

OPINION 6 FALSE DATA MECHANISM

MONEY 8 'INDIA'S JUL-SEP QUARTER GDP NUMBERS CRUCIAL'

SPORTS 12 MIX AND MATCH

HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



# the pioneer



ALLARI NARESH SWITCHES TRACKS

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## Drunkard son set ablaze by parents

WARANGAL: In a bizarre incident that has shaken the entire Musthyalapalli village in Damera mandal of Warangal rural district, Kadari Mahesh Chandra (40), a drunkard, was set ablaze by his parents at his residence on Tuesday night. The incident took place around 8PM, with the parents resorting to the gruesome act unable to bear the harassment of their son. The villagers and neighbours alleged that Maheshchandra used to booze and harass his wife Radhika(35) and a daughter and son unnecessarily every day. Disgusted with their son's ways, the parents, Prabhakar and Vimala, torched him on Tuesday after pouring kerosene on him when he was in an inebriated condition. The drunkard was enveloped in flames, but no one in the vicinity was permitted to rescue him.

## ED books 2 IAS in sand mining case

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday said that it has registered a case against two IAS officers and some others in connection to its probe into the Saharanpur illegal sand mining case. A senior ED official told IANS that the agency has booked Ajay Kumar Singh and Pawan Kumar, former District Magistrates (DM) of Saharanpur, on the basis of the CBI FIR registered on September 30 this year. According to the ED, Singh, a 1998-batch IAS, was posted as the Saharanpur DM between March 28, 2012 and February 12, 2014. He is now Secretary of the Khadi and Village Industries Board.

## 6 Indian workers killed in Oman

DUBAI: At least six construction workers, believed to be Indian nationals, were killed in Oman when they were buried at an excavation site of a water pipeline project due to heavy rains. The incident happened in the Seeb area of Muscat following heavy rain on Sunday, the Indian Embassy in Muscat said. "We are deeply saddened to learn about the incident involving death of six workers, who are believed to be Indian nationals, in Seeb area of Muscat, Oman, following the heavy rains on November 10," the Indian embassy said in a tweet.

## HC moots panel of SC ret'd judges to resolve RTC strike

Seeks Govt opinion on panel Adjudges case to today

NKESHAF AHMED HYDERABAD

In a significant development, the Telangana High Court on Tuesday offered to constitute a high-level committee, comprising three retired Supreme Court judges, to reconcile the differences between trade unions and TSRTC management so as to break the impasse over RTC indefinite strike. The court said that committee would look into the demands of the striking employees.

A division bench of the HC directed the state advocate-general to get instructions from the government regarding the proposal to constitute the high-level committee by the next date of hearing.

The Court made this observation while referring to Section 10(A) of the Industrial Disputes Act-1948. The Act mandates arbitration between the parties to a suit. In response to the observation of the HC, the senior counsel appearing for the trade unions told the court that the Unions would reconsider their decision on continuing the strike once the proposed committee was constituted by the HC to end the ongoing impasse.

The High Court also made some interesting observations during the course of the hearing of the arguments in a batch



The Court made this observation while referring to Section 10(A) of the Industrial Disputes Act-1948

of Public Interest Litigation petitions filed against the ongoing TSRTC employees strike and the recent decision of the state cabinet on the issue of privatizing 5,100 private route permits of TSRTC. It said that it did not have powers to act by exceeding its judicial powers viz a viz the laws of the land. It made it clear that it can't issue any order that contravenes any existing statutes of the state and Centre unless they were illegal, arbitrary and unconstitutional in nature.

Referring to the pleas made by different petitioners to declare the strike as illegal

either normally or under ESMA (Essential Services Maintenance Act), the court asked senior Advocate Vidya Sagar if it had the powers to declare the strike as illegal under any of the law of the land, including ESMA.

Responding to the question, he said that the HC could declare the strike as illegal under ESMA. He showed some GOs issued in the year 1998 by the erstwhile AP government and in the year 2015 by the Telangana government.

After perusing the 2015 GO issued by the state government, the court said that the GO was meant for just six months and didn't have any legal force now. It asked the senior counsel to show any other GO to support his claim. The matter was posted till Wednesday for further hearing by the HC later.

## Guv working at BJP's 'behest': Shiv Sena

PNS MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena approached the Supreme Court Tuesday against Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari's refusal to grant it extra time to stake claim to form the next government in Maharashtra. The decision was "unconstitutional, unreasonable and mala fide," the party said in its petition to the top court. Congress leader and former Union Minister Kapil Sibal will represent the party in the top court, sources said.

Refusing to accept the Sena's request for a 48-hour extension to form government, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari had invited Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party yesterday to stake claim. The deadline for the NCP ends at 8.30 pm today and the party said they had asked for a 48-hour extension this morning. Today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet recommended President's Rule for Maharashtra, where no government has been formed nearly 20 days after the assembly election results.

The Governor, the Shiv Sena alleged, was working 'at the behest of the BJP'.

In its petition, the Sena said while the Governor gave 48 hours to the BJP to indicate whether it can form government, he gave them only 24 hours to get the support letters from prospective allies -- the Congress and the NCP.

## MAHA DRAMA

# President's rule imposed in Maharashtra

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday said Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari acted in a hurry in sending his report recommending President's rule in Maharashtra without exhausting all options for government formation. The Shiv Sena, which on Monday suffered a setback in its efforts to cobble up a non-BJP government in the state, said if President's rule is imposed, it can be challenged in court.

The governor, who had given the NCP time till 8.30 pm on Tuesday to express its 'willingness and ability' to form government, has submitted a report to President Ram Nath Kovind recommending President's rule in the state. "I condemn this action which has been taken in a hurry without exhausting all options. This raises questions about the governor's impartiality. This also raises doubt whether the governor is acting under pressure," Maharashtra Congress spokesman Sachin Sawant told reporters here. Another senior Congressman Vijay Wadettiwar, who was leader of the opposition in the 13th state Assembly, the tenure of which expired on November 9, felt President's rule will not be a roadblock in government formation.

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Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

The Governor, who had given the NCP time till 8.30 pm on Tuesday to express its "willingness and ability" to form govt, submitted a report recommending President's rule

## Shiv Sena moves SC against Maha Governor's decision

PNS NEW DELHI

The Shiv Sena on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court against the Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari's decision not to extend the 24 hour time period given to the party to prove its number on the floor to form the government.

The Sena, which has emerged as the second-largest party with 56 seats in the 288-member Assembly, said that it was constrained to move the top court seeking urgent relief against the "arbitrary and mala fide actions" of the Governor. The party sought quashing of the order of the

Governor and declaring the action "unconstitutional, arbitrary, illegal, void-ab-initio, and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India".

Also raising questions on the Governor's behaviour, it said that he cannot act in such a manner or act on the dictates of the Central Government.

The Sena was invited by the Governor when the single-largest party BJP, which won 105 seats, said that it cannot form a government. It told the court that the Governor was in "hot haste" as he refused to grant even three days' time to prove the requisite majority to form the government.

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## 5 youngsters drown on Karthika pournima

PNS SIDDIPET

In tragic incidents on the auspicious occasion of Karthika pournima on Tuesday, three youths drowned in a deep stream in Varikole village while they were trying to take holy dip in Koheda mandal of Siddipet district. The youths Kante Nikhil, Kuna Prashanth and Pendhota Varaprasad, aged between 10 and 15 years, went for the dip during the early hours and were drowned as they could not swim.

Police came to the spot and took up search operations to retrieve the bodies. The villagers were found wailing inconsolably over the death of the three youths. The bodies were traced and handed over to



Bodies of the victims who were drowned on Tuesday

the kin of the deceased. A pall of gloom descended on the village as the three youngsters from the same vil-

lage died on the same day. A case was registered. Two teenagers, a boy and a girl, met with a watery grave

in the district on Tuesday. The deceased were identified as Bhukya Anil (13), son of Srinivas and Laxmi, of Teekya thanda on the outskirts of Ponugodu village in Gudur mandal, and Gugulothu Pavani (13), daughter of Bodi and Vijaya of Venkatathanda of Mappida mandal in the district.

While the former died in a well, the latter drowned in the SRSP canal. Both were studying 8th class in different schools. Meanwhile, Tribal Welfare Minister Satyavathi Rathod visited the Mahabubabad area hospital and consoled the parents of Pavani, and assured help from the government.

## Live electric fence claims two lives

PNS HYDERABAD

Two farmers died of electrocution when they came into contact with an electric fence at an agricultural field at Kondapuram village in Nallabelli mandal in the district on Monday night.

The deceased were identified as Eesam Kommaiah (50) and his brother-in-law Agaboina Sudhakar (45) of the same village. According to the police, both of them went to irrigate the chilli fields on Monday night and did not return in the morning.

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Minister KT Rama Rao participated in 550th Prakash Utsav of Guru Nanak Devji on Tuesday

## Top Maoist couple nabbed

PNS HYDERABAD

A Maoist couple from Mansoorabad, found to be in possession of incriminating Maoist literature, was nabbed by a special team of the LB Nagar Police on Tuesday, following searches at their premises. The two are top Maoists and have been actively participating in revolutionary activities, according to Rachakonda Police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat.

Following a tip-off about the couple, identified as Narla Ravi Sharma, 54, member of CPI Maoist Party & ex-SCM Bihar regional committee UG,



Ravi Sharma and Bellapu Anuradha

and Bellapu Anuradha, 56, special teams were formed by the LB Nagar Police to search their premises at Venkataramana Colony in Mansoorabad.

"We found incriminating Maoist literature, three laptops, pen drives and memory cards and correspondence with Maoist-related stuff," said the official, adding that they were arrested on Tuesday.

"They were connected with Maoist activities in the state from their house since June 2019. Ravi Sharma alias Rahul is a graduate in Agriculture and studied at Acharya NG Ranga Agriculture University, Hyderabad during the year 1984-86. He came into contact with one Mekala Damodar Reddy alias Madan DCS of CPI (ML) PWG and worked as CO in twin cities.

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## BJP got Rs 350 crore in donations from Tata's trust

PNS NEW DELHI

The BJP received Rs 356 crore in donations from an electoral trust controlled by the Tata Group during 2018-19, according to documents submitted by the ruling party before the Election Commission.

As per information provided by the BJP to the EC on October 31, it received a total of over Rs 700 crore in donations through cheques and online payments during the financial year 2018-19.

Around half the contributions -- Rs 356 crore -- were

made by the Tata-controlled Progressive Electoral Trust.

India's richest trust -- The Prudent Electoral Trust -- gave Rs 54.25 crore in donations to the party, according to the documents.

The Prudent Trust is backed by top corporate houses including Bharti Group, Hero MotoCorp, Jubilant Foodworks, Orient Cement, DLF, JK Tyres, among others.

The information provided pertains to donations of Rs

20,000 and above each that were received by the party through cheques or online payments.

Donations received in the form of electoral bonds were not included in the filing.

The BJP received donations from individuals, companies as well as electoral trusts, the document said.

As per the election code, political parties are mandated to disclose all donations they receive in a financial year.



## Owaisi 'has his own agenda': BJP

PNS HYDERABAD

Asaduddin Owaisi "Has His Own Agenda": BJP Leader On Ayodhya Order Remark

HYDERABAD: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader NV Subhash on Tuesday said that All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi has given an inflammatory statement against the Supreme Court's Ayodhya verdict just to serve his own agenda and to disrupt the unity of the country.

"Mr Owaisi has given an inflammatory speech to spread communal hatred after the landmark Supreme Court judgement. Instead of welcoming the verdict, he has his own agendas and is trying to disrupt the unity and diversity of the country," Mr Subhash was quoted as saying by news agency ANI. A complaint has been filed against the Hyderabad MP for his controversial remarks. The BJP leader said that the Supreme Court has, in a historic and landmark judgement, resolved a centuries-old dispute.

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## MOVE OVER SONS AND DAUGHTERS...

# Wives of TRS leaders put on political weight

NAVEENA GHANATE HYDERABAD

Gone are the days when political lineage was largely about sons and daughters. These days political leaders' wives seem to have put on political weight in the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti party.

Women are behind the success of many politicians in the TRS government and they no longer want to be in the shadow of their respective husbands. Politics is clearly turn-



ing into a family affair even for ministers and leaders, with each of them unabashedly doing their bit in promoting their wives. No wonder, posters of wives of ministers wishing people on festivals have become a common and fre-



quent sight. On Tuesday, on the occasion of Karthika Pournami, Minister

## Minister Indrakaran Reddy is also taking steps to field his daughter-in-law Divya Reddy in politics. However, Kalvakuntla family has not been keen on promoting their daughters-in-law

Errabelli Dayakar Rao was keenly promoting his wife Errabelli Usha Dayakar Rao. Likewise, for Sadar festival, posters of Bonthu Sridevi, wife of Mayor Bonthu Ram Mohan, appeared across Hyderabad.

The names of spouses that typically surface during elections are tactically being inject-

ed into the minds of people by what borders on subliminal advertising. The noticeable point is that the wife's name has the leader's name prominently inscribed in it.

Spouses of some of the ministers have already cut their teeth in politics. In such a situation, joint promotion is

going on in full swing.

Ministers Mynampally Hanumanth Rao and G Jagadish Reddy are purportedly involved in joint promotions involving their respective wives.

Amberpet MLA Kaleru Venkatesh is reportedly following the path of 'couple politics' along with his wife Gonnaka Corporator Kaleru Padma Venkatesh. They too hope to soar to newer heights and continue their political heritage.

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TODAY ALMANAC Month & Paksam: Kartik & Krishna Paksha Tithi: Pratipada: 07:41 pm Nakshatram: Kritika: 10:01 pm Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work) Rahukalam: 12:00 pm - 01:24 pm Yamagandam: 07:47 am - 09:11 am Varjyam: 09:27 am - 11:07 am Gulika: 10:36 am - 12:00 pm Good Time: (to start any important work) Amritakalam: 07:30 pm - 09:11 pm Abhijit Muhurtham: NIL HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Partly Cloudy Temp: 30/18 Humidity: 59% Sunrise: 06:19 Sunset: 05:40 Current Weather Conditions Updated November 12, 2019 5:00 PM

# Will Hyd as nation's 'second Capital' resonate in sentiment-ridden TS?

**W**ill the idea of making Hyderabad the nation's second capital be fruitful and yield expected results? Will such second capital resonate in the sentiment-ridden Telangana State? Is it really possible for the central leadership of BJP to pull it off under the nose of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, political Bahubali of the country, by going against the strong sentiments of the people of the youngest state in the country?

After former governor of Maharashtra Ch. Vidyasagar Rao diverted to the issue recently, political circles as well as general public are eager to know whether Hyderabad now merits the pride of place. The issue is quite old, having been first mooted by the architect of

the country's basic statute Dr BR Ambedkar during the initial years of India's Independence. It was then felt that Hyderabad could be the most-favoured destination for people across the country, irrespective of their region, religion, caste or creed.

However, successive governments at Delhi did not focus on the issue of Hyderabad as nation's second capital for various reasons. The main reason is believed to be the absence of political need for rulers to go ahead with the proposal made by Dr. Ambedkar.

If so, why did Vidyasagar Rao raise this issue now? He stressed his point by referring to the grave pollution in the national capital? One cannot ignore his proximity with Modi ever since the latter emerged as an unparalleled leader of the saffron party seven years ago. It was not without reason that

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M D RATNA KUMAR  
Senior Journalist

Vidyasagar was appointed the Governor of Maharashtra and made in-charge of Tamil Nadu during the political unrest following the demise of then Chief Minister Jayalalithaa. After completion of Vidyasagar's tenure at Rajbhavan, he has been brought again into Telangana politics to prepare the ground for the BJP to really emerge as an alternative to the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti.

Vidyasagar is the 'choice' of Modi in Telangana to counter KCR as both of leaders belong to the Velama community, which has attained the status of ruling caste with the emergence of KCR as an undisputed leader of people following the Telangana movement. Reddys and Kammas are the other castes that have been enjoying prominent status. These two communities have ruled the undivided state of Andhra

Pradesh for decades. Both KCR and Vidyasagar had the experience of contesting against each other in the 2004 elections. Then Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Vidyasagar lost the election to KCR, TRS' nominee backed by Congress, in the Karimnagar Lok Sabha seat. Later, KCR had become member of the Union Cabinet

headed by Manmohan Singh. If Vidyasagar, with such a background, has once again raked up the subject of second capital, the writing on the wall is clear. The plausible reason appears to be the political future of BJP in Andhra Pradesh, where the saffron party has been trying hard to leave its own impression on the strength of Modi government's achievements like abrogation of Article 370 and recent developments culminating in SC's verdict on Ayodhya issue!

Considering the heartburn of the people of AP over the bifurcation of the unified state, the saffron party wants to win the confidence of Andhra people. People in AP lost their most beloved city Hyderabad to Telangana, following bifurcation. Their wish of having Hyderabad at least as joint capital too evaporated due to the adamant attitude of the

UPA government. The anger of Andhra people due to this harsh decision of UPA government reflected in the 2014 elections, in which Congress lost its address in Andhra and BJP managed to save its face only because it aligned itself with TDP and won four Assembly and two LS seats. So, winning the hearts of people of Andhra may not be all that easy. So, BJP has to get the patronage of Andhra people only by backing the idea of making Hyderabad second capital of the country. And, that is better done by latching on to the 'theory of Dr. Ambedkar' in this regard.

What about the possible loss of BJP's political interests in T-state? Will Telangana people agree to this kind of change? BJP believes that T-people might be reluctant to share Hyderabad with Andhra people and may welcome the move

of Modi government on making the city as second capital of India. BJP has slowly been expanding its political base in T-state if the results of the recent Lok Sabha elections are any indication.

At the same time, any such move may come in handy for TRS to regain public sympathy, considering the dip in its popularity due to the prolonged RTC strike and concerns of revenue staff. TRS did praise Dr. Ambedkar for his positive thoughts on Telangana state. Still, it strategically ignored the words of the same person on the issue of making Hyderabad the second capital. This is because T-people feel proud of owning this city, known for its cosmopolitan culture. Regardless of the sentiments in T state, it appears that Hyderabad as nation's second capital might be the final word of BJP's central leadership!



## Manda to organize parade with 10 lakh people

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

MRPS founder president Manda Krishna Madiga has stated that they would organize massive parade in Hyderabad with one lakh to 10 lakh people. At a round table meeting at Somajiguda Press Club on Tuesday, Manda Krishna Madiga said that Minorities, SC, STs would face severe injustice if RTC was privatized. He said that caste organizations would meet Governor on November 20 in respect of RTC strike. He said that they would extend their support to RTC JAC's proposed Mahadharna at Indira Park on November 17 and Sadak Bandh on November 18.

## 'Rabi's Rythu Bandhu will start only after Kharif's distribution'

K VENKATESHWARLU  
■ HYDERABAD

Already one month has gone since Rabi season began. However, farmers have not yet received Kharif season's Rythu Bandhu scheme money. The state government is yet to distribute Rs.1,754 crore Kharif season's Rythu Bandhu money to 11.75 lakh more farmers. The government has started distribution of Kharif season's Rythu Bandhu in June and continues the clearing process of the scheme in a phased manner. However, more than one billion farmers have not yet received the amount.

It is learnt that the Chief Minister's flagship scheme Rythu Bandhu is facing funds crunch. The Rabi season started in October. The sowing season nears as the season gets to mid-November. However, the Kharif season's Rythu Bandhu amounts have not yet been deposited in the accounts of farmers. A farmer from Mahabubnagar on condition of anonymity bemoaned that he



**It is learnt that the Chief Minister's flagship scheme Rythu Bandhu is facing funds crunch. The Rabi season started in October. The sowing season nears as the season gets to mid-November**

has not got Kharif season's amount yet. "When will I get the Rabi season's Rythu Bandhu amount?" he bemoaned. However replying to Congress criticism, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had announced in the Assembly during the budget session that his government would implement the Rythu

Bandhu scheme at any cost without compromising on it. It is learnt that the Agriculture department is not even thinking on Rabi season's Rythu Bandhu as it is yet to clear 11.75 lakh farmers' amounts. The government tried to implement Rythu Bandhu scheme to 56.75 lakh farmers with expected amount

Rs.7,254 crore. However, the government deposited Rs.5,500 crore to 45 lakh farmers by allocating Rs.6,900 crore to the scheme in the budget for Kharif season. The government needs Rs.354 crore more to implement the scheme than what was allotted in the budget.

Agriculture and Cooperation principal secretary C Partha Sarathi said that they will start soon Rabi season's Rythu Bandhu amounts distribution. He said that they have yet to clear more than Rs.1,500 crore amounts for Kharif season Rythu Bandhu. A farmer, who didn't get Kharif season's amount yet, from Rangareddy on condition of anonymity, said "I am hoping that I may get two seasons' (Kharif and Rabi) amounts in Rabi season." However, it is learnt that about 13 lakh farmers didn't get Rythu Bandhu amounts in the last Kharif and Rabi seasons.



## Pumping of Kaleshwaram water to MMD begins

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR:

Pumping of Kaleshwaram water to Rajarajeshwara reservoir (Mid Manair Dam) from the Nandi Medaram pump house recommenced on Tuesday morning. The pumping of water began at 5 a.m. with the irrigation authorities switching on three motors of the Nandi pump house. The Nandi pump house is constructed under Kaleshwaram package-6 near Nandi Medaram, Dharmaram mandal of Peddapalli district. Water was pumped into the reservoir through delivery from where it has been taken to Gayatri (Laxmpur) pump

house of package-8 in Karimnagar district. Water would reach Mid Manair through flood flow canal. Though Mid Manair reservoir was filled with Kaleshwaram water a few months ago, the project was completely drained as water was released into Lower Manair Dam after leakages developed on the left side bund of MMD. Now that the bund leakages have been repaired, officials decided to fill up the Mid Manair Dam now. Kaleshwaram project Engineer-in-Chief Nalla Venkateswarlu and Executive Engineer Nune Sridhar were monitoring the water release.

## Government to constitute trust boards to temples soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Government of Telangana has issued notification to constitute temple trust boards following reports received from temple authorities who laid emphasis on the need to constitute the boards. According to endowments secretary V Anil Kumar on Monday, the government has given its green signal to constitute trust boards to Ganesh temple and Ujjaini Mahankali temple in Secunderabad, Yellamma temple in Balkampet, Kanakadurga temple in Ameerpeta, Venkateswara Swamy temple in Srinagar whose annual income crosses Rs 1 crore-mark. Similarly, the government gave its green signal for constitution of another eight temples in twin cities whose annual income crosses Rs 25 lakh. The interested should submit their applications within 20 days.

## Hitachi Vantara sets up regional operations hub in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hitachi Vantara, a subsidiary of Japanese tech conglomerate Hitachi Ltd., on Tuesday unveiled a new regional operations hub here that will act as an innovation and global delivery centre for the Asia Pacific (APAC) region. "India plays a critical role in Hitachi Vantara's holistic global strategy," Bobby Soni, Chief Solutions and Services Officer at Hitachi Vantara, said in a statement. "As India continues to rise as a powerful global eco-

nomical player, building out a centre of excellence in Hyderabad will enable us to connect even better with our customers, build local market expertise, and deliver industry-leading innovation faster than ever," Soni said. The delivery centre enhances Hitachi Vantara's capabilities to support global customers anywhere, anytime. India, with its highly skilled workforce and regional prominence, plays a critical role in the company's global growth strategy, Hitachi Vantara said.



## Video of farmer taking revenue officials to task goes viral

PNS ■ GADWAL

A video in which a farmer is seen taking revenue officials to task for the delay in resolving land issue and demanding bribes has gone viral. In the clip, the farmer is seen expressing his ire at revenue officials for their inaction, even though Gadwal district collector had issued orders to resolve his issue. The incident, which happened at the Gadwal District Collectorate on Monday, found its way into everyone's cell phone in no time. Ramudu (62), the farmer from Macharla village of Ghattu mandal, had come to the District Collectorate on Monday to escalate the issue pertaining to his agricultural land which was pending for more than 14 months after he had represented it to the Collector.



Due to mandal- and village-level revenue officials protesting against Abdullahpurmet MRO Vijaya Reddy's murder for the past few days, he was left with no option but to seek the Collector's intervention on the alleged inaction of revenue officials. At the Collectorate, he was

confronted by angry revenue officials who got into a heated argument with Ramudu, when the latter showed them documents and District Collector's signature on them, which he had submitted to the Collector in September 2018. "From VRO, to MRO and RDO, all of them have taken bribe. For an extent of land to

be registered, they made a percentage basis commission demand. They take lakhs of rupees as salary but don't do their job," he alleged, speaking outside the Collectorate. A revenue official present there asked the farmer whether he was giving salaries to them and asked the farmer who he was to question them. He also asked the farmer to go on the road and speak about it. "If a MRO dies, all these revenue officials are protesting, but if a farmer dies because of MRO's inaction, nobody protests," Ramudu observed. While the revenue officials retreated and went inside, the police personnel present there convinced Ramudu that he could meet the Collector and once again take the issue to his notice.

## 2 spotted deer electrocuted in Medak, farmer arrested

PNS ■ MEDAK

Two spotted deer were electrocuted after they accidentally stepped on a live wire fence set up around a paddy field by a farmer in Medak forest area on Sunday. Following information, Forest Range Officer of Medak M Bachi Reddy, along with his staff, inspected the site and found the two animals dead at the paddy field of one Mande Venkaiah (60) at Gajreddypally village of Ghanpur Mandal. When questioned, the farmer told the forest personnel he had fenced his agriculture field to protect the crop from the wild animals. However, Divisional Forest Officer of Medak, M Padmajarani said that her staff found enough evidence that the

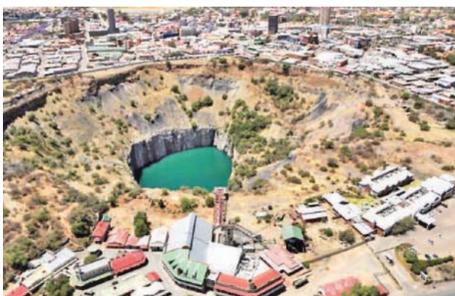


fencing was connected with electricity during nighttime. A case under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 has been filed against Venkaiah. The accused was produced before Judicial First Class Magistrate Medak on Monday. The court has remanded the accused for 15 days.

## In Kimberley, the world's diamond capital, illicit mining fight flounders

REUTERS ■ KIMBERLEY

The first South African project to bring illegal miners into the formal fold has been plagued by violence in diamond capital Kimberley, dealing a major blow to national efforts to stem a booming illicit trade. The project was launched 18 months ago in Kimberley, the site of a 19th-century diamond rush that lured fortune-seekers from the world over. Mine owners granted more than 800 unlicensed, or informal, small-scale miners the right to legally mine around 1,500 acres of diamond-rich waste fields. The aim of the government-backed scheme was to curb illegal mining and black-market trade of diamonds, and serve as a blueprint for future attempts



elsewhere in the country, not only in the diamond sector, but also potentially manganese, gold and chrome. However the project has been hit by violence, with informal miners not included in the scheme attack-

ing infrastructure and even members of the newly licensed cooperative, according to mine owner Ekapa Minerals which is running the initiative. The failure thus far of this pilot scheme is a blow to wider corpo-

**The aim of the government-backed scheme was to curb illegal mining and black-market trade of diamonds, and serve as a blueprint for future attempts elsewhere in the country, not only in the diamond sector, but also potentially manganese, gold and chrome**

rate and governmental efforts to bring South Africa's estimated tens of thousands of informal miners, or "zama-zamas", into the mainstream, to boost productivity and curb crime. Illicit mining and mineral trading cost around \$1.5 billion a year in lost sales, taxes and royalties, according to a 2017 estimate by industry group the Minerals Council, and sees criminal networks exploit

vulnerable workers struggling to make ends meet. While the government has always acted in an advisory capacity, it indicated it may now be forced to take a more active role in the project, the first to attempt so-called formalization in the mining industry. Asked whether he was pleased with the results of the Ekapa project, minerals minister Gwede

Mantsho told Reuters: "I'm not. We will have to assign somebody to work on it." He did not elaborate on what would have to be done, adding only: "I am not happy because it (informal mining) must be in the mainstream of mining, it must not be in the periphery." The project's troubles also demonstrate the perils of piecemeal formalization in a country whose regulation of small-scale mining lags far behind its African counterparts. Ekapa and Petra Diamonds (PDL), then a part-owner of the mine, launched the initiative last year at Kimberley, in Northern Cape Province, hoping to address the problem of an influx of zama-zamas - a Zulu-derived word which loosely translates as "keep trying".

As much as 6 million rands (\$400,300) worth of diamonds were being taken by illegal miners each month, Ekapa estimates. In a bid to stem that, the company formed 836 miners into the Batho Pele mining cooperative and gave them a licence to mine the fields. But a year and a half later, the track record on the ground is not promising. Illegal miners who are not part of the cooperative have stolen fences, petrol-bombed three Ekapa trucks, blocked access roads with rocks and burning tires, and sabotaged a waste pipeline, shutting down its plant, according to Ekapa. Ekapa security teams have been attacked with knives, slingshots, rocks, petrol bombs and, in one instance, a hunting rifle, the company said.

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**CRIME CORNER**

**Six DJS activists taken into custody**

**HYDERABAD:** Six activists of the Darsghah Jihad-o-Shahadat, including its president Abdul Majid, were taken into preventive custody by the city police on Tuesday morning. According to the police, the DFS office-bearers were preparing to hold a press conference and speak about the Ayodhya verdict at their office on Tuesday at Moghalpura in the afternoon. The police took Abdul Majid into custody at Kancharbagh when he was leaving for his office. Two others, Mohammed Bin Omer, organizing secretary, and Salahuddin Afian, general secretary, were also taken into custody by the city police. Later, three more office-bearers were picked up. All of them were shifted to Kancharbagh Police Station. The Saidabad Police and Commissioner's Task Force also took Maulana Naseeruddin, president of Wahadat-e-Islami, into preventive custody. Maulana Naseeruddin was also planning to address the press personnel alongside the DJS group.

**Student held for looting delivery boys**

**HYDERABAD:** A BBA student who allegedly committed thefts of electronic gadgets and other products from delivery boys of e-commerce portals was arrested by the Dundigal police on Monday. According to the police, the accused was identified as Thungala Sriram. He would follow the delivery boys on a bike after targeting his victim. "Once the boys would go to a customer to deliver the product by leaving their delivery bag on the bike, Sriram would run away with the bag," said the police. DCP Balanagar PV Padmaja said clues from CCTV cameras played a major role in nabbing Sriram. He was earlier arrested in bike theft cases and was out on bail.

**Live electric fence claims two lives**

*Continued on Page 1*

Subsequently, Sudhakar's wife Sambalaxmi and other relatives went to the fields in search of them. They were horrified when they found the bodies of the two near the paddy fields of Rajaboina Ailiah and others who had put up a wire fence that was live. The fence had been set up to prevent wild boars from entering the fields. Police have registered a case on a complaint lodged by Sambalaxmi.

**KACHEGUDA TRAIN MISHAP**

**CASE AGAINST LOCO PILOT ON VENTILATOR SUPPORT**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The loco pilot who was rescued 9 hours after Monday's train mishap at Kacheguda from the mangled remains of his cabin was on Tuesday booked for negligence which reportedly resulted in the mishap. Sources said that L Chandrasekhar, who was critically injured in the train collision, is presently on ventilator support.



**Chandrasekhar was rescued from the crushed cabin of the Falaknuma - Lingampally Multi-Modal Transport System service after a rescue operation that lasted over eight hours**

Chandrasekhar was rescued from the crushed cabin of the Falaknuma - Lingampally MMTS (Multi-Modal Transport System) service after a rescue operation that lasted over eight hours.

On Tuesday, the Kachiguda Railway police filed cases against Chandrasekhar, 36, for negligence resulting in the collision. The cases were booked under section 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the IPC following a complaint lodged by Dasharath, railway superintendent. Meanwhile, doctors said Chandrasekhar was on ventilator as he had suffered crush injuries, polytrauma, a condition in which a person has been subjected to multiple

traumatic injuries, sustained fractured ribs, besides injury to his kidney. "He is in hemorrhagic shock for which we are giving him continuous renal replacement therapy. Blood flow in both his legs is low (lower limb ischemia neuro quora neurovascular bundle injury) - for this, we have given him vascular surgery. The treatment is going on, but his condition is critical," said doctors of Care Hospital, Nampally, adding that he also had internal bleeding.

"His urine output has lowered. Probably due to suffocation and shock, he is in a state

of acute tubular necrosis condition," doctors said.

On Monday, the MMTS train driven by loco pilot Chandrasekhar collided with Hundry Intercity Express (Kurnool-Secunderabad train) at around 10.30 am near the Kacheguda Railway Station.

In the incident, 17 persons, including the loco pilot, suffered injuries. In addition to Chandrasekhar, another patient, identified as Shekar, is also reportedly in a critical condition. Both of them are availing treatment at Care Hospital.

According to the South

Central Railway's preliminary inquiry, the accident occurred due to the negligence of Chandrasekhar. They said that Chandrasekhar did not have the signal to move; yet, he proceeded, ignoring the signal.

A high-level inquiry has been ordered into the incident and the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) is probing the incident. The CRS will submit a detailed report with their findings by Wednesday.

Meanwhile, several trains have been cancelled in Kacheguda Railway Station owing to the restoration works underway. SCR authorities said they had restored the damaged railway tracks.

According to South Central Railway, railway staff from various engineering departments undertook works to clear the derailed coaches of the MMTS train to complete restoration of the railway line and help resume rail traffic via Kacheguda. The works were completed by Tuesday morning and the track has been declared fit for normal rail traffic with speed restriction on both up and down lines at Kacheguda Yard, officials said.

Consequent to the same, long distance express train services will be running on normal route from Kacheguda towards Kurnool side, officials added.



**'Avoid Sec'bad skywalk, its horrifying experience'**

**● HMRL eyes RTC land for developing Sec'bad Railway station skywalk further**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Skywalk built from Secunderabad East metro station to the Railway station is not commuter friendly. The skywalk ends at Rathifile bus stand and it is a claustrophobic experience. The skywalk exits at Rathifile bus station complex. A commuter needs to use stairs to get down almost three floors to enter the Railway station. It is better for old persons, differently abled, those carrying huge luggage, pregnant woman to avoid the station. If the station witnesses huge rush, the skywalk could witness a stampede as the stairs are very narrow. It is easier to climb down and cross the road rather than use that walkway.

A citizen K Srinivas said, "I had to catch a train at 5:40pm in railway station and used Metro skywalk. I was confining that I could enter the sta-

tion on time as was running short on time. Once I reached the skywalk exit, I realized that with a heavy suitcase along with my pregnant wife had to get down three floors. It was harrowing experience. I even witnessed, old persons holding their knees while using this skywalk".

Passengers have to travel considerable distance to reach the station and it would take atleast 10minutes if the skywalk is free to reach the platform number 1. Another passenger K V S S Prasad said, "Climbing down through the TSRTC building is a horrible experience. Its suffocation and carrying luggage is difficult. It is easier to exit at metro station and cross the road rather instead of using the walkway". According to senior official, plans are afoot to make the skywalk pedestrian friendly. Official said, "We are working towards building an alter-

**Three killed in collision in Kamareddy**

**PNS ■ KAMAREDDY**

Three persons were killed and another was injured in a horrific accident when a lorry hit an autorickshaw at Kandarpally in Kamareddy district on Tuesday.

According to Bichikkonda SI Krishna, the speeding lorry rammed the autorickshaw in which the victims were travelling. They were all residents of Degloor mandal in neighbouring Maharashtra.

According to the SI, Saddam, Baba and Firdouse died on the spot, while Habib suffered serious injuries in the collision. The lorry driver fled the spot.

**Student held for robbing delivery boys**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

A BBA student who allegedly stole electronic gadgets and other products from delivery boys of e-commerce portals was arrested by the Dundigal police on Monday. According to the police, the accused, identified as Thungala Sriram, would follow the delivery boys on a bike after targeting his victim. "Once the boys would go to a customer to deliver the product by leaving their delivery bag on the bike, Sriram would run away with the bag," said the police. DCP Balanagar PV Padmaja said clues from CCTV cameras played a major role in nabbing Sriram. He was earlier arrested in bike theft cases and was out on bail.

**Youth mowed down by RTC bus**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

A 20-year-old youth was run over by a TSRTC city bus at Moosarambagh in Malakpet early on Tuesday morning. The deceased was identified as J Shekar. A resident of Dilukhannagar, he was employed at a medical store in Secunderabad.

According to the police, Shekar was going on a motorcycle from Dilukhannagar towards Malakpet. His bike slipped and came under the left rear wheel of the TSRTC bus at Moosarambagh. He died on the spot, the police said. The Malakpet police registered a case and have shifted the body to the Osmania General Hospital mortuary for postmortem examination.

**One dead, 2 injured in Suryapet accident**

**PNS ■ SURYAPET**

One person died and two others were seriously injured when the car in which they were travelling rammed the rear of a truck at Garidepally in the district on Tuesday. The three were on their way to have darshan at Mattapally Narsimha Swamy temple on the auspicious occasion of Karteeka pournami.

The victim was identified as K Balakishan (56), a teacher of Zilla Parishad High School at Narketpally in Nalgonda district. The other two are retired teachers, Terla Amar and Shivangi Papa Rao. They suffered serious injuries in the accident.

According to Garidepally Sub-Inspector Meer Jaffer Baig, the three were on their way to Mattapally to have darshan at the temple. The accident occurred near



Sammakka-Sarakka hotel in Garidepally, Balakishan, who was driving the car suffered serious injuries on his chest, and died while he was being shifted to a hospital at Nereducharla for treatment. The injured persons have been shifted to a hospital at Miryalaguda for treatment. Balakishan's body was shifted to area hospital at Miryalaguda for post-mortem.

The police suspect negligent driving as the cause of the accident. Garidepally police filed a case and have taken up investigation.

**Two dead in bus truck collision at Shamshabad**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

An APSRTC bus driver and a passenger were killed while others sustained injuries when the bus rammed a truck at Shamshabad on Monday.

The deceased persons were identified as 31-year-old S Balam, the bus driver, and Mahboob Shareef, a passenger sitting on the front row.

The APSRTC bus from Nandyal bus depot had started from Nandyal in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh for Hyderabad with 20 passengers on board. The mishap occurred when the bus was heading to Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) on Monday. According to the police, Balam lost control of the vehicle and rammed the truck going ahead of it near Pedda Shahpur village.

Initial investigations revealed that the truck driver had slowed down and the bus driver could not control the bus although he applied brakes. Due to the impact of the crash, Balam and Mahboob Shareef sustained serious injuries and died on the spot. Five persons were injured in the accident and were shifted to hospital.

The remaining passengers were shifted safely to the city by making alternative arrangements, said the police.



**Kishan Reddy: Guru Nanak's teachings relevant today**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday visited a photo exhibition organised by the Regional Outreach Bureau, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Hyderabad on the occasion of 550 th Birth Anniversary

of Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Exhibition Grounds, Nampally.

Kishan Reddy said that the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev were relevant even today. Nanak preached that all human beings were equal and there was only one God. He believed in hard and honest work and wanted

people to help the needy, preaching they were the paths to reach God. Nanak exhorted people to love all and live in harmony, he added. The Minister congratulated ROB for organising the photo exhibition on the life and the religion of Sikhism, which Guru Nanak founded.

**Poor construction led to wall collapse in marriage hall**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Ignoring construction norms led to the collapse of the wall in the marriage hall, where four people lost their lives, shaking the city on Sunday, according to a preliminary probe. The Pearl Garden function hall management had flouted norms by constructing a 30-feet-high wall using poor quality material, police said.

"The place is being run by Nawab and owned by Arshad. We have registered cases after we found fault with the owner of Pearl Garden func-

tion hall, Harshad, for his negligence in constructing the said wall. We need to verify the details of owners/organisers before taking action against them," Inspector Mohan Kumar said, adding that the men were still at large.

The Amberpet Police have registered cases under Sections 304 part-II (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the IPC against the function hall owner/organisers.



**Top Maoist couple nabbed**

*Continued on Page 1*

He was elected as General Secretary of Hyderabad City RSU.

In 1988, he was arrested in two cases, attack on RTC bus and setting it blaze case in Saidabad and another case of Mirchowk. In the year 1992-93, he worked in Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) at Hyderabad," said the Police Commissioner.

His underground activities included him going to Bihar, Jharkhand in the year 1998 to take part in merger process of PWG with PU. In the year 1999 worked as ZCM at Palamu, Lathear of Jharkhand state and was then taken as BJ SAC member in the year 2001 and acted as an in-charge of military affairs of BJ SAC from 2003-2006. He attended the 9th Congress at Bhimbandh forest Bihar and acted as in-charge security arrangements. During the year 2008, he was taken into SCOPE to train

cadre on political and military concepts. October 17, 2009, Sharma was arrested in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand. A total of 16 cases are registered against him, of which 11 are in Jharkhand, 4 in Hyderabad and 1 at Chintapalli Visakhapatnam Rural, AP. He frequently goes underground for long periods and takes part in the meetings of top Maoists in Chhattisgarh and other parts of the country. "Sharma was actively involved in the formation of the All India Forum against Hindutva Facist Offensive in February 2019 at Delhi. He is continuing his war against the State and actively promoting revolutionary activities in the State and country. The seizure of a large quantity of literature and digital gadgets from his house authenticates that he is a hard-core Maoist. The analysis of incriminating literature and digital data seized will further substantiate the charges levelled against him," concluded the Commissioner.

**2 year jail for TSRTC driver**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

A TSRTC driver, was awarded a two year jail term by a local court in a road accident that resulted in a death under Kothur police station limits.

The driver, 31-year-old Putta Krishnaiah Goud of Mahboobnagar was convicted for two years and a fine of Rs 1,000 imposed on him for his involvement in a fatal accident case.

The police said that Krishnaiah Goud was driving a bus of Kollapur depot on 11 May 2017 when the incident occurred. He was driving the bus in a rash and negligent manner and hit a motorcycle.



The bike rider, Ambati Jangaiah (35), died on the spot due to severe head injuries.

The police had registered a case and arrested Krishnaiah Goud. A charge sheet was filed and the court after trial awarded jail term to Krishnaiah Goud.

In another case, Pacharla

**Couple arrested for toddler's kidnap, cops nab them within 24 hours**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The Kachiguda Police arrested a couple for kidnapping a 2-year-old girl from her mother on Tuesday. Police said that the girl and her mother were sleeping on the footpath of a temple when the couple kidnapped the baby and fled the scene.

The arrested couple were identified as K Avinash (34) and his wife, K Sandhy (34). While Avinash was a labourer, Sandhya worked as a maid, said the police.

According to the police, Miryala Krishnaveni, a beggar, had come to the Renuka Yellamma temple beside Chaderghat to seek alms on

Monday. At around 1 PM in the afternoon, she and her daughter, 2-year-old Maheshwari, slept on the footpath of the temple. When Krishnaveni woke up a while later, her daughter was missing. After frantically searching for her in the surroundings for some time, she lodged a missing person complaint with the police on Monday evening.

The Kachiguda police registered a case and began an investigation by visiting the scene and collecting CCTV footages of nearby cameras. Officials were able to identify two persons, a man and a woman, taking the girl and walking away.

**Guv for preserving tribal music instruments**

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

State Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Tuesday went round "Adi Dhvani", an exhibition of 124 musical instruments of tribals and admired them.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that time had come to uplift the culture and musical art of tribals.

"There is an urgent need to protect folk art and ancient tribal music instruments, failing which they may face extinction soon", she opined.

Special measures had to be taken to protect these tribal musical tunes and instruments, she felt. She assured all possible help to establish a museum



Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan at 'Adi Dhvani' along with its organisers and tribal artistes

for preserving tribal music instruments. The Governor lauded the untiring efforts of Prof. Jayadheer Thirumala Rao over the years in collecting the

musical instruments. She felicitated Runjha, Thoti Burravadyam, Kikri, Koyadolu artistes. The organisers of the event, Prof. Jayadheer

Thirumala Rao, Prof. Guduru Manoja, Dr. Saibaba Goud and Dr. Potlappalli Varaprasada Rao, were also present on the occasion.



## Construction workers lay siege to Kanna Babu's house

PNS ■ KAKINADA

Construction workers on Tuesday tried to lay siege to Agriculture Minister Kurasala Kannababu's house in the second division of Kakinada Urban demanding Rs 25 lakh as ex gratia payment to the kin of the workers who had committed suicide and payment of Rs 10,000 per month to each of the workers who had been thrown out of employment because of sand shortage.

Earlier, the workers took out a rally from the Sarpavaram Junction to the Minister's residence under the leadership of AP Building Workers Association district general secretary. DSP of Kakinada Karanam Kumar thwarted the attempts of the construction workers by setting up barricades.

The Minister spoke to the construction workers over telephone and asked the officials to resolve their problem. Tahsildar Muralikrishna tried to pacify the irate construction workers, but in vain. The police whisked away the construction workers to police station. One of the workers was indisposed during the agitation. He was taken to government hospital for treatment.

## Wives of TRS leaders put on political weight

Continued from Page 1

Some of these women forayed into campaigning during the elections last year.

All told, politicians' wives seem to be doing a way better than their male counterparts as their financial assets have surpassed those of their husbands. A look at the election affidavits reveals the financial prosperity of politicians' wives outdoes that of their spouses.

Minister Indrakaran Reddy is taking steps to field his daughter-in-law Divya Reddy in politics. However, the Kalvakuntla family has not been keen on promoting their daughters-in-law.



# Discoms to introduce pre-paid power meters

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Discoms are mulling the introduction of pre-paid electricity meters that would let consumers set limits on the lines of prepaid mobile bills.

A decision in this regard would be taken once TS Trasnco CMD Devulapalli Prabhakar Rao returns from his overseas trip during the second week of November.

Installing pre-paid meters would mean purchasing power from the energy department, depending on the consumption pattern of the consumer. The pre-paid system is available for government offices. The Discoms now want to extend the same to domestic



power connections.

If consumers come forward voluntarily, Discoms would award a concession of 0.10 paise per unit. Discoms have included this as part of their proposal in its Aggregate revenue requirement report for 2020-21.

Installation of a pre-paid single-phase meter would cost Rs 8000, while the cost of three-phase meter would be Rs 12,000.

Discoms put their annual deficiency of revenue at Rs 11,000 crore. In fact, Discoms did not submit the Aggregate revenue requirement report for the year 2019-20. Therefore, the rates fixed in the report for 2018-19 are being collected.

If the government does not extend subsidies to the department, rationalization of power tariff is likely. This is attributed to poor financial status of the Discoms and inability to make payments for the power purchased from others.

## RTC conductor doubles up as barber

PNS ■ NIRMAL

With no resolution of the RTC strike in sight, a conductor who gave up his caste-based profession following obtaining a job in the RTC resumed the profession to feed his family since he is going sans salary for the past two months.

He was identified as Mahipal of Ratnapur Kandli in Nirmal district. He joined the RTC as conductor in 2009. Since then, he stopped practicing his family profession. He settled in Nirmal.

As he did not get the salary for September month, moreover he and his colleagues are on strike since Oct 5, he feels pinched for money.

# RTC strike heralds beginning of CM's downfall: BJP

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

The RTC workers' strike heralds the downfall of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, BJP State unit president Dr K Laxman observed here on Tuesday.

He was speaking to media persons after laying the foundation stone for BJP office here on Tuesday. He charged CM with insulting RTC workers who had played a crucial role in the movement for Telangana. The RTC workers were only pressing for fulfillment of the promises made by KCR during the statehood movement, he clarified.

Justice was being denied to RTC workers even in the Gajwel Assembly constituency represented by KCR. The flames of RTC strike would engulf KCR, BJP alone was capable of teaching a bitter lesson to CM, he said.

The RTC workers would not mortgage their movement at the behest of ministers or for that matter RTC Chairman, he said. Curses of RTC workers



BJP State unit president Dr K Laxman laid foundation stone for BJP office in Siddipet on Tuesday

would affect the state government, he said.

Referring to RTC workers' suicides in Telangana, Laxman said that suicides in Telangana, which emerged from the sacrifices of many people, would mean they are all "state-sponsored murders", he reasoned. Referring to KCR's threats

that RTC workers not joining duty would be sacked, he questioned as to how many times KCR should be dismissed for his fault of not visiting the Secretariat?

Salaries of MLAs, Ministers and CM were not withheld unlike those RTC workers, he pointed out.

# TDF to help promote NRI investments in TS

PNS ■ WASHINGTON DC

The US-based Telangana Development Forum (TDF), which celebrated its 20th anniversary here from November 8 to 10, has decided to contribute to the development of Telangana by promoting NRI investments in their motherland. The Forum's board, which met on November 10, resolved to act as a bridge to promote investments in Telangana.

Accordingly, the TDF has decided to launch Jai Kisan scheme to benefit farmers of Telangana and Mana Badi to promote rural schools in the state. The TDF proposes to sensitise farmers on organic cultivation, mobilising investments, procuring seeds, and marketing agriculture produce and so on.

It has plans to equip rural schools with computers, chairs and benches and provide toilets to them. At least 100 rural schools in Telangana would be developed initially. The TDF has already mobilized US \$ 50,000 for the same.

The TDF has floated a business forum to mark its 20th anniversary. It wants to take part in the development of the state over the next five years and wants to play a crucial role in policy formulation at the government level and extend support to the government in IT sector.

## Plans to support 100 rural schools initially



**A women's workshop to highlight the problems being faced by women was held. Several delegates like Silpa Vedire, Kavita Challa, Jhansi Reddy, Jaya Telukuntla, Gandra Jyoti took part in the workshop**

A meeting of the business forum was held with Boinapalli Anil in chair. Union Water Resources advisor Sriram Vedire, Telangana State Planning Board vice-chairman Boinapalli Vinod Kumar, attended.

Vinod Kumar, addressing the gathering, said that, under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, Telangana stood second

in terms of ease of doing business. It became possible with improved power supply position, drinking water amenities and availability of other basic amenities.

At a time when the states were reeling under the impact of economic slowdown, its impact was nil in Hyderabad, he said, adding that there was no other city like Hyderabad in world.

# PARDHI DACOIT GANG BUSTED

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A gang of dacoits belonging to the Pardhi community was busted after their operative Balaji Shiran Shinde, 25, a resident of Solapur District in Maharashtra, was nabbed at Secunderabad Railway Station by the Secunderabad Rural Sub-Division Police on Tuesday morning 9 am. The officials recovered one tola gold chain from his possession.

According to police, the modus operandi of the gang was to tamper with signals and track the train location through WhatsApp by browsing rail applications. After observing the train movement, they tamper the signals to make the train stop in outer signals. The gang members form a human ladder and commit the offences from the windows of the train

"Balaji committed five offences in the trains at Lonavala of Puna in the year 2016. He, along with the other members, came to Gutti, Anantapur of Andhra Pradesh in the month of June 2018 and committed five offences in the trains by tampering the signals", police said.

Following interrogation, the other absconding members of the gang were identified as Amol Gaitadak, 28, Sudhir Ramchandra Randhil, 32, Rohit Gorak Ralebhat, 24, Vinod Sakram Jada, 31, and Babu Mohan Kasbe, 26. On September 9, 2018, the Pardhi gang tampered the railway signals at Kalkuntla Railway Station of Mahabubnagar district and committed dacoits in Yeshwanthpur Express and Jabalpur Express trains. The dacoits pelted stones on the passengers and also gave life threat to some.

# President's rule imposed in Maha...

Continued from Page 1

"When all the three parties (Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena) show that we have the support of more than 144 MLAs, the governor will have to invite us to form government", he said.

Senior Congress leader and former Union minister Sushilkumar Shinde echoed a similar view, saying "once we have letters of support, the President's rule can be lifted".

Congress leader and former chief minister Prithviraj Chavan said the governor should have invited his party to indicate "willingness and ability" to form government.

Shiv Sena MLC Anil Parab, however, said if President's rule is imposed, it can be challenged in court.

# Owaisi 'has his own agenda', says BJP

Continued from Page 1

"The judgement was unanimous. All the Supreme Court judges in the matter gave a unanimous statement. This is an example of an inclusive view of the entire society. Everyone in the society has welcomed the verdict in the matter," he said.

Subhash said that several people of the Muslim community have welcomed the Supreme Court verdict but Mr Owaisi is only trying to "insult his own community".

"He is setting a platform for not protecting the interest of the country. As an MP, he has taken an oath to protect the constitution and the people of the country. But he has insulted his community by saying

that they don't want the land on a charity basis," he said.

He urged the police to file an FIR against him in the matter on an immediate basis.

The BJP leader said Mr Owaisi has taken a lot of land on a charity basis in Hyderabad and this act shows his double standards.

Owaisi has taken so much land in and around Hyderabad from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh government. The institutions run by him, like the medical college, engineering college and hospitals are all built on land taken by the government on a charity. The land value is very high but you have taken the land from the government for a very small amount," Mr Subhash added.



File photo

# Udandapur land oustees stall works

● Delay in disbursal of compensation

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Farmers of Kishtaram village of Jacharla mandal stalled the works pertaining to Udandapur Reservoir, part of the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS), on the outskirts of their village on Tuesday. The farmers were protesting the non-release of compensation amounts for around 300 acres of their agricultural lands acquired for construction of the reservoir.

The villagers forcefully prevented the operation of JCBs

and other machinery at the site and held a dharna as well as "Vanta-Vaarpu" at the project site. Dasheratham, one of the farmers, had come with a pesticide bottle. When he tried to open it, apparently in an effort to drink the liquid, some fellow farmers snatched the bottle from him and threw it away. Dasheratham said that, after performing the weddings of his daughters and son, he was left with Rs 10 lakh debt. Due to delay in the disbursement of compensation, he said his situation had turned worse.

# Shiv Sena moves SC against...

Continued from Page 1

"The impugned actions/decisions of the Governor is violative of Article 14 and Article 21 of the Constitution. It is ex facie arbitrary, unreasonable, capricious and a mala fide exercise of the power in order to ensure that the Petitioner No. 1 (Shiv Sena) is precluded from getting a fair and reasonable opportunity of proving its majority on the floor of the House," the petition filed through senior advocate Kapil Sibal, lawyers Sunil Fernandes and Nizam Pasha said.

According to the petition, Shiv Sena had requested three days time to give the letters of support to demonstrate that it has the requisite majority to form the government on the same day when it has staked claim to form the government.

# KCR became CM capitalising on Cong faults

PNS ■ NEW JERSEY

TPCC working president A Revanth Reddy asserted on Tuesday that TRS supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao could become the Chief Minister of Telangana State only by capitalising on the faults of the Congress party.

Therefore, steps should be taken to ensure that such mistakes did not recur, he observed, while addressing a gathering at the Meet-and-Greet programme arranged by NRIs from Telangana in New Jersey. He accused KCR of looting the state by taking advantage of the Telangana sentiments of the people.

Revanth said he was afraid that there was every chance of "a civil war" breaking out in



A Revanth Reddy

Telangana, going by the present situation. KCR, after becoming the Chief Minister, had brought disrepute to politics, he said.

The Congress did not grant statehood to Telangana to see the state slide and reflect a sorry state-of-affairs, he commented.

# Save forests to avoid buying oxygen in future: Indrakaran

PNS ■ ADILABAD

Minister for Forests, Environment, Endowments and Housing Allola Indrakaran Reddy on Tuesday urged people to protect forests, the source of life for all beings, and thus avoid the probability of having to buy oxygen in future.

He was speaking after laying the foundation stone for chain-link fencing works to be taken up in Adilabad Harita Haram or Mavala Urban Park, on the outskirts of Adilabad, at a cost of Rs 2 crore.

Indrakaran Reddy underscored the need for taking up extensive planting of saplings and nurturing them in order to ensure clean air, rain, water and build a healthy atmosphere for posterity. "Giving good health to our kids is a bigger asset than property. The government has taken a tough stand when it comes to protecting the green cover. Awareness among the public over the need to conserve wildlife has gone up," he remarked.

The Minister said the State government was converting certain pieces of reserve forests into urban lung spaces to tack-



Minister Indrakaran Reddy laid foundation stone for chain-link fencing works to be taken up in Adilabad Harita Haram or Mavala Urban Park, on the outskirts of Adilabad on Tuesday

le the problem of dearth of oxygen in towns and cities. Attractions were being added to the parks to draw tourists. The Preventive Detention Act would be invoked against smugglers of teak timber, he warned. The Minister sought the cooperation of locals in keeping parks as sources of recreation.

According to Mavala Forest Range Officer A Appaiah, 5 km chain link fencing works, passing through Mavala Park, Durga Nagar, KRK Colony and Tantoli Road, would be taken up. "It is the first step to convert degraded forests of the park into high forest. With the

help of the fence, it can be extended up to two more thousands of acres as against the existing area of 1,000 acres," he added.

Later, Indrakaran laid the foundation stone for the construction of 2BHK houses in Boath Assembly constituency. He was accorded a grand welcome by Boath MLA R Bapu Rao who presented a sapling to the lawmaker.

Zilla Parishad chairperson Janardhan Rathod, Adilabad MLA Jogu Ramanna, Collector D Divya, District Forest Officer B Prabhakar FDO V Chandrasekhar and other officials were present.

# T Congress fires BJP on Union Minister's praises on Mission Bhagiratha scheme

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Congress has demanded the state unit of BJP to reveal what its relationship is with the TRS party. Finding fault with the Union Ministers for praising the state schemes, the Telangana Congress asked the state BJP to disclose why they were praising the schemes when the local leadership is terming them as scams. The Telangana Congress alleged on Tuesday that the BJP was adopting double standards in regard to the ruling party.

CLP Leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has alleged that the state BJP is describing the Mission Bhagiratha scheme as 'scam'; however, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has stated that they will implement the scheme across the nation. Bhatti asked the BJP to tell whether it will implement the biggest scam



Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka

scheme 'Mission Bhagiratha' across the nation. He said there is a need to order a CBI inquiry into the Mission Bhagiratha scheme. He asked state BJP leaders to reveal their reaction on Shekhawat's statement.

While speaking to the media at Assembly Media Hall here on Tuesday, Bhatti said that the

**Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has alleged that the state BJP is describing the Mission Bhagiratha scheme as 'scam'; however, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has stated that they will implement the scheme across the nation**

Bhagiratha. He alleged that the state government has closed Rs.1000 crore worth drinking water schemes in Khammam district. However, the state government had borrowed Rs.3 lakh crore debts in the name of fund crisis. Bhatti alleged that the state government is introducing schemes which allow scams. Union Ministers were praising the schemes, but state BJP chief Dr K Laxman was terming the same schemes as scams.

He said there is a need to order a CBI inquiry into the Rs.50,000-crore Mission

Bhagiratha scheme scam. Alleging that Tuglaq rule was going on in the state, Bhatti said that the revenue employees, who were appointed for the sake of people, were seeking protection from the people. The people were facing a lot of troubles as the Chief Minister is not conducting review meetings on the departments he kept with him, he alleged. He demanded that a CBI inquiry be ordered into the irregularities taking place in Mission Bhagiratha, Kaleswaram, Seetharama projects.

SHORT READS

**Maha: 2 killed in highway mishap**

**THANE:** Two persons, including a woman, were killed and two others critically injured in a mishap on Mumbai-Agra Highway near Shahapur here in the early hours of Tuesday, the district rural police said. The incident took place at around 8.30 am at Asangaon village in Maharashtra's Thane district, when a tourist car travelling towards Nashik collided with a gas tanker on the highway, station house officer at Shahapur police station said. While two persons, including a female passenger and the driver of the four-wheeler, were killed on the spot, two others were severely injured and are being treated at Shahapur rural hospital, the officer said. The police are in the process of registering a case and bodies of the deceased have been sent for postmortem, he said, adding that the tourist vehicle had a Rajasthan registration.

**Rajasthan police arrests illegal arms supplier from MP**

**JAIPUR:** The Rajasthan Police has arrested a notorious illegal arms supplier from Badwani district in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday, an official said. A team of SOG from Kota was in Madhya Pradesh since Thursday. They caught Bahadur Singh from his native Undikhudri village, ADG of ATS and SOG Anil Paliwal said. Singh was involved in manufacturing and supplying illegal arms in various states for the last two decades, he said.

**Cigarettes worth Rs 7 cr from Cambodia seized at Chennai Port**

**CHENNAI:** Foreign cigarettes worth Rs 7 crore allegedly smuggled from Cambodia were seized from a container at the Chennai Port Trust, officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) said here. Acting on a tip-off, the officials checked the container carrying disposable biodegradable plates on Monday and found the cigarettes concealed in the cargo, a DRI press release said. The cigarettes, numbering 50 lakh and valued at Rs 7 crore, were recovered and an investigation was on, the release said.

**Devotees throng ghats in UP for holy dip on Kartik Purnima**

**LUCKNOW:** A sea of devotees thronged ghats across Uttar Pradesh to take a holy dip in the Ganga, Gomti and Sarayu rivers on Kartik Purnima. In the temple town of Ayodhya, people began flocking to the ghats of the Sarayu since early morning amid chants of "Sita Ram" playing on loudspeakers in the streets, while many devotees who came from neighbouring districts of the state camped overnight near the river. This is the first religious congregation in the holy city since the Supreme Court's judgment in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Barbi Masjid case. Devotees in the state capital took a dip at Mankameshwar ghat on the banks of the Gomti. A huge crowd also gathered on the banks of Ganga and Yamuna in Allahabad. Elaborating on the significance of Kartik Purnima, the convenor of Allahabad-based organisations Ram Naam Bank and Ram Sewa Trust, Ashutosh Varshney, told PTI, "It is the full moon day in the month of Kartik." "It is also known as Dev Deepavali, a Diwali celebrated by Gods. The festival is celebrated 15 days after Diwali," he added.

**CJI under RTI Act: SC to pronounce verdict tomorrow**

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court will pronounce on Wednesday its verdict on a plea challenging the Delhi High Court decision bringing the office of the chief justice of India under the Right to Information Act. A five-judge constitution bench headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi will pronounce the judgement at 2 pm. Other members of the bench are Justices N V Ramana, D Y Chandrachud, Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna. The notice regarding the pronouncement of judgement was made public on the official website of the Supreme Court on Tuesday afternoon.

**BRICS Summit to focus on toning up counter-terrorism**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BRICS summit will focus on strengthening ties among the world's five major economies in key areas such as digital economy, science and technology, and also build mechanisms for counter-terrorism cooperation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Tuesday.

Modi, who will be in Brazil on 13-14 November to attend the 11th BRICS Summit, said he will also meet Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to discuss ways to enhance the bilateral strategic partnership. "I look forward to exchanging views with other BRICS leaders with the aim to further strengthen intra-BRICS cooperation particularly on the theme of the Summit 'Economic growth for an innovative future'," Prime Minister Modi said in his department statement. During the summit, the five major economies of the world will aim to significantly strengthen their cooperation in science, technology and innovation, he said.

The BRICS countries will also look to enhance cooperation on digital economy and build mechanisms for counter-terrorism cooperation within the BRICS framework, Modi said.

**Bengal Governor gives assent to Swami Vivekananda University Bill**

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has given his assent to the Swami Vivekananda University Bill, 2019, which was passed by the state Legislative Assembly on September 1 this year.

The governor has given his assent in conformity with Article 200 of the Constitution of India, a Raj Bhavan statement issued here on Tuesday said. "The Speaker of the West Bengal Assembly had passed the Bill on September 1, 2019 and it was forwarded to the governor for his consideration on November 6 after examination of the concerned department," it said.

As per the Swami Vivekananda University Bill 2019, a university named after Swami Vivekananda will be established in Barrackpore in



Narendra Modi

North 24 Parganas district. The university will be conferred the status of a private university, which will be promoted by an educational and charitable trust registered under the Indian Trust Act, 1882.

"After receiving a proposal for setting up of the university, the Higher Education Department had constituted a committee headed by the vice-chancellor of West Bengal State University.

"The panel had recommended to the state government that the private educational trust may be allowed to set up the proposed university which will

espouse the ideals and values of Swami Vivekananda," a Higher Education Department official said. The official said after going through the panel's recommendations, the Higher Education Department decided to allow the private trust to establish the self-financed university in North 24-Parganas district.

A Bill to this regard was then passed at the state Assembly. "The state government will not bear any financial responsibilities (of the proposed university) as it has claimed the status of a self-financed one," the Bill said.

Science, technology, law, management, social sciences, medicine, education, humanities and performing arts would be taught at the university.

**As per the Swami Vivekananda University Bill 2019, a university named after Swami Vivekananda will be established in Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district**



Jagdeep Dhankhar

vice-chancellor of West Bengal State University.



**Kerala HC directs police to probe killing of suspected Maoists**

PNS ■ KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday directed the police to conduct a probe into the circumstances leading to the killing of two suspected Maoists in an alleged encounter in Agali forests of Palakkad district last month. It also gave a direction to ascertain whether the officers who took part in the alleged encounter had committed any offence.

Justice R Narayana Pisharadi, however, made it clear that the court has not even remotely expressed any view with regard to the circumstances under which or the manner in which the death of the two occurred.

He also allowed the state authorities to cremate the two as per prevailing rules and norms. The order was passed while disposing of a plea by the relatives of the duo, challenging a sessions court order permitting cremation as per rules and seeking investigation into their

deaths. Whatever be the penal and other provisions mentioned in the FIRs, the circumstances under which the killings of Karthik alias Kannan and Manivasakam had occurred and the cause of their death shall be investigated, the judge said.

He also ordered the investigating officer to seize the firearms used by police officers during the encounter and take steps for sending them for forensic and ballistic analysis.

Finger prints of the deceased, if not already taken and preserved properly, shall be taken immediately by appropriate method, before cremation of the bodies, the Court said.

It also said a report of compliance shall be sent to the Sessions Court in Palakkad, without any delay.

The high court further said if the petitioners were not satisfied or aggrieved at a later stage regarding the investigation, they were at liberty to approach the lower court for appropriate relief at that stage.

**Ex-UNLF chief taken to Delhi after release from jail: Lawyer**

PNS ■ IMPHAL

A day after he was released from a Guwahati jail having served his term for nearly a decade, RK Meghen, the former chairperson of Manipur-based insurgent outfit UNLF, was taken to Delhi by NIA officials on Sunday evening, his lawyer M Gunedhor Singh said.

Meghen, popularly known as Sanayaima (son of soil), was released from jail on Saturday, six months before the completion of his 10-year term — awarded to him by a special NIA court for "waging a war against the country".

He was expected to reach Imphal on Monday. The 75-year-old, however,

**The BRICS countries will also look to enhance cooperation on digital economy and build mechanisms for counter-terrorism cooperation within the BRICS framework, Modi said**

Fortaleza, also in Brazil in 2014.

The prime minister is scheduled to hold separate bilateral meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese Premier Xi Jinping. He would also attend the BRICS business forum closing ceremony and the 'closed' and plenary sessions of the XI BRICS Summit.

In the closed session, the discussions are expected to be focused on challenges and opportunities for the exercise of national sovereignty in the contemporary world.

**Over 5K litre smuggled liquor seized**

PNS ■ NOIDA

Over 5,000 litres of liquor worth around Rs 25 lakh that was being smuggled from Punjab to Madhya Pradesh has been seized from a truck in Greater Noida, police said on Tuesday.

The person transporting the liquor was arrested after the truck was intercepted along the Peripheral Expressway under the Dadri police station area late on Monday night, officials said.

"The truck was intercepted for checking and 610 cartons of liquor were found hidden under boxes of kinnow fruit. The truck had started from Ropar district in Punjab and was bound for Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh," a police spokesperson said. "A total of 5,275 litres of liquor, estimated to cost around Rs 25 lakh was seized," the spokesperson said.

The driver has been identified as Vishnu Ram, a native of Abohar in Fazilka district of Punjab, the police said, adding his truck has been impounded.

**Uddhav, BJP leaders visit ailing Sena MP Raut**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday met party leader Sanjay Raut, who underwent angioplasty at Lilavati Hospital here, and later said the Rajya Sabha member was recovering fast but refused to comment on the political crisis in Maharashtra.

BJP leaders Harshvardhan Patil and Ashish Shelar also met 57-year-old Raut at the hospital here following which the latter said it was a courtesy visit with "no political angle".

The visit came in the backdrop of the stalemate over government formation continuing in the state even 19 days after the Assembly poll results were declared. Thackeray met Raut along with Patil.

Later, talking to reporters, Thackeray said, "Things are taking shape, I will speak about it at the right time. I cannot comment on politics right now."

Asked about Raut's health, he said, "He is recuperating fast. He has also resumed work as the



Sanjay Raut

executive editor of (Sena mouthpiece) 'Saamana'."

Former Mumbai BJP chief Shelar also met the Sena MP and later said, "Doctors have advised Raut to speak less. I met him out of courtesy. It is Maharashtra's culture, we meet unwell people irrespective of political differences."

"There was no political angle to this meet. A senior BJP office-bearer is also admitted in the same hospital, I also met him," he added.

Earlier, NCP chief Sharad Pawar also met Raut at the hos-

**BJP leaders Harshvardhan Patil and Ashish Shelar also met 57-year-old Raut at the hospital here following which the latter said it was a courtesy visit with 'no political angle'**

pital in the morning. Raut, who led the Sena's charge to seek equal share in power with the BJP after the Assembly poll results in Maharashtra, complained of chest pain on Monday following which he underwent angioplasty, a procedure to restore blood flow through the artery.

The ailing Sena leader in the morning took to Twitter to quote lines of legendary poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan to reaffirm his party's resolve to succeed and not give up.

**CASES OF 'PROCLAIMED OFFENDERS'**

**Will push for special court: Amarinder Singh**

PNS ■ JALANDHAR

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has assured the Punjabi diaspora of trying to set up special courts to expeditiously settle cases of those who were declared proclaimed offenders after fleeing the state during the Khalistan militancy days. Singh said he would take up the issue with the chief justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court as well as the Central government.

He gave the assurance while responding to a request from a group of NRIs, currently visiting Jalandhar in Punjab on the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

The chief minister honoured the NRIs by giving them books on the life and philosophy of the Sikhism founder, besides a commemorative coin and a memento each on Monday, an official statement said on Tuesday.

The NRIs expressed concern that many of the persons who



Amarinder Singh

had immigrated abroad were unable to visit Punjab and pay obeisance at the Golden Temple and other holy places in the state as they were declared proclaimed offenders on account of their inability to appear before courts in certain cases. Chief Minister Singh also assured the visiting NRI of consulting the Centre to examine the feasibility of setting up such special courts in some overseas Indian missions like those in the UK, Canada, Germany, France and the USA, the home to a large Punjabi population.

**DEFAMATION COMPLAINT**

**Delhi court issues bailable warrant against Tharoor**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has issued a bailable warrant against Congress leader Shashi Tharoor for not appearing in a criminal defamation complaint against him over his alleged 'scorpion on Shilving' remarks referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Naveen Kumar Kashyap on Monday issued the warrant against the Congress leader for November 27, noting that neither Tharoor nor his counsel appeared before the court. The magistrate also imposed a fine of Rs 500 on the complainant, Delhi BJP leader Rajiv Babbar, who was also did not appear before the court.



Shashi Tharoor

However, Babbar was represented by a junior counsel.

"Neither complainant nor his main counsel is present. An exemption application is moved on behalf of the complainant. The same is vague in nature. It

is stated in the application that he is in personal difficulty but what is such 'difficulty' is not explained at all in the application," the court said.

"Still, taking a lenient view, instead of dismissing the present complaint for reasons of non-appearance of complainant, he is burdened with a cost of Rs 500 to be deposited with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Central District, Tis Hazari Court," it added.

The court also referred to the non-appearance of Tharoor and his counsel. It said it was taking a "lenient view" and issuing bailable warrants against the accused with a sum of Rs 5,000 and notice to his surety for November 27, 2019.

**People should follow Guru Nanak's teachings, work to eliminate social disparities: Kovind**

PNS ■ SULTANPUR LODHI

Saying that Guru Nanak Dev lives in "our hearts", President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday called upon the people to follow the path shown by the Sikhism founder and work towards eliminating social disparities.

Kovind, along with his wife Savita, arrived in the morning in the holy town of Punjab's Kapurthala district to attend the celebrations on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

He was received by Punjab Governor V P Singh Badnore, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and his wife Preetneet Kaur.



Ram Nath Kovind

He then went to the stage set up by the Punjab government for the celebrations, where he was honoured with a memento and a ceremonial sword.

Greeting the gathering with "Sat Sri Akal", the President said, "Guru Nanak Dev lives in our

hearts. He is our common legacy. He is the guiding light for the entire humanity."

"It is the responsibility of all of us to follow his ideals and work towards eliminating social disparities," Kovind added. Kovind said Guru Nanak

**Kovind, along with his wife Savita, arrived in the morning in the holy town of Punjab's Kapurthala district to attend the celebrations on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev**

spread the light of wisdom with his teachings and preached 'Sarbat Da Bhal' (welfare of all) asking people to rise above considerations of inequalities, caste and creed. "Guru Nanak Dev ji's life and teachings give a message of affection, compassion and brotherhood for the entire humanity," he said.

"I extend my heartiest congratulations to countrymen and the Indians all over the world on the occasion," the President said. The life of Guru Nanak

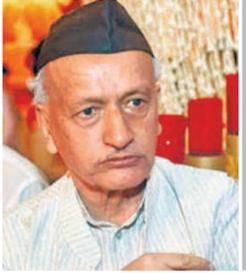
Dev inspires people to build a society based on his teachings of equality, compassion and social amity, he said.

Kovind shed light on how Guru Nanak through his teachings enlightened the Indian society, which during the 15th century was plagued with social ills, including casteism, as darkness of ignorance prevailed.

The President said Guru Nanak made efforts to build a society where everyone was equal.

## This is no endgame

The Maharashtra Governor has ticked off boxes rather than honouring the spirit of a federal, democratic system



As Maharashtra hurtles towards Presidential Rule, it has shown how a valid electoral verdict and ethics can be subverted by political greed of the day. Not only that, it shows how a centrist party, no matter what the verdict in States, can use the offices under its purview to turn any result in its favour. And justify its act as only following a precedent of Congress or its coalition governments at the Centre instead of correcting it. Although the BJP and Shiv Sena had worked out a pre-poll alliance, which was even endorsed by voters, the former's arrogance as the lead partner and the latter's insistence on an equal role tore it apart. The former willingly let its junior partner drift away and challenged its ability to prop up an alternative coalition. The Sena tried its best but with ideological divergences paring down its chances of forming a stable Government with the Opposition Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), it is out in the cold without the numbers. No matter how tempting the opportunity to use the electoral window to jump into governance, the Congress and the NCP are looking beyond local legislators to the larger impropriety of convenience tarnishing their national image. The BJP, which is a keen believer of one-party homogeneity across the nation, is having the last laugh as the only possible choice. So it has lost no time in overturning the ethics of the Governor's office and emulating a democratic federal structure. The Governor, while giving ample time to the BJP to stake a claim, didn't even ask for a floor test and gave in to Chief Minister-elect Devendra Fadnis' inability to procure requisite numbers, which he ought to have done according to the rules and spirit of parliamentary democracy. While Governor BS Koshiyari ticked off the boxes on technicality, he did not give adequate time to the Opposition parties and even an adrift Sena for crystallising their adjustments before committing to furnishing letters of support. One must remember that individually none of them had the moral right to begin such exercises given the decisive nature of the verdict in favour of BJP-Sena. Yet the Sena got 48 hours to furnish proof and the NCP just 24 hours, the last a bigger travesty as reports emerged that the Governor had recommended President's Rule even before the latter's deadline expired. Constitutionally, the Governor should have insisted on floor tests in the House as according to the judgment in the Bommai vs Union of India case in 1994, "the assessment of the strength of the Ministry is not a matter of private opinion or any individual, be he the Governor or the President." The ruling is very clear about "demonstrating" strengths and not relying on subjective assessments. This has only lent credence to theories that President's Rule anyway was an extension counter of the ruling party and the State would still be at BJP's command, with or without Fadnis. While Sena has moved the Supreme Court questioning the Governor's role, the State may appear to be in limbo but in reality, it is in the BJP's kitty.

Going by latest precedents in States, the BJP has assumed power despite not emerging as the single-largest party, be it by cobbling up post-poll alliances, breaking Opposition ranks or devouring any claimants. Goa, Manipur and Meghalaya stand out as examples where the Congress was actually the single-largest party. Then there was the embarrassment of March 2016, when Congress rebels and BJP MLAs challenged the Harish Rawat-led Congress Government in Uttarakhand over the Finance Bill. The rebel MLAs were later disqualified. Governor KK Paul asked the Modi Government to impose President's Rule in the State, but Uttarakhand High Court Judge KM Joseph quashed it and Rawat proved his majority in the House. All these examples of violations prove there is an internecine plot to erode the spirit of alliance politics in general and the regional partners in particular, making them look like puppets in a shadow play, so facile that the voter changes his/her pattern in the next round of elections. As political parties hide their ambitions with the fig leaf of responsibility, Maharashtra is indeed in a crisis. It still records the most farmer suicides — more than 12,000 in the four years from 2015-2019. The largest State economy in the country is in the middle of a halting slowdown, a collapsed real estate sector, agrarian distress and loss of jobs and manufacturing. All talk of Marathi pride is actually a condensation of deeper aspirations to ride out this morass. And that surely cannot happen with an imposition of authority but stakeholdership.

## Fee hike unjust

It's not that JNU students are unreasonable, it's just that due process must be followed



One wonders whether certain moves are made to malign the image of Jawahar Nehru University (JNU) as the premier institute of the country, knowing full well that its students won't stop questioning or give up without a fight. This time the students, led by their unions, are protesting against a slew of decisions taken by its administration, which includes a steep hike in tuition fees, enforcement of a dress code and curfew timings for hostellers. So much so that water cannons had to be used to disperse agitating protesters, some of whom were detained. The students' angst over the almost 300 per cent hike in fees is understandable as it's astronomical and insensitive, instead of being graded and phased out as all transitions to a new protocol should be. For long, JNU has come to be recognised as one of the most liberal institutions, which provides quality education at affordable rates. It has provided succour to the poorest of families, who could not afford a respectable education for their children due to the hefty fees charged by other eminent institutions, which are only getting more expensive by the day.

On the other hand, it is also a fact that JNU's fee policy had been operating under a differential regime — its fee structure was nothing when compared to its counterparts. Could one imagine staying in one of the prime locations of Delhi, paying a room rent of just ₹20 per month for a single-seater or ₹10 per month for a double seater, that, too without any utility or service charge? That's something that was unimaginable back in the decade and even now. Perhaps, this is the reason why students here over-extended their duration of degrees so that they could prolong their stay at the hostels, which is comfortable and cheap, the inexpensive food coming as an additional benefit. Some even take short-term courses while working part-time. Then there are also others, who stay on campus without permission. The accumulation of old students led to a chronic hostel shortage for newcomers. The university, too, was at ease for a lot of its budget came either from the taxpayers' money or from international donations. In this sense, it is welcome that the varsity finally woke up to the dangers of big subsidies. Yet it must be accepted that a steep hike, coming after a span of 19 years, is an injustice when not reasonably executed. No consultations were made with the stakeholders or the management council to arrive at a common ground. Dress codes or hostel timing rules for students, too, are downright silly. The students admitted to this varsity are adults and must be treated as such.

# False data mechanism

GDP as a measure of human well-being and progress is flawed. A new set of metrics that can be implemented across the world is the need of the hour



RK PACHAURI

The entire focus and preoccupation on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a measure of human progress and advancement has obviously been taken much too far. It was in 1930 that Lord Keynes came up with the statement, "For at least another 100 years, we must pretend to everyone that fair is foul and foul is fair; for foul is useful and fair is not. Avarice and usury and precaution must be our gods for a little longer still. For only they can lead us out of the tunnel of economic necessity into daylight."

It must be remembered that this was a period when the global economy was in the doldrums and, perhaps, a measure which recorded the output of goods and services would have been useful as a response to the distress that the US in particular and other parts of the world were suffering from. But perhaps Keynes never anticipated that a system, which became ingrained in the minds of every individual and which defined the systems for measuring human progress, would hardly be easy to replace after a 100 years. We know today that reliance on GDP hides a lot of negative effects and externalities and its flawed effects keep growing.

The extent of waste and the impacts on the environment, which the modern economy generates, are, unfortunately, not factored into GDP at all. Damage to the environment and the stock of natural resources should, even on the basis of common sense, be deducted from any compilation of GDP for a particular society or economic system. Further, it is a well-accepted principle that when environmental damage takes place, the polluter must pay. This, unfortunately, is not the case all across the world.

The problem of climate change is the result of Cumulative Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) since the beginning of industrialisation. The sole responsibility for this lies essentially with the industrialised countries and it is for this reason that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) clearly came up with the condition of "Common but differentiated responsibility." This was accepted and agreed on essentially because the developing countries are no doubt at a stage where their energy consumption would perhaps outstrip that of the developed world. Yet, the stock of carbon dioxide and other GHGs has been the cumulative contribution of the industrialised countries to an overwhelming extent. The developed nations are now conveniently forgetting the historical responsibility that they must accept fully.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) came out with a study earlier this year where it estimated the extent of subsidies that the world is responsible for in the pricing of fossil fuels. "Globally, subsidies remained large at \$4.7 trillion (6.3 per cent of the global GDP) in 2015 and are projected at \$5.2 trillion (6.5 per cent of GDP) in 2017."

The study further states, "About three quarters of the global subsidies are due to domestic factors — energy pricing reform thus remains largely in countries' own national interest — while coal and petroleum together account for 85 per cent of the global subsidies. Efficient fossil fuel pricing in 2015 would have lowered global carbon emissions by 28 per cent and fossil fuel air pollution deaths by 46 per cent and increased Government revenue by 3.8 per cent of GDP."



In other words, the world, instead of reducing the emissions of carbon dioxide — the primary GHG which causes climate change — is generously rewarding the production and use of fossil fuels and, hence, of carbon dioxide. This represents a distortion, which clearly reflects the power of the fossil fuel lobby over decision-making in most countries.

It was in 2008 that the then President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, set up a commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress under the chairmanship of Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Prize winning economist, the report from which was submitted in September 2009. While the Stiglitz Commission analysed the flaws and shortcomings of GDP as a measure, it also came up with some recommendations, which would help modify and refine this metric. It was

**“ IF WE HAVE TO OVERHAUL THE MEASURE OF GDP AND ELIMINATE ITS FLAWS, EFFORTS NEED TO BE LED BY THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL. THE EFFORT SHOULD INVOLVE SETTING UP A GROUP OF EXPERTS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A ROADMAP WITHIN A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS ON HOW TO ENSURE THAT THE WORLD MOVES ITS SYSTEMS TO A NEW SET OF METRICS BY 2030 ”**

brought out that statistical indicators are important for designing and assessing policies aimed at advancing the progress of society as well as for assessing and influencing the functioning of economic markets.

It is well-known that what gets measured, gets managed. Hence, when we get measures that are flawed, then decisions will also be flawed or biased and we may then deviate substantially from what constitutes human welfare.

The first recommendation of the Stiglitz Commission was based on coming up with a measure reflecting material living standards, which would be closely associated with net national income, real household income and consumption. Hence, there is a large range of variables that would provide a sharp deviation between GDP and the well-being of a household or society.

Another recommendation emphasises the fact that citizens' material living standards are better followed through measures of household income and consumption. In fact, data for OECD countries show that real household income has grown quite differently from real GDP per capita and typically at a lower rate. Another recommendation relates to considering income and consumption jointly with wealth. It may be inferred

that if we were to apply this principle, we should also include estimates of natural wealth.

With the recent burning of the Amazon forest in Brazil, any measure of GDP would be over-estimated if we were to ignore the massive destruction of nature's wealth that Brazil owns. Still another recommendation highlights greater prominence be given to the distribution of income, consumption and wealth.

On a practical basis, if we have to overhaul the measure of GDP and eliminate its flaws such an effort needs to be led by the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN). The effort should involve setting up a group of experts which would provide a roadmap within a period of three months on how to ensure that the world moves its systems to a new set of metrics by 2030. This effort should then be taken up by the UN General Assembly to ensure that a new system is designed for implementation across all the countries of the world during its first phase of design and detailing during 2020 to 2022. The following eight years would then be given to full implementation and to ensure that by 2030 we give GDP a burial after a hundred years of dominant existence.

(The writer is former chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2002-15)

## SOUNDBITE

The Congress leadership always puts the party before the nation. Now they are giving Maharashtra on a platter to the BJP. Its moribund attitude will decimate it soon.

AAP leader —Preeti Sharma



The ability to say no is very important which I have realised. I'd never go back and disrespect my certain professional choices because at that point for me, they mattered.

Actor —Yami Gautam



India and China are a good example of the difference between the threat posed by free versus unfree Governments.

Former US Ambassador to the UN —Nikki Haley



Governor Koshiyari has committed a grave travesty of democracy and made a mockery of the Constitutional process in recommending President's Rule in Maharashtra.

Congress leader —Randeep Surjewala



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Judicial reforms

Sir — This refers to the article, "Big ticket reforms need of the hour" (November 8) by VK Bahuguna. The writer must be complimented for stressing on the need for reforms in our justice system to ensure faster and efficient delivery of justice to the citizens. As the writer said, the need is to review the closed method of selection of judges to the high judiciary. But there are also many other issues that matter to the rest of us.

First, besides the enormous delay in the listing of cases, one of the prime concerns pertains to the scanty time given to the common man for hearing his/her appeal/writ petition even if they relate to some gross error committed by the lower court in reading a particular file/document.

Second, it is but natural for the common man to get frustrated when he/she finds that no reason has been cited for the dismissal of the petition, thus negating the basic premise of justice that not only must it be done; it must also be seen to be done.

A serious thought must be given to the shortcomings that

plague the judicial system of the country.

B P Srivastava  
Noida

### Respect the police

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "For the sake of law" (November 7). Clashes between the public and the police must not

be allowed to become a trend. Policemen are servants of the Government when in uniform. On the other hand, lawyers are professionals, who, too, have protection of law while on duty.

But a lawyer is with an attire and not uniform. Any assault on a police officer in uniform is categorised in statutes — even a rough argument with him/her can attract the charge of misde-

meanour. This is built on the thesis that the men in uniform represent the face of a transferred authority by the Government, which is paramount.

Without such construct, the Government will be seen as powerless to discharge its primary remit of maintaining peace and order. While the Government must invariably sustain the authority of the uniform, the

### Migratory birds need a safer world

It was sad to learn that as many as 1,500 migratory birds of over a dozen species were found dead in Sambhar Lake, the country's largest inland saltwater lake near Jaipur. Officials suspect water contamination as one of the reasons for their death but are waiting for the viscera test reports. Such a large number of deaths of migratory birds is rare in recent history.

Earlier, a medical team from Jaipur had collected a few carcasses and water samples for examination. Ashok Rao, a veterinary doctor who was part of the investigation team, ruled out the possibility of bird flu saying no secretion had been found. Other possibilities like toxicity of the water and bacterial or viral infection are being looked into. A few days ago, a hail-storm had hit the area, which could also be a possibility for the cause of death. Birds form a major part of the earth's ecosystem. Migratory birds come mainly from Siberia and Europe when harsh winter season sets in there. These birds migrate to India every year



for food, breeding and nesting. After the passage of winter, when it gets hot here, they again migrate to cooler areas. Authorities must take necessary steps to make the environment clean and unpolluted to welcome these winged guests.

TK Nandanam  
Chennai

police has the greater onus of preserving its dignity. Else, there can be no closure to such aberrations in a democracy.

R Narayanan  
Navi Mumbai

### Balanced verdict

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Return of maryada" (November 11). The unanimous verdict delivered by the Supreme Court not only paved the way for the construction of Ram mandir in Ayodhya but also put an end to a decade-long dispute. It is disheartening that the issue had to drag on for far too much. The truth remains that the wheels of our judicial system runs very slow. The court's directive to the Uttar Pradesh Government to allot five acres of land within Ayodhya for the construction of a new masjid must not be viewed as charity but a recognition of their right to worship. The court's ruling is sound and balanced. People must accept the judgment wholeheartedly.

Nimai Charan Swain  
Bhubaneswar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Choose merit, not patronage

Civil servants, both principled and spineless, exist in the system; the former serve the country and the latter politicians and themselves



DEBASISH BHATTACHARYYA

In the administrative system, the bureaucracy plays a key role as civil servants or babus function to implement the policies of the elected Government in a rational, efficient and non-partisan manner. However, people have often experienced that when it comes to implementation and delivery, the performance is disappointing, leading to almost non-delivery or poor public services. And, one of the many factors attributed to this is the unholy nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and other vested interests. There are compelling reasons to believe that this is true. And, it is little wonder, the cost is stupefying. While many feel that the bureaucracy saps initiative, inhibits risk-taking and crushes creativity; there are others who feel that in a vast and diverse country like ours the bureaucracy is unavoidable. And, there is yet another group of people who feel colonial hangovers in bureaucracy represent an utterly frustrated scenario as it can't meet the social and economic challenges that a welfare State like India faces.

It seems worthwhile, however, to quote Queen Elizabeth-I. After making Lord William Cecil her secretary, Elizabeth advised him, "This judgement I have of you, that you will not be corrupted by any manner of gift and that you will be faithful to the state and that, without respect of my private will, you would give me that counsel which you think best." Even though policies, projects and programmes drawn up by the Government aim at the development of the country and well-being of the people, successive governments failed to appreciate the fact that leadership may change, but the engine of governance does not falter on account of having a new driver in a Government that possesses a relatively-famed bureaucracy. However, in demanding political systems, there is less pretence that the country's bureaucracies are deeply influenced by people's interests. Civil servants, both principled and spineless, exist in the system; the former serve the country and the latter politicians and themselves. Thus a section of bureaucracy appears to act as a cog in a political machine that seeks loyalty to the regime as a means to maintain its hold on power, identify solely with the rulers and the official ideology.

Incidentally, there are not many Ashok Khemka (the IAS officer transferred over 50 times in 27 years of service and still counting) who have the guts to stand up against hidden agenda, poor policies, corruption and exploitation to remain aligned with democratic ideals. Put differently, there are civil servants wishing to sail with confidence, competence, courage and commitment but are being hounded for doing their duty. Let's not lose sight of the Punjab and Haryana High Court's recent observation about Khemka who secured a grading of 9.92/10 by the Reviewing Authority: "We are of the view that a person of such professional integrity needs to be protected as the professional integrity in our political, social and administrative system is depleting very fast..." That being said, I am reminded of a statement by a retired upright IAS officer and writer and columnist whom I met at India International Centre (IIC). As I congratulated him for writing a bold article against a powerful Central Minister, he laughed in that very contagious way he had. I also gave him unsolicited advice that if he continued writing such pieces, he could not aspire to become a Governor or head a Government-appointed committee or organisation. And in response, he said, "I am not among those crafty bureaucrats who enjoy the trust of unscrupulous politicians and ministers. I was sidelined, transferred for not being politically convenient and pliable. But I never gave in to temptation."

However that may be, just a few days ago, speaking at a panel discussion on 'Has the steel frame rusted', former Chief Secretary of Delhi Government, Shailaja Chandra said, "It is easy to say that politicians have failed the IAS officers. But I feel this is not entirely correct. Those in the service need to introspect. If they do not have any extraneous interests, nothing can stop them from serving the people."

So far, the feeble accountability of public and political processes, have defined the character of public administration in India. The challenge ahead lies in finding and meeting the balance between serving citizens while upholding the rule of law without falling prey to either obstructionist and lacklustre bureaucracy or clientelism.

Nevertheless, even as we complain about red tape, paperwork and excessive bureaucratic rigmarole the fact remains that eventually people rely on it to structure our country. The NDA Government in its second term, infused churning in the Indian civil services by pushing for the lateral entry of domain experts and forced retirements of officers, but it continues to face enormous social and political challenges. In order to effectively deal with these trials we need an efficient bureaucracy. And, to find that, the Central Government has to think and act big.

Righting the country's administrative machinery steadfastly is the only way it's going to happen. Indian ethos and the laws of the land mandate an efficient bureaucracy. It is now up to lawmakers, the Ministers — whom the bureaucracy is supposed to report to — to ensure the country gets it. It's time for transition from a patronage-based to merit-based bureaucracy, with which will come accelerated progress.

(The writer is former DGM, IIC, New Delhi and GM, International Centre Goa)

**NARAYANASAMY 'SELF-APPROVED' HIS VISIT TO SINGAPORE BYPASSING THE PROTOCOL OF OBTAINING PERMISSION FROM THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED.**

— PUDUCHERRY LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
**KIRAN BEDI**

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



**I WAS A CENTRAL MINISTER AND AM FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO GET APPROVAL FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BEFORE FLYING ABROAD.**

—PUDUCHERRY CHIEF MINISTER  
**V NARAYANASAMY**

# Learn from great CEOs

Their greatness lies in the fact that not only have they created profitable enterprises; they have also created brands that are etched forever in the imagination of consumers



HIMA BINDU KOTA

One can decidedly differentiate between an Ordinary Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and a great one. Great CEOs are exemplary visionaries, with superlative managerial and leadership skills. They are admired by colleagues and common men alike and are considered idols by millions of young aspiring leaders dreaming of making it big in the corporate world. Their greatness lies in the fact that not only have they created profitable enterprises; they have also created brands that are etched forever in the imagination of consumers. So what are the leadership principles and management philosophies that drive these icons and enable them to take their organisations to stellar heights?

As Brad Feld, an American entrepreneur and venture capitalist, said, "Don't be afraid to have a big vision, but make sure it's a clear one", clarity of vision is one of the main traits of great CEOs.

Taking an example of Steve Jobs, an unconventional leader who demanded excellence from his staff and was controversial for his blunt delivery of criticism. However, his sheer genius; his amazing ability to articulate his vision and dexterity to take his people, investors and customers with him on his journey made him an exceptional leader. Jobs had an exceptional clarity of vision and excelled at designing minimalist devices that broke barriers in computer speeds. He created an ecosystem which could stand alone or work together in an interconnected way-like an iPod connected to a Mac connected to an iTunes store. Apple could manage vast amounts of information through division of labour among the systems. For example, the Mac controlled system administration while iTunes fetched content from cloud storage, freeing the device to concentrate on playing the music. Jobs was motivated more than anything to feel he had made a solid and positive impact on the world during his lifetime. And since he had such high expectations from himself, he was able to achieve excellence.

Jack Welch, perhaps the greatest corporate leader of the 20th century, was the youngest CEO of General Electric (GE) when he took over in 1981. He followed an incremental leadership style and during his two-decade stint, the net worth of GE improved by a whopping 4,000 per cent. He is a management theorist and strategic thinker who championed new initiatives like Six Sigma quality, differentiation and e-business.

Bill Gates, listed as the richest person on this planet for 12 consecutive years, is also a man of colossal vision. He envisioned every person on this planet to have a computer and every computer, a programme, designed by Microsoft. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to achieve his vision. In this process, he has been instrumental in the IT revolution that the world has witnessed. Great CEOs, apart from adding to the bottomline of the company contribute to the society in a big way. It would be hard to talk about the life of Bill Gates and not discuss philanthropy and humanitarianism. Heading to his mother's advice before she passed away due to breast cancer, Gates has always taken a selfless approach to his leadership, spending considerable money and time in philanthropic efforts to give to others. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has donated billions of dollars to causes all over the

**GREAT CEOs, BECAUSE OF THEIR INNATE QUALITY OF PERSEVERANCE AND CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY, ENSURE STABILITY AND GROWTH OF THEIR ORGANISATIONS, MAKING THEM THE BEST IN THE WORLD. THEY LIVE BY THEIR PRINCIPLES AND LEAD BY EXAMPLE, MAKING THEM EXEMPLARY LEADERS OF THE CORPORATE WORLD.**



world, making significant differences in the lives of children and adults. This level of giving back illustrates Gates' character and focus on social responsibility as a global corporate citizen. It also shows that his pursuit of solutions and making life better went beyond just making a profit. Instead, it was about driving significant change in the world that would make a difference for those who need it the most.

Indra Nooyi, who is an iconic leader, consistently ranked among the 100 most powerful women, when she was the CEO of PepsiCo, the world's second largest food and beverage company in the world, and was at the helm of managing an employee strength of 30,000 and selling in around 200 countries around the world. She believed in developing two balance sheets: One was to provide return to shareholders and the other was to provide return to the environment. Under her leadership, PepsiCo focussed on people and planet in addition to profit. Nooyi had worked tirelessly to reduce the use of energy, water and packaging and simultaneously providing a great workplace for its employees and associates.

Great CEOs show that great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance. "It's not where you start out in life that matters, but where you end up".

This adage fits Ursula Burns perfectly. Born in the poor neighbourhood of Manhattan to immigrant parents and raised by a single mother, she rose to become the first female African American CEO of a Fortune 500 company, Xerox and also holds the honour of being the first woman to succeed another woman CEO, Anne Mulcahy. Having joined Xerox in 1980 as a mechanical engineering summer intern, Burns progressed through the

corporate echelons to become the CEO from 2009 to 2016. At present, she is the Chairperson and CEO of VEON, a senior advisor to Teneo, and a non-executive director of Diageo since April 2018. She is also the member of the board of directors of Uber. She worked very hard to rise above her underprivileged background and did not use her background as an excuse. She worked with perseverance to reach the top of the corporate world and worked hard to return Xerox to profitability. NR Narayan Murthy, a role model for every Indian, is an apt example of "Simple living, high thinking". He is a billionaire with net worth of about \$230 crore but still flies economy and drives around in a simple car. Murthy's life is an inspiration to all of us and gives a strong message that world-class businesses can be created based on transparency and good governance. Born in a middle class family in Sidlaghatta, Karnataka, the odds of life were no match to this brilliant and enthusiastic person, who, through his discipline and determination created a "Great Indian IT Success Story".

Infosys, today, is one of most respected IT companies in the world with footprints all across the globe and is the second-largest IT company in India by revenue. But did you know that his first entrepreneurial venture, Softronics, failed to take off? One of the initial challenges faced by Murthy was the inability to take admission in the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) even after earning a high rank and scholarship as the grant was not enough to cover his studies. Since his father was unable to fund his education, he enrolled into a local engineering college but later did his post-graduation from IIT.

Similarly, the failure of his first

entrepreneurial venture, Softronics, did not stop him from establishing Infosys and lead it to stellar heights. Murthy follows Mahatma Gandhi's policy of "practice what you preach." He has always led by example and believes that the primary responsibility of a leader is to give hope and confidence in the face of adversity.

Taking care of people is one of the biggest attributes of great CEOs. Murthy has been generous in rewarding employees with stock options. Personally, he has given away stocks worth of ₹50,000 crore to his employees. He reiterates that performance should be rewarded suitably. In Infosys, drivers, electricians and secretaries are among millionaires due to their stock options. Indra Nooyi was also a caring, humane CEO who took care of her employees by being in touch with them and understanding their concerns. She even wrote "thank you" letters to the parents of the employees to show her appreciation to them.

Similarly, Ken Chenault, the former CEO of American Express, believed in reaching out to each employee. He made it a point to answer to each and every mail he received from any of his employees. He travelled around the world to meet staff at different locations from around the globe. To further connect personally with his people, he used to run an open operation where anyone could talk to him.

Great CEOs, because of their innate quality of perseverance and contribution to society, ensure stability and growth of their organisations making them the best in the world. They live by their principles and lead by example, making them exemplary leaders of the corporate world.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

# A litmus test for medical bureaucracy

The biggest problem with the CGHS is excessive red tape, harassment and too much paperwork, which bogs down the patients, the wellness centres as well as empanelled hospitals, laboratories and drug suppliers



VK BAHUGUNA

The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) is one of the largest health care systems in the country, which caters to serving and retired Central Government employees, their dependents, pensioners and also Members of Parliament. On paper and intention-wise it is one of the best welfare schemes in the country.

Present in 71 locations in the country, it caters to 35 lakh beneficiaries and the number is always increasing. Due to unplanned expansion to new cities each year, the infrastructure, manpower and other resources of the CGHS are

getting strained. In places like Dehradun more than 25,000 beneficiaries (including from distant places like Haridwar and Roorkee) through the wellness centres daily and many have to wait from 5 AM to 2 PM for their turn to be examined by the doctor. However, many have to return home without even getting to meet the doctor, as the main server in Delhi closes at 2 PM and there is no provision for manually handling the paperwork. It was complete chaos till a few months ago, when the Survey of India Dispensary was merged with it and things eased a bit. There has been a long-standing demand to improve the CGHS system by all quarters and from all over the country. The biggest problem with the CGHS is excessive red tape, harassment and too much paperwork, which bogs down the patients, the wellness centres as well as empanelled hospitals, laboratories and drug suppliers.

Taking note of the shortcomings in the CGHS, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had solicited suggestions from all stakeholders for improving the scheme and submitting these proposals latest by November 30.

To make any scheme effective, the Government needs to ensure that it can sustain the patient pressure and be innovative and patient-centric rather than procedure-centric. Today, the biggest management problem in CGHS is lack of proper infrastructure and manpower. The Health Ministry has been opening new wellness centres without proper assessment of the infrastructure and the result is the utter chaos that prevails in these new dispensaries and the endless suffering of patients. The plight of senior citizens is particularly bad as they have to wait long hours just to get treatment despite their failing health and weakened condition. The doctors and nursing staff are also under

tremendous pressure. Now the question is how to overcome this situation as it is also necessary to extend the CGHS scheme to cover new areas in the country.

The other problem relates to rates of various tests and treatment procedures for the empanelled hospitals and delay in payments to the laboratories, that is forcing many diagnostic centres to refuse patients. The third issue relates to the lack of proper and honest monitoring of private empanelled hospitals as sometimes, due to the mischief of a few, the entire scheme is put in limbo.

It is therefore, necessary to take some innovative policy decisions. To cope with the ever-growing number of CGHS centres the Government should enter into a public private partnership (PPP) mode and select private hospitals, who in turn should be allowed to have collaborative partnership with the CGHS on pre-determined

aspects and also appoint private doctors for a few hours on contract to treat the patients. At present this provision of hiring exists but it is cumbersome and the wellness centre gets caught in the web of red-tapism. There should be an upfront decision to fix the number of doctors based on the number of beneficiaries and requirement of doctors and support staff and powers should be delegated up to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) level to allow hiring on contract basis.

The rates of pathological tests and radiological procedures should not be fixed in an arbitrary manner and should be periodically revised. The payments should be made bi-monthly for which an adequate budget should be sanctioned upfront for the whole year.

Many private hospitals indulge in malpractices and there is a need for constant and transparent monitoring. If the Government innovates and ropes in private hospitals,

enhances the powers of CMOs and regional heads and involves private medical professionals, the CGHS medical bureaucracy can be used for better monitoring of these hospitals.

There are two-pronged problems faced by the patients. First, the administrative hassles at the wellness centres due to too much red-tapism and poor infrastructure. Also, many times, empanelled hospitals harass the patients with too much paperwork and deny admission or treatment on flimsy grounds.

Second, is the harassment patients face in running from the empanelled hospitals to the wellness centres, as each time one needs to endorse the expert advice. To rectify this, the Government could allow patients to directly approach the empanelled hospitals for specifically identified diseases, including chronic ones like diabetes and so on. The Government had allowed senior citizens above 75 years of age

to approach empanelled hospitals directly without referral. This provision should also be allowed for senior citizens above 60 years, to make things easier for them and reduce the pressure on doctors. The collection of medicines and distribution should also be streamlined.

Though it is a welfare scheme yet there is no involvement of the beneficiaries. This is specially necessary in cases involving cashless pensioners and the Government might consider setting up a mechanism for this as it will bring in more transparency and expertise of private hospitals and doctors.

The Prime Minister and Health Minister must take this initiative to its logical end as already, the Government is spending on an average, nearly a lakh annually on the health care of each of its employees. Fine tuning of CGHS is essential to make the scheme succeed.

(The writer is retired civil servant.)

CAPSULE



**JLR sales dip 6% in October to 41,866 units**

**NEW DELHI:** Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), a part of Tata Motors, on Tuesday reported 5.5 per cent decline in total retail sales at 41,866 units in October as compared with the year-ago period. Sales of Jaguar brand were at 10,606 units during the month, down 22.9 per cent from October 2018. Tata Motors said in a statement. Land Rover sales were at 31,260 units, up 2.4 per cent from the same month last year, it added. "The automotive trading environment remains challenging globally. Against this background, it is all the more encouraging to see our China turnaround strategy and work with the local retailer network generating positive results as sales have improved in China for the fourth consecutive month," JLR Chief Commercial Officer Felix Brautigam said.



**100X.VC to invest over Rs 200 cr in startups**

**NEW DELHI:** Venture capital firm 100X.VC is planning to invest over Rs 200 crore in startups in India by the end of next year. The company has rolled out corporate venture capital (CVC) program for India to partner local corporations who have corpus to invest in startups. "100X.VC team research survey estimates that the top 100 corporations in India have kept aside anywhere between Rs 10-100 crore of capital to invest in startups. We expect around 30-40 corporates to join us in CVC program and contribute upward of Rs 200 crore for investment in startups," 100X.VC founder Sanjay Mehta said. 100X.VC is India's first venture capital firm to invest in early stage startups using India SAFE Notes (iSAFE).



**CIL's coal allocation under spot e-auction**

**NEW DELHI:** CIL's coal allocation under spot e-auction scheme declined 36.4 per cent to 11.25 million tonne in April-September period of the ongoing fiscal. Coal India (CIL) had allocated 17.69 million tonne (MT) of coal in the year-ago period, according to government data. The coal allocated by the PSU under the scheme in September also dropped to 1.97 MT, compared to 2.58 MT in the corresponding month of 2018-19, it said. Coal distribution through e-auction was introduced with a view to providing access to coal for such buyers who are not able to source the dry fuel through the available institutional mechanism, as per the information available on CIL website.

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

**'India's Jul-Sep quarter GDP numbers crucial'**

GURDIP SINGH ■ SINGAPORE

India's July-September quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data, scheduled for a release on November 29, will be important as headline growth has already slipped to a six-year low, said Singapore's DBS Bank in its daily report on Tuesday.

"Headline growth has already slipped to a six-year low of 5 per cent Y-o-Y in the quarter ending June," said the bank. A disappointing GDP report could lift USD/INR above its two-month range between 70.5 and 71.5 and bring it closer to the year's high around 72.5, believes DBS.

The Indian rupee depreciated to 71.47 from 71.29 on Monday, noted the bank.

**India's industrial production contracted sharply by 4.3% Y-o-Y in September against the 2.5% consensus. August's contraction was revised down to 1.4% from 1.1 per cent**



India's industrial production contracted sharply by 4.3 per cent Y-o-Y in September against the 2.5 per cent consensus. August's contraction was revised down to 1.4 per cent from 1.1 per cent. The weakness was broad-

based, cutting across capital goods, consumer durables, and infrastructure and construction. In particular, the sharp 20.7 per cent decline in capital goods production did not bode well for investment, a sign that the economic slowdown has become entrenched, according to the bank.

In its Monday report, DBS said it expected the 2QFY20 GDP to show that the economy slowed further against 5 per cent in the first quarter.

**India to cross 200 GW renewable energy capacity mark by 2022**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh exuded confidence that India will have over 200 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022. India has set an ambitious target of having 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022.

"We have decided that by 2022 we will establish 175 GW of renewable energy capacity. We are close to achieving the target," Singh said at BRICS Energy Ministers meet in Brasilia, Brazil on Monday.

"The renewable energy capacity which has been installed is 83 GW and under installation is 31 GW and 35 GW capacity is underbidding. So this becomes around 140-145 GW. In hydro, we have installed capacity of around 45 GW and under installation capacity is about 13 GW, which makes it (hydro) around 60 GW. So we will cross 200 GW capacity of renewable energy by 2022," the minister said.

Singh said that more than 55 per cent of installed power generation in India will be from renewable sources by 2030. "India has decided that by 2030, about 40 per cent of its installed capacity will come from renewables. But we will be crossing that," he added.

"Our Prime Minister at the United Nations General Assembly Climate Summit announced that we will install 450 GW or 450 thousand MW of renewable energy capacity by 2030...So we have followed a



RK Singh, Union Minister

**“We have decided that by 2022 we will establish 175 GW of renewable energy capacity. We are close to achieving the target”**

— RK SINGH  
Union Minister

quick approach towards reducing carbon footprints," he added. Talking about Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme, Singh said India saved 8.63 million tonnes of oil equivalent in the first round of the scheme. In the second round, the country achieved a further reduction in energy consumption of about 3 million tonnes of oil per year.

Under the PAT scheme, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency had set a target of power savings by designated consumers.

The first round of the scheme was from 2012-13 to 2014-15, while the second round was from 2016-17 to 2018-19.

The designated consumers get energy savings certificate under the scheme, which can be traded at energy exchanges.

**Israel: Expo 2020 bridge to Arab world**

PNS ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's newly appointed commissioner to Expo 2020 said Monday that next year's world fair in Dubai offers the country a unique opportunity to present a fresh face to the Arab world, just as the Israel is growing closer to the United Arab Emirates and other Arab Gulf states.

Elazar Cohen presented plans for the Israeli pavilion at the world's largest exhibition, in which it aims to project its technological, scientific and agricultural innovations to the 25 million visitors expected to descend upon the glitzy city-state. But Cohen said the true target audience was the Emirati hosts and the majority Arab visitors, whom he said would find great interest not only in Israeli technology but in its good intentions and outstretched hand.

"There is curiosity, mixed with concern, about this thing called Israel and we want to alleviate that concern," he said in a briefing at Israel's Foreign

**Boeing says 737 MAX expected to resume flying in January**

PNS ■ NEW YORK

Boeing on Monday said it expects the 737 MAX airplane, which was grounded after two crashes killed 346 people, to resume flying in January, delaying its return by one month.

In a statement, the group said it still hopes to receive certification next month from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), allowing it to resume MAX deliveries to airline customers before the end of the year. "In parallel, we are working towards final validation of the updated training requirements, which must occur before the MAX returns to commercial service, and which we now expect to begin in January," Boeing said. It had originally planned for the model to resume flying in December.

The planes have been grounded globally since mid-March, following the deadly Lion Air crash of October 2018



and the Ethiopian Airlines crash in March this year. The grounding has dragged on far beyond initial expectations as Boeing has upgraded systems and faced questions from regulators and politicians over the plane.

Southwest Airlines and American Airlines on Friday pushed back their timeframe again for resuming flights on the 737 MAX until early March. Boeing said Monday it has completed the first of five key milestones it must meet before returning to service: a multi-day

simulator evaluation with the FAA to "ensure the overall software system performs its intended function." The group said it still needs to run a separate, multi-day simulator session with airline pilots to "assess human factors and crew workload under various test conditions," before FAA pilots conduct a certification flight of the final updated software.

Boeing has notably changed the aircraft's Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS), an anti-stall

**Southwest Airlines and American Airlines on Friday pushed back their timeframe again for resuming flights on the 737 MAX until early March**

mechanism that pilots in both fatal crashes had struggled to control as the jets careered downwards. Boeing will then submit to the FAA all the necessary materials to support software certification.

The final key step before the resumption of commercial flights is an evaluation by a multi-regulatory body to validate training requirements.

**Israel: Expo 2020 bridge to Arab world**



**Elazar Cohen presented plans for the Israeli pavilion at the world's largest exhibition, in which it aims to project its technological, scientific and agricultural innovations to the 25 mn visitors expected to descend upon the glitzy city-state**

Ministry. "We want to project that Israel is an open country, that Israel is a democratic country, that Israel is a country that respects all its citizens, that everyone finds their place in it."

His presentation, accompanied by a slick promotional video in English, Hebrew and Arabic, delivered by a prominent Arab-Israeli TV personality, comes a day after the Israeli government offi-

cially confirmed its participation in Expo 2020 and allotted a budget to its planned pavilion.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the participation reflects the country's "continued progress in normalization with the Arab states." Netanyahu frequently boasts of warming, behind-the-scenes ties with Gulf Arab countries, based on shared enmity for regional foe Iran. But rarely do these ties come into the open, due to the years-long stalemate in Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts and Israel's military occupation of the West Bank.

Egypt and Jordan are the only Arab countries with formal peace treaties with Israel.

Like most of the Arab world, the UAE does not have formal diplomatic relations with Israel. However, it has been at the forefront of efforts to drop the Arab world's historic animosity toward Israel as part of furnishing a more progressive image with the West.

**ArcelorMittal to shut Saldanha plant in SA, 1K workers hit**

PNS ■ JOHANNESBURG

The world's largest steel maker ArcelorMittal's South Africa unit has said it will retrench nearly 1,000 workers and shut down its Saldanha plant due to severe financial losses, amid a global downturn in the steel industry. Global steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal's ArcelorMittal is the world's leading steel and mining company, with a presence in 60 countries and an industrial footprint in 18 countries.

As part of a strategic review of

its operations, the steel manufacturer found that its Saldanha operations had lost their competitive cost advantage to compete in the export market, "mainly due to raw material and regulated prices", the company said in a statement.

"This difficult decision was taken in the context of constructive ongoing engagements with key stakeholders, including government and organised labour, to find alternative solutions to the dire situation in the South African steel industry," the company said.

The South African government

has expressed "disappointment" at the decision of ArcelorMittal South Africa (AMSA) to retrench nearly 1,000 workers across the company and to shut down its operations in Saldanha town.

"This comes despite significant efforts by Government and public agencies to provide additional support to AMSA over the last few months, and to ensure a solution which would result in the elimination of job losses across the company and the continuation of the Saldanha Works," said Department of Trade and Industry.



**Iran accuses Europeans of hypocrisy over nuclear deal**

PNS ■ TEHRAN

Iran accused European nations of hypocrisy on Tuesday for criticising its latest step back from a nuclear deal while failing to fulfil their commitments of relief from US sanctions. But President Hassan Rouhani made no mention of a new report from the UN nuclear watchdog that reveals that its inspectors detected uranium particles of man-made origin at a undeclared site in Iran.

Britain, France, Germany and the EU have been trying to salvage the 2015 Iran nuclear deal

**Britain, France, Germany and the EU have been trying to salvage the 2015 Iran nuclear deal since the US unilaterally withdrew from it in May last year and began reimposing sanctions**

since the US unilaterally withdrew from it in May last year and began reimposing sanctions.

A year after the US pullout from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran began reducing its commitments to the deal hoping to win

concessions from those still party to the accord.

Iran's latest measure came last week, when engineers began feeding uranium hexafluoride gas

into mothballed enrichment centrifuges at the underground Fordow plant south of Tehran.

In a joint statement on Monday, Britain, France, Germany and the European Union said Iran's decision to restart activities at Fordow was "inconsistent" with a 2015 nuclear deal.

"The E3/EU have fully upheld their JCPOA commitments, including sanctions-lifting as foreseen under the JCPOA," they said. "It is now critical that Iran upholds its

JCPOA commitments and works with all JCPOA participants to de-escalate tensions."

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif hit back on Tuesday, "Fully upheld commitments under JCPOA? YOU? Really?" he tweeted.

Zarif said Iran had already "triggered and exhausted" a dispute resolution mechanism in the troubled accord. German Foreign Minister Heiko Mass had on Monday threatened the use of "all the mechanisms laid down in the agreement" to make Iran comply with its obligations under the JCPOA.

**Tata Motors' India operations face acute challenges: Moody's**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Sons infusing USD 914 million (around Rs 6,542 crore) equity in Tata Motors is credit positive for the company but the country's largest automobile manufacturer faces acute challenges in sluggish economic growth, weak liquidity, and tight financing norms, Moody's Investors Service said on Tuesday. Moody's assigned a Ba3 rating to the proposed senior unsecured notes to be issued by Tata Motors. The rating outlook is negative, Moody's said in a statement.

"The Ba3 ratings reflect Tata Motors Ltd's (TML) leading market position in commercial vehicles (CVs) in India, 100 per cent ownership of the premium/luxury car manufacturer Jaguar Land Rover Automotive Plc, and

ownership by Tata Sons, which results in a one-notch uplift, reflecting our expectation of continued parental support, when needed," says Kaustubh Chaubal, a Moody's Vice President and Senior Credit Officer. On October 25, TML announced that it will make a preferential allotment of equity shares and convertible warrants to Tata Sons for a USD 914 million equity injection, of which USD 548 million will be paid immediately, and the balance over a period of 18 months.

Pro-forma the preferential allotment and the conversion of the warrants, Tata Sons' shareholding in TML will increase to 46.4 per cent from the current 38.4 per cent. "We view the preferential allotment as a credit positive because TML plans to apply the proceeds towards reducing its debt," adds Chaubal, who is also Moody's Lead Analyst for TML.



**Alibaba's Singles' Day sales hit new record of \$38 bn**

DHRITI RANJANA RAY ■ HANGZHOU (CHINA)

E-commerce giant Alibaba's Singles' Day sales hit another record of USD 38.38 billion, even amid concerns of slowing economic growth and trade tensions with the United States.

The Alibaba Group's various shopping platforms' total GMV exceeded USD 10 billion in just 29:45 seconds, and broke last year's record sales figure after 16 hours 31 minutes of the Global Shopping Festival going live.

At the close of the 24-hr shopping extravaganza, the total GMV stood at RMB 268.4 billion (USD 38.379 billion).

According to Alibaba, the year-on-year GMV growth registered a 25.7 per cent rise,



**According to Alibaba, the year-on-year GMV growth registered a 25.7% rise, while the number of delivery orders stood at a massive 1.292 bn**

while the number of delivery orders stood at a massive 1.292 billion. The sales figure of this year's 11.11 Global Shopping Festival was keenly watched amid rising trade war concerns

between China and the US.

"We have maintained rapid growth in terms of number of customers, new sales. Robust domestic demand is driving the economy," said Fan Jiang

President of Taobao and Tmall. Alibaba's Tmall platform is China's biggest B2C marketplace for both Chinese and international brands and retailers, while Taobao is a leading Chinese online shopping website owned

by Alibaba. As many as 15 brands surpassed RMB1 billion in GMV including Apple,

Haier, Huawei, Nike, Xiaomi, adidas, L'oreal and Estee Lauder among others, Alibaba said.

During the 11.11 shopping festival some of the major countries/regions that bought from China in terms of GMV include Russia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, United States, Australia, Malaysia and Japan, Alibaba said. The 11.11 shopping festival began in 2009 with participation from just 27 merchants has evolved into a global shopping festival, Chris Tung CMO of Alibaba Group said.

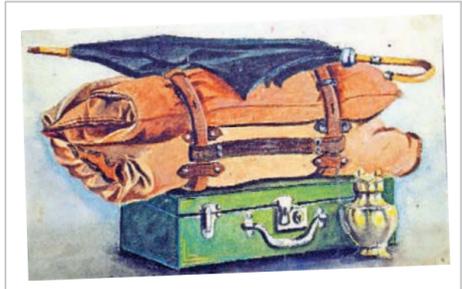
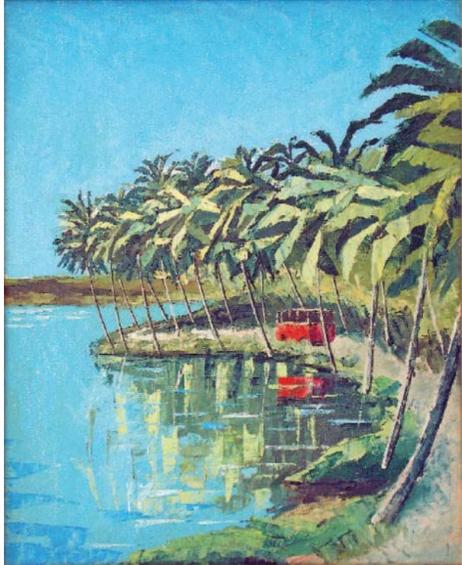
Last year it raked in a record USD 30.8 billion in GMV, eclipsing the Cyber Monday sales of USD 7.9 billion and Black Friday

sales at USD 6.22 billion.

More than 200,000 brands participated in this year's event.

The shopping festival, also known as Double 11 came to a close at mid-night on November 11. The event is also referred as Singles' Day because of its date, 11/11 (November 11) consists of four 'ones', representing four singles, has emerged as the world's biggest shopping festival.

The 11.11 Global Shopping Festival Gala Celebration saw performance by Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter Taylor Swift and a host of other international and local celebrities. More than 200,000 brands from 78 countries and regions participated in 11.11 this year, with one million new products on offer.



This expo is about how the two Telugu states witnessed changes over the last 60 years. It showcases the beauty of Amalapuram, Vizianagaram and other Konaseema areas during 1960's and the traditions of Warangal and other cities of Telangana during 1970's.

E. ROHINI KUMAR, SENIOR ARTIST

## TO FROM KONASEEMA GOLCONDA

Artist E. Rohini Kumar's work aims to bring forth good memories for people in the Telugu states, reports V SATEESH REDDY

**W**ant to see the beauty of the Telugu states from Konaseema to Golconda? Then you can head towards Gallery 78 in Hyderabad where senior artist E. Rohini Kumar is showcasing his 60 years of art journey.

Speaking to *The Pioneer*, Rohini Kumar says, "This



exhibition explains my journey from Konaseema to Golconda. I am also showcasing some of the work done by my four gurus — Peri Subba Rao, Madhava Rao, A. Paidiraju and K. Seshagiri Rao — who helped me become the artist I am today."

"My guru, Peri Subba Rao's quick, deft drawings were fascinating and inspired many generations of students. He was an expert in sketching and painting still-life subjects. A. Paidiraju was acclaimed as a legendary artist in his lifetime. He had a mastery over all mediums, be it watercolours, oils or crayons. My another guru, K. Seshagiri Rao studied folk painting of Andhra Pradesh and published numerous articles and spoke at radio shows about the traditional art forms. B. Madhava Rao sir always inspires me with his work, which is both unique and thought provoking," shares Rohini Kumar who had studied Fine Arts from JNTU, Hyderabad.

Even though he followed the work of his gurus, Rohini Kumar wanted to do it in his own way and portrayed his work through various mediums like oil colours, watercolours, pen and ink, knife techniques and more.

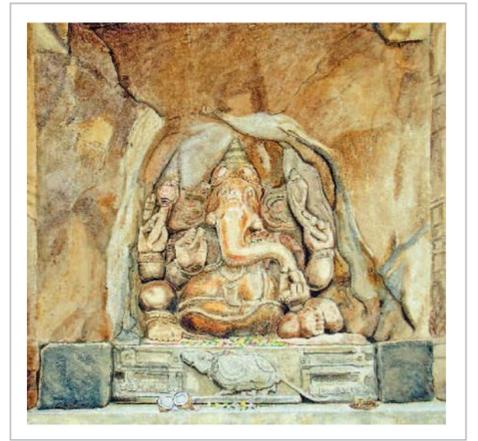
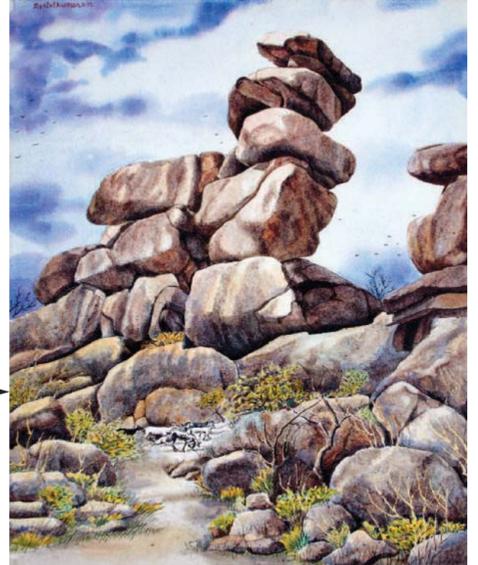
About the exhibition, he says, "This expo is about how the two Telugu states witnessed changes over the last 60 years. I also published a book about the same to reach out to more people. The exhibition showcases the beauty of Amalapuram, Vijayanagaram and other Konaseema areas during 1960's. One can observe different livelihoods and traditions in it. It also displays the traditions of Warangal and other cities of Telangana during 1970's. I hope the exhibition helps people recollect some of the good memories they had."

Rohini Kumar also did four art shows about the Deccan rocks in many cities in India after seeing how some of these relics were being destroyed in the name

of development.

He did his solo art shows at various art galleries in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and more. For his work on Konaseema, Rohini received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018 by Konaseema Chitrakala Parishad.

The exhibition is on till December 8 from 11 am and 8 pm.



**“**Candle Drops Challenge will discuss about the physical and psychological pain that burn survivors go through. Through this challenge, I ask people to pour drops of hot wax on their limbs to get a glimpse of what burn survivors go through. I hope this will help people to learn about our pain

NIHARI MANDALI

## Striving for rehabilitation of burn survivors

Burn survivor Nihari Mandali is helping burn victims across Telugu states get their lives back on track, reports V SATEESH REDDY



Drops Challenge to open a discussion about the physical and psychological pain that burn survivors go through. Through this challenge, I ask people to pour drops of hot wax on their limbs to get a glimpse of what burn survivors go through. I hope this will help people to learn about our pain," said Nihari, adding that the challenge has received a mixed response with some extended their support and others terming it is dangerous.

Through her NGO, apart from organising camps to provide free surgeries to burn survivors, she also provides

psychological counselling. She says, "We offer free of cost surgical care for burn victims. We have helped more than 100 survivors till now. Apart from medical camps, we have also conducted fashion shows, group discussions, bike rallies, counselling sessions across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala."

"Our vision is to work together to support the burn survivors by helping overcome their fears. Our mission is to provide a special identity and a meaningful life to every single burn survivor," she said.

## A MUSICAL NIGHT OF NOSTALGIA

**S**ustaining nostalgia and celebrating the glory of a bygone era demand a certain kind of passion and commitment. A 35-odd team of vintage Hindi film music lovers managed to do the same for over past three years through Dakshin Dhvani. The motto of the group — that was started by a family of die-hard music lovers — is to celebrate the passion for old world tunes of Indian cinema with others.

Now to be registered as a society, Dakshin Dhvani celebrated its third anniversary in October and has recently attained the distinction of hosting 50 programmes on November 9. Their recent event, called "Tongue Twister", showcased 20 songs, both old and new, rendered by 16 singers, between the age groups of 25 to 75. The songs covered various languages including Punjabi, Marathi, Bengali and Tamil, apart from Telugu and Hindi.

"For us grammar of a film song is more important than the glamour. It means we focus on its creation through the eyes of the lyricist, the music director, the playback singer, and the film's director. We honour their efforts by celebrating their songs," said T. Balakrishnan, one of the co-founders of the group.

The group proposes to organise different kinds of meet-ups and discussions over the next few months. It also performed at various loca-



tions — from an SEZ at Madhapur, for Women's Day, to Cherlapally Jail, on Prisoner's Welfare Day on Gandhi Jayanti last year.



# what's brewing?

## PARTY



● Sushma



● Simran



● Manjima



● Hani Chowdry

## TREND SETTING

**S**UTRAA fashion and lifestyle Expo returned with its exclusive designer exhibition — Luxury Edit — recently. Umesh and Monica Madhyan, curators of the event, hosted over 120 designers at the exhibition. The guests were delighted at being served the best selection of well curated fashion and lifestyle products at the exhibition which was held at Hotel Taj Krishna.



● Rahasya Gorak



● Monika and Umesh



● Priya



● Niharika

Photos by SV Chary

## CITY GUIDE

### ART AND SPORTS

#### BRAVE 30 - AN MMA EVENT

● India's biggest MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) event is back in Hyderabad. Mercury presents to you the *Brave 30*, at GMC Balayogi Sports Complex. Popular MMA athletes from across the globe shall fight it out on the arena on November 23.



#### WORKSHOP ON PUPPET THEATRE

● Leather puppetry workshop is the shadow theatre tradition of AP, Telangana and parts of Karnataka. Stories from epics such as Ramayana and Mahabharata shall be enacted. The workshop by B. Raju of Nimmalakunta leather puppetry, will be held on November 20 at Alliance Francaise.



### THEATRE

#### JOD TOD

● *Jod Tod*, a Hindi comedy play presented by Kalayan Theatre group from Bengaluru, is a fulfilled crackling comedy play about quintessential relationships and its complications. This light hearted fulfilled play will be held at Lamakaan on November 30 at 7.30 pm.



#### INDRAJAL

● The play *INDRAJAL* is one of the masterpieces of Hindi writer Jai Shankar Prasad. It is a love story between Bela and Goli, members of a travelling community who dream of devoting their entire life to each other and how different reflections of our society play a role. It will be held at Phoenix Arena on November 16 at 7.30 pm.



#### MY FATHER - HIS EXALTED HIGHNESS

● A play based on the life of the last Nizam of Hyderabad, once the richest man on the planet. It delves into his relationship with his daughter Shehzadi Pasha with the turmoil of accession looming in the background. It was written by Noor Baig and directed by Mohammad Ali Baig. It will be held on November 15 at Ravindra Bharathi.



### MELANGE

#### STEPPIN OUT NIGHT MARKET

● The Steppin Out Night Market, Christmas Edition in association with CRED Experiences, will be held at Hotel Taj Krishna. It's a one-stop gateway to the world of fashion with clothing, jewellery, home decor, and lots more which will be held on December 14.



#### ARIJIT - LIVE PERFORMANCE



● 'My music, my country' is bringing in Arijit Singh for a live performance. It was initiated by Hyderabad Talkies as a platform for gifted Indian artistes and to re-introduce the ethnicity of Indian music. The event will take place on November 23 at Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium.

### MUSICAL JOURNEY



● Sur-O-Dhwani Foundation is conducting a musical evening *Nirnaad* on November 16 at Nitya Forum for Performing Arts, Road No 2, Jubilee Hills from 6.30 pm. Barnali Bhattacharya will present traditional *Khayaal*, accompanied by Dr Abhijit Bhattacharya on tabla and Rahul Deshpande on harmonium.

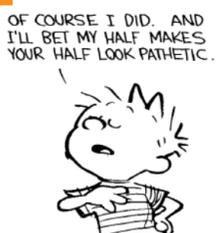
**GET YOUR EVENT LISTED:** To get your events listed, please send your details along with a poster and contact number to [pioneer.features@gmail.com](mailto:pioneer.features@gmail.com)

## FUN TIME

### ARCHIE



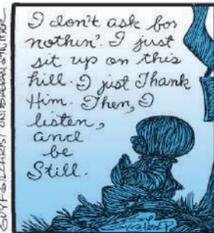
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



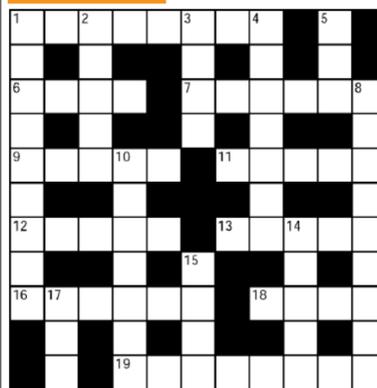
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

- Without any bends
- Travel by horse
- Bigger
- A plant's underground parts
- Flying creatures
- Sweeten food with this
- Sit on this
- Be unalike
- Too
- Writer of music

#### DOWN

- Started
- Listened to music on this
- A precious metal

4 From Turkey  
5 Tell a fib  
6 A large store of water for supplying a town  
7 Bigger  
8 The movement of cars and people in the street  
9 A book of maps of countries  
10 Wheel a baby about in this  
11 Liquid in a pen

**SOLUTION**

B	P	V	E	T						
O	U	T	O	F	O	R	D			
S	L	N	T	G	I					
C	A	B	B	O	P	E	R			
R	E	A	A	N						
A	P	O	L	O	G	I	S	I	N	G
M	L	E	T	L						
B	A	L	S	A	V	E	R	S	E	
L	E	N	T	A	S					
E	I	G	H	T	E	E	N	T	H	
D	S	S	W	S						

### SUDOKU

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

#### Yesterday's solution

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

#### Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

# ALLARI NARESH SWITCHES TRACKS

Actors well versed in comedy can also excel in other kinds of roles. Though his name itself reminds people of his comic ability, Allari Naresh now plans to get serious, finds NAGARAJ GOUD



**VIJAY SAYS THAT NARESH'S MOVIE WILL BE A SOCIAL DRAMA LOADED WITH STRONG EMOTIONS**

Allari Naresh, who has turned extremely choosy after his supporting act in *Maharshi* that received glowing reviews, has finally green-lit a film. This yet-to-be titled film will mark the directorial debut of Vijay Kanakamedala, who had assisted Harish Shankar for films like *Mirapakay*, *Gabbar Singh* and *DJ* among others. Satish Vegesna, who had co-produced *Okka Kshanam* and *Mosagallaku Mosagadu*, is producing the film under his banner SV2 Entertainment.

Speaking to *The Pioneer* exclusively, Vijay, who hails from Sarapaka, a village near Bhadrachalam, called the film a concept-driven social drama. Recalling how he convinced Naresh to spearhead it, he said, "I pitched him the film's storyline a couple of months ago. He instantaneously got hooked to it, as he has been on the lookout for such a story. He straightaway said we would be doing it and was keen on knowing the full story. I gave him a detailed narration 10 days ago and he asked me to proceed with the pre-production. The entire film's shoot will be in Hyderabad and we are planning to hit cinema halls next summer." Shedding some more light about film, he said, "Naresh will playing a

common man who has to overcome an issue in his life. This role demanded performance that only a few like Naresh can deliver. It will not have any resemblance to any of his films in the past. In fact, there will not be a tinge of comedy at all. It will be a serious film loaded with strong emotions." While Naresh has made a career out of comedy entertainers, Vijay believes the audience mindset has changed, which is why he is making a film, devoid of humour and punchlines. "If you show good content, the audience will accept it. The success of recent films like *Agent Sai Srinivasa Athreya* and *Brochevarevaruraa* proved that. The fact that Naresh is a popular star should auger well for our film's content," he signed off.



# GUHAN TO DIRECT KALYANRAM AGAIN

Producer Mahesh S. Koneru announced last month that he would be teaming up with his *118* actor Kalyanram again next year. Although he refrained from announcing the director's name, informing that they will be dealing with a different kind

of subject, we've learnt that Koneru will be repeating *118* director, K.V. Guhan, for the project. *118* helped Kalyanram get back to winning ways after three below par ventures in a row. Guhan was also praised for the way he portrayed the actor in the film. The new film, however, will be a mass entertainer with

a novel story idea, we hear. It will move to sets after Kalyanram wraps up his fantasy drama with Venu Mallidi, which will mostly roll next month or in January. The likes of Sarvesh Murari (cinematography) and Shekar Chandra (music) have been roped in for the film.

# I wanted to play Moosa in *The Family Man*: SUNDEEP

Sundeep Kishan has his hands full with future projects, all with interesting and promising premises. Keen on finding scripts that appeal to him, Sundeep is chalking out his career with ease

Sundeep Kishan is in a happy space. Six years have gone by without a hit but 2019 has been good to him, with two of his acting assignments, *Ninu Veedani Neeedanu Nene* and *The Family Man*, proving to be successful. His role in the latter, a web series for the streaming giant, Amazon Prime, helped him to connect with the Hindi audience after *Shor in the City*. "I'm glad that *The Family Man* is a great success. Director's duo Raj-DK always knew they were making a great product but the magnitude of its success was what they wanted to see. I also earned a good reputation with my role as an Army Major in the series. I'm happier that Raj-DK followed up *Stree* with another success," Sundeep said. In fact, the actor wasn't even on Raj-DK's mind when they wrote the series. "I put myself in Season 1 because of the bond I share with them. I've asked them to cast me as the antagonist Moosa but they didn't want to show me as a villain and kill me in the end. Which is why, they've created the role of a Major in the series. I will not be there in Season 2, which is already on sets but will comeback for Season 3, whose screenplay is in place already," the actor confirmed. Right now, the actor is awaiting release of *Tenali Ramakrishna BA BL*, directed by G. Nageswara Reddy. The actor-director have been thinking of coming together for a film for many years and when they finally decided to team up, Reddy was keen on an action-comedy as he felt Sundeep hadn't done one in a long time. They did search for other

South films to remake but couldn't find an interesting film. "It was when I remembered writer Rajasimha's story about a rookie lawyer, I immediately arranged a meeting between him and Reddy. I was given a narration, which I liked. It was the director's idea to set it in Kurnool and give the film a fresh look," Sundeep says, adding that he had a blast shooting for the film. "I play a lawyer who believes in a compromise between the warring parties in a civil court to make money. What if, such kind of a person, gets a case that needs him to argue and win at any cost? That is the film's gist. It's a funny film with quirky humour and sensible moments as well." Post the release of *Tenali Ramakrishna BA BL*, the actor will begin prepping for *A1 Express*. Confirming that it is a remake of Tamil hit *Natpe Thunai*, he says, "We took the story idea from the Tamil film but we gave it a new spin by investing close to six months in the story. We've made around 50 per cent changes to the script. I will prep in hockey for 15 days soon at Begumpet, Hyderabad. A bunch of coaches have been consulted for the purpose." He admits he isn't in a rush at this stage of career, keen on taking one project at a time. "I will do a film only if the script appeals to me, else I will sit at home. I haven't signed anything after *A1 Express*. I would also be taking a break from Tamil cinema as three of my films, which I've completed, are yet to be released. I've been asked for some web series and a film in Hindi after *The Family Man* but I didn't commit. However, I'm keen on producing a film with Priyadarshi and Rahul Ramakrishna in Telugu. I was recently narrated an interesting script for both of them," he signs off. - NG



# Nabha out, Malavika in?

outed to be a new-age mass entertainer, Bellamkonda Sreenivas' next with *Kandireega* director Santosh Srinivas seems to be facing problems on the casting front. Apparently, *iSmart Shankar* girl Nabha Natesh was narrated the story and although she liked it, she wanted her role to get a slight extension. To this, Santosh wasn't willing to budge, according to the grapevine. The deadlock prevailed and the director was left with no option but to search on for other actresses. As is the case with previous

Bellamkonda Sreenivas' films, the makers of this untitled film are adamant that a happening actress be cast opposite him. They have now initiated talks with Malavika Mohanan. Daughter of cinematographer Mohanan, who shot Mahesh Babu-starrer *Maharshi*, she was supposed to make her Telugu debut with Vijay Deverakonda-starrer *Hero* but as the film's next schedule was deferred to summer of next year, her dates are available. Even though she is committed to star alongside Tamil superstar Vijay's next with *Khaidi* director Lokesh Kanagaraj, she still has plenty of dates.



# Sana's son ties the knot



Popular supporting actress Sana's son Sayyad Anwar, who acted in a handful of Tamil TV serials besides producing them, married noted TV face Sameera Sherief in Hyderabad on Monday in a low-key ceremony. The couple goes by an Instagram handle Anvira which has a sizeable number of followers.



# Mix and Match

Kohli & Co take pink ball throw downs in between red ball nets



Indian players during a practice session ahead of their first Test match against Bangladesh in Indore on Tuesday

PTI ■ INDORE

Skipper Virat Kohli had his first experience of negotiating a pink ball as Indian cricketers took turns to get used to the new colour during the net session ahead of the first Test against Bangladesh, starting from Thursday (tomorrow).

The Indian team did not train under the lights and the throwdowns with the SG pink ball was part of the traditional red-ball practice session.

Usually, three adjacent nets are placed — for pacers, spinner and throwdowns — for Indian team's practice. However, on team's request, the throwdown-net was created on the other side of the ground on separate practice turfs with a black sight-screen. It was skipper Kohli, who first faced the pink ball.

With throwdown specialists Raghavendra and Sri Lankan Nuwan Senaviratne hurling the pink stuff at express pace, the skipper looked comfortable. He looked more intent on playing defensive shots.

Once Kohli was done and went into the main nets, the other top-order batsmen including Cheteshwar Pujara mixed and matched, facing red and pink ball simultaneously.

Young reserve opener Shubman

## PINK BALL LESSONS

Need to play late against pink ball: Rahane

PTI ■ INDORE

The pink ball is going to be a very "different ball game", India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane asserted on Tuesday, saying its extra lateral movement compared to the red cherry will force batsmen to play late and closer to their bodies.

Rahane had a couple of practice sessions with the pink ball under the watchful eyes of NCA Director Rahul Dravid in Bengaluru building up to the historic Day/Night Test starting November 22.

"We had two good practice sessions, actually four but two with pink ball — one during the day and one under lights. It was actually exciting," Rahane said ahead of the first Test.

"For me, it was the first time I played with the pink ball and definitely it's a different ball game as compared to red ball. Our focus was to look into the swing and seam movement and also play close to our body," Virat Kohli's deputy observed.

Rahane's assessment after his initial sessions was that the batsmen will have to tweak their technique slightly.

"What we found out after the practice session was that the (new) pink ball does a lot more than the red ball. You have to play slightly late and close to your body. We had a word with Rahul bhai as he was also there."

Visibility at twilight could be difficult: Pujara



Cheteshwar Pujara & Ajinkya Rahane train at NCA

BENGALURU: Top batsman Cheteshwar Pujara feels "visibility at twilight" could be an issue when India and Bangladesh venture into the uncharted territory called Day/Night Tests later this month in Kolkata. The Test at Eden will not only be the first day/night affair for both the sides but it will also mark the first official appearance of SG pink balls.

"I have played earlier with pink ball in the Duleep Trophy, that was good experience. Playing with pink ball at the domestic level could come in handy," Pujara told 'bcci.tv'. Majority of the cricketers will be playing with the pink ball for the first time in their careers.

However, the likes of Pujara, Mayank Agarwal, Hanuma Vihari, and Kuldeep Yadav have

experience of playing with the Kookaburra pink ball in Duleep Trophy.

"Visibility is not an issue during the day, it will be an issue in twilight and under lights, the twilight could be a little difficult. Those sessions will be crucial."

Pujara added, "Most players have said that picking the wrist spinners' wrong 'un is a little difficult."

For another senior player, Ajinkya Rahane, training ahead of the match will come in handy as far as acclimatisation is concerned.

PTI

## Bhuvi trains to test fitness

PTI ■ INDORE

Recovering from a hamstring injury and a side strain, pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar assessed himself for a comeback when he participated in a "skill session" during Indian team's practice.

The Indian team management seem to have taken charge of Bhuvneshwar's final phase of rehabilitation.

His injury has been a concern for the Indian team since he came back from the West Indies after the limited overs series. He followed a rehabilitation programme at the National Cricket Academy.

"Bhuv is here for a skill session with the team. The team management just wants him to get into the groove," a team source said about the pacer's presence at the net session.

He had a catching session with fielding coach R Sridhar and then participated briefly in the net session. He bowled a few deliveries from full run-up but it was evident that he wasn't going full tilt.

However Bhuvneshwar's presence at the session is a welcome news considering that the 29-year-old is still an important member as far as India's white ball cricket is concerned.



Gill seemed to have taken a hit when one of the deliveries bounced extra but it was not serious.

The Indian team will get only two full training days ahead of their first day/night Test at the Eden Gardens, starting November 22.

Aware that not much time is in hand, the BCCI had arranged a couple of pink ball sessions under lights for the Test specialists like Ajinkya Rahane, Mayank Agarwal, Pujara, Mohammed Shami at the NCA under Rahul Dravid's guidance.



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee are likely to watch 1st day of D/N Test

## Hasina, Mamata likely to watch together in President's Box

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee are likely to watch India's first ever Day/Night Test together after ringing the customary Eden Bell to start the proceedings on November 22.

A four-member team led by Bangladesh's Deputy High Commissioner Toufique Hasan did a recce of the Eden Gardens on Tuesday and checked the seating arrangements for the Prime Minister and her 80-odd delegates who will grace the historic occasion.

As per the schedule, Hasina will be on a one-day visit and she will watch the match for some time after ringing the Bell and once again will come back at the closing time 8pm when the Cricket Association of Bengal will present a grand felicitation.

Hasan did not confirm whether Hasina and Mamata will watch the match together but a CAB official indicated that they would be seen together in one of the President's box at BC Roy Club House.

Giving the details of Hasina's programme, Hasan said: "Prime Minister will arrive in the morning on the same day and will come to the Eden to ring the Bell just before the start at 1pm. She

will leave to take rest after watching the match for some time and will return again at 8pm for the main felicitation programme."

"She will be seated in one of the central President Boxes near the Bell. We are happy with the arrangements and looking forward to be part of the historic occasion. Eden is known as the Mecca of Cricket and for the first time both the countries will play a Day/Night match. Bangladesh people are really excited," he added.

Hasina will leave on the same day after the felicitation. The schedule of her political programmes of the day is not yet finalised.

Hasina and Mamata will be accompanied by BCCI President Sourav Ganguly, BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Naimur Rehman, BCB President Nazmul Hasan along with CAB office bearers.

"Following the first day's play, the players who played the first Test between India and Bangladesh will be felicitated followed by speeches by the hon'ble dignitaries," CAB Secretary Avishek Dalmiya said.

In the break, there are plans for a chat show featuring the fabulous five of Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble and VVS Laxman.

## Babar has potential to be compared to Kohli, Smith

IAN S ■ PERTH

Having managed to end as the highest run-getter for Pakistan in the just concluded T20 series against Australia, it will be important for Babar Azam to turn on the screws in the longer format as his team gets ready to take on the Aussies in a two-match Test series, which also includes a Day-Night game at Adelaide.

And former Australia batsman Michael Hussey believes that the talented batsman can be spoken of in the same sentence as that which has stalwarts like Virat Kohli, Steve Smith and Kane Williamson if he improves his Test record.

"I honestly believe this guy can be in the same conversation when we start talking about the best players in the world," Hussey was quoted as saying by Fox Sports. "We start talking about (Virat) Kohli, Steve Smith, Kane Williamson, Joe Root gets floated around."

"I think if he can start putting together some big hundreds like this in the Test arena, he's that good... he's a brilliant, brilliant player," he added.

Babar made a brilliant start to the preparation for the two-Test series as he hit a masterful 157 in the practice game against Australia A. This after scoring two fifties in the three-match T20 series that saw the hosts win the series 2-0 as the first game saw no result thanks to rain.

## Tigers preparing to tackle Ashwin-Jadeja

PTI ■ INDORE

It's India's fast bowling unit which is now feared in Tests but Bangladeshi batsmen are more concerned about handling spin twins Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja during the two-match series, top-order player Mohammed Mithun said on Tuesday.

Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma are expected to be more than a handful during the series but Mithun seemed more wary about the Ashwin-Jadeja threat.

"We all know the strength of their bowling line-up. We are working on how to tackle their spinners as it is batting-friendly for the first two days but afterwards their spinners come into play as they try to attack the opposition," he said.

"We are working on some technical aspects keeping our focus on how to handle them," Mithun said.

They are expecting that batting coach Neil McKenzie will help them decode the Indian spinners.



Daniel Vettori supervises Bangladesh's training session in Indore on Tuesday

"Let the technical things remain inside the dressing room," he said without parting with the trade secrets.

Asked to comment on India's weakness, Mithun said that he preferred to look at his own strength than opponent's weakness.

"We are looking at our strength more than focusing on their weakness because no team could do well against them at their home (in the recent past). We are looking forward to do well here. Obviously it won't be easy and we need to work really hard," he said.

"The five bowlers they (India) have, we cannot take anyone lightly because everyone is world class." Mithun has belief in his young bowling unit that it can take 20 wickets to win a Test match.

"Any batsman can get out anytime. If we can bowl as a unit with discipline I feel we can pick 20 wickets."

While India are favourites by a distance, Mithun feels that the T20 win in Delhi gives them hope of enjoying a good result.

"If we look at the past no one gave us any chance when it comes to beating India in the T20 and that too in their own backyard."

"But our players had that belief. We are disappointed that we could not win the last game (in Nagpur) despite creating chances at the same time now we are looking forward to do well in Test series."



Kolkata's iconic stadium Eden Gardens

## D/N Test to start at 1 pm & end at 8 pm

IAN S ■ KOLKATA

Keeping in mind the dew factors that comes into play at the Eden Gardens post sunset on winter evenings, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has agreed to the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB) request to start the game at 1 pm and end the day's play by 8 pm in the Day-Night Test.

A BCCI official confirmed the development and said that sessions have been re-planned

keeping in mind the need to call stumps by 8 pm as the ball would get really wet if play carried on post 8 pm in Kolkata in late November.

"Keeping in mind the dew factor, the BCCI approved CAB's request to change the playing hours in the second Test. While play will start at 1 pm, the first session will end at 3 pm. The second session will start from 3:40 pm and continue till 5:40 pm. The final session will be played from 6 pm till 8 pm," the official said.

## Chahar almost takes hat-trick in Mushtaq Ali Trophy

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Medium-pacer Deepak Chahar followed up his hat-trick in the final India-Bangladesh T20 international with almost a repeat, taking three wickets in the space of four balls for Rajasthan against Vidarbha in a Group B match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament here on Tuesday.

However, his heroics (four wickets in an over) went in vain as Rajasthan went down by 1 run (via the VJD method) finishing with 105 for 8 in a game to reduced to 13 overs due to rain.

The fast-improving Deepak Chahar, who on Sunday last became the first India player to take a T20 international hat-trick and also the best ever bowling figures (6 for 7), picked up the wickets of Darshan Nalkande, Shrikant Wagh and Akshay Wadkar off the



Deepak Chahar celebrates after hat-trick

fourth, fifth and sixth balls of the final over of Vidarbha's innings, but missed the three-peat as he bowled a wide in between.

His performance helped Rajasthan restrict the opponent to 99 for 9 in 13 overs.

After scalping the wicket of Rupesh Rajkumar of the first ball of the over, he dismissed Nalkande off the fourth.

However, he delivered a wide the next ball and then dismissed Wagh and Wadkar off the next two to finish with figures of 4 for 18 in 3 overs.

Chahar began the over by picking up the wicket of Rupesh Rajkumar Rathod to finish with superb figures of 4 for 18 in 3 overs.

Earlier, Vidarbha chose to bat after winning the toss and after some middling performances by the batsmen, the Vidarbha innings

imploded and Deepak Chahar triggered the collapse.

His first victim was Rathod, who was caught by his cousin Rahul Chahar.

He then had Nalkande caught by Rajnesh Bishnoi, before having Wagh caught by Chandrapal Singh Chundawat.

He then bowled Wadkar to complete a hat-trick.

Chasing 106 for victory, Rajasthan faltered after a bright start provided by Manender Singh, who smashed 6 sixes in 17 balls before falling for 44.

Opener Ankit Lamba (15, 11 balls, 1 four, 1 six) and Arjit Gupta (12, 9 balls, 1 four, 1 six) were the only other batsmen to reach double figures as the team could make only 105 in 13 overs.

Vidarbha tops the points table with 16 points from 4 matches in an all-win record.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai registered its fourth win in the league stage at Wankhede stadium on Tuesday after beating Pondicherry by 27 runs.

The title favourites have beaten Mizoram, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh in their first three games.

Asked to bat, Mumbai rode on a blazing half century by skipper Suryakumar Yadav (57 off 37 balls) to post a descent 171/6 on the board.

Their inform openers Jay Bista (29 off 21 balls) and Aditya Tare (20 off 14 balls) conjured 48 runs for the first wicket.

Chasing 172, Pondicherry had a pathetic start and were reeling at 29-2.

But then Parag Dogra (45 off 35 balls) and opener Arun Karthik (27 balls) tried to resurrect the innings with 28-run stand, before Karthik



was dismissed by Shivam Dube.

Anand Subramanian (39 off 31 balls) and Dogra gave a scare to Mumbai, but their bowlers held their nerves to eke out a win.

Pacer Tushar Deshpande (2-29) and Shams Mulani (2-25) shared the spoils.

There are no matches on Wednesday and the action resumes on Thursday.

In the first game at the Wankhede Stadium, Meghalaya stunned Assam by four wickets.

At BKC, Madhya Pradesh defeated Mizoram by 86 runs.

In the second game, Haryana defeated Bengal by five wickets as they chased the 123-run target with 17 balls to spare.

India spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who came back to the Haryana team after national duty, returned with figures of 1-21.