

AP seeks time to present its case in RLIS issue

NGT defers hearing on contempt plea to Sept 16; MoEF says no signs of progress in project construction activities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE National Green Tribunal (NGT) has posted the matter of contempt petition against Andhra Pradesh government in the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme (RLIS) to September 16 after the State requested time to put forth its arguments...

bunal, noting that there was no sign of progress at the project site and added that AP stated that the works done were related to preparation of detailed project report (DPR).

The southern zone bench of the tribunal continued the hearing on the contempt petition on Wednesday filed by one Gavinolla Srinivas from Telangana and the Telangana government.

TS given a week's time to comply

FROM P1

THE positivity rate in the Covid patients is gradually increasing in other States and going by their graph, Telangana should make necessary arrangements to tackle the third wave, it said.

The High Court made it amply clear to the Advocate General to furnish a report complying with the orders issued on August 11 by the former Chief Justice Bench, with details about the present positivity rate in different districts of the State, proceedings of the expert committee, sero surveillance report, steps to curtail huge congregations and gatherings during the ensuing Ganesh festival to avoid further spread of virus. This order should be complied within a week and batch cases are adjourned to September 22, the bench said.



BAPPA ON WHEELS

A rickshaw puller takes an idol of Lord Ganesh for delivery in Vijayawada on Wednesday | P Ravindra Babu

TN passes anti-CAA resolution

ENS @ Chennai

THE Tamil Nadu Assembly on Wednesday passed a resolution urging the Centre to repeal the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019, by voice vote as the BJP walked out to register its protest. With this, TN becomes the eighth State to adopt such a resolution. Chief Minister MK Stalin said, "This august House considers that the CAA passed by Parliament is not in tune with the secular principles laid down in our Constitution and not conducive to the communal harmony that prevails in India."

Bomma wraps up Delhi trip with nod for bagful of schemes

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

DEVELOPMENT issues dominated Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bomma's trip to the national capital as he wound up his two-day visit, having met several Union Ministers to push for clearances for certain projects, some which have been pending for long. It is expected that these will come as a package for Karnataka in the coming days.

least for the time being. The endorsement of his leadership by both Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party general secretary in charge of Karnataka, Arun Singh, during their recent visits to the State, has only cemented his position, while sending a clear message to dissidents.



Basavaraj Bomma, Karnataka CM

Work on the STRR will commence in six months and the project will help reduce traffic congestion by half in Bengaluru. It's a path-breaking decision which has been pending for several years

Unlike his three earlier visits, where politics, including Cabinet expansion and distribution of portfolios dominated the agenda, the CM seems to have created some breathing space for himself.

Before boarding a flight back to Bengaluru on Wednesday, the CM called on BJP national president JP Nadda but there was no clarity on where he got the nod to fill the four vacant berths in his Cabinet. According to sources, except for appointments to some boards and corporations, the Cabinet expansion issue did not come for the discussion. With the 10-day Assembly session starting on September 13, the pressure will be on the CM, at

During his two-day stay in Delhi, Bomma vigorously followed up on various projects, both new and pending, with the Union Ministers concerned.

The CM was visibly at ease when he addressed the press in New Delhi. "First, we set right the land acquisition issue with respect to the Satellite Town Ring Road from Dobbbspet to Hosur, taken up under Bharatmala Pariyojana-I," he said after holding discussions with Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari.

"It has also been decided to set up an electronics and hardware park and a manufacturing cluster on 400 acres between Bengaluru and Kolar. Besides, a skill development centre will be set up at some other location," the CM noted after calling on Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Raveesh Chandrashekar.

36 more test negative for Nipah, experts yet to figure out source of infection

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kozhikode

GIVING Kerala some respite, samples of 36 more people who were suspected to have contracted Nipah tested negative on Wednesday, but a lack of clarity over the origin of the deadly virus continued to be a cause of concern.

The total number of people to have tested negative rose to

46. Ten more were shifted to the Kozhikode Medical College Hospital, taking the total number of hospitalised people to 68. "Results of more than 15 samples are awaited," said Health Minister Veena George.

She added that as per Nipah protocol, 42 days of zero cases since reporting the last case are needed to declare that the virus threat is over. At present, 265



people are on the contact list of the deceased 12-year-old boy, who belonged to Pazhoor in

Chathamangalam. Meanwhile, the Health Department is waiting for the experts from NIV Pune to figure out the source of infection.

Medical experts are not ruling out the chances that deceased boy might have got the infection from another person. To reach a conclusion in this regard, the health authority is checking the recent deaths reported in the region with

DCGI approves Truenat test kit

Bengaluru: Like Covid-19, cases of Nipah virus can now be detected using Truenat test kit. The Truenat-MTB's Nipah virus kit, has been given the emergency approval by the Drug Controller General India (DCGI) for the commercial manufacturing licence of kits to detect Nipah virus. The approval was given on Wednesday, confirms a statement by Molbio Diagnostics, a Goa-based Indian domestic firm which developed the kit in 2018, when the first Nipah virus outbreak happened in Kerala. Truenat tests are now available across the country for the diagnosis of infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB), Covid-19, and Hepatitis.

Ensure no manual scavenging is allowed: Madras HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Madras High Court on Wednesday directed the heads of corporations and municipalities to file a written undertaking that no manual scavenging work would be permitted in their jurisdiction.

Passing the order on a batch of pleas seeking to end manual scavenging and rehabilitate victims, the first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice PD Audikesavalu



said the commissioners of corporations and the heads of municipalities, as indicated in previous orders, will be personally held liable in case any manual scavenging activity is detected

or any mishap occurs in course thereof. "So as not to compromise public interest, the State should endeavour to obtain appropriate machines or improve sewer lines to ensure that no manual scavenging is necessary anywhere in the State," the judges said.

As per submissions made by the Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale, in Lok Sabha recently, a total of 43 people have died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks in

Tamil Nadu during the last five years. It is the second-highest in the country only after Uttar Pradesh which reported 52 deaths.

The National Safai Karmacharis Finance and Development Corporation is implementing a scheme, Swachhata Udyami Yojana, under which loans are provided to manual scavengers engaged in hazardous cleaning to procure mechanised equipment up to the cost of ₹5 lakh with a subsidy of 50 per cent.

in the last five years, as many as 340 deaths due to manual scavenging have been reported in the country

Ramdas Athawale, Union Minister

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