnesses describing slogans raised by the accused and have pointed to some accused saying they raised the slogan - ek dhakka aur do Babri Masjid tod do (give one more push to demolish Babri Masjid) - the charge-sheet makes it clear there were lakhs of Kar Sewaks in the complex and they were raising slogans, on the question of the named accused raising these slogans, in this respect no record or matching voice samples have been presented."

### No correlation with voice samples and accused

"On the question of the accused raising slogans, the recordings of slogans raised by a specific accused were not correlated with voice samples of that specific accused and presented in court, which is a strong evidence about which accused raised which specific slogan that led to religious sentiments being hurt."

### The anti-social kar sewaks!

"That the named accused got together in common cause with anti-social kar Sewaks to bring down the disputed structure, there is no evidence in the chargesheet to prove this. The leaders seated on stage and those near the Ram chabutara - Ashok



The investigating agency was found wanting since beginning. It committed several procedural, legal and technical mistakes of substantial nature that led to procrastination of litigation and also invited intervention of Supreme Court with special powers to investigate the top leaders also

Singhal, Vijaya Raje Scindia - did not suspect that a section of the Kar Sewaks will get agitated and climb the disputed structure."

### Witness alleges CBI tampered electronic records

"Which accused person gave what speech on December 6, 1992, the prosecution has not managed to prove this with evidence. The video cassettes that have been presented, their related witnesses have themselves accepted these are edited and tampered." Will CBI answer this allegation?

### No identification of provocative speech

"To prove an offence under Section 153 A and 153 A of IPC (Indian Penal Code), the prosecution has to prove that which accused gave what specific speech that led to enmity between two groups and led to a breakdown in communal harmony. If the accused have merely given an inciting speech only on that basis the person cannot be pronounced guilty."

### Several other mistakes

The investigating agency was found wanting since beginning. It committed several procedural, legal and technical mistakes of substantial nature that led to procrastination of litigation and also invited intervention of Supreme Court with special powers to investigate the top leaders also.

### Amending FIRs and adding names

A special court was set up in 1993, at Lalitpur in UP for conducting trial of these cases, in consultation with Allahabad High Court. Before the transfer, the Special Magistrate had added charges of conspiracy to the kar sewaks FIR. The Uttar Pradesh government notified the trial against the kar sewaks. This does not deal with the allegations against high profile politicians who alleged to have provoked

the destruction. Then U P government issued a notification after amending the earlier to include the FIR against political leaders, which was not mentioned in previous notification. This was struck down for lack of consultation with the High Court under Section 11(Q) of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Later, after completing the investigation the CBI has filed a consolidated charge sheet against 48 accused including Bala Saheb Thackeray, Kalyan Singh, Moreswar Save, Champat Rai Bansal, Mahant Avaidyanath, Dharam Das, Mahant Nriitya Gopal Das, Param Hans Ram Chandra Das, and others on October 5, 1993.

### The charge that could not stand in High Court

BJP's L.K. Advani, Ashok Singhal, Vinay Katiar, Uma Bharati, Sadhvi Ritambara, Murli Manohar Joshi, Giriraj Kishore, and Vishnu Hari Dalmia were named in supplementary Charge Sheet filed by CBI in 1996.

The Special Judge at Lucknow perused the charge sheets, expressed satisfaction that a prima facie case was made out against the eight leaders, and accorded permission to prosecute, on September 09, 1997. This order of Special Judge was challenged before the Allahabad High Court and, on February 12, 2001, the High Court set aside the order.

There was a technical issue that led to nullification of notification transferring FIR No. 198 to Lucknow. It was a curable defect if the State Government permits the CBI. The CBI made a request. But the then UP Government has turned down the request. Meanwhile, the CBI chose to file a supplementary charge sheet before the Judicial Magistrate in Raebareli for prosecution of the BJP and other political leaders.

There was another development in 2001. The Special Court dropped the charges against 21 accused including all leaders of various political parties, 8 accused and 13 others who were included in

supplementary charge sheet. This judgment of Special Court was questioned as illegal before the Allahabad High Court.

The High Court has upheld the special judge's order dropping the charges based on the difference between FIR against kar sewaks and political leaders. The High Court also found that the additional charge of conspiracy against the leaders levelled in supplementary charge-sheet as not acceptable because the same was absent in its earlier notification. The CBI's supplementary charge-sheet filed at Raebareli had no charge of criminal conspiracy, which means that charge was never made out against the 8 leaders.

### Supreme Court restores the charges

Thus, the High Court approved the discharge of the top leaders from allegations of conspiracy to destroy the structure in Ayodhya. At the preliminary stage itself the CBI was under a compulsion to take the issue to apex court. The CBI approached the Supreme Court in 2011 against the discharge of the political leaders. This appeal consumed six years and in 2017, a bench of Justices Pinaki Chandra Ghose and Rohinton Fali Nariman heard the arguments for three days, March 22-23, and on April 06, 2017.

Justice Rohinton Nariman took the case beyond the procedural deficiencies that created hurdles and technical infirmities so far on prosecution of accused of high-profile nature. The Supreme Court bench has invoked its special powers under Article 142 of our Constitution, to do complete justice, and ordered the consolidation of all trials arising from all the FIRs before the Special Court at Lucknow.

The Supreme Court has rightly agreed with the judgment of the Allahabad High Court that both the offences, - the demolition by the kar sewaks and instigation by the leaders formed a part of the same transaction. But the SC did not agree with the conclusion of the Allahabad High Court's 2011 judgment.

The apex court held that HC was wrong and transferred the trial from Raebareli to the Special Judge in Lucknow. The Supreme Court directed the Special Judge at Lucknow to add the charge of criminal conspiracy against L.K. Advani, Vinay Katiyar, Uma Bharti, Sadhvi Ritambara, Murli Manohar Joshi and Vishnu Hari Dalmia, which was dropped by HC. As decades passed, the SC directed Lucknow court to hear all matters on day-to-day basis.

In addition, the Supreme Court's judgment barred the transfer of the judge conducting the trial, de novo trial, and grant of adjournments for want of witnesses, unless necessary, and for reasons to be recorded in writing. It is again because of the deadline fixed by the SC the trial of these cases ended today. First it was August 19, later it was extended to September 30.

While demolition of Babri structure destroyed rule of law, the CBI's failure in establishing guilt is fatal blow to criminal justice system.

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

# Chinese Checkers at LAC: Is India making the right moves?

MAJOR GENERAL (RETD) S B ASTHANA

The current China-India standoff in Eastern Ladakh has seen multiple rounds of talks failing to ease tensions, with continued troop build-up under the shadow of talks. While negotiations roll over to the seventh military-level talks amidst an environment of deep mistrust, there is very little hope that the promise of not sending additional troops to the borders will get implemented, despite logistics during winters making standoff even more complex.

India should not accept that China, having marched in areas where it was not supposed to be, junking all CBMs as part of the overall 'Incremental Encroachment Strategy' to unilaterally alter the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in its favour and expecting India to accept nominal disengagement while Chinese troops continue to be sitting in Depsang, Finger 8 to Finger 4 and some other areas. The Chinese are also not comfortable with Indian proactive gestures of effective domination of some Chushul heights/Kailash Range, in areas South of Pangong Tso and some heights North of Finger 4; hence the game of posturing and muscle flexing continues with either side refusing to blink first.

### Chinese strategic and tactical intent

The Chinese political aim in the Asian context has always been to have a China-centric Asia, for which forcing Indian subordination has been its goal. The Chinese strategic aim to pick Eastern Ladakh is to provide depth to its highway NH G-219, Karakoram Pass and CPEC, redraw LAC as per its perception and negotiate the border thereafter. China does feel threatened by Indian dispositions in India's Sub Sector North (SSN) including DBO, infrastructure development including DSDBO road, and the Indian resolve to reclaim its territory of Jammu and Kashmir, posing a threat to the crucial Tibet-Xinjiang-Pakistan connectivity and BRI prospects. The PLA's centre of gravity of military operations is Eastern Ladakh and the build-up/intended gains in the rest of the LAC are efforts to pick up bargaining chips.

The PLA's tactical aim is to launch probing actions to gain some tactically significant features sensitive to Indian defence before heavy snowfall, which can collectively improve its strategic posture or bargaining position. The Indian military is well aware of these intentions; hence the reluctance of Chinese verifiable withdrawal could lead to probing actions/reactions to improve tactical posture. Some more incidents of tug of war between two forces can't be ruled out every time the Chinese try to probe into Indian territory. The standoff is likely to roll over to winter for which the Indian military is fully prepared, providing an option to decision makers not to hurry up disengagement on terms unsuitable for long-term security of India.

### Chinese existing concerns

Strategically, President Xi Jinping miscalculated global anger against himself while trying to make the best of Chinese early recovery from COVID-19. Having made an unwarranted aggressive move in Ladakh, along with similar activities in South and East China Sea, President Xi Jinping now faces major democracies standing up against China's over-ambitious aggressive design, with few bankrupt countries standing by its side to handle multiple engagement points. The gross violation of CBMs in Ladakh by China has opened all military options for India, besides responses in economic, diplomatic and other domains, with international opinion in its favour. A pullback has a heavy domestic political cost for Xi Jinping, besides the threat of occupation of vacated areas by India. Pushing the PLA to make some quick gains before the winters and engaging in talks to freeze the situation thereafter to retain its gains is the Chinese game plan.

### What should be Indian responses?

The speedy mobilisation and proactive military actions of India surprised China. The Indian response in multiple domains (including economic and diplomatic) has triggered a hard global stance against the unfair adventurism of China. No country wants war; hence India too would like to have peaceful borders, but not at the cost of Chinese unilateral occupation of areas or changed LAC in favour of China. Talks alone are unlikely to make the PLA recoil. India will have to raise the cost of PLA's presence in unauthorised areas like Depsang even if it amounts to a long haul on LAC and some military options besides what is being done.

India needs to avoid any quick fix diplomatic solutions like five-point agreement, seeking fresh CBMs, mutual disengagement and ideas like buffer zones which help the Chinese agenda like many other historic errors in the past. Pulling back from freshly occupied heights south of Pangong Tso will be a strategic disaster for India. This requires political, diplomatic and military decision makers to be on the same page. The Indian strategic aim should be to insist on proper delimitation and demarcation of the LAC (which is difficult but doable), pending settlement of the border issue. Any softer stance will lead to reoccurrence of a similar situation which is not in India's security interest.

### What should be the global response?

The world has to realise that China has got emboldened with the success of incremental encroachment of territory without fighting in the past, especially in the South China Sea. This prompted Xi Jinping to open multiple fronts for territorial gains amidst the pandemic, diverting domestic and international criticism against himself/CCP. With multiple fronts, exposed sea

lanes of communications and isolated bases, China soon finds its vast inventory of military assets too meagre to cover all its vulnerabilities.

Chinese aggression on multiple fronts has necessitated the need for an Indo-Pacific alliance of democratic countries which can be built up by strengthening Quad, by converting it to a military alliance on the lines of NATO. With global economic and population fulcrum shifting to the Indo-Pacific, it has become inescapable for lasting peace in the region, because if Chinese assertiveness and encroachment is not controlled now, the democracies will have to face a much more aggressive threat from the Chinese authoritarian regime, and punishments such as choking of the global sea lane of communication like South China Sea.

**(Maj Gen S.B. Asthana is a veteran infantry general and strategic analyst. The views expressed are personal and of the author, who retains the copyright.)**

## Our flawed democracy

The brutal rape and assault of a 19-year-old Dalit woman by four upper caste men and her subsequent death in Hathras in UP have shaken our conscience. Within hours of her death, two other Dalit girls were killed in UP. Obviously, the UP government is intent on hushing up all vital evidences related to the crime. When such atrocities are perpetrated, the victim and her family can place their faith only in the government. However, the manner in which the Yogi Adityanath Government dealt with the issue has drawn severe condemnation from the public. A government that assumes the responsibility of dealing with the victim and her family with utmost gentleness and sensitivity treated them in an arrogant and harsh manner.

The Hathras story is reflective of the flaws of Indian democracy. There has been an urgent need for changes in the training and orientation of police and administrative officials. Political leaders must set aside political gains and work towards people's wellbeing. They must practise what they preach.

Venu G S, Kollam

## II

It's shocking to learn that a mass gathering was led by one former legislator in solidarity for Hathras gang rape ac-



## LETTERS

cused in the very place where the ghastly crime occurred in UP. There is no doubt that the poor victim had fallen prey to predators. She succumbed to enormous physical violence. The apathy of local police towards the victim and her family is quite evident in every step right from registering FIR to cremating the mortal remains against the wishes of family.

In such a scenario the sympathies and solidarity must be unequivocally with the poor victim. But the developments there finding ground even for accused are alarming. The humanity factor seems to get overshadowed by instant politics there. According to NCRB there is a sharp rise in the crimes against downtrodden and women in India. There is no room to relax for the government to arrest the dangerous trends that foster the conducive environment for atrocities.

Dr D V G Sankararao, Nellimarla

## CSK pounds rival to dust

It was heartening to watch the spectacular contest between the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) played at the Dubai International Stadium, last Sunday (October 4). With an absolute dominating vic-

tory over the KXIP, CSK has made a massive comeback in the tournament after losing their last three matches in a row. The CSK openers Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis must be given kudos for their match winning partnership of 181 runs. It also became the highest ever partnership ever between two CSK openers.

Although the KXIP lost its fourth match, it is noteworthy that the top two scorers of the tournament so far are from their team - KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal. One hopes that the team bounces back soon as from now, the roads to victory will be more challenging.

Tushar Anand, Patna

## Wrong decision to open schools

Is it right time to open schools now? Absolutely wrong. But in Andhra Pradesh schools have started. This may cause many chances to spread coronavirus. In Guntur district 39 members including teachers and parents. And in Vijayanagaram district also happened. So in this pandemic situation if schools will open it very dangerous. Because in India the corona cases are somewhat decreased while comparing to one to two months back. But cases are not become zero. So in this time only we have to be careful and we can reduce the cases.

Children's have less immunity power. Their stamina is less. If schools are opened all students will gather and they

cannot control themselves. So for this year online classes only better to learn. If schools will open the hard work of government to prevent Covid -19 will become waste. And cases will increase again.

T V S Suchitra, Khammam

## BJP riding two horses

LoK Janshakti Party's decision to not go in the assembly elections under the leadership of reining CM Nitish Kumar yet to remain part of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) puts BJP in a lucrative position, wallowing in the best of both worlds. The LJP chieftain Chirag Paswan clarified himself that party won't field candidates against BJP.

In a hypothetical post poll case, if BJP manage to win more seats than JD(U) and JLP too wins some seats, this will give BJP leverage to get CM post or plum portfolios. Chirag is young and aspirational, eager to spread the footprints of party, so LJP's candidates will eat up JD(U)'s share, catapulting BJP in best position and strongest position. This strategy may boomerang if Nitish wishes to go with RJD and Cong post poll, leaving BJP in the lurch and having egg on its face.

Rahul Chouhan, Ujjain

thehansreader@gmail.com



# State's revenue dips by 32%

SAMBASIVA RAO M

**Amaravati:** The Revenue collection for the first half year of the current financial year, April to September, showed nearly 32 per cent negative growth when compared with the corresponding period in the previous financial year. According to the statistics prepared by the finance department, the state realized only Rs 14,961.72 crore till September from April 2020.

During the same period in 2019, the government collected Rs 21,967.86 crore, which means the revenues have fallen 31.89 per cent.

Interestingly, despite relaxing the Covid-19 lockdown rules and allowing alcohol sales, the government received only Rs 1,529.94 crore in the last six months, as against the revenue of Rs 5,735.48 crore for the same period in 2019 accounting for 73.32 per cent dip.

Though the revenue collections from petroleum products show a negative growth over six months, it is better than the previous year between the months of July to September.

The government collected Rs 4,509.03 crore between April to September this year, whereas it got Rs 5,215.14 crore during the corresponding period in 2019, which is 13.54 per cent less. In-

- Revenue collections from April to Sept this year are ₹14,961.72 cr as against ₹21,967.86 cr during the same period last year
- Interestingly, govt earns more than last year from fuel after raising VAT and relaxation of Lockdown restrictions
- GST collections are somewhat better in the second quarter (July-Sept) with only 3.4% fall compared with last year



terestingly, the revenue collections showed a positive trend and the government realised more money in the last three months from the petroleum products.

From July to September in 2020, the government earned Rs 2,648.94 crore as against Rs 2,553.02 crore in the same period in 2019. This is 3.76 per cent higher in 2020 than 2019.

The sources in the Secretariat revealed that this hike in the revenue from the petroleum products was mainly because of two things: Increase in Value Added Tax and allowing the vehicles for transportation.

On the other hand, the GST revenue collections are also better in the second quarter. The

government realised only Rs 8,850.62 crore in the first half year of 2020, as against Rs 10,910.99 crore in 2019 for the same period, which is 18.88 per cent lower.

At the same time, the GST revenue collections are somewhat better in the second quarter, that is between July to September 2020.

The government collected at least Rs 5,340.25 crore in the second quarter of 2020 and Rs 5,528.11 crore in 2019, which accounts for just 3.4 per cent variation. The gradual increase in the revenue from both petroleum products and the GST is visible when we see the September month collections alone. The government collected Rs

1,803.74 crore in September this year, as against the total revenue of Rs 1,535.94 in the same month in 2019 from GST revenue collections, which is a massive increase of 17.44 per cent. The petroleum products also showed an increase of 6.39 per cent in September alone. The government got Rs 905.78 crore in September this year as against the 851.40 crore in the same month in the previous year.

On the other hand, professional tax collection remained negative with 32.11 per cent fall. The government received only Rs 72.13 crore in the first half of this year, but it was Rs 106.24 crore in the previous year for the same period.

# AP efforts on Covid lauded

- California-based scientists praises AP & TN for their efforts in managing Covid-19 crisis
- Decentralisation of health system and aggressive testing, tracing and timely treatment helped AP to fight against corona virus



HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Scientists from California praised the 'excellent' work by Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in managing Covid-19 pandemic. They conducted a research on 10,000 people who have been affected by the virus in the two southern states.

The paper published in the journal *Science* stated, "Although most Covid-19 cases have occurred in low-resource countries, little is known about the epidemiology of the disease in such contexts. Data from the Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh provide a detailed view into SARS-CoV-2 transmission pathways and mortality in a high-incidence setting."

A 'Covid alert tracking system' set up by the state Disaster Management Authority helped the government and system is capable of keeping a tab of 25,000 people at a time. Awareness was created among the people and an extensive survey was done by ward and vil-

lage volunteers in identifying the Covid-19 patients.

The writers in their article noted that aggressive testing, tracing and timely treatment has helped Andhra Pradesh to fight against the coronavirus. The state government has ramped up and

decentralised its health system and named private hospitals for serious cases as Covid hospitals.

Males are more susceptible to the coronavirus than females. Nearly 63 per cent of those who died due to Covid-19 had other serious illness. About 45 per cent of people who lost their lives had diabetes, hypertension, or both.

Special chief secretary (health) Dr K S Jawahar Reddy said, "More than 70 lakh tests have been done in the state. There has been a gradual decrease in the fatality rate". Most of the states in the country are following the strategies of Andhra Pradesh in controlling the spread of coronavirus, he added.

## 4,256 new Covid cases reported, deaths cross 6,000 mark

**Amaravati:** Coronavirus cases increased by 4,256 to 7,23,512 in the state on Monday, while the death toll crossed the 6,000 mark.

In the 24 hours ending 9 am on Monday, 7,558 patients had recovered while 38 succumbed to take the overall toll to 6,019.

The number of active cases declined to 51,060 after 6,66,433 recoveries and 6,019 total deaths, according to the latest bulletin.

As many as 56,145 samples were tested in 24 hours, taking

the gross to 61.50 lakh with a positivity rate of 11.76.

East Godavari district added the highest number of 853 new cases and Kurnool just 86, the lowest. Four other districts reported less than 200 new cases each. Krishna district reported seven fresh COVID-19 fatalities, while Chittoor and Kadapa had five each. Anantapur and Visakhapatnam added four deaths each and East Godavari three, the bulletin said.

## Naidu alleges nexus of police YSRCP leaders

- TDP president writes to DGP over police ignoring minor girl molestation case
- Victim's father attempts suicide, as police pressurise him to withdraw the case

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Accusing police of conspiring with the ruling YSRCP leaders in committing atrocities and attacks on weaker sections and Minorities, TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu criticised the way they handled the minor girl molestation case in Rajamahendravaram that eventually led to the suicide attempt by her father.

In a statement on Monday, Naidu said that there were continuous attacks on Dalits, tribals, BCs, Muslims, women and journalists across 13 districts.

"Unfortunately, the police, who are supposed to uphold the rule of law, are either conniving with the ruling party or turning a blind eye to injustices occurring across the state," he said.

In a letter to DGP Gautam Sawang, the TDP chief said that girl's father consumed poison in front of the office of the SP in Rajamahendravaram, as he faced threats from the accused. His minor daughter was allegedly molested by someone who apparently belongs to the YSRCP, he said.

Naidu said that since the accused seems to be from the YSRCP, the police allegedly pressurised the girl's father to withdraw the case. Unable to bear the torture, he tried to end his life on October 1 and was battling for life at the government hospital in Kakinada, he said.

## RTC bags award for skill training

**Amaravati:** The Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) on Monday announced that it has bagged the 'Kaushalacharya' award for efforts at skill development in the organisation.

The APSRTC was chosen by the Union ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship for the award as the public transporter recruited 5,397 apprentices who were diploma-holders from the Industrial Training Institute (ITIs).

The recruits were imparted skill development training in trades like motor mechanics, diesel mechanics, electricians, welders, machinist and draughtsman (civil).

During training, they were paid a stipend of Rs 7,000 per month, according to APSRTC managing director M T Krishna Babu. The award carries a certificate and a memento and was recently presented by the Central government through a virtual conference, a press release from APSRTC said.

## HC to hear Amaravati cases on daily basis

- ◆ There are 229 interim applications besides main petitions currently in the court related to 3 capitals, which will be heard daily from today
- ◆ A senior advocate says the court has asked the Registry to list the interim applications from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm everyday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Nelapadu (Amaravati):** The Andhra Pradesh High Court is all set to hear the petitions filed against the government opposing the trifurcating of the state capital Amaravati on daily basis from Tuesday onwards to ensure speedy disposal of all the cases.

There are 229 interim applications apart from the main writ petitions, at present in the High Court, related to the Amaravati, said Sunkara Rajendra Prasad, a senior advocate. Rajendra Prasad said that as people from various sections in the state have been continuing the filing of cases, this number may increase further.

He said that the High Court has ordered the Registry to list



the interim applications between 10.30 am to 1.30 pm every day. Majority of these interim applications were filed against the government urging the High Court to ensure that the shifting of capital should not take place. Hearing of these interim applications would take at least 10 to 15 working days, he observed.

After disposing of all the interim applications, the High Court would list the main writ petitions, which would have more scope for arguments.

Rajendra Prasad said that the court is allowing the advocates and petitioners to attend the proceedings through video-conferencing for the hearing of interim applications. He observed that the High Court may direct the advocates and petitioners to directly appear before the bench for arguments on writ petitions, filed in the nature of Public Interest Litigations (PIL).

# Woman staffer dies as sunshade caves in at Tirupati Covid hospital

- ◆ The 29-year-old deceased woman was an outsourced employee at the hospital
- ◆ She was waiting under a sunshade of the incomplete building of the hospital along with three Covid patients who were to be admitted to Covid ward
- ◆ Two patients who suffered injuries in the incident are undergoing treatment in emergency ward

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Tirupati:** In a shocking incident, a pregnant outsourced employee working at Sri Padmavathi state Covid hospital, died when a part of the sunshade from an incomplete hospital building collapsed on her. The incident occurred on Sunday night when the woman employee Radhika, 29, was standing there as part of her duty and died on the spot.

According to director of the hospital, Dr B Vengamma, three patients belong to Tirupati have reached the hospital at the same time for admission into Covid ward and waiting



The debris of the sunshade collapsed at Padmavathi state Covid hospital. Deceased woman employee Radhika (file photo)

underneath a window. Two of them Nagarathnamma and her son Muniraja were injured while another Rangaiah got minor scratches. The injured were admitted to the emergency wing for treatment.

The woman employee was also standing with a wheelchair to take an old patient into the ward when the incident happened. Hariprasad, husband of the deceased woman, has been working as a bedside

assistant in the hospital for over 12 years. Outsourcing agency RASS has provided Rs.25000 immediate assistance to him for the funeral of his wife.

There were two blocks in the hospital of Sri Padmavathi Medical College for Women which is now designated as state Covid hospital. While one block was completed with G+5 floors, only G+1 has been completed in the adjacent block

and the works for the remaining four floors were incomplete. During the last one year, the contractor has not carried out these works for various reasons. However, the completed ground and first floors are under utilisation.

Health minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas alias Nani expressed grief over the incident. He took it seriously and talked to the director. He asked chairman of APMSIDC Dr B Chandrasekhar Reddy to conduct a detailed inquiry and submit a report immediately. He announced Rs 10 lakh compensation to the kin of the deceased and Rs 2 lakhs to those injured.

Meanwhile, BJP and CITU leaders G Bhanuprakash Reddy and Kandarapu Murali and other leaders along with the outsourcing staff staged protests at the hospital in the morning. They raised slogans against the hospital management and demanded justice to the deceased woman employee. Joint collector (development) V Veerabrahmam and Urban SP A Ramesh Reddy reached the spot and monitored the situation.

# CEC says observers are eyes, ears of poll panel

- Addressing election observers through videoconference, Sunil Arora says observers play a key role to make polls free and fair
- Election in the past and at present are different, observers should take special care
- Instructs them to create awareness among voters on the c-Whistle and 1950 call centre

HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati:** Election observers are eyes and ears of the Election Commission (EC) and they play a key role in conducting free, fair and peaceful elections in a transparent manner, said chief election commissioner Sunil Arora.

Addressing the election observers on virtual conference, who would be leaving to Bihar and other states where by-elections will be conducted soon, Chief election commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora said that there is

vast difference between the elections in the past and the present, keeping in view the Covid-19 backdrop. The election observers should take special care for the protection of the voters.

The CEC instructed the observers to watch out for the individuals or elements, who attempt to influence the voters with money and liquor on large scale. In order to prevent such incidents, they should concentrate on implementing the election code strictly. Awareness should be brought among voters regarding the c-Whistle and 1950 call centre.

Election commissioner Rajiv Kumar said that the EC allowed the senior citizens above 80 and the physically handicapped to exercise postal ballot. The election observers should be more careful in discharging duties as everyone will be watching them.

Election commissioner Susheel Chandra said that the observers should focus on safe election in view

of the Covid-19 pandemic. They should strive to improve the polling percentage by bringing awareness among the voters.

Earlier, Umesh Sinha, secretary general of the EC, elaborated on the procedure to be adopted by the election observers to conduct elections peacefully. Deputy election commissioners Dharmendra Sharma and Sudeep Jain gave a presentation on sweep activity and electronic voting machine maintenance while deputy commissioner Chandrabhushan Kumar on election code of conduct and other legal provisions. Ashish Kundra on IT initiatives and Sarath Chandra on social media presented their ideas. State chief electoral officer (CEO) K Vijayanand, principal secretaries RP Sisodia and Ramgopal, who are deployed for the Bihar elections, chief commissioner of taxes Piyush Kumar and other officials were present.



Chief Electoral Officer K Vijayanand (left) taking part in a videoconference held by Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora from New Delhi on Monday.

## Union Minister Prahlad Joshi worships at Tirumala



TTD in-charge EO A V Dharma Reddy presents prasadam to Union Minister Prahlad Joshi at the temple on Monday

**Tirumala:** Union minister for coal, mines and Parliamentary affairs Prahlad Joshi had darshan of Lord Venkateswara here on Monday. Earlier, he was accorded a warm welcome by the TTD EO (FAC) AV Dharma Reddy upon his arrival at the temple. Later, after a dashan of the deity, the Union minister was rendered Veda Ashvachanam by Vedic pundits and was presented Srivari Thirthapadams and laminated portrait of Lord Venkateswara. He then took part in Sundarakanda pathanam at Nadaneerajanam mandapam.

## 3 win Nobel prize for discovering hepatitis C virus

*Continued from P1*

The disease is chronic and a major cause of liver cancer and cirrhosis requiring liver transplants. The medicine prize carried particular significance this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has highlighted the importance that medical research has for societies and economies around the world.

Will Irving, a virologist at the University of Nottingham, said that identifying hepatitis C had been the "holy grail" in medicine. "After hepatitis A and B were discovered in the 1970s, it was clear there was still at least one other virus or more that were causing liver damage," he said.

"We knew there was a virus in the blood supply, because when people had blood transfusion they would get liver damage," Irving said. "It was recognised as a risk but there was

nothing we could do. We didn't know what the virus was and we couldn't test for it."

Nobel Committee member Patrik Ernfors drew a parallel between this year's prize and the current rush by millions of scientists around the world to combat the coronavirus pandemic. "The first thing you need to do is to identify the causing virus," he told reporters.

"And once that has been done, that is, in itself, the starting point for development of drugs to treat the disease and also to develop vaccines against the disorder." "So the actual discovery, viral discovery itself, is a critical moment," said Ernfors.

Unlike hepatitis A, which is transmitted via food or water and causes an acute infection that can last a few weeks, hepatitis B and C are transmitted through blood.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Steps in place to make India AI leader


“ India has the unique advantage to harness its enormous digital capital for AI-driven development, which is bottom-up and inclusive. This is because of our twin strengths of democracy and demography. The tools are ready to make India a world leader in Artificial Intelligence - RIL Chairman **Mukesh Ambani**



## BANKS

### Credit growth to be muted

Bank credit growth continued to moderate in the first 6 months of this year to reach 5.3% as on September 11. Bank credit to commercial sector recorded a growth of 5.4%, mirroring weak credit demand and increased risk aversion in the banking system, as per report by the Finance Ministry.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	77.68	South	
Euro	90.44	African Rand5.14	
UAE Dirham	21.95	Hong Kong Dollar10.87	
Thai Baht	2.68	Japanese Yen0.8	
British Pound	98.69	New Zealand Dollar51.12	
Australian Dollar	55.25	Saudi Riyal21.49	
Canadian Dollar	57.98	Swedish Krona9.47	
Swiss Franc	83.17	Singapore Dollar56.53	

DELHI TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2020

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Govt IoT mkt to reach \$15 bn

**New Delhi:** The global government Internet of Things (IoT) endpoint electronics and communications market will reach \$14.7 billion in 2020, an increase of 6 per cent from 2019, a Gartner report said on Monday. The largest revenue opportunities in the government IoT market in 2020 are in outdoor surveillance, street and outdoor lighting and road toll and traffic management. "The Covid-19 pandemic is slowing down spending. However, governments across the globe continue to use IoT technologies and solutions to improve citizen safety. At the same time, the falling endpoint and connectivity costs make smart city initiatives more viable," said Kay Sharpling, principal research analyst at Gartner. Globally, Gartner expects governments will deploy eight cameras per thousand urban citizens for outdoor surveillance by 2021, up from six cameras per thousand in 2019.

### Ferrero enters new segment

**Hyderabad:** Ferrero India Private Limited, part of Ferrero Group, one of the world's leading manufacturer of chocolate and confectionery products, forayed into kids snacking segment with the launch of its new product innovation - 'Kinder Creamy'. With this new offering, Ferrero India aims to make deeper inroads into India's chocolate category. The new product is a unique recipe which contains two milky and cocoa creams topped with crispy rice with no preservatives or colorings with high-quality ingredients. It is now available at modern trade retail outlets and traditional trade stores in the South region. Additionally consumers will be able to buy the product on e-commerce platforms as well. Stefano Pelle, Managing Director of Ferrero India, said, "With an endeavor to provide consumers an affordable and differentiated offering, we are expanding our Kinder portfolio with Kinder Creamy".

### BKT extends tie-up with BBL

**Hyderabad:** Balakrishna Industries Ltd (BKT) announced the extension of its partnership with the Australian cricket league, KFC Big Bash League (BBL) thanks to an agreement signed with Cricket Australia, the body which organizes all the events in the country related to this sport. The partnership signed in 2018 was initially envisaged up to 2021, but will now continue up to 2023. After being a league supplier, BKT has now become a league partner of the BBL, joining an elite club of marquee names as the second highest category of sponsors for the BBL after the title sponsor. As the league partner, BKT will receive several additional rights, including expanded visibility on LED boards, vision screens, boundary ropes and umpires' uniforms. It will also receive the right to create several activations, both at venue and outside venue, as well as comprehensive digital support from Cricket Australia.

### NCC gets orders worth ₹1,414 cr

**Hyderabad:** Infrastructure major NCC has received six new orders totaling to Rs 1,414 crore (exclusive of GST) in the month of September, 2020. "Out of this, four order of Rs. 896 crore pertains to Building Division and balance two orders of Rs 518 crore pertain to Irrigation Division. These orders are received from Central/State government agencies and do not include any internal orders," the company said in a release.

# Adani completes K'patnam Port Company acquisition

Adani Ports pays ₹12,000 cr for 75% stake in KPCL

## HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) on Monday announced the completion of the acquisition of Krishnapatnam Port Company Ltd. (KPCL) for an enterprise value of Rs 12,000 crore.

In a statement, Adani said the acquisition will result in APSEZ having a controlling stake of 75 per cent in KPCL from the CVR Group and other investors In FY21, the port is expected to generate an EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization) of Rs 1,200 crore.

KPCL is a multi-cargo facility port situated in the southern part of Andhra Pradesh, a State which has the second largest coastline in India.

"I am happy that KPCL the second largest private port in India has now become part of APSEZ portfolio. This transformational acquisition enables us to roll out world class customer service to an increased customer base and provide a pan-India solution to them," Karan Adani, Chief Executive Officer and Whole Time Di-



### Krishnapatnam North Node to get ₹5,733 cr investments

## HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Nellore:** National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT), is taking up a mega project in eight villages of Chittoor and Kota Mandals in the district along with the special purpose vehicle created by Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited and APIIC. The cost of the proposed projects in the Krishnapatnam North Industrial Node is Rs 5,733 crore which will come up in about 11,095 acres.

This is part of Krishnapatnam North Industrial Node in which food products, textile and apparel manufacturing, automobile industry, electrical and electronic manufacturing, pharmaceutical and non-metallic minerals are coming up giving a fillip to the local development that would generate avenues for the unemployed youth in the region.

rector of APSEZ said. This acquisition will accelerate APSEZ's stride towards 500 million metric tonnes per annum by 2025 and is another step in implementing its stated strategy of cargo parity between west and east coasts of India. Karan Adani added that the company's experience of turning around acquisitions like Dhamra and Kattupalli ports will enable it in harnessing the potential of KPCL.

"With a vast waterfront and land availability of over 6,700 acres, KPCL is capable of replicating Mundra and would be future ready to handle 500 MMT. We will replicate our operations and maintenance philosophy at KPCL, continue to focus on environment, reduce emission levels and have zero tolerance for fatalities and thus improve returns to stakeholders," Adani said.

# Ramky Enviro sets up building waste plant

## HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** Ramky Enviro Engineers Limited and New Okhla Industrial Development Authority together inaugurated the construction & demolition waste recycling Plant located at sector-80, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

The project which spread across 5 acres of land can recycle up to 300 tonnes per day of construction and demolition waste. The first of its kind C&D plant envisages the collection, transportation, processing, and management of construction and demolition of waste, under a public-private partnership basis.

Any waste comprising building materials, debris, and rubble resulting from construction, remodelling, repair, and demolition of any civil structure is classified as C&D waste. C&D waste is an inert waste, and over 90 per cent of can be reused or recycled. India as a country will benefit greatly from a circular economy ap-



proach that can turn this C&D waste into a useful resource.

The new plant aims to manage and scientifically process all the present construction and demolition wastes generated in and around Noida to produce a broad range of green and eco-friendly products. The finished recycled products from the plant can be put to multipurpose use.

Goutham Reddy, MD & CEO, Ramky Enviro Engineers Limited, said "The launch of this new plant provides needed capacity to help address the long-standing issue of construction debris dumping on roadsides, open plots and other places to provide a more clean and green environment for the future generations to come".

# Expected interest waiver, stimulus buoys stock mkts

**New Delhi:** Anticipation of a waiver of loan interest during the moratorium period, along with positive global cues and likelihood of a stimulus package, pushed the Indian equity markets higher on Monday.

Both the key indices, the S&P BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty50, made healthy gains. This was the third consecutive session of a rise for them.

Consequently, the S&P BSE Banking index closed at 38,973.70, higher by 276.65 points, or 0.71 per cent, from its previous close.

The Nifty50, on the National Stock Exchange, traded at 11,503.35, higher by 86.40 points, or 0.76 per cent, from its previous close. Buying was witnessed in IT, metal, pharma, FMCG and banking stocks, while infra and energy indices ended in the red.

Globally, stocks moved higher on Monday following reports that President Donald

Sensex zooms by 276 points; Nifty closes at 11,503 points



Trump could be discharged from hospital later in the day and hopes that US lawmakers could strike a deal on new measures to stimulate the economy.

"Our markets opened higher but traders chose to take profits in select stocks ahead of the results season that will begin this week. "Markets remain sensitive to news on Trump's wellbeing. Nifty could face resistance at 11,586 in the near

# DRL to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 55%

Dr Reddy's joins hands with SBTi to achieve the target by 2030

## HANS BUSINESS

**Hyderabad:** Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Monday said it has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 55 per cent by 2030.

The city-based drug major has joined hands with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), thus becoming the first Indian and the third Asian pharmaceutical company to have set its science-based targets to further minimise environmental impact, Dr Reddy's Laboratories said in a statement.

The company has committed to reducing its Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 from 2017-18 base year, which are in line with the latest climate science of limiting global warming to below 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, it added. "Continuous improvement in our environmental performance is a notable aspect of our sustainability journey. We are delighted to join SBTi in taking a science-based approach to set our GHG emission reduction targets and accelerating our efforts to creating a positive impact on our planet," said G V Prasad, co-Chairman and



Managing Director, Dr Reddy's Laboratories. As of 2019-20 fiscal, Dr Reddy's said it reduced its Scope 1 emissions by 8.6 per cent and Scope 2 emissions by 20.7 per cent over the baseline of 2017-18 fiscal.

The combined Scope 1 and 2 emissions have been reduced by 13 per cent over the same base year, putting the company on a fast track to achieving GHG reduction targets, it added.

SBTi, a joint initiative of Carbon Disclosure Project, United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institutes and World Wide Fund, provides companies with a clearly defined pathway to future-proof growth by specifying how much and how quickly they need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming to well-below 2C above pre-industrial levels.

### India Inc's foreign loans drop 47%

**New Delhi:** India Inc's foreign borrowings fell by over 47 per cent in August this year to ₹1.75 billion, data from the Reserve Bank showed on Monday. The domestic companies had borrowed a total of \$3.32 billion from overseas markets in August 2019, by way of external commercial borrowings (ECBs). Of the total borrowings from overseas sources during the month under review, \$1.61 billion was raised through ECBs, while the rest \$145.74 million was raised by issuing rupee denominated bonds (RDBs) or masala bonds, showed the RBI's 'Data on ECB/FCCB for the month of August 2020'. Splitting the data in the ECB category, it said a total of \$1.57 billion was raised by various companies through the automatic route, while the rest \$35.93 million came in through the approval route.

The major borrowers in the automatic route of ECB included Reliance Sibur Elastomers, a manufacturer of chemicals and chemical products, which raised \$339.42 million for refinancing of an earlier ECB.

# TCS to consider share buyback tomorrow

To announce financial results for 2nd quarter as well

**New Delhi:** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will be considering a buyback of shares of the company at a board meeting to be held on October 7.

TCS said that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the company is scheduled on October 7 and the Board of Directors will consider a proposal for buyback of equity shares of the company, at its meeting to be held on October 7, 2020.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will be providing Rs 1,218 crore as an exceptional item in the upcoming results to be announced on October 7 as a provision in the books for a legal claim in the Epic Systems matter.

In a regulatory filing, TCS said in the EPIC Systems Corporation matter, the company would be providing Rs 1,218 crore as exceptional item, in the financial results for the three and six months ended September 30, to be announced on October 7.

On August 20, the US Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit, Chicago, returned a verdict on the appeal filed by TCS, reducing the damages award.

The Court held that the puni-



tive damages award of \$280 million is constitutionally excessive, vacated the punitive damages award and directed the Trial Court to reassess the punitive damages. The Court upheld the compensatory damages award of \$140 million.

"TCS is legally advised that it has the correct and the strongest possible arguments in its favour and the Order and reduced damages are not supported by facts presented during the trial", the company said.

In September 2020, TCS has filed petition seeking re-hearing on both compensatory and punitive damages. EPIC has also filed petition seeking re-hearing on decision of the Appeals Court invalidating award of punitive damages exceeding the amount of compensatory damages.

## BOWING TO CRITICISM

# Google India defers Play Store fee

Paytm takes on Google, unveils its own app store

**New Delhi:** Facing intense criticism over its Play Store billing policy, Google on Monday said it has extended the time for developers in India who use alternative payment system, to integrate with the Play Store billing system till March 31, 2022, thus deferring the enforcement of 30 per cent commission on in-app purchases of digital goods from its Play Store in the country.

As the announcement came, leading digital payments platform Paytm that is involved in a stand-off with Google, launched an Android Mini App Store to support local developers take their innovative products to the masses.

Google said that deferring the enforcement of the Play Store fee is to ensure that the Indian developers have "enough time to implement the UPI for subscription payment option that will be made available on Google Play".

The tech giant said it would also set up listening sessions with the leading Indian startups to understand their concerns more deeply.

"We will be setting up policy workshops to help clear any addi-



Deferring the enforcement of the Play Store fee is to ensure that the Indian developers have enough time to implement the UPI for subscription payment option - Google

tional questions about our Play Store policies," Purnima Kochikar, Director of Business Development, Games & Applications, Google Play, said in a blog post.

The developers and payment gateway players have criticised the new Google in-app purchase policies where those using Play Store to sell digital services will be required to use the tech giant's own built-in payment system.

"Just because Google owns the gate and the gateway to the digital ecosystem of this country, they should not act arbitrarily and enforce their rules and regulations

which are contrary to our country's laws," said Vishwas Patel, Founder, CCAvenues and Chairman, Payments Council of India.

"Also, they cannot force Indian apps developers/owners selling digital services to compulsorily use the Google Billing and payment system and charge 30 per cent MDR," he added.

According to Kochikar, the Google Play payments policy is not new. "In fact, more than 97 per cent of developers with apps on Google Play already comply with the policy. To be clear, the policy only applies if a developer charges

users to download their app or they sell in-app digital items, which is less than 3 per cent of developers with apps on Google Play," she reiterated.

According to the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), prima Facie, Google's move, even if legal, is certainly not innocuous.

"For many founders of Indian start-ups, this brings back fears of the not so old deeply problematic revenue share model between VAS service providers (mainly digital goods) and telcos," the IAMAI said last week.

Amid the brouhaha, Paytm said it will provide listing and distribution of mini-apps within its app without any charges.

For payments, developers will be able to give a choice of Paytm Wallet, Paytm Payments Bank, UPI, net-banking and Cards to their users.

More than 300 app-based service providers such as Decathlon, Ola, Park+, Rapido, Netmeds, IMG, Domino's Pizza, FreshMenu, NoBroker have already joined the programme.



## Officials conducting assets survey during night



Hanwada mandal MPDO officials conducting assets survey during night in Vepoor village on Monday night

### HANS NEW SERVICE

**Mahabubnagar:** In a bid to complete the assets survey in villages within the stipulated time, Mandal Parishad Development Officials (MPDO) in Hanwada of Mahabubnagar district have decided to carry out the survey even in the late evenings.

Hanwada MPDO Nataraj said that District Collector S Venkat Rao directed them to complete the survey within the deadline. As most of the villagers are not

available at their houses during daytime, who will be working, the officials are visiting them in the evening, he added.

The officials have conducted survey in Vepoor village till 11 pm and the villagers are cooperating with the officials, the MPDO said. About 971 assets identified in the village on a single day and survey of 200 assets was completed. If the same support and cooperation is extended, survey could be completed in three to four days and update all the details on Dha-

rani website, he informed.

To speed up the assets survey, the officials from Hanwada municipality as well as Panchayat secretaries have prepared a check list and distributed to the villagers, so that by the time they reach to the family they can get the data readily without any delay. "First we are focusing on micro families so that the data is secured speedily and can be updated fastly as the servers are free during the nights," informed the MPDO.

## Girl set ablaze for resisting sexual advances

### HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Khammam:** A 13-year-old girl of Khammam district was set ablaze by her employer's son after she resisted his sexual advances. The girl, who received 70 per cent burns, is now battling for her life. The incident happened on September 18, 2020, but came to light on Monday, when the girl confided to her parents. The accused also belong to the same community.

According to sources, the girl, belonging Pallegudem village of Khammam district, joined Allam Subbarao's family as a domestic help in May this year and has been staying in their house in Khammam town.

A few days ago, Subbarao informed the girls' father that she accidentally received burns while at work. When the parents arrived at the hospital, they saw the girl with severe burn injuries and the victim was not in a condition to speak.

On Monday, when the girl was able to speak, she told her parents how Maraiah (Subbarao's son) tried to rape her. "Maraiah came into the room where I was work-



Police Commissioner Tafseer Iqbal and District Medical and Health Officer Dr Malathi inquiring the victim about the incident in the hospital in Khammam on Monday

ing and asked me to sleep with him. When I refused, he forced himself on me. Even as I struggled, he tore my clothes and later set me on fire and ran away from

there," the girl told her parents.

Khammam One Town police registered a case against the accused and launched investigation. Later, Commissioner of Police

Tafseer Iqbal and District Medical and Health Officer Dr Malathi visited the hospital and enquired the victim about the incident.

## Burglars loot ₹11.50 lakh from ATM



Police officials inspecting the ATM machine that was looted by burglars near Annaparthi village on Sunday night

### HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Nalgonda:** Unidentified offenders robbed Rs 11.50 lakh from SBI ATM located near Annaparthi village of Nalgonda mandal on Sunday night. The offenders cut open the ATM chest by using gas cutter. It should be noted that the ATM was located just a few meters away from 12th Battalion camp office and Narket-

pally-Addanki highway.

Locals noticed the opened ATM machine and informed the rural police, who rushed to the spot with clues team. They took up investigation with the footage of CCTVs in the area. The police are suspecting that the incident took place after Sunday midnight where the burglars cut the wires of CCTV cameras installed inside the ATM center.

## Kapil Chits gives accidental insurance amount to victim's widow

### HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Nalgonda:** Kapil Chits Private Limited Yadadri Regional Manager B Yadagiri along with Kapil Health Club AGM G Ravinder Reddy and Nalgonda Branch Manager Upender handed over insurance claim check for Rs 8 lakh to Meda Sujatha, wife of Meda Keshava Reddy, the chit

holder of Rs 15,00,000 group.

As per rules and regulations of the company, Accidental Insurance was covered in the name of Meda Keshava Reddy through Kapil Health Club. Keshava Reddy died after falling from his house in November last year. Hence, on behalf of Kapil Chits management, company regional and local officials handed over in-

surance claim cheque for an amount of Rs 8 lakh to Meda Sujatha Keshavareddy at the company office premises on Hyderabad road in Nalgonda town on Monday.

Kapil Nalgonda branch staff Venugopal, Saidulu, Srinu, Satyanarayana, Ashok, Santhosh and others were present on the occasion.



Kapil Chits Company Yadadri Regional Manager B Yadagiri handing over a cheque for Rs 8 lakh to Meda Sujatha Keshava Reddy at the office in Nalgonda on Monday



Energy Minister G Jagadish Reddy inspecting road widening works in Suryapet on Monday

## Minister inspects road widening works

### HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Suryapet:** Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy has directed the authorities to expedite road widening work in Suryapet town. Along with District Collector T Vinay Krishna Reddy, Municipal Chairman Perumalla Annapurna and Commissioner Ramanjula

Reddy, he inspected the ongoing expansion works on main road in the town on Monday.

The Minister stated that widening of roads in the town, the three-decade old dream of the people, will become a reality in next two months.

Municipal Vice-Chairman Kishore Babu, councilors, officials, staff and others were present.

## All parties serious about winning Graduate MLC elections in Khammam

### PV SATYANARAYANA

**Khammam:** It seems all political parties including the ruling TRS have taken the Warangal, Nalgonda and Khammam Graduate MLC elections very prestigious, who are working hard at field level to win the upcoming elections.

Apparently for the first time the ruling party MLAs and Ministers are sweating out as they took the responsibility of enrolling voters and winning the elections on their shoulders. On the instructions of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and party Working President KT Rama Rao, all the ruling party MLAs and leaders are taking active part in enrolment of voters at field



Transport Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar registering his name during an enrolment programme in Khammam (File photo)

level and also visiting the villages personally.

Even Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar also visited all Assembly

constituencies and conducted meetings with party workers and leaders and gave suggestions to them for winning the elections. Ministers are actively participating in voter enrolment campaigns and motivating the graduates and stressing the importance and need to enrol as voters. Minister Ajay monitoring all MLAs and party leaders in the district involving the programme as he took the elections prestigious.

On the other hand, Left parties, BJP and Congress also going to field level and leaving no stones unturned in getting voters enrolled. These party leaders and workers are motivating the graduates for enrolling as voters and some leaders and workers were one step ahead

and enrolling voters through online by taking certificates of graduates.

However, both the ruling and Opposition party workers were happy as MLAs and leaders are visiting every nook and corner of villages and sweating out for voter enrolment.

The TRS leaders said party high command is suggesting the name of sitting MLC Palla Rajeswara Reddy to contest the elections. Meanwhile, TJS party Chief Kodandaram is likely to contest the election here, as per the party sources. Yuva Telangana Party already announced journalist-turned-politician Ranirudrama Devi as its candidate. She started campaigning also in the districts.

## New Vision students score top ranks in JEE Advance



New Vision Junior College Chairman CHGK Prasad along with the students, who scored top ranks in JEE Advanced, in Khammam on Monday

### HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Khammam:** New Vision Junior College students scored several ranks in JEE Advanced Examination in the open category. College Chairman CHGK Prasad informed that their students bagged 10 ranks below thousand and the students got all India rank 387 in open category and 57th rank in ST category.

Prasad also said that the college students got five ranks be-

low 500 ranks and 22 ranks below 5,000 ranks in IIT examinations. The college got 12 ranks in IIT, 35 in NIT and 30 MBBS after the college was established.

The College management appreciated the students and staff for getting good ranks in the examinations.

College Directors CH Gopichand, Principal Brahmachary, Srinivas Rao appreciated the students during the programme.



Krishnaveni Junior College Directors along with the students, who scored good ranks in IIT and JEE Advanced, in Khammam on Monday

## Krishnaveni student B Tarun gets All India 3<sup>rd</sup> rank in IIT, JEE Advance exams

### HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Khammam:** Krishnaveni Junior College students got good ranks in IIT and JEE Advanced examination results. College students B Tarun got all India 3rd rank, K Sravan Kumar got 26th rank, B Niharika got 44th ranks in various categories.

College Directors Gollapudi Jagadeesh, Macharapu Koteswara Rao and Y Venkateswara Rao appreciated the students, who got good ranks, at a programme in the col-

lege on Monday. They informed that B Tarun got 16th rank in JEE Mains last year and about 20 students got good ranks in these examinations. With the encouragement of lecturers and parents, students scored good ranks, they added.

College Principal Ramchander Rao, IIT Programme Co-Ordinator Chandra Sekhar, IIT faculty DNR, Rajanikanth, Academic in-charge Vamshi and senior lecturers of various subjects participated in the programme.



District Collector L Sharman Chavan

## Collector recovers from Covid-19

### HANS NEWS SERVICE

**Nagarkurnool:** District Collector L Sharman Chavan was recovered from Covid-19 and discharged from hospital on Monday.

After assuming charge as the District Collector, Sharman didn't confined himself to video conferences and online meetings but personally visited all mandal headquarters and took stock of various development works at village level being taken up under Palle Pragathi programme.

Within a short span of three months, the Collector gained the

confidence of the people by taking up various initiatives to rescue people in distress and helped patients in the hospitals by donating blood. In fact, Sharma took charge when coronavirus was at its peak. Despite the fact that he may get infected with the deadly virus, Collector Sharman ventured out and followed the officials to speed up development works.

Collector Sharman said that he was diagnosed with coronavirus on September 30 and admitted to a hospital in Hyderabad. After one-week treatment, I was completely cured, he added.



## FRENCH OPEN

# Nadal, Thiem advance to quarters; Halep exits

**Paris (IANS):** Rafael Nadal and Dominic Thiem have advanced to the quarterfinals of the ongoing French Open after winning their respective fourth-round matches.

On Sunday, 12-time champion Nadal produced another ruthless and dominant display as he dropped four games to complete a 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 win over American qualifier Sebastian Korda on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

"With these conditions out there, with that wind, it's unpredictable what the ball can do," the reigning champion said after the match.

"So we need to be ready and just you need to be quick enough mentally and physically to have the right answer when the ball is moving every single way, no? So just to be focused and to understand that a day like today you're going to have mistakes," he

added. The Spaniard has recorded 97 victories in the clay major since his title-winning debut in 2005, and has only lost two matches in the past 15 years at the Roland Garros.

He will next face - 19-year-old Sinner, who defeated Alexander Zverev to become the youngest men's Grand Slam quarterfinalist since Novak Djokovic in Paris in 2006.

In other men's singles match, Austrian Thiem had to escape a five-set thriller to overcome local star Hugo Gaston 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 6-

3. He will play 12th seed Diego Schwartzman in the quarterfinals. In women's singles, 19-year-old Iga Swiatek produced a scintillating performance to defeat top seed Simona Halep 6-1, 6-2 in the fourth round match that lasted 68 minutes. Swiatek will face world number 159 Martina Trevisan who stunned another title favorite Kiki Bertens 6-4, 6-4.

In other match, Ukraine's Elina Svitolina registered a 6-1, 6-3 win against local hope Caroline Garcia to secure a spot in the last eight where she will face Nadia Podoroska.



## DDCA suffered ₹1.72 crore loss in FY 2018-19

**New Delhi (IANS):** The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) suffered a loss of Rs 1.72 crore in financial year 2018-19, a forensic audit report of the balance sheet has revealed. The DDCA's total income was Rs 36.93 crores, but the books show that it spent Rs 38.66 crores. The DDCA sustained this loss, as the forensic report indicates, largely due to a highly controversial contract worth Rs.6.25 crore (plus GST) awarded to a seemingly dubious joint venture for work at the historical Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium (now known as Arun Jaitley Stadium). The DDCA has already paid Rs 1.65 crore to the contractor even though the work remains incomplete, according to the report.

Previous DDCA Ombudsman Justice Deepak Verma had commissioned the forensic audit to ASA & Associates in August. The tentative draft forensic audit report contains the findings of the first phase. The report on the second phase will come later. Interestingly, ASA & Associates were DDCA's internal auditor when the company was assigned the task of the forensic audit, but it resigned in September. "The task being allotted to ASA & Associates was wrong in itself as it was a clear cut case of conflict of interest. They resigned after completing the audit," said a DDCA Apex Council member.



### Athlete with hijab disqualified from volleyball match in US

**New York (IANS):** A high school volleyball player in the US Tennessee was disqualified for wearing a hijab during the match. According to a CNN report, Najah Aqeel, a freshman at Valor Collegiate Prep in Nashville, was warming up for a match on September 15 when her coach said a referee refused to let her play due to her hijab. Citing a casebook rule, the referee said that Najah required an authorisation from Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association to wear the headscarf. Najah, who had a choice to either remove her hijab or sit out of the match, eventually decided not to play. "I was angry, sad and also shocked just because I had never heard of the rule before that," Najah told CNN. "The rule has no business being in the casebook. It singles out hijabis. I don't see why I need approval to wear my hijab when it is a part of my religion." However, according to Karissa Niehoff, executive director for The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSA) which sets competition rules for most US high school sports, uniform guidelines are not hard rules and states can make exceptions. "We are heartbroken and deeply sorry that the young lady was disqualified from the match for wearing the hijab," Niehoff told CNN.



## Golden era for women's hockey in India: Navneet

**Bengaluru (IANS):** Indian hockey team striker Navneet Kaur believes the ongoing phase is the right period for aspiring women's players to take up the sport.

"I believe this is the golden period for women's hockey in India. We are given equal importance, job security, financial benefits through cash awards when we win, all these are great encouraging factors to take up the sport professionally," Navneet, who made her international debut in 2014, said.

"I feel the following for our team has also grown tremendously since our improved performances at the 2018 Women's World Cup, Asia Cup, Asian Games and Asian Champions Trophy. "It is very motivating to see fans leaving us messages on social media and expressing their support to us," added the striker who has so far made 79 appearances for the national team.

Speaking about the on-going national coaching camp, Navneet said, "Our intensity has increased this week onwards and we are able to take more load without facing any fatigue."

### KL takes over Orange Cap from Mayank, Purple stays with Chahal

**Dubai (IANS):** Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul has taken over the Orange Cap from his teammate Mayank Agarwal while Royal Challengers Bangalore spinner Yuzvendra Chahal holds the Purple Cap following the conclusion of the 18th match in the ongoing season of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Rahul has scored 302 runs -- including one hundred and two half-centuries -- in five matches so far and leads the chart for the leading run scorers. He is followed by Chennai Super Kings' Faf du Plessis who has 282 runs to his name from five games. On Sunday evening, du Plessis scored unbeaten 82 as CSK defeated Kings XI by 10 wickets at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Third in the list is Agarwal who has collected 272 runs so far.

In the bowlers' list, Chahal has eight wickets from four games and leads the chart. Along with Chahal, Delhi Capitals' Kagiso Rabada and Trent Boult of Mumbai Indians too have scalped eight wickets so far but because of better average and economy, the Bangalore spinner is at the top of the list.

These running caps are presented to the leading run scorer and wicket-taker and keep changing hands throughout the duration of the tournament. In the points table, Mumbai Indians are currently at the numerouno spot with six points from five games. They are followed by Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore who also have six points from four matches.

### NBA Finals: Butler's record-breaking performance keeps Heat alive

**Orlando (IANS):** After Game 2 of the ongoing NBA Finals, Jimmy Butler had said "It's not over". He made sure he lived up to his statement in Game 3 as Miami Heat beat LA Lakers 115-104 in Game 3. Butler recorded a 40-point triple double (40p, 11r, 13a) to keep Heat alive in the series at 2-1. With Goran Dragic and Bam Adebayo unavailable for the Game 3, Butler lived up to his superstar billing to become the third player in league history to record such a stat line in the Finals, and the first to do so in a win. Butler became only the third player after Jerry West and LeBron James to record a 40-point triple-double in NBA Finals history. He is also the first player since Shaquille O'Neal in 2002 to score 40 points without attempting a 3-pointer, as per an NBA release.

### Lanning's ton guides Aus to 20th consecutive ODI win

**Brisbane (IANS):** Skipper Meg Lanning on Monday scored her 14th century as Australia defeated New Zealand by four wickets in the second ODI of the ongoing three-match series being played at the Allan Border Field.

Despite being faced with their most daunting target at any point in their winning sequence, Australia's batters didn't find themselves in any trouble as they chased down the 253-run target with 29 balls and four wickets to spare, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead to retain the Rose Bowl trophy, something which has been with them since February 2000.

Lanning (101\* off 96) anchored proceedings and with the in-form Rachael Haynes (82 from 89), she stitched a 117-run second-wicket to help Australia women register their 20th consecutive ODI win. If the hosts complete a clean sweep on Wednesday, they will see them equal Ricky Ponting's 2003 Australian men's team's record for most consecutive ODI wins.

Earlier, the White Ferns came out with an improved batting performance as captain Sophie Devine (79) and Amy Satterthwaite (69) helped them put 252/9 in their allotted 50 overs.

## How Watson, du Plessis treated CSK fans to the 'perfect game'

**Dubai (IANS):** On Saturday, Shane Watson had tweeted: "The perfect game for Chennai Super Kings is coming!!" And that's what exactly happened on Sunday evening.

The three-time IPL champion roared just like their fans have been used to watching as they registered what eventually turned out to be a one-sided, emphatic 10-wicket win over Kings XI Punjab, providing television viewers in India a perfect Sunday evening entertainment.

What was so impressive about the win from the MS Dhoni-led side was the performance of their two batting stalwarts -- Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis. While du Plessis had been in good form in the previous games and was in fact the top scorer for the side, Watson was under immense pressure before entering the field at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. While the former South Africa captain had scored 195 runs in four games before taking on Kings XI, Watson's four scores in IPL 2020 read 4, 33, 14 and 1, something which the team management and even former cricketers wouldn't have expected. The inability of both the openers to provide team with a solid, quickfire start was something which even Dhoni couldn't resist complaining.

There was an added pressure on the duo, along with Dhoni, considering their campaign had been in total disarray thus and their performance on the field was far from what had been witnessed in the previous IPL editions. Against Kings XI, they had the opportunity to make few amends and play like a champion team. And that's what they did.

Thirty-nine-year-old Watson along with du Plessis, 36, stitched an unbeaten 181-run partnership as CSK chased down the target of 179 with 14 balls to spare. Watson, who was adjudged the Man of the Match, made a well-



paced 83 (53) while the former South Africa captain scored 87 off 53 deliveries.

"It was nice to bat like that tonight. Felt something slightly off earlier in the tournament, technical thing. Bit more intent on the front leg, getting my weight through the ball," said Watson after the match, heaving a sigh of relief.

The performance from the team was something which made even usually shy head coach Stephen Fleming smile. But what would have impressed Fleming the most would be Watson's ability to leave behind his poor run, believe in himself and find back his mojo. "Look, if Shane had been struggling in the nets and looking out of touch, then it might have been a selection issue. He's been nothing but solid in doing his work and in the practice

games as well," the former New Zealand captain said. "So, as I said, it was a matter of time, a little bit of fortune and some good, positive thoughts from him. Shane, if he gets on a roll, he'll be very important to us," he added.

Even Dhoni admitted that Watson was looking "good" in the nets and what he all needed was to translate that on the pitch. "Watson was looking good in the nets. But what you want is to replicate that. It was just a matter of time that he gets going."

The skipper also was all praise for du Plessis, who according to him, has been a sheet anchor. "He can always confuse the bowlers with shots like the lap shot."

du Plessis, meanwhile, acknowledged CSK's guiding principal of placing their faith in their men.

### Domestic tennis circuit to resume from Nov 16

**New Delhi (IANS):** Competitive tennis will make a return after an eight-month Covid-19 hiatus as the All India Tennis Association (AITA) on Monday announced the resumption of the domestic circuit from November 16.

The tournaments will initially begin in the age categories of U-12, U-14 and U-16 only. The duration of the tournaments would remain restricted to three days, with a maximum draw of 32 allowed.

"During the AITA's Management Committee meeting, a decision was taken to communicate to the secretaries of all the affiliates of AITA to make all efforts to restart tennis tournaments by 16th November 2020 by keeping in mind all the safety precautions that may be required as per the existing government guidelines," said AITA in a media release.

The federation further stated that independent entities would not be allowed to conduct private tournaments outside the official AITA circuit without the prior permission of AITA or its affiliates and that the players would be cautioned against participating in any tournament that is not formally sanctioned by AITA and its affiliated units. "Such participation may attract disciplinary action," said AITA.

An indicative set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be announced in this regard by the tennis body.