

**OPINION 6**  
HISTORICAL  
RECONSTRUCTION

**MONEY 8**  
MAHA SIKHS UNABLE TO GO  
ON KARTARPUR PILGRIMAGE

**SPORTS 12**  
CHAHAR HAPPY TO REPAY  
CAPTAIN'S FAITH

HYDERABAD, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2019; PAGES 12 33



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SITARA TO GIVE  
VOICE FOR  
LITTLE ELSA

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Nilam Sawhney

## Nilam Sawhney is AP new CS

VIJAYAWADA: Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary Nilam Sawhney was on Monday sent back to her cadre state Andhra Pradesh and she is likely to be appointed as the chief secretary of the state, officials said.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved repatriation of Sawhney, a 1984 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, on the request of the state government, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Her husband Ajay Sawhney who is also serving the Central deputation had worked as principal secretary of CMO of N Chandrababu Naidu in 2014.

## PMO war against corrupt in bureaucracy gets fresh legs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the ongoing war against corruption and weeding out the corrupt from within the bureaucracy, the Prime Minister's Office has launched a fresh crackdown.

All Central government departments have now been asked to provide a list of expendable and corrupt officers every few months so that the entire system is flushed clean. Despite exemplary punishment having been meted out including immediate termination, the threshold levels are still being breached by many in the bureaucracy.

Despite promising clean governance, the PM and his office have observed that complaints continue to pile up. Moreover, it has been found that officers against whom previously filed complaints continue to rise are able to seamlessly move up the ranks in parallel. This is most curious given that levels of inspection have been strengthened.



All Central government departments have now been asked to provide a list of expendable and corrupt officers every few months so that the entire system is flushed clean

As many as 1,007 officers with dubious disciplinary records are being scrutinised. Zero tolerance against corruption has been the norm over the last five years but yet, corruption on the ground refuses to go away.

So, a new tack has been devised, abnormal property or other asset transactions

which are not commensurate with incomes or are blatantly disproportionate will be red-flagged for expeditious disposal.

The PMO note categorically asserts: "On a review of the matter recently at the PMO, it was decided that a quick uploading of the current information and regular periodic

updating of the same by all stakeholder departments has to be ensured."

New provisions have now been put in place and heightened vigil is reportedly going to pay off. Vigilance wings across government departments are now investigating complaints against 29 IAS officers and nine group 'A' officers, while investigations against 1,815 officers from the 'B' and 'C' groups have been accelerated.

A list of 14 officers from the Ministry of Railways, 12 officers under Ministry of Coal and six officers from the Ministry of Civil Aviation is being examined along with an unspecified number of officers from the Ministry of Shipping under rule FR 56 (J) for compulsory retirement.

This rule empowers the government to force compulsory retirement on corrupt officers who have completed 30 years of qualifying service or have attained 50 years of age.

Continued on Page 2

## 16 hurt as trains collide at Kacheguda railway station

Trapped loco pilot rescued after over 8 hours

ARUN DANIEL YELLAMATY  
■ HYDERABAD

At least 16 passengers were injured when the Lingampalli-Falaknuma Multi-Modal Transport System (MMTS) service and the Kurnool-Secunderabad Hundry Inter-City Express collided at Kacheguda Railway Station here on Monday morning.

The MMTS train apparently overshot the signal. Six coaches of the MMTS service and three coaches of the Hundry Express were damaged, according to SCR officials. Among those injured was the MMTS loco pilot, who was stuck in the mangled remains of his cabin for over eight hours and rescued by the railway authorities in an unconscious condition. He was shifted to a hospital for treatment.

The condition of another injured passenger was serious because of the injuries he had sustained on his throat,



Rescue team extricating the trapped loco pilot of the MMTS train from the mangled remains of his cabin on Monday

according to Osmania General Hospital Resident Medical Officer Mohammed Rafi.

An inquiry into the accident has been ordered by the South Central Railway.

Due to the accident, there was widespread panic across the station and elsewhere in the city.

Ch. Rakesh, CPRO, South Central Railways, said: "The

incident was (due to) a human error, there was no signal that was given for the MMTS train to move, but it started and ended up colliding with the other train coming from the opposite direction into the platform. We are still trying to get proper information and proofs for the reason for the accident."

Continued on Page 2



Lata Mangeshkar

## Lata admitted to hospital

MUMBAI: Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar was admitted to Breach Candy Hospital's Intensive Care Unit in the early hours of Monday after she complained of breathing problems, hospital sources said.

The singer, who turned 90 on September 28, is in a critical condition, they said.

"She was brought to hospital at about 2 am. She is critical and in the ICU," a hospital insider said.

Mangeshkar's niece Rachana Shah said the singer is recovering.

"She was down with a viral infection. She is on path to recovery," Shah said.

In a career spanning over seven decades, the Indore-born Mangeshkar has lent her voice to thousands of songs in over 1,000 Hindi films as well as in various regional and foreign languages.

The indefatigable Mangeshkar recorded her last song this year. "Saugandh mujhe is mitti ki" was released on March 30 as a tribute to the Indian Army.

Her last full album in 2004 was "Veer-Zaara" when she was 75.

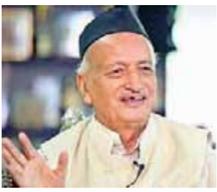
## Guv gives new twist, calls NCP to form govt

PNS ■ MUMBAI

High drama witnessed in Mumbai on Monday as Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari invited Sharad Pawar-led NCP to stake government after Shiv Sena failed to submit letter of support from NCP and Congress within 7:30pm.

The governor's decision came after Uddhav Thackeray's son Aaditya sought three more days to prove majority. However, the governor rejected their request.

In the 288-member House, the Sena with 56 MLAs is the second largest bloc after the BJP (105). The NCP and the Congress each has 54 and 44 MLAs, respectively. The halfway mark is 145. On Sunday, the BJP declined to



Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari

form a government for want of requisite numbers in the wake of the Sena refusing to join its oldest ally.

NCP has time till 8:30pm on Tuesday to form the government.

"As per the procedure Governor has given us the letter (to stake claim to form govt) being the 3rd largest party in Maharashtra.

Continued on Page 2

## CM orders filling up tanks in Suryapet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Monday directed officials to fill up tanks in water-starved Suryapet district with Godavari river water.

Rao, who reviewed the matter with Minister G Jagadeesh Reddy, said the government was ready to release as many days as required to fill up tanks in the district as there was adequate water, an official press release said. The diversion of water from Godavari river to the district began 20 days ago, it said.

Rao also ordered repair of canals, if required, should be carried out for smooth flow of water, the release added.

## KCR now eyes Centre's lands to augment revenues

L VENKAT RAM REDDY  
■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, in an effort to augment revenues that have shrunk due to the economic slowdown, is exploring all options, including monetizing unused portions of lands allotted to central institutions, to mobilise additional funds to enable the state government to fully implement its welfare schemes and developmental programmes.

In his Budget speech in September, KCR announced the government's plans to sell off government lands to raise additional revenues so that the government can execute ongoing irrigation projects without hassles and ensure that welfare schemes are not hit due to fund crunch occasioned by the slow-



Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat called on Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao at Pragati Bhavan on Monday

down. The Chief Minister has now shifted his focus to huge parcels of lands allotted to various Central government institutions, primarily in and around Hyderabad as well as in various districts of the state.

KCR has directed officials to submit a report on the actual

status of lands allotted to various central institutions, detailing the lease amount, lease period, expiry of lease, purpose of the land allotment, the extent of land actually in use, the extent of unused lands, among other things.

Continued on Page 4

## Complaint filed against Owaisi

PNS ■ BHOPAL

A complaint was on Monday filed against AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi for allegedly making inciting statement following the Supreme Court's verdict on Ayodhya dispute case.

In a landmark judgment, the apex court had last week permitted the Centre to construct a temple at the site where the Babri Masjid once stood, and allot a "prominent and suitable" five-acre plot for Muslims to construct a mosque in Ayodhya.

Following the pronouncement of the verdict, Owaisi said that the "Supreme Court is indeed supreme but not infallible".

"I am not satisfied with the verdict. We have full faith in the Constitution. We were fighting for our legal rights. We do not need five-acre land as a donation," he had said.

The complaint filed by an advocate Pawan Kumar Yadav at Jahangirabad Police Station alleges that Owaisi gave inciting statement on the charges of sedition.



## Govt starts process of constituting temple trust

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has started the process of setting up a trust, as mandated by the Supreme Court in its Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid verdict, with a team of officers examining the order threadbare, officials said on Monday.

Opinions of the Ministry of Law and the attorney general will be taken on how to proceed on setting up the trust that will fix the modalities for construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya.



A team of officials have been tasked with studying the apex court order threadbare for its technicality and nuances so that the trust can be constituted

adding consultation process is underway, but no decision has been taken so far.

However, it was not immediately clear whether the

Ministry of Home Affairs or the Ministry of Culture will be the nodal body for the Ayodhya Ram temple trust, another official said.

In a historic and unanimous verdict on Saturday, a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi cleared the way for the construction of a Ram temple at the 2.77-acre disputed site in Ayodhya, and directed the Centre to allot a five-acre plot at a "prominent" location to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque.

## Seven-year jail for rape convict in Sangareddy

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

A 60-year-old man, who was convicted of an attempt to rape a five-year-old girl from Siddipet town, has been sentenced to seven years of imprisonment by the Sangareddy Court.

First Additional District Sessions Court Judge Justice B Papi Reddy pronounced the judgment on Monday. On May 1, 2018, Mallesham had taken the victim to an isolated place

and attempted to rape her. The girl managed to escape from the clutches of the accused. After knowing about the incident, the parents and their relatives had staged a protest demanding stringent action against the accused.

After conducting an inquiry, Commissioner of Police D Joel Davis had assured to file a charge-against against the accused. Following the arguments, the court pronounced the verdict on Monday.

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Kartik & Shukla Paksha Panchangam

Tithi: Purnima 07.04 pm

Nakshatram: Bharani: 08.52 pm

Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)

Rahukalam: 02:48 pm - 04:12 pm

Yamagandam: 09:11 am - 10:35 am

Varjyam: NIL

Gulika: 12:00 pm - 01:24 pm

Good Time: (to start any important work)

Amritkalam: 03:45 pm - 05:27 pm

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:37 am - 12:22 pm

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Clear with periodic clouds

Temp: 31/19

Humidity: 80%

Sunrise: 06.19

Sunset: 05.40

Current Weather Conditions Updated November 11, 2019 5:00 PM

## 'Rs 47 cr to RTC won't solve the problem'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The State government on Monday filed a copy of the proceedings of the state cabinet's recent approval to privatise 5,100 route permits of TSRTC in compliance with the orders of the Telangana High Court passed on Friday last week while dealing with a PIL plea.

The plea was filed challenging the decision of the state cabinet to approve the issuance of the route permits. It was filed by the vice president of the Telangana Jana Samithi Prof. PL Visweswar Rao. The court has decided to hear the plea along with all other petitions filed concerning RTC strike and private permits.

The state government also filed a counter affidavit before the Telangana High Court giving additional details about the liabilities the corporation has to



RTC workers submitting memorandum to Minister T Srinivas Yadav on Monday

discharge immediately in the RTC strike case.

In his affidavit, the Chief Secretary of the state, Dr. SK Joshi, told the High Court that the mere payment of Rs 47 crore to meet four of the quantified demands as advised by the apex court was not going to address the larger issue of the huge outstanding dues of the

corporation, including statutory liabilities and cumulative losses. He said that the corporation could not escape statutory liabilities and cumulative losses in any way. He told the HC that the state government had rescued the corporation in the past, but added that its present budgetary constraints did not permit the release of assis-

tance to meet the huge outstanding dues. While citing that the Unions were still sticking to their non-feasible demand of merger of corporation with the government, he told the HC that no useful purpose would be served by engaging them in any further discussions or negotiations. The Chief Secretary also told the court that Unions went on strike on October 5 when the conciliation process was on.

Stating that the demands raised by the Unions fell under the 'industrial dispute' category, the state government urged the High Court to pass orders so that the conciliation proceedings could be taken up further by the designated authority under the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

On the other hand, the counsel for the petitioner, PV Krishnaiah, requested the court to declare the ongoing strike of the RTC as illegal. This prompted the court to ask the counsel as to how the strike could be declared illegal.

Responding to the question, Krishnaiah told the HC that the corporation came under ESMA (Essential Services Maintenance Act) and added that the strike was illegal as per the said Act since the corporation was also a public utility.

## Revenue staff plan 'Simha Garjana' after Nov 22

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Following in the footsteps of striking RTC employees, Revenue Department staff on Monday announced their action plan to highlight their demands, mainly security in view of the recent torching of MRO Vijaya Reddy in her office. Accordingly, the Revenue Joint Action Committee (JAC) has decided to organise 'Simha Garjana' after November 22 in case the government fails to respond to their demands. Ahead of the Simha Garjana, the JAC has lined up a series of programmes starting November 13.

Unions of employees, teachers and pensioners held a round table meeting here on Monday. The meeting discussed the far-reaching consequences of the

Ahead of Simha Garjana, the JAC has lined up a series of programmes starting Nov 13. Unions of employees, teachers and pensioners held a meeting in this regard

murder of Abdullahpurmet MRO Vijaya Reddy. Revenue JAC leader V Lachi Reddy chaired the meeting.

Lachi Reddy said that revenue employees had to work mingling with people. Citing the murder of Vijaya Reddy, he alleged that the government was weakening the historically significant Revenue Department.

Continued on Page 4

# MISSION BHAGIRATHA TO MODEL NATIONWIDE SCHEME

■ KCR gives power point presentation on project to Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has said that the Centre would examine the possibility of implementing Mission Bhagiratha-type scheme for provision of safe drinking water to every household across the country. He said that providing safe drinking water to the people was the minimum responsibility of the government.

The Union Minister said, with the participation of the States concerned, the drinking water programme could be implemented. He suggested that the state government should study the improvised sewerage treatment plant system that could help make use of treated water for domestic and agricultural purposes. Such methods had been globally tested and appreciated. The treated water could also be used for village sanitation, he said.

The Union Minister called on Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, along with Parameswar Iyer, Union Secretary, Drinking Water and Sanitation, on Monday at



Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao with Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at Pragathi Bhavan on Monday

Pragathi Bhavan.

Shekhawat enquired about the works taken up as part of the Mission Bhagiratha Scheme. The Chief Minister and other officials gave the Union Minister a power point presentation on Mission Bhagiratha.

Briefing the Union Minister, the CM said, "For 24,000 habitations in the Telangana State, we have decided to provide safe drinking water through

Mission Bhagiratha Scheme. There used to be severe drinking water scarcity at several places in the State. There used to be problem of fluoride at many places. Drinking water was not available at several places and the water that was available was not pure, often leading to severe health issues for the people. Hence, we have taken up the scheme to purify water from Godavari and Krishna Rivers and supply

pure drinking water on a daily basis to the people. The scheme is almost completed. A permanent solution to the drinking water problems is found. People will be healthy with this scheme. Mission Bhagiratha (MB) brought a substantial and qualitative change in the lifestyle of rural women of Telangana. It is an end-to-end solution. The process of drawing water from source to end point is unique. This is through

overheads by gravity. Due to Mission Bhagiratha there is a permanent solution of drinking water problem. As on date, 23,968 habitations were covered through the scheme and only 91 were left which are in remote tribal areas," the Chief Minister said.

"We have kept in mind the rise in population in the coming 30 years and the demands that may crop up then. Hence, we have designed the project keeping in view the demands that may come up for the next 30 years. If this scheme is implemented all over the country, it will be of a great use. One should not view the schemes aimed at providing drinking water from the financial expenditure point of view," the Chief Minister explained.

"The Central government has fixed its aim and objective to provide safe drinking water to people all over the country. The Telangana government has already fulfilled this aim. Hence, the Centre should extend financial help to the Mission Bhagiratha Scheme," the Chief Minister told the Union Minister.

# Igniting young minds

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Students from 33 government schools of Wanaparthy district participated in pitching competition at T-Hub. As part of Information Technology Industry Tour by Telangana Information Technology Association (TITA), Innovation club members (8th class student, 9th class student and a Teacher) from 33 Government Schools from Wanaparthy District visited various IT Companies in Phoenix IT Park, Cyber Towers and T-hub.

These Government school students were taught Robotics (Line follower, Obstacle Detector & Home Automation) and Artificial Intelligence basics. They pitched 11 different ideas during the pitching competition at T-hub. Robotic Kits were given away to all 33 schools, with which these innovation club members can in-turn share the knowledge to other students in their respective schools.

It may be mentioned here that TITA has embarked upon a DIGITHON #DigitalYatra in Wanaparthy District as a part of



Students from 33 govt schools in Wanaparthy participated in pitching competition at T-Hub. They also visited various IT firms in Phoenix IT Park, Cyber Towers and T-hub

Digital Literacy Mission, where in 150+ volunteers had imparted Digital Literacy to 12,139 students of 137 Government Schools. Sundeeep Kumar Makthala of TITA said, "With this tour, Digithon has successfully ignited students mind

with Innovation. Our special thanks to IT Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, Wanaparthy District Collector Swetha Mohanthy, DEO Sushindra garu, Phoenix Director Srikanth Badiga, for your support to make this event happen".

# PMO war against corrupt in bureaucracy...

Continued from Page 1

As per the rule: "Notwithstanding anything contained in this rule, the appropriate authority shall, if it is of the opinion that it is in the public interest so to do, have the absolute right to retire any government servant by giving him notice of not less than three months in writing or three months pay and allowances in lieu of such notice."

The screening committee of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) - that recently recommended sacking 37 corrupt officers - is likely to meet in the third week of November to review more such cases forwarded by different commissioners under their jurisdiction.

# 100 kg ganja seized in Kothagudem

PNS ■ KOTHAGUDEM

Bhadrachalam police have seized huge quantity of dry ganja being transported in two cars on Monday. The town Inspector of Police Vinod Reddy informed the press that the police have found nearly 100 kilograms ganja worth around Rs 15 lakhs. Five persons were arrested and booked in connection with the case, he said. The car was intercepted during regular vehicle checking drives.

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₹ 38,100 (10 gm)  
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VISAKHAPATNAM 405

**RETAIL PRICE ₹3.92**

# Minister cautions ryots on red sorghum cultivation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy has called upon red sorghum farmers to cultivate the crop only after entering into MoUs with companies and advised them against being duped after entering into contracts with unauthorised persons. He insisted that the farmers should produce red sorghum seeds only after entering into contracts with corporates.

He was reviewing the red sorghum cultivation with agricultural principal secretary C Parthasarathi and Telangana Seed Development Corporation



Minister Niranjan Reddy and Gangula Kamalakar at a review meeting on Monday

Director Kesavulu. Appreciating decision of farmers to cultivate red sorghum following abundant availability of irrigation facility, the

Minister clarified that the government would have no role in the contracts entered into by farmers with the companies with regard to cultivation of the

red sorghum. He appealed to farmers to be exercise caution while entering the contracts.

He wanted agricultural officers to hold meetings in villages where farmers predominantly cultivate red sorghum to sensitise them on various aspects. The farmers should take precautions taking into consideration past experiences in selling red sorghum, he said.

Arrangements would be made for Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivasa Reddy, Transport Minister Vemula Prashant Reddy to sensitise red sorghum farmers along with local MLAs, he said.

# 16 hurt as trains collide at...

Continued from Page 1

Earlier, there were tense moments when the railway authorities made efforts to rescue the MMTS driver Chandrasekar who was stuck in his shattered cabin. Trapped for over eight hours, he was rescued around 6:40pm. "We wanted to ensure that the driver was alive so we kept releasing oxygen in the area where he was stuck and conducted the rescue mission in a very detailed manner," SCR officials said.

The injured persons, some with fractures and others with head injuries, were rushed to Osmania General Hospital.

Lakshmi, one of the injured, speaking on the incident, said, "I was in the

train with one of my friends and suddenly there was a big noise and I fell on the opposite direction and then noticed blood on my head; in the next 15-20 minutes I was taken to the hospital and my friend didn't receive any injuries."

Many who were standing at the station started panicking, while some began recording the accident and sharing clips on social media platforms. Some others started running towards the accident spot in an effort to help those injured.

MD Iqbal, one of them, said: "I heard a lot of screams and rushed to the spot with people around me and tried to help as many people as possible by the time the news spread and the 108 ambulance people arrived.

# Guv gives...

Continued from Page 1

We suggested him that we'll have to talk to our allies and we'll get back to him as early as possible. Deadline is 8.30 pm tomorrow," said NCP leader Jayant Patil.

BJP sources say they are still waiting and watching and it is not over yet as people of Maharashtra will see "who works in their interest and who is only power hungry".

NCP leader Nawab Malik said, "We have been called by the Governor, a delegation of our party has met the Governor.



Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan receives cheque from Siripuram Vishwanatham

# Bizman donates Rs 50 lakh for Armed Forces Fund

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Siripuram Vishwanatham, a businessman from Huzurnagar, has donated Rs 50 lakh to the Armed Forces Flag Day fund here on Monday. He handed over the cheque to Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan at Raj Bhavan.

According to a Raj Bhavan press release, the Governor appreciated the good will gesture and kind heartedness of Siripuram Vishwanatham and honoured him by presenting him a shawl. She said that his kind gesture would go a long way in ensuring welfare of Ex-Servicemen and their families. "It was my dream to serve the nation and hence decided to donate money for

It was my dream to serve the nation and hence decided to donate money for the Flag Day Fund

**SIRIPURAM VISHWANATHAM**  
Businessman

the Flag Day Fund which is meant for rehabilitation of the soldiers who are defending the Nation," Siripuram Vishwanatham said. The Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on December 7 every year to commemorate the monumental sacrifices made by the Armed Forces personnel in defending the territorial integrity of the country both during War and Peace times.

# Fluorosis victim's painting moves Anand Mahindra

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

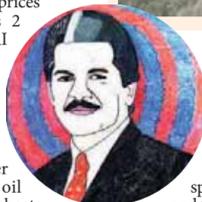
Courage of Ramavath Suvarna, a fluorosis victim, who cannot even eat food by herself, gave Anand Mahindra spirit to start a new week. On Monday, the chairman of Mahindra Group took to twitter to applaud the efforts of the 22-year-old tribal woman, Suvarna, a resident of Sai Banda Tanda of Kudabaksh Palle ram panchayat in Marriguda mandal of Nalgonda district.

Crippled due to fluorosis, Suvarna began sketching portraits of prominent people. To meet her needs, she sold these pictures to the children in the tribal hamlet at prices ranging between Rs 2 and Rs 10. An NRI from Washington, Sudheer Jalagam shared pictures drawn by the victim tagging Mahindra on twitter.

Sudheer who earlier provided her with oil paints and drawing sheets said, "She cannot move her hand more than 2 cm. Earlier, she drew pictures of folk dancers, devotionals and political leaders like Modiji,



**Crippled due to fluorosis, Suvarna began sketching portraits of prominent people. To meet her needs, she sold these pictures to the children in the tribal hamlet at prices ranging between Rs 2 and Rs 10**



KCR, KTR". Moved by the sketches, Mahindra said, "I wish I could send her a message about how her courage gives me the spirit to start a new week and the strength to meet all challenges. I'm honoured to be in her 'portfolio' of portraits...(sic)". Sudheer said that the response from Mahindra will definitely boost

her strength and will empower to do more. With response from Mahindra, more people came forward to help Suvarna. Art lounge an organisation from Mumbai contacted the artist and is preparing an art supply hamper to further encourage her skills. It may be mentioned here that the picture of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, drawn by Suvarna was purchased by Suresh Gudapuri for Rs 55,000.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT**  
(E-Procurement Tender Notice)

(1). Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for one road work under DMFT Funds in Peddapally District of Karimnagar Circle in (R&B) Department, vide NIT No. "E CTN No.1/HKR/CE (R&B) PPP, EAP & COT/2019-20, Dt. 08-11-19 (2). Tenderers can download the tender schedules from e-market place i.e. www.eprocurement.gov.in from 16-11-2019 from 4.00 PM onwards. The last date of receipt of tenders is on or before 28-11-2019 upto 3.30PM. (3). Further details can be seen at e-procurement market place i.e www.eprocurement.gov.in Sd/- For Chief Engineer (R&B) DIPR RO.No.: 921-DP/IC-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2019-20 PPP, EAP & COT

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT (OR) COLLECTOR/JOINT COLLECTOR/LAO/ REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER										
FORM - VII (See Sub Rule (f) of Rule - 25 and Section-19 (f) of the Act - 30/2013)										
DECLARATION										
Collector File No. G/4304/2018 & G/1377/2018		Date: 31.08.2019		No. C/2319/2018		Date: 23.08.2019		Dist. Gazette No. 27		
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana by Collector that a total of Ac 2.17 1/4 Gts. land is required in Chilkakunta and Yadavelli Village of Nootthankal, Mandal Suryapet District for public purpose of SRSP stage II SMR - 7/22R Minor of DBM-69, KM 0.000 to 0.160, SMR - 6/22R DBM-69, KM 0.025 to 0.145.										
Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project of SRSP stage II SMR - 7/22R Minor of DBM-69, KM 0.000 to 0.160, SMR - 6/22R DBM-69, KM 0.025 to 0.145 in the limits of Chilkakunta & Yadavelli Village of Nootthankal Mandal, Suryapet District land measuring more or less Ac. 2.17 1/4 Gts. whose details description is as following is proposed for acquisition.										
Village: Yadavelli Mandal: Nootthankal District: Suryapet										
S. No.	Sy. No. per SD Record	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area Under Acquisition in Ac. Gts	Name of Pattadar/ Enjoyer & Father Name	N	S	E	W	
1	171	Ceiling Surplus Land	Dry	0.18	Ceiling Govt. Land Bayya Gangash (S) Bakkaiah (E) (0.18)	VB	(72)	(71)	(70)	NIL
TOTAL						0.18				
Village: Yadavelli (File No. C/931/2018) Mandal: Nootthankal District: Suryapet										
S. No.	Sy. No. per SD Record	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area Under Acquisition in Ac. Gts	Name of Pattadar/ Enjoyer & Father Name	N	S	E	W	
1	92	Ceiling Surplus Land	Dry	0.03	Janna Shyamunder Reddy, Sri Prathapreddy (P) Palval Nagaiah Sri Veeramallu (E) (0.03)	VB	55			NIL
TOTAL						0.03				
Village: Chilkakunta Mandal: Nootthankal District: Suryapet										
S. No.	Sy. No. per SD Record	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area Under Acquisition in Ac. Gts	Name of Pattadar/ Enjoyer & Father Name	N	S	E	W	
1	216	Ceiling Surplus Land	Dry	1.36 1/4	Ceiling Govt. Land Boddur Ravi Sio Lingaiah(E) (0.19) Boddur Jannaiah Sio Muthaiah (E) (0.18 1/4) Gajula Papiah Sio Sorniah (E) (0.39)	219	VB	216	216	NIL
TOTAL						1.36 1/4				
TOTAL EXTENT						2.17 1/4				
The declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested and due enquiry as provided in 15 of the Act No-30/2013.										
Mines of coal, iron-stone, or other minerals lying under the said lands or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.										
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Suryapet, on any working day in the office hours.										
Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Suryapet			Sd/- Joint Collector, Suryapet			Sd/- District Collector, Suryapet				
DIPR R.O. No.026/LA/PP-Agency/2019-20										

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**CRIME CORNER**  
Three held in fake certificate racket

The Commissioner's Task Force, West Zone team apprehended three persons on Monday for preparing fake confirmation certificates of SSC and cheating students by forging the signature of (AJS) Additional Joint Secretary and issuing the certificates after collecting money from them. The arrested were identified as Mohd Ibrahim Ali Khan (45), Suresh Kumar (42) and Mohd Arif (50). The accused along with seized property was handed over to SHO, Abids PS, for taking further necessary action.

**Two held for selling ganja**

The Excise Enforcement team of Uppal arrested two people for selling the banned narcotic, marijuana on Monday. Officials seized 22 kg of marijuana from their possession. The arrested were identified as Venkatesh, 24, and Naragani Nagaraju, 28. Both are natives of Warangal. Officials nabbed the duo during a vehicle check between Ashok Nagar and Nehru Nagar. The police said that the duo were smuggling the contraband to sell it in Medchal, Ghatkesar, and Uppal.

**In 9 days, GHMC collects 214 tonnes of scrap**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Broken furniture and old clothes are slogging in households of Hyderabad. About 15.4 per cent of scrap in Hyderabad accounts to broken chairs and tables. Likewise, old clothes and mattresses account to 14.3% of scrap. This is based on the data provided by GHMC as part of its recyclothon initiative.

The special drive, to collect scrap and other disposable material from citizens, which began on November 3, will end on Tuesday. Through these 9 days, GHMC has collected 214 MT (Metric tonnes) of scrap of which 33.049 MT is broken furniture and 30.564 MT are unused clothes and mattress.

About 17.951 MT of plastic and 5.99MT of e-waste was collected from the citizens. The residents of LB Nagar zone disposed maximum scrap of 80.301 MT followed by Secunderabad Zone where in GHMC collected 51.774 MT.

The scrap collection was least in Khairatabad zone with 15.376 MT, followed by Charminar where it is 20.754MT. The GHMC has collected 22.098 tones of scrap



GHMC workers collecting scrap from households in the city

**The residents of LB Nagar zone disposed maximum scrap of 80.301 MT followed by Secunderabad Zone where in GHMC collected 51.774 MT. The scrap collection was least in Khairatabad zone with 15.376 MT**

from Serilingampally and 23.508 MT from Kukatpally Zone. It may be mentioned here that GHMC is also involving voluntary organisations, Residential Welfare Societies

and Self Help Groups, to facilitate the collection of these items from the public, besides giving the drive publicity through local representatives as well as sanitation staff.

Dry waste like broken furniture, metals, paper, cardboard, styrofoam, e-waste etc are being collected and dropped off at ward wise collection centers instead of throwing them on the streets in nalas causing sanitation issues.

**Man booked for thrashing neighbour's child**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 7-year-old boy was brutally thrashed by a neighbour at an apartment complex in Alwal on Monday. The chilling incident was captured on the CCTVs installed in the complex, said the police.

The incident occurred at Suvarna residency in Alwal. A flat owner, Kranthi Swarup, had parked his car in the parking space of the apartments. The minor boy, while playing with his cycle, had come in front of Swarup's car, which angered him and he beat the boy black and blue. The CCTV footage also showed Swarup taking the boy into the lift and thrashing him again. The entire incident was also recorded in the CC camera installed in the lift.

When the boy returned home, his father G Anil Kumar noticed the injuries and asked him about them. The crying child then revealed his ordeal to his father who lodged a complaint against Shanti Swarup. However sources said that previous enmity between the two flat owners, Anil and Kranthi, about issues in the apartment, had led to Kranthi showing his anger on Anil's child. Achyuta Rao, a child right's activist from Balala Hakkula Sangham urged the Cyberabad CP V C Sajjanar, to book Kranthi for attempt to murder.



A delegation from 'IndiaJoy' with IT Minister KT Rama Rao on Monday

**Hyd all set to host 'IndiaJoy'**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad will be hosting the prestigious 'IndiaJoy' which is an important platform in the world for Digital, Media and Entertainment Corporations to collaborate and to innovate. A delegation from IndiaJoy met IT Minister KT Rama Rao and formally invited him to the event and also appraised him about the arrangements being made.

The Minister said that the IndiaJoy event will provide fillip to the already thriving Animation, Gaming, VFX and Digital entertainment sector in Hyderabad. With more than 30,000 visitors, the 4-day conclave IndiaJoy 2019 will be held in Hyderabad from 20-23rd November. The event is expected to serve as a springboard for Indian media, entertainment

companies on the world stage.

IndiaJoy Festival in its 2nd edition is supported by the Government of Telangana and has a power-packed line up of 9 world-class events that include IGDC (India Game Developer Conference), Desi Toons, VFX Summit, InfluencerCon, Investor-Publisher Connect, E-Sports, OTT Pulse and the IndiaJoy Music Fest. The 1000+ International delegation expected to attend the event will boost Hyderabad's visibility in the global VFX, Toons, Gaming, and entertainment industry. To make Hyderabad and Telangana as the most favored destination for investment in Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics sector, Telangana Government has launched IMAGE Policy in April 2016.



**WALL COLLAPSE**

**Talasani promises stringent action against culprits**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivasa Yadav, accompanied by Amberpet MLA Kaleru Venkatesh, on Monday visited Pearl Gardens in Golnaka, where four persons were killed after a wall collapsed on Sunday.

He assured the victims of necessary help from the government. He said that the GHMC announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of deceased and promised better treatment to the injured in the incident. He said that he would take the issue to the notice of the CM to extend more support to the victims.

He said the bodies would be sent to native places of the victims at government expenses after post-mortem. He said the Pearl Gardens owner was at



large. As soon as he was confiscated, the government would take stern action against him. GHMC zonal commissioner Sankaraiah also accompanied the Minister. The Minister also visited

Kachiguda railway station where two MMTC trains collided. He enquired from officials the reasons for the collision. He directed the officials to extend proper medicare to the injured in the incident.

**Seven arrested for stealing bioproducts**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Officials of the CCS, Malkajigiri and Uppal PS of the Rachakonda Police Commissionerate have apprehended seven offenders who stole bioproducts worth Rs 25 lakh from a godown at Uppal on Monday.

The arrested persons have been identified as Muthukur Chandra Shekar Reddy (60), Sudigundu Murali Krishna (30), Shaik Shashavali (33), Uppara Bade Saheb (21), Vadde Ramanjaneyulu (20), Vanjari Sai (19) and Gowrishetty Bhasker (20).

According to the police, Naganandi Venkata Narayana, the complainant, runs a business at IDA Uppal where he manufactures bioproducts and distributes them to dealers in Andhra and Telangana regions. The finished bioproducts are filled in tins of different weights and the same are stored in his godown. On 28th October, the bioproducts were filled in tins and stored in his godown for distribution to dealers. On 3rd November, he locked his godown. However on the 5th, he noticed that the locks were broken and the manufactured products worth Rs 25 lakh were stolen. A case was regis-

**According to the police officials, Chandra Shekar Reddy, the main accused in the case, runs a pesticide shop at his native place at Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh**

tered at Uppal Police station. Based on credible information, the Central Crime Station of Malkajigiri and the Uppal police arrested the 7 persons at Chilkula Nagar on Monday. Upon interrogation, they confessed to the crime. As many as 121 boxes of bioproducts weighing 3770 kg and two vehicles that were used in the crime were seized from their possession.

The police said that Chandra Shekar Reddy, the main accused, runs a pesticide shop at his native place at Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh. In the last three years, he used to visit and purchase the bioproducts from Venkata Narayana's shop Uppal.

**Gang of dacoits detained under PD Act**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Rachakonda police detained a six-member gang of dacoits under the Preventive Detention Act on Monday.

They were identified as Ananthula Veeranna (37), Mogulla Naresh (31), Cheruku Rajinikanth (23), Gangadevi Prabhakar (28), Syed Sameer (22) and Mohd Fareed (36).

In the ongoing drive against habitual offenders to create a sense of safety and security to the public properties and to preserve public order in Rachakonda Police Commissionerate, CP, Rachakonda has detained them under the PD Act from Ghatkesar PS. The leader of the gang, Ananthula Veeranna and his brother-in-law, Mogulla Naresh, started illegal transportation of gutka/pan masala from Bidar in Karnataka using a rented SUV and sell the same at higher prices at



Mahabubabad and Palakurthy. In November 2018, the Janagam police arrested Veeranna and jailed him. Naresh was also arrested by the Palakurthy police and jailed, after which the duo stopped that racket for a while.

Veeranna then decided to impersonate a policeman and threaten persons doing the illegal gutka business and extort money from them. "He had a plan of ac-

The accused robbed the passengers of Rs 60,000 in cash and two cell phones and let them off after threatening them of dire consequences

**MAHESH BHAGWAT**  
Rachakonda Commissioner of Police

ing as police and snatching money from them by threatening to book cases and arrest them. He discussed the plan with Naresh, who suggested that they make a gang of six to intimidate people. Naresh then brought in Rajanikanth, Prabhakar, Sameer and Fareed," said Mahesh Bhagwat, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda.

"According to their plan, on 12th September, the gang went in a car to Zaheerabad Tollgate and Rajanikanth observed and identified vehicles that were transporting bags of gutka. They identified

a car and followed it to the Keesara tollgate. The gang then stopped the car and threatened the occupants by claiming that they were the police. They robbed the passengers of Rs 60,000 in cash and two cell phones and let them off after threatening them of dire consequences if they revealed the incident to anyone. The passengers, however, complained to the police and a case was registered at the Keesara police station," said the official.

Using the same method, on 19th September, the gang went in two cars and followed another car from Patancheru tollgate, that was transporting gutka bags. They stopped the car at Ghatkesar tollgate claiming to be Hyderabad Task Force Police. The gang then took them to Boduppal where they took a victim's ATM Card and withdrew Rs.10,000 from Canara Bank ATM and Rs.10,000 from HDFC ATM.

**GREEN CHALLENGE**



Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar plants a sapling as part of Green Challenge, initiated by the TRS MP Santosh Kumar, in Hyderabad on Monday. As part of the challenge, Arvind Kumar nominated actor Vijay Devarakonda, KUDA chairman Marri Yadava Reddy and the entire team of the KUDA to participate in the drive

**Self-employment trendy, says Prof Kavita**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

"There is a paradigm shift in the present day education. Most of the people are trending towards self-employment and entrepreneur ship," said Prof Kavita Daryani Rao, vice-chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University, Hyderabad.

She was speaking after inaugurating 'Samalokanam', an awareness programme on Architecture and Design Education at Institute of Engineers, Khairatabad. Prof Kavita was the chief guest and lit the lamp as mark of the inauguration along with Prof G Sunil Kumar, Director, GITAM School of Architecture, Prof A Sreeram, Director, Students



Affairs and Muttu Kumar, Vice-President, HMTV.

In her chief guest remarks, Prof Daryani Rao said that the architecture and design insti-

tutes have been importing the life skills to the students, so that they able to perform those skills lifelong. She shared her experience with JNAFAU's

Most of the alumni have been performing well and leading good life in the areas like animation, building and design fields

**PROF KAVITA DARYANI RAO**  
Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University Vice Chancellor

alumni meet. Most of the alumni have been performing well and leading good life in the areas like animation, building and design fields. She expressed her dismay that the skills what they learned might not match at work place. Prof. Kavita supported to opt the creative professional education to grow in the future.

Earlier, Prof. Sunil Kumar welcomed the guests and told

the objective behind to arrange the 'Samalokanam' programme. He wished that the platform may provide an opportunity to the student to choose design or architecture course and will clarify the droughts of students as well as their parents. Prof A Sreeram briefed the over view of GITAM since its inception to present day excelling. Mukteshwar, Assistant Professor, GITAM School of Architecture proposed the vote of thanks. The day-long awareness programme on Architecture and Design provided more clarity for the aspirants. Most the students and parents from the twin cities visited this fair and utilized the unique opportunity.

**Government of Telangana Revenue (LA) Department Collector, Jogulamba Gadwal District FORM-6 PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION**

(See Sub-Rule (1) of Rule-19 and Section - 11(1) of the Act 30A/2013)

File No. C/137/08 Dt: 30-01-2019  
Gazette No. 02/19 Dt: 30-01-2019

District Collector Jogulamba Gadwal is expected to collect 2.3 cents of land in Itikyala Village of Itikyala Mandal, Jogulamba Gadwal District for public purpose i.e. D3 of R.M.C package NO.100. They are exempted under Section 10A of the Telangana Land Acquisition Amendment Act 2016 (Act No. 21/2017). Therefore, due to lack of social impact study platform for irrigation department project, notice has to be issued on the lands mentioned, whose detail description is as following, is under acquisition:

Sl. No.	S.No./S.D.No.	Patta/Inam etc.	Nature of the Land (Dry/Crop/Wet (No. Cents) / Ac. 0/1)	Name of the Patta/Inam Owner and People who have any rights	Boundaries				Trees	Structures				
					North	South	East	West						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
499		Patta	Dry	0.57	1) Koppula Pushavathamma W/o Kotha Loka Reddy Enjoyners : 1) Pushavathamma W/o Kotha Reddy 2) Pujari Yellaappa S/o Karanna 3) Pujari Sanjanna S/o Gokari 4) Pujari Vasanna S/o Gokari									
359		Patta	Dry	1.45	1) Chinna Naganna S/o Vasanna 2) Pedda Naganna S/o Sanjanna 3) K. Anjaneyulu W/o Krishna Reddy 4) Ramji Reddy									
330		Patta	Dry	0.20	1) Golla Sujatha W/o Golla Ramanjaneyulu 2) Golla Ramanjaneyulu S/o Ramudu 3) Anasupama W/o Krishna Reddy 4) Yellannagari Ananamma W/o Gangadhar Reddy 5) Moshe Purushotham Reddy S/o Shashi Reddy 6) Moshe Rajashekar Reddy S/o M. Ayyappa Reddy 7) Moshe Ayyappa Reddy S/o Yama Reddy 8) Moshe Thamma Reddy S/o Pulla Reddy 9) Moshe Maheshwar Reddy S/o Pulla Reddy 10) Kurva Bichupalli S/o Sankanna 11) Golla Rangya Swamy S/o Golla Galenna 12) Golla Bisanna S/o Thippanna 13) Moshe Laxmidevi W/o Maheshwar Reddy 14) Yallannagari Madhava Reddy S/o Pedda Laxmi Reddy 15) Ugender S/o Golla Rajaramudu									
436		Patta	Dry	0.02	1) Thamma Reddy S/o Pulla Reddy 2) M. Ranga Reddy S/o Venkatrami Reddy 3) Y. Madhava Reddy S/o Pedda Laxmi Reddy 4) G. Rajvardhan Reddy S/o Narayana Enjoyners : 1) Police Narayana Reddy S/o Laxmi Reddy									

2.24

This notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No.30/2013), as amended by the Right to Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy 2014 Rule 19(1) to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Jogulamba Gadwal, Special Deputy Collector, J.L.P., Gadwal and and this staff on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officer, Revenue Division Officer and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section-12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested/affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before Special Deputy Collector, J.L.P., Gadwal.

Sd/-  
Special Deputy Collector,  
Jawahar Lif Irrigation Project  
Gadwal

Sd/-  
Collector  
Jogulamba Gadwal District  
DIPR No.379/LA/PP/2019-20



RTC JAC members argue with police officials at a protest in Hyderabad on Monday. (Right) Police arrest CPI members in Warangal

## Striking employees get support of NRIs

K VENKATESHWARLU  
HYDERABAD

The striking RTC employees are getting support from across the world. Telangana NRIs in United Kingdom (UK) have floated an All-Party Committee with the support of six political parties and announced their support to the ongoing RTC strike.

Extending sympathies to the bereaved RTC families, the NRIs urged the RTC employees not to commit suicides. They demanded the Telangana government to extend Rs 15 lakh ex-gratia and a job to one of the bereaved families.

The NRIs displayed placards 'Dear RTC employees- suicide is not a solution', 'Fight for justice... We are with you', 'KCR do justice to RTC workers immediately', 'Solve RTC issue- Stop RTC privatization', 'Take RTC employees back to work'. The NRIs decided to extend financial assistance to the RTC workers after taking legal opinion. They demanded the government to merge the RTC into government similar to Andhra Pradesh government.

While reminding the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao that the NRIs from London stand by the side of him by waging movement on the banks of Thames River and before the British Parliament, the NRIs said, in a united statement, that it is unfortunate that the situation is arising once again to stage dharnas with the KCR's policies.

Stating that suppressing the peaceful and non-violent movement for their demands is undemocratic, NRIs demanded the state government to conduct talks with RTC employees immediately. The forming of unions takes places as per democratic manner and it is not correct to the Chief Minister to create differences among the employees as some present ministers acted as honorary presidents too, they said.

The six-political parties- Congress, BJP, TJS, TDP, Jana



NRIs hold placards in support of RTC employees in London

**Stating that suppressing the non-violent movement as undemocratic, NRIs demanded the government to conduct talks with RTC employees immediately**

Srinivas Devulapally, Tirupari Narsimha Reddy, Mary, Jawahar Reddy, Jayanth Vaddiraju (Congress), Pasunuri Kiran, Praveen Billa (BJP), Rangu Venkateshwarlu, Swamy Akula, Raju Goud (TJS), Koti, Chaitanya (TDP), Ayyappa, Haneef, Abdul (Jana Sena), Shiva Reddy, Ganesh Reddy (YSRCP), Oruganti Kamalakar Rao, Sravan Goud, Dr Vishwanath Kokkonda (intellectuals).

Later, the NRIs also held a video conference with the Telangana political leaders. While speaking, Revanth Reddy urged Telangana NRI of other nations to extend their support to the RTC employees similar to NRIs from UK.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy urged the Telangana NRIs from America to extend their support to the RTC employees similar to the NRIs of UK. He said that several issues can be solved if the Chief Minister pays the dues to RTC. It is painful as Chief Minister is speaking lies, Komatireddy lamented.

BJP leader DK Aruna demanded Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao to leave the stubborn attitude towards RTC employees. RTC problem will create another problem if the government indulges in detentions and houses, she opined saying that there is no need to Chief Minister to misguide the High Court.

## RTC JAC ups the ante against govt

Employees storm residences of MLAs, MPs and MLCs across the state

PNS HYDERABAD

On the 38th day of the RTC strike on Monday, members of the RTC JAC attempted to lay siege to houses of Ministers, MLAs and MLCs of ruling party across the state and raised slogans against the state government to register their protest against the lathi-charge on the RTC workers during the November 9 Million March held on Tankbund.

They accused the TRS government of failing to resolve the problems of RTC workers. During the protest, clashes between the police and the RTC workers took place leading to jostling by each other causing injuries to the workers. The police effected arrests of the protesters at many places.

In Siddipet, the RTC workers made a vain bid to lay siege to the residence of Finance Minister T Harish Rao. The RTC workers along with the Left parties leaders made a sit-in in front of Harish Rao's house. The police tried to thwart their attempts leading to jostling. In the melee, a woman

**In Siddipet, the RTC workers made a vain bid to lay siege to the residence of Finance Minister T Harish Rao. The RTC workers along with the Left parties leaders made a sit-in in front of Harish Rao's residence**

conductor was injured. Tension prevailed at Minister Yerrabelli Dayakar Rao's residence as the RTC workers protested in front of his house in Ramnagar in Hanmakonda. Tension prevailed as the police and the protesters clashed in front of the house.

Similarly, the RTC workers and the police clashed in front of the house of Vinaya Bhaskar, Warangal West legislator and government whip, in Hanmakonda. The RTC workers along with Congress leaders tried to lay siege to the house when the police thwarted their attempts. The protesters raised slogans against the government leading to the police effecting arrests. As a

result, tension prevailed in the area.

RTC workers accompanied by Congress and Left parties leaders laid siege to the house of Warangal East legislator Nannapaneni Narendar and accused Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao of terrorising the RTC workers.

In Narasmpeta of Warangal rural district, the protest programme escalated tensions in the region. The RTC workers proceeded in a rally to the camp office of MLA Sudarsan Reddy from the RTC depot and raised slogans against the government. As the police tried to prevent them, there ensued a clash leading to pushing each other. In the process, a lady constable sustained

## Etela promises to resolve issues

HYDERABAD: The RTC workers stormed Health Minister Etela Rajender's residence and submitted him a memorandum urging him to resolve their problems. Responding favourably to the demands of the RTC workers, he assured the workers to take their demands to the notice of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao.

The workers told the Minister that their contribution to the movement for

Telangana. They told him that 22 RTC workers sacrificed their lives so far. They said that they were at a loss of comprehension on the course adopted by the RTC. The AP government merged the RTC with the government and purchased a fleet of 1,000 buses to the RTC. They said that they were unable to comprehend why the rich state like Telangana is repressing on the rights of RTC workers. It was high-time the state government understood the workers' problems and resolved them.

injuries and also some RTC workers. In all these parts the police made elaborate security arrangements and the resi-

dences of MLAs, MPs, Rajyasabha Members and MLCs were posted with police pickets as a preventive measure.

## Revenue staff plans Simha Garjana...

Continued from Page 1

The government was projecting revenue employees as corrupt, though they had issued 58 lakh pattadar passbooks. Some non-farmers were also threatening revenue employees now, he claimed.

The JAC leader alleged that some elements were intentionally branding the department as a bad one only to weaken the entire revenue system. Revenue employees were being blamed for land disputes, though the disputes might be due to confusion in revenue acts, technical loopholes in software, and lack of adequate employees. He made it clear that the staff would wage a movement for their protection as a JAC, keeping their unions aside.

Revenue JAC leader Upender Rao said that the state government was trying to destroy the Revenue Department. The government had hatched a conspiracy to destroy the Revenue System.

RTC JAC leader Thomas Reddy alleged that the revenue employees, who never faced such troubles during the unit-

ed Andhra rule, had been facing travails for the last six years in Telangana. Non-working of the Revenue Department was nothing but non-working of government, he said. He alleged that government heads were behaving like dictators and urged all employees to condemn the attitude of the government.

RTC JAC leader Raji Reddy, UTF leader Ch Ramulu, JACTO leader Sadananda Goud, Electricity Employees JAC leader Medi Ramesh, STF leader Pochaiiah, TSPTA leader Chinna Ramulu, TGCTA leader Vijay Kumar, TSUTF leader Chava Ravi and others leaders, including M Parvatha Reddy, S Ramulu, Laxminarayana, V Ramulu, Sudhakar Rao and B Sudarshan, participated in the meeting.

As per the resolutions passed at the meeting, the Revenue Department employees would stage 'pen down' strike on November 13 and 14 and submit memorandums to the Ministers, MPs, MLAs, ZP Chairpersons, chiefs of MPPs and ZPTCs as well as Sarpanches demanding pro-

tection to revenue employees. The staff would stage 'Vanta Varpu' programme before the Tahasildar offices on November 15. The employees will not perform duties in regard to land issues on November 16.

Later, they would conduct regional conferences, with the first one being organized at Khammam. Revenue employees from Khammam, Warangal and Nalgonda would participate in it.

The second regional conference would be conducted at Kamareddy on November 19. Revenue employees from Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Adilabad and Medak would participate in the Kamareddy conference. They will organize the last conference at Rangreddy district on November 22. Revenue employees from Mahabubnagar, Rangareddy and Hyderabad would participate in it.

The revenue employees would organize Simha Garjana involving 30,000 revenue employees at Hyderabad after November 22 in case the government failed to respond to their demand, the JAC leaders said.

## Govt firm on uplift of tribals: Minister

PNS KAMAREDDY

Minister for Social Welfare Satyavathi Rathod has described residential educational institutions as the brain child of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao and noted that TRS government built many residential schools soon after coming to power almost doubling the existing schools. She was addressing a gathering after inaugurating a Residential school for STs, built at a cost of Rs 4.20 crore, at Narsullabad in Kamareddy district on Monday. Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivasa Reddy also graced the occasion.

The number of residential school doubled as the TRS government set up as many schools as they were in undivided AP, she explained. She said that KCR ordered supply of fine rice to residential schools besides extending the students quality education.

Turning a leaf from her life, Satyavathi Rathore said that she was admitted to a residential school when she was young by her parents as there was no



school in her tribal thanda.

She claimed to have run away from the school unable to eat the rice cooked using coarse grains. Therefore, her parents found only alternative for her was to marry her off. Thus her marriage was performed in her childhood.

The Chief Minister was well aware of the problem and was instrumental in supplying fine rice to residential schools, she said putting the per capital government's expenditure on stu-

dents is Rs 1.20 lakh.

KCR believes in development of tribals only through education and hence sanction residential schools for them on a large scale, she observed. She said that KCR was kind enough to convert over 30,000 tribal hamlets (thandas), Koya gumeds, Chenchu habitats into village panchayats and provided opportunity of self-rule by the tribals.

Satyavathi Rathod, who began her career as a village

**She said that KCR ordered supply of fine rice to residential schools besides extending the students quality education**

sarpanch, noted that the tribal thandas under the limits of the village panchayat of which she was the sarpanch now became village panchayats and many tribals went on to become sarpanches. She attributed it to the greatness of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao.

"Chief Minister gave an ordinary tribal woman ministerial berth and made me the first ever woman Minister in Telangana Cabinet. In other parties, if a person wants to become Minister, a lot of lobbying will take place. Or else, there should be a god father," she observed.

## KCR now eyes Centre's lands to augment revenues

Continued from Page 1

KCR had constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee on Resource Mobilisation, headed by Finance Minister T Harish Rao, to recommend measures to the state government to raise additional revenues. The committee has already met three times to discuss additional resource mobilization.

Following its meeting on October 28, the committee asked collectors of all the 33 districts to furnish information on the status of Central lands.

Accordingly, principal secretary of industries and commerce Jayesh Ranjan issued a circular on October 29 asking all the collectors to furnish the information sought in the prescribed format immediately.

The details sought include name of the central institution, land allotted in acres, date of allotment, mode of allotment (sale/ lease basis), allotted rate per acre, details of registered document executed, present status of institution (functional, non-functional), present land utilization in acres, prevailing government land rate under respective sub-registrar office jurisdiction, and prevailing market rate.

Based on the collectors' reports on these lines, KCR will take a call on how to proceed further in respect of unused lands, lands whose lease has expired, low rate of land leased etc.

The government wants to reclaim unused lands, besides revising lease rates as per existing government rates.

The state government hopes that these measures would help augment its revenues. The administration is of the view that vast extents of lands allotted to central institutions several decades ago, including those in prime locations, are lying unused or in the possession of the Centre at nominal lease rates.

## Asad went to Maha to ensure BJP's victory: VH

PNS HYDERABAD

Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao has found fault with the AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi for stating that the Congress was dead and alleged that the latter went to Maharashtra to ensure the victory of BJP in the recent Assembly elections. However, BJP lost elections due to Asad's entry into Maharashtra, he pointed out.

VH said that the Congress will not die with the words of Asaduddin. He condemned the removal of SPG security to AICC chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. He reminded that Rajiv Gandhi was murdered only after the removal of SPG to him.

## Free Internet access a basic human right, cry researchers

PNS LONDON

With political engagement and debates increasingly taking place online, free internet access must be considered as a human right, as people unable to get online -- particularly in the developing countries -- lack meaningful ways to influence the global players shaping their everyday lives, researchers have stressed.

Basic freedoms that many take for granted including free expression, freedom of information and freedom of assembly are undermined if some citizens have access to Internet and others do not, said the team from University of Birmingham.

Kerala, for instance, has declared universal Internet access a human right and aims to provide it for its 3.5 crore people by the end of this year. "Internet access is no luxury, but instead a moral human



**Internet could be a key way of protecting other basic human rights such as life, liberty and freedom from torture -- a means of enabling billions of people to lead "minimally decent lives", said the study**

people lack a meaningful way to influence and hold accountable supranational rule-makers and institutions. These individuals simply don't have a say in the making of the rules they must obey and which shape their life chances," lamented Reglitz.

Exercising free speech and obtaining information is now heavily dependent on having Internet access. Much of today's political debate took place online and politically relevant information is shared on the Internet -- meaning the relative value these freedoms held for

people 'offline' had decreased. The study cited several examples of Internet engagement that helped hold government and institutions to account like the 'Arab Spring' and #MeToo campaign. The European Union recently launched the "WiFi4EU" initiative to provide 'every European village and city with free wireless Internet access around main centres of public life by 2020. The UN's International Telecommunication Union estimated that by the end of 2018, 51 per cent of the world's

population of 7 billion people had access to the Internet.

"Universal Internet access need not cost the earth -- accessing politically important opportunities such as blogging, obtaining information, joining virtual groups, or sending and receiving emails does not require the latest information technology," said Reglitz.

Currently, some 2.3 billion people live without affordable Internet access. "Web-capable phones allow people to access these services and public internet provision, such as public libraries, can help get people online where individual domestic access is initially too expensive." The human right to Internet access was similar to the global right to health, which cannot require globally the highest possible medical treatment, as many states are too poor to provide such services and thus would face impossible demands.

SHORT READS

**Chhattisgarh: Man beaten to death by Naxals in Sukma**

**SUKMA:** A man was beaten to death by Naxals in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district after they accused him of being a police informer, an official said on Monday. The body of Sudam Hunga, a native of Kamapura village, was found on Monday morning on the outskirts of Jagargunda village and a leaflet left on the spot by Naxals claimed he was killed for being a police informer, the official said. "He was abducted some days ago and it seems he was beaten to death. We have launched a combing operation to nab the culprits," he added.

**Man in sadhu's attire found dead with eyes gouged out in UP**

**BANDA (UP):** The body of a 40-year-old man wearing a sadhu's robe was found with his eyes gouged out in an agricultural field in Budhauli village of Uttar Pradesh's Banda district, police said on Monday. Circle Officer Kuldeep Singh said a post-mortem has established that Krishna Kumar alias Lala was strangled to death. He added that the man had a criminal history with five cases registered against him. Baberu Kotwali station house officer Shashi Kumar Pandey said the man was living in a Durga temple in the village along with other sadhus for the past few months and was found dead on Sunday in the fields with his hands and legs tied together. The body bore deep wound marks and the assailants appear to have gouged out his eyes, the SHO said, adding that three other persons living in the temple have been taken into custody for questioning. Further investigation is underway, police said.

**CRPF jawan injured in C'garh after stepping on electric wire**

**DANTEWADA:** A CRPF jawan was injured on Monday after coming in contact with live wire during a combing operation in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, police said. The incident took place in the jungles of Arbe village under Arampur police station area when a team of the CRPF's 11th battalion was patrolling in view of a police camp being set up in Potali village, an official said. Constable Ravi Singh Kushwaha accidentally stepped on the electric wire laid by villagers in the dense forest in a bid to hunt wild boar, and sustained burn injuries, he said.

**CCI invites research papers for annual journal on competition law**

**NEW DELHI:** The Competition Commission on Monday invited original high quality research papers, articles and book reviews for publication in its annual Journal on Competition Law and Policy. The last date of submitting papers is December 31, 2019, the fair trade regulator said in a tweet. "Full papers along with CV of author(s) and duly signed certificate of originality...may be sent to journals@cci.gov.in," the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said in a detailed note. "The Commission invites original high quality research papers, articles and book reviews on competition law, economics of competition law and contemporary antitrust or competition issues for publication in the ... journal," it added. Further, the regulator said that research works on themes such as cartel, vertical restraints and competition, merger and acquisition, new age economy and intellectual property rights and competition law among others will be encouraged.

**Iran says new oil field adds only 22 bln barrels to reserves**

**TEHRAN:** Iran's oil minister said Monday that an oil field whose discovery President Hassan Rouhani announced at the weekend adds only 22.2 billion barrels to the country's estimated crude reserves. Out of the amount at the site, only a tenth — 2.2 billion barrels — can be extracted due to technological limitations, the minister, Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, told reporters in Tehran. Rouhani announced on Sunday the discovery of a new oil field containing 53 billion barrels of oil in southwestern Iran.

**Visva Bharati played glorious role in nation building: Prez**

PNS ■ SANTINIKETAN

Hailing Visva Bharati University as an institute which has upheld the country's culture and ethos, President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday said his visit to the varsity was no less than a pilgrimage.

Addressing the annual convocation of the university as a 'paridarshak' (visitor), Kovind said this "seat of learning" has played a glorious role in nation building.

"I call this (visit to the university) a pilgrimage because the two greatest visionaries of modern India, Rabindranath Tagore (founder of the varsity), and Mahatma Gandhi, frequently met here. It is here that we all pick the threads of life and lessons of these great sages and learn from them," he said.

Kovind recalled that Tagore had turned to Gandhi for help when the varsity was in dire need of funds in 1935 and had received a draft of Rs 60,000.

For Gurudev (Tagore), as well as for Mahatma, right education was the key to national regeneration, the president emphasized.

"Gurudev had thought of an alternative model (of education) which advocates for intimate communion with nature



Ram Nath Kovind

and Visva Bharati, to this date, follows that tradition," Kovind stated.

This uniqueness of Visva-Bharati is something that "we need to cherish and hold up with pride", he insisted.

"It was in this place that Tagore lived, worked and gave concrete shape to his dreams. The community here - students, academics, staff, ashramites - are proud inheritors of that rich legacy which your founder has left you.

"Its illustrious alumni covering a diverse range of personalities, from Indira Gandhi and Satyajit Ray, have not only fulfilled its founder's vision to a great extent, but also con-

tributed in taking independent India to new heights," Kovind said during his address to the students.

In an age where machine and wealth are considered benchmarks of progress, Visva-Bharati has emerged as a unique blend of tradition and modernity, the president observed.

"Tagore felt it necessary not only to train the minds of the students through disciplines like philosophy, literature or history, but also to engage their souls with music and painting and fine arts. Given the pragmatic needs, there was space for agricultural studies too," he said.

**For Gurudev (Tagore), as well as for Mahatma, right education was the key to national regeneration, the President emphasized**

Kovind urged students to take a pledge to strive towards Visva-Bharati's glorious future in accordance with the Nobel laureate's vision.

"Tagore was too great to be inhibited by man-made barriers of gender, caste, community or race. Open air for open minds. He wanted to remove walls, literally and metaphorically, when the world was raising walls," he added.

Congratulating the students who received their degrees on the occasion, he urged them to remember the institution which has nourished them as a "foster-mother".

"You have done well so far, and I wish you the best... Visva-Bharati has made you aware of your potential, and made you sensitive to your role in society," the President added.

**Ayodhya verdict welcomed by 'one and all': Sri Sri**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar on Monday said the Supreme Court's verdict on the Ayodhya land dispute case was welcomed by 'one and all' in the country as citizens have responded peacefully since the judgement was announced.

Pointing out that the past few days have been tranquil across the country, the founder of The Art of Living Foundation said "... that means people have really welcomed this great judgement. It has been welcomed by one and all."

He was speaking at the 12th International Women Entrepreneurial Challenge (IWEC) Awards & Conference here.

The apex court, in a historic verdict on Saturday, backed the construction of a Ram temple by a government-formed trust at the disputed site in Ayodhya. It ruled that an alternative five-acre plot must be allotted for construction of a mosque in



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

the Hindu holy town.

"It has been a long-standing, unresolved conflict between two communities. In India, it was a thorn in the harmonious relationship between two communities," Shankar said.

The Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute had been going on for over a century and has for long polarised the country and frayed the secular tapestry of Indian society.

"Today it is resolved and the same solution which I have been offering since 2003 proved to be right and the same solution has been now

It has been a long-standing, unresolved conflict between two communities. In India, it was a thorn in the harmonious relationship between two communities

**SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR**  
Spiritual leader

promulgated by the court as such," the spiritual leader, who was part of the Supreme Court-appointed mediation panel in the Ayodhya case, said.

After the verdict was delivered on Saturday, Shankar had welcomed it, saying that the judgement had brought "joy and relief" to members of both the Hindu and Muslim communities.

"I wholeheartedly welcome the historic judgment of the Hon. Supreme Court. This has brought joy and relief to people of both communities from a long-standing dispute. #AYODHYAVERDICT," he had tweeted.

**Senior Cong leaders leave Jaipur resort**

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Senior Congress leaders have left the resort in Jaipur, where newly-elected Maharashtra Congress legislators are staying, to attend the working committee meeting of the party in Delhi.

The Congress is expected to take a final call on extending support to the Shiv Sena at the meeting of its top leadership with Maharashtra state leaders at 4 pm.

Former Union minister Sushil Kumar Shinde, former chief ministers Prithviraj Chavan and Ashok Chavan, state Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat and party general secretary Avinash Pande have left the resort, sources said. The Congress MLAs are staying in the resort here since Friday and the leaders held rounds of meeting to discuss political impasse in Maharashtra.

The Shiv Sena is racing against time on Monday to cobble together an alliance to form a government in Maharashtra.

**JNU students protest fee hike, dress code**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hundreds of students protested near the Jawaharlal Nehru University here on Monday against the administration's "anti-student" policy.

Students wanted to march towards the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), where Vice President Venkaiah Naidu was addressing the university's convocation at an auditorium.

The gates of the AICTE, around 3 km from the JNU, were locked and the security personnel were stationed in and outside the premises in wake of the protests that started in the morning.

Barricades were placed outside the north and west gates of the JNU campus, as well as on the route between the AICTE auditorium and the JNU at Baba Balaknath Marg, near the traffic signal, underneath the flyover and near the venue, an officer said.

But students broke these blockades and marched towards the venue around 11.30 am. Some of the protesters have been detained, police said.

With placards in their hands, the students were beating tambourine and raising slogans like "Delhi Police Go Back" and calling Vice Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar a "thief".



**With placards in their hands, the students were beating tambourine and raising slogans like 'Delhi Police Go Back' and calling Vice Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar a 'thief'**

Human Resource Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal was not being able to come out of the venue.

"JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh and vice president Saket Moon were asked to talk to the students to make way for the HRD minister. Police requested the protesters to move from the gate, but they refused," an officer said.

The JNUSU office-bearers met Pokhriyal who assured them that their demands would be looked into.

They, however, were not able to meet the V-C. The pro-

testers were also raising slogans "we want V-C".

"Historic day for us that we broke barricades, reached the convocation venue and met the minister," Ghosh said. "This could happen because we were united."

"This is not the end of our movement. We urged the HRD minister to ask the V-C to have a dialogue with the students," the JNUSU president said. "It is due to the V-C that things have come to be like this."

The HRD minister has promised that students' union would be called for meeting to the ministry.

**VP bats for political empowerment of women**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu pitched on Monday for political empowerment of women by providing adequate reservation for them in Parliament and state legislatures.

At the third convocation ceremony of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), he expressed happiness over the fact that women constitute 51 per cent of the students in the institute because of special admission policy for them, and those hailing from distant places and belonging to marginalized sections.

"I would also like to stress on the need for political empowerment of women by providing adequate reservation for them in Parliament and state legislatures," Naidu said.

The Vice President asserted that the time has come for



Venkaiah Naidu

India to again emerge as a global hub of learning.

"For this to happen, our universities and institutions of higher learning have to reorient their methods of teaching and focus more sharply on research. In Indian civilization, emphasis was always on a holistic integrated vision of education. We must bring back this multi-disciplinary approach to learning," he added.

**Sena leader Sawant quits Union cabinet**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shiv Sena leader Arvind Sawant on Monday announced his resignation from the Union cabinet, saying there is no trust left and it would not be proper to continue as minister when a new government is being formed in Maharashtra.

Addressing a press conference, Sawant accused the BJP of renegeing on its promise to the Sena for equal division of seats and power and forcing the Uddhav Thackeray-led party to snap ties.

He alleged that the BJP was resorting to "lies" by denying the agreement reached between the leaders of the two allies before the assembly elections.

"They have also hurt my party by lying. Since there is no trust left, I have decided to resign," Sawant told reporters.

He also accused the BJP of hurting the sentiments of the Shiv Sena and of the Thackeray family.

"I have resigned as Union minister. I have sent my resignation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the Shiv Sena leader said and displayed his letter resigning as Heavy Industries minister.

Asked if the Sena has snapped its ties with the BJP, he said, "When I have resigned, you can understand what it means."

"The BJP had agreed with Sena to equal division of seats and power but it has now rejected this," Sawant said.



**Nearly 13,000 tribals become literate in Kerala in two years**

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Battling various odds from poverty to backwardness, nearly 13,000 members of various tribal communities in Kerala have been initiated into the world of letters in the last two years under different schemes, the state Literacy Mission said here on Monday.

The state-run agency, which designed special literacy programmes for the marginalised sections, had already covered Wayanad and Attappady, the major tribal settlements, besides 100 selected hamlets across the state.

Under various schemes, a total of 12,968 tribal people, have become literate across the state in the last two years, according to the figures released by the Mission.

Of this, 7,302 people had become literate in Wayanad through a special literacy drive while 3,760 had been initiat-

ed into the world of letters in Attappady block through an equivalency scheme.

The Mission director, P S Sreekala, said the triballiteracy programmes would be expanded to more settlements in view of the good response.

"We have roped in instructors from the tribal community to teach the illiterate tribals. This is one of the reasons for the success of the programme. Our objective is to eradicate illiteracy completely from the tribal hamlets of the state in a phased manner," she said.

With the support of the all-women network, Kudumbashree, the Literacy Mission is now gearing up to launch the programme at Aralam farm in Kannur district, where a majority of inhabitants are tribals.

Of the total 1,600 families living in six blocks of the farm, a majority are believed to be illiterate.

**Monitor use of plastic in election campaigns: NGT**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Election Commission of India and the Chief Electoral Officers of all states and Union Territories to monitor the compliance of advisories against the use of plastic, especially banners and hoardings, during elections.

The NGT's decision came after it was informed that the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has asked the



Chief Secretaries and Chief Electoral Officers of all states and UTs to use alternative options during election campaigns.

The ministry said that it has written letters to them asking to use material such as compostable plastic, natural fabrics, recycled paper and other eco-

**Sanjay Raut's 'love jihad' swipe at BJP-PDP ties**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Senior Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Monday said if the BJP was not willing to fulfill its promise of sharing the chief minister's post in Maharashtra, there was no point in continuing the alliance.

A day after Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari invited the Shiv Sena to stake claim to form government, Mr Raut told reporters that the BJP "insulted" people's mandate by not abiding to the "50:50" formula which, he claimed, was decided before the Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP on Sunday announced it would not form government in the state and accused the Shiv Sena of "disrespecting" people's mandate secured by the NDA in the recent Assembly polls.

"The BJP's arrogance that it would sit in the opposition but not share the chief minister's post has led to this situation...if the BJP is not willing to implement its promise, then there is



no meaning in staying with the alliance," the Rajya Sabha member said.

To a query, he said when the BJP could tie-up with the People's Democratic Party (PDP) to form government in the then Jammu and Kashmir state, why the Sena cannot do the same with the NCP and Congress in Maharashtra.

"Should we call the BJP's association with PDP as 'love jihad'? I am simply underscoring here the contradiction behind the question," Mr Raut said.

**The PDP, a regional party, and the BJP, both ideologically different, came together to form government in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state in 2015. However, the BJP ended its alliance with the Mehbooba Mufti-led party last year, following which the government there collapsed.**

MLAs after the BJP (105), has time till 7.30 pm on Monday to stake claim to form government.

"A conspiracy is going on to keep Maharashtra under control through President's rule. The Sena, NCP and Congress have agreed to not let this conspiracy succeed," he added.

Reaching out to the opposition parties, he said the Congress and NCP should bury their internal differences to come up with a "common minimum programme" in the interest of Maharashtra.

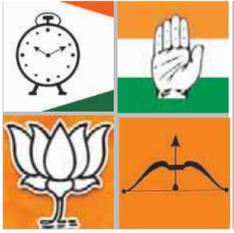
"The Sena, NCP and Congress agree on protecting

the interest of Maharashtra," he said. After the BJP declined to form government in Maharashtra on Sunday, the governor asked the Sena to "indicate its willingness and ability" to stake claim.

While the Sena has been making efforts to reach out to the NCP and the Congress, the Sharad Pawar-led party on Sunday said the Sena will have to walk out of the NDA first. Sena leader Arvind Sawant, the lone party minister in the Modi Cabinet, on Monday announced his decision to quit the NDA government at the Centre.

# Mahabharta of power

The Cong-NCP-Sena alliance for a Government is based on a seasonal hatred of the BJP. Can numbers work?



**M**aharashtra is no Karnataka, where a hung verdict had led to political machinations and a power surge of convenience. Yet in a shape-shifting scenario of permutations and combinations, Government formation is turning out to be a bizarre prospect despite a decisive electoral verdict. The Congress was desperate then, seized the advantage, was one up on the BJP but could not last even with like-minded partners in a

coalition arrangement. It is still desperate for regaining a State that was its stronghold but in Maharashtra is faced between the devil and the deep sea. It cannot afford to settle with its enemy's enemy, namely the Sena, and put its credibility on the line by supporting the latter's Government from the outside. Nor can it afford to lose the heft of its ally, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and play second fiddle to it, now that the latter has been invited by the Governor to stake a claim, and concede to its chief Sharad Pawar's acceptability among both the BJP and Sena. Predicted to be even more unstable than Karnataka, one hopes the Congress' decision doesn't give more ammunition to the BJP's charge that it is better to be *mukt* of it and a single party rule is the only way forward, be it in Lok Sabha or the States. The pre-poll alliance of the BJP-Shiv Sena, which has crumbled under the destabilising weight of egoistic turf wars, has put a question mark on the efficacy of alliance politics that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has so far prided itself in. Particularly, when it loses a 30-year-old ally, that too one which has significantly helped in pushing a core Hindutva plank and Ayodhya. For all talk of development, the granularity of the BJP's fundamental ideology was left to the Sena to manage while the bigger party could bask in the benevolence of the idea of a grand Bharat Parv. In that sense, Sena was the fall guy for doing things with a fringe, parochial mindset and taking the blame for them with a vision limited to Jai Maharashtra. Now that the BJP has appropriated its only comfort zone and relegated it to secondary space, the Sena is making a desperate lunge to be seen and heard, relevant as it still is as a counterweight. With the election of Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray's grandson Aaditya, it now feels it can indeed roar like a tiger than be the whimpering sidekick at a neighbourhood park. The BJP, with its Chief Minister-worthy leader in Devendra Fadnavis, the man who even has the RSS' blessings, knows people trust it for providing a stable leadership. It knows the nakedly ambitious Sena could go around with a shopping bag but would not have a natural proximity, nor the leadership, compromised as it would be by the Congress-NCP conditions. In fact, it is sitting back to expose the Sena as a spoiler. And it wants to reap the spoils knowing that a new anti-BJP coalition could be wobbly without mutual convergence of interests.

The Congress is upon its worst moment of reconciliation, one that threatens its ideological consistency even if it were to support the Sena Government from outside, cede ground to the NCP and insist upon a common agenda of governance. How could it have justified itself supporting a Hindutva-driven aggression to its minority votebank or even accepted Sena's chief ministership? Aligning with the Sena would mean drawing attention to its own uncharitable history of using Thackeray to undercut its own dissidents and State leaders. Besides, it has worked with the Sena to get support on its contentious issues like the Emergency. Using the Sena to keep the BJP out, therefore, would be like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. Staying in would be more problematic than staying out. As for Pawar himself, everybody was surprised about the return of the true Marathi warrior, who held on despite BJP-engineered defections and is justifiably angry with the national party despite supporting it in 2014. But by going with the Sena, he would look just like any other greedy regional satrap though the NCP has made support conditional on Sena snapping ties with the BJP. Pawar has always enjoyed being kingmaker but does that mean he won't have a say as a king even with the Congress behind him? That's another ego battle at work. The only thing holding him and the Sena together is their seasonal hatred of the BJP. Maharashtra has anyway proved that arithmetic does not matter. The coalition of convenience may find it difficult to get stability considering the BJP will have the ammunition to stall them at each step and insist one Fadnavis was better than a hydra-headed king. Sad for a State which is dealing with a serious farm crisis. Sadder for a people whose choices do not matter anymore.

# Go for success

Shafali Verma's rapidfire 50 is evidence that the Indian cricket board needs to promote the women's game more



**P**urists might argue that it is a bit unfair to compare men's and women's sport even in the same game. But the recent achievement by teenage sensation Shafali Verma, who at two months short of 16 years struck an international 50 in a T20 international against the West Indies, is quite an achievement. Alongside the spectacular success of the Indian women's team in the last cricket world cup as well as the achievements of various members of the team, maybe it is

pertinent to pose the question to the new boss of Indian cricket, Sourav Ganguly, on whether it is time for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) or whatever new name that he wishes to give that organisation, to hold a professional Indian Premier League (IPL)-style contest for the women's game.

Critics might argue that the pool of talent in the women's game is far more limited. For the time being, this is a valid argument but only if there is a eight-team tournament for the IPL. A smaller, four-team tournament with additional slots for international talent may easily meet the competitive marks needed by any such competition. Evidence of the success of the short form of the women's game is seen in Australia, where the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), which is played alongside the Australian T20 league, the BBL, has been a huge success and has made superstars out of players like Ellyse Perry and Alyssa Healy. Its inaugural games unearthed a 16-year-old gem in Phoebe Litchfield. The tournament has dramatically expanded Australia's women's cricket talent pool and with Cricket Australia committing to pay all its cricketers equally, they have taken the lead when it comes to equal opportunities. It will take a man to change the dynamics between men's and women's cricket in India and bring them to some level of parity. Sourav Ganguly can easily be the one. He was the visionary leader who laid the foundations of the success that Virat Kohli and his men enjoy today, over a decade after he retired. No Indian cricket fan doubts his dynamism and leadership abilities. Now, freed of the burden of the Committee of Administrators, Ganguly can effect lasting change. Change that can mean that girls like Shafali Verma can become superstars for every single Indian, much like the man whose record she broke, Sachin Tendulkar.

# Historical reconstruction

The Supreme Court's landmark judgment on the disputed site in Ayodhya rests on historical evidence; the gains of which are civilisational



SANDHYA JAIN

**A** learned member of the five-judge Bench (not Constitution Bench) wisely collated the evidence regarding Sri Ram's birth-place and appended it to the Supreme Court's verdict of November 9, granting the disputed site to Ram Lalla Virajman. The 116-page addendum highlights the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's (VHP) gigantic efforts to collect every scrap of evidence to legally establish Hindu belief in the birth-place of Vishnu's avatar. The evidence is compelling. Critics, who allege that the judgment privileged one community, have not read the 1,045-page document.

As the dispute centres on the destruction of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple at Ayodhya by Babur's general, Mir Baiq, evidence proving the sacredness of the shrine prior to 1528 is critical. The *Janna Sakhies* (biographies) of Guru Nanak Dev show he visited Ayodhya in 1510-1511 AD, before Babur's invasion of India. Later, Guru Tegh Bahadur and his son, Guru Govind Singh, also visited the temple at Ayodhya. Though the *Janna Sakhies* do not identify the exact place of the Janmabhoomi, Guru Nanak's visit shows that pilgrims were visiting Ayodhya prior to the temple's destruction. Thus, the faith and belief of Hindus regarding the location of Lord Ram's birth-place, as asserted in scriptures and sacred books, including *Valmiki Ramayana* and *Skanda Purana*, is not groundless.

During emperor Akbar's reign (1556-1605), Tulsidas composed the *Ramcharitmanas* (1574-75). The *Balakanda* shows Brahma urging Vishnu to save the gods, sages, *gandharvas* and Earth from Ravana's terror; Vishnu promises: "Fear not, O sages, Siddhas and Indras; for your sake I will assume the form of a human being. In the glorious solar race, I shall be born as a human being along with my part manifestations." (*Doha* 186-7) Vishnu grants a boon to sage Kasyapa and his wife Aditi to be born in Ayodhya as Dasaratha and Kausalya; Vishnu would take birth in the form of four brothers, "the ornament of Raghu's line."

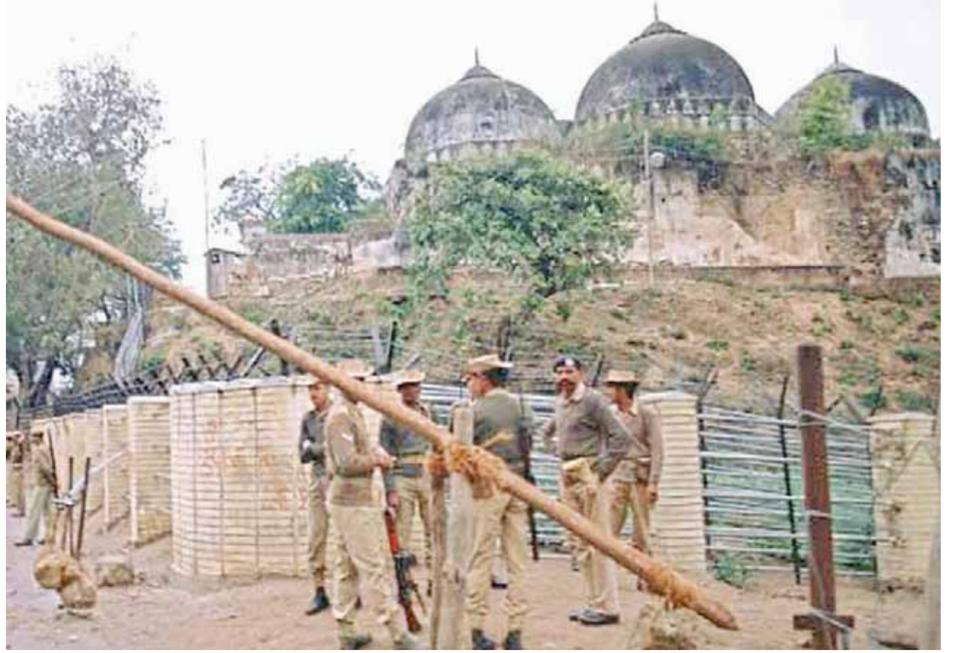
Akbar's biography, *Ain-i-Akbari*, mentions Ayodhya as the residence of Ramachandra and one of the holiest places of antiquity. Traveller William Finch visited India from 1607 to 1611 AD and mentioned the ruins of Ramachandra's castle.

Father Joseph Tieffenthaler visited India between 1766 and 1771 AD and found in Oudh (Awadh) a famous place called Sita Rasoi on a mud hill. Emperor Aurangzeb got the fortress called Ramcot (Ramkot) demolished and a Muslim mosque, with triple domes, constructed at the same place. Tieffenthaler recounts that some said the masjid was constructed by "Babor" (Babur) and 14 black stone pillars of five span high from the fortress are visible there; 12 support the interior arcades of the mosque. He describes the *bedi* (cradle) of Ram and says Aurangzeb or Babur razed the temple "to deny the noble people, the opportunity of practicing their superstitions." However, the people "go around three times and prostrate on the floor." This is clear evidence that Hindus at the time of Tieffenthaler were worshipping the *janamsthan* as a deity.

The East India Gazetteer of Walter Hamilton (1828) notes that pilgrimage to Oudh are chiefly by the Ramata sect. Montgomery Martin in *History, Antiquities, Topography and Statistics of Eastern India* (1838), mentions the glory of Ayodhya. Edward Thornton's *Gazetteer of India* (1854) and *Gazetteer of the Territories under the Government of the East Indies Company of the native States in the Continent of India* (1858) gives details of Oudh.

Mirza Jaan's *Hadith-e-Sehba* (1856) states, "The above mentioned place is called seat of father of Lord Rama. Places of idol worshiping situated here were demolished... The place of worship is called the birthplace of Lord Rama and the place which is adjacent to it is called "Sita Ki Rasoi"... At that place, Babur Shah got constructed a very big masjid under the supervision of Sayyad Musha Ashiqan in the year 923 Hijri and its history is still maintained. Today, the above-mentioned "Sita Ki Rasoi" is called the "masjid." The learned judge observed, "The book candidly accepts that at the *janamsthan* of Lord Ram, (a) mosque was constructed by Babur."

In 1858, the British Government annexed Awadh,



after which all official reports, correspondences and orders cite the "Mosque" as "Mosque Janna Sthan." The *Historical Sketch of Tehsil Fyzabad, Zillah Fyzabad* by P Carnegie, Officiating Commissioner and Settlement Officer of Ayodhya and Fyzabad (1870), states that Ayodhya is to Hindus what Mecca is to the Mohammedans and Jerusalem to the Jews. Carnegie categorically stated that at the place of *janamsthan*, emperor Babur built a Mosque, which still bears his name, in AD 1528. These facts are repeated in several subsequent Gazetteers.

The report of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of North West Provinces and Oudh (1889) states, "The old temple of Ramachandra at *janamsthanam* must have been a very fine one, for many of its columns have been used by the *Musalman* in the construction of Babar's masjid." Alois Anton Fuhrer's report of the ASI (1889), *The Sharqi Architecture of Jaunpur; with Notes on Zafarabad, Sahet-Mahet and other places in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh*, states that Babar's Masjid at Ayodhya was built on the very spot where the old temple *janamsthan* of Ramchandra was standing. Fuhrer reiterates this in *Monumental Antiquities and Inscriptions in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh* (1891). Obviously, Prof BB Lal's excavations followed ASI precedents.

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AKBAR'S BIOGRAPHY, AIN-I-AKBARI, MENTIONS AYODHYA AS THE RESIDENCE OF RAMACHANDRA AND ONE OF THE HOLIEST PLACES OF ANTIQUITY. TRAVELLER WILLIAM FINCH VISITED INDIA FROM 1607 TO 1611 AD AND MENTIONED THE RUINS OF RAMACHANDRA'S CASTLE

## SOUNDBITE

India was once known as *Vishvaguru*. The time has come for the country to once again emerge as a global hub of learning.



Vice President — M Venkaiah Naidu

If I have any claim to the word 'icon' it's only because I was on an iconic show, with an iconic cast, and an iconic haircut. *Friends* was the gift of a lifetime.



Actor — Jennifer Aniston

We welcome the opening of the Kartarpur corridor and hope that both sides continue to show goodwill to resolve differences through dialogue.



Chinese official — Geng Shuang

If Babri Masjid was illegal, then why is Advani being tried for its demolition and if it was legal then why is Advani getting the land?



AJMM leader — Asaduddin Owaisi

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Accepting the verdict

**Sir** — This refers to the report, "Ram gets back his birthplace" (November 10). The historic Ayodhya verdict and the grace with which it was accepted by the people proved the maturity of the Indian democracy, its judiciary and citizens. All apprehensions of post-verdict tension proved wrong as not a single untoward incident was reported. Indeed, there could have been no better solution to the 492-year-old dispute.

The construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya had been on the BJP's poll agenda for long, which helped it consolidate its supporters. On the other hand, Opposition parties left no opportunity to accuse the saffron party for not fulfilling its promise.

BJP president LK Advani's rath yatra from Somnath to Ayodhya played a major role in the party's ascent to power. After the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya, it is now expected that party leaders will refrain from politicising this issue and instead concentrate on more serious issues plaguing the nation.

MC Joshi  
Lucknow

### Welcoming Kartarpur

**D**uring Partition, Shakargarh, a *tehsil* on the right bank of Ravi River where Kartarpur is located, went to Pakistan and Gurdaspur, a *tehsil* on the left bank of Ravi River, remained with India. The opening of the much-awaited corridor, connecting Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab with Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan, was a long-cherished dream for the Sikh Panth. Kartarpur Sahib, where the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanakji, spent almost 18 years of his life teaching and preaching and which was his final resting abode, is what Mecca is for the Muslims. The new corridor will allow Sikh pilgrims holding a special permit to freely visit the shrine.

Immediately after assuming power, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan made a promise to construct the Kartarpur corridor before the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanakji, a gesture that found immediate traction with the Sikh community. The BJP-Akalis Dal combine, which seemed rather unconcerned initially, reversed its position quickly, sensing a possible Sikh backlash. As is common these days, a section of the electronic media indulged in continuous double-speak on Pakistan and the architects of the corridor, in line with the mood of



the ruling party. Fortunately, Sikhs are sensible and are difficult to sway. Punjab exhibited extraordinary resilience to the mischievous representations unleashed in Pakistan and kept its peace. The Kartarpur passage has within it the spark to convert itself into a "corridor of peace" in the region.

Haridasan Rajan  
Kozhikode

### A true legend

**Sir** — As the Chief Election Commissioner, TN Seshan not only ushered in strict electoral reforms for the enforcement of the Moral Code of Conduct but he gave the Election Commission

of India (ECI) the much-needed spine. He took the electoral body to greater heights of authority, credibility and visibility. It is testimony to his strong character and personality that people can relate with him when it comes to elections.

We may not remember him

as the first man to become the Election Commissioner but for his strong character. He took charge in an era of booth capturing and rigging but literally transformed the way elections are now conducted in our country.

Bal Govind  
Noida

### Stupendous victory

**Sir** — Kudos to team India for accomplishing an exceptional victory in the third T20 international match played against Bangladesh. The middle order batsmen must be commended for playing responsible knocks in the series decider. After early dismissal of Indian openers Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan, the need was for a composed partnership between the two batsmen to accelerate the team to a massive total. KL Rahul's scintillating 52 and Shreyas Iyer's outrageous 62 proved to be the one.

Being asked to bowl in the second innings by the toss winning team, especially at a time when there is dew on the ground, it seemed like a strenuous task for Indian bowlers. But Deepak Chahar accomplished the best bowling figures in T20 internationals, taking six wickets for just seven runs in a spell of 3.2 overs. He did something one would never have anticipated.

Tushar Anand  
Patna

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Not a coup, just a big blunder

If you are going to rig the vote, do it from the start. Don't wait until the count shows that your candidate is not doing well and then intervene



GWYNNE DYER

Democracy is in danger in Bolivia as the result of legitimate pressures from the poor. We cannot generate economic growth and well-being for a few and then expect that the large majorities that are excluded will watch silently and patiently. A recent President of Bolivia said that, but it wasn't Evo Morales (who has just quit, plunging the country into chaos). It was Carlos Mesa, the man whom Morales tried to cheat out of the presidency in last month's election. Mesa said it in 2005, the last time he was President, just before he quit and Morales won a landslide victory in the election triggered by the former's resignation.

Most outside commentators used to stick to a simple script when talking about Bolivia. Evo Morales was the good guy, because he was the country's first indigenous President (he grew up speaking Aymara, and only learned Spanish as a young adult) and because he looked like and seemed to care about the poor majority of Bolivians.

On the other hand, Carlos Mesa belongs to the privileged white minority (15 per cent of the population) who have always controlled both the politics and the wealth, so he must be the bad guy. But his face doesn't fit the frame: He is an historian and television journalist and he resigned from the presidency in 2005 after trying and failing to nationalise the country's gas industry.

Evo Morales took his place, and he did better. Morales nationalised not only oil and gas but the tin and zinc mines and key utilities as well. He got away with it, where Mesa couldn't, because he paid out good compensation to the owners — and he could do that because Bolivia was riding a commodities boom that tripled the country's Gross Domestic Product in 15 years.

The boom has been over for a while now and a more cunning politician than Morales might have decided to let Mesa win this election. Then, as the country's income dropped further, Mesa would have got the blame for downsizing the welfare State Morales built, and Morales could return to power triumphantly in five years, claiming that Mesa had betrayed the poor. Morales' mistake was to believe that he was the indispensable man. He clung to office too long, and now he is toast. He will retain enough of a following to be a permanent political nuisance but he has embarrassed his country and he's unlikely ever to hold high office again. Under the new constitution of 2009, promulgated by Morales himself, a Bolivian President is entitled to only two five-year terms. But as he got closer to the 2019 deadline, Morales changed his mind and in 2016 he held a referendum that proposed to allow the President any number of terms. He lost. So Morales went to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, which is dominated by his own party. Unsurprisingly, the tribunal agreed that the two-term constitutional limit violated his 'human rights' — so there he was last month, seeking a fourth term as President in a race with eight other candidates.

Everybody knew that Morales would lead and Mesa would be the runner-up in the first round of voting. Many suspected that Mesa would pick up more votes and overtake Morales in the second round — so his advisers decided that he had to win in the first round. He could do that only if he were ahead of Mesa by at least 10 per cent of the votes cast.

On October 20, the 'fast count' of the national vote went smoothly until 84 per cent of all the votes had been counted — at which point it became clear that Morales was not going to have a big enough lead over Mesa. So suddenly the counting stopped, and did not resume for 24 hours. It then showed Morales with a 10.1 per cent lead over Mesa, so no second round was needed. All hail Morales's fourth term!

But the vote-rigging was just too blatant and for almost three weeks the protesters have been in the streets. By last weekend even the police were refusing to defend Morales. When the election monitors from the Organisation of American States delivered their verdict on Sunday, saying that there were "serious security flaws" in the computer systems and "clear manipulation" of the count, Morales resigned. The election results were cancelled and it's pretty clear that he will not be a candidate when the re-run happens.

How much damage has all this done? Not much. Bolivia used to hold the world record for military coups, but everybody behaved reasonably well this time. Most of the good things Morales did, like entrenching the rights of indigenous communities in the constitution, will survive him. Carlos Mesa, who will almost certainly be the next President, has a very different style, but he is not hostile to most of Morales's goals. And here's a take-away for everybody in politics: If you are going to rig the vote, do it from the start. Don't wait until the count shows that your candidate is not doing well and only then intervene to fix it. Amateurs!

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work'.)

**POINTCOUNTERPOINT**

THE MANDATE WAS FOR A BJP-SENA ALLIANCE. IF THE SENNA WANTS TO FORM THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE CONGRESS AND THE NCP, WE WISH THEM GOOD LUCK.  
 —MAHARASHTRA BJP CHIEF  
 CHANDRAKANT PATIL



WHERE WAS THEIR IDEOLOGY WHEN THEY FORMED THE GOVERNMENT IN J&K WITH THE PDP, WITH MAYAWATI IN UP AND WITH NITISH KUMAR IN BIHAR?  
 —SHIV SENNA MP  
 ARVIND SAWANT

# Time to secure South Asia

Regional economic integration remains the only option for addressing the long-standing, protracted interstate tensions in South Asia



M ASHRAF HAIDARI

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a conference on "Regional Economic Integration: A Catalyst for Socioeconomic Prosperity in South Asia."

I welcomed this timely forum. Afghanistan, a country-participant and member-State of SAARC, has long been advocating for an acceleration of region-wide efforts to jump-start the process of regional economic integration. Doing so can indeed be a catalyst for the sustainable development of all South Asian nations, which hold so much promise in terms of both natural and human resources that should be harnessed for lifting the whole region out of poverty, disease, environmental degradation, and other challenges that directly feed terrorism, extremism and criminality in the region.

At the same time, regional economic integration remains the only option for addressing the long-standing, protracted interstate tensions in South Asia. We know this from the bitter experiences of Europe during the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries, where the pursuit of zero-sum foreign policies and militarism eventually led to the utter destruction of the whole continent in the two world wars.

But, in the wake of World War-II, Europeans realised that what unfortunately remains the status quo in South Asia would no longer serve their shared best, long-term national security and economic interests.

That is why they gradually but steadily moved toward long-term economic integration, which they understood could help address their short and long-term human and protective security needs, which were increasingly intertwined. Those needs could no longer be ensured by the pursuit of the same zero-sum approaches that caused two devastating wars.

These harsh experiences and Western Europe's resulting adoption of a common economic market soon, began inspiring other regions of the world to form such regional groupings as the SAARC, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Eurasian Economic Community (EEC), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the African Union (AU), and the Union of South American Nations (USAN), to name a few.

As we know, however, not all these regional groupings have achieved their dream of meaningful economic integration on a par with Europe associations. SAARC stands out in having lagged far behind others because two of its key member-States remain hostile to each other. This continues to hinder efforts by the other member-States, including Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, to make steady progress toward regional economic integration, which underpinned the vision and mission of SAARC when it was established in 1985.

As we continue advocating for cooperation against confrontation among our neighbours, Afghanistan has consistently pursued a foreign policy that promotes regional economic cooperation against zero-sum hedging strategies.

We strongly believe that the replacement of confrontational policies at the regional level,

“ SAARC STANDS OUT IN HAVING LAGGED FAR BEHIND OTHERS BECAUSE TWO OF ITS KEY MEMBER-STATES REMAIN HOSTILE TO EACH OTHER. THIS CONTINUES TO HINDER EFFORTS BY THE OTHER MEMBER-STATES, INCLUDING AFGHANISTAN AND SRI LANKA, TO MAKE STEADY PROGRESS TOWARDS REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, WHICH UNDERPINNED THE VISION AND MISSION OF SAARC WHEN IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1985 ”



with those of cooperative, win-win partnerships would gradually minimise the existing interstate tensions in South Asia. And this would enable SAARC to realise its vision, knowing that South Asia is an extremely young and naturally-endowed region where our youths demand jobs and a secure future in a common, interdependent neighbourhood.

Indeed, this won't come to pass unless South Asian Governments learn relevant lessons from pre and post-war Europe, that would encourage them to make tough but necessary policy choices against the status quo for achieving shared peace and prosperity across the region through economic integration.

The Government of Afghanistan has done its part and continues to do so. Despite the imposed security challenges the nation is facing, Afghanistan has put forth a strategic solution for adoption and implementation by its near and far neighbours: The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HOA-IP) on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan and the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA). These Afghanistan-led processes were established to help secure regional cooperation for Afghanistan's stabilisation and sustainable development, thereby ensuring region-wide stability and prosperity, which SAARC strives to accomplish.

Even though HOA-IP and RECCA remain underutilised so far, it is in the best short and long-term interests of the countries — including India and Pakistan — that participate

in the two processes, to achieve the shared goals of the two platforms. Of course, every tangible step they take to utilise these interconnected processes will help minimise their own and other nations' security and socioeconomic vulnerabilities against the terrorist-extremist-criminal nexus that victimises Afghanistan more than any other country in the region.

This constructive thinking underpins our growing ties with the friendly Government and people of Sri Lanka, with whom Afghanistan shares an ancient civilisation.

Since I took up my assignment as Afghanistan's Ambassador to Sri Lanka last year, we have worked to further expand our bilateral relations with a focus on promoting full-spectrum connectivity that builds deeper economic, defence, cultural, and people-to-people ties between Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and the rest of South Asia.

In this light, we have met with numerous businesses, including members of Sri Lanka's chambers of commerce, to discuss the vast bilateral trade potential that needs to be realised.

More recently, high-powered Afghan delegations have met with the representatives of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce; the Colombo Chamber of Commerce; the National Chamber of Commerce as well as the International Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka to discuss the formation of an Afghanistan-Sri Lanka Business Council to promote exchange of trade teams, business-to-business meetings and business match-making conferences, which should facilitate bilater-

al investment between the two nations. To this end, we look forward to finalising and signing with Sri Lanka a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on trade and investment promotion and protection.

This step, together with our bilateral air services agreement, should facilitate the establishment of a direct passenger and cargo flight between Kabul and Colombo. When this happens as one of the country's key goals, Afghans and Sri Lankans should be able to reconnect with their shared heritage through tourism, trade, investment, education and cultural exchange.

Indeed, the achievement of this bilateral goal will help South Asia as a least connected region, make a giant leap forward towards regional economic integration — effectively connecting SAARC's northernmost member-State, Afghanistan, with its southernmost counterpart, Sri Lanka.

And this necessary connectivity will undoubtedly benefit the rest of South Asia where the challenges that face our nations and the opportunities that we must exploit to our shared advantage are increasingly intertwined. That is why others in the SAARC should consider doing away with the prevailing zero-sum approaches and join Afghanistan and Sri Lanka to operationalise the vision of SAARC for the common economic benefit of all of its member-States with increased interdependencies.

(The writer is the Ambassador of Afghanistan to Sri Lanka, as well as a Senior International Security Fellow at the New America in Washington-DC)

# Indians voted for reforms in 2019 LS polls

The Finance Minister has indicated that a lot of the market rectifications or some of the other structural changes often on the list of economists are well on the cards, as a mandate of 303 makes them possible



KARAN BHASIN

The year 2019 will go down in Indian history as a critical juncture that changed the country's trajectory. With a switch in our direction, it is evident that we're going to change our eventual destiny. For the first time in 48 years of the country's political history, India elected a second term, full-majority Government in 2019.

It was also for the first time in the country's history that Indians voted for a reformist Government, thereby signalling a new dawn in the nation's politics. The electoral results broke the myth of the citizens voting against reforms, which prevailed in academic discussions for many years. Any analysis of the

developments of different events in 2019 cannot be without a detailed discussion on the significance of 303 seats.

The subsequent full majority Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi comes with the backdrop of improved numbers for the BJP in the Rajya Sabha and a long list of States where the saffron party is currently in power. All of this opens interesting opportunities for some of the long-standing politically-sensitive, yet important economic reforms. More importantly, it gives the BJP the necessary political capital to take tough decisions.

Be it the issue of triple talaq or of Article 370, we see an unflinching commitment by the Government to its manifesto. Especially the so-called 'core' agenda of the BJP such as the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), Article 370 and the issue of construction of the Ram Temple. The way things stand, in 2019 at least two of these core promises have been delivered, one by the BJP and the other by the Supreme Court. It is important to

recognise the significance of both these achievements, as these were extremely challenging and contentious issues with severe political and social repercussions. The handling of both these issues has been with utmost care and this shows the level of empathy by our executive, judicial and legislative bodies. The Prime Minister's address after the judgment is extremely important as he welcomed the verdict and gave a call for the creation of a 'New India'. The theme of 'New India' seems to be consistent with Modi's agenda to build a more inclusive, dynamic and equitable society.

The focus is on creation of equal opportunities to ensure upward mobility in the nation's economy. The Government has drastically pivoted India's welfare programmes away from the leaky socialist ones. Smart welfare in the form of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) must be viewed as a tool that aims at creating a basic and decent standard of living for all. This is also the year when India initiated one of the boldest corporate tax cuts in its history.

In fact, the reductions were one of the largest tax cuts in the 21st century. Their significance is difficult to fathom for many commentators, but the fact that it makes our tax rates competitive amongst other East Asian countries after a really long time, illustrates the importance of the same.

The Finance Minister too indicated that a lot of the market reforms or some of the other structural reforms often on the list of economists are well on the cards, as a mandate of 303 makes them possible. Recall the land ordinance during Modi 1.0, which became a problem because of the lack of numbers in the Rajya Sabha. Now there is no such problem and therefore, critical reforms such as land reforms can become a reality sooner rather than later.

The fact that growth is slower in 2019 is also an important thing that many have ignored. With the slow-down coming early in the term of Modi 2.0, we are likely to see a lot of reforms to address some of the long-standing issues that affect the

economy. A bulk of these reforms have become necessary and urgent such as the corporate tax cuts. As it is often said, one should never miss an opportunity for reforms and certainly Modi 2.0 is not a Government to shy away from them. The significance of it all is that as the BJP delivers on its core agenda, Modi has created a new agenda of developing a 'New India'.

This implies an unflinching commitment towards economic growth and development for the next couple of years, which will likely result in a transformation of the country's economy and society.

The manifesto of the BJP seems to have become a form of social contract between the party and the people. It is this form of social contract that has enabled the growth of the party across the country, giving it further political capital to fulfil its promises.

It is interesting to also point out that just as the BJP is expanding, old allies like the Shiv Sena have parted ways. The power struggle between the two old partners over

the issue of rotational chief ministership and the subsequent falling out have plunged the State into a crisis of governance till the vexed *kissa kursi ka* (who will rule) Maharashtra is settled.

Clearly, none of the political parties in the country have learnt their lessons from the Karnataka debacle or the unsuccessful Jammu & Kashmir experience, which showed very clearly that unnatural alliances only result in misgovernance and political instability does more damage to institutions over a period, than anything else.

In the future, when fresh elections are held in Maharashtra, the people of the State will definitely ask all these political parties some tough questions. They will ask why their mandate to the saffron alliance was not respected and why governance in Maharashtra was put on hold for many days after the people had given their verdict.

At the end of the day, politics and economics are always intertwined and that is precisely why one needs to watch out and learn vital

lessons from such developments.

No matter, what the result of the political games and machinations in Maharashtra, the fact remains that the sooner the reins of the State come into responsible hands, the faster the beleaguered State that has been reeling under a farm and water crisis, can head on the path of economic development.

More importantly, no matter how one looks at 2019, one finds significant political, social and cultural developments that are likely to have significant consequences for the future of the Indian economy. The BJP has an unflinching commitment to its social contract, which is resulting in further consolidation of its power.

With just another month and a half before 2019 ends, nobody knows what more is likely to happen, but one thing is for sure, Indian politics and the country are likely to have transformed into something better by the end of the year.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based public policy researcher)

CAPSULE



**Jana Small Finance Bank raises Rs 225 cr from TPG Asia**

**MUMBAI:** Bengaluru-based Jana Small Finance Bank on Monday said it has raised Rs 225 crore equity in the latest funding round from its existing investors - Jana Holdings, TPG Asia and HarbourVest Partners. With this equity infusion, the capital adequacy ratio for the small finance bank has reached 19.97 per cent as on October 31, 2019, as against the regulatory requirement of 15 per cent, the release said. The total capital infusion for Jana Bank stands at Rs 2,947 crore. As of September 2019, the bank's total deposits stood at Rs 7,503 crore while advances were at Rs 8,550 crore. The bank's net non-performing assets were at 1.72 per cent of net advances as on October 31, 2019 and gross non-performing assets stood at 3.98 per cent on AUM.



**Paytm plans to invest Rs 500 cr in tech startups**

**NEW DELHI:** Digital payments firm Paytm on Monday said it plans to invest Rs 500 crore in early stage startups that build complementary technologies augmenting the digital ecosystem. The company will focus on artificial intelligence-based technology and big data solutions for new innovations that can generate large scale employment. "The company has set aside Rs 500 crore to invest in early-stage companies that build complementary technologies augmenting the digital ecosystem," Paytm said in a statement. The company said it expects to employ technology across the growing internet to become the dominant player in AI.



**Hinduja Global Solutions Q2 net up 10 pc at Rs 49 cr**

**NEW DELHI:** Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS), the BPO arm of the diversified Hinduja group, on Monday posted a 9.7 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 49.1 crore in September 2019 quarter. The company had registered a net profit of Rs 44.7 crore in July-September 2018 quarter. HGS said in a statement. Its revenue increased 11.4 per cent to Rs 1,290.6 crore for the quarter under review from Rs 1,158.6 crore in July-September a year ago, it added. "HGS posted a robust revenue growth in Q2 FY2020, driven by demand across healthcare and CES (Consumer Engagement Services) verticals," HGS CEO Partha DeSarkar said.

PMC BANK SCAM

# Maha Sikhs unable to go on Kartarpur pilgrimage

PNS ■ MUMBAI

At least 1,950 Sikhs from Maharashtra could not go to Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan after opening of the Kartarpur corridor as they are facing financial crunch due to a scam at the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, a senior community leader claimed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the Kartarpur corridor and flagged off the first batch of over 500 Indian pilgrims, including former prime minister Manmohan Singh and Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

The corridor links Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Punjab's Gurdaspur district.

The PMC Bank has been put under restrictions by the RBI since September after an alleged Rs 4,355 crore scam came to light, following which the deposit withdrawal was initially capped at Rs 1,000, causing panic and distress among depositors. The withdrawal limit has been raised in a staggered manner to Rs 50,000.

Nearly 2,000 Sikhs from Mumbai, Nashik, Nanded, Navi Mumbai and Thane, most of whom have accounts in the PMC Bank, wanted to go on to the Gurudwara Darbar Sahib as part of the trip organised by local body Nirmaan Sevak



**“We were in the process of submitting their details online on the required website, but suddenly due to the PMC Bank crisis many opted out. Of these 2,000 people, only about 50 could finally manage to go. All others dropped out due to lack of money because of the PMC Bank scam”**

— HARDEV SINGH SAINI, Member of a gurudwara committee in Kurla,

Jattha, Hardev Singh Saini, member of a gurudwara committee in Kurla, said.

"We were in the process of submitting their details online on the required website, but suddenly due to the PMC Bank crisis many opted out. Of these 2,000 people, only about 50 could finally manage to go. All others dropped out due to lack of money because of the PMC Bank scam," he claimed.

Ravindra Kaur Saini, who has three accounts in the PMC Bank, said she was disap-

pointed at not being able to be a part of the historic pilgrimage.

"We were waiting for this historic moment for last many years, but unfortunately we did not get a chance to go due to the PMC crisis. I have three accounts in the PMC Bank, but did not have money in hand to go," she said.

Another member of the Kurla gurudwara committee, Preetpal Singh Seth, said several people with accounts in the PMC Bank could not help each other to make the pilgrimage as all of them are currently cash-strapped.

"I also lost this golden opportunity to go on the pilgrimage. Around 80 per cent account holders in the PMC Bank are Sikhs. Most of the people come forward to help each other during such times, but this time they are facing the cash crunch," he said.

The depositors have so far held over two dozen protests since the bank was put under directions by the RBI, and have agitated outside the RBI's headquarters and also the official residence of Maharashtra's chief minister.

They also targeted political campaign venues ahead of the elections to the state, which resulted in them getting an audience with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as well. The crisis at the bank is attributed to loans made to realty player Housing Development Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL), which were allegedly hidden from regulators' scrutiny, turning non-performing assets.

Five persons, including HDIL promoters and bank's top management, have been arrested.



## Gold rises Rs 118 on global cues as rupee depreciates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices on Monday rallied by Rs 118 to Rs 38,678 per 10 gram. HDFC Securities in global prices and sharp rupee depreciation against the dollar, according to HDFC Securities.

On Saturday, the precious metal had closed at Rs 38,560 per 10 gram. HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said spot gold prices for 24 Karat in Delhi were trading up by Rs 118 with recovery in global gold prices and sharp rupee depreciation.

He further said the spot rupee was trading around 20 paise weaker against the dollar during the day.

The Indian rupee depreciated 8 paise to 71.34 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday tracking uncertainty over the US-China trade deal and subdued opening of the domestic equity market.

Silver prices also gained Rs 293 to Rs 45,263 per kg as against Rs 44,970 per kg in the previous trade.

On international trend he said, "Gold prices on Monday witnessed marginal recovery after declining more than 3 per cent in the previous week on US-China trade deal hopes."



## Housing sales of 9 listed players up 11% in Q1 to Rs 5,300cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Housing sales of nine major players, which are listed on stock exchanges, rose 11 per cent to nearly Rs 5,300 crore during the first quarter of this fiscal as home buyers are preferring organised players having good track record of execution, property consultant Anarock said.

The sales of these nine listed entities are expected to grow in the remaining period of this fiscal, it added. These nine companies are -- DLF, Godrej Properties, Mahindra Lifespace, Oberoi Realty, Brigade and Kolte-Patil.

"The robust sales and increased new launches by these top nine listed players are only likely to grow in the upcoming quarters, especially since homebuyers are now more skewed towards leading developers who assure them timely project delivery and quality construction," Anuj Puri, chairman of ANAROCK

**ANAROCK**  
VALUES OVER VALUE

**The sales of these nine listed entities are expected to grow in the remaining period of this fiscal, it added**

Property Consultants said. In 2016-17, the new launches by these nine listed players in top seven cities comprised 5 per cent share of the overall launches, this share increased to 10 per cent as on 2018-19 and will increase steadily, he added.

"Adroitly following consumer demand, these developers have fine-tuned their product offerings and are launching projects in the high-demand affordable and mid-range segments," Puri said.



## Biz confidence declines across industry: NCAER

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Business confidence across the industry declined in the September quarter over the previous three months due to an all-pervasive worsening of business sentiment, said a survey by economic think tank NCAER on Monday.

NCAER's Business Confidence Index (BCI), an indicator of business sentiment across Indian industry, stood at 103.1 in the second quarter of 2019-20, falling 15.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter, despite a small reprieve in July 2019.

As compared to the year-ago period, the BCI fell 22.5 per cent during the second quarter.

This is based on the 110th Round of the Business Expectations Survey (BES) carried out by NCAER, said the National Council of Applied Economic Research.

"The numbers suggest a deep and all-pervasive worsening of business sentiments"

**As compared to the year-ago period, the BCI fell 22.5 per cent during the second quarter**

The survey focussed on four components which have equal weightage in the BCI.

The steepest decline was for the component, 'the overall economic conditions will improve in next six months', where the share of positive responses fell from 58.9 per cent in June 2019 quarter to 46.3 per cent in September 2019 quarter.

"The percentage of respondents expecting that 'the financial position of firms will improve in the next six months' decreased from 48.8 per cent in June 2019 to 39.3 per cent in September 2019," the think tank said.

## 'Chemicals ind can contribute \$300b to GDP by FY25'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Union minister for chemicals and fertilisers Sadananda Gowda on Monday said the sector has the potential to contribute over USD 300 billion to GDP over the next five years when the economy is slated to scale the USD 5 -trillion-mount.

The chemicals and fertilisers sector, which currently contributes nearly 7.76 percent of manufacturing now, has the potential to reach 20-25 per cent in the next five years and can nearly double to USD 304 billion, he said.

"Government has set an ambitious target of making the country a USD 5-trillion economy by 2025. I believe that the chemicals and fertilisers

sector has a huge role to play in this and can contribute USD 304 billion of that, up from the present USD 160 billion," Gowda said at the India chemicals summit here.

Assuring the industry of all the necessary support, he urged the stakeholders need to work hard to realize its full potential and said "certainly this is not an impossible target. Though I am satisfied at the present growth rate, I believe we can grow faster on the back of the right policies."

With per capita

income steadily increasing, the mid income population presents a huge market. It is expected that the chemical industry will grow at 9 percent annually over the next five years," Gowda said.

He also said government is committed to provide a predictable and market-friendly policy framework to enable companies to take investment decisions and pointed

to the enabling reforms such as GST, relaxed FDI norms, labour reforms and bankruptcy laws.

These initiatives have made the country one of the most attractive investment destinations leading to an inflow of USD 280 billion foreign capital during the past five years alone, Gowda said.

He further said government has already approved setting up of four petroleum, chemicals and petrochemical investment regions in Gujarat, Andhra

Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. Upon completion, these regions will be home to around Rs 8 lakh crore investments, and are likely to generate over 4 million jobs.

Chemicals and petrochemicals secretary P Raghavendra Rao said the country still imports chemicals worth billions of dollars, underlining the huge untapped opportunity for growth.

"As we are expecting the industry to grow to USD 304 billion by 2025, imports are also likely to increase to USD 126 billion. This indicates that as the market grows, trade deficit is also growing at a faster rate. We need to see this USD 126 billion as an opportunity to increase our own production," he said.

**“These initiatives have made the country one of the most attractive investment destinations leading to an inflow of USD 280 billion foreign capital during the past five years alone”**

—SADANANDA GOWDA

## Saugata Gupta, Vipin Sondhi join Ashok Leyland board of directors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hinduja flagship firm Ashok Leyland on Monday said Marico MD and CEO Saugata Gupta and outgoing JCB India MD and CEO Vipin Sondhi have been appointed as directors to its board.

The board of directors of the company, at a meeting held last week, decided to induct Saugata Gupta as Independent Director and Vipin Sondhi as Director, Ashok Leyland said in a statement.

Commenting on the development, Ashok Leyland

Chairman Dheeraj Hinduja said, "The induction of both Saugata and Vipin into the board of direc-



Vipin Sondhi Saugata Gupta

tors at Ashok Leyland will add significant strategic depth to the company given their rich and unique experience across the fast-moving consumer

goods (FMCG) and automotive sectors in India and international markets."

Gupta is credited with transforming Marico into a high performing business, responsible for driving growth and operations both in India and across international markets, with a commitment to sustainable development, the statement said.

Sondhi, who is currently JCB's MD and CEO - India, South East Asia and Pacific and a member of their Global Executive Leadership Team, will formally join the Hinduja Group later this month.

## By Dec mills must export last year's balance sugar quota

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Monday gave sugar mills three months more till December to export the last year's balance quota of the sweetener.

Mills were able to export about 3.8 million tonne of sugar during the 2018-19 marketing year (October-September) due to depressed market conditions, against the target of 5 million tonne under the Minimum Indicative Export Quota (MIEQ) scheme.

"Now, it has been decided by the central government to allow those sugar mills, which had partially exported their MIEQ of 2018-19 till September 2019, to export the balance quantity of their MIEQ by December 31, 2019," said a fresh notification issued by the food ministry.

This will be over and above the quota allocated for the ongoing 2019-20 marketing year.

A senior food ministry official said that much of the sugar during the last year was exported to the Middle East, Iran, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

For the current year, the government has fixed an export quota of 6 million tonne under the MIEQ. Mills are

**A senior food ministry official said that much of the sugar during the last year was exported to the Middle East, Iran, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka**

hopeful that the quota will be fulfilled as the global market is facing 4 million tonnes of deficit.

India has started the 2019-20 marketing year with an all-time high opening stock of 14.5 million tonne against a requirement of 3-5 million tonne.

The government has pegged sugar output to decline to 28-29 million tonne for the current year from 33.1 million tonnes during 2018-19 due to sharp fall in cane acreage in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Whereas industry body ISMA has projected the country's output to touch a three-year low at 26 million tonne during 2019-20.



## Wheat sowing down 37 percent ; oilseeds up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wheat planting remained lower by 37 per cent at 9.69 lakh hectare till last week of the ongoing rabi (winter) season of the 2019-20 crop year, but the acreage under oilseeds was higher during the period, according to the agriculture ministry's latest data.

Sowing of wheat and other rabi crops begins from October, while harvesting from April onwards. Wheat is the main rabi crop.

According to the latest data released by the ministry, farmers have planted wheat in an area of 9.69 lakh hectare till last week of this season, compared with 15.35 lakh hectare a year ago.

Wheat acreage was lagging at 74,000 hectare in Madhya Pradesh till last week of this season, when compared with 6



lakh hectares in the year-ago period.

In Punjab, farmers planted wheat in 4.20 lakh hectare as against 4.68 lakh hectare a year ago, while that in Haryana in 1.16 lakh hectare as against 1.19 lakh hectare in the said

period.

Wheat planting, however, in Uttar Pradesh was covered in more area at 1.73 lakh hectare till last week of this season as against 94,000 hectare a year ago, the data showed.

The lower wheat acreage,

**According to the latest data released by the ministry, farmers have planted wheat in an area of 9.69 lakh hectare till last week of this season, compared with 15.35 lakh hectare a year ago**

farm experts said, was due to late harvesting of 2019 kharif crops that has delayed sowing in some states, especially Madhya Pradesh. The curbs on stubble burning has also delayed land preparation.

Among other rabi crops, area sown to pulses also remained lower at 27.85 lakh hectare till last week of this rabi season, as against 39.93 lakh hectare in the year-ago period.

Coarse cereals were also planted in lesser area at 12.39 lakh hectare as against 13.54

lakh hectare in the said period. However, the planting of oilseeds was undertaken in more area at 41.24 lakh hectare till last week of this rabi season as against 39.65 lakh hectare a year ago.

Rice planting area remained similar to the previous year's level of 5.77 lakh hectare in the said period.

Total acreage under all rabi crops was down by 15 per cent at 95.35 lakh hectare till last week of this season, as against 112.24 lakh hectare in the

# Hyderabad

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Tuesday  
November 12, 2019



File photo of a jam on top of Mt Everest

## THE WHITE WALL OF GLORY AND PAIN

The Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world has today been reduced to a mere trophy for people who plan to scale without thinking twice about the risks associated with it. The journey is not for the faint-hearted and is bound to humble anyone, given the harsh conditions stacking upon man-made perils such as traffic jams at the peak, says Romil Barthwal, an IITan, Army officer, mountaineer, trekker and endurance athlete who narrated his daring tales at an interactive session in an event titled 'Conquering the Everest within'.

He led a team of 15 members to a punishing 8,848 metres above sea-level to the summit. This is the crown jewel of the several high altitude mountains that he has scaled in the past. He was also one of the few people to be selected from India to be a part of the Boston marathon. He addressed the issue of the recent increase in traffic jams at the summit and said, "I have seen several people trying to scale the summit without experience or preparation. People treat the mountain like a recreational space and the journey is often treated as something which helps them prove a point in society. Many pay huge sums to scale the Everest and often ignore the sherpas (guides). This results in their own harm. The increasing number of people at the summit inevitably leads to traffic jams that might lead to casualties." He detailed that his climb was only after adhering to certain rules like climbing only during the evening instead of during the day, to avoid melting of snow that might lead to an avalanche. The average temperature

beginning at the first base camp may range between -20°C to -30°C while the temperature at the peak may even drop to as low as -60°C. Romil said that preparations for the May 26, 2019 climb began a whole year before, on the same date. "You may be the best of mountaineers, but if the mountain is against you, there's nothing you can do. Determination in itself plays a huge role, but it is not everything. Nature and fate take their own course." In response to a question by an audience member regarding the ordeals he faced, Romil replied, "The whole of last year was spent in preparation of scaling the Everest. We had previously scaled mountains measuring around 6,000 feet, such as the Stok Kangri near Ladakh. But, the practice was almost as arduous as the Everest itself. I had to make sure that all my

The plain chaos of city life sucks everybody in. Sometimes mountains are the only salvation. ANUSHKA PRADEEP finds out what it takes to conquer the tallest peak in the world from a decorated Army officer

teammates returned home unscathed, which is unfortunately not the case with many first-timers. Thus hard work and proper preparation don't have substitutes," he said. When *The Pioneer* asked him if he received support from his family, Romil said, "Generally families are against their kids' plans to participate in such exercises. But luckily in my case, my family encouraged me throughout my journey, albeit they were a hesitant at first. In fact, both my daughters are inspired by me and one of them has already begun participating in marathons. She has enrolled in mountaineering courses as well." When asked about an incentive for today's generation to come out and travel, he said, "It is important to find a balance between work and life. If not they'll only



You may be the best of mountaineers, but if the mountain decides against it, there's nothing you can do. Determination in itself plays a huge role, but it is not everything. Nature and fate take their own course.

ROMIL BARTH WAL  
MOUNTAINEER



find themselves trapped in a vicious cycle of job and family responsibilities. While they keep postponing their happiness and passion for the

future, most people don't even realise when the chance to fulfil their dream passes them. My advice to them would be to find a way to

make use of time in a manner where they live a wholesome life and not fall into the 'I'll figure out along the way' trap."



## A platform for young innovators

Sankalp, an initiative by the Telangana State Innovation Cell, is encouraging budding innovators in the state to showcase their creations

A wristband to monitor the health of the old and the disabled; a security bangle that protects women from attacks; colourful bags made out of old sarees and dupattas. These are just some of the many innovative ideas that the youth of Telangana have come up with, but were ignored so far. To share the unheard stories of these innovators of Telangana, the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC), along with The Good Talk Factory, organised the second edition of the Sankalp — 'Intinta Innovator' speaker series — at the British Library recently. The event aimed to give a platform for all the young

brilliant minds to speak out about their ideas. TSIC is an initiative by the Government of Telangana that believes in driving economic growth by nurturing imaginative minds. "There are three types of thinkers. The first set ponders upon the surroundings and seeks help, the second set complains about the problem and the third set of people is those who think creatively and find a solution for the problem," said Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, ITE&C, Government of Telangana at the event. Among the innovators who spoke about their work was Hemesh, a student from Jubilee Hills Public School, who devised a wristband that monitors the

health of the old, the disabled and people in need of medical care. The wristband, along with a mobile application, monitors the person's temperature and pulse rate and notifies when if the person is moving, awake or asleep. It also automatically calls an ambulance if the health worsens. A 'Smart Pillbox' programme in it gives timely alerts about the medication. Another speaker was J. Rama, a soft skills trainer, who, through her enterprise 'Health Engineer', has given life to used sarees and dupattas by turning them into colourful bags. Rama

spreads awareness about the dangers of non-biodegradable polythene bags. Another speaker, Vishwaja Reddy, too, while spreading awareness about menstrual hygiene, has successfully built and installed sanitary vending machines and incinerators. Each speaker was given a resounding applause for the work they have accomplished. People also lauded Hareesh Gadi, the mastermind behind the 'Self-Security Bangle for Women', which, once worn, sends electric shocks to attackers. Furthermore, this

bangle also alerts relatives and the nearest police station along with sharing the woman's live location. Along with the keynote speakers, the event also included open mic performances that included poetry and storytelling.



TSIC IS AN INITIATIVE BY THE STATE TO DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH BY NURTURING INNOVATORS

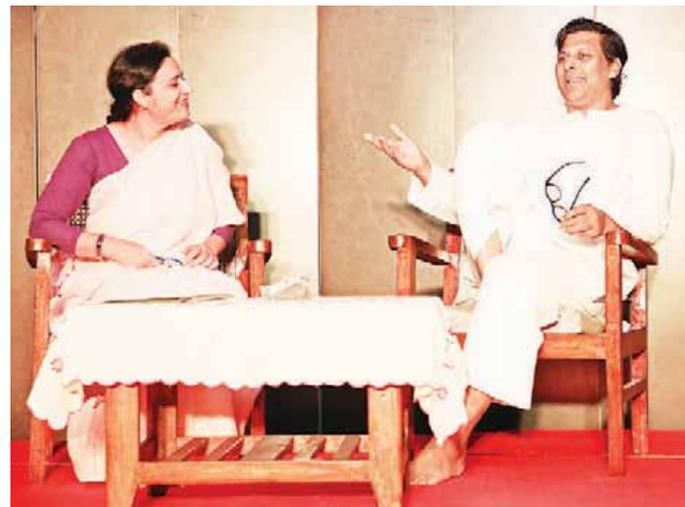
## MANTO, ISMAT COME ALIVE

The play *Ismat aur Manto ki Chuhalbaaziyaan* was staged recently in the city by Roadwayz and Kahaniwala — cultural groups that organise plays and poetry events. Capt S.N. Ahmed, who played Manto, captivated the audience by bringing the character to life. He performed with utter ease and the viewers were able to witness the famous Urdu writer in flesh and blood through Capt Ahmed. His dialogue delivery in Urdu and the effective use of available stage space, demonstrated how well he had sunk into the character. Seema Khan, as Ismat Chughtai, was a perfect match for the grand doyenne of Urdu fiction. Through her dialogue delivery, her body language and her costume Seema reinvented herself as Ismat Chughtai. The 50-minute play, was conceptualised and

researched by Suhas Bhatnagar. He breathed life into the characters and ensured that the audience could connect with them. As both the actors were involved in the writing process, the dialogue delivery was seamless. Excerpts from the original stories were in complex Urdu, but the actors made it sound simple. The audience, who was majorly non-Urdu speaking crowd, found few words tough to comprehend, but were so involved, that they understood the crux just with the enactment. Despite being serious and revolutionary writers of their time, the play portrayed how they would have shared lighter moments, which was the essence of the show. Ismat Chughtai is considered an epitome of women empowerment in literary writing, who fought for her freedom of speech. She is known for her short stories such as *The Quilt* and many

novels and plays. Chughtai is considered as one of the four pillars of modern Urdu short story. Saadat Hasan Manto, was one of the most controversial writers of his time, for his refusal to tone down the raw portrayal of human nature. He is best known for his stories about the partition of India and the many screenplays he had written for Bollywood. He is acknowledged as one of the finest Urdu writers of the 20th century.

THE PLAY SHOWED HOW MANTO AND ISMAT WOULD HAVE SHARED LIGHTER MOMENTS DESPITE BEING REVOLUTIONARY WRITERS







# People have forgotten to laugh: Nageswara Reddy

Making people laugh is an art. The days of full-length comedies need to return to draw audience to the theatres and send them back in good spirits. **NAGARAJ GOUD** finds more about filmmaker **G. Nageswara Reddy's** attempts to make laughing clubs obsolete

**K**nown for his comedy entertainers, filmmaker G. Nageswara Reddy hasn't had a good run at the box-office in the past three years. His last, *Achari America Yatra*, was a colossal flop, disappearing into thin air in no time upon release. He admits he shouldn't have taken up the film in the first place. "I expressed my reservations about the story at the time of filming. But, due to the market demands I had to go ahead and finish it. In fact, I was even doubtful about its box-office prospects as the cameras rolled. In the end, the damage was done as it incurred losses to me, Manchu Vishnu and the producer,"

he informs. Reddy is now looking forward to the release of his next, *Tenali Ramakrishna BA BL*, featuring Sundeep Kishan and Hansika Motwani in the lead. As usual, he is banking on comedy to do the trick for him. "It has been a while since we had a full-length entertainer in Telugu and our film will deliver just that. I believe people are taking a lot of pressure off late, worried about earning and managing money. They have forgotten to laugh daily, a factor that has led to the formation of laughing clubs. Films have the power to limit laughing clubs to a certain extent, and our film, is a hilarious family affair from the first reel to the last. It also has a track involving Annapurna, Posani Krishna Murali, Vennela Kishore, Satya Krishna and Saptagiri. They will have the audience rolling in the aisles more than

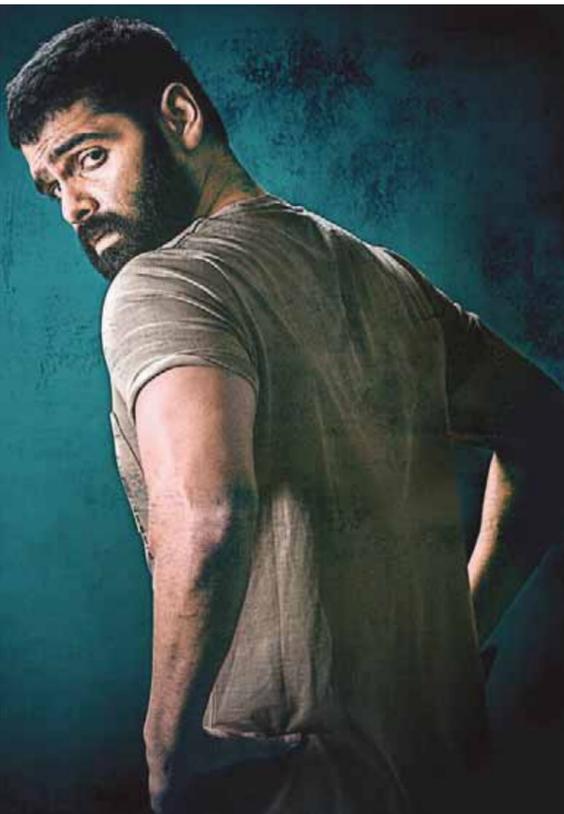
Sundeep," he promises. Talking about the film's story and Sundeep's role, he says, just like Tenali Ramakrishna who saved his king Sri Krishnadevaraya from an impending danger in the 15th century, Sundeep's titular part too saves his leading lady, Hansika, from danger. "Sundeep, who plays a lawyer, believes in com-

promise when it comes to warring parties in a civil court. But, in the second half of the movie, he ends up fighting a case with all his might and shrewdness. Like Tenali Ramakrishna, our Ramakrishna is also witty and playful but when confronted with a serious situation, he rises to the occasion," Reddy informs, sure that the film will help his leading man earn the tag of a commercial hero.



**“**Sundeep plays a lawyer who believes in compromise when it comes to warring parties. But, in the second half, he ends up fighting a case with all his might and shrewdness. Like Tenali Ramakrishna, our Ramakrishna is also witty and playful but when confronted with a serious situation, he delivers

G. NAGESWARA REDDY, FILMMAKER



## RED TO MOVE TO GOA

**L**aunched last month-end, Ram-starrer *Red*, which is a remake of this year's Tamil super hit *Thadam*, will go in front of cameras later this week. We've learnt that the first schedule will be held in Hyderabad for 10 days, post which the unit will travel to Goa for a near two-week schedule. "The schedule might extend if the situation arises. Goa has been a lucky place for Ram as his successful ventures like *Nenu Sailaja* and *iSmart Shankar* have been shot there. All the principal actors will be partaking in this schedule, during which some key scenes and a song will be shot. The Hyderabad schedule will follow soon after," said a source. Excited about acting in an investigative thriller for the first time, Ram, speaking at the muhurat, had mentioned that the film has a mix of both mass and class elements. The Tamil script has been tailored to suit Telugu audiences tastes. To be directed by Kishore Tirumala, *Red* sees Ram in dual roles for the first time, while Nivetha Pethuraj and Malavika Sharma are the leading ladies. A production venture of Sravanthi Ravi Kishore, the film has music by Mani Sharma. — NG



## JAYALALITHAA biopic with Kangana to be shot in Telugu too

**I**nitially planned as a Tamil-Hindi bilingual, the biopic on J. Jayalalithaa, the late chief minister of Tamil Nadu, is now being shot in Telugu as well. Titled *Thalaivi*, the drama, directed by Tamil director A.L. Vijay, has gone to floors in Chennai on Sunday, with the chief cast and crew in attendance. As Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut is reprising Jayalalithaa, the anticipation surrounding the project is high. For past four months, she has been on an extensive preparation, read-

ing about Jayalalithaa, besides learning Bharatnatyam. She has also been to the US to give measurements for prosthetics. Renowned Hollywood artist, Jason Collins, who has worked on films like *Captain Marvel*, is working on the national award winner's look. Aravind Swamy has been roped in to play legendary politician M.G. Ramachandran who was instrumental in grooming the star actress into a politician. Beginning with her journey as an actress, the film will end with Jayalalithaa becoming the Chief Minister for the first time. The ups and downs she weathered till that period will be a part of the film. *Baahubali* writer Vijayendra Prasad has written the story.

## SITARA to give voice for little Elsa

**I**n a clever move, Disney India has roped in superstar Mahesh Babu's daughter Sitara to lend her voice for the younger version of Elsa in the Telugu version of the highly-awaited sequel of *Frozen*. The seven-year-old, who has a YouTube channel to her name along with her friend Aadya, daughter of filmmaker Vamshi Paidipally, has recently featured in a commercial for a real estate firm along with her other family members. It was her first spell in front of the camera. This stint with Disney is her second professional assignment and she has already completed the dubbing formalities. "Sitara's love for the movie is so much that when she was offered to voice young Elsa, there was no way we could've turned it down. It is a movie that every girl relates to and Sitara is no different. We would like to thank the team of Disney for this wonderful opportunity," said Namrata, Sitara's mother and actress. We wonder if Sitara too will follow her dad's footsteps and establish herself as a child actor. *Frozen 2* will hit screens on November 22.



## Ranveer pulls off Kapil's 'Natraj' shot

**T**alking to Instagram on Monday, Ranveer Singh, who is playing Kapil Dev in '83, treated his followers to a brand new still from the film in which he is seen nailing Kapil's iconic 'Natraj' shot — a swivel and a pull that sends the ball flying to the boundary. The said shot is part of Kapil's knock of 175 against Zimbabwe at Tunbridge in the 1983 World Cup. Only a few thousands were lucky to watch the innings, which Dev's former teammate Sunil Gavaskar regarded as 'the greatest innings' he has ever seen. As the British Broadcasting Corporation employees were on strike, the

match couldn't be televised. The legendary former skipper himself was full of praise for the actor. "Hats off Ranveer!" Kapil Dev wrote while retweeting his photo. The picture also found admiration from former India cricketer and commentator Sanjay Manjrekar, who lauded him for looking the part, both with the shot and the gear he is wearing in the photo. "Well done Ranveer! Not easy to 'pull' this off. Great attention to detail too with gear etc," Manjrekar tweeted. The cast of the film includes Jatin Sarna as Yashpal Sharma — the inventor of the 'badam shot' — and Saqib Saleem as the all-rounder Mohinder Amarnath. Haridy Sandhu will portray another all-

rounder, Madan Lal. Tamil actor Jiiva has been cast as Krishnamachari Srikanth. Pankaj Tripathi will play the role of team manager P.R. Man Singh. Punjab actor Ammy Virk will bring alive Balvinder on screen. Tahir Raj Bhasin will be playing Sunil Gavaskar. Deepika Padukone plays Kapil's wife, Romi. The film's shooting has been wrapped up and it will be dubbed into Telugu as well. Presented by Reliance Entertainment and produced by Deepika Padukone, Sajid Nadiadwala, Kabir Khan, Nikhil Dwivedi, Vishnu Induri, 83 Films Ltd. and Phantom Films, '83 is touted as the "biggest sports film" of the country and is scheduled for release on April 10, 2020.

# Chahar happy to repay captain's faith

# Given heads up to be India's No 4: Iyer



Deepak Chahar celebrates with his Indian teammates after completing his maiden five-wicket haul against Bangladesh in T20s PTI

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

It almost looked like Bangladesh would run away with the third T20I in Nagpur on Sunday and with it register their maiden series win over India as Mohammad Naim and Mohammad Mithun looked to be in cruise mode. With dew not helping matters, skipper Rohit Sharma handed the ball to pacer Deepak Chahar, hoping for the youngster to rise to the occasion. And that is exactly what he did.

Chahar, who had earlier scalped for Liton Das and Soumya Sarkar, delivered instantly in the 13th over and started the collapse. The rest as they say is history. Chahar finished with figures of 6/7 — the best in T20Is — and also became the second Indian to pick a hat-trick in the format.

Speaking after game, Chahar said that while everyone is talking about him picking the hat-trick and winning India the game in conditions

not suited for bowlers, it is the faith that skipper Rohit showed in him that makes him happy.

"He told me I will use you as a Bumrah today. I will bowl you in the crucial overs and that was motivating for me. I love it when I am given responsibility under pressure because that makes me feel that I am being trusted. I feel bad when nobody trusts me. To get that confidence from the captain felt good at that stage of the game," he smiled.

It is not often that you have players liking the fact that he is compared to a teammate, but Chahar says there is no doubting the fact that Bumrah is the No 1 bowler at present in the format and it is a matter of pride to be compared to the pacer.

"Imandar hona chahiye (You should be honest)...I know where he stands and I also know where I stand. He is the No 1 bowler in the format and as a T20 bowler, he has everything, be it pace or control. He is the No 1 bowler for me and saying that is not a shame. I am not competing with him and my job is to do well. You need to focus on the game and the team should win and that has to be the priority.

"When they were cruising at the end of 12 overs, I wanted to walk up to him and ask for the ball from the captain, but I didn't because I knew the captain would have his plan and give me the ball. The whole thought was that we shouldn't lose the game and the series. What matters when you play for the country is to perform and win matches," he explained.

Pundits have often spoken about how he is more of a new-ball bowler, but Chahar silenced all with his performance on Sunday. And the pacer says that it was more about people assuming things because he always had variations up his sleeves.

"People assumed that and didn't give me a chance to

bowl at the death. Whenever I got a chance, I bowled well. I have bowled before as well, even for my state. Generally you don't bowl those bowlers at the death who bowl at less than 130kph, but I don't have that issue. I have bowled around 135kph even in the IPL and say in CSK I wasn't used because Mahi bhai had other bowlers.

"It depends also on the captain. Team requirement is also something that you need to look into. Like on Sunday we had only two fast bowlers in Khaleel Ahmed and me. Shivam Dube isn't a proper fast bowler. So, Rohit bhaiya used me in the death. When I played before, the set-up needed me to bowl at the top," he pointed.

Every player is preparing keeping the World T20 in mind and while Chahar too wants to go ahead and represent the country in the showpiece event in Australia in 2020, he wants to keep working on his game and get better with each passing day.

"World T20 is about 11 months away and that is a long time. Obviously I have that in the mind and we are looking to win the trophy, but as a sportsman you can't think so far as there is a lot of international cricket before that as well as the IPL. I want to gain more trust from the management till then and there will be times where I will get hit and I want to still gain the trust of the team so that they support me. Performing in every match is the goal.

"I take every game as the last as the competition is very high and the fast bowling unit is doing really well. Cementing your place in this team is very tough, so I look to perform every time I get an opportunity," he signed off.

Deepak Chahar celebrates with MS Dhoni after taking wicket during IPL. IPL20.com



## 'CSK stint taught me to counter dew & sweat factor'

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Countering the dew in the sultry Chennai heat has been a big part of Deepak Chahar's cricket education and he said it showed during his world record figures of 6 for 7 against Bangladesh in the series-deciding third T20.

Chahar, who also became the first male cricketer from the country to take a T20 International hat-trick, has been one of the Chennai Super Kings' successful new ball bowlers, used judiciously by franchise captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"Playing in Chennai, I have now realised how to counter dew and sweat. How to keep my hands clean. At times, rub dry soil in your hands and then bowl (so that hands don't get slippery)," the 27-year-old Rajasthan seamer said during

an interview on 'Chahal TV'.

Asked what was his strategy considering that there was no nip in the air and the ball wasn't swinging a lot.

"Since the side boundaries (at VCA Stadium) were big and that was the plan that we will have to force the batsman to play shots on the sides. I also wanted to vary the pace as the ball was getting wet because of the dew and it was difficult to grip," Chahar explained.

For the 27-year-old, never even in his wildest of imaginations, he could have thought about incredible figures of 6 for 7 in 3.2 overs.

"Came to know in the end that I got a hat-trick since I got the first wicket off the last ball of previous over. Even if you sit back at home and dream, you will not think that in four overs, you will get six wickets for 7 runs," said a beaming Chahar.

## DRS = 'Don't ask Rishabh System'

FIANS ■ NAGPUR

India came back strongly from their first match defeat at the hands of Bangladesh to win the three match T20I series 2-1, but there was no respite for stumper Rishabh Pant as the jeers turned into catcalls for his gaffes behind the stumps, especially with the Decision Review System (DRS).

Pant, who was under the scanner for his wrong DRS calls in the first rubber, made similar mistakes on Sunday even.

During Bangladesh's chase, pacer Khaleel Ahmed bowled a shortish delivery to Mohammad Naim and Pant launched an appeal for caught

behind. He even convinced stand-in skipper Rohit Sharma to seek a review only for replays to show that the ball was missing the bat in a big way.

There were chants of "Dhoni, Dhoni", the former India captain known to call it right almost every time, as social media also lashed out at Pant's repeated failures.

"The DRS would never fail if captain always do the opposite of Pant's opinion," wrote a Twitter user.

"DRS stands for — Don't ask Rishabh System," wrote another enthusiast drawing attention for his cheeky comment.

"Lesson for Rohit Sharma: when pant calls for DRS, don't take it," read another comment.

Even if Kohli and Rohit get out, we need someone to finish the game and bat till the end. That is a No 4's role. That's what I was trying to replicate today and it worked out really well for me," said the 24-year-old, who has overcome the disappointment of missing out on ODI World Cup berth.

Asked how significant his knock was considering that team is trying out fringe players like him ahead of the World T20

PTI ■ NAGPUR

The talented Shreyas Iyer has been given a "heads up" by the Indian team management that he will be the designated No 4 batsman in white-ball format after a string of impressive performances in the past few months.

India tried umpteen players at the number four spot in the lead up to the 50-over World Cup but none of them could cement their place in the team and it was used as a floating position during the mega event as the experiment with Vijay Shankar fell flat.

"For me personally, they (team management) have given me a heads up that 'You'll be there at No 4. So just back yourself and believe in yourself,'" Iyer, who smashed 62 off 33 balls including five sixes in the T20 series decider against Bangladesh, told media-persons after the match.

"It has been a really important last few series for me to set the benchmark at the No 4 position, which all of us are competing for at the moment," said Iyer, who scored a couple of half-centuries batting at No 5 in the ODIs against the West Indies.

Iyer will have to be one of the "finishers" in case team's top two batsmen — skipper Virat Kohli and deputy Rohit Sharma — are dismissed cheaply.

"Even if Kohli and Rohit get out, we need someone to finish the game and bat till the end. That is a No 4's role. That's what I was trying to replicate today and it worked out really well for me," said the 24-year-old, who has overcome the disappointment of missing out on ODI World Cup berth.

next year, Iyer said: Yes, obviously there is lot of competition going in the team. I personally feel that I compete with myself. I don't want myself to be judged with anyone or when you say that this position is empty in the team.

While he will be batting at number four for some time now, Iyer is flexible and ready to bat at any position that the team wants him to.

"I am really open-minded and can bat at any number. So I just like to back myself in tough situations and today's innings showed that I can bat under pressure as well."

In the final T20, Iyer went ballistic after being cautious at the beginning. Four of his five sixes came against the spinners and his knock allowed India to put up a defensible 174 for five.

"The support staff have given me the freedom — not just me but all the batsmen — that you need to have that intent when you go in there. And you should feel very positive when you're batting. If the ball is going to control myself, I'll bat according to my instincts."

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## Deepak jumps 88 places in rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India fast bowler Deepak Chahar, who returned a world record haul of six for seven against Bangladesh on Sunday, has moved up 88 slots to 42nd in the latest ICC T20 rankings for bowlers.

The list, however, continued to be led by slow bowlers. The top five and eight of the top nine are spinners, with Mitchell Santner reaching second place — his best position since he topped the table in January 2018, behind Afghanistan's Rashid Khan.

Rohit Sharma continued to remain India's top-ranked batsman at seventh position while K L Rahul moved up a place to eight after his half-century on Sunday.

England's Dawid Malan has made a grand re-entry to the batting chart, grabbing third position in the list led by Pakistan's Babar Azam, while Aaron Finch of Australia has taken second spot after gaining two positions.

England captain Eoin Morgan and New Zealand opener Martin Guptill have also made notable movements to take joint ninth place while Jonny Bairstow has reached a career-best 498 rating points and is in the top 40 for the first time.

Bangladesh batsman Mohammad Naim's 143 runs in three matches saw him at joint-38th position along with Bairstow.

Ashton Agar's fine performances against Sri Lanka and Pakistan have seen him move up 57 places to ninth in the bowling list.

In the all-rounders' table, Glenn Maxwell's continued absence has enabled Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi to move above him to take the top spot for the first time.

In the team rankings, Pakistan continued at the top with 270 points but Australia were only one point behind them after winning their three-match series 2-0. England, South Africa and India occupied the next three positions and were within five points of each other.

## Long way to go in T20s: Mahmudullah

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Bangladesh captain Mahmudullah feels his team still has a long way to go in Twenty20s as it is neither learning from its mistakes nor has the big-hitters essential to the format.

Bangladesh have come close to victory on many occasions but failed to cross the line, especially against top teams like India losing the just-concluded T20 series 1-2.

"We have a long way to go in T20 cricket. We don't have big hitters. We have to be dependent on our skill hitting. So we are working on our game sense and become more consistent mentally," said Mahmudullah following the 30-run loss in the series-decider. "As a batting unit, if we



can improve then we will have more chances to win," he added.

Needing 50 runs off the last 30 balls with six wickets in hand, Bangladesh were on course for a memorable series win but lost wickets in a heap to blow it all away.

"I am not sure whether it

was composer or not. But if you see, we did similar kind of mistakes probably in few games in recent times. That's where I think big teams are quite good and very consistent in these situations and they can chase down this sort of total.

"Having said that, the wicket was very good to chase on. Our bowlers did a very good job to restrict them to 174. We just didn't finish well."

"If you analyse these three games, I think we played good cricket. But T20 cricket is such a format, if you lose momentum it's very hard to get it back. We were very close in this game but as we lost three-four wickets in six or seven balls and that's the crucial part of that game," said the skipper.

## Shafali, Deepti power Eves to 10-wicket win

PTI ■ GROS ISLET

Teenager Shafali Verma scored her second consecutive half century after off-spinner Deepti Sharma starred with the ball as the Indian women's cricket team registered an emphatic 10-wicket win over the West Indies in the second T20I.

The 15-year-old Shafali continued her impressive run by scoring a quick-fire 69 off 35 balls alongside Smriti Mandhana (30). The duo powered India to a 2-0 lead in the five-match series on Sunday.

Shafali, who overtook the iconic Sachin Tendulkar to become the youngest Indian cricketer to score a half-century in international cricket, displayed scintillating form yet again and smashed 10 fours and two sixes.

Earlier, the Indian bowlers,



Shafali Verma chats with Smriti Mandhana during 2nd T20 against Windies BCCI

led by Deepti, who registered career-best figures of 4 for 10, managed to restrict the West Indies for a paltry 103 for seven in the stipulated 20 overs.

Deepti accounted for the four wickets in the last four overs.

Later Mandhana, who had also smashed a half-century in the series-opener, played second fiddle to Shafali in guiding the team home. The 23-year-old's innings was laced with four boundaries.

West Indies captain Anisa Mohammed had no answer to the Indian duo and used seven bowlers, including herself, with no success.

The combined effort saw India reach their target in 10.3 overs.

The third T20I will be played at Providence Stadium in Guyana on November 14.

## Shooters continue medal rush



PTI ■ DOHA

Teen shooter Saurabh Chaudhary claimed the Silver medal in men's 10m air pistol event to continue India's surge at the 14th Asian Championship here on Monday.

The 17-year-old World Cup and the Asian Games Gold-medallist shot 244.5 to finish second on the podium behind North Korea's Kim Song Guk, who won the top prize with a world record 246.5.

With 583, both Chaudhary and Abhishek Verma had qualified for the final in seventh and sixth place, respectively.

However, Verma had to be satisfied with a fifth-place finish in the eight-man final, having managed 181.5. The trio of Chaudhary, Verma and Sharvan Kumar bagged the team Bronze with a total of 1740 in the qualifying, finishing behind China (1745) and Korea (1744).

Shreya Agrawal and Dhanush Srikanth won the Gold medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team junior competition, while Gurnihal Garcha, Abhay Singh Sekhon and Ayush Rudraraju claimed the team Gold in the junior men's skeet.

Gurnihal Garcha also won an individual Silver with a score of 50 in the finals. Abhay Sekhon, who had topped qualification with a solid 120, was the second Indian in the final but finished fourth, narrowly missing out on a medal.

In all, India picked up eight medals on the day. India won six Olympic quotas across events from the prestigious championship, taking their total to 15.



## Mumbai makes it three in a row

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic giants Mumbai continued its winning run in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy thrashing Madhya Pradesh by nine wickets on Monday.

This is Mumbai's third win on the trot after they beat Mizoram and Haryana in the first two league games of Group D.

In the game at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai rode on blistering half centuries by openers Jay Bista (68 off 36 balls) and Aditya Tare (74 not out off 48 balls) to chase the 160-run target with ease.

Elected to bat, Madhya Pradesh ride on skipper Naman Ojha (22 off 17 balls) and one down Rajat Patidar (25 off 17 balls) before two down Parth Sahani made a quick fire 47 off 36 balls.

An unbeaten 31 off 29 balls from Anand Bais and 19-ball 24 from Venkatesh Iyer helped MP

breach the 150-run mark.

For the hosts, Shams Mulani (1-17), Ranjane (1-24), Sujit Nayak (1-26) and Tushar Deshpande (1-34) were among the wickets.

Chasing 160, Bista and Tare laid the foundation stone of the win with an 111-run stand for the opening wicket.

After Bista was dismissed by Kuldeep Sen, Tare took the onus on himself to complete the match.

He in the company of in-form skipper Suryakumar Yadav (20 not out off 11 balls) took the side home with 4.1 overs to spare.

In the earlier game at Wankhede, Bengal defeated Meghalaya by 55 runs.

Meanwhile, at BKC, India spinner Yuzvendra Chahal joined the Haryana squad but was rested for the game against Assam.

Haryana rode on half century by opener Harshal Patel (62) to register a three wicket win against

Assam.

**DELHI THRASH NAGALAND**

**SURAT:** A disciplined all-round effort helped Delhi thrash Nagaland by eight wickets in a Group 'E' T20 match.

Elected to field, Delhi restricted Nagaland to 75 for nine in their stipulated 20 overs before returning to overhaul the target, scoring 78 for two in 12.3 overs.

While left-arm spinner Pawan Negi claimed three wickets, Lalit Yadav, S Bhati and Karan Dagar accounted for one wicket each.

Chasing the target, Delhi rode on some useful contributions from the top-order with skipper Dhruv Shorey top-scoring with a run-a-ball 27 and Nitish Rana scoring 20 not out.

In other Group E matches, Saurashtra registered a comfortable 57-run win over Gujarat at the Lalabhai Contractor Stadium.