

TTD to develop Veda Pathasala in Keesaragutta

TIRUMALA

AFTER his inspection at TTD Veda Pathashala in Keesaragutta, near Hyderabad on Monday, EO Dr K S Jawahar Reddy instructed the engineering officials concerned to send proposals to take up the development works of the Vedic institution to improve facilities to cope with the increased strength of students in the Veda pathasala. Earlier, Vedapathasala Principal D Mallikarjuna Avadani informed EO that the hostel facility in the Pathasala is sufficient to accommodate only 40 pupils whereas there are 120 students studying at present in Veda Pathashala at Keesaragutta stressing the need of construction additional rooms to cope with the increased strength of students. He also sought EO for construction of a compound wall directly required to prevent wild animals straying into Yagashala and Vedapathasala premises for the safety of teachers and students.

The EO directed the officials concerned to send a detailed proposal immediately to take up the development works without any delay. Later the vedic students brought to the notice of TTD EO that though they have become accomplished pundits after pursuing eight years Vedic course in TTD, they are denied



TTD EO Dr K S Jawahar Reddy inspecting TTD Veda Pathashala in Keesaragutta, near Hyderabad on Monday

employment in Vedic related posts by the Endowments Department of Telangana State. The EO told them that he will definitely discuss the issue in the ensuing TTD Trust Board Meeting which is slated on February 27 to take it to the notice of the Telangana government. The EO had darshan of Sri

Ramalingeswara Swamy in Keesaragutta temple. TTD EO also visited TTD Information Centre, Kalyana Mandapam, Guest House, Dining Hall which are under renovation in the centre at Himayat Nagar area of Hyderabad city. The officials concerned informed the EO that the works will be completed by this April. Later he also visited the SVBC Studio, HDPP Office and interacted with the employees in the city. Medchal Malkajgiri Additional Joint Collector Vidyasagar, TTD DyEE Nagaraju, AEO C Naik, AEO Ramesh, Manager of Kalyana Mandapam Ramesh were also present.

Completed by this April. Later he also visited the SVBC Studio, HDPP Office and interacted with the employees in the city. Medchal Malkajgiri Additional Joint Collector Vidyasagar, TTD DyEE Nagaraju, AEO C Naik, AEO Ramesh, Manager of Kalyana Mandapam Ramesh were also present.

56,448 pilgrims have darshan at Tirumala

TIRUPATI

THE highest number of 56,448 pilgrims had darshan of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala on Sunday while the common pilgrims availing the free darshan off line SSD tokens have to wait 3 days for darshan with

the rush remaining unabated.

TTD is issuing 22,000 offline SSD tokens for free darshan against 25,000 special entry tickets of Rs 300 daily for darshan. This apart, ticket holders of various Arjitha sevas (virtual), donors including Srivani Trust donors and also Supatham and VIP break.

With the pilgrim rush steadily picking up, the SSD tokens for darshan on Tuesday and Wednesday were already exhausted while tokens for darshan on February 18 up to evening 6 pm slot were also over when reports last came in on Monday. According to TTD sources the de-

Common pilgrims availing offline free darshan token have to wait for days for darshan

tails of the pilgrims who had darshan of Lord in the last three days are 48,846 on February 12 which jumped to 54,134 on February 13 and further increased to 56448 on February 14.

HC suspends SEC order on delivery vehicles



AMARAVATI

IN a major relief to the state government, the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday suspended the State Election Commissioner (SEC) Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar's orders restricting rice door delivery service during the ongoing elections.

The court said the State Election Commission (SEC) cannot stop the government from using mobile delivery vehicles to supply food to the people.

Earlier, the SEC ordered that the government cannot use these mobile vehicles for a period of four weeks, in view of the ongoing rural local bodies' elections.

The SEC personally examined a delivery vehicle to see if these vehicles will allegedly exert any influence on the polls as they would fan out across the nooks and corners of the villages, carrying ration rice for beneficiaries.

Many decisions of Ramesh Kumar are being challenged in the court by the state government and there seems to be no end to the bickering between the state and the SEC.

Earlier, he issued a gag and home confinement order on pan-chayat raj minister Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy which was also suspended by the court but

Says the State Election Commission can't stop vehicles supplying food to the people

The SEC earlier suspended ration door delivery vehicles for 4 weeks in rural areas in view of Model Code

Kodali Nani's house motion plea posted to tomorrow

- HC seeks video clippings of Minister's comments
- To appoint a senior advocate as amicus curiae to assist in this case

AMARAVATI

THE AP High Court posted the hearing on house motion petition filed by civil supplies minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani) to Wednesday, February 17.

It may be noted that the State Election Commission (SEC) issued show-cause notice and a gag order on him for his remarks on the commission as well as State Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar last week. The SEC also directed the Krishna district SP to register a case on the minister. In this regard, the minister

filed House motion petition. When the advocates of the both the parties explained their stand to the court, the court observed that the case should be examined in detail and posted the next hearing to Wednesday. The court said that it would appoint a senior advocate as amicus curiae to assist it in this case. It ordered the petitioner to submit necessary video clippings. The court also directed the advocate of SEC to submit video tapes of the minister's comments by Wednesday.

The SEC advocate appealed the court to take action after examining the video clippings of the minister's press meet. He said that the minister used objectionable language towards the SEC.

The court observed that it cannot decide on the case without examining the video clippings of the minister's press meet.

with some riders.

The court is also poised to hear a case on civil supplies minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao, against whom the SEC ordered a

case to be registered.

The commission has already successfully completed two phases of rural local bodies elections, even as two more are due.

Govt eases curbs on geospatial data for map-making

Continued from P1

Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan in a press conference said the easing of norms will greatly help in several sectors that were suffering because of non-availability of high-quality maps. "Availability of comprehensive, highly accurate, granular and constantly updated representation of geospatial data will significantly benefit diverse sectors of the economy, significantly boost innovation in the country and greatly enhance its preparedness for emergency response," Vardhan said.

He said earlier even the Survey

of India, the organisation entrusted with making maps, had to seek permission for mapping from different agencies, thus delaying its work by at least three-to-six months. In a series of tweets, Modi said, "Our government has taken a decision that will provide a huge impetus to Digital India.

Liberalising policies governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data is a massive step in our vision for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," he said. The move will unlock tremendous opportunities for the country's start-ups, private sector, public sector and research in-

stitutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions. This will also generate employment and accelerate economic growth, he stressed. "India's farmers will also be benefited by leveraging the potential of geospatial and remote sensing data.

Democratising data will enable the rise of new technologies and platforms that will drive efficiencies in agriculture and allied sectors.

"These reforms demonstrate our commitment to improving ease of doing business in India by deregulation," he said.

CM stresses on affordable plots to middle class

- Officials propose construction of ring roads around towns
- Smart township layouts will come up around ring roads
- Govt to start Clean Andhra Pradesh programme with a 100-day action plan to keep the state clean

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy suggested changes in the proposals made for providing infrastructure facilities in smart townships.

In a review on solid waste management and urban housing at his camp office in Tadepalli on Monday, the Chief Minister said the goal was to provide high living standards to middle class people and directed the officials to provide undisputed and cleared plots with all the required permissions at affordable prices on non-profit basis to them.

The officials discussed with the Chief Minister several town plans already being implemented in various states and also how to create land bank for the scheme and develop infrastructure. The Chief Minister said providing plots at affordable prices to



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy making suggestions on the proposals on smart townships submitted by officials during review on waste management and urban housing at Tadepalli on Monday

middle class people is a continuous process and plans should be made to provide plots to eligible beneficiaries as and when they apply.

The officials laid proposals for building ring roads around the towns. The designs of roads should be such that both the government and people who give land for the construction should be benefitted and smart towns' layouts should come up around the ring roads. It was decided initially to develop 18 layouts in 12 towns. The proposals are made for designing smart towns of at least 25 acre to 200 acre, depending on the population of cities and towns. The plan is to prepare the layout within 18 months after works start.

The government will start Clean Andhra Pradesh (CLAP) programme with a 100-day action plan to keep the

state clean. Plans are afoot for NGOs and public participation in the programme which will have 3,825 garbage collection vehicles, more auto tipper, and over 6,000 bins and waste management systems in municipalities. The Chief Minister said to start bio-mining and there should be change in cleanliness in the state with these programmes.

Municipal and urban development minister Botcha Satyanarayana, Solid and Liquid Waste Management Task Force chairman Alla Ayodhya Ramireddy, municipal and urban development principal secretary Y Sri-lakshmi, municipal administration commissioner M M Nayak, CCLA special commissioner Narayana Bharat Gupta, finance secretary Gulzar, TIDCO MD Ch Sridhar and other senior officials were present.

SEC urged to banish anti-social elements from Kuppam

- TDP chief in a letter to the poll panel points to attempt on life of Congress leader Suresh Babu in Pacharlapalli village
- Demands release of TDP sarpanch candidate and other leaders in Avularipalem village in Krosuru mandal of Guntur district

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALAGIRI

TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday demanded the State Election Commission (SEC) to take step to banish trouble-makers and outside miscreants from the villages in Kuppam Assembly constituency in order to ensure a free and fair panchayat election.

Naidu said that on February 14, an attempt was made on the life of District Congress Committee (DCC) president Suresh Babu at Pacharlapalli village in Gudupalle mandal by a miscreant with knife. The attacker has attacked four other people also when they were trying to protect Suresh Babu. The Opposition leaders were being attacked with an ulterior plan to demoralise them in the panchayat elections, he alleged.

Naidu said that the State Election Commission (SEC) should act swiftly and ensure that the gram panchayat elections being held on February 17 would be conducted peacefully in a free and fair manner. For this, additional protection forces shall be deployed and all the non-bona fide outsiders should be sent out of villages in Kuppam Assembly segment. Simultaneously, inquiry shall be conducted into the presence of anti-social elements and miscreants in villages and action be taken against the culprits.

In a separate statement, Naidu condemned the arrest of the TDP sarpanch candidate along with some others in Avularipalem village in Krosuru mandal in the Guntur district on false charges and demanded their immediate release.

SC slaps notice on WhatsApp, Facebook

Continued from P1

In Europe, it is different because they have a special law," he argued.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, said the right to privacy was a fundamental right and they cannot compromise with the privacy of people.

Divan cited that WhatsApp had already delayed the implementation of its new privacy policy till May 15 this year and sought a notice which is returnable before this date. The bench said it is impressed with Divan's submission that while the Data Protection Bill is about to be brought into force, WhatsApp is framing a policy to share data. Datar also said that the messages were encrypted end to end.

The top court directed WhatsApp and Facebook to file their statement contesting the contentions in the present application. The Chief Justice told the WhatsApp counsel that people thought if a message was sent from a person to another and then to a third person, the whole thing was disclosed to Facebook.

As counsel contended that this is not happening, Chief Justice Bobde disagreed, saying that they are telling information heard and read through news reports, and if WhatsApp disagrees, it should clarify this on oath.

BJP seeks NMDC lifeline for VSP

NEW DELHI: A delegation of the Andhra Pradesh BJP unit led by its president Somu Veerajulu and comprising former Union minister D Purandesawari, former MLA P Vishukumar Raju and MLC P V N Madhav met Union minister for steel, Dharmendra Pradhan here on Monday and urged him to revisit the decision to privatise the RINL (Visakhapatnam steel plant). They said a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of

the plant would reveal that it would be an excellent profit-making unit which had also an emotional connect with the Telugus. Meanwhile, in his three-page letter to Dharmendra Pradhan, Veerajulu said the government should instead work out an agreement between NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation) and Vizag Steel for supply of iron ore from NMDC at cost-to-cost basis or cost-plus marginal profit basis for next five years.

Nanosatellite to carry Bhagavad Gita, PM Modi's photograph into space

Continued from P1

SpaceKidz reportedly asked the individuals who are interested to send their names to the space and received 25,000 entries, from which 1,000 names are of people from outside India. "We decided to do this because it will spark interest of the people in the mission and space science," Dr Kesan said. The people who have send in their names will be given boarding passes, she added. Satish Dhawan Satellite, that is scheduled to be launched on February 28 by the polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV-C51), will also carry three scientific payloads, including one to study space radiation, another for studying the magnetosphere, and one that will demonstrate a low-power wide-area communication network. A Brazil's earth observation satellite Amazonia-1, 20-co-passenger satellite and a demonstration satellite by Pixxel will also be carried in the same mission.

Film showcasing TRS rule to hit screens on KCR's birthday

Continued from P1

The party leaders would be offering shawl at Gurudwara and Chadar at Yousufain Dargah and special prayers in churches. The party leaders would be planting about one crore saplings in the State. Various sports events, in-

cluding cricket, volleyball and others are under way in the name of KCR Cup and the prizes would be distributed on Wednesday. Sports Authority of Telangana State (SATS) Chairman A Venkateshwar Reddy is taking up yagam.

TDP TO STAGE STATE-WIDE STIR FOR VSP ON FEB 18

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALAGIRI

TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday called upon his party leaders and cadres to take part in massive protests all over the state on February 18 to denounce the privatisation of the Visakh Steel Plant (VSP).

Naidu stressed the need of waging a relentless agitation against the ruling YSRCP secret plans in the deal with the South Korean company, POSCO. It was only to save himself from his illegal investments cases that Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy was bent on handing over the steel plant to private hands, he alleged. In a statement here, the former

Party national president accuses Jagan of privatising VSP to save himself from cases

Alleges that the CM has set his sights on steel plant surplus lands

chief minister asserted that their party would do everything possible to prevent the state government from carrying out its nefarious designs any further. Protest rallies would be organised from village to state level.

He alleged that the Chief Minister had apparently struck a secret deal with POSCO only to grab the surplus lands of the VSP which have got a

very high value in the market. "Out of his unquenchable thirst for personal gains only, the Chief Minister was prostrating before the Centre with respect to the steel plant issue," he said.

Naidu deplored that in the name of privatisation, the steel plant has been weakened without trying for mines exclusively meant for it.

The people of the state achieved the industry after fighting a prolonged struggle in the past. Once again, it was for the whole people of AP to agitate and save the steel plant from all future threats. It was high time to teach a strong lesson to the ruling YSRCP, he said. Naidu said that the VSP was protecting the livelihoods of over 40,000 people directly and another 50,000 workers indirectly.