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Ind, Pak to sign pact on Kartarpur tomorrow

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan are scheduled to sign the agreement on Kartarpur corridor on October 24 (Thursday). Earlier on Monday, the External Affairs Ministry (EAM) had said in a statement that India would sign the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor agreement with Pakistan on October 23 despite Islamabad's reluctance to withdraw the service fee of USD 20 (around Rs 1,500) on each pilgrim. The EAM had also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre wants to finalise the agreement on October 23 in order to operationalise the Kartarpur corridor before November 12 in view of the demand of pilgrims to have visa-free access to Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan.

PRIVATISATION IN RTC

Telangana implementing Modi's Act, says KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

- Decides to examine all the demands of RTC unions barring 'merger' with Govt
- Claims unions themselves withdrew demand on 'merger' in HC

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Tuesday reasoned that the Telangana State government was only implementing the Act brought by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in encouraging privatisation of RTC, while reiterating that all the demands of the RTC unions would be examined, barring the demand for merger of TSRTC with the state government.

KCR claimed that the RTC workers' unions had voluntarily withdrawn their demand for merger of RTC with the State government while submitting their arguments in the High Court.

To examine the demands of RTC unions, the Transport Commissioner (officiating as RTC MD), has appointed a committee with the RTC Executive Directors. The government would submit a report to the High Court based on the report to be given by the committee.

"The arguments put forth by BJP and Congress are surprising. The Narendra Modi government has passed an Act giving full powers to the State to privatize the Road Transport Corporation and bus routes. The BJP leaders here are talking against it. In Madhya Pradesh state, when Sri Digvijay Singh was the CM under the Congress regime, they have closed down the RTC there. But these parties have taken a different and strange stand here," the Chief Minister said.

Continued on Page 2

Andhra boat with trapped bodies retrieved

■ 8 more bodies found ■ Operation Royal Vasishta ends after 38 days

PNS ■ RAJAHMUNDRY

The remains of the ill-fated boat Royal Vashishta that was brought to the surface on Tuesday

At last, after most people had lost hopes, the Dharmadi Satyam team on Tuesday salvaged the ill-fated Royal Vasishta that went down the Godavari River on September 15 with over 60 tourists on board. Within the boat, eight more bodies were recovered. Thus, three more tourists' bodies are yet to be recovered.

The week-long efforts, in the second leg of salvage operations, bore fruit, though the boat appears to be beyond repair.

On Monday, the team recovered a portion of the driver's cabin. On Tuesday, the divers, with reinforcements, went deeper several times and tied ropes to the bottom of the boat amid rains. Finally, they brought the boat to the surface. Initially, the team made unsuccessful attempts to salvage the boat and had to suspend efforts when the river was in spate.

Last week, the team made additional attempts for two or three days. Subsequently, the services of Captain Adinarayana of Kakinada Port were requisitioned and scuba divers from Visakahapatnam were engaged. Attempts at tying ropes to the boat and salvage it had failed initially.

On Tuesday, the team hauled the boat successfully with the reinforcements. The team tried to salvage spare parts of the boat from the riverbed, though it was reeking of the stench of highly-decomposed bodies. In the boat tragedy that occurred on Sep 15 at Kachchaluru in East Godavari district, 39 were killed. Twenty six passengers survived the incident. In all, 12 persons were missing then.

One torso was found on Monday and eight more bodies retrieved on Tuesday. Three persons still remained untraced.

NCRB to record crime by 'Anti-nationals'

NEW DELHI: For the first time since the publication of crime data in the country, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has introduced a chapter titled - Crime Committed by Anti National Elements. A total of 783 cases have been registered under 'incidents of violence by Anti National elements', accounting for 132 deaths.

The chapter includes - Crime Cases reported by North-East Insurgents (State/UT-wise), Crime Cases reported by Naxalites /LWEs (State/UT-wise), Crime Cases reported by Terrorists (Including Jihadi Terrorists) and Incidents of Violence by Anti National Elements and Arms Taken Away from Police/CAPFs by Anti National Elements.

'India proud of him': PM Modi after meeting Abhijit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday met Abhijit Banerjee, the Indian-American who was one of the three winners of the Nobel Prize for Economics this year, and took to Twitter to state, "India is proud of his accomplishments."

"Excellent meeting with Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee. His passion towards human empowerment is clearly visible. We had a healthy and extensive interaction on various subjects. India is proud of his accomplishments. Wishing him the very best for his future endeavours," Modi tweeted posting a photograph of himself and Banerjee on Twitter.

Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday

Metro touches 5.15 lakh passengers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ameerpet and Hi-TEC City Metro stations are neck and neck when it comes to footfalls. On Monday, while the largest interchange -- Ameerpet station witnessed 26,000 commuters; HI-TEC City was close enough with 25,000 passengers.

Since its opening, HI-TEC City has been the most widely used Metro station, followed by LB-Nagar Metro station. On Miyapur to LB Nagar Line, 1.5 lakh passengers travelled on Monday. While on Nagole to H-TEC City line, as many as 2.3 lakh passengers commuted.

It may be mentioned here that the gherao called by Congress and the TSRTC strike added to the numbers of the Metro. Despite shutdown for four hours, the Begumpet Metro station witnessed about 6,500 passengers, as per data shared by HMRL authorities.

Continued on Page 2

High Court clears municipal polls

INKESHAF AHMED
■ HYDERABAD

Bringing much-needed relief to the Telangana government, a division bench of the state high court on Tuesday dismissed PIL petitions filed alleging irregularities in the pre-poll exercise for the delimitation of municipal wards, making reservations among them for various categories of people, and praying for the a grant of a stay on the issuance of formal notification to conduct elections to all the municipalities and municipal corporations of the state.

The High Court said that the notification, dated July 3, 2019, issued by the government for preparation of photo electoral rolls had not been implemented in toto so far, although the Election Commission had ample time to finalize the electoral rolls. It also said that it could not interfere in the issue of the conduct of the elections once the pre-election process is initiated by the state government. The Court made these remarks while delivering its judgment and dismissing the two petitions.

On October 1, the HC reserved its orders in the batch of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petitions filed against the issuance of notification to conduct municipal elections in the state. A division bench of the HC has, however, given a go-ahead to the state government to carry out the entire pre-poll process pertaining to conduct the elections while reserving its orders. It also said that the stay on the conduct of the elections would continue till the pronouncement of the final orders of the court then.

The petitioners in the case complained of large-scale irregularities in the pre-poll exercise carried out by the state government to conduct the municipal elections and urged the HC to direct the state government to re-conduct the entire pre-poll process as per the Telangana Municipalities Act and rules and as per the order of the HC and to conduct the identification of SC, ST, BC and women voters, along with the representatives of the recognised political parties, and to issue the draft notification as per rule 12 of The Telangana Municipalities Reservation of Seats in Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchyats Rules 1995, besides enabling the voters to give their views on the reservations.

While one PIL was filed by one K. Anju Kumar Reddy, a native of Nirmal district, the other PIL was filed by Dr. S. Malla Reddy, a native of Dundigal mandal of Medchal Malkajgiri district.

Banking ops partially hit in TS due to strike

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Banking operations were partially hit on Tuesday in Telangana as two employee-unions observed a strike in response to a nationwide call, protesting the merger of banks and fall in deposit rates.

Some services like cash deposit and withdrawals and cheque clearances weren impacted due to the strike by banking staff, AIBEA national secretary B S Rambabu said.

"As SBI employees did not participate in the strike, cash transactions in that bank did not have any impact.

However, in Andhra Bank, they were completely paralysed," Rambabau told PTI.

He also claimed that AIBEA has over five lakh members, out of which one lakh are from Cooperative and Grameen Banks, which were exempted for the strike call.

Saudi effects 6-fold hike in visa fee

NEW DELHI: Saudi Arabia has effected a nearly six-fold increase in visa fee, an order which can make Haj pilgrimage very costly, according to a media report, which said many Muslim countries were angry over this move.

The report said that a single entry visa will now cost $533, up from $93, a multiple entry, 6-month visa would cost $800 and a one-year visa would cost $1,333.

The revised visa fees affect all tourists, religious or business visitors, but exempts those travelling for the first time to perform the annual Hajj pilgrimage or the lesser, non-mandatory pilgrimage known as the Umrah, said the report in Quartz Africa.

SC upholds HC order in favour of TS govt

190 acres of evacuee land in RR district

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In what could be considered a major victory to the Telangana government, the Supreme Court on Tuesday passed an order in its favour with regard to 190 acres of evacuee land located in Puppalaguda in Rangareddy district. The current market value of the land is Rs 4,000 crore.

The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA) allotted the land in 2003 in favour of the legal heirs of an evacuee from the Sindh area in Pakistan Parsram Ramchand Malani. However, the State government cancelled the CCLA's allotment and registered criminal cases against those who had falsely claimed the land and against some realtors who colluded with them.

The matter was brought before the High Court of the state. The High Court also supported the State government's decision. This has prompted the heirs of the evacuees to approach the Supreme Court. The apex court of the country too upheld the HC's verdict in the issue eventually leading to the victory of the State government.

I-T raids on Asian Cinemas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Income Tax sleuths carried out searches of the premises of Asian Cinema & Multiplexes Private Limited and Skill Promoters Infra Private Limited on Tuesday.

Officials from the anti-tax evasion wing of the department began the searches early on Tuesday morning at the residence and corporate offices of the two companies based in Hyderabad.

The promoter of Asian Cinemas & Multiplexes, Sunil Narang, owns a chain of theatres in the twin cities. The multiplexes are located across Kukatpally, Uppal and Kapra. The unlisted private company was incorporated in 2008. Asian Cinemas is headed by four directors - Narayandas Kishandas, Narang Bharat and two others. The taxmen searched the residence of Sunil Narang as well as their corporate offices. IT sleuths also searched the properties of Skill Promoters Infra. Incorporated in 2014, the company is classified as a private limited and has four directors - Boppana Sarat Gopal, Boppana Tara Chand and others. IT officers raided their corporate office as well.

It has built the biggest multiplex mall - AMB Mall in association with popular hero Mahesh Babu at Kothaguda in Hyderabad. It is planning to construct another multiplex in association with another top hero Allu Arjun. At present, Asian Cinema is producing a film being directed by Sekhar Kammula with Naga Chaitanya as the hero. The firm is also into large- scale distribution of big films and is running several theatres. It may be mentioned here that Income Tax authorities recently conducted a series of raids over four days on a major infrastructure company and seized unaccounted assets, apart from finding evidence of illegal payments through hawala channels. Besides, IT authorities raided the ashram and offices of 'Kalki Bhagawan' in Chittoor district and unearthed huge piles of unaccounted cash and illegal properties.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Ashwin & Krishna Paksha
Tithi : Dashami: 01:08 am
Nakshatram: Ashlesha: 03:13 pm
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 12:00 pm – 01:26 pm
Yamagandam: 07:41 am – 09:07 am
Varjyam: 02:16 am – 03:44 am
Gulika: 10:33 am - 12:00 pm
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritakalam: 01:43 pm – 03:13 pm
Abhijit Muhurtham: Nil

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy
Temp: 28/22
Humidity: 91%
Sunrise: 06.11
Sunset: 05.49
Current Weather Conditions
Updated October 22, 2019 5:00 PM

UoH among Top-10 varsities in India

Eighth place in QS India University Rankings

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Vice Chancellor Prof Appa Rao Podile said this rank reinforced the university's stature as a premier institution

The University of Hyderabad (UoH) ranks among the Top Ten varsities in India for the second consecutive year, according to the QS India University Rankings 2020 released on Tuesday. UoH has been ranked eighth. The IIT-Bombay is at number one, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is at number two and the IIT-Delhi at number three. UoH is at number 8 among 100 institutions ranked in India for the year 2020. Staff with PhD is the Best Scored indicator of the institution in the 2020s.

The Vice Chancellor Prof Appa Rao Podile said this rank reinforced the university's stature as a premier institution. The university had been justifiably awarded the 'Institution of Eminence' status. "It entails intensive work ahead to not only retain but improve our ranking, with a climb across all parameters. This will help us to better serve the nation's public through high quality education and research," he remarked.

This is the second edition of QS rankings exclusively for Indian institutions. QS is a global company focused on higher education that brings out the QS World University Rankings, the world's most widely-consulted list of its kind.

Among the non-IITs, and IIScs; Delhi University occupies the first spot - at number seven - followed by University of Hyderabad, IIT-Roorkee and IIT-Guwahati.

According to a press release issued by the QS, the methodology used eight indicators to determine the institutions' rankings: Academic reputation (30 per cent), employer reputation (20 per cent), faculty-student ratio (20 per cent), the proportion of staff with a PhD (10 per cent), papers per faculty from Scopus database (10 per cent), citations per paper from Scopus database (5 per cent), the proportion of international students (2.5 per cent) and the proportion of international faculty (2.5 per cent).

Heavy rainfall warning issued for next four days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

On Wednesday, heavy to very heavy rain is very likely to occur over Telangana

The tail of the monsoon, whose withdrawal has been delayed this season, seems to have packed its punch in a parting shot, with Met authorities forecasting heavy rain for the next four days at various places in Telangana because of a low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal. According to a weather report, light to moderate rain or thundershowers very likely to occur at most places over Telangana. The Met office issued a heavy rain warning for next five days.

Accordingly, on Wednesday, heavy to very heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana and thunderstorms accompanied with lightning are very likely to occur at isolated places over the State.

On Thursday, heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana. Thunderstorms accompanied with lightning are very likely to occur at isolated places over the State.

On Friday, heavy rain very likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana.

On Saturday, heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana.

The chief amounts of rainfall recorded in the last 24 hours are: Kagaznagar (Komaram Bheem) 6 cm, Dharpally (Nizamabad) 3 cm, Yedapalli (Nizamabad) 3 cm, Mustabad (Rajanna Sircilla) 2 cm, Kodangal (Vikarabad) 2 cm, Bazarhathnoor (Adilabad) 2 cm, Dubbak (Siddipet) 2 cm, Chevella (Rangareddy) 2 cm, Jukkal (Kamareddy) 2 cm, Kusumanchi (Khammam) 2 cm and Devarakonda (Nalgonda) 2 cm.

Formation Day bereft of original sentiments!

PIN POINT

A lot depends on the original sentiments of Andhra people. The moot question is: Are the sentiments of the people of the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh post June 2, 2014 same vis-à-vis those of Telugu people belonging to erstwhile undivided State of Andhra Pradesh, which was formed on November 1, 1956 and which had existed for 58 years?

M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

Is it appropriate to celebrate November 1 as the Formation Day of Andhra Pradesh as it stands now? Post bifurcation, how can it continue to be the birthday of the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh, from which an element of proximal similarity can hardly be drawn? These and other cognate questions besiege the mind if one considers the fact present Andhra Pradesh, in consultation with the Union Home Ministry, has decided to hereafter observe November 1st as the Formation Day.

A lot depends on the original sentiments of Andhra people. The moot question is: Are the sentiments of the people of the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh post June 2, 2014 same vis-à-vis those of Telugu people belonging to erstwhile undivided State of Andhra Pradesh, which was formed on November 1, 1956 and which had existed for 58 years? There is another view that October 1st may be a more appropriate date, considering that the contours of the residuary state are exactly same as those of the Telugu-speaking region that was carved from the composite state of Madras on October 1, 1953.

Did the Government of Andhra Pradesh take these key points into consideration before initiating consultations with the Union Home Ministry? It is ridiculous on the part of the Union Home Ministry to say that as a parent state it can celebrate November 1st as Formation Day!

The irony is that the region of Telangana has since observed November 1 as 'betrayal day' to protest the 'highhandedness' of Andhra region on all fronts. As principal political players of Andhra Pradesh played a 'hide and seek' game with the issue of AP's integration, the first linguistic state Andhra Pradesh formed in independent India has been divided. Should people of Andhra celebrate a date as their state's Formation Fay, though their 'estranged brothers' observe the same day as 'betrayal day' for what had happened in the years prior to 2014?

Actually the emotional bonds of Telugu people to have a separate state for themselves took shape in the composite state of Madras during the British rule way back in 1913 when the Andhra Maha Sabha held its conclave in Bapatla, Guntur district. Thus, seeds of statehood were sown in the minds of people in the first quarter of 20th Century. After having endured much hardship, the Telugu people, who then had no 'identity' in the Tamils-dominated composite state of Madras, finally got their own state with the supreme sacrifice of the beloved son of this soil Potti Sreeramulu, who ended his precious life on December 15, 1952 in nearly two-month-long fast unto death in Madras. Widespread destruction of government properties were witnessed in the entire stretch of Andhra region (present state of Andhra Pradesh) of the composite Madras state, following the death of Sreeramulu. Sensing the severity of those developments, the then Prime Minister Pandit Nehru announced the formation of new state of Andhra for Telugu people. The new state was carved out of the composite Madras state. The resultant new State of Andhra came into existence, comprising all Telugu-speaking districts of Madras, with Kurnool as the capital.

Legendary leader of Telugu people Tanguturi Prakasam, who had served earlier as Chief Minister of composite Madras state, was sworn in as Chief Minister of the new state of Andhra at Kurnool. It is a different matter that then Chief Minister of Madras C. Rajagopalachary, popularly known as Rajaji, thwarted the attempts of Telugu people to also obtain parts of Madras city.

Telugu people later wished to have a unified state including the Telugu region of Telangana. Within three years, the dream of having a unified state of Andhra Pradesh, including Telugu-speaking region of Telangana (which was part of Hyderabad State then) came true.

This was followed by the disintegration of the erstwhile state of Hyderabad, which was then part of the Princely State of Nizam, whose existence, as leaders of first generation in Independent India strongly believed, would be detrimental to the interests of the democratic country. For, the latter made futile efforts to get Hyderabad merged with Pakistan.

Sensing danger, the Union government swung into action and got Hyderabad merged with India by 'Operation Polo' designed at the behest of Home Minister Sardar Patel on 17 September, 1948. The Indian government did not allow Hyderabad State, though it had existed for four years with a democratically elected government headed by multi-faceted politician Dr .Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, to continue as it existed on October 31, 1956!

After smooth sailing of nearly six decades, the unified State of Andhra Pradesh (Vishalandhra) faced division due to games played by two major political parties -- Congress and TDP in AP. Eventually the state was split into two and the residuary state of Andhra Pradesh, after Telangana parted ways, is exactly same as the State of Andhra that was carved out of Madras 66 years ago.

November 1st was the Formation Day of the unified state of AP. June 2nd is the Formation Day of Telangana. In terms of sentiments, November 1st now cannot have the same significance that June 2nd has for Telangana, period.

T-Hub's 'Trestle' to help startups go global

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The programme is designed to aid startups with right resources to foray into the global market and offers international startups a platform to crack the Indian market

Telangana's startup ecosystem catalyst T-Hub on Tuesday announced the launch of 'Trestle'. The programme provides growth-stage startups with opportunities to assess product fitment and readiness to new markets across the globe. It is designed to aid Indian startups with the right resources and connections to foray into the global market and offers international startups a platform to enter the Indian market.

In the first edition of the Trestle programme, T-Hub and FalconX Inc. will curate five startups from T-Hub for the programme. The selected startups will participate in an intensive five-month programme that will provide these organisations with an access to the US market.

The startups will qualify based on technological solutions, product/solution readiness, revenue models and growth potential. The startups at the growth stage, working in the DeepTech, FinTech and CleanTech sectors will have a higher chance of being a part of the programme.

Ravi Narayan, CEO, T-Hub, said, "Trestle programme is designed for startups that are looking for Go-To-Market (GTM) support, for scaling and tuning their business model for expansion in the US markets. Our collaboration with FalconX Inc. is a first step in this direction to provide international market-access to the disruptive and most deserving startups."

Murali Chirala, CEO, FalconX Inc., said, "Our plan to work with premier accelerators and incubators around the world starts with T-Hub's Trestle programme." During the final stretch of this program, startups will visit FalconX Inc. in Silicon Valley, California, for an immersive experience consisting of mentor sessions.

Teacher ends life due to work pressure

PNS ■ NUTANAKAL

On the day of reopening of schools across the state, a 32-year-old social studies teacher committed suicide on Monday evening at his house in Algunuru village of Suryapet district allegedly due to the work pressure.

He was identified as Vidyasagar, 32, social studies teacher with the TSWRS School at Tipparti. A suicide note, purported to be left behind by him, reads, "I have got a good job. I aspired to lead a comfortable life. But, ever since I joined the job, I have lost happiness. We are saddled with other useless responsibilities and not allowing teachers to do their job in the name of results. This has been subjecting me to tension. Forgive me mother."

According to locals, Patteti Vidyasagar of Alganuru of Nutanakal mandal recently got job as a social studies teacher. He was posted at social welfare residential school at Tipparti.

Will take up Tribal varsity issue with Centre: Guv

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan performs along with the Koya and Lambada cultural troupes of Bhadrachalam and Nagarkurnool districts, at Raj Bhavan

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan has reviewed the Tribal Welfare Schemes in Rajbhavan here on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said, she would pursue with the Centre, about the proposed Tribal University at Mulugu district which needs Union Cabinet's clearance.

The Governor has asked the officials to encourage and develop the entrepreneurship among tribal youth particularly on abundantly available herbal medicines in tribal areas. She advised the officials to document the medicinal values in the herbs, roots that are known only to the local tribal community.

She added, she would like to visit some of the tribal areas and meet directly with the tribal folk. "I want to make a visit to a tribal village and stay back there for night halt to understand the cultural divide and their native problems," she said and added that as a medical student, she has visited remote tribal areas of Andaman Islands along with her friends to render voluntary services.

Secretary Tribal Welfare Department BMD Ekka has informed various governments' initiatives taken up by the government for socio, economic and educational development of Tribal community in the state. He said, over 2.25 lakh students are studying in various educational institutions exclusively meant for tribal community.

He said, several students are also being encouraged to study in various premier educational institutions like IIT, NIT and other central universities. A few have appearing for Civil services and two candidates have cleared their civil exams held recently. Earlier, the Governor has played with the Koya and Lambada cultural troupes of Bhadrachalam and Nagarkurnool districts.

'Chinthamadaka will be a model village'

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Finance Minister T Harish Rao and Siddipet District Collector Venkat Ram Reddy on Tuesday reviewed the steps undertaken by the authorities to implement to comprehensive development programme in Chinthamadaka village of the district.

The village, native place of the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, was listed among the prominent places to get the scheme development process . Speaking at the review meeting, the Minister emphasised the need to make the village as the model village of the state.

He further said that the three villages - Seetharampalli, Chinthamadaka and Machapur were given thrust in the programme.

The Minister also reviewed various schemes and planning options chalked out by the village development committees in the process and advised the villagers to take up the development schemes comprehensively.

Similarly he called upon the officials to take up the model development process by adopting a uniform designs.

Several development programmes were highlighted in the review meeting by the officials and the Minister suggested to them to take up the process of development with a concerted approach.

TS implementing Modi's Act, says KCR

Continued from Page1

"In 1950, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the PM, Motor Vehicle's Act was brought in. It was based on this Act that the RTCs were formed in the States. In this Act, it was stipulated that no private buses should be given permit in the routes where the RTC was operating. Bringing an amendment to the Clause 3 of this Act, Narendra Modi government in

2019 Budget Session, a Bill was introduced and was passed. Under the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019, it was decided to give an opportunity to the private sector in the RTC. In this Act, it was stated that the State government should take measures to encourage healthy competition. The Centre had also pointed out that for offering better services to the people at lower ticket prices, competition is necessary. The Centre announced that by allowing the private sector in air travel and mobile phone sectors, facilities were improved and rates have come down drastically. In the Centre's Budget itself, the

Union government had made it clear that it plans to accrue funds by disinvesting in the Public Sector Undertakings. If the facts are such, BJP leaders in the State are making some funny allegations and charges on the RTC," the CM said.

In the review, the matter pertaining to writing letters to the Prime Minister, Union Surface Transport Minister about the ruckus the state BJP leaders are making on the RTC also came up for discussion.

In the backdrop of the High Court's directives on the RTC strike, Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao held a review meeting with the officials at Pragati Bhavan here on Tuesday. Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar, Principal Secretaries Sunil Sharma, S Narsing Rao, Government Chief Advisor Rajiv Sharma, Anurag Sharma Transport Commissioner Sandeep Sultania and RTC EDs participated. "The Trade Union leaders initially announced that they would come for talks if only the State government announced merger of the RTC with the government. They said merger was their first priority. But during the hearing on the RTC strike in High Court, they said they would not insist on the merger of the RTC with the Government.

D Prakash Reddy, counsel for the RTC trade unions told the court they never stated that they (unions) would come for the talks only when the demand of RTC merger with the government is met. This is mentioned by the Honourable Chief Justice in his orders. With this, it is tantamount that the demand for the merger of RTC with the government had been forsaken. The Court wanted the government to examine 21 demands as raised by the workers. In tune with the Court orders, examine those demands and for this study the demands," the CM instructed the officials.

Based on the instructions given by the CM, Transport Commissioner Sunil Sharma, who is also acting as the RTC MD, had constituted a Committee with six members. ED T Venkateswara Rao is Chairman and EDs A Purushottam, C Vinod Kumar, E Yadagiri, V Venkateswarlu, Financial Advisor N Ramesh as the members. The Committee will examine the 21 issues as directed by the High Court and submit a report to the RTC MD in a day or two.

Metro touches 5.15 lakh passengers

Continued from Page1

In total, 4.17 lakh passengers took the Metro on Monday. HMRL MD N V S Reddy said, "While the final figure of Monday's footfalls was 4.17 lakh, with 3.98 lakh being passengers. If we calculate based on passenger trips -- which is Government of India's new method of calculating passengers on the lines of bus passengers -- we saw 5.15 lakh footfalls."

Send Zareen to Tokyo Olympics: Minister to Centre

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Excise Minister Srinivas Goud on Tuesday written to Union Minister Kiran Rijuju and Sports Authority of India Director General recommending boxer Nikhat Zareen from Telangana to be sent to represent the country in Tokyo Olympics under 51 kg category.

In the letter, the Minister praised Nikhat Zareen for having won many gold medals in boxing right from childhood taking part in several tournaments and did Telangana proud.

Describing him as a sure shot winner of one of the medals at the Tokyo Olympics, the Minister told the boxer's father Jameel Ahmed that he would take the issue to the notice of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao. Sports Authority of Telangana chairman Allipuram Venkateshwar Reddy was also present.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES

GOLD
₹ 38, 370 (10 gm)
₹ 180 ↓

SILVER
₹ 45, 500 (1kg)
₹ 100 ↓

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin	₹141
Without Skin	₹160
Broiler at Farm	₹97

EGG RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD	377
VIJAYAWADA	373
VISAKHAPATNAM	380
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹3.77

Godavari water reaches Penpahad

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Minister Jagadish Reddy performs puja as the Godavari water reaches Mokya Thanda in Penahad, on Tuesday

Minister for Power G Jagadish Reddy on Tuesday welcomed Godavari water from SRSP project at Mokya Thanda near the GAIL pipeline in Penahad mandal of the district. The Godavari water reached here through Kaleswaram project.

The earlier regimes dug canal up to Mokya thanda and abandoned the project as a huge boulder obstructed the canal works. Under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, the Minister worked hard and procured equipment from overseas and a tunnel was build through the boulder bringing water to Penpahad mandal to irrigate at least 17,000 acres.

The CM gave word to the people of Penpahad mandal to bring Godavari water to irrigate their lands at the time of last Diwali and managed to fulfill it by Diwali this year, the Minister said adding that the TRS government would keep its promises to the people at any cost. The funds were sanctioned immediately when the issue was taken to the notice of the CM and tunnel was bored with the approval of the GAIL. The objective to bring Godavari waters to fulfill farmers dreams could be realised now. The demand of the people here is to fill the Raavi tank with Godavari waters. Besides this tank, all tanks in the mandal will get Godavari water, he said. All lands, barring those being irrigated by Nagarjunasagar canal, will be irrigated through Godavari waters, he said.

Paddy purchase centre inaugurated

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Civil Supplies Minister Gangula Kamalakar inaugurated the paddy purchase centre in Karimnagar town here on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister advised the farmers to bring the paddy to the purchase centres in complete shape. The purchase centre of the Karimnagar was inaugurated at the Market yard and tune PACS and Civil supplies wing both are part of the unit.

The Minister said the minimum supportive price for the Grade A quality paddy was fixed at Rs 1,835, while the general quality grain was fixed at Rs 1,815 per quintal. Joint Collector Shyam Prasad Lal and others also took part.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
O/o Panchayat Raj, Mahabubnagar Department
e-Procurement Tender Notice
NIT No.74-80/2019-20, Dt:18.10.2019. No. of works: 7, Name of work: C/o of Library bldg, C/o of New bldg, C/o of Gramapanchayat bldg at in undersigned villages, mandals & Dist. Total ECV: 155.00 Lakhs. Tender Documents will be available in e-procurement market place in between Start Date & Time: 23.10.2019 from 5.00 pm. The Tenders will be received up to Dt: 30.10.2019 up to 5.00 pm. Price bids will be opened on Dt: 04.11.2019 up to 11.00am. Further details can be obtained from 'e'procurement market place on https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in
DIPR No. 803-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT./1/2019-20 **Sd/-Regional Officer, PR Mahabubnagar.**

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CRIME CORNER

Ukranian dies on Qatar Airways flight

HYDERABAD: A 69 year-old Ukranian suffered a cardiac arrest on board a Doha-Bangkok flight, prompting the crew to divert the aircraft to the Rajiv Gandhi international airport is Shamshabad, where doctors declared him brought dead,airport sources said in the city on Tuesday. Galyna Konkina, who had a history of heart ailment, was found 'unresponsive and unconscious' in the flight at 1.30 am,following which the Qatar Airways flight landed at RGI Airport about two hours later.

Two die in accident on city outskirts

HYDERABAD: Two persons were killed in a road accident at Shamirpet on Tuesday morning. According to the police, Prem Das and Mukesh, both residents of Saroornagar, were heading to Komuravelli Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple when the accident took place at Turkapally village in Shamirpet. Both died after the motorcycle skidded on the road. The police shifted the bodies to Gandhi Hospital mortuary.

Ramji gang of TN detained under PD Act

HYDERABAD: Four members of the Ramji gang from Tamil Nadu, who were earlier arrested for peddling ganja, were detained by the Rachakonda Commissioner of Police under the preventive detention Act on Tuesday. The detained persons have been identified as Partivan Deepak (31), Thangaraj Sathyaraj (31), Yogaraj (23) and Suresh (36). The police said that the main accused Partivan Deepak (Deepu) was jailed in 2011 for a murder in Ramjinagar. But after being behind bars for a month, he was released on bail. In 2014, he along with his friend Laxman stole a bag from a car in Delhi, for which the Delhi police arrested him and sent him to Tihar jail. He was later released on bail. Deepak then joined the Ramji gang where he met Thangaraj, Sathyaraj, Yogaraj, Suresh, Mukesh, Sharvanandu, Thamodharan, Vadivelu, Armugam, Kumar, Kumaran, Raju, Gokul and Aditya.

MRP IGNORED

Water Front restaurant booked for overcharging

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Officials of the Legal Metrology Department registered three cases against Water Front restaurant located on Necklace Road for violation of the provisions of legal metrology Act and rules.

Based on the complaint by a consumer rights activist, District Legal Metrology Officer conducted inspections at the restaurant on October 15 and booked three cases against it.

The complainant had alleged that the restaurant was selling energy drinks such as Red Bull for more than the MRP. The Water Front restaurant collected Rs 195 from the complainant for a Red Bull worth Rs 99. According to Section 18(2) of Legal Metrology (packaged Commodities) Rules 2011, "No retail dealer or other people including the manufacturer, packer, importer and wholesale dealer shall make any sale of any commodity in the packed form at a price exceeding the retail sale price."

Srikhande Umesh Kumar, founder of 'Know Your Rights' consumer platform, said, "Customers should never pay more than MRP on pre-packaged commodities. No GST is applicable on the MRP. Hence, GST should not be paid over MRP. It is a violation of GST rules as well. Ignorance of these rules is costing consumers. Besides charging above the MRP, the establishment also collected GST which is already included in the price mentioned."

He further added that because of the violations, the Legal Metrology could book the institution under their rules, apart from the various violations found during the inspection. "I request the Legal Metrology Department to take immediate stringent action against The Water Front restaurant and should impose hefty fines."

Top eateries may be serving you stale food from shabby kitchens!

● Inspections reveal food items kept in fridges is stale ● Food delivered at home can be even more suspect ● GHMC lacks staff to regulate restaurants

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hotels and restaurants, including big names like Paradise and Blue Fox, have allegedly been serving re-cooked refrigerated stale food to customers under attractive names on the menu card. Besides in-house customers, food delivery services are also handed out such food for online customers.

According to Gazetted Food Inspector Sudarsan Reddy, "Food inspectors of GHMC visited two renowned hotels in Musheerabad and Secunderabad following complaints against them. We did not reveal our identity. When Swiggy and Zomato delivery boys reached the hotel counters, the hotel management ordered staff to pack biryani for them."

Some restaurants make lakhs in profits on any single day and can afford to a pay a fine of a few thousand rupees, wash off their hands off and get back at the malpractice again. Inspections have revealed unhygienic conditions in kitchens, unclean utensils and staff members unconcerned about hygiene.

The lacunae founf at places where raids were conducted

- Kitchens are unkempt at all places where raids were conducted
- At all these places, chicken, mutton and curries stored in refrigerators were stale
- Replete with cockroaches and walls were unclean
- The cooks were not bothering about cleanliness

The GHMC often throws its hands up in helplessness on account of not having adequate number of food inspectors for a city which has a population of over one crore. There are allegations that civic body officials conduct raids once in a year on hotels and restaurants and then go slow thereafter. Periodic inspections and more transparent system are not put in place with regard to levying and collection of fines, leave alone checking drainage and waste management aspects. GHMC receives at least 15-20 complaints every day, but enforcement officials can't act on them.

Unhygienic conditions prevail at Hotel Paradise too, over which officials recently fined it Rs 1 lakh. GHMC medical officer and Gazette Food inspector Sudarsan Reddy identified that culinary items like 'Chicken 65' and others were laced with chemicals for taste and colour.

Gem Gem restaurant at Paradise circle was asked to pay Rs 15,000 as fine and instructed to improve sanitation on its premises. Besides, Super Star Hotel on MG Road was asked to pay Rs 5,000 towards fine, while Café Bahar in Saroornagar was fined Rs 1 lakh.

When officials revealed their identity and questioned the hotel managements, they said they had separate cuisine for online orders. Since online customers get food at a cheaper price, the food served to them contains left over biryani, burnt chicken pieces, insipid dishes and so on!

On average, GHMC receives three-five complaints a day against Swiggy and Zomato.

Shine hospital owner held in death by negligence case

● Sunil Reddy asked to submit fire NOC, building plan etc

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Owner of Shine Hospital, Sunil Kumar Reddy, was taken into police custody on Tuesday following a major fire in the hospital premises a day ago that charred an infant.

Police arrested Sunil following a complaint filed by Naresh, a police constable who lost his child in the fire accident on Monday. The Directorate of Enforcement, Vigilance and Disaster Management (EV&DM) under the GHMC also issued a notice to the hospital to submit copies of the building's sanction plan, building occupancy certificate, trade license, No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the fire department, and the receipt of the property tax paid within three days. The hospital allegedly didn't have proper fire safety measures and was flouting building norms of the GHMC.

Other infants, who suffered injuries in the fire, are being treated at various private hospitals in the city.

After Metro, MMTS now sees passenger surge

● Commuters are taking alternative transport in view of the bus strike

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

For the first time in its history, South Central Railway carried 11.5 lakh unreserved passengers on a single day on October 21, which includes 2.2 lakh passengers on Hyderabad MultiModal Transport System (MMTS) services. On SCR, on an average around 9.2 lakh passengers travels in unreserved segment each day, including around 1.6 lakh passengers on MMTS.

Due to the TSRTC strike in the State followed by reopening of educational institutions on October 21, passengers thronged railway stations to travel by intercity express trains and MMTS trains. Previously, the highest number of passengers on MMTS suburban services operating in twin cities on a single day was two lakh, which was surpassed on Monday, a press release said.

In addition, the regular intercity express trains were augmented with 14 additional general coaches on October 21 including the Secunderabad - Guntur, Golconda Express (three general coaches) and Secunderabad - Ballarshah, Bhagyanagar Express (three general coaches).

Anticipating the additional rush of passengers, the zone has taken up measures like operating four special Jansadharan trains between Kacheguda - Nizamabad and Kacheguda - Kurnool City and augmentation of general coaches.

Police issue warning against obstructing public transport

City Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar on Tuesday warned of stringent criminal action against those obstructing public transport or private buses plying on the city roads. The Commissioner said cases would be booked for assaulting drivers working for the TSRTC and that trial of such cases would be conducted in fast-track courts. Any obstruction of drivers would be booked as case of obstructing government servants from discharging their duty. The warning came in the wake of striking TSRTC employees obstructing private drivers who are driving corporation buses in the city.

Man arrested for loan, cyber fraud

● Accused has 20 cases pending against him in TS, AP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force on Tuesday apprehended a man who is cheated people by claiming to provide loans and then extracting money from them. Police seized Rs 11 lakh in cash, 12 mobile phones among other items.

Accused Mareti Srinivasa Rao (27), a resident of Amberpet, has 20 cases registered against him in both the Telugu states.

Srinivasa Rao is a native of Thuni, East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh and a BTech graduate. In 2016, he cheated several people by putting up a fake matrimonial consultancy. A case was registered at Kakinada in this regard following which he was arrested and later released on bail. Srinivasa came to Hyderabad in 2017 and took a room on rent in Amberpet. He procured different SIM cards and gave advertisements in Telugu newspapers claiming to provide jobs, loans and visas.

Police said he introduced himself with false names to people who approached him for jobs or loans. He claimed to be running a finance company that provided loans on low interest rates. He would then collects the copies of bank passbooks, ATM cards and PIN numbers from callers via WhatsApp, and makes them believe that loan application is approved, said Anjani Kumar, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad.

Inmate hits prison warden, booked

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A prisoner was booked after he allegedly assaulted a warder at Central Prison Hyderabad at Chanchalguda on Monday.

Goli Rajesh, who was recently shifted to the prison from Warangal jail and lodged in the high security cell of Central Prison at Chanchalguda, picked up an argument with the warden Satya over delay in allowing him to make a phone call.

During the argument, Rajesh hit Satya on his face, said N Satyanarayana, SHO of Dabeerpura. Rajesh was arrested by Warangal police in connection with a theft case and a local court had convicted him for three years in the case. Following the conviction, the Warangal jail authorities shifted him to the prison in Hyderabad. Prisoners are allowed to call a family member from the landline phone in the jail.

HC bench says no to early hearing on RTC plea

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A two-judge bench of Telangana High Court comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A Abhishek Reddy on Tuesday refused to permit any early hearing of a fresh plea on the question of payment of wages to the employees of the RTC. The bench pointed out that a single judge was already hearing a similar matter and therefore there was no reason to move a PIL.

The petitioner's advocate PE Krishnaiah sought an out-of-turn hearing, but the bench rejected it saying there cannot be duplication of list, and in light of the pending plea before the single judge a PIL may not be maintainable.

IHCI event at IIIT-H in Nov

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-H) in partnership with ISB is hosting the India Human-Computer Interaction conference in Hyderabad from Nov 1 to 3. The conference will focus and examine the interplay of human and machine agency in an increasingly complex world resulting from AI.

India HCI 2019 will feature renowned scholars from around the world as well as include workshops, paper presentations and start-up showcases. It will look at the problems and challenges specific to India where social contexts of computing are different and more complex than those of the developed nations.

Over the last decade, India HCI has focused on diverse areas and has successfully strived to invite and publish high-quality research papers to discuss HCI in the Indian context.

Odour-control measures at dump inspected

● Principal Secy visits Jawaharnagar yard, asks contractor to eliminate stench by end of rain season

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Principal Secretary MA&UD Arvind Kumar on Tuesday visited the dumping yard at Jawaharnagar to access the measures initiated by the contractors to control the bad odour emanating from it that spreads in the vicinity.

Arvind Kumar said that while the intensity of the odour had reduced owing to the regular capping works undertaken, the piling up of garbage and the delay in its processing remains a concern. He asked the contractor to fix a timeframe for the commissioning of the waste-to-energy plant.

Arvind Kumar with officials at the Jawaharnagar dump yard on Tuesday

He directed the contractors or concessionaires to cover the garbage with tarpaulin sheets at least by the end of rainy season in order to eliminate the stench. He advised them to build up vertical walls and roof on the garbage dump.

The Principal Secretary also asked the GHMC commissioner to look into the slaughter house issue at Chengicherla, besides suggesting to officials to identify alternate sites for processing and disposal of garbage to supplement the Jawaharnagar dumping yard, which is the single processing and disposal facility for the entire city.

The concessionaires Ramky Enviro Engineers Limited explained about the conditions leading to increased odour incidence with a power-point presentation. They said that unexpectedly heavy rainfall, low temperatures, relatively higher elevation of the dump yard, unsegregated waste with high water content, higher volumes of waste receipts, including slaughter house waste, were some of the reasons for the increased odour.

The measures being taken up to address this issue include short-term, medium-term and long-term measures. In the short-term, measures such as aggressive spraying of masking agents and soil cover over partially filled landfill units are being taken up.

The medium-term measures include expediting the setting up of waste-to-energy plants, construction of sheds for composting areas and enhancing the odour monitoring protocol, while the long-term measures include developing alternate processing and disposal sites at other locations.

Government of Telangana
Revenue (LA) Department
Office of the Collector, Medchal - Malkajgiri District
FORM-C
(Under Section – 11 of the Act where 10A Exemption is given)
(See rule 6/12)

Collector, MMD File No:- G2/1228/2019 **Dated: 05-09-2019**
File No. D/1011/2019 **Dated: 29-08-2019**
Gazette MMD No.50 **Dated:06-09-2019**

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total of Acs.**22-11 ¼** gts land is required in Narsampally Village, Keesara Mandal, Medchal – Malkajgiri District for public purpose namely Kondapochamma Sagar of Kaleshwaram Project of Keesara canal on Bommalaramaram canal.

Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in NarsampallyVillage, Keesara Mandal, Medchal – Malkajgiri District land measuring, **Acs.22-11 ¼** gts of standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition.

SCHEDULE

DISTRICT: Medchal - Malkajgiri District. **MANDAL:** Keesara
VILLAGE: Narsampally

Sy. No.	Type of Land: Title	Type of Land: Land	Extent Acres &Gts	Name and address of persons interested	Boundaries: N	Boundaries: S	Boundaries: E	Boundaries: W	Trees: Variety	Trees: No.	Structures: Type	Structures: Plinth area	
6	Patta	Dry	2.24 ¼	D.Damodar Reddy S/o. Ram Reddy, TharreMallaiah S/o.Mallaiah TharreAnjaneyulu S/o.Gandaiah TharreLachaiah S/o.Gandaiah TharreBalaiah S/o.Gandiah TharreAnjaneyulu S/o Gandaiah TharreLachaiah S/o Gandaiah JalagamNarsimha S/o Bhoomaiah K Praveen Kumar Reddy S/o Yadagiri Reddy TharreMallesh S/o.TharreBalaiah TharreAnjaneyulu S/o.Balaiah TharreLaxmaiah S/o.Gandaiah All are R/o. Narsampally Village, KeesaraMandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District	40	7	VB Yadgarpally	41	Tumma	02	--	--	
7	Patta	Dry	0.12 ¾	D Kanitha W/o Srinivas Reddy R/o. Narsampally Village, Keesara \Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District	6	Adj. to ORR	VB Yadgarpally	25	--	--	--	--	
30	Patta	Dry	0.27 ¾	K Sarala W/o Ramanadham A Pichheswarrao S/o Kotaiah KVVK Prasad S/o.Ramanandham K.Sarala W/o.Ramanadham All are R/o. Narsampally Village, KeesaraMandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District	32, 39	29, 28	VB Yadgarpally	VB Darmaram	--	--	--	--	
33	Patta	Dry	5.18	A Pichheswarrao S/o Kotaiah Velugupudi Laxmidevi W/o Shiva Rama Krishna K Sarala W/o Ramanadham Sheela Shankar S/o Ravi Shankar MarriAleena W/o.MarriRavinder Reddy All are R/o. Narsampally Village, KeesaraMandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District	VB Bomarash ipet	32	35, 36	31	Neem Mango Lemon Pomegranite	40 12 32 6	Fencing with barbed wire	--	
35	Patta	Dry	0.37	VadiyalaDeepika W/o.Narsimha Reddy VadiyalaShanthan Reddy S/o.Narsimha Reddy VadiyalaSharanya D/o. Narsimha Reddy D.Seetharam Reddy S/o.Kista Reddy D.Prabha W/o. Seetha ram Reddy A.PicheshwarRao S/o.Kotaiah All are R/o. Narsampally Village, KeesaraMandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District	34	36	VB Yadgarpally	33	Neem Mango Black Plum	02 15 10	Fencing with barbed wire	--	
36	Patta	Dry	2.25 ¾	A.PicheshwarRao S/o.Kotaiah D.Seetharam Reddy S/o.Kista Reddy Velugupudi Laxmidevi W/o Shiva Rama Krishna D.SathyaNarayana Reddy S/o.Kista Reddy D.Vijayalaxmi W/o.Sathyanarayana Reddy All are R/o. Narsampally Village, KeesaraMandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District	35	VB Yadgarpally	38, 37	33	Neem Mango Black Plum	12 05 20	Fencing with mesh and kaddis	--	
38	Patta	Dry	4.10 ½	Y.SrinivasRao S/o.NageshwarRao A.PicheshwarRao S/o.Kotaiah D.Seetharam Reddy S/o.Kista Reddy Velugupudi Laxmidevi W/o Shiva Rama Krishna DumpalaNarsi Reddy S/o.Ram Reddy M.Shiva Rama Raju S/o.Rama Krishna Raju MHV Gopala KrishnamRaju S/o.Rama KrishnamRaju Samyuktha Reddy S/o.Vasudeva Reddy V.Raghavaiah S/o.Rathnaiah KolanNeela W/o.KolanGopal Reddy M.VenkataSubba Raju S/o. Rama KrishnamRaju All are R/o. Narsampally Village, KeesaraMandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District	36	39	37	32	Neem Mango Teak Lemon	02 01 110 02	Bore well Fencing with mesh and kaddis, Drip Pipe line	--	Pandals
39	Patta	Dry	2.30 ½	Y.SrinivasRao S/o.NageshwarRao D.SathyaNarayana Reddy S/o.Kista Reddy MVK Narayana Varma S/o.Shiva Rama Raju M.Shankara Kumara Rama Krishna Varma S/o.VenkataSubba Raju M.K.Anand S/o.Gopala KrishnamRaju DumpalaNarsi Reddy S/o.Ram Reddy M.Shiva Rama Raju S/o.Rama Krishna Raju MHV Gopala KrishnamRaju S/o.RamaKrishnam Raju M.Venkata SubbaRaju S/o. Rama KrishnamRaju A.PicheshwarRao S/o.Kotaiah KolanNeela W/o.KolanGopal Reddy All are R/o. Narsampally Village, KeesaraMandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District	38, 37	30, 40	VB Yadgarpally	32	--	--	Bore well Fencing with mesh and kaddis, Iron gate ACC Room	--
40	Patta	Dry	2.15 ¾	D.SathyaNarayana Reddy S/o.Kista Reddy DumpalaNarsi Reddy S/o.Ram Reddy M.Shiva RamaRaju S/o.Rama Krishna Raju MHV Gopala KrishnamRaju S/o.RamaKrishnam Raju M.VenkataSubba Raju S/o. Rama KrishnamRaju All are R/o. Narsampally Village, KeesaraMandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District	39	41	6	30	Tumma	05	Fencing with mesh and kaddis	--	
41	Ceiling Patta	Dry	0.08 ½	D.Lalithamma W/o.Prabhakar Reddy D.Prabhakar Reddy S/o. Ram Reddy Gousunnisa Begum W/o.Sardharyar Khan JalagamMuthaiah S/o.Balaiah BandariBallamma W/o. Narsaiah Babu S/o.Bandari Balamma Krishna S/o. Bandari Balamma Kommagoni Srinivas S/o. Pochaiah Kommagoni Venkatesh S/o. Late Krishna Kommagoni Ramesh S/o. Late Krishna All are R/o. Narsampally Village, KeesaraMandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District	40	6	42	28	--	--	--	--	
Total			**22-11 ¼**										

This notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013(Central Act No.30/2013), as amended by the Right to Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Medchal – Malkajgiri / RDO Keesara Division, on any working day during working hours the Government of Telangana/ Collectot-Cum-appropriate Government is pleased to authorise RDO Keesara Division at Medchal – Malkajgiri District and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore6 into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section-12 of the said Act.

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

Objections to the acquisition, if any, and claim from all the persons interested / affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (Sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before District Collector/ Authorized Officer

LAO cum Revenue Divisional Officer Keesara Division Medchal-Malkajgiri District | **Joint Collector Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist.** | **Collector Medchal-Malkajgiri District.**

DIPR RO No. 922 /LA/PP/Agency/2019-20

TSRTC STRIKE: DAY 18

Fate of RTC hangs in balance

EMPLOYEES TO INTENSIFY STIR; ASK TEMPORARY STAFF TO DESIST FROM OPERATING BUSES

NO RELIEF: TSRTC employees at a protest at Jubliee Bus Stand in Secunderabad on Tuesday

Though Telangana High Court has twice suggested to both the parties to resolve the issue through talks, no initiative was taken by either side to break the impasse. JAC convenor Ashwathama Reddy said they were ready for talks if the government or TSRTC invited them

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The striking employees of state-owned Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) adopted a novel way to protest on Tuesday as their indefinite strike entered the 18th day. The striking employees presented flowers to the temporary employees to request them not to operate the buses. The protestors were seen meeting temporary drivers and conductors and presenting them roses with a request to cooperate with them by not attending the duties.

The temporary employees were told that the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of the striking employees is also fighting for filling up the vacancies in the transport utility and, hence they will also gain from the ongoing strike. More than 48,000 employees of TSRTC have been on strike since October 5 to press for their demands, which includes the merger of the TSRTC with the government so that they are treated at par with the government employees.

Taking a tough stand against the employees, the state government called the strike illegal and rejected all their demands. Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao not only ruled out talks, but also declared that except 1,200 all others who failed to join duty before the expiry of deadline cease to be TSRTC employees. He made it clear that there is no question of taking back the employees.

While employees continued their protest with the support of the opposition parties, various trade unions, student bodies and people's organisations, the TSRTC have been operating bus services with the help of workers recruited on a temporary basis. TSRTC claims to be operating a majority of the 10,500 buses with police protection at depots and bus stations.

Though Telangana High Court has twice suggested to both the parties to resolve the issue through talks, no initiative was taken by either side to break the impasse. JAC convenor Ashwathama Reddy said they were ready for talks if the government or TSRTC invites them. He said the strike will continue even if the talks are held.

Last week, two employees committed suicide due to depression over losing jobs and not receiving salaries for September. A statewide shutdown was also observed on a call by the JAC and supported by opposition parties, but the government has not budged from its stand. The High Court is scheduled to resume hearing on Public Interest Litigations (PILs) on October 28 when the government is expected to brief the division bench on the steps taken to resolve the issue.

A High Court judge is also separately hearing a petition filed by the National Mazdoor Union (NMU), seeking direction to the TSRTC to pay the salaries for September. The TSRTC conveyed to the court on Monday that it is not in a position to pay salaries to the employees. TSRTC in charge Managing Director Sunil Sharma informed the court that TSRTC requires Rs.239 crore to pay the salaries, but it has only Rs 7.49 crore in its account.

Jithender joins strike

Former MP Jithender Reddy on Tuesday participated in RTC JAC protest at Jubilee Bus Station, Secunderabad with JAC Convenor Ashwathama Reddy. The TSRTC Joint Action Committee met with the temporary drivers and discussed their demands. Reddy explained to the temporary drivers that Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao is only using their services during crisis now and once normalcy returns, he will forget their hard work just like he has forgotten the hard work and sacrifices of RTC employees during Telangana agitation movement.

RTC woman worker collapses

PNS ■ MANCHERIAL

Mild tension prevailed at the Mancherial Bus Depot here on Tuesday when a woman, working with the TSRTC, collapsed after losing consciousness. The incident happened when the woman, along with others were participating the RTC strike, which entered 18th day on Tuesday.

She was rushed to a government hospital for treatment. She is learnt to have suffered a heart stroke. Later, the police did not allow the protestors to join their colleagues in the dharna camp. The workers retaliated against the police leading to a minor altercation between the workers and police. During the meelee, a lady worker of the TSRTC collapsed.

The workers condemned the police highhandedness. The workers are growing impatient as government did not invite the JAC leaders for talks. They stepped up their stir. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister has been reviewing with top officials the scenario in the light of HC orders and on what could be the government stand on the strike.

JAC holds 'Vanta Varpu' at JBS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TSRTC employees held 'Vanta Varpu' programme at Jubilee Bus Station, Secunderabad as the strike reached the eighteenth day. TSRTC JAC convenor Ashwathama Reddy, Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao, CPI leader Chada Venkat Reddy and others took part in the programme on Tuesday.

"Vanta Varpu programme is being held at all depots and bus stations across the state as part of our peaceful agitation. The last time RTC employees held 'Vanta Varpu' was during the Telangana movement. Now once again RTC employees have organised 'Vanta Varpu' to fulfill their demands. RTC strike has reached 18th day and RTC employees' families are facing severe troubles. Even salaries have not been paid for the employees. Instead of acting adamantly, government should initiate talks with employees and put an end to the stalemate," said Ashwathama Reddy.

He also expressed concern on the occasion saying, instead of taking steps to end the strike, the government is going ahead with measures which will further weaken the TSRTC. He found fault with RTC officials calling for tender for hire buses. TSRTC JAC convenor also appealed to temporary drivers and conductors to support their agitation, as they are protesting for not just their salaries but to protect TSRTC, the prime public transportation system on which crores of Telangana people are depending.

Miscreants pelt stones at bus

PNS ■ CHEVELLA

Windowpanes of RTC bus were completely damaged when miscreants pelted stones at the bus here on Tuesday. The bus was heading towards Vikarabad from Hyderabad. The bus passengers had a miraculous escape in the incident. Vikarabad RTC depot officials have lodged a complaint with the police.

In Karimnagar, RTC driver Jampanna made a bid to immolate himself. He was rushed to the police station. In Mahabubnagar, the workers wore Ambedkar masks and protested displaying "Save RTC" slogans. Sporting handcuffs they protested in front of Ambedkar statue.

At Jeedimetla RTC depot, woman workers played Kabaddi as part of their ongoing protest programmes, They appealed the government to fulfill their just demands. In Komuram Bhim Asifabad district headquarters, Asifabad, the RTC workers picketed in front of the RTC buses, presented flowers to ad hoc drivers and conductors, and asked them not to report for work from Wednesday onwards. The RTC workers sought their support to their agitation.

Trainee bus driver rams depot manager's car

PNS ■ NALGONDA

A trainee driver, appointed on temporary basis rammed the bus into a car here at the Nalgonda bus depot. According to officials, the car belongs to the depot manager. The trainee driver, identified as Srinivas was undergoing trial run in the depot premise. During the process, he lost control over the wheel and rammed the car parked near the depot premises.

Angered over this, the depot manager, instructed the concerned officials to take meticulous look at the drivers and their credentials before appointing them for the temporary basis. Following the incident, the striking RTC employees alleged that the incident shows the true colours of the drivers, appointed on temporary basis.

Revanth's action irks senior leaders

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

The party senior leaders expressed anger over Revanth Reddy alleging that the latter announced the Pragathi Bhavan seizure unilaterally without informing

RTC strike is creating internal ripples in Telangana Congress. The party's Pragathi Bhavan seizure programme held on Monday in support of RTC strike has created differences among Telangana Congress leaders. The party senior leaders have expressed anger over TPCC working president and Malkajgiri MP A Revanth Reddy alleging that the latter announced the programme unilaterally without informing about it.

It is learnt that the same senior leaders, who were being confined to their residences with the house arrests, are contemplating to lodge a complaint with the party high command against Revanth Reddy's attitude. As part of it, the seniors held a meeting at Congress Legislature Party (CLP) office here on Tuesday. They shared their pain with CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. They questioned Revanth to tell as to whom he consulted before announcing the Pragathi Bhavan seizure programme. The seniors also lamented that even TPCC chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy too was not informed about it. They expressed anger over Revanth alleging that the latter joined party couple of years ago dictating terms, it is learnt.

Senior leaders Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Madhu Yashki Goud, M Kodanda Reddy, Ch Vamshichand Reddy, SA Sampath Kumar and V Hanumantha Rao participated in the meeting.

Earlier Revanth Reddy had stated that all the programmes, to be held in support of RTC employees, would be held under the banner of Congress party, but on Monday all of a sudden Revanth Reddy took up Pragathi Bhavan siege without informing the senior party leaders, it is learnt.

It may be recalled that, Revanth Reddy in a press meet had announced that Congress will lay seize to Pragathi Bhavan on October 21 in case the government failed to respond on the ongoing RTC strike by October 19, only after discussing only with two party senior leaders Damodara Raja Narsimha and Shabbir Ali at Gandhi Bhavan.

TPCC Chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy had issued a statement a day before the Pragathi Bhavan seizure asking the party leaders and cadre to participate in the programme in a big way. This also made the party seniors to feel anger at the Revanth Reddy and Uttam Kumar Reddy. Their contention is the party has to send message regarding Pragathi Bhavan seizure.

On the other hand, the police too made had put the seniors leaders under house arrests. But the programme attracted media attention in a big way as it is part of RTC strike making the seniors not to digest it. They were expressed objection on Revanth Reddy for announcing the programme unilaterally.

They opined in the meeting that the party has a tradition of convening a meeting when it takes up big programmes like Pragathi Bhavan seizure. However, Revanth Reddy is behaving against the party's tradition, they contended.

However, after the meeting, Madhu Yaskhi Goud informed the media that they discussed on public issues and party's issues in the meeting.On the other hand, Revanth Reddy's followers questioned the party seniors to tell whether they succeeded in conducting Pragathi Bhavan seizure by announcing it united in the last six years.

'BJP has no right to hold Gandhi Sankalp Yatra'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC working president Ponnam Prabhakar has alleged that the BJP has taken up 'Gandhi Sankalp Yatra' expecting political benefits only.

"BJP has taken up Sankalp Yatra in the name of Gandhi besides describing Nathuram Godsey, who killed Gandhi, as a patriot," he said expressing anger at the saffron party. He questioned BJP to tell as to how it will take up Sankalp Yatra while praying the killers on the other side.

On Tuesday, Ponnam alleged that it is atrocious on the part of TRS government as it is not responding on the RTC strike. He asked the state government to solve the employees' demands responding on the RTC strike. He also asked the state government to divert the Yellampally water, which is going waste downwards, to fill the tanks and ponds as the Mid Manair project's repairs are going on.

He alleged that the state's economical condition destroyed due to non-payment of bills to the Sircilla handloom workers, who produced Bathukamma sarees.

Dharmadi Satyam did what Navy, NDRF failed to do

PNS ■ KACHCHALURU

ROYAL VASISTA RETRIEVED

Dharmadi Satyam accomplished what the Indian Navy and NDRF could not. He is synonymous with salvaging boats that went under the water. He is not highly educated and not technically savvy, but he earned rich experience in salvaging boats from rivers and seas.

He attracted the attention of everyone with the successful haul of the Royal Vashishta. When the boat capsized, the flood level in Godavari was very high. Therefore, none came farward to salvage the boat. The Navy, NDRF and Uttarakhand emergency operations team after initial trials threw off their hands out of helplessness.

The special officer from NDRF visited the mishap site but of no avail. The state government awarded Rs 22.7-lakh contract to Dharmadi Satyam team's Balaji Marine. The team started operations on September 28 but gave up on October 3 because of heavy floods to the river.

As the flood level receded, the operations continued from October 16. With the help of iron rope and anchors, the team pinpointed the area where the boat went under the water and intensified salvaging efforts. The anchor dropped could only bring out railing of the boat. As efforts bear no fruit, consultations were held with scuba divers of Visakhapatnam. The divers were initially reluctant to do the job. But Satyam convinced them to take part in the operations. Following the strategy of Dharmadi Satyam, the divers managed to tie iron rope to the boat. The boat was tugged with the help of the proclainer at last salvaging it on Tuesday. Several have been appreciating Dharmadi Satyam for accomplishing the task which the Navy and NDRF could not accomplish. Several fishermen from Kachchaluru and its surrounding villages did not go deep into the river where the incident happened.

As the boat was successfully salvaged the fishermen are ready to go for fishing in the area. Dharmadi Satyam responded saying "He could not save the tourists but could only share the grief of their families by successfully salvaging the boat and bodies trapped in it."

Amazon staffer part of burglary gang, nabbed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Malkajgiri police along with Medipally police nabbed a four-member gang of burglars along with an Amazon employee, who allegedly received stolen property from the gang. Police recovered 23 TVs, together worth Rs 4 lakh from them.

According to the police, the offenders used to recce warehouses and showrooms during the day and break into them in the night. They confessed to stealing the TVs and disposing them with the help of Santosh. The gang was produced before court and remanded in judicial custody.

'TS will play big role in farm sector'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

He requested the organisers to conduct workshops in rural areas to encourage rural youth to take up agri business

The two-day workshop on "Youth as Torchbearers of Business Oriented Agriculture in South India" has concluded here on Tuesday. B Vinod Kumar, Vice Chairman, planning Board, Government of Telangana has attended as chief guest and Dr SK Joshi, Chief Secretary was the Guest of Honor.

Speaking on the occasion, B Vinod Kumar has suggested the young graduates to find out the way to prosper agriculture in the country and think of new innovative ideas to grow the agriculture as profitable to the farmers. He further suggested that, the young students must ventured in to agriculture business and captured the opportunities in this sector. And also search innovative ideas for marketing of the farm produce, he said.

B Vinod kumar told about the initiatives of the Telangana state government in agricultural sector for profitable to the farmers. He said that, Telangana has become the case study for other states by implementing of several novel schemes for the welfare of the farmers. He assured that Telangana will be played a great role in the country by setting of examples in agriculture sector. He requested the organisers to conduct similar workshops in the rural areas to encourage the rural youth in agri business for remain in the agriculture profession.

Panel to help determine Amaravati's status

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh government will decide on the future of the state's new capital, Amaravati, once the expert panel constituted to draft a comprehensive plan for its development, submits its report, official sources said. Exactly four years ago on this day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone for building Amaravati.

The then Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had unveiled computer graphics of the city-that-would-be, promising it to be the "heaven on earth" akin to God Indra's capital. The new dispensation led by Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy has put the capital city project on the backburner citing several reasons including alleged irregularities in land procurement during the Telugu Desam Party rule.

"Where the capital should be and how it should be will be decided only after the experts committee submits its report," Municipal Minister Botsa Satyanarayana said. The committee, headed by retired IAS officer G N Rao, was constituted by the state government on September 13 with a six-week deadline to submit its report.

"The Committee report is expected only in December and the government may announce the fate of the capital in January," official sources said.

After the regime change in the state in May this year, the Singapore consortium that was supposed to develop the 1691-acre Start-up Area in the capital backed out of the project and sought its equity share back. The Indo-UK Medicity project has been scrapped while the BR Shetty Medicity venture too is almost closed.

Both projects did not take off after the foundation stone ceremonies in 2016. The AP Capital Region Development Authority has reportedly issued only Letters of Intent to central government organisations over land allotment. But, in many cases, the registrations were not done. This was because the CRDA wanted a revision in the Master Plan, official sources said.

SHORT READS

PM Modi, Nobel laureate Banerjee hold extensive discussion on varied issues

NEW DELHI: Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and held a "healthy and extensive" interaction on various subjects. Banerjee, an India-born American professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has won Nobel in economics, jointly with wife Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer for "experimental approach to alleviating global poverty". "Excellent meeting with Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee. His passion towards human empowerment is clearly visible. We had a healthy and extensive interaction on various subjects. India is proud of his accomplishments. Wishing him the very best for his future endeavours," Modi said in a tweet, sharing a picture of their meeting at his official residence. While congratulating Banerjee for winning the prize, Union minister Piyush Goyal at a media briefing in Pune earlier this month, had described him as a "Left-leaning" person.

ED arrests close aide of Iqbal Mirchi in money laundering case

MUMBAI: The Enforcement Directorate has arrested a close aide of late gangster Iqbal Mirchi in connection with a money laundering case, officials said on Tuesday. Iqbal Mirchi alias Iqbal Memon was an associate of global terrorist Dawood Ibrahim. Humayun Merchant was arrested under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on Monday night here, the officials said. He will be produced before a special court in Mumbai for further custody, they said. Merchant was stated to be a "close friend" and aide of Mirchi. It is alleged by the ED that Merchant "planted" tenants to purportedly usurp three immovable properties Sea View, Marium Lodge and Rabia Mansion in Worli belonging to the Sir Mohammad Yusuf Trust. The tenants were "dummy", the agency's probe has found.

Seize Prateek Hajela's passport till NRC audit is completed: APW

GUWAHATI: The original petitioner in the Supreme Court seeking updation of the NRC in Assam on Tuesday urged the government to "seize" the passport of the NRC State Coordinator, Prateek Hajela, till auditing of the entire process was completed. The apex court on Friday had directed the Centre and the Assam government to transfer the Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) Coordinator to Madhya Pradesh for the maximum period. Describing Hajela's "dramatic exit" from the state as a matter of grave concern, president of the Assam Public Works President (APW), Aabhijeet Sharma, said in a statement that the government should ensure that he cannot leave the country till auditing of the NRC process was completed. The government has a major responsibility to find out how a government official who has been solely responsible for spending Rs 1,600 crore of government money can leave Assam without submitting any detailed report of expenses, Sharma said. The NRC was a process on which the people of Assam had pinned their hopes but the release of the final list was "full of flaws and it has broken the hearts of many", Sharma said.

"PM joked media trying to trap me to say...": Abhijit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

"The PM was kind enough to give me quite a lot of time and to talk a lot about his way of thinking about India, which was quite unique. Because one hears about policies but one rarely hears about the thinking behind them," he said

Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee, speaking to the media after his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today said he would not get into controversial statements because he had been warned - by the Prime Minister.

"I had a cordial and good meeting. PM Modi started by cracking a joke on how media is trying to trap me to say anti-Modi things... He's been watching the TV and he's been watching you guys. And he knows what you are trying to do," Abhijit Banerjee remarked. He had been asked about the meeting taking place against the backdrop of a debate over his comments on an economic slump.

Dr Banerjee, who shares the 2019 Economics Nobel with Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer, also said that the banking crisis "is critical and frightening".

Dr Banerjee declined to respond to a question on India's low ranking on the Human Development Index and said: "I have had no contribution to the HDI and it is doing quite okay without me. So, I don't want to get into something I am not involved in."

Earlier, just after the meeting, he had said that the PM talked about his way of thinking about India. "The PM was kind enough to give me quite a lot of time and to talk a lot about his way of thinking about India, which was quite unique. Because one hears about policies but one rarely hears about the thinking behind them," he said.

"He talked about the way he sees governance in particular. And why maybe the mistrust of the people on the ground colours our governance... And how it therefore creates structure of elite control over the governance process, (which is) not a responsive government. In that process, he very nicely explained how he's trying to reform the bureaucracy to make it more responsive, to understand ways in which people's views need to be taken into account and to expose them to reality on the ground. It is important for India that we have a bureaucracy that lives on the ground," the economist said.

"Thank you, PM... that was a unique experience," he added.

PM Modi tweeted that he had an "excellent meeting" with the Nobel winner. "His passion towards human empowerment is clearly visible. We had a healthy and extensive interaction on various subjects. India is proud of his accomplishments. Wishing him the very best for his future endeavours," said the PM.

INX MEDIA CASE

SC rejects CBI contention

Flight risk of economic offenders a 'national phenomenon'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday refused to accept the CBI contention that 'flight risk' of economic offenders be viewed as a "national phenomenon" because several such persons including industrialist Vijay Mallya have fled the country.

The apex court, which granted bail to senior Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram in the INX Media corruption case, said there cannot be a "straight-jacket formula" for this so as to deny bail to an accused due to conduct of other offenders.

"At this stage itself, it is necessary for us to indicate that we are unable to accept the contention of the Solicitor General that 'flight risk' of economic offenders should be looked at as a national phenomenon and be dealt with in that manner merely because certain other offenders have flown out of the country," said a bench headed by Justice R Banumathi.

The bench, also comprising justices A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy, said the issue regarding an accused being a 'flight risk' has to the considered on a individual basis and being uninfluenced by the unconnected cases.

"The same cannot, in our view, be put in a straight-jacket formula so as to deny bail to the one who is before the court, due to the conduct of other offenders, if the person under consideration is otherwise entitled to bail on the merits of his own case," the bench said while setting aside the September 30 verdict of the Delhi High Court which had denied bail to Chidambaram.

"Hence, in our view, such consideration including as to 'flight risk' is to be made on individual basis being uninfluenced by the unconnected cases, more so, when the personal liberty is involved," the top court said.

While opposing Chidambaram's bail plea in the apex court, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, had argued that the high court had erred in saying that the Congress leader was not a 'flight risk' as country is facing a problem where persons accused in financial frauds and economic offences are fleeing India.

"We are not comparing anyone with this individual (Chidambaram) but one of them was even a Member of Parliament," Mehta had argued, in an apparent reference to Mallya, who owed over Rs 9,000 crore to banks and fled India in 2016.

In its 27-page judgement granting bail to Chidambaram, the apex court said he is neither a "flight risk" nor is there a possibility of "his abscondence from the trial".

"The appellant is not a 'flight risk' and in view of the conditions imposed, there is no possibility of his abscondence from the trial," the bench said.

It also dismissed CBI's plea challenging the findings of the high court which had said that Chidambaram was not a "flight risk" and there was no possibility of him tampering with the evidence.

Chidambaram was arrested by the CBI on August 21 in the corruption case which was registered on May 15, 2017 alleging irregularities in a Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance granted to the INX Media group for receiving overseas funds of Rs 305 crore in 2007, during Chidambaram's tenure as finance minister.

Later, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) also lodged a money laundering case in 2017. Chidambaram is presently in ED's custody in connection with the money laundering case.

Every district in the country will have ESI hospital: Gangwar

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

> There will be at least one 30-bed hospital for every 20,000 workers. For areas with 50,000 or more workers, steps will be taken to establish 100-bed ESI hospitals
> **SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR**
> Union Labour Minister

The Centre will be setting up ESI hospitals in every district of the country, Union Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar said on Tuesday, asserting that the Narendra Modi government was committed to the well-being of the country's labour force.

Addressing a regional conference of labour ministers and principal secretaries from eastern states, he said there will be a 30-bed hospital for every 20,000 workers.

"Over 450 ESI hospitals operate across the country and measures will be taken to extend the network to all districts.

"There will be at least one 30-bed hospital for every 20,000 workers. For areas with 50,000 or more workers, steps will be taken to establish 100-bed ESI hospitals," the Union minister said.

Asked about the possibility of establishing an ESI medical college in Bhubaneswar, he said the Centre will not be able to take any initiative in this regard.

The Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has been entrusted with the job of looking after the welfare of the labour force, not with setting up of medical colleges, Gangwar explained.

Noting that a 100-bed ESI hospital is already operational in Bhubaneswar, he said proposals for setting up similar facilities in Paradip, Jeypore, Balasore and Berhampur will be considered, if these districts meet the criteria.

"The Narendra Modi government is committed to well-being of the country's labour-force. It will ensure that there is no dearth of doctors or para-medical staff at the ESI hospitals, which will be equipped with modern healthcare amenities," he added.

Any effort to save triple talaq will be futile: UP minister

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after a Muslim body challenged the law criminalising instant triple talaq in the Supreme Court, Uttar Pradesh minister Chetan Chauhan on Tuesday said any effort to save the malpractice, which became a "custom" because of slackness of previous governments, will prove futile.

"Several Muslim countries have put a ban on triple talaq. It is difficult to understand why the AIMPLB has knocked on the doors of the Supreme Court against the new law," he said.

"This new law is in the interest of Muslim women and any effort to challenge it in the court will prove to be futile," the minister said.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board on Monday filed a plea in the apex court, challenging The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, which makes talaq-e-biddat or any other similar form of talaq, having the effect of instantaneous and irrevocable divorce pronounced by a Muslim husband, void and illegal.

Delhi roads to be redesigned, landscaped: Kejriwal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government will redesign and landscape all roads in the city managed by the Public Works Department in accordance with "international standards", Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday. The government has selected nine roads measuring 45 kilometres on a pilot basis, the chief minister said at a press conference here.

In Delhi, the PWD manages around 1,260 kilometres of roads. "All (PWD) roads in Delhi will be redesigned under which bottlenecks will be removed.

"We have selected nine roads on a pilot basis. Work order to redesign one stretch of road has been issued. Redesigning of nine roads will be completed within a year," Kejriwal said.

He said redesigned road stretches will be at par with roads in European countries. This will include landscaping and space for pedestrians, non-motorised vehicles as well as differently-abled persons, the chief minister said.

The cost of the project, which will increase road efficiency, will be around Rs 400 crore.

Punjab: BSF spots three drones along Indo-Pak border

PNS ■ FEROZEPUR

BSF personnel posted in Punjab's Hussainiwala sector have spotted three drones along the India-Pakistan border, officials said on Tuesday.

Though there were reports that Border Security Force (BSF) troops fired at the drones coming from the Pakistani side on Monday night, there was no official confirmation.

Earlier this month, drones were sighted by residents of Basti Ram Lal, Tendi Wala and Hajara Singh Wala villages, following which the BSF was put on alert.

At that time, search operations were carried out by the BSF and the Punjab Police but nothing suspicious was found.

'Govt should pay USD 20 Pak 'jazia tax' on Kartarpur pilgrim'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Labelling the USD 20 service fee proposed by Pakistan for each Kartarpur pilgrim as "jazia tax", Congress leader Manish Tewari said on Tuesday that the BJP government should bear the cost as a Sikh devotee paying for the visit to the gurudwara goes against the grain of "khule darshan" (open darshan).

India and Pakistan are set to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on October 23 for the opening of the Kartarpur corridor that will link the Indian side through a corridor to the Kartarpur gurdwara, where first Sikh guru Nanak Dev spent his last days.

Centre relaxes gift policy for employees, hikes monetary limits

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central government has increased the monetary limits for accepting gifts for all its employees, relaxing the ceiling by more than three-fold, officials said on Tuesday.

All officials under Groups 'A' and 'B' categories shall not accept any gift without the sanction of the government if the value exceeds Rs 5,000, they said, citing recently amended rules. The limit to accept gifts for these groups of employees was Rs 1,500 earlier.

Similarly, Group 'C' employees will be able to accept gifts up to Rs 2,000 instead of Rs 500 without taking government approval. Government employees under Group 'A' are senior officials. Government employees under Group 'B' could either be gazetted or non-gazetted officials. Most clerical posts and multi-tasking staff fall under Group 'C'.

Officials said the ceiling limits were revised to bring them on par with those for the three all India services -- Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Forest Service.

Gifts include free transport, boarding, lodging or other pecuniary advantage when provided by any person other than a near relative or personal friend having no official dealings with the government servant.

A casual meal, lift or other social hospitality is not considered a gift, according to existing rules. The government has also removed the limit of Rs 1,000 for government employees to receive and retain gifts from foreign dignitaries.

HC asks SIT and Chinmayanand's counsel to file reply

BAIL APPLICATION OF LLM STUDENT

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday gave two weeks to an SIT and BJP leader Chinmayanand's lawyer to file their objections to a bail plea by the law student who has accused the politician of rape. While the former Union minister has been booked under the Indian Penal Code's section 376C, a charge short of rape, the woman and three others face a separate case of trying to blackmail him.

A special investigation (SIT) of the Uttar Pradesh police has been probing the parallel cases.

Seeking bail for her, the Shahjahanpur woman's counsel argued that she is a victim of sexual harassment and all allegations against her are fabricated.

However, counsel for the state government and Swami Chinmayanand opposed the bail plea, arguing that she is the main accused in the extortion case and there is sufficient evidence to prove it.

Kashmir students say they are not ready for exams, want cut in syllabus

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Parents as well as students are wary that if the examinations are conducted on schedule without any reduction in the syllabus, the students may not secure good marks, but if the annual examinations are not conducted, a precious year would be lost

Students in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Valley, are in a dilemma as authorities have decided to go ahead with annual examinations for various classes according to schedule but almost half of the syllabus is yet to be completed due to the closure of schools post August 5.

The school administrations have also charged fees from the students for these non-working months, parents allege. Now, the authorities have announced the schedule for the annual examinations without any relaxation in syllabus, they say.

Parents as well as students are wary that if the examinations are conducted on schedule without any reduction in the syllabus, the students may not secure good marks, but if the annual examinations are not conducted, a precious year would be lost.

Students say they are distressed by the prevailing circumstances and they have studied only around half of the prescribed syllabus.

"We have been inside our homes since August 5. There has been no classes and studying in the prevailing atmosphere has been very difficult. How can we prepare for the examinations," asks Nyla, a student of class 12 at a private school here.

She says private tuition has also been affected in the valley due to the restrictions and shutdown. Students from government-run schools also have the same tale to tell. While the government announced gradual re-opening of schools across the valley and the teachers attended to their duties, the students stayed away.

"We could not go to our schools. Our parents cannot afford private tuition. We have not covered our entire syllabus, so how can we be prepared for the annual examinations," says Musaib, a government school student studying in class 10.

The students want examinations to be deferred or at least some reduction in the syllabus so that question papers be set accordingly. "The government should defer the examinations or should at least reduce the syllabus and then set the question papers according to the reduced syllabus. That will reduce our burden a bit," says Nyla.

On August 5, the government revoked Article 370 of the Constitution to withdraw the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Parents are also worried about the safety of their wards.

"They have not completed the syllabus, there have been no classes for the second semester. The atmosphere is not good for private tuition and learning. How will they appear the examinations? How will they fare?

"In today's world of cut-throat competition, merely passing is not an option, the students have to secure very good marks. All this is adding to the pressure their minds already have," says Javed Ahmad, father of a class 12 student. Most of the private schools ask the students to collect assignments, in flash drives, from the schools in the absence of any classes. Several schools -- including government-run -- conducted home examinations of the students in the lower classes due to the prevailing situation.

Ahmad claims the government was using the students as a "cannon fodder" to show a semblance of normalcy in Kashmir.

"By conducting the examinations, the government wants to show that everything is hunky-dory in Kashmir, which it is not. They are using the students as a cannon-fodder to enforce normalcy here. How can our kids go to the examination centres in the prevalent circumstances? Who will ensure their safety? The government should first ensure the situation to get normal and then conduct the exams," he says.

"The students are caught between devil and the deep sea. They do not want to lose the year, but they are also concerned about faring well in the examinations," Ahmad says.

Officials in the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) say the governor's administration is uncompromising on both holding examinations according to schedule and not providing any reduction in the syllabus.

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 23, 2019

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Is there voter fatigue?

Amid predictions of a cakewalk for the BJP in Haryana and Maharashtra, low turnout signals disenchantment

A crucial aspect got swamped by exit poll results that predicted a thumping and roadrolling win for the ruling BJP in the Assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra. While hyperactive anchors across TV channels wondered about the margin of victories and whether the BJP would best its own record in the Assemblies so far, Haryana recorded the lowest turnout in 50 years and Maharashtra in 39. According to the Election Commission's figures, 63.55 per cent turnout was recorded in Haryana, while only 56.65 per cent came out to vote in Maharashtra. The former has seen its lowest voter turnout in Assembly elections since 1968 whereas the latter's figures are lowest since the 1980 election. Not only that, both percentages are significantly lower than the turnouts in the last round of State polls in 2014 and the Lok Sabha elections in May. This means that almost half the voters did not exercise their choice despite greater awareness and an increase in polling booths, either out of a sense of resignation or a deep distrust. This is surprising considering that behaviourally, the voter seems most invested in local self-governance issues and, therefore, is expected to turn out for the Assembly elections that are fought on local affairs rather than national ones. Clearly, there is fatigue at work. Now this can be interpreted in many ways. Could it be that there is an immediacy of contexts, the Lok Sabha results having bolstered the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with such an overarching appeal that any other State, where his party is in power, is assumed to be operating as a satellite? The voter probably believes that the continuity of the same regime at the Centre and States would automatically ensure a Central-level urgency to resolving local issues. Perhaps, this unitary rather than federal character of governance has bred complacence. Even though both Chief Ministers, Devendra Fadnavis in Maharashtra and Manohar Lal Khattar in Haryana, have managed to consolidate their positions and blend in, the former a non-Maratha and the latter an outsider, they, too, encountered a voter slide. Nagpur south-west, from where Fadnavis is contesting, recorded 49.25 per cent of votes, down from 56.44 per cent in 2014, while Khattar's constituency Karnal recorded 49.3 per cent of voter turnout, down from 67.84 per cent.

Also, there is now legitimacy to a majoritarian discourse given the BJP's big win in the Lok Sabha and a larger acceptance of the muscularity of the party in pushing the One India narrative. The collective decimation of the Opposition parties and the total annihilation of the only other nationalist party of consequence, the Congress, have meant that the common man has already accepted the "there can be no alternative" formula in States where the BJP is in command. In the light of this understanding and absence of a real contest, many voters may have just thought that the ballot process would anyway be a futile exercise. Particularly for those with divergent views, there is a sense of helplessness that their vote would be too minuscule to matter or that their dissent was unwanted. Tidal verdicts in succession have meant that very few seats in "friendly" States are considered "unsafe" for the BJP. Besides, at the State level, not even the ruling party is seen as following through with pledges to keep the voter animated as a decision-maker. Or it could be plain disgust at the thought that nobody would anyway give them a hearing. This ennui is dangerous to the extent that it undercuts the value of election in a democracy and actually veers it to a measure of a personality cult and a presidential style debate. This could also mean that the committed Opposition voters have dissipated somewhat and driven to as much irrelevance as the parties they feel echo their concerns. Particularly in Haryana and Maharashtra, the Congress failed even to get its basic act together with faction fights tearing it apart and turf leaders working at cross purposes. In Maharashtra, the party bled like never before with several key leaders deserting the ship. No wonder the monolithic predictability has dampened enthusiasm and though there is a younger demographic that's perhaps gung-ho, the older registered voters are still a sizeable chunk of the pie. This is not new. Even in the UK, from where we have derived our parliamentary democracy, a large proportion of voters have shunned the "political elite." Indeed, the Brexit vote has been viewed by many commentators as a vote of disillusionment. However, this only lulls the political class into an illusionary sense of popularity. The vote matters in ensuring checks and balances.

In the firing line

Pakistan's use of deadly force on civilians is reprehensible. Not that condemnation will stop it

The military in Pakistan has always thought of civilians elsewhere as second-class citizens as was evidenced by the brutal genocides against Bengalis in 1970-71 or Indians. Proxy attacks by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists have cost thousands of Indian civilians their lives over the past three decades — be it during the height of the Punjab crisis or to this day, with Kashmiri terrorism being influenced by the likes of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed. However, Pakistan's Army, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and the establishment have always had an answer. They were not directly responsible for the deaths. After all, anonymity is the advantage of proxy forces. However, the unprovoked firing of artillery and mortar shells over the Line of Control (LoC) in the Jammu region over the past few days has hit civilians hard, maiming and killing Indian villagers. This is unacceptable and serves little purpose unless the aim is to give covering fire to terrorists trying to cross the LoC.

Pakistan has been nursing the black eye that India gave it with the Balakot air strikes. Then the failure of its own counter-attacks and the subsequent revocation of Article 370 by the Indian Government, which caught the Pakistani military and its Government headed by Imran Khan off-guard, have dented its "bleeding cuts" strategy *vis-a-vis* India. The attempts by Pakistan-backed terrorists to sabotage the local economy, particularly targetting apple growers and truckers, have also fallen flat. While the Indian paramilitary forces and intelligence forces have managed to keep a lid on active acts of terrorism in the Valley, the area still remains in a virtual lockdown even after two months of the abrogation of Article 370, although things appear to be easing ahead of winter. Pakistan is getting desperate to hurt India despite its economic situation, which is still far worse than India's, becoming almost a virtual pariah state. Even the Chinese money, supposed to flow in through investments, is drying up. China, which has for long propped up Pakistan as a counterfoil to India, has realised that investing money in Pakistan is worse than burning it. Besides, Pakistan's own hypocrisy in condemning Indian actions on Kashmir while ignoring the Chinese treatment of the Uighur Muslims has become more apparent. The Army has made a few raids into Pakistan but if these unprovoked attacks on Indian villages continue, it seems we cannot get the new Rafale jets soon enough.

A ride into military school

The defence academy at Khadakwasla is truly tri-service and a unique training institution, which sows the seeds of camaraderie, military ethos, customs and traditions

ASHOK K **MEHTA**

Returning to one's roots in soldiering is replete with nostalgia, inspiration and feeling 10 years younger. Revisiting the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla, Maharashtra, after more than six decades was re-living one's days when well-rounded heads were being fitted on square shoulders. We were the pioneers, who in 1955, moved from the Joint Services Wing (JSW) in Clement Town, Dehradun, to the emerging military township of Khadakwasla near an iconic lake — the spectacular landscape overlooked by Shivaji's impregnable Sinhagad Fort. In the sixth and final term, Sinhagad became the touchstone for long-range patrolling, stamina and survival. Sticking out of the earth was the majestic central cupola, the nerve centre of the academy, flanked by the cadets' mess and the education block. Neat rows of road radiate from these commanding heights in three directions — towards the Pashan Gate, the Central Vista and the Avenue to the Lake.

In January 1955, trainloads of cadets were relocated in their new home Khadakwasla, the pride of India. It was to become the cradle of military leadership and excellence where "jointness came naturally." All the 1,000 cadets would branch out after three years together for their choice of service: Army, Navy or Air Force. Potential Army cadets were cross-trained. For example, I was sent on Indian Navy frigate Cauvery for a week while a Navy volunteer went to an Army establishment and similarly, the Air Force to a different sister service. After the sixth term, one would go to the Naval, Air Force and Army military academies for the final year of training. Currently, cadets indicate their choice of service after the fourth term. Last week in Khadakwasla, I witnessed change and what has not changed and is still reminiscent of 1955. First, the change. All the way from Pune's Southern Command Officers Mess, the 25-km stretch to Khadakwasla was then desolate, habitated with lush green woods. What took one hour on a bicycle, took two hours, given the concrete jungle that has crept towards NDA and much is in the possession of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) — its kingdom. Farmhouses, luxury resort hotels and restaurants have encroached on the precincts of Khadakwasla. The Pashan Gate is new with a massive security apparatus.

The welcome landmark is the Gole Market — nothing has changed here. This market is etched in my memory because a week before we were to "pass out" and move to the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, our joyful celebration was rudely interrupted by one "Major The Sandhu", an infantry officer who was uniformly dreaded by cadets. It was past midnight. Four riding an ordnance-issued bicycle, strictly meant for one, was sacrilege, especially when Maj Sandhu, who was returning in his car from Pune, nearly collided with the overloaded bicycle. For breaking several military regulations, Maj Sandhu used multilingual invectives and had four of us charge-sheeted.

Punishment: While all of the 11th course was allowed to pass out on December 1, 1956, we were detained for 14 days. The driver of the bicycle was Divisional Cadet Captain Jaswant Singh, who was complimented by the Commandant, Maj Gen Inayat Habibullah, for "steering a bicycle as expertly as a horse."

The cadets' living room is the same except that a limited wi-fi is now available. Like Jammu & Kashmir was put in a lockdown, cadets are forbidden the use of cellphones. The technology of the bicycle is vintage though the satchels the cadets carry has improved.

From 12 squadrons, the academy now has 18 squadrons and a cadet strength of 2,000. "Item" has become "India" squadron, my "Fox" squadron to "Foxtrot" and "Dog" to "Delta." The Ante Room has the familiar aquarium but now a billiards table, too.

Barbara Bonny, the wife of our Squadron Commander, Maj LKM Bonny, used to teach us the Foxtrot and on the weekends, commandeered busloads of Pune lasses for live practice. Gen Habibullah and his wife Hamida put the cadets through sessions of Indian cultural training — music, drama, *mushaira* and once even Bollywood.

There was no change in the cadets' mess. Rations and quality of food match any reputable restaurant. Outside are pictures of early times. Former President Rajendra Prasad, dining with the cadets, flanked by Gen Habibullah and Gen Moti Sagar, both drinking port… the classic shows Premier Chou en Lai in a black Mao jacket in the cadets' mess during our passing out parade.

> TODAY, LIKE YESTERDAY, THERE IS TOTAL LACK OF RAPPORT AND CONVERSATION BETWEEN TOP MILITARY LEADERS AND THE POLITICAL ELITE. THE ABSENCE OF MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP HAS LET THE BUREAUCRACY USURP CRITICAL ADVISORY SPACE

As the chief guest, he presented me with the inter-company Squash trophy, which is captured in the film on 1962 war, *Hum Dono*. This was the era of Panchsheel and *Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai* (India and China are brothers) full of banter and bonhomie even as the Chinese had started building the road through Aksai Chin, which former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru divulged to Parliament only in 1959. There are fabulous pictures, which must be the envy of memorabilia collectors — Pandit Nehru and Gen Habibullah, both on horseback, surveying the academy from a vantage point as it was being built. It is clear from other pictures of Nehru that the Khadakwasla project was his baby. Another picture is of Lt Gen JN Chaudhury and Nehru engaged in serious conversation. Army Chief Gen KS Thimayya and Nehru in a tete-e-tete. Thimayya and Nehru were good friends, enjoyed immense rapport despite professional differences.

Today, like yesterday, there is total lack of rapport and conversation between top military leaders and the political elite. The last Army Chief, who could chat up politicians, was Gen Bipin Joshi. The absence of meaningful dialogue between the political and military leadership has let the bureaucracy usurp critical advisory space. Today, the Prime Minister cannot find the time to have a useful conversation with his Service Chiefs.

The Habibullah Museum, meagre in space, contains rich memories and souvenirs, including a stunning ornamental *khukuri,* presented by C in C Royal Nepal Army, Gen Surendra Bahadur Sahib (must be Shah) in January 1966. The once-splendid Bombay Stadium has alas gone to seed. So have the Squash courts near it. The cadets play individual sports like squash, tennis and golf. The Golf Course doubles as the military training area and is named after the legendary Russian language teacher Jaouralov.

Notwithstanding our fear of Maj Sandhu — he would famously counsel "do not trust wife, rain and enemy" — he taught us the best field craft to be a cat burglar, poacher and marksman that saved our lives and those of the men under our command in all the skirmishes and wars. NDA is truly tri-service and a unique training institution, which sows the seeds of camaraderie, military ethos, customs and traditions. That is how DCC Jaswant Singh became the Defence Minister of India.

(The writer is a retired Major General of the Indian Army and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the revamped Integrated Defence Staff)

SOUNDBITE

I will love to see India-built applications used in the US. I would love to see India-built data system used around the world. That will be the biggest win.

Former Google CEO
—Eric Schmidt

My next one is about climate change, it's my obsession now. There's no time to discuss anymore, it's time to act.

Filmmaker
—Fernando Meirelles

We believe that direct dialogue between India and Pakistan, as outlined in the 1972 Shimla Agreement, holds the most potential for reducing tensions.

US diplomat
—Alice Wells

They say there is Ramrajya in the State. *Yeh Ram ko dhoka hai*. It seems they (BJP) have learnt from Ravan. This is why they are working as Kalyugi Ravan.

Samajwadi Party chief
—Akhilesh Yadav

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More power to women

Sir — The story of the life and struggles of Pranjal Patil, the country's first visually challenged woman IAS officer, reminds us that nothing is impossible if one has the determination to persevere against all odds. Patil has truly struggled far more than others to achieve her goal of becoming an IAS officer. Losing vision at the age of six did not deter the young girl from Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra, from pursuing her dreams. In spite of several hurdles, Patil has become the first visually-challenged woman in the country to hold such a high post in the bureaucracy. The old English proverb, "where there is a will, there is a way", holds completely true in this instance.

M Pradyu
Kannur

Poll results shouldn't be surprising

As expected, a bunch of exit polls has projected an emphatic victory for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led alliance in Maharashtra and Haryana, which went to the polls recently. They suggest that the Congress, the principal Opposition in both States, has not begun to recover from its decimation in the 2019 Lok Sabha election in May this year. Given the increasing power of State Governments in the day-to-day lives of people, the outcome of elections in Maharashtra and Haryana will have clear governance implications for their development and growth.

Though both States are currently ruled by the BJP, the notable fact is that before 2014, neither Maharashtra nor Haryana was a stronghold of the party. To their credit, both the Chief Ministers, Devendra Fadnavis and Manohar Lal Khattar, under the supervision of the Modi-Shah duo, have made the BJP the dominant player in their respective States. The rise of these two Chief Ministers and the free hand their party allowed them in running their Governments helped the BJP expand its vote base. But the BJP's dominance has also been due

to the collapse of the Opposition, with its major partner, the Congress, being in tatters. No wonder, most polls have given nearly three-fourths majority to the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena combine in Maharashtra and a similar margin to the BJP in Haryana. By this count, incumbents Fadnavis and Khattar are on the course for second terms as Chief Ministers in their respective States.

Padmini Raghavendra
Secunderabad

Guarding our lives

Sir — This refers to the report, "Efforts being made to demonise tech: PM" (October 21). The impact of technology on the future of human society is difficult to predict. With the advent of any widely accepted new technology, people's lifestyle changes in multiple ways. If in the future we need to stop the use of technology, we will need to campaign harder. For example, when plastic was discovered to be light weight, durable, cheap and easy to mould, people appreciated it as a symbol of progress in life. But today, the world knows how demonic it is. The tragedy of our society is that we either blindly reject any form of modernism or we accept it without providing space to reject it if necessary. When someone says, "Check it before use", we criticise that person either as "Leftist" or someone heralding foreign ideology.

PP Sen
New Delhi

Alarming figures

Sir — According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, India saw a total of 100 deaths in police custody in 2017, which is up by eight, compared to 2016. Police are known to apply third-degree methods to elicit confession from "criminals" to buttress their case in the courts. There are many cases where undertrials have succumbed to physical and mental torture from cops. Unable to bear the torture, there are also cases of people resorting to the extreme step of committing suicide. Sadly, even natural deaths in police custody are treated as custodial death.

Deaths of these kind would have, perhaps, occurred even if such a person was not in custody. In the case of undertrials, the courts are also to be blamed since many cases drag on for years before they are even listed for hearing. It is appalling that out of 56 cases registered, only three of 48 people were chargesheeted and convicted for human rights violation. The fall in custodial deaths is not possible unless the police involved in the crime of physical and mental torture are convicted of the offence. Expeditious disposal of cases in courts can substantially contribute to drastic reduction in custodial deaths.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Send your feedback to:
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FIRST COLUMN

An alternative to direct investing

Through mutual funds, small investors can put money in the stock markets and benefit from any upswing in share prices

HIMA BINDU **KOTA**

The growth of mutual funds (MF) as a worthy alternative to direct equity investment over the years has been humongous. According to the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), the Assets Under Management (AUM) of the Indian MF industry has grown from ₹6.28 trillion in September 2009 to ₹24.51 trillion in September 2019, a four-fold increase in a decade. Depending on how the money is being invested, there are different categories of MFs based on asset class, structure and investment objective. On the basis of asset class, MFs are of the following type:

Equity funds: Here at least 70 per cent of the money is invested in stocks of listed firms. Equity funds can be further classified based on sectors like infrastructure funds, IT funds; size of the company like large cap, mid-cap; purpose, like equity-linked savings schemes that give benefit of tax savings; tracking a index through index funds; or fund of funds (FoF) which invests in other MFs.

Debt Funds: Here, majority investments are in debt instruments like Government bonds, firm debentures and other fixed income assets.

Hybrid/Balanced Funds: These invest in both the asset classes of equity and debt instruments with the proportion of equity and debt varying in different funds. A balanced fund could be 60 per cent invested in equities with remaining 40 per cent in debt or vice-versa.

Money Market Funds: These invest in money markets that are short-term in nature and are highly liquid and are mostly preferred by companies to park their idle cash and by large institutions and the Government to meet their short-term fund requirements.

MFs can also be categorised based on structure as open-ended or closed-ended. Although the industry is growing, investors are also increasingly concerned about fund selection and are demanding detailed information and investment advice. Due to the large number of funds, evaluating and selecting MFs can be challenging.

So what are the metrics that are used to analyse and compare the performance of different MFs? For debt schemes, credit rating is important as it is a known fact that debt funds are prone to interest rate risk, credit risk and liquidity exposure. While interest rate perils and liquidity exposure affect the returns and redemption of debt investments, the credit risk tends to affect the principal value of the investment. Hence, various credit rating agencies, like CRISIL, CARE, ICRA, measure and evaluate the credibility and creditworthiness of the borrower and these ratings are derived on the basis of the credentials of the entity, which may be the balance sheet, profit and loss statement, or any other financial information. Equity MF investors can also use several ratios to analyse the performance of their investments. It is a misconception that higher returns mean better performance, since returns cannot be judged in isolation and have to be simultaneously measured with the risk taken to generate the returns. This is where Sharpe Ratio is helpful, as it assesses the returns generated by a portfolio against per unit of risk undertaken. A higher Sharpe Ratio represents a higher return generated per unit of risk. Investors should also note that any ratio would only make sense if it is compared to the benchmark index.

Treynor Ratio, also known as reward-to-volatility ratio, like Sharpe Ratio, helps analyse returns in relation to the market risk of the fund except that it uses beta or market risk as the volatility measurement and gives the return over the risk-free per unit of market risk, whereas Sharpe Ratio uses standard deviation.

By comparing the beta of the investment to the volatility in the entire stock market, people can assess the risk associated with the investment. Stocks with a beta greater than one tend to increase and decrease in value faster and more quickly than stocks with a beta of less than one. Higher the Treynor Ratio, the better the performance under analysis. For instance, if the fund's average return is 10 per cent and the risk free rate is seven per cent, the difference becomes three per cent. If the historic beta of the fund is 1.5, then the Treynor Ratio is 2 (3 divided by 1.5). This means that in the past, the fund has given two units of return for one unit of its market risk.

Small investors, who are trying to make the most of their investments are often plagued by questions whether MFs are safe? Are they safer than direct equity investments?

MFs are an easier way for small investors to put money in the stock markets with low initial investment as they can get the benefit of any upswing in the prices of the shares because of the expertise of fund managers. However, small investors should be aware that since MFs in turn invest in shares, the returns are subject to the fluctuations of the stock market and are not fully insulated from it. The extent of risk, and also the returns come down with the inclusion of debt securities in the portfolio of MFs and investors should understand their risk tolerance before investing. MF investing can be a good alternative for small investors provided they tread with caution.

(*The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University*)

POINT**COUNTER**POINT

SHE'S (GABBARD) THE FAVOURITE OF THE RUSSIANS. THEY HAVE A BUNCH OF SITES AND BOTS AND OTHER WAYS OF SUPPORTING HER.
—DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER
HILLARY CLINTON

ANYBODY THAT IS OPPOSED TO HER (HILLARY) IS A RUSSIAN AGENT. THAT'S A SCAM THAT WAS PRETTY MUCH PUT DOWN.
—US PRESIDENT
DONALD TRUMP

Finding the path to happiness

Most actionable solutions to the findings of a recent survey on the status of women and their health, literacy and employment, will come through the digital revolution

BINDU **DALMIA**

Last week I had the pleasure of releasing *The Status of Women in India* report in Nagpur, which is a comprehensive survey conducted by the Sangh-linked organisation Drishti Stree. I share my reflections in two parts on this very thought-provoking survey: The problems red-flagged in the report and how most of the solutions can be addressed through the big digital revolution in the offing in the country.

While the sample size of 74,000 is large, the fact remains that had more people from metropolitan cities and States with high literacy rates like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala been included and more inputs been taken from professionals like bankers, lawyers, corporate executives and so on, the report might have arrived at better averages. Because while the real *Bharat* resides in its villages, it also comprises the aspirational class in the cities. In some areas the report is an eye-opener, while in some it just confirmed preconceived notions.

The following findings did not surprise anyone: Recently, India slipped 10 places in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Competitive Index. This was attributed to a poor employable skill base, lack of worker protection rights and critically-low participation of women in the workforce. All three factors were accurately captured in this survey conducted last year, confirming the authenticity of the Dristhi methodology.

Workers from tribal areas are given low wages and subjected to trafficking and inhuman exploitation in the unorganised sector of domestic staff. Therefore, employment agencies must be accredited and regulated and the Government must ensure that statutory provisions for medical coverage, dignity of labour and minimum wages are enacted.

The survey revealed that there is an increased participation by women in voting, which shows that there is more understanding of local and national issues, enough for them to assert their electoral preference.

According to the survey, there is also a need to ensure that women, especially in the rural areas, are equipped to handle every adverse situation in life. Any social scientist would confirm that over-dependency is a complacent state of being, hence women must also learn how to cope with every contingency.

Because, with life expectancy increasing — and wives are known to outlive their husbands — in order not to be economically vulnerable, women need to be included in the decision-making process of deployment of family savings and understand the basics of matters like title-deed, financial securities and savings instruments. The report confirmed the healthy trend that "today one-third of the women participate in decision-making in the family", which was earlier a male domain.

The survey captured high dropout rates up to high school and that women were falling off the employment curve due to family responsibilities between the ages of 18 to 30 years, which is also the peak earning period for most people. The future success of globalised economies will lie in the increased participation of women. Regrettably, on the Gender Inequality Index, India ranks as low as 132 out of 136 countries. Gender parity is a basic human right and its achievement has multiplier socio-economic implications. Empowering women makes for thriving economies, elevates their self-worth and protects them from domestic violence. Further, according to the survey, Jan Dhan Yojana figures revealed that 79 per cent women have individual bank accounts, which is a step towards financial inclusion. However, just opening a bank account without earning adequate income is not enough. The Drishti study confirmed the NABARD's (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) pan-India findings — which had a larger sample size — that median income was between ₹5,000 and ₹20,000.

> ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, THERE IS A NEED TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS, ARE EQUIPPED TO HANDLE EVERY ADVERSE SITUATION IN LIFE. ANY SOCIAL SCIENTIST WOULD CONFIRM THAT OVER-DEPENDENCY IS A COMPLACENT STATE OF BEING; HENCE WOMEN MUST ALSO LEARN HOW TO COPE WITH EVERY CONTINGENCY

Most actionable solutions to Dristhi's findings on literacy, health and employment will come through the big digital revolution that is in the offing.

Low per capita income and low per capita savings can only increase through increased economic opportunities. The solution is rapid industrialisation of rural India by bringing employment to the villages. This can happen through increased digitisation and advancement of online commerce. Because rural women are hesitant to travel far in search of jobs and for skilling or educational purposes, we need to lower the cost of smartphones and increase internet penetration.

It is heartening that literacy rates improved to 79.63 per cent up to graduation levels. But acceleration is needed to improve the figure of 46 per cent in achieving primary literacy. To further improve India's low ratings in the Human Capital Index, NITI Aayog has proposed to increase education outlays from the current three per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to six per cent by 2022.

Our education system has remained static for too long and we are ill-equipped for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The solution, according to the latest McKinsey report, lies in lifelong learning and upgradation of skills, so as to be continuously prepared for challenging technological disruptions and a paradigm shift from theoretical to experiential learning in specialised domains like agriculture, Information Technology, tourism and so on.

Online education through e-classes and skill training through distant learning will bridge the gaps in teaching quality of Government schools where there is a shortage of brick and mortar schools in villages, and bridge the low student-teacher ratio. There are mega e-learning platforms like Byju's and so on that have sprung up in the country, but awareness of these institutions is low. Increased digitisation will provide "stay-at-home employment" through e-commerce jobs for women in rural areas and Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities. Digital commerce bought millions out of poverty in China, as it linked the remotest craftsmen and farmers to the global marketplace. In India, we have the successful model of Khadi Gramodyog, that linked clusters and communities to national marketing networks, so as to get a market-linked price for their commodity.

As India progresses from being a high-cash economy towards a digital economy, even dispensing credit to those that lack credit histories and collaterals will become easier, as algorithms in future will determine creditworthiness of borrowers.

As regards healthcare, because India has a low patient-doctor ratio, and poor patient-hospital bed capacity, we need to progress to online doctor consultations. This will help take medical expertise to remote areas and fulfil the need for preventive care and diagnosis.

With this in mind, the NITI Aayog has proposed increased outlays for health from a paltry 1.5 per cent to three per cent of the GDP. Also, medical insurance premiums must be lowered for women, as only 20 per cent of them are covered by it at present.

However, the findings of the survey that surprised were that the Gross Happiness Index (GHI) scores were as high at 80 per cent, regardless of trying circumstances and stresses of daily life.

What was hard to endorse was that the survey found that "income has no influence on levels of happiness." I am sure that most would agree that money is not everything, but is surely a necessity for self-sufficiency.

To the contrary, the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) 2017 report on depression, shows India in the top 10 slot. It also states that depression has risen by 50 per cent in the last eight years.

Look at Punjab and Delhi, where substance abuse is on the rise and drugs are available freely in betel shops, the increase in farmer and student suicides and rise in divorce rates.

How can we be high on the GHI? There exists a powerful correlation between a country's economic development and social progress, and GHI is a composite picture of multiple feel-good factors linked to increased literacy levels and employment opportunities; increased per capita incomes and savings; advanced amenities for better living conditions; decrease in incidence of lawlessness and crime; social security; high quality and accessible healthcare; physical exercise and nurturing spiritual practices.

(*The writer is an author, columnist and Chairperson of the National Committee on Financial Inclusion at NITI Aayog.*)

Ayodhya holding its breath as verdict looms

The Supreme Court's ruling would have legal, political and religious ramifications. Though the apex court's order might put a lid on the legal aspect, its impact on politics and communal harmony will be equally significant

KALYANI **SHANKAR**

Ayodhya is getting ready to face the impact of the Supreme Court (SC) ruling on the Ram janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit, next month. The verdict is expected to put a lid on the dispute between the two communities on the right of ownership of the site.

A violent mob of *Karsevaks* and prominent politicians had pulled down the mosque adjacent to the Ram temple in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992, which has tested the communal fabric of the country since then. The Hindus — represented by seven parties — have argued in the apex court that there was a temple dedicated to the birthplace of Lord Ram before the Babri Masjid was erected during medieval times. The verdict is likely to be delivered before November 17, by which time the present Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi will be retiring.

The BJP leaders are upbeat and hoping for a favourable ruling. The party is happy that their "*Mandir wahin banayenge* (we will construct the temple on that spot)" slogan could at last become a reality, after a wait of nearly three decades.

Local BJP leaders claim that over 65 per cent of the stone craving work for the proposed temple has been completed and a lot of *Karsevaks* have volunteered to work for its construction. According to BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj, if the verdict goes in favour of the Hindus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi could lay the foundation stone on December 6.

Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has also said that he is hopeful of a favourable ruling. He has already prepared the State administration to face a post-verdict scenario. The Faizabad District has been renamed as Ayodhya, which is being developed as a tourist attraction with wider roads, spruced up ghats and refurbished heritage temples.

The Ayodhya verdict would have legal, political and religious ramifications. Though the apex court's order might put a lid on the legal aspect, its impact on politics and communal harmony will be equally significant.

It is likely that the two sides might accept the SC's judgment. Muslim religious scholars and leaders have also said that parties on both sides of the dispute should accept the verdict, whatever it may be.

It will be a big gain for the BJP, as the party's political and electoral fortunes in the past three decades owe their rise to it, as the BJP began its campaign for the Ram temple in the '90s.

The razing of the Babri Masjid in 1992 was a turning point in the history of the BJP and its Hindutva politics. In fact Narendra Modi, who was a senior Gujarat leader at that time, had a role to play in BJP stalwart LK Advani's Ram rath yatra, which began from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya in 1990. However, the yatra did not culminate in Ayodhya as planned, as Advani was arrested.

The Babri Masjid demolition not only changed the political narrative of the country but it also helped the BJP establish itself in national politics.

Post the Babri Masjid demolition, the BJP acquired a national identity and stature. The party, which was known as a Bania–Brahmin party and had a strong presence only in the Hindi belt, has expanded as a pan-national party now, replacing the grand old party, the Congress.

The Ayodhya agenda has been a recurring theme, to which the Sangh Parivar and its affiliates, most importantly the BJP, have returned to again and again. The party has been consistently talking about building the Ram temple and had included it in its poll manifesto since 1996.

However, after the demolition, Advani had said that "the agitation is not just for constructing a temple, but to propagate Hindutva's foundational idea — cultural nationalism."

Other political parties, including the Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) have been treading on the issue very cautiously.

Seeing the phenomenal rise of the BJP, the Congress has also been trying to play soft-Hindutva politics in recent times, with party leaders like Rahul Gandhi visiting temples before elections. The SP, BSP, RJD and other parties relevant in the '90s have lost their sheen now.

The BJP's future agenda depends on how it plays its Hindutva card. At present, the party would primarily like to consolidate its base all over the country. It has to expand in the North-East and the South and it is also planning to expand in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Moreover, the economic agenda needs priority as it is slipping beyond its control. Creation of jobs and boosting the economy needs immediate attention. It is easier said than done when the global economy is also facing a slowdown.

The saffron party's next agenda is likely to be Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). In fact, BJP chief Amit Shah and the Minister for External Affairs S Jaishankar have gone public on reclaiming the PoK after the revocation of Article 370. But there is enough time for this until the next elections. Of course, one week is said to be long time in politics and five years are a very, very long time and there could be other issues, which may come up.

(*The writer is a senior journalist*)

FOREIGN EYE

SOMETHING TO PONDER ABOUT

The size of the Extinction Rebellion (XR) protests over the past year add weight to the idea that people in this decade were in revolt before they had any clear idea what form a revolution might take. Politically it looked like a whole generation was up for grabs. In the beginning of the decade this anger veered leftwards with movements like Occupy, but at the end it has moved greenwards, under XR. The question is how much of the country will go with it.

(*The Guardian* editorial)

CAPSULE

Sebi invites bids to provide outsourced staff, security

NEW DELHI: Capital market regulator Sebi plans to rope in an independent agency to provide contract staff, including receptionist and supervisor, for its office. In addition, the regulator is also planning to hire an agency that will provide security guards. In two separate notices inviting expression of interest (EoI) from the interested parties, Sebi said the services would be required at the regulator's office in Kochi. Spelling out the eligibility criteria, Sebi said the agency would be responsible for providing the services of the outsourced staff such as receptionist, data entry operator, office assistant and house keeper. For providing security guards, Sebi said the agency should be registered with the appropriate authorities for providing services of security guards and should have at least five years of experience in providing such service to various office premises.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q2 net up 38% at Rs 2,407 cr

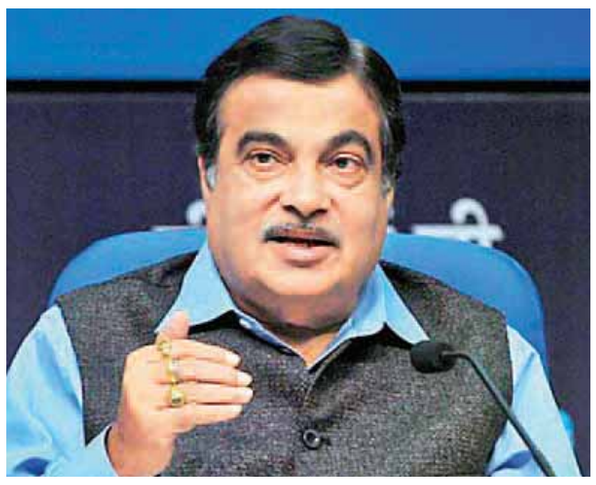
NEW DELHI: Kotak Mahindra Bank on Tuesday reported a 38 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,407.25 crore for the September quarter mainly on healthy core income. The private sector lender had posted a net profit of Rs 1,747.37 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total income jumped to Rs 12,542.99 crore in the three months ended September, as against Rs 10,829.08 crore in the same quarter of 2018-19, the bank said in a regulatory filing. "For Q2FY20, the bank's contribution to PAT was Rs 1,724 crore. The subsidiaries' and associates' net ontribution was 28 per cent of the consolidated PAT," it said in a release. The bank's income from interests for the July-September quarter rose to Rs 8,418.75 crore as against Rs 7,285.46 crore in year-ago period.

Welspun India Q2 net up 66.5 pc at Rs 202.6 cr

NEW DELHI: Home textiles major Welspun India on Tuesday reported a 66.5 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 202.6 crore for the quarter ended September 30. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 121.69 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Welspun India said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations during the second quarter stood at Rs 1,824.92 crore as compared with Rs 1,779.94 crore in the year-ago period, up 2.53 per cent, it added. The company has started flooring business under Welspun Flooring (WFL) from September 13, 2019, it said.

Government to soon change definition of MSMEs: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The government will soon make changes to the definition of a micro, small and medium enterprise, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday and hoped to generate five crore jobs in the MSME sector in five years. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had in August said the government would consider amending the MSME Act to move towards a single definition.

The update in the definition of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) may allow a single definition for purposes related to taxation, investment, etc. The new definition is likely to be effected through an amendment to the MSME Act and may lead to further improvement in India's ease of doing business scenario.

In February last year, the Union Cabinet had approved amendments to the law to change the criteria for classifying MSMEs from 'investment in plant and machinery' to 'annual turnover'.

Asked about proposed changes to the definition of MSME, the minister for micro, small and medium enterprises said this will soon be implemented. "We will have one meeting and then finalise it (changes to MSME definition)," Gadkari said, adding that extensive changes will be made soon.

The minister was speaking on the sidelines of the Luxury Symposium 2019 here.

Observing that MSMEs are the heart of the Indian economy, contributing 29 per cent to the gross domestic product and have created 11 crore jobs till now, the minister said "now, the mission for five years is that we need to create more than five crore jobs in five years, particularly in tribal, rural and agricultural areas".

He said the government is already in the process of sanctioning 13 clusters under the Solar Vastra scheme and every cluster has a potential of creating 3,000-3,500 jobs.

Besides, Gadkari, who also holds the portfolio of the road transport and highways ministry, said work has begun on the 12-lane concrete express highway between New Delhi and Mumbai and mooted the idea of setting up an international standard museum on the highway which would prove beneficial for marketing of Indian Handlooms and Handicraft and also promote tourism. He said the government is making use of kulhads (earthenware) mandatory at 400 railway stations in the country and also plans to implement the same at airports.

In February last year, the Union Cabinet had approved amendments to the law to change the criteria for classifying MSMEs from 'investment in plant and machinery' to 'annual turnover'

Sensex plunges 335 points, Infosys' shares sink 16%

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Snapping its six-session rising streak, equity benchmark BSE Sensex plunged 335 points on Tuesday, dragged by a massive plunge in Infosys' shares following a complaint against the company's chief executive. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 334.54 points, or 0.85 per cent, lower at 38,963.84. It hit an intra-day low of 38,924.85 and a high of 39,426.47.

The broader NSE Nifty too tumbled 73.50 points, or 0.63 per cent, to settle at 11,588.35.

IT major Infosys was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, plummeting 16.21 per cent after an anonymous group claiming to be employees of the firm placed a whistleblower complaint to the company's board, accusing CEO Salil Parekh and CFO Nilanjan Roy of indulging in unethical practices to boost short-term revenue and profits.

Other losers were Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech and Bajaj Finance, shedding up to 3.51 per cent.

Other losers were Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech and Bajaj Finance, shedding up to 3.51 per cent

Among the gainers were ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Auto, HUL and HDFC, rising up to 3.06 per cent.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong Tokyo and Seoul ended on a positive note after US President Donald Trump on Monday said progress in developing the text of a partial trade pact with China means he will likely be able to sign it next month. Equites in Europe were trading on a mixed note in their respective early deals.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee appreciated by 22 paise to 70.92 against the US dollar intra-day. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.36 per cent to USD 59.17 per barrel.

PMC BANK SCAM

Court extends HDIL promoters' ED custody till Oct 24

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A Mumbai court on Tuesday extended the ED custody of HDIL promoters Rakesh Wadhawan and his son Sarang Wadhawan, arrested in connection with Rs 4,355 crore Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank scam, till October 24.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) produced Housing Development Infrastructure Ltd's (HDIL) chairman and managing director Rakesh Wadhawan and his son before special Prevention of Money Laundering Act court judge P Rajvaidya, after their remand ended on Tuesday.

It sought further custody of the father-son duo to probe them further in connection with the scam.

The probing agency's counsel Kavita Patil said the accused played a crucial role in laundering huge amount of money and were concealing material from investigation.

The money trail of proceeds received from the bank and properties derived from the same were yet to be ascertained, the ED said.

The court extended the ED custody of the duo till Thursday.

The Wadhawans were arrested last month by Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW).

The EOW earlier this month registered a case against them and top officials of the PMC Bank for allegedly causing losses to the tune of Rs 4,355.43 crore to the bank.

It alleged that the bank management, in cahoots with the Wadhawans, concealed from the banking regulators' scrutiny huge loan defaults by the HDIL group firms.

The bank officials replaced 44 loan accounts of the HDIL with 21,049 fictitious accounts to camouflage huge loan defaults by the real estate group, it said.

The ED case of money laundering was based on the FIR registered by the EOW.

Coromandel International posts Rs 503 crores profit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Coromandel International Limited has reported the financial results for the quarter ended 30 September 2019.

During the quarter ended 30 September 2019, the Company's consolidated total income is Rs. 4,867 cr in comparison to the corresponding quarter last year of Rs. 5,018 cr. Profit before depreciation, interest, taxes and exceptional item (EBITDA) for the quarter has grown by 7% to Rs. 713 cr vs. Rs. 666 crores during corresponding quarter of last year. Consolidated net profit after tax for the quarter is Rs. 503 crores in comparison to Rs. 366 crores for the corresponding quarter last year registering a year on year growth of 37%.

For the half year ended 30 September 2019, the Company's consolidated total income is Rs. 7,008 crores (Half year ended 30 September 2018 Rs. 7,555 crores), profit before tax is Rs. 710 crores.

Nobel laureate Banerjee expresses worry about banking crisis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee on Tuesday flagged concerns about banking crisis in India and called for aggressive changes to deal with the situation.

There is a need to bring in important and aggressive changes to deal with the crisis, he said during interactions with media here.

Banerjee said there is need to bring down stake of the government to below 50 per cent in banks so that the decisions are taken without fear of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

The banking system has been afflicted by the scourge of high NPAs for nearly five years now, which has led to networth erosion and discovery of scams in the sector, with the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC) being the new addition.

Earlier in August, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) had constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin to examine bank fraud over Rs 50 crore and recommend action.

On August 30, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that the profitability of public sector banks was improving as the total gross non-performing assets of public sector banks came down to Rs 7.9 lakh crore at end-March 2019 from Rs 8.65 lakh crore at end-December 2018.

16-yr-old wants Amazon, Flipkart to cut plastic use

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal on Tuesday sought a report from the Central Pollution Control Board on a plea by a minor boy seeking directions to e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart to stop excessive plastic use in packaging. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the apex pollution monitoring body to submit the report within a month. Aditya Dubey, 16, through his legal guardian, has pleaded the NGT to direct Amazon and Flipkart to stop excessive use of plastics in packaging goods delivered by them. "The e-commerce companies are covered under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 but due to lack of monitoring and implementation agencies, the respondents continue to use excessive amounts of plastic in wrapping and packaging their sold items," the plea, filed through advocates Meenesh Dubey and Divya Prakash Pande, said.

India fundamental to Uber's growth story: Khosrowshahi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Uber chief Dara Khosrowshahi on Tuesday said India is fundamental to the company's growth, and the US-based ride hailing platform is investing in talent here to develop products that can be taken to other countries.

Khosrowshahi, who is on a five-day trip to India, also launched 'Public Transport' feature on the Uber app in Delhi to allow commuters plan their trips using Delhi metro.

"India is a fundamental part of Uber's growth story. It is a very important market for us. It is among the top 10 market for us and we continue to believe in and invest in India... Our business here is improving," Khosrowshahi told reporters here.

He noted that some products were improving on the profitability scale, and that the company would continue to invest towards long-term growth profile of India.

Khosrowshahi added that India not only offers scale, but is also an innovation gateway for Uber to the rest of the developing world. "...Over the next 10 years, this growth is going to be defined by markets like India, Africa and the Middle East more than the developed markets such as the US and Europe. What we see here is obviously scale, (and) we see innovation," he said. Khosrowshahi said he is visiting Uber's centres in Bengaluru and Hyderabad that work on various products and features.

Many of these features like cash rides and Uber Lite were developed in India and then extended to other countries. The company said it will expand its headcount to about 1,000 people in these centres over the next few months.

"...We can build in India, and then export all around the world," he added.

Talking about the partnership with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), Uber India and South Asia President Pradeep Parameswaran said 'Public Transport' will provide live transit information about Delhi Metro and Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) on the Uber app.

This will make travel easier for riders, he added.

Uber had won a public bid to offer its mobility services across 210 Delhi Metro stations.

> India is a fundamental part of Uber's growth story. It is a very important market for us. It is among the top 10 market for us and we continue to believe in and invest in India... Our business here is improving
>
> — DARA KHOSROWSHAHI
> Uber chief

Jyothy Labs Q2 profit rises Rs 53.59 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

FMCG firm Jyothy Labs on Tuesday reported a 16.12 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 53.59 crore for the September quarter.

Revenue from operations for the quarter under review rose 8.67 per cent at Rs 474.85 crore as against Rs 436.94 crore same period last year. Jyothy Labs, which owns brands such as Ujala, Maxo, Exo, Henko, Pril and Margo, posted total expenses of Rs 417.51 crore as against Rs 381.19 crore, up 9.52 per cent.

"The quarter under review witnessed good growth inspite of slow down in the economy. With the normal monsoon, we are hopeful for a good business performance in the coming quarters. We will continue to expand and strengthen our footprint by taking necessary actions," Jyothy Labs Chairman and Managing Director M P Ramachandran said.

Govt, industry must collaborate for digitisation, modernisation of kirana stores

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government and industry must collaborate for digitisation and modernisation of kirana stores as they are major part of the Indian retail sector, according to a Deloitte report.

It said traditional and modern retail, including e-commerce, have their own merits that must be integrated to provide a common platform.

As retail markets are evolving from 'bricks-and-clicks' to an intermix model, the brands must use multiple channels to ensure a seamless shopping experience for consumer across all channels, the report added.

"Kirana stores form a major part of the Indian retail and will continue to do so in the near future. Thus, the government and the industry must collaborate for their digitisation and modernisation," the report added. It also said there is a need to focus on rural markets as overlooking of non-urban centres may lead to undesirable results.

"The strategies must be devised to cater to the demands of all the target segments," it said adding brands need to invest in modern technology, including IoT, artificial intelligence and data analytics throughout the value chain to effectively engage with customers. Further, it said that personalised advertisements, and leveraging modern technologies can help brands in the retail sector to engage effectively with their consumers.

"Social media sites, company websites, blogs, emails, phone calls and texts, in-store communications, and other physical and online touch points should be used," it added.

Banks need to rapidly reinvent for profitability

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when growth is slowing, productivity gains are fading and digital pressures are on the rise, the banking sector should ungently consider a suite of radical measures, both organic or inorganic, to strengthen profitability and boost returns, says a report. The McKinsey's Global Banking Annual Review launched on Tuesday, warned that the bottom third of banks need to rapidly reinvent their business models in the face of continued threat posed by fintechs and big technology companies that are taking stakes in banking businesses.

Banks need to adopt defensive moves like improving risk management with advanced analytics and offensive moves such as dramatically lowering costs by outsourcing non-differentiated cost drivers to industry utilities. "History tells us that 40 per cent of the top banks today will drop to the bottom half of peers in the next cycle. So the time for bold and critical moves is now," said Joydeep Sengupta, Singapore-based McKinsey Senior Partner and report co-author.

Sengupta further said that "moves made today, be it to build scale or restructure business models, will have a defining role in combating the probability of that slide". On India, the report said revenue growth within India's banking sector has dropped from 22 per cent (2002-07) to 10.3 per cent (2010-18). Moreover, banks in India have experienced a dramatic drop in 'Return on Tangible Equity' over the last five years, from 17.7 per cent in 2013 to 2.3 per cent in 2018, the report said. It further said that Indian banks typically have a higher cost base, in part because many maintain large on the ground networks to serve rural customers. As per the report, machine-learning models can improve predictive accuracy in identifying the riskiest potential customers by 35 per cent.

Banks should also consider their options for building scale or competence through inorganic ways including both mergers and acquisitions as well as partnerships. Moreover, banks need to work hard to close the digital-skills gap, as technology has overtaken banking in perceived attractiveness of compensation and benefits, the report noted.

Banks need to adopt defensive moves like improving risk management with advanced analytics and offensive moves such as dramatically lowering costs by outsourcing non-differentiated cost drivers to industry utilities

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Wednesday
October 23, 2019

Festivals are often associated with dressing up and gorging on sweets. And no Indian festival can beat it when it comes to Diwali. All Indians have a soft corner for the festival and love the lights and colours associated with it. With Diwali fast approaching, we get ready for a season of family gatherings, mouth-watering sweets and cheat meals for people on a diet. On the flip side, the festival is also associated with pollution. Here's a list of things you can try for the upcoming celebrations, writes ANUSHKA PRADEEP

CELEBRATING MINDFUL DIWALI

HANDMADE GIFTS:

This concept has been around for time immemorial and is definitely not going out of fashion any time soon. One can gift friends and family homemade greeting cards and bookmarks or get innovative and create paper cups or paper cube string lights. You could also try your hand at making jewellery boxes out of upcycled tin cans. Upcycling any unused item at home not just ensures you gift something, but also helps you do your bit for the environment.

CONSCIOUS SHOPPING:

This Diwali why not invest in mindful shopping? Be it clothes or any other item associated with the festival. Do your research before investing in your favourite apparel. Look for ethical brands and clothes that are mindfully made. Several fashion stores here in Hyderabad offer a large variety of eco-safe and ethical products. Such brands ensure that even the artisans who work behind the screen get appropriately paid for the work they put in.

GOING LOCAL:

With the advent of online shopping several stores have been facing a dip in their revenue. So this time, take a stroll and help those little shops earn their livelihood.

DITCH CHINESE, LED LAMPS:

Also, it's about time to ditch the Chinese and LED lamps and go for eco-friendly diyas and lanterns that are made in India. Don't know where to look? You can find them in stores like IKEA or Shilparamam in Hyderabad. Several stores sell eco-friendly goods that can even be used around the year and are not exclusive to just the festive season.

CELEBRATE WITH A CAUSE:

Help a few families celebrate a happy Diwali by donating old clothing, books and other material that are gathering dust at home. One could also spend time at an orphanage or old age home. You could also volunteer in NGOs and help people. If these ideas seem too far-fetched you can also buy products made and sold by members of such foundations, so that every penny you spend lights up their Diwali too.

"Samprathi is a foundation which fosters several kids. We often take to redecorating schools and public spaces. During the festive season we encourage volunteers and children to paint diyas, mugs and plant pots which would later be put up for sale, thus raising funds for the foundation," says Surbhi, co-founder of Samprati foundation.

"There has been an overwhelming response, and truth be told, the youth today are aware and willing to make conscious decisions and understand their obligation towards society. I believe platforms like these can help channelise their desire to be a part of change," she continued.

This Diwali, while we light up every corner of our home, let's spread the light and take a purposeful step towards a better future and invest our time and money in creating memories that last longer than the fireworks by taking a few mindful decisions.

Deepika, PV Sindhu turn 'BHARAT KI LAXMI' for Narendra Modi

Actress Deepika Padukone along with world badminton champion P.V. Sindhu will be representing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign 'Bharat Ki Laxmi', which celebrates womanhood.

Deepika and Sindhu shared a video on their social media pages. In the video, the two icons were seen talking about the initiative that aims to bring light at the commendable work done by women across the nation.

Modi on Tuesday tweeted, "India's Nari Shakti epitomises talent and tenacity, determination and dedication. Our ethos has always taught us to strive for women empowerment. Through this video, *@Pvsindhu1* and *@deepikapadukone* excellently convey the message of celebrating *#BharatKiLaxmi.* (sic)"

On the acting front, Deepika will be next seen in director Meghna Gulzar's *Chhapaak*, a film based on the life of acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal, which is also produced by her.

She will also be seen sharing screen space with her husband Ranveer Singh in filmmaker Kabir Khan's '83". Ranveer plays Kapil Dev, who lead the underdog Indian cricket team to a famous victory against the mighty West Indies in the final of the 1983 World Cup. Deepika plays Kapil's wife Romi.

"'83 also features Tahir Raj Bhasin, Ammy Virk, Hardy Sandhu, and Chirag Patil among others.

The film is co-produced by Reliance Entertainment, Phantom Films and Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment.

LIKE GOLD BUT CHOOSE IRON

Dhanteras, a Hindu festival that is celebrated before Diwali, is that auspicious time of the year where people prefer to buy gold or silver. But this year an initiative called Project Streedhan has launched a digital campaign, which urges women to increase the iron content in their body rather than investing in gold and silver in their almirahs. The initiative calls to attention the alarming fact that one out of every two women in the country is anaemic. Anaemia is iron deficiency that results from a lack of healthy red blood cells and it ultimately leads to weakness and other chronic issues. Despite having widespread access to information and hi-tech medical facilities, women in urban India continue to suffer from health issues from inadequate nutrition.

The campaign, *#InvestInIron*, aims to raise awareness among women by equating 'the purity of gold' with the 'valuable iron count in a woman's body' that needs to be in good supply in every woman's diet.

Created by advertising agency FCB Ulka, the minute-long digital campaign features multiple women dressed in festive wear both traditional and in fusion styles consuming various iron rich food items including almonds, watermelon, pomegranate, corn and fish. The powerful images are beautifully brought together by a foot tapping rustic background score, urging women to invest in nourishing their body with iron rich food. *Loha chakh le* (taste the iron) is the central theme of the background score. The campaign, uploaded on Project Streedhan's YouTube channel on October 17, is resonating well with netizens garnering over 277k views so far.

In support of the cause, Bollywood actress Vidya Balan took to Instagram and posted a photograph of her eating dates, which are rich in iron content. In the post, she stated several facts about the prevalence of anaemia among women while also mentioning her own struggles with the problem for years. She then urged women to get themselves tested for anaemia this Dhanteras and to invest in iron instead of gold, referring to Project Streedhan.

Project Streedhan was launched by Dutch State Mines (a global major specialising in nutrition and sustainable living) to raise awareness about anaemia and motivate women to focus on their health.

the pioneer
Hyderabad | Wednesday October 23, 2019

what's brewing?

Anil Khosla, CEO

Kanishka Katri

Manika and Gokul Karwa.

Ishika Jain

Sukmeet Kaur

Deepali Jain

Shikha Agarwal

Swati Janu

PARTY

MOMENT OF PRIDE

The INIFD Himayatnagar branch's 17th Annual Graduation Ceremony was held in the city at a start hotel. Several Fashion and Interior Design students were given Graduation Certificates. Anil Khosla, CEO of INIFD along with several other dignitaries graced the event. Deepal Jain, winner of Lakme Fashion Week 2019 along with several other students who represented INIFD at various national and international fashion weeks, were awarded trophies at the event.

CITY GUIDE

» COMEDY

COMEDY CRACKERS

Funny side up in association with Comedy Central India presents a new material noght show — Comedy Crackers — with Hyderabad's very own Rohit Swain and Saikiran where they perform many of their new jokes some good, some bad, mostly interesting.
At CLOwork on October 27 at 11.30 am

» ART AND CULTURE

POWER OF EMOTIONS

Goethe-Zentrum in collaboration with Salar Jung Museum is conducting a photography exhibition, 'The Power of Emotions' till October 31 at Salar Jung Museum between 10 am and 5 pm.

OPEN ART COMPETITION

An NGO, Cultivating Art is conducting the second edition of Hyderabad Open Art Competition on November 10 at Phoenix Arena from 10 am onwards. It is a platform to encourage everyone to practice art, explore ideas from school children, encourage all budding artists.

CHALAM'S MAIDANAM

Samahaara Theatre Co-operative is staging a play, Chalam's Maidanam on November 2 at Phoenix Arena from 7.30pm. It is one of the most famous and most controversial of Chalam's novels, dramatises his ideas on marriage, freedom and the moral issues involved in them.

SPLENDOR OF KASHMIR

On popular demand, Ms Varuna Anand is back with her NEW Heirloom Collection — splendor of Kashmiran — exclusive collection of luxurious Pashmina shawls along with her other wide range of hand embroidered and hand woven shawls. To meet the ever increasing demand, this year she is also showcasing Kalamkari shawls and fusing it with classic embroidered borders to enhance the look of these shawls.
The collection will be showcased at Taj Krishna Pearl room today between 11 am and 7 pm.

SKEPTICISM

The play Skepticism, written & directed by Amaan Ahmad will be staged tomorrow at Lamakaan from 7.30 pm. It is a psychological and philosophical play, which touches the elements of absurdism, surrealism and skepticism. The story revolves around a psychologically disturbed artist who's going through an existential crisis.

DONGA DONGA

Samahaara Theatre Co-operative presents *Donga Donga,* a hilarious Telugu comedy, directed by Rathna Shekar at Phoenix Arena, Hitec City. *Donga Donga* is a hilarious farce adapted from two short plays written by Shri. Shankaramanchi Partha Saradhi.The play is scheduled to be held on October 25 at 7.30 pm.

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS

Cinephiles Film Club will be screening the movie Glengarry Glen Ross at Lamakaan on today at 7 pm. The plot revolves around an office full of New York City real estate salesmen who are given the news that all but the top two will be fired at the end of the week.

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

FUN TIME

ARCHIE

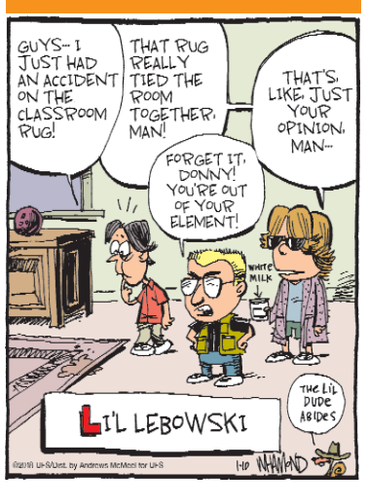
CALVIN AND HOBBES

GARFIELD

NANCY

GINGER MEGGS

REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP

SUDOKU

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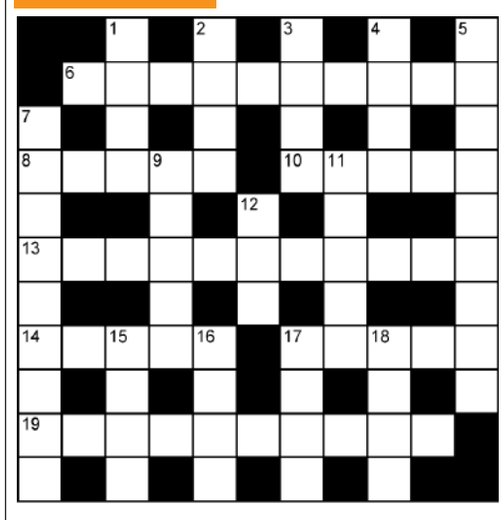
Yesterday's solution

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

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.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

6 Below
8 Frequently
10 Water vapour
13 Snapshots
14 Words that name
17 An item of furniture
19 A surgeon performs these

DOWN

1 A hair tangle
2 A blood vessel
3 Comes to a finish
4 A strong metal box for storing valuables
5 A branch of science
7 Friend
9 Devoured
11 Give a lesson
12 How old someone is
15 Second-hand
16 The line where two pieces of cloth join together
17 A metal piece of money
18 A female relative

SOLUTION

M	U	R	D	E	R		S	K	I	N
A		I				S		I		I
K	I	D	S		C	A	R	T	O	N
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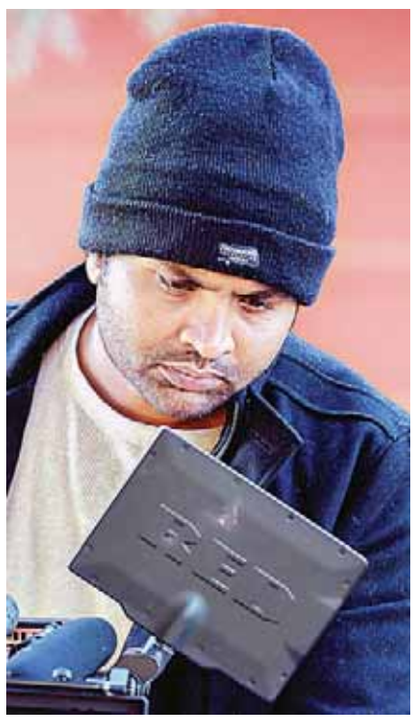
the pioneer
Hyderabad | Wednesday October 23, 2019

AMRUTHA RAMAM IS A PURE LOVE STORY: DIRECTOR SURENDER

It is always frustrating to have a story in mind and not have the means to tell it. Kontaddi Surender speaks to NAGARAJ GOUD about how he channeled his frustration into making his first film



It proved to be a tough task for Kontaddi Surender, with no contacts in the industry, to get his first chance to assist a director and hone his skills. Left with no choice and an intense desire to realise his dreams, he decided to turn into a junior artiste mid of last decade to get a feel of how the industry works. Now, he soon will be debuting as a director with *Amrutha Ramam*.

"The plan worked as I managed to develop some contacts in the industry after which I got to work as an assistant director for my first film, *Shiva*. Soon films like *Seetharamudu*, *State Rowdy* and *Mayagadu* followed. I later assisted Gunasekhar for *Nippu* and Sunil Kumar for *Thikka*. For *Thikka*, I was the associate writer as well," he shares with *The Pioneer*.

After *Nippu* he decided to pursue a solo shot at direction, but was met with little success. He intensified his efforts after *Thikka*, narrating scripts to multiple actors, but luck continued to elude him. "*Amrutha Ramam* was born out of all that frustration," he declares, adding that, "I realised that to get an appointment with a mid-range hero, I would be required to wait for a year and even if the hero likes the story, it would take another year and 18 months for the film to roll out."

Surender decided to take matters into his own hands. With financial aid from his friends in Australia backing his efforts, he began to work on a love story. He set the story in Australia where he roped in local talent to act as he couldn't afford flying out actors from Hyderabad. "To cast Telugu actors from there we did intense workshops with them before going on the sets. We began shooting last August in Sydney, Canberra, Dubbo and Snowy Mountains and wrapped it up in 45 days. On any given day, the maximum crew on set didn't exceed more than 25 members," he says.

He dubs *Amrutha Ramam* as a pure love story. "It is told from the girl's (Amitha Ranganath) point of view and focuses on her unconditional love. The male lead (Ram Mittakanti) will be a guy who is on the hunt for a job after completing his Masters. Love gives joy but also comes with sacrifices is the film's gist," he shares, crediting his wife Yogitha, a news presenter with a Telugu news channel, for believing in him when no one around him did. "It's difficult to shoot in India with the circle of people you know, let alone shooting in a different continent. I've always been a confident person but my wife has always been there for me in times of need."

S.N. Reddy, who produced the Manchu Manoj-starrer *Okkadu Migiladu*, came to his rescue on the post-production front. "He was initially reluctant to associate with the film but it seems he had a change of heart after watching it. He gave me the financial support I needed during post-production. He is the principal producer of the film now. Likewise, Annapurna Studios as well, impressed with the film, extended their help. They allotted their studios whenever I needed for post-production and never bothered to trouble me over money," he states.

But the icing on the cake for him was when leading producer Suresh Babu decided to distribute it under his esteemed Suresh Productions. Surender adds, "I know producer Madhura Sreedhar very well. He loved the film and felt that it needed to be promoted in a right way to reach the audience. I asked him whether he can show it to Suresh Babu and he said he would. He took the onus on himself and Suresh garu watched the film last week. He pointed out to some minor issues but lauded the way I treated the whole film. He later told Sreedhar *garu* that his banner would be releasing it."

NARESH: We should all work together for MAA

The feud within MAA is getting murkier day by day. Following the Sunday casual meet that snowballed into a big controversy, the film body has decided to amend laws of the association so that an 'extraordinary' general body meeting will be convened at the earliest to resolve issues pertaining to the organisation. Reacting to it, MAA president Naresh, who didn't attend the Sunday meet, said, "Out of the 550 members, only 70-80 members attended that Sunday meet. I did not attend because I was told it was only a friendly meet. Later, I was told it was a general body meeting and I was accused of interfering with it. I believe the meet damaged MAA's reputation. Usually such meetings are called once in a year and by the president himself."

"No resolutions were passed as such in the meeting except for indicating that laws should be changed in tune with modern days. It came as a shocker to me. Around 26 years ago Megastar Chiranjeevi started MAA. Ever since, the likes of Murali Mohan, Naga Babu and Rajendra Prasad among others ran it with the same laws. If changes in laws is mooted, the proposal should be first put forward to experienced personalities like Krishna and Krishnamraju for their opinion before it goes to the lawyers," he added.

Listing out his achievements for the last six months as the MAA president, Naresh said that for the first time in the history of MAA, 850 members were provided life insurance coverage. "Medical insurance has been hiked to Rs 3 lakh, while eligible artistes are getting Rs 6,000 pension deposited in their accounts directly every month instead of the earlier practice of handing over cheques. No film body in the country took such measures. We are also very close to carrying out an event to raise funds," he said

He further said that he doesn't want to attract any controversies and wants to move forward with the help of experienced personalities.

"I will take everyone along with me to ensure that our goals are met. Office bearers should work together in the best interest of MAA," he advised.

AADI signs a new-age entertainer

With his latest, *Operation Gold Fish*, too failing to do any good to his career, Aadi Saikumar's market has come crashing down. However, the actor continues to attract offers. The latest we hear about him is that he has signed debutant Sai Raj's film. "It's a new-age romantic comedy that goes well with his persona. It requires him to be his natural self. The actor believes it's the film that will bail him out of his poor streak and garner him fame as an actor. He will start shooting for it next month," says a source.

That's not all! The actor also has a couple of other projects in his kitty. While one with Karthik Vignesh is an action-drama, which will mark his Tamil debut, he is also currently shooting for first-timer Srinivasa Naidu's love story that will see him in multiple shades. The latter is a joint production venture between Chitalapudi Srinivas and Chavali Ramanjaneyulu where Aadi will be seen alongside Surbhi.

SAM and CHAY'S puppy love

After welcoming a pet dog Bugaboo last year, actress Samantha adopted two more dogs, which she named as Hash Akkineni and Drogo Akkineni, earlier this May. The latest is that she might have brought another dog, going by an Instagram post on her account. Even though, this time, it looks like her husband Naga Chaitanya is dead set against the idea, Sam may have had her way finally. Sharing an interesting conversation that transpired between them, along with a picture of one of their pets resting in Chay's lap, she wrote, "Dad: I don't want a dog !! Mom : gets dog anyway ... Dad and the dog (sic)." The post won hearts of many netizens while some felt bad for Chay.

On the work front, Chay will be next seen in *Venky Mama*, while Sam has recently wrapped up filming for the Telugu remake of '96, where she reprises the role that was essayed by Trisha in the Tamil original.

One Plus One Equals 11

India complete 3-0 clean sweep formalities in two overs & win consecutive 11th series at home under Kohli

PTI ■ RANCHI

A formidable Indian team ticked all the boxes with ease as it completed a 3-0 rout of an out-of-sorts South Africa with an innings and 202 runs victory in the third and final Test at Jharkhand State Cricket Association stadium on Tuesday.

With another 120 points in the ongoing World Test Championship, India now sit pretty on top of the table with 240 points as the formalities were completed within the first two overs of the fourth day.

This was Virat Kohli's 11th series win as captain and the first clean sweep over the Proteas who were no match for the hosts. This was India's 11th successive series triumph on home soil.

The scoreline was not only an indicator of India's absolute dominance but also the decline in standard of South African cricket as the visitors couldn't handle the might of India's batting and the fiery pace attack led by Mohammed Shami (13 wickets in the series).

Debutant left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem (2/18 in 6 overs) wrapped it up in the second over of the day as South Africa were all out for 133 in their second innings, 29 runs short of their dismal first innings score of 162.

This was India's sixth clean sweep at home in a three-Test series and the side didn't put a foot wrong during the three-match series, winning the first Test by 203 runs and the second one by an innings and 137 runs.

If Rohit Sharma's coming of age in his new role as an opener with 529 runs, turned out to be a masterstroke in home conditions, Mayank Agarwal also consolidated his place in the side with a double century and a ton, easing India's long time opening woes.

"I was very happy to make my debut in Australia and make little contributions to the team. It's hard work over a period of many areas," Agarwal said after the match.

However, what stood out during the series was how lethal the Indian pace attack looked despite their premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah's absence due to a stress fracture.

Rarely has there been a series where the impact of pacers has been as much as the spinners.

If Ravindra Jadeja (13 wickets) and Ravichandran Ashwin (15 wickets) shared 28 among themselves, Mohammed Shami (13 in 3 Tests), Umesh Yadav (11 in two Tests) and Ishant Sharma (2 in 2 Tests) picked 26 wickets.

"We are always ready to fulfill our responsibility. As a captain, Virat gives you confidence, lets you do what you want. We try to keep the ball in the right areas and bowl the right length," Shami said at the end of match.

It was one such series, where South African batsmen looked scared and scarred by the ferocity of India's pace attack. The pacers did a lot of damage with the new ball and reversed the old ball.

Two hundreds and four fifties is all that the South African batting line-up managed and South African skipper Faf du Plessis agreed that they were completely outplayed on sporting tracks unlike the ones in 2015 where the ball was turning square.

"They were ruthless and they were better than us in every department — spin bowling, fast bowling, batting and even the fielding. They are a difficult team to overcome," Du Plessis agreed.

Pleased as punch, skipper Kohli couldn't agree more with his opposite number.

"You guys have seen how we're playing. Making things happen on pitches that don't seem to offer too much, is something we're very proud of," Kohli summed it up aptly.

Members of Indian team pose with the winners trophy after their win on the fourth day of third and last Test match between India and South Africa in Ranchi AP

INDIA'S BIGGEST WINS IN TESTS

Margin	Opponents	Venue	Season
Innings & 272runs	West Indies	Rajkot	2018-19
Innings & 262 runs	Afghanistan	Bengaluru	2018
Innings & 239 runs	Bangladesh	Dhaka	2006-07
Innings & 239 runs	Sri Lanka	Nagpur	2017-18
Innings & 219 runs	Australia	Kolkata	1997-98
Innings & 202 runs	South Africa	Ranchi	2019-20

MOST WICKETS BY IND PACERS IN A 3-MATCH HOME SERIES

Opponent	Season	Overs	Runs	Wkts
England	1933-34	353.3	926	30
Sri Lanka	2017-18	235.4	758	30
England	2005-06	254.5	763	27
South Africa	2019-20	152.5	455	26
South Africa	1996-97	221.3	625	25

MOST CONSECUTIVE TEST SERIES WINS AT HOME

Team	Series	Period
India	11	February 2013 to October 2019
Australia	10	November 1994 to November 2000
Australia	10	July 2004 to November 2008
West Indies	8	March 1976 to February 1986
England	7	May 2009 to May 2012
South Africa	7	March 1998 to November 2001

FAISEL FEATURES

"Indian conditions were always known to be spin friendly. Now we have that power, among our pacers, that we can make batsmen dance with the bat."
— MOHAMMAD SHAMI

"The support of the coach and captain helps. I am thankful for the opportunity to the management for that opening slot."
— ROHIT SHARMA

"They were ruthless and they were better than us in every department - spin bowling, fast bowling, batting and even the fielding. They are a difficult team to overcome"
— FAF DU PLESSIS

Indian captain Virat Kohli shakes hand with Faf du Plessis AP

We want to be the best: Kohli

PTI ■ RANCHI

The intent has always been honest and that precisely is the reason for the stupendous results that the Indian cricket team is currently delivering, skipper Virat Kohli said after a thumping 3-0 whitewash.

"As long as we keep working with honest intent, those things will follow. We have wanted to be the best team in Test cricket, and as long as we compete, things will work out well for us," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

The best part about the win was taking the conditions out of equation, said Kohli.

"Amazing. You guys have seen how we're playing. Making things happen on pitches that don't seem to offer too much, is something we're very proud of," the skipper said.

"Even when we travelled away from home, we wanted to compete. Getting into the right kind of mindset is something these guys have worked really hard to get into... To be the best side in the world, you have to be multi-dimensional," skipper said.

"Spin was always our strength, batting was never a problem for us. Ishant (Sharma) was the only experienced bowler for us. We said we can play an extra bowler, and as batsmen we said we'll get the job done.

"We've got runs in every Test match, our catching has been good too. (Goal) As I said, even without much experience, we travelled very well. We believe we can win anywhere," the skipper added.

His counterpart Faf du Plessis also agreed that it was high quality pace bowling from India.

"I think it's the skill of the bowlers. They have a skiddy nature and they hit the right spots and the stumps at all times. Those are the things we talked about before we came here, but naturally the length in South Africa has to be a little shorter, and that takes time to adjust," Du Plessis said.

The fight tapered off after the first Test in Visakhapatnam and du Plessis acknowledged that his side wasn't up to it.

"That's the frustrating part of the tour. There were some really good signs, but it went the other way," the Proteas skipper said when dissecting performance on the tour.

"Every Test, we made more mistakes. But we have to give credit to the Indian team. They were ruthless and they were better than us in every department — spin bowling, fast bowling, batting and even the fielding. They are a difficult team to overcome.

"The mindset after 2015 was to prepare ourselves for really spinning tracks, but it's been the opposite. Really sporting tracks — fantastic for fast bowlers and even for batsmen. There's a lot to learn for us," he added.

The visiting skipper said that this is a young team which wold learn to fight its way out of trouble in adverse conditions.

"It's important that we have some young guys, and they'll experience this in 3-4 years ago. It was important for us to take something back again.

"We have to learn to compete the next time again. This is the toughest tour on the circuit... (India's) 11 series wins in a row bears testament to that."

MS Dhoni speaks with Shahbaz Nadeem after the end of third Test BCCI/Twitter

MS checks in

RANCHI: A notable absentee for the duration of the Test, former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni finally showed up after India wrapped up the Test series, posing with Ravi Shastri among others.

Ranchi's most popular son was expected to turn up during the third Test, and he did, but only after the formalities had been completed by Virat Kohli and his men here.

"Great to see a true Indian legend in his den after a fantastic series win #Dhoni #TeamIndia #INDvsSA," Shastri tweeted with a picture of him with a grinning Dhoni.

In fact, when a scribe asked about Dhoni, a beaming skipper Kohli said in jest: "He is here in the change room. Come and say hello to him."

The BCCI also posted a picture of Dhoni, wearing his all-access accreditation card, in the Indian dressing room.

In the picture posted by the Indian board, Dhoni is seen in conversation with debutant left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem, who took four wickets. *PTI*

All credit goes to Rohit

PTI ■ RANCHI

Skipper Virat Kohli feels that no one but Rohit Sharma alone "deserves credit" for overcoming "anxiety and hesitation" while performing commendably in his new role as an opener, giving bowlers enough time to take 20 South African wickets in the 3-0 sweep.

Rohit turned out to be a revelation as opener with scores of 176 and 127 in the first Test and 212 in the third Test. The team management's stand that he could be a game-changer in the longest format stood vindicated.

"Credit solely goes to the player for the way he overcame his anxiety and hesitation and performed in such a manner that he was adjudged Man-of-the-Series in the first series as an opener. It's been outstanding for him," Kohli was effusive in praise for his white-ball deputy.

"There is always an anticipation on how would you perform as an opener in Test cricket, as he has been the world's best opener in ODI cricket for a long time. Despite missing close to two sessions because of rain, his pace in the batting gave us so much of time to bowl them out twice," the skipper said.

The top-order had performed brilliantly in the series, something that the skipper finds deeply satisfying.

"Mayank (Agarwal) also has done very well. Despite being new to opening, he performed consistently. Ajinkya (Rahane) also got a century at home after a long time (three years, 188 v NZ October 2016, Indore).

"He also got a Test century in West Indies after a long time. Things are moving in the right direction in the last two-three months. So I said, it feels very pleasing to see individuals performing collectively well."

Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Shami took 24 of the 60 South African wickets and their strike-rate is something that makes them stand apart from a lot of Indian fast bowlers over the years, said the skipper.

"If you look at these two guys, their strike-rate is probably the best in Indian conditions in history. So it tells you that these guys hit the stumps and the pads more. It's a great sign of intent the bowlers are running with. The fitness levels have gone up," Kohli said.

'WILL MEET & TALK ABOUT DHONI'

India captain Virat Kohli on Tuesday said he hasn't had any conversation with Sourav Ganguly with regards to MS Dhoni's international future and believes that the BCCI's President-elect will get in touch with him when he needs to.

After being nominated as the BCCI's President-elect, Ganguly had said that he would like to speak to the selectors as well as Dhoni to know what they had in mind.

"I congratulated him (Ganguly). It's great that he has become BCCI President. But he's not spoken to me about that (MS) yet. He will get in touch with me when he has to. I am sure I will go and meet him when he tells me to," the Indian skipper said at the post-match press conference.

5 Test venues

Skipper Virat backs Aussie, English model of having only five permanent Test centres

PTI ■ RANCHI

India captain Virat Kohli feels that time has come for the BCCI to zero in on five permanent Test centres for future home series, similar to the English and Australian model when top teams tour those countries.

In Australia, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide are the five designated Test centres whenever the big teams come calling.

Similarly in England, the Lord's, Oval, Trent Bridge, Old Trafford, Edgbaston, Southampton and Headingley are the seven main Test centres for any marquee series (Ashes/India).

Asked about the lukewarm response in Ranchi, the Indian skipper lapped up the question.

"That's a great question. We have been discussing this for a long time now. And in my opinion, we should have five Test centres. Period," the skipper made his point, something that the new BCCI president Sourav Ganguly might now have to look into.

"Look if you want to keep Test cricket alive and exciting, I totally agree with the fact that we need five Test centres at max. It can't be sporadic and spread over so many places where people turn up or they don't," the skipper didn't mince words.

"So in my opinion, absolutely, we should have five strong Test centres where the team coming to India knows that this is where we're going to play and nowhere else," he said.

The BCCI follows the rotation policy across formats but it has now more than 15 Test centres.

Shastri likens Indian batting to Ferrari, calls Hitman different class

PTI ■ RANCHI

An exultant India coach Ravi Shastri on Tuesday said Rohit Sharma has shown himself to be of different class in the newly-acquired role of a Test opener, acclimatising exceptionally well to the challenges posed by the position.

"Ajinkya Rahane was always there in the middle order, he only needed to rediscover, which he did himself. Rohit is different class. As an opener he needed to have a different mindset, he acclimatised. It was a difficult pitch to start with but *usne jhela*," Shastri told official broadcaster *Star Sports* at the end of the match. "He has it in him to be unfazed by difficult conditions. What he has done in this series is tremendous," he added. Shastri lauded the mindset of the team, which he said, is never perturbed by the conditions it encounters whether at home or abroad.

"Our philosophy has been *bhaad mein gaya pitch* (to hell with the pitch). We need to take 20 wickets and it doesn't matter if it's Mumbai, Auckland, Melbourne, anywhere. Once we have taken those 20 wickets, our batting, once it gets going is like smooth-running Ferrari," he quipped.

"When you have five bowlers who can take 20 wickets, *bas* that's what matters," he added.

Despite the individual brilliance that shone through, Shastri said the triumph was, in the end, a team effort.

Mohammed Shami celebrates by showing broken wicket after dismissing Dane Piedt in Pune AP

"It's a team effort. A captain who leads from the front. You have opening batsmen who got double hundreds. Middle-order batsmen got hundreds. Normally in India, you have two players who hog the limelight. Here we've had six or seven payers. This is going well, enjoy," he said.

'Ind tour caused mental scars'

PTI ■ RANCHI

Humiliated by a ruthless India, the South African team will go back with "mental scars" as skipper Faf du Plessis rued a lack of vision that impeded phasing out of their great players.

"A tour like this reveals that there's a lot of mental scars that can happen and then obviously it's difficult to come out of that hole," Du Plessis said after they conceded their heaviest defeat to India in the third Test. "It's just a relentless, ruthlessness the way they put big totals on the board every time. The effect it has on you mentally as a batting lineup, it takes a lot of energy and it takes a lot of toll and that's why you could see towards the end our batting was mentally weak. You don't want to be mentally weak."

Blaming Cricket South Africa, the visiting skipper further said the tour exposed the lack of planning as they did not think for future after greats like Hashim Amla and AB de Villiers retired. "It shows that our structures are not where they need to be. The gap between domestic cricket and International cricket. If you look back three or four years and if someone had the vision of saying, in three or four years' time there will be a lot of inexperienced guys. A lot of 34, 35, 36 year olds could possible retire. So what do you do to make sure you get yourself ready for when that time comes? "And possibly we are guilty of not planning or when these guys going at the same time. And now you've got to replace not only one player but four or five of your best players. Perhaps we could've been a little bit smarter in our planning phase, and the phasing out of the great players," he said.

Asked about the way forward, Du Plessis said they have to find the right people to build the side. "It's a rebuilding phase. You have to start identifying characters that will drive the team forward. You look for personalities within a team that you see in 3-4-5-6 years to come. And then the process starts. It's a tough place to start right at the beginning.

"The process will probably take a little bit longer. So for me, our next journey now is trying to make sure that we get a lot stronger as a cricketing team mentally. So if there's work that needs to be done in that department, then so be it."

Faf du Plessis & Zubayr Hamza, left, leave the field at the end of day's play AP