OPINION 6

WHY CONG OWES

AN ANSWER

HYDERABAD *Late City Vol. 1 Issue 353 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RNI No. APENG/2018/764698

AM RATNAM LEADS RACE TO FUND PK'S COMEBACK FILM

Page 10

the pioneer

ADANI AWARDS AUD 100 MN OZ

RAIL CONTRACT TO MARTINUS RAIL

CJI Gogoi recommends **Justice Bobde** as successor

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Friday sent a letter to the Centre recommending Justice S A Bobde, who is next in seniority, as his successor. Official Sources told PTI that Justice Gogoi wrote a letter to the Ministry of Law and Justice recommending Justice Bobde to be the next chief justice. Justice Gogoi, who was sworn in as the 46th Chief Justice of India on October 3, 2018, will demit office on November 17. Official sources said the chief justice has gone by the convention to recommend the name of the next senior judge after him as his successor.

UP CM bans mobiles in all colleges

LUCKNOW: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has banned the use of mobile phones in colleges and universities in the state. A circular to this effect has been issued by the Directorate of Higher Education in Uttar Pradesh. The circular mentions a blanket ban on the use of mobile phones inside universities and colleges. Students will no longer be allowed to take or use mobile phones inside universities and colleges. The ban is also applicable to teachers across all universities and colleges in the state. The ban on the use of mobile phones is also applicable to teaching faculty of all UP universities and colleges.

Guj-cadre IPS Anup Kumar is new NSG chief

NEW DELHI: Senior IPS officer of Gujarat cadre Anup Kumar Singh has been appointed as director general of the National Security Guard (NSG), an official order said on Friday. The appointment of Singh, a 1985-batch IPS officer, as the DG of the 'black cats commando' force was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The post was lying vacant for over two months after the retirement of Sudeep Lakhtakia, a 1984batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Telangana cadre. "The appointment (of Singh) will be from the date of joining the post and up to September 30, 2020 i.e. date of his superannuation or till further orders, whichever is earlier," an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training said.

Month & Paksham: Ashwini& krishna Paksha

Panchangam Tithi: Panchami: 07:43 am

Nakshatram: Mrigashirsha: 05:41 pm Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start

any important work) **Rahukalam:** 09:07 am - 10:34 am

Yamagandam: 01:27 pm - 02:54 pm Varjyam: 02:09 am- 03:46 am **Gulika:** 06:13 am - 07:40 am

Good Time: (to start any important work) **Amritakalam:** 08:38 am - 10:16 pm Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:37 am - 12:24 pm

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms **Temp:** 31/24 Humidity: 87% **Sunrise: 06.09**

Sunset: 05.51 Current Weather Conditions

Formation Day to be celebrated on Nov 1

After five long years, the State government is all set to celebrate the Pradesh Andhra Formation Day on November 1 this year.

A decision to this

effect was taken by the

government following the clearance by the Union Home Ministry. The MHA is learnt to have given the nod as the mother States can celebrate their original formation days.

With this, Chief Secretary LV Subrahmanyam is under-

Location of Amaravati capital city is back into focus with YSRCP MLA

Ramakrishna Reddy express-

ing his opinion that

Mangalagiri is the most suit-

able place for the construction

of structures required for gov-

Minister YS Jaganmohan

Reddy on Friday, he said

Then TDP is in for fresh trou-

ble as the YSRCP government

has ordered for fresh SIT probe

into the land scams that rocked

the city before the elections.

It may be recalled that senior

ΓDP leader and former

Minister Ch Ayyanna Patrudu

in a public meeting alleged that

his party leader (Ganta

Srinivasa Rao) has helped peo-

ple from outside Vizag in

acquiring huge chunks of gov-

The YSRCP government on

Thursday formed a three-

Team (SIT) afresh to conduct

an inquiry into land scams in

Vizag city and surrounding areas. Ironically, YSRCP

opposed SIT when it was in

opposition citing that SIT was

an eye-wash and demanded

CBI inquiry into the land grab-

bing. But now, the government

has formed SIT instead of rec-

Kumar will lead the SIT, while

retired IAS officer YV

Anuradha and retired district

and sessions judge T Bhaskar

Rao are the members of the

Retired IAS officer Vijay

ommending CBI probe.

with land records.

In a letter written to Chief

ernance of the State.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

stood to have been convening meeting on October 21 to dis-

> Soon after bifurcation of combined Andhra Pradesh, the TDP government in 2014

and Tadikonda were not ideal

Fresh trouble for TDP as

Retired IAS officer

IAS officer YV

the fresh SIT

other officials.

ernment lands by tampering **Anuradha and retired**

member Special Investigation are the members of

Viiav Kumar will lead

the SIT, while retired

district and sessions

judge T Bhaskar Rao

had formed a SIT in June 2017

led by senior IPS officer Vineet

Brijlal and it has submitted the

report in January 2018. But, it

had failed to make the report public and no action was taken.

The TDP government has

tabled the brief summary of the

report that contained the

alleged involvement of a former

Revenue Minister and a few

vious SIT report, the YSRCP

government has formed fresh

Without mentioning the pre-

govt appoints new SIT

although the Śrikrishna for the construction of the

Committee had felt that Tullur capital city, the TDP govern-

and arrangements for the cel-

cuss the preparations

Mangalagiri ideal for capital: RK

LV Subrahmanyam is convening a meeting on Oct 21 to discuss arrangements for the celebrations across the State

had asked the Union Home Ministry for clarification, in turn, the latter had said that the truncated State could retain its original Formation Day, i.e; November 1.

However, the TDP government started celebrating June 2 as the Nava Nirmana Deeksha Day.

Ramakrishna Reddy

forced the farmers to

part with their lands

ment headed by Chandrababu

Naidu went ahead with the

the Naidu government had

ing of government land records

has raised speculations that the

TDP government had con-

cealed the names of top TDP leaders in the lands scams.

had received about 2,875 peti-

tions through various modes

and it had taken up 333 petitions for inquiry. After investigation, the SIT observed that

1,100 acres of government land in Vizag was grabbed by land

sharks. Though SIT had rec-

ommended the TDP govern-

ment to take back the land, no

Expressing that TDP's SIT an

eyewash, Anakapalle MLA and

YSRCP leader Gudivada

Amarnath said that TDP lead-

ers, including Chandrababu

Naidu's son Nara Lokesh and

a few others, were involved in

the lands scams in Vizag. But,

the SIT had failed to include

their names in the report, he

step was taken.

The SIT led by Vineet Brijlal

Kamakrishna Reddy said

project at these places.

said the Naidu

for the capital

project

government had

PCI takes suo motu cognizance of scribe's murder

VIJAYAWADA, SATURDAY OCTOBER 19, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3

PNS NEW DELHI

www.dailypioneer.com

Press Council of India (PCI) Chairman Justice Chandramouli Prasad has noted with concern murder of K Satyanarayana, journalist of a vernacular daily, for his reportedly alleged critical writings against anti-social elements.

In a press release, the PCI Chairman took suo motu cognizance and directed the Andhra Pradesh government through the Chief Secretary, Secretary (Home) and the Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, to submit a report on the facts of the

forced the farmers to part with

their lands for the capital pro-

Stating that 10,000 acres of

government land is available in

Mangalagiri, Ramakrishna

Reddy said he would suggest to

the newly-constituted committee on the capital city con-

struction that Mangalagiri is the most ideal location for the

He demanded that the noti-

fication issued for pooling by

the previous TDP government

NPCIL for fleet

To increase standardisation

and bring modularity in

building atomic power reac-

tors, the Nuclear Power

Corporation of India Limited

(NPCIL) is going for fleet

mode construction for future

projects, DAE Secretary K N

Vyas said on Friday.

Speaking at the India

Energy Forum's Nuclear

Conclave, he said 17 new

reactors are now in the

pipeline, with seven already

mode for construction, there-

by reducing construction

costs and speeding up con-

struction time," Vyas, who is

also the Chairman of the

Atomic Energy Commission,

said. He said Índia is an old

player in the nuclear energy

sector with the first research

reactor in Asia being com-

"We are going in for fleet

under construction.

mode atomic

reactors

PNS NEW DELHI

be withdrawn.

PREVIEW OF PUBLIC TENDERS

Statutory judicial panel receives first case

The statutory Andhra Pradesh Judicial Commission, which is mandated to conduct a preview of public tenders for all works over Rs 100 crore in value, received its first case related to engagement of a service provider to run the 108 ambulance service for judicial

scrutiny.

The Medical and Health
Department has submitted the tender proposal to the judicial commission, headed by retired High Court judge B Siva Sankara Rao, for scrutiny.

The State government will pay more than Rs 100 crore per annum to the service provider for operating the 108 ambulance service across the State.

There are over 600 ambulances in the State now and the government has been paying Rs 1.35 lakh per month to run



Justice B Siva Sankara Rao

each of these. A sum of over Rs 97.20 crore is being paid by the State government to the private service provider every year to run the service.

The government has decided to increase the fleet by at least 100 ambulances and the maintenance expenditure will proportionately go up over Rs 100 crore per

annum, official sources said. Hence, the tender has been referred to the judicial commission for preview, the sources added.

"The Commission has sought some clarifications and we have given the replies. The tender will be put up online for public perusal next week," Medical and Health Principal Secretary K S Jawahar Reddy said here on Friday.

The AP Infrastructure (Transparency throughJudicialPreview) Act, 2019, passed by the state Legislature in July, mandates putting any government tender for infrastructure works of Rs 100 crore and more forjudicialscrutiny before awarding the contracts.

Judges' recommendations will be binding on the government, as per the legislation.



Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy speaking at a review meeting of the Medical and Health Department in Vijayawada on Friday

Feeder ambulances in remote tribal areas

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister Jaganmohan Reddy directed officials to provide medical services in remote and tribal areas through feeder ambulances (apart from establishing maternity centres in every district). He also asked officials to implement YSR Kanti Velugu for college students besides carrying out health tests to all starting with schoolchildren.

During a review meeting of the Medical and Health Department here on Friday, he asked officials to start all the development and renovation works in the community hospitals, area hospitals and district hospitals from December and complete the work by December 2020. Health hub centre works will start from May, 2020.

He instructed officials to extend YSR Kanti Velugu programme to college students and the preliminary round should be completed within a month. Like Kanti Velugu, all the health tests should be done to the people starting from school students.

The government has approved to start Aarogya Sri services from November 1 in

The CM asked officials to start all the development works in area hospitals and dist hospitals from Dec and complete the work by Dec 2020

150 hospitals in Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai. The government is also set to buy new vehicles for 108 and 104 and Aarogya Sri cards will be given from December 21. Šanitary workers' pay in hospitals would be hiked to Rs 16,000. The State will provide finan-

cial assistance of Rs 5,000 per month or Rs 225 every day from December 1 as a postsurgery allowance till the date of recovery as recommended by the medical doctor. He ordered officials to include Thalassemia, Haemophilia, Sickle Cell Anaemia patients under the financial aid of Rs 10,000 that is being provided to kidney patients.

He asked officials to include four more diseases in the Rs 5,000 pension category from

Continued on Page 3

And now, Haj pilgrimage from Amaravati: Basha

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Deputy Chief Minister Amzath Basha said that Muslims can undertake their Haj pilgrimage from Amaravati from next year.

Speaking at a media conference here on Friday, Basha said Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy had held several discussions with the Centre and made this possible. On the occasion, he released a brochure on the

Haj pilgrimage. Stating that the full quota of Haj quota for Andhra Pradesh is not being used for the past three years, he said the Centre had further increased the quota to 2,600 and taken steps to ensure that Hajis will make use of the opportunity. For this, the government is conducting

an extensive campaign. Basha said as per the instructions of the Chief Minister, plans are being drawn up to see that financial assistance is given to Hajis from the State. "If the Haji's annual income is Rs 3 lakh, he will get Rs 60,000. If the income is above Rs 3 lakh, an assistance of Rs 30,000 will be

given," he said.



Continued on Page 3 Though TDP government SIT to probe into the tampermissioned in the country. TS braces up for shutdown today

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State is bracing up for a total shutdown on Saturday, with the TSRTC Joint Action Committee calling for "Telangana bandh" in support of its 14-day-old strike that has moral and vocal support of all opposition parties, employees, students' unions and civil society organizations. JAC convener Ashwathama Reddy on Friday urged all sections of people to extend their support to Saturday's shutdown and make it a big success.

All opposition parties-- BJP, Congress, TDP, TJS, CPI, CPM; TNGOs and TGOs; students' unions, including OU JAC, civil society organizations and various caste-centric organizations have urged people to make the bandh a huge



Advocates JAC burning the effigy of the govt as part of 'Chalo Bus Bhavan' at Nampally Court in Hyderabad on Friday

leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka asked TRS leaders K Keshava Rao and others to participate in the bandh. He said TRS leaders should decide whether they want to stand by people. He alleged that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao was scheming to sell RTC's and Congress Legislature Party other government assets to

private persons. He condemned the preventive arrests of various leaders. He said that the Telangana Congress would approach the Centre and meet the Governor of the state on the issue very soon.

Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) chief Prof Kodandaram opined that the bandh was very Oppn parties, revenue dept and other govt employees, teachers, students' unions, civil society organizations extend support to bandh called by RTC unions

TNGOs, TGOs to stage demonstrations during lunch hour

important. Businessmen would observe it voluntarily, he said. TTDP chief L Ramana

alleged that KCR had been provoking RTC workers by making irresponsible statements. The state government should divert the Rs.900 crore revenue it had earned through liquor tenders to mend matters in RTC, he suggested. He commented that Ministers Errabelli Dayakar Rao and Gangula Kamalakar were speaking like 'adda koolis'.

I-T raids on Kalki trusts reveals Rs 500 cr black money

PNS CHENNAI

In a massive search operation covering 40 premises of religious trusts and other entities that preach about "oneness philosophy" and run wellness centres, the Income Tax Department has found Rs 500 crore of undisclosed income and links to investments in tax havens. The tax authorities have seized cash amounting to Rs 43.9 crore during the search operations. Foreign currencies worth \$2.5 million (Rs 18 crore) and about 88 kg of gold have also been discovered and

"Total value of seizure so far is approximately Rs 93 crore. The undisclosed income of the group detected so far is esti-



crore," the Tax Department said in a release.

The search proceedings are still in progress. "The search action which is still in progress has covered about 40 premises located in Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and

Varadaiahpalem," the tax department said. The group of trusts and

companies run by a spiritual guru has been found to be investing in a number of companies in India and abroad including in tax havens.

he pioneer

CAPSULE

NASA ASTRONAUTS **CONDUCT FIRST ALL-WOMEN SPACE WALK**

Washington: NASA astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir ventured out of the International Space Station on Friday for the first all-women space walk to replace a failed power controller, also known as a battery chargedischarge unit (BCDU). Koch and Meir ventured out into the vacuum of space at 7.38 a.m. EDT (5.08 p.m. India time) for the space walk, according to NASA. It is the first time that all space walkers are women and the 43rd space walk to include women. This is Koch's fourth space walk and Meir's first. The space walk is the 221st in support of station assembly, maintenance and upgrades and the eighth outside the station this year. An all-women space walk, involving Koch and NASA astronaut Anne McClain, was originally scheduled for March. But that was scuttled because properly fitted spacesuits could not be readied in time for both astronauts, Space.com reported. So far, the 15 women who have conducted a space walk did so with a male companion. The first all-women space walk is a milestone worth noting as NASA looks forward to putting the first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024 with the agency's Artemis lunar exploration programme. Space walks are not easy. Astronauts typically describe them as the most physically challenging thing they do. "In the end, I do think it's important, and I think it's important because of the historical nature of what we're doing. In the past women haven't always been at the table." Koch was quoted as saying by NASA when asked in an interview about the importance of conducting her mission and the first all-female space walk. Koch and Meir went out into the vacuum of space to replace a battery charge/ discharge unit that failed to activate after new lithium-ion

'Skill sets must match technology'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) Prof K Hemachandra said that even though more engineering students are completing their graduation every year in the country, the growth of technology is outpacing the skill sets of graduates. The educational institutions play a major role in bridging these skills gap.

Addressing the 42nd edition `ICT Academy Bridge 2019', the largest industryinstitute interaction event in Asia here on Friday, he said the current industry scenario demands the students to acquire knowledge in the cross functional domains. For example, one of the major mistakes that the students make is assuming that a Computer Science degree is a must for learning the right skill sets for AI and its various subsets. Actually to land in an AI/ML job a statistics degree is precise choice of major.

ICT Academy Bridge, the event that connects government policy-makers, industry experts and academic leaders, focused on the theme 'Augmenting Accelerating Growth" to set an agenda for leaders to help people upgrade their skills and future-proof themselves, which is going to be the defining challenge of our time.

Prof Hemachandra said in terms of developing the core



Prof Hemachandra said in terms of developing the core skills, the **Government of Andhra Pradesh is** planning to establish 25 Skill **Development Centres to enrich** technical skills of students

skills, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is planning to establish 25 Skill Development Centres to enrich technical skills of students of Andhra Pradesh. The government has also established an IT Task Force to design a policy document for skill development, he added.

M Sivakumar, Chief Executive Officer of ICT Academy, said, "Giving back to society is the trait I learned through my 10 years of journey with ICT Academy. Bridge is the flagship event of ICT Academy, and was initiated to bridge the gap between industry and academia. This is the Prof Hemachandra said in terms of developing the core skills, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is planning to establish 25 Skill Development Centres to enrich technical skills of students of Andhra

■ The government has also established an IT Task Force to design a policy document for skill development, he added

42nd edition and is an eight hours event for sharing the knowledge and enriching the teaching community through sessions by tech experts and policymakers. This will be an

get insights on the trending technologies, its impact on the job market and preparing the student for the same."

Later, ICT Academy

Partners in Growth Awards 2019 were presented to Swarnandhra College of Engineering and Technology, Narsapur, Andhra Pradesh, PB Siddhartha College of Arts and Science, Vijayawada, and VB, Siddhartha Engineering VR Siddhartha Engineering College, Vijayawada, for their outstanding partnership and

active participation in initiatives of ICT Academy.

Dr. Kumar Visvanathan,
Head - People Shared Services,
Mindtree, M Sivakumar, Chief Executive Officer, ICT Academy, Jude Xavier, Vice President & Head - HR, Technosoft Global Services, Sharath Babu T, Director Product Development, Oracle, Lakshminarasimhan N, General Manager - HR, Brakes India, Dr. Anand Gurupatham, DGM, Renault Nissan Technology & Business Centre, Mayank Gupta, Director Resources, Human Unitedhealth Group, Surya Prakash, Global Head- Talent Transformation and Learning & Development, Wipro, Krithivasan S, Lead - India Campus Hiring, Virtusa, Arumugam T, Factory HR Head, Kone Elevators, and B Anbuthambi, Executive Vice President, ICT Academy were also present.



Tirumala reception wing wins hearts of pilgrims

Pilgrims welcome trendy transformation reception of wing

Cashless card payments improve at Tirumala

PNS TIRUMALA

The reception wing of TTD in Tirumala is marching ahead with latest trends to win the hearts of the multitude of visiting pilgrims.

Pilgrims are also welcoming this new trendy transformation and lauding the efforts of TTD towards cashless transactions to enhance transparency in the accommodation

The reception wing in Tirumala is categorised into R1, R2 and R3 with the R1 dealing with VVIP accommodation, while the remaining two comprising five Pilgrims Amenities Complexes (PACs), over 7,000 rooms in the tariff ranging between Rs 50 and Rs 1,500 will be available for all the pilgrims. There are mini Kalyana Kattas, Food Courts and Jalaprasadam units in these areas to cater to the

needs of the pilgrims. In PACs only locker facility is available for the pilgrims. There are 1,256 lockers available in PAC 1, 3,300 in PAC 2, 1,850 in PAC 3, in PAC 4 812 at Padmanabha Nilayam located in RTC bus stand. All these lockers are allotted to pilgrims through Locker Allotment System (LAS) application on a transparent manner.

ACCOMMODATION KITS

The kits introduced in the accommodation areas and PACs has been receiving a huge response from the pil-grims in the recent times. These kits include pillows with covers, blankets and mats, which will be provided by TTD to the pilgrims on the additional payment of Rs 10 for a pair of pillows with cov-



ers, Rs 10 for two mats, a blanket at Rs 10 and a woolen rug at Rs 20.

SWIPING MACHINES

The introduction of swiping machines in accommodation areas to encourage cashless transactions is also gaining good response from pilgrims. When the VIP reception area, including Padmavathi and MBC are recording cent per cent card payments, the areas covered under R2 and R3, including CRO General, TBC, Koustubham, Nandakam, Saptagiri Satralu, which are allotted to common pilgrims, are also showing good signs of improvement day by day with the percentage recorded between 55% and 60%.

KALYANA MANDAPAMS

Apart from the common pilgrim accommodation allotment, the reception wing of TTD takes care of the allotment of Kalyana Mandapams to the pilgrims, who wanted to wed in Tirumala on a nominal rent. There are in total 10 such Kalyana Mandapams in Tirumala with the rentals ranging between Rs 200 and

Expert delivers lecture on rock mechanics

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Dr DS Subramanyam Director, National Institute of Rock Mechanics (NIRM), Bengaluru, delivered a lecture on the role of geologist in the studies of rock mechanics and engineering geology, organised by the department of geology, Andhra University here on Friday.

Dr DS Subramanyam, who is an expert in these fields, has been known in the country for his excellent contribution in the field of rock mechanics and engineering geology. Dr Subramanyam gave an elaborate lecture on various aspects of rock mechanics and engineering geology and their appli-

cations in the hydroelectric projects, tunnels, reservoirs, dams, underground storage, defence installation and other vital sectors.

His vast experience in the

Himalayan terrain in the construction of hydroelectric projects has been presented with slides. Jagannadha Rao, along with others felicitated Subramanyam, on behalf of the department. The professor expressed his happiness for visiting the department and promised that being an old student of this department, he wanted to help the students of department to get hands on experience in rock mechanics.

RINL signs MOA with NRDC

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Memorandum Agreement was signed between RINL and National Research Development Corporation, a leading technology transfer organisation under the Ministry of Science and Technology, here on Friday. The MOA facilitates rendering consultancy services to RINL in the filing of patents, copyrights, trade-marks and design applications both in India and abroad and also for licensing of said technologies on case to case basis for commercial exploita-

KV Vidya Sagar, Executive Director (Works), RINL, and Dr H Purushotham, CMD, NRDC, inked the MOA. The



KV Vidya Sagar, Executive Director (Works), and H Purushottam, CMD, NRDC, exchanging the MOA documents in Visakhapatnam on Friday

nation for over six decades for the development, promotion transfer technologies/knowhow/Intelle ctual Property (IP) emanating

NRDC has been serving the from R&D organisations and academic institutions. This will provide the necessary thrust to RINL in supporting and improving upon its inno-

South India ready with its own Shahi Litchi in winter

PNS MUZAFFARPUR

Shahi litchi, the luschious fruit of Bihar, is now readying to get a new home in South India. What's even better, the litchi from the South will be avail-

able in winter. National Litchi Research Institute told IANS: "Litchi produce will now be grown in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. We've been preparing for this for the past seven years. In 2012-13, we had sent thousands of litchi saplings to these areas. Now these saplings



Nath said one ripe litchi from these trees is likely to weigh around 40 grams. He said he had in August done a survey of the areas under litchi cultivation in South India. "A team from the institute will soon visit these areas again to understand the problems of the growers," he said. Litchi cultivation has been

started in Wayanad, Idukki and Kalpeta in Kerala, Kodagu, Chikmanglur and Hassan in Karnataka, and Palani Hills and Ooty in Tamil Nadu after training fruit growers in these areas. According to Nath, the weather in these areas is ideal for readying the produce in winter months of November and December. Especially famous for its sweet flavour and fragrance, Bihar's Shah litchi is a brand in itself with a GI tag of its own.

Army veterans to be trained for IT sector jobs

PNS NEW DELHI

The Indian Army and the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) will come together in Bengaluru next week to orient veterans to the modern industrial needs in the IT sector in order to tap their expertise and potential by offering them jobs.

The initiative has been planned as several multinational firms, which have in the past, failed to hire Army veterans, despite their keenness, because of technological and cultural differences with the corporate world. The move, as per experts in the IT sector, will have far-reaching implications in the industry.

The initiative has been taken up jointly by the Indian Army, the NASSCOM and the USbased multinational financial services firm Wells Fargo, which is also being supported by the multi-national e-Commerce

a single-point contact where it can get all details of Army veterans in the IT sector. We are organising a two-day conference in Bengaluru on October 22 and 23 where we can deliberate on how to take this forward," said Major General Deepak Sapra, MD, Army Welfare Placement Organi sation. A statement from the Indian Army said while Army will assess industrial needs during the two-day event, NASSCOM will help Army in orienting to the modern industrial needs in the IT

The aim of the workshop was to facilitate PGs in conducting research in

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

batteries were installed on the

on October 11. The unit is one

of several that regulate the

charge put into the batteries

station's solar arrays. Though

safety, it does prevent the new

increased station power, NASA

the unit's failure has not affected

collecting energy from the

station operations or crew

batteries from providing

space station's exterior structure

The department of community medicine, Andhra Medical College, launched a two-day workshop on research methodology and biostatistics for the second and third year Post Graduates of various specialties like General Medicine, General ENT, Surgery, Ophthalmology. The aim of the workshop was to facilitate the PGs in conducting research in a scientific manner and doing their dissertation.

Dr PV Sudhakar, Principal, AMC, inaugurated the programme on Friday. Later, addressing students, he emphasised the need for quality

₹ 38,550 (10 gm)

₹ 45,100(1kg)

₹128

₹145

370

395

VIJAYAWADA

CHICKEN

RATES ₹/KG

Without Skin

Broiler at Farm

RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD

VIJAYAWADA

VISAKHAPATNAM 420

Dressed/With Skin

BULLION RATES



Workshop on research methodology at AMC

research from the institute and spoke on the importance of ethics in medical research.

Dr B Devi Madhavi, professor and head of community medicine and the course director, informed that the work-

shop covered topics like importance of research, how to choose research topic, study design, sampling techniques, study instrument development, protocol writing, data analysis

reporting results and discus-

dissertation

sion and referencing. All the sessions were planned to be interactive and involved group activities. Dr P Kranthi, coordinator, and Dr Ravi Kiran, co-cordinator for the programme, and all faculty of community medicine

were the resource persons.

a scientific manner

and doing their

Vishal Nath, director of the

have become trees that are ready to bear fruits.'

■ Bhawani, said that Banad Dairy has several field staff, who were already working with farmers' families to educate them about farming practices, helped UNICEF spread knowledge on nutrition and care to be taken during

adolescent age, pregnancy and

post the birth of child by citing

examples of cares they take of

livestock at their homes.

best way to provide nutrition to a child. Many houses in the area also opposed breast feeding in initial days of child birth as they believed goat milk was better, this created an issue," Babi Ben told IANS. However, now after about eight months of this pilot project came to life, the weight registers in Anganwadis have started to witness less red marks as scores of children have witnessed weight gain and are healthier now, though the number would be available only after some time, but the ground staff of UNICEF, Banas Dairy and even the Anganwadi workers in Banaskantha believe that the families have started to utilise already available government schemes, bring children out of

not good for their children,

while on the contrary it was the

firm Amazon India. "NASSCOM is looking for

A dairy model in Gujarat ends malnutrition among kids THR, they felt packaged item was

PNS AHMEDABAD

In Asia's largest milk producing district--Banaskantha, when everything failed to bring out children from the throes of malnutrition, a dairy model made it possible. According to UNICEF India, one of their pilot projects has shown signs of achieving the target which many techniques, schemes and money failed to do.

In their attempts to reach out to maximum households and convince them to leave their 'orthodox' practices and create awareness amongst the general public, UNICEF decided to collaborate with an organisation that had a very strong bond with the rural Gujarat -Banas Dairy.

With over four lakh members, Banas Dairy is Asia's largest milk union. The dairy as many say has very strong hold in the

nearby areas, which prompted UNICEF to shake hands with the Banas Dairy.

We observed that the dairy farmers here have one of the best cattle rearing practices in the world. They ensure breastfeeding, immunisation and all required practices for their cattle, while the same practices is not followed for their child," Laxmi Bhawani, Chief, UNICEF Gujarat told IANS, while narrating the cause of malnutrition in most of the children in Gujarat.

Bhawani, said that Banad Dairy has several field staff, who were already working with farmers' families to educate them about farming practices, helped UNICEF spread knowledge on nutrition and care to be taken during adolescent age, pregnancy and post the birth of child by citing examples of cares they take



"Under Poshan Vandana programme, we trained 421 field staff on importance of nutrition for children, mother and adolescent with life-cycle approach. Each field staff holds meeting at village dairy cooperative society level and shows videos regarding nutrition and cares to be taken during adolescent age, pregnancy and post the birth of child by

citing examples of cares they take of livestock at their homes,' Bhawani told IANS.

One of the members of this field staff, Babi Ben, who is also the project coordinator of this pilot initiative told IANS, that most of the households in the area raised their children with orthodox techniques, as some believed that a new born must be given goat's milk, while some were reluctant on using THR (Take Home Ration) in their daily diet, which was a big issue in the area and it needed an idea that could change people's mind set and motivate them to use already available schemes and technique to raise their children. "Many households in the area

malnutrition.

RETAIL PRICE Banaskantha district and even in of livestock at their homes. were reluctant on using the Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before

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Corporation for outsourcing staff to be formed

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The State government has framed policy and guidelines on the recruitment of persons on outsourcing/contract basis and also on engaging the agencies for outsourcing support services,

along with emoluments.

According to the GO MS No 126 issued on Friday, during the implementation of the policy, several complaints have been received against engaging the services of outsourcing agencies, including these agencies not passing the full remuneration to the outsourced employees in many

Against this backdrop, the government felt it necessary to incorporate a dedicated Corporation that will directly outsource manpower to various departments/organisations in the State as per their requirements. It will do away with the involvement of middlemen and other agencies, and create a transparent system for providing outsourced employees and departments/organisations across the State, thereby extending maximum benefits to the outsourced employees. The Corporation will also hire agencies to provide services such as consultancy, security and facility management and other services such as housekeeping, vehicles etc. The Corporation will act as a one-stop-shop to the departments/organisations for centralised hiring of outsourced employees and services in the State.

The government accorded approval for incorporating the Andhra Pradesh Corporation for Outsourced Services under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, as a non-profit organisation, which will be under the administrative control of the General Administration Department.

Dance of death on Eastern Ghat roads

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The death of two unidentified cattle smugglers on the ghat road at Saluru in Vizianagaram district and seven pilgrims of Karntaka at Chinturu village on the ghat road in East Godavari district prior to that has exposed the negligence of the government in up keeping the ghat roads that were laid during the British era.

Accidents are frequently happening and yet no government has so far given serious thinking to make it safe for the road travellers.

Sharp curves, bad roads and also poor lighting are the main reasons for the many fatal road accidents on the ghat roads. The authorities always blame the drivers either for drunken driving or working for longer hours without rest.

The exact cause for the Chinutur accident whether it is due to over-speeding or failure of brakes was yet to be ascertained. Police are sus-

lost control over the vehicle as he failed to negotiate on the ghat road.

A senior police officer said that roads connecting Paderu, Chintapalle and Anantagiri in Visakhapatnam district and Maredumilli, Chinturu, Rampachodavaram and a few other areas in East Godavari district were identified as most dangerous stretches.

On an average, over 350 people died and 1,200 received severe injuries in a year in the fatal road accidents in Vizag Rural in a year. Of the total deaths, over 130 were reported on the ghats roads in Vizag Agency. Similarly, on an average over 100 people died in road accidents on the ghat roads in East Godavari in a year, said the police.

As most tourists' attractions were located in Agency areas in Vizag and East Godavari districts, tourists used to reach the tribal pockets through a stretch that snakes through dense for-

est of the Eastern Ghats. S Venkateswara Rao, a senior officer with the Road Transport

Authority (RTA), said that there are number of hairpin bends and the visibility at the

Godavari during monsoons

curves is also low on the ghat and winter. Drivers need a lot roads in Vizag and East of experience to negotiate at the steep bends. In most of cases,

frequently happening

government has so far

given serious thinking

to make it safe for the

and yet no

road travellers.

Sharp curves, bad roads and also poor lighting are the main reasons for the many fatal road accidents on the ghat roads. The authorities always blame the drivers either for drunken driving or working for longer hours without rest.

> the drivers lose control over the vehicles, while negotiating the curves and they fail to observe the incoming vehicles on the ghat roads. Hence, most of the accidents have been reporting on the ghat roads, he added.

> Apart from the sharp bends and steep incline, the other major factor that contributes to fatal accidents is overloading. Parapet walls on the ghat roads were too weak to give much protection in case of an acci-

> Some of the parapet walls were damaged years ago, still remain unrepaired, said member of Road Safety Committee in Vizgag, AH Khan.

34,000 to appear for APSET

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Elaborate arrangements have been made for the Andhra Pradesh State Eligibility Test (APSET) to be conducted on October 20, said Andhra University Vice-Chancellor Prof PVGD Prasad Reddy.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Prof Reddy said that Paper-I will be conducted from 9.30 am to 10.30 am and Paper-II from 11 am to 1 pm. "A total of 34,000 candidates applied for the APSET. The examination will be held in eight regional cen-Visakhapatnam, tres- Visakhapatnam, Rajahmahendravaram, Guntur, Nellore, Anantapur, Tirupati, Kadapa and Kurnool. The APSET will be conducted in 30 subjects. The APSET is conducted for recruitment and promotions of lecturers/assistant professors in degree col-

leges," said Prof Reddy.
"The preliminary key will be placed on the APSET website on October 22 and candidates can raise their objections, or send their queries till the evening on October 24 through e mail at msapset@gmail.com. Final results will be released in a month after the conduct of the examination with the approval of the UGC," said Prof Reddy

APSET Member Secretary Prof K Srinivasa Rao said Life Sciences stream received the maxim u m number of applications of 4,699. Candidates should reach the centre of exami-

APSET Member Secretary Prof K Srinivasa Rao said Life Sciences stream received the maximum number of applications of 4,699

> nation at least one hour before the commencement of the exam. "I request the candidates to appear for the exam in a stress-free manner and give their best, said Prof Šrinivasa Rao. Registrar Prof V Krishna Mohan, media relations dean Prof P Bobby Vardhan and others were present.

EC institutes awards for scribes

VIJAYAWADAL: The Election Commission of India has decided to institute awards for journalists for creating awareness among voters. According to sources, journalists working in print, electronic, digital and social media are eligible for the awards. They can send their entries to the Election commission in English and any other Indian language. The scribes selected for their reports would be given awards on January 25, 2020, on the Voter Awareness Day. Journalists working in the electronic media can send their reports in the forms of CDs, DVDs or through pen drives. The entries should be sent to Pawan Diwan, Under Secretary (Communication), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Bhavan, Ashok Road, New Delhi before Oct 31, according to sources.

And now, Haj pilgrimage from

- Continued from P1

Stating that Haj Committees will undertake campaign in all 13 districts of the State to encourage utilisation of full quota, Basha called upon Muslims to make use of the

opportunity.

He said members of the Minority community, who are desirous of undertaking Haj yatra, should submit their applications before November 10. Minorities Welfare Department Principal Secretary Ilias Rizvi, Haj Committee executive officers and Muslim elders attended.

Amaravati: Basha **Innovation not**

Telangana Industry Awards (than now)."

Statutory judicial panel receives first case

- Continued from P1

Candidates earning

Rank No 1 to 5,000 in

securing 100 marks in

EAMCET and those

JEE, those obtaining

at least 96 per cent

GPA in Intermediate

and those getting 9.0

CGPA in CBSE and

ICSE examinations

would be given merit

In all, 25 sectors like roads and bridges, urban development (including smart cities), health, ports, airports, water supply, inland water transport, telecommunications, highways and power, including projects under public-private partnership initiative, would be covered under the new law.

Govt harassing oppn leaders: Naidu PNS VIJAYAWADA Naidu alleged that the

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supremo N Chandrababu Naidu has alleged that the YSRCP government has been harassing Opposition leaders physically, mentally and finan-

Speaking to party leaders in a tele-conference on Friday, he said the ruling party is looting the State in a big way. Naidu alleged that the government is threatening the journalists not to write negative reports even if it does anything wrong. He said though the government has no money, it is announcing schemes which cannot be implemented. The number of beneficiaries in various had come down substantially after the new government took over, he said.

Stating that the present government is inexperienced and had destroyed the State, he said it is leveling charges against the previous TDP government. There is no development or income in the State. The government is not even focusing on wealth creation, but it has



Naidu said. Later, addressing a press conference, Naidu said the State government is imposing restrictions on freedom of the press. He condemned the Cabinet note that gives more teeth to GO No. 938 issued during the erstwhile Congress gov-ernment headed by the late YS Rajasekhara Reddy. "We had fought against the

autocratic rule of Rajasekhara Reddy. We were successful in making him withdraw GO No. 938 issued as part of the Media Watch policy of his government," Naidu claimed. He alleged that the question

paper of Village/Ward volunteers examinations were leaked to coaching centres before hand. "How can it be a crime if it is exposed by journalists?" he question paper of Village/Ward volunteers examinations were leaked to coaching centres before hand. "How can it be a crime if it is exposed by iournalists?

leaders for asking why it has closed down Anna Canteens and why the implementation of certain welfare schemes was stalled. He alleged that the State gov-

added. The government is foist-

ing cases against Opposition

ernment had created an artificial scarcity of sand. "Sand has become scarce in the places where it is available in abundance," he said. On account of non-availability of sand, about 30 lakh families had lost their livelihoods, he alleged. The TDP President further

alleged that the ruling YSRCP is continuing its attacks on TDP activists.

confined to Hyd or elite: KTR

Hyderabad: IT Minister KT Rama Rao on Friday praised the BJP-led NDA government for encouraging innovation. Speaking at the

- MANEXE - 2019 event, KTR said, "Innovation and entrepreneurship today is not confined to just Hyderabad or elite. I don't think there is a better time in India in our lifetimes to actually be an entrepreneur

Fresh trouble for TDP as govt appoints new SIT

-Continued from P1

Jaganmohan Reddy had staged a protest in Vizag when he was in opposition against the lands scams in Vizag and demanded CBI inquiry into the land grabbing cases.

that YSRCP government's decision to form fresh SIT, would hit hard the TDP in the Vizag region. If the new SIT found TDP leaders behind the land scams, the TDP will lose in the upcoming GVMC elections and also face a tough time in recouping for the next general elections.

The new SIT tenure is only three months and it would submit a comprehensive report to the government within the

same period. It was also given powers to appoint additional members.

YSRCP supremo YS

The political analysts said

The new SIT would focus on all cases, including the change of classification of government

lands, assignments made to ex-servicemen, NOCs have been given for disposal of land to other lands grabbing cases by tampering of land records. The SIT has also powers to conduct an inquiry on any politician or officer and also examine any record pertaining to illegal land transactions. It may be recalled that former

BIP MLA and floor leader in the previous assembly P Vishnu Kumar Raju had demanded tabling of SIT report before the elections if the TDP was committed to corruption-free gov-

Feeder ambulances

Dy CM lauds KLU for providing fee concession

Govindu. According to

sources, the incident occurred

when the workers were

crackers at the unit on Friday

PNS KAKINADA

here on Friday

Yerramaneedi

Ten persons sustained burn

injuries two of them seriously

when a blast occurred at crack-

er making unit at G

Vemavaram in Tallarevu man-

dal of East Godavari district

The injured have been shift-

ed to the Kakinada

Government General Hospital

for treatment. The injured

identified

as

Satyam,

Deputy Chief Minister and Minority Welfare Minister Amzath Basha here on Friday released the logos, brochures and pamphlets of various entrance examinations to be conducted

by the KL Deemed to be University in 2020.

Later, addressing a press conference, Basha said KL University has occupied the first position in imparting world-class education. It is laudable on the part of the university to focus on providing employment to students by the time they complete their respective courses.

The university has been offering engineering education for the past 40 years and selecting students on the basis of entrance examinations. He appreciated the university management for providing fee concession to meritorious students. He also said the practice followed by the university to provide Rs 25 lakh cash awards



(Left) After the blast in fire cracker making unit at G Vemavaram in Tallarevu mandal in East Godavari district on Friday (right) One of the injured in cracker unit blast

The injured were identified as Yerramaneedi

Satyanarayana, Krishna Murthy, Govinda

Raju, Nageswara Rao, Leela Venkatesh,

Ramakrishna and Govindu

Yerramaneedi Brahmam, Naga

Babu, Satyanarayana, Krishna

Murthy, Govinda Raju,

Venkatesh, Ramakrishna and

Satyam, Yerramaneedi Brahmam, Naga Babu,

Nageswara Rao, Leela engaged in making of fire

10 injured in fire cracker unit blast

KLU Director of Admissions Dr J Srinivasa Rao said entrance examinations would be conducted twice every year for admission to B Tech and engineering courses. In the first phase, the online examinations will be conducted from December 16 to 22. In the sec-

ond phase, the examinations

13 to 20, 2020. Applications can be had either online or from the education centres of the university, he added.

Srinivasa Rao said B Tech courses are available in Biotechnology, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Petroleum Engineering. Cash awards would be given to candidates will be conducted from April earning 1st to 2000th ranks in

Basha said KL University has occupied the first position in imparting world-class

afternoon. East Godavari

District Fire Officer (DFO) of

Disaster Management Department Ch Ratna Babu,

who inspected the spot after

the incident, said that the unit

owned by one Yerramaneedi

Anajaneyulu had obtained

NOC from the fire service

department in 2018, which

was lapsed by January 2019,

but he did not renew the NOC

from their department for

2019, the DFO clarified.

It is laudable on the part of the university to focus on providing employment to students by the time they complete their respective courses

KLEEE-2020 examination.

Candidates earning Rank No 1 to 5,000 in EAMCET and those securing 100 marks in JEE, those obtaining at least 96 per cent GPA in Intermediate and those getting 9.0 CGPA in CBSE and ICSE examinations would be given merit scholar-

ships. He said KLU is the only university, which is providing 100 per cent placement to students in the country by inviting corporate companies from campus recruitments.

Partnering with internation-

al universities, KLU is provid-

scholarships to have foreign exposure, Srinivasa Rao said and added that the university has teaching programmes in French, Chinese, Japanese and German languages.

Chief Coordinating Officer of KL Deemed to be University Dr Jagadish, Assistant Directors BSN Murthy, Balaji, HSR Murthy and others were ing an opportunity for students present.

I-T raids on Kalki trusts reveals Rs 500 cr black money

- Continued from P1

As per the income tax (I-T), some of these companies based in China, the US, Singapore, the UAE, etc have been receiving payments from foreign clients who attend the various residential "wellness" courses offered in India.

The department is investigating into diversion of income taxable in India to offshore entities by the group in this process.

Further, it has been revealed that one of the group trusts may be providing accommodation entries for other parties by receiving donations from them and then returning the money back under the garb of expenses and receiving a small percentage as fee.

"Instances have also been found where the group was not accounting for money received from foreign clients in cash in foreign currency and then exchanging the same in the grey market. All these leads are being pursued and investigation is in progress,' the Tax Department said.

The group which was founded by a spiritual guru in the 1980s with "oneness" philosophy has also diversified into several sectors including real estate, construction, sports, etc in India and abroad.

It is presently managed and controlled by the spiritual leader who laid the foundation of the group and his son. The courses attract residential customers from abroad and the group earns substantial receipts in foreign exchange. There was intelligence that the group had been suppressing its receipts which were ploughed into investment in huge tracts of landed property in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

in remote tribal areas - Continued from P1

People, who are confined to a wheelchair with severe paralysis, those who do not have legs or arms, or have dysfunction, and those who are unable to work due to muscular atrophy. As a pilot project, from Ĵanuary 1, about 2,000 diseases will be added to Aarogya Sri services in West Godavari district and 1,200 diseases in the remaining districts. The Chief Minister instructed officials to include dengue and seasonal diseases in the services.

He is keen on removing alcohol shops on the national highways. "The road accident victims should get services in the hospital instead of waiting for money. Prepare a plan so that some amount can be paid on behalf of the government,

He instructed officials to start the job recruitment process from January in the health Department.

he pioneer

CAPSULE

'SAAHO' PRODUCERS LAND IN TROUBLE

Hyderabad: The producers of Saaho have been allegedly accused of cheating by Arctic Fox, a lifestyle brand that makes bags and other accessories, to the tune of Rs 1.38 crore. The complaint marked Vamshi Krishna Reddy, Pramod Uppalapati and Vikram Reddy of UV Creations as accused in the case. According to the complainant, Vijay Rao, marketing head of Bengaluru-based Outshiny India Pvt Ltd, the Saaho producers promised to feature their product in the movie and his company had paid Rs 37 lakh for the product placement. However, the product was not featured in the film as agreed, he claimed. Alleging that the filmmakers and celebrity firm partner, Kwan Entertainment (South), had cheated them. Arctic Fox's company representative filed the complaint at Madhapur police station. Vijay Rao said that they paid Rs 37 lakh to the filmmakers and Rs 1.49 lakh to Kwan Entertainment to feature the product. Further, they spent an additional Rs 1 crore towards promotions for the film along with their product during Saaho's release. The investigating officer B Veera Prasad said. "The comp lainant is claiming that they were cheated to the tune of Rs 1.38 cr. We are examining the case, and have sought a legal opinion on how to

JUVENILE HELD FOR VEHICLE THEFTS

Hyderabad: Officials of the Commissioner's Task Force, South Zone Team and the Chaderghat Police have nabbed a juvenile for theft in Hyderabad and Cyberabad commissione rates and recovered five two wheelers worth Rs 2.5 lakhs on Friday. The 17-year-old is a student and a native of Hyderabad. He is addicted to alcohol, smoking and other vices, apart from having a passion for riding bikes. Police identified that the juvenile has committed theft of five 2-wheelers under Chaderghat and Rajendra Nagar Police stations. The accused was nabbed by the South Zone Task

'Settle state issues first'

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana BJP has lashed out at Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, for his recent statement on visiting the Gulf nations and requesting migrants from the state, who were working in those countries, to return home.

In a statement, T R Sriniwas, BJP NRI Gulf Coordination Committee Chairman, said that KCR should first settle the issues of the state, before thinking of issues outside the state. Dubbing it an 'eyewash', Sriniwas said, "There is no sign of the Telangana NRI policy ,which was promised in the first term. What does KCR have to say about that? Where are the 1,00,000 jobs promised on the eve of Telangana formation? We don't see anything done for this in the first term."

Health Minister Etela Rajender

has inaugurated high-end

medical equipment worth Rs

22 crore at Nizam's Institute of

Medical Sciences (NIMS) here

on Friday. The top of the line

medical imaging devices will

be specifically useful for poor

patients who can now avail the

acquired by the NIMS include

PET-CET scan, Single-Photon

Several companies

have already been

motivated to plant and

The imaging devices

Computed

facilities at affordable cost.

"Is KCR aware that Hyderabad, which he promised

NIMS GETS HIGH-END MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Etela inaugurates imaging

facility worth Rs 22 crore



"Is KCR aware that Hyderabad, which he promised to make better that Dallas in the US, becomes Venice with just five minutes of rains? Why is there no work being taken up to boost the infrastructure in Hyderabad?

oor patients. Cancer as an ailment neeoor patients. Cancer as an ailment neeoor

Tomography (SPECT)-CT and We are in the process of

patients. Cancer as an ailment neeoor patients. Cancer as an ailment nee

a Dual Head SPECT gamma

camera. All the medical equip-

opmental activities at NIMS.

to make better that Dallas in rains? Why is there no work the United States, becomes being taken up to boost the Venice with just five minutes of infrastructure in Hyderabad?

neck speed?" Sriniwas asked.

The BJP also alleged that it was a 'diversionary tactic', to distract from the ongoing strike of RTC workers in the state, who have been demanding that the state government pay their dues. "KCR plans to give jobs to those who are coming back to Telangana, but then why is there no money to give a hike to 48,000 RTC employees? Is this not a diversionary tactic from the current set of problems our state is fac-

ing?" Sriniwas asked.
The BJP also found fault with the Telangana Chief Minister for failing to act on illegal agents, who exploit people from the state, and send them to the gulf countries. 'Overall, Chief Minister KCR's trip to Dubai will be a further strain on the state exchequer, with no concrete results visible for the future," the BJP said.

Prisoners sell idly at Rs 5!

The Mahabubnagar district jail authorities have come up with a unique initiative to reform prisoners and generate revenue. In this regard, the authorities have set up an idly centre near the jail premises, which will be maintained by the prisoners.

The initiative has been receiving huge response from the public, who have been thronging the tiffin centre in large numbers, which is being

According the authorities, the tiffin centre generated revenue between Rs 7,000 and Rs 9,000 in the first two days after being set up. After deducting operational costs, the department was able to save around Rs 3,000 per day. Not just the tiffin centre, Mahabubnagar District Jail authorities have also been running a petrol bunk and also a store to sell utility items manufactured by prisoners near the jail for a long time.

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

sold for a mere Rs 5 per plate.

presented to Finance Department again, he said. He exhorted the officers to keep the goal as achieving 33% of green cover in the state. Responsibility of the forest officers is not only to raise good quality seedlings, but covers protection and survival of plants in an integrated manner. Three crores of Tall seedlings to be raised and plan for raising 100 crore seedlings The Minister emphasised

Minister for Forests, Environment, Law and Endowments Allola Indrakaran Reddy released the annual plan of operations for 2019-20 under

Good times ahead for Forest

Dept, says Indrakaran Reddy

Minister for Forests,

Environment, Law and

Indrakaran Reddy has inaugu-

rated the two-day workshop of

Forest Officers at Forest

Academy, Dulapally here on

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister expressed happi-

ness at the extended monsoon

rains that really helped in the

establishment of plantations.

He appreciated the tradition of

holding such workshop once in

six-months so that officers

can discuss various issues and

together come up with practi-

He mentioned that the sup-

port of Chief Minister K

Chandrashekharf Rao for

Forest Department is unprece-

dented. The CM recently

formed a five-Minister committee to look in to ways by

which green cover/forest pro-

tection etc. in the state could be improved. The committee

would be meeting very soon

said that approval is given for

Rs 501 crore which is the largest in over the last ten years. He called up on the offi-

cers to utilise the fund effec-

tively in view of the recent

recruitment of over 67 Forest

Range Officers, 90 section

officers and 1,857 Beat Officers

and with a total strength of nearly 7,000 manpower.

Budget for other important

items of works would also be

The Minister released the annual plan of operations for 2019-20 under CAMPA and

and chalk out a road map.

cal solutions.

Endowments

Friday.

CAMPA and said that approval is given for Rs 501 crore which is the largest in over the last 10 vears

that forest protection should receive highest attention. Additional resources like use of Drones, CC cameras, etc would be provided. Boundary trench work would be continued to permanently mark forest boundaries and more than 2000 vehicles are sanctioned for the department for effective protection. PD Act would be used wherever required to curb smuggling of forest produce.

Special Chief Secretary Environment, Forest, Science & Technology Rajeshwar Tiwari highlighted that the government would provide all the support to the department. He mentioned that the role being played by the department is not just for present but for the future of human existence. He recalled the campaign being run by

Greta Thunberg for saving the planet Earth for future generations. He assured that reconciliation of forest lands and their recording in revenue records would be given top pri-

The PCCF and Head of

Forest Force R Sobha assured that with all the support that the government is extending, the department would try its best to reach the expectations. P Raghuveer, VC&MD TSFDC called for active involvement of people in management of forests. He recalled recent example in Jangaon where Seetaphal was protected and the benefits were shared between the people and the forest department. The Director TS Forest Academy stressed that all the newly recruited FSOs and FBOs need to be trained in as much less time as possible and called up on the field officers to nomi-

nate officers as per schedule.

Lokesh Jayaswal, APPCF

CAMPA made a brief presentation on the visit to Brazil where he participated in the International union of Forest Research Organisations. He mentioned that there was great appreciation from various countries for the initiatives taken in Telangana for Greening. Leadership of the Hon'ble CM, support of government and departmental systems were identified as critical areas that contributed to Telangana Ku Haritha Haram.

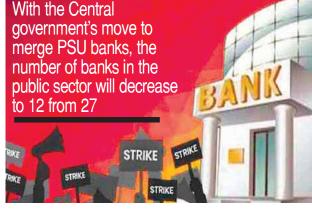
ment are imaging devices meant to detect cancer early protect around 75,000 which goes a long way in betsaplings under the ter treatment results. "For the past few years, we have undertaken a lot of devel-

Emission

Bank employees' strike on Oct 22 PNS HYDERABAD

Banking services will be hit as the Public Sector Banks staff will go on strike on October 22, protesting against the merger of PSBs by the government. While the All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) and Bank Employees Federation of India (BÉFI) have given a call for nationwide banks strike, several employees and workers unions from Telangana have announced their support to the bank employees strike.

The Central government's decision to merge 10 public sector banks into four will severely affect public sector banks and people. This move will benefit only corporates and private banks. Union government is taking up this step to weaken PSUs and privatise banking sector in the country. Bank employees from all over India will take part in the nationwide strike on October



22 to protest against government's decision. PSU banks staff in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will also take part in the strike," said Rambabu general secretary of All India Bank Employees Association, speaking at a round table conference held on the ill effects of the

merger of public sector banks.

banks, the number of banks in the public sector will decrease to 12 from 27. Especially rural economy will be severely hit. Even the jobs in the banking sector will come down hugely leading to further unemployment. Employees unions and workers unions from all sectors need to lend support to bank

"With the Central government's move to merge PSU employees strike," further said

NARAYANADRI EXPRESS GETS A SWANKIER AVATAR

Hyderabad: Narayanadri Express, one of the important trains on the SCR Zone, running daily between Lingampalli - Tirupati connecting the capital cities of both the Telugu states with Tirupati, has got a swankier avatar. The train is now provided with all new LHB coaches to improve the customer satisfaction while enhancing the safety. In addition, the speed of the train has also been increased by reducing its running time.

Cops taking no chance in **Karimnagar**

upgrading each and every

aspect of NIMS for the bene-

fit of poor patients. Cancer as an ailment needs early detec-

tion and we are hoping that the

new imaging devices will help

in early diagnosis and treat-

ment to patients," the Minister

PNS KARIMNAGAR

The police personnel of erstwhile Naxalite bastions of Karimnagar, Nizamabad and Adilabad have geared up to meet the bandh challenge by deploying huge contingent of forces in the sensitive and hyper sensitive zones. Karimnagar, Ramagundam and Nizamabad police commissionerates have made elaborate arrangements to take up the extensive checking in the urban and rural parts of these three areas. Since the former Naxalite strongholds of North Telangana are covered by thick forests, transportation to the rural parts even with the temporary arrangements was suspended by police in Mahamuththaram, Wajedu Venkatapuram, Manthani, Manala and Thotapalli forest areas from Friday night.

Bandh: Tight security in place for TRS leaders

PNS MAHARI IRNAGAR

Police of five districts spread across the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district advised the TRS party MLAs, MPs and senior leaders to take necessary precautions ahead of the bandh call given by the RTC employees on October 19.

Since the bandh was supported by the outlawed naxalites of CPI Maoists, the law enforcers suggested to the ruling party leaders to inform about their movements.

Though the naxalites were reduced to the minimum in the recent years and their movements were completely wiped out in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district, the law enforcers feel that they may indulge in startling attacks anytime to show their presence in the previous strongholds.

During the anti-uranium

opments, especially the government's stand over TSRTC

strike. They say that he rul-

mately harm TRS' interest in

In Sangareddy district, the

ing party's stand would ulti-

the near future.

TRS' stand on strike irks rural cadre

struggle, certain forces support- side without prior information. ing the movement were identified as the frontal units support-



and as those forces were extending solidarity to the bandh call of the RTC employees, the police exhorted the leaders of Nallamala belt not to move out-

anti-employees stand.

The government's deci-

sion sacking all the employ-

jolt to the party and the vil-

TRS leaders say that the party would have to face a challenge in the municipal major hurdle for the party in stand on RTC stir would swap all the achievements in a single stroke.

elections if the party leader-ship adopts anti-workers and some leaders say the pro

ees of RTC came as a major urban parts with utmost

Similarly, the police suspect that after the infliction of loss to the frontal units in the form of series of arrests on Wednesday in Gadwal, the naxalites would carry out offensive acts in the southern Telangana.

The police have called upon the MLAs to remain indoors from attending the routine programmes on Saturday. On the other hand, the police have made elaborate arrangements to meet the challenge of the bandh

Mahabubnagar, Narayanpet, Gadwal, Nagarkurnool and Wanaparthy districts.

They deployed forces in the areas where the RTC depots are located and assured that they would provide the needed security measures for the public on the bandh day.

farm sector policies and the

welfare measures of TRS

would take the party to the

ease, the rural cadre say the

TNGO, TGO extend support for bandh

Medak: With the TNGO and TGO extending support to the RTC strike, the district units of both these organisations joined the bandh brigade in Medak, Siddipet and Sangareddy districts on Friday.

The association leaders and employees in various departments took up lunch hour demonstration in support of the striking RTC employees and said the demands put forth by the employees of RTC were just in all respects.

The TNGOs and TGOs unions in these districts announced that the employees in all government departments would observe a demonstration in the lunch hours on Saturday. The leaders termed the RTC employees stir as a democratic step took up by the trade unions of the employees and workers and asserted that such agitations have to be amicably resolved by the governments by fulfilling the demands. The bandh call of the RTC JAC was thoroughly supported by the employees unions and associations. Meanwhile the 'Ansgthatitha Kaarmika Sanghaalu Samaakhya announced its solidarity to the struggle of RTC employees and support to the Telangana bandh on Saturday.

Diagnostics labs face music in Wanaparthy

PNS WANAPARTHY

The District Medical and Health department officials have raided various diagnostics laboratories and have shut down two of them for conducting lab investigations on patients who were referred by RMPs, to receive commissions from the laboratory operators. "These laboratories are being run by unqualified persons. In one case, a LIC agent was conducting tests on patients. These were supposed to be run by a doctor with a MBBS qualification, said Dr Srinivasulu.

"Of the lab testing fee, nearly 40 per cent goes to the RMPs, who referred patients to these labs," he further said and added that higher antibiotics were being given to patients by RMPs, which was not at all needed in most of the cases and stressed that only primary and first-aid was supposed to be given by RMPs.

No police case has been reg-



istered against the labs, but they were sealed. In Pebbair, the health department had also received information about a case of illegal abortion and caught the parents doing so red-handed recently. Recently, the department has unearthed a nexus between private diagnostics laboratories and registered medical practitioners (RMP), has come down heavily by shutting down and sealing laboratories across the district in the past few days.

PNS| Huzurnagar With just a day left for the end of campaign for Huzurnagar by-elections, Congress senior leaders including TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy, working president A Revanth Reddy, and other senior leaders stormed the streets of Huzurnagar with road shows, which drew huge crowd in the entire route. Uttam, Revanth and other

leaders launched their road show from Jana Pahad after offering special prayers at Jana Pahad Dargah. They boarded an open-top campaign vehicle and addressed the corner meetings en route.

T AMARENDER REDDY

Though the TRS party enjoys

a considerable clout in the

three districts of the erst-

while Medak district, rural

cadre of Medak, Siddipet

and Sangareddy are feeling upset over the recent devel-

MEDAK

Technically, all the meetings they addressed were corner meetings at Jana Pahad, Palakeedu, Nereducherla, Garidepalli, Burugaddda and Mathampally. But the size of gatherings at all these places was no less than massive pub-

All the streets were completely packed. A large number of people climbed on to roof tops, walls and even trees to have a glimpse of Revanth and Uttam during their campaign

REVANTH TAKES ON KCR IN HUZURNAGAR

lic meetings. People displayed huge enthusiasms and energy in participating in those meetings. While all the streets were completely packed, a large number of people climbed on roof tops, walls

and even trees to have a and its leaders.

glimpse of their favourite leaders. They cheered for the leaders and shouted slogans in favour of Congress party

Addressing the meetings,

Uttam said he was seeking votes for Congress candidate and his wife Uttam Padmavathi on the basis of his performance and achievements in Huzurnagar. He said every bit of development in Huzurnagar became a reality due to his efforts as the MLA since 2009. However, he said TRS was trying to lure voters with money, liquor and other incentives.

He asked people to be cautious for the next three days

to foil the attempts by ruling party to tamper with and manipulate the election process. He said he has full faith in the people of Huzurnagar and they would ensure the victory of Uttam Padmavathi with a huge majority. Uttam said that the TRS leaders were shamelessly seeking votes despite not fulfilling a single major promise they made with the people in previous two elec-

SHORT READS

Man held at IGI for smuggling gold worth Rs 36L from Dubai

NEW DELHI: A man has been arrested at Delhi airport upon his arrival from the UAE for allegedly smuggling gold bars worth more than Rs 36 lakh by hiding it in his shoes, a customs official said on Friday. On specific information, the Officers of the Air Customs Preventive at IGI Airport intercepted the passenger who arrived from Dubai on Tuesday, the statement quoting a custom official said. A detailed personal search resulted in the recovery of eight gold bars weighing 933 grams which were concealed inside the shoes worn by the person, he said. The market value of the seized gold bars was approximately Rs 36,48,030, according to the statement. The gold has been seized and the person arrested under relevant provisions of the Customs Act.

22 children hurt after school bus turns turtle

HOSHANGABAD: A school bus carrying 26 children overturned on Bandrabhan Road near here on Friday, an official said adding that no child had suffered serious injuries in the mishap. As many as 22 students of Campion School were treated for minor injuries at the district hospital, area tehsildar (revenue officer) Shailendra Badonia said. Campion School director Vijay Seth said the bus driver lost control when a tractor-trolley overtook the vehicle at Sangakheda-Kala village, around 11 km from the district headquarters in Madhva Pradesh. According to evewitnesses, the bus was being driven recklessly at the time of the incident. Babai area police are probing the accident.

BJP minister calls **Abhijit Left-leaning**

PUNE: Union minister Piyush Goyal on Friday dubbed Indian-American Abhijit Banerjee, who won the 2019 Nobel for Economics, as Left-leaning. Goyal made the remarks at a media briefing here. "I congratulate Abhijit Banerjee for winning the Nobel prize. You all know that his thinking is totally Left-leaning," Goyal said. "Banerjee supported 'Nyay' (poverty alleviation scheme of Congress) and people of India rejected his ideology," the BJP leader said. Banerjee recently said the Indian economy is on a shaky ground, adding data currently available does not hold any assurance for the country's economic revival

Poverty levels in Odisha dipped by 25% in 20 years: Patnaik

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has claimed that poverty levels in the state have dropped by 25 per cent over the past 20 years. precisely the period he has been ruling the state. He said the state government reaffirms its commitment to intensify efforts in building an inclusive

society. "Odisha's transformative initiatives and policies have resulted in the sharpest drop in poverty, about 25 per cent, bringing millions out of poverty in last two

and Tabasco. The move comes after US

Modi questions Congress' chemistry with Pakistan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lashed out at the Congress over its stand on Article 370, saying its statements are being used by Pakistan against India and asked what kind of "chemistry" it shares with the neighbouring

With the BJP making scrapping of Article 370 in J-K a big poll issue, Modi said parties like the Congress can neither understand sentiments of people nor respect sacrifices made by brave jawans.

Addressing a rally here, his fourth one for the October 21 polls, Modi asked the gathering, "Should I take decisions in national interest or not, should national interest be above politics or not? But the Congress is not able to understand this feeling of people of Sonipat and people of Haryana."

Making a stinging attack on the Congress, he said the party is in "pain" since August 5 when the Centre decided to abrogate special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Do you recall what happened on August 5? On that day such a thing happened which no one could have imagined, about which in a way the country had given up hope. On August 5, India's Constitution in entirety became applicable in J&K. For 70 years, what was stumbling block in development of J&K and Ladakh, we removed that."

"But since then Congress and parties like them are in a pain that no medicine is able to cure. 'Congress ke pet mein dard Congress ki la ilaaj bemari

ban gaya hai," he said.
"And Congress is suffering from such a disease that when we talk of Swachh India, surgical strike, they have a problem and if anyone takes Balakot's name, their pain increases," he said.

ncreases," he said.

He said statements made by

much lies they want," he said, adding as long as he has the

PNS NEW DELHI

Over 300 Indians, including a woman, who were deported

by Mexican immigration

authorities for illegally enter-

ing the country to sneak into

the United States landed here

early on Friday morning.
"We landed around 5 am

in the morning and the for-malities took several hours

before we could exit the air-

port around 1 pm," Jashanpreet Singh, one of

According to a press release issued by Mexico's

National Migration Institute

(INM) on Wednesday, the

Indian nationals, who did not

have a condition of regular

stay in the country, were deported from the Toluca

City International Airport

on a Boeing 747 aircraft to

The people were presented

to the immigration authority in

the states of Oaxaca, Baja

California, Veracruz, Chiapas,

Sonora, Mexico City, Durango

New Delhi.

the deportees, said.



Congress leaders on scrap-

ping Article 370 are being

why Congress goes through

this pain, for whose sympathy,

for whom it is. You have seen

the statements Congress lead-

ers made on Kashmir are help-

ing whom, who is taking ben-

efit of such statements and

"Do you know who is taking benefit of these,?" said Modi

and when the crowds replied

Pakistan", Modi told them

'Now, Congress should reply

why they are making such

statements which are being

liked by Pakistan. They should

muster courage to say some-

thing which is liked by people

of India (by supporting scrapping of the Article)," he said.

He said false claims, state-

ments and language are used by

the Congress to corner him and

Pakistan is using these in the

world to make its case strong.

this with Pakistan, whose

chemistry is this and for

whom. In these polls, you will

have to find an answer to this,"

"I tell Congress that they can

oppose Modi, can make as

many accusations and speak as

Over 300 Indians deported

from Mexico land in Delhi

President Donald Trump in

June threatened tariffs on all

Mexican imports if the coun-

try did not put a check on peo-

ple entering America through

Mexico had agreed to boost

security on the border and

expand its policy of taking

The deportees, who were accompanied by Federal

Migration agents as well as members of the National

Guard, were gathered in the

Acayucan Migration Station

in Veracruz to carry out

their identification and sub-

sequent transfer, the state-

Mexico's borders.

back migrants.

ment said.

"What kind of chemistry is

where these are used.

'you are correct".

'Now, the country knows

used by Pakistan.

Modi also attacked the **Dushyant** Chautala-led Jannavak Janta Party, stating that people of the state have rejected its politics and strategy

'Cong has already accepted defeat in Haryana polls'

PNS HISAR (HR)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Friday hit out at the Congress, saying it has "already accepted defeat" in the

Haryana assembly elections.
Addressing his second rally on Friday, Modi referred to a purported video in which three Congress leaders at the parliament complex were seen discussing prospects of the party in the polls.

"Have you seen a video that went viral and in which a Congress leader was looking down upon a leader from Haryana at the parliament complex? I was surprised that the Haryana leader was standing with folded hands. Have you seen the video? Will you accept the

people's blessings, it was not going to affect him. "Whatever good or bad you have to say about Modi, do that, but at

comes after US

Donald Trump in

June threatened

Mexican imports

check on people

America through

FSSAI steps up surveillance to curb

adulteration during festive season

President

tariffs on all

if the country

did not put a

entering

Mexico's

borders

"It was clear in their talks in the video that they were saying that it would be enough if they win 10-15 seats. These are their words and made just before the elections. Those who have already accepted their defeat and gave up the ground can't do anything for Haryana," said Modi.

Modi also attacked the Dushyant Chautala-led Jannayak Janta Party, stating that people of the state has rejected its politics and strategy.

Lauding the five-year term of the Khattar-led government in the state, the PM told people that they would have to decide between those who delivered and those who indulged in misdeeds.

least respect 'Ma Bharti'. Don't cross the limits in the manner which causes harm to the country," he said.

'Cong, DMK taking people for a ride over statehood'

PNS PUDUCHERRY

Opposition AIADMK on Friday charged the Congress and its alliance partner the DMK here with taking people for a ride on the issue of statehood for

The leader of the legislature wing of the AIADMK A Anbalagan levelled this charge while talking to reporters on the sidelines of his campaign in the bypollbound Kamaraj Nagar constituency here.

During his campaign on Thursday, the DMK president M K Stalin had accused the Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi and the BJP of obstructing the efforts of the territorial Chief Minister V Narayanasamy to get statehood.

"This is absolutely a misleading and baseless allegation," Anbalagan said. When the Congress was in power with the support of the DMK at the Centre why the Congress did not take any step to get statehood for Puducherry, the AIADMK leader said.



'PM, FM should 'steal' Cong ideas to tackle economic mess'

PNS NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged on Friday that the government is "clueless" about the economy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman should "steal" ideas from his party's Lok Sabha poll manifesto to tackle the "mess".

Gandhi's attack on the government came over a media report which claimed rural consumption generally grows faster than urban consumption, but in this quarter the trend has been reversed with rural consumption being at its lowest in seven years for the quarter of September.

Rural India is in severe distress. The economy has sunk and the govt is clueless about what to do," the former Congress president said in a tweet.

"PM & FM should steal ideas from manifesto.inc.in, where we had anticipated and set down detailed plans to tackle the mess," he also wrote on the microblogging site.

'Indian Navy committed to enhance cooperation with like-minded navies'

Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh on Friday said maritime threats like piracy and drug trafficking have a "transnational" character, and pitched for harnessing "collective military competency" to mutually learn from the best practices of navies.

Addressing the fourth conclave of defence attaches here, he also said the Indian Navy is "committed to enhancing cooperation and engagement with like-minded navies in the Indian Ocean region".

"For seagoing forces, cooperation is a very important word, and the nature of the seas is such that they do not divide but unite and called the highways of connectivity. So, navy by nature operates in a cooperative domain," Singh said.

He said the vast expanse of the seas and oceans also makes a navy realise that one is not alone here, and, therefore "it becomes part of the naval DNA".

"Then there are various maritime threats and common challenges. Piracy, for example involves attack in one country and cargo perhaps of another. Then there is drug trafficking which we call narco-terrorism, and human trafficking and illegal fishing. these all have a trans-national or inter-regional character," the Navy chief

The Indian Navy is fully seized of its role in maritime cooperation to draw from other



— ADMIRAL KARAMBIR SINGH

navies' strength or learn from their best practices, he said.

The day-long event held at the Constitution Club of India was themed on 'Enhancing Defence Capabilities Through Cooperation' and attended by defence attaches or military attaches of various countries.

"Navy is committed to enhance cooperation with like-minded navies in the Indian Ocean region, and our cooperation ethos is guided, as articulated by the prime minister, by the 5Ss -- Samman (honour), Samvad (dialogue), Sahyog (cooperation), Shanti (peace) and Samriddhi (pros-

'Patel 'ruined' AI; must be probed in PMC scam also'

Union minister Prakash Javadekar on Friday accused NCP leader Praful Patel of "ruining" flag carrier Air India and sought a probe against him in the multi- crore scam at the Mumbai-based Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank).

The senior BJP leader also alleged huge loans were approved on phone calls during the Manmohan Singh gov-ernment, which weakened the financial condition of state-run

Minister Environment, Forests and Climate Change was talking to reporters here. Without naming Patel,

Javadekar said, "Certain person who is facing ED probe...his role in PMC Bank bankruptcy case should also be probed."

Patel, who was the Civil Aviation Minister in the UPA government, on Friday went to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office in Mumbai after being summoned by the agency in connection with a money laundering probe linked to the alleged illegal assets of late Iqbal Mirchi, an aide of underworld don and terror accused Dawood Ibrahim.

Thisperson was regularly using the aeroplane belonging to some of the accused in the PMC bankruptcy case. Similarly, who gave the SRA



This person was regularly using the aeroplane belonging to some of the accused in the PMC bankruptcy case. Similarly, who gave the SRA development work near the Mumbai airport to the accused and why?

development work near the Mumbai airport to the accused and why?

"Hence, more investigation is required to find out who else is involved in the PMC bank scam," Javadekar said. The minister's statement was aimed

group HDIL, Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan, who are the prime accused in the PMC Bank scam. They are among the five arrested in the case. The troubled realty firm was

mainly into handling Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) projects. It had bagged one such project near the Mumbai airport, but could not complete it.

HDIL allegedly accounted for 70 per cent of the cooperative bank's Rs 9,000 crore advances. According to the Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing, HDIL's loans turned Non-Performing Assets, but the bank management hid this from the RBI's scrutiny.

Replying to a query, Javadekar said Patel, as the aviation minister, completely "ruined" Air India, which is suffering losses and is on the block for disinvestment.

AYODHYA CASE

Muslim parties express shock at reports on Sunni Waqf Board

PNS NEW DELHI

Muslim parties in the Ayodhya land dispute case on Friday issued a statement expressing shock over reports suggesting that the Sunni Waqf Board was withdrawing from the case.

Advocate Eijaz Maqbool, who represented key Muslim litigant M Siddiq in the Ayodhya land dispute, said all Muslim parties, except the Sunni Waqf Board, have rejected settlement as the main Hindu parties to the dispute were not part of the mediation process and its purported settlement.

The Muslim parties, except the Sunni Waqf Board, issued a clarificatory statement to say they don't accept the Supreme Court appointed mediation panel's proposal on the purported settlement to amicably resolve the Ram Janmabhoomi Babri Masjid land dispute.



On October 16, when a five judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi reserved its verdict in the case after 40days of hearing, the mediation panel's report was also reportedly submitted to the court.

The three-member mediation panel is headed by former apex court judge Justice F M I Kalifulla. According to sources close to the mediation panel, the report filed in a sealed cover is a "sort of a settlement" between the Hindu and the Muslim parties.



The FSSAI also released a guidance note on traditional milk products to help food business operators to ensure basic hygiene and sanitation in manufacturing of milk products particularly sweets.

PNS NEW DELHI

Regulator FSSAI has intensi-

fied the surveillance on milk

products like khoya and ghee

to curb adulteration in 'mithai'

during the festival season in

Delhi-NCR, its CEO Pawan

Agarwal said on Friday.

The manufacturing and trading of traditional dairy products like paneer-based sweets is largely confined to Halwais in India. Such dairy products are more susceptible to adulteration during festival season particularly due to mismatch in demand and supply, the regulator said. "We have started a surveil-

lance exercise on milk prod-

ples are being collected and sent to our national lab at Ghaziabad," Agarwal told reporters while releasing the milk survey.

ucts during the festival season in Delhi-NCR. 44 locations have been identified and sam-In the guidance note released for food business

The samples will be tested until November 3 and the results will be announced in the first week of next month. "The purpose of this exercise

is to know adulteration in milk products and what kind of contaminants are present. Micro-biological analysis will also be done," Agarwal said.

operations, the FSSAI has suggested ways to ensure shelf-life of sweets, check quality by looking at the texture and flavour, besides providing consumer tips to test adulterants.

Amit to Rahul: What has your family done for tribals?

PNS GADCHIROLI

Attacking the Congress, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asked its leader Rahul Gandhi what four generations of his family did for adivasis during their 70-year rule in the country and stressed the region will be free of Naxalism in the next five

Addressing a poll rally at Aheri in Gadchiroli district, Shah, also the BJP chief, said the Modi government did more works for the adivasis than the previous Congress and NCP governments at the Centre and in Maharashtra.

Shah reiterated the Congress did not scrap Article 370 – which he said caused spread of terrorism and subsequent killing of 40,000 peo-



ple in Jammu and Kashmir – for seven decades due to votebank politics, but it was Prime Minister

Narendra Modi who took the initiative to revoke the provision. The Union minister lambasted the Congress and NCP for asking what was the link between the Maharashtra Assembly polls and scrapping of Article 370 and asserted Kashmir was an integral part of the country.

NDA will win all seats in Bihar bypolls: Paswan

BJP ally and Union minister

Ram Vilas Paswan said on Friday that the ruling NDA will win all seats going to Lok Sabha and Assembly bypolls in Bihar on October 21, asserting that a "divided and discredited" opposition stands no chance. Polls will be held in five

Assembly seats and the Lok Sabha constituency of Samastipur as incumbent MLAs were elected to Parliament during the recent general election while MP Ram Chandra Paswan died of a heart attack.

All three NDA parties -- BJP, JD(U) and LJP -- are involved in the elections. While the Chief Minister Nitish Kumarled JD(U) is contesting in four Assembly seats, the BJP and the LJP have put up their candidate in an Assembly and the Lok Sabha seat respectively.

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PAPER WITH PASSION -**Unholy cow**

Cow protectionism is turning counter-productive as nobody is owning responsibility for increased stray cattle



It is ironic that in the most heightened time of their protection and vigilantism, cows are becoming pariahs more than ever before. The increasing mechanisation at farms has meant that bulls are no longer needed for heavy-lifting except for reproductive purposes. A ban on cattle slaughter and sales at animal fairs, coupled with the fear of being booked by cow vigilantes on some pretext or the other, have meant that non-lactating cows are now a stressed asset in the farm economy. The cow has, therefore, dropped off the value chain and

many farmers, who frankly cannot afford the costly fodder, are turfing out the old and unproductive herd and abandoning them in open areas or outside village limits. In rural areas, this is creating havoc as starving bovines, out of sheer desperation, raid fields for food, their large numbers enough to wipe out crops of small holdings in no time. Fearing crop destruction, farmers have now added a night vigil on *machans* in their fields to their routine. Some farmers have even been driven to debts and depression with the sudden decimation of the season's produce. In the urban areas, wandering cattle are posing traffic hazards as they raid central verges for food and generally move around disoriented, causing traffic jams and accidents on busy roads. In the end, out of favour and unloved by their keepers, cow protection seems like a selfish human pursuit, good as long as the animals serve a purpose and evicted from a cultural consciousness, one that accords them the status of a mother or Mata, the moment they become unprofitable and old. Worse, dying out of starvation and thirst, theirs is a manufactured death routine. As it is, strict curbs on cow movement and use have meant that they are being substituted by buffaloes. With their castaway status following curbs, the indigenous cattle population has declined by 29 per cent from the last cow census seven years ago though that of the milch variety, including cross-breeds, is up by six per cent. Rakshaks are many for dead meat but there are none to save the cow. Or build a natural shelter where the old can be kept and fed to last out their lifetime.

Many cities have evolved their own ways to control stray cattle but they are mostly of a rudimentary nature, using cattle catchers to move them from one place to another. Cow sheds and goshalas are many, with new ones being set up following the government's renewed protectionism but are mostly unauthorised, overcrowded and closer to human settlements when they should be located near the outskirts to avoid man-animal conflicts. Besides, there must be a uniform code for dairies and sheds in both cities and villages, including the number of cattle and staff required to maintain them. For example, the longevity of their licences and permits must be correlated to the physical health of their cattle and ensuring they do not leave the precincts. Penalties for illegal dairies should be stricter, snapping their water and power lines. Besides, some corporations have also sought to impose fines on errant dairies who cannot rein in their herd and even barcoding cows to trace their keepers. State governments individually have resorted to their own methods. For example, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government has decided to make sex-sorted bovine semen available in large quantities so that most offspring is female. Both Madhya Pradesh and Haryana have made abandonment a punishable offence. Yet it is the UP Government, the most driven on cow protection and which had appointed a committee, where policies have been counter-productive. Its committee had suggested practical solutions like a fodder bank, State subsidies for stray shelters, grants for animal upkeep, controlled prices for products prepared from excreta and even asking MPs and MLAs to commit a part of their funds for a higher cause. But even this framework fell prey to bureaucratic corruption. Just recently, the government had to suspend a District Magistrate and four officials for irregularities; they deliberately over-reported the number of cattle in a shelter to misuse public funds. If we are indeed serious about cow protection, then we better look at nurturing cow health and welfare as we would any human resource. For the BJP may promote itself as protector but banning cow slaughter has been encoded in Article 48 of the Constitution. To convert the sacredness of a fundamental duty into political tokenism is the greatest disservice to Kamadhenu, the mother of all cows.

Bangla firing

On the face of it, the BSF-BGB shootout seems to be over smuggling but we cannot let it escalate for strategic reasons



noss-border firing is something we associate with Pakistan from across the Line of Control (LoC). So when such a flareup happens on our eastern borders, considering that the 4,000 km-long India-Bangladesh boundary has largely been peaceful for two decades, then it is a matter of concern. As it turns out, the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) opened fire at the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, who had gone for a flag meeting to discuss the arrest of an Indian fisherman. A BSF head constable died while another troop-

er got wounded. Though the authorities on both sides were guick to intervene and neutralise the situation, describing it as a one-off aberration, it did remind us of the 2001 armed conflict between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) that led to the deaths of 15 of our jawans and three of theirs. Coming as it does in the wake of the just-concluded meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, during which the two countries struck crucial deals to further strengthen bilateral relations, and which has been largely cordial, questions arise if this was motivated. Speculations are rife if this was done to undercut the success of the recent trip where both sides smoothened some creases that had crept into the relationship in recent times. Truth be told, Dhaka has been a valuable ally in helping India build bridges with the Islamic world. Sheikh Hasina has largely been responsible for reining in militant groups operating along fluid border stretches. She has also negotiated the tricky binary between India and China by calling our ties organic and the latter economic. It is in acknowledgement that India has not only embarked on a new phase of economic cooperation with Hasina but has also promised that no immigrant, who doesn't make the cut in the National Register for Citizens (NRC), will be repatriated to Bangladesh. Perhaps, this incident was intended to tarnish her "winwin" sheen. The Opposition BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) has been demonising her latest visit to India and the deals as "anti-state" and a "sellout."

This incident has also shed light on the larger issue of border management, which remains a challenge due to smuggling of fish, narcotics, cross-border human trafficking, cattle thefts and gun-running by cartels on both sides. Though cooperation on this has taken off with both sides conducting meetings biennially, they need to adopt a more humanitarian and interactive approach. The current shootout should not be allowed to aggravate and propel hostilities in a relationship which will get complex in a multi-polar

opānion

Why Cong owes an answer

The Congress minus Sonia-Rahul-Priyanka is thinkable but Indian politics without it is unthinkable. The grand old party may be critically weakened but not wrecked as yet



DEBASISH BHATTACHARYYA

olitical parties are central to the functioning of a representative democracy because a multi-party system generates different policy options for the public. The options thus considered are aimed at fulfilling the interests and aspirations of the electorate. The Opposition, especially inter-party coalitions, is a key concept in a liberal democracy. However, interestingly, political parties have one function in common: All of them seek political power to form a Government or to take the role of the Opposition.

The 2019 Lok Sabha elections are over. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance's (NDA's) roaring success in both 2014 and 2019 parliamentary elections has made it the largest party, the Congress has been facing debacle after debacle in successive elections. In this year's general election, the BJP won 303 seats and along with its allies, the NDA took its tally to 352 seats. The United Progressive Allianceled Congress was reduced to 91 seats with it barely crossing the half-century mark with 52 seats. With the BJP's winning percentage reaching 70 per cent (it contested in 437 seats and won 303 of them), the main Opposition party, the Congress, stared at a major existential crisis. The BJP's spectacular win has left the Opposition, the Congress in particular, weak, clueless and irrelevant.

But why is the Opposition so significant? Its importance lies not just in providing a means to express negative reaction to the Government's decisions but to also tirelessly hold the ruling party to account, offer constructive criticism and project a progressive alternative to the Government. On this front, the Congress lacks comprehensive strategy and stamina to take on the might of the BIP's power duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

It's true that people are often accused of seeing the world the way they want it to be rather than how it is. But do we really need binoculars to see the fall of a once great political party? Leaders from the top-level to the low-rung as well as legislators have been quitting the Congress. The prominent among them are airing their views against the party line. Indications are also there of deep intraparty disputes and conflicts. On a close look, however, one will find the real reason why the leaders took the decision to leave the party/air views. And it wouldn't be surprising for those who have a grasp of the reality.

Last April, I had mentioned in an article titled, Congress Needs to Make a Comeback for Democracy to Sustain Itself: "In the world's largest democracy, the shrinking political space of a 133-year-old national party is as disconcerting for the party as it is for democracy itself. And, therefore, the Congress' revival is crucial for the nation and challenging for its party leadership. The task is made tougher as sub-optimal leadership faces the task of rebuilding the party and restructuring its shattered image and appeal."



■ The stark reality is that the Congress has, for far too long, functioned as an autocrat, denying many deserving party functionaries their rightful place in the organisation. Loyalty towards individuals doesn't necessarily imply loyalty towards the party. should take serious note of it.

■ An internally-democratic political party is always good for a democracy. And, therefore, establishing intra-party democratic norms is no longer an option but a necessity. It's likely to prevent disintegration of the party, make politicians accountable and encourage meaningful deliberation.

■ It should get rid of selfeeking and corrupt old guards. There are capable young leaders, who can flush out the party's old, withered arteries.

■ Short-term political advantages have always assured long-term political disadvan tages. Compromising politics had the Congress falling from 364 out of 489 Lok Sabha seats in the first-ever general election in 1952 to 44 out of 545 in 2014. While people's expectations from the party are really low, the need for it to rise has never been greater.

Change is as constant a fea-



FOR THE CONGRESS. THERE ARE **ENOUGH POLITICAL** OPPORTUNITIES. IT'S JUST ABOUT HOW TO MAKE AN OPPORTUNITY FIT NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND. IT'S ABOUT SEIZING

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RIGHT EARNEST AND AT

ture in politics as it is in life, it is said. Those who resist such a change will find themselves pushing against a sea of opinion and positioned on the

wrong side of history. Most relevant for presentday Congress is an observation by Mohammed Ayoob, Professor, Michigan State University, who writes that even after two major electoral debacles, the dynasty refuses to give up control and deliberately fails to realise that it is destroying the chances of the Congress bouncing back. The equation of the party with the family has destroyed any possibility of its renaissance.

Buoyed by its stupendous victory in this year's parliamentary elections when the BJP is gearing up for the 2024 general election, targetting 333 MPs, the Congress is seen as a small, snivelling, struggling party. As a matter of fact, the Congress' decline began years ago but accelerated in 2014 with the election of Narendra Modi. It's not that the BIP-led

NDA Government is running flawlessly. Apart from the ecoborn out of the personality cult, ultra-nationalism and hate politics concerns the common man the most. Besides, the Government has failed to address other critical issues: From agrarian distress to unemployment to dissatisfaction among the urban middle classes and the poor. India's rank in

the Global Hunger Index (GHI) has slipped further — from 95 in 2010 to 117 this year.

So, for the Congress, there are enough political opportunities. It's just about how to make an opportunity fit, not the other way around. It's about seizing opportunities in right earnest and at the right time.

By giving the reins of the arty again to a family member, the Congress might have arrested disintegration within but it will commit a grave mistake if it thinks that it can emerge stronger anytime soon. The party leadership must recognise that something far bigger and deeper is at work in the intraparty realm of politics. In the prevailing political culture, for the Congress, if it wishes to be an alternative to the BJP, even disintegration would be a better option if a wider acceptability of the younger generation eludes the party rank and file.

INC, minus Sonia-Rahul-Priyanka, is thinkable but Indian politics minus the Congress is unthinkable and if indeed it happens, it would be sad and may be the most unfor tunate turn, which may forever change who we are. The Congress may be critically weakened but it is not wrecked

(The writer is former Deputy General Manager, India International Centre, New Delhi, and General Manager, International Centre, Goa)

UNDBITE

Prime Minister Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman should steal ideas from the Congress Lok Sabha poll manifesto to tackle the economic mess.

Congress leader



In the age of digital streaming and social media that is slowly but surely isolating us MAMI binds us without boundaries, inhibitions and fear

-Deepika Padukone



He (Erdogan) is a friend of mine and I'm glad we didn't have a problem because frankly, he's a hell of a leader and he's a tough man. He did the right thing

US President



India is committed to peace and stability in the neighbourhood as also in the wider region. Th Army will continue to partner with friends to confront any kind of emerging threat.

Army Chief



ETTERS

Wait for the verdict

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Ayodhya closure" (October 18). A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, has reserved its verdict on one of the most sensitive case of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute in Ayodhya. What will follow next is a race against time as the verdict will be delivered in a month's time before Gogoi demits office.

In a democracy, any judicial verdict is premised on facts, which entail reliable evidence, satisfactory proof and eyewitnesses. If indeed a settlement is reached, it will be a victory for parties concerned and the mediators, too. Whatever decision the court takes must be accepted gracefully.

Finally, the country must move out from its past and focus on more important issues pertaining to the economy. The young generation is faced with a serious unemployment crisis. We need a strong economy and not court cases

India's hunger crisis calls for a policy overhaul

his refers to the editorial, "Still too hungry" (October 18). Identical findings by the 2019 Global Hunger Index (GHI) and UNICEF's report titled, 'The State of the World's Children 2019' prove beyond doubt that the incidence of malnutrition is alarmingly high in India. They also underline the enormous task before the National Nutrition Mission (NNM), which was launched last year, to fulfill its goal of a "malnutrition-free India" by 2022. That India is among the worst-performing countries on the acute under-nutrition parameter is particularly worrying. Further, over 90 per cent of the children aged between six months and two years are not fed a "minimally acceptable diet." UNICEF data put the stunting rate among India's under-fives at 37.9 per cent, an abysmal index that would be unacceptable for any country.

It is a proven fact that the diet — during the first 1,000 days after conception — lays the foundation for a child's physical growth and mental development. A proper diet in the early stages of life is half the battle won. Quality food and in adequate quantity is vital for a child's immunity and cognitive development. Malnutrition is most often a product of poverty, poor sanitation, unhygienic living conditions, lack of access to clean water and igno-



rance. It follows that the economic malaise afflicting the country has to be fought to make the fight against "serious levels of hunger" a success. It is a paradox of our times that while granaries overflow, people go hungry. Hunger at a time when more than the required food is available is a failure of the system to deliver. This calls for a strict implementation of the existing policies to ensure that the country's children are given nutritious food.

Maruthancode

Strict vigilance needed

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Lessons from PMC" (October 17). The purpose of setting up Azhar A Khan cooperative banks was to further Rampur economic development and social

life of the people. While these banks have been able to fulfill their role partially, a major impediment has been the elected members of borrowers, who are more concerned about furthering their own interests.

Cooperative banks offer

attractive deposit rates than commercial banks and this is why they strive on an ecosystem of small business, traders and petty service providers. In a country like ours, where financial literacy is not so high, it is

essential that all banks come

under the purview of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Central bank must maintain a strict vigil and audit all ailing banks so that scams like PMC never happen again and the faith of the depositor remains intact

Harvinder Singh Chugh

Hunger challenge

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Still too hungry" (October 18). It is unfortunate that despite being the second-largest food producer, India ranks poorly on the hunger levels. To tackle the problem, there is a need for the Government to increase the budget for children's health.

The problem is all the more complex because the food basket differs from region to region. It is, therefore, essential that we have an efficient integrated system for food production, processing, preservation and distribution which can cater to the changing tastes of the nation

Srishti Mathur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

analysis

FIRSTCOLUMN

More to this than meets the eye

The Turkish-Syrian border drama could have been masterminded by Russia to get USA out and restore the Assad Govt's control over eastern Syria



ussia and its Syrian ally Bashar al-Assad win, the Kurds lose, and the United States (US) leaves in disgrace. It has been and the United States (US) leaves in disgraces. After a phone a hectic few days on the Turkish-Syrian border. After a phone call with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on October 7, Donald Trump abruptly abandoned America's Kurdish allies in Syria. As US troops pulled out of their positions along Syria's northern border, where they had been protecting the Kurds from a Turkish attack, Erdogan moved fast. The Turkish President declared that he would take over a big chunk of northern Syria to drive out the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Kurdish-dominated militia that has been America's key ally in the fight against the Islamic State (ISIS). Erdogan described the SDF as "terrorists" and a threat to Turkey but they are nothing of the sort.

Syrian Kurds are the majority population in the border region with Turkey. They created the SDF to resist the ISIS' attempts to conquer the region five years ago, after the Syrian regular army pulled out of the region to fight rebels elsewhere in the country. The SDF became America's key local ally in the fight against the ISIS. Over 10,000 Kurds died in that war, while the US gave them air support. By the end of last year they had destroyed ISIS and the whole region was at peace. The local Kurds and their Arab neighbours were running it themselves. The Kurds did want autonomy within Syria but they never demanded independence and they have made no attacks on Turkey, terrorist or otherwise. So why did Erdogan want to attack them?

Erdogan is paranoid about the Kurds, because one-fifth of Turkey's own population are ethnic Kurds, and some of them have waged a guerrilla and terrorist struggle for decades, seeking an independent state. Other Kurdish minorities in the region, including those in Syria, are not at war with the Turks but Erdogan didn't like having the Kurdish-run SDF on his border.

Turkey invaded last Saturday and after about 36 hours the despairing Syrian Kurds did the obvious thing: they asked the Syrian army to come back and save them. They don't love Syria's dictator, Bashar al-Assad, but it's better than being invaded by Turkey and losing their homes permanently.

But there was something puzzling about all this. Why would Assad's Russian allies approve a Syrian army move that might bring it into direct conflict with the Turkish army? After all, Vladimir Putin has been courting Erdogan as a potential ally (even though Turkey is currently a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) mem-

The Syrian army is now driving back into the northeastern part of the country unopposed by the SDF. They will re-occupy the whole region (which is Syrian sovereign territory). The Syrian Kurds may still be able to negotiate an autonomy deal with Damascus, on the grounds that they are Syria's only non-Arab minority. In any case, they have no other alternative.

Erdogan can either back down and be humiliated, or he can press on and risk a war not only with the Syrian army but also the Russian air force. That's the way it looks on the surface and maybe that's all that's going on here. But we must also consider the possibility that the whole thing has been a charade, masterminded by the Russians, to get the Americans out of Syria and restore the Assad Government's control over all of eastern

First, Erdogan puts the frighteners on Trump in the famous phone-call, and Trump abandons the Kurds and starts pulling the US troops out. Then Erdogan launches the threatened invasion, and the Syrian Kurds understandably panic and make a deal with

The Syrian army returns to the northern border for the first time in five years without having to fire a shot, carefully avoiding the points along the border where the Turks have already entered the country. Erdogan declares a ceasefire and eventually withdraws his troops, stating that he is satisfied that the Kurdish "threat" has been ended because the Syrian army, not the SDF, now controls the border. Even Iran is satisfied, because this eliminates the possibility that the US forces could be an obstacle to its planned secure corridor across Syria to Lebanon.

There's no proof of this but it makes sense. The Russians are smart enough and Trump is inept or compromised enough. It would explain why the Russians looked like they were backing the Syrians at the risk of alienating their new Turkish friend. Maybe there was no risk. Maybe Erdogan was in on the deal.

And don't worry about a revival of the ISIS. For the thousands of ISIS fighters now held prisoner by the Kurds, there can be no worse fate than falling into the hands of the Syrian army.

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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THE CONGRESS PARTY, WHEN THE BILL CAME IN PARLIAMENT ON ARTICLE 370, WHEN DISCUSSIONS CAME UP, VOTED FOR IT, NOT AGAINST IT. —FORMER PRIME MINISTER **MANMOHAN SINGH**





IN THE PAST SINGH SUPPRESSED FACTS AND PROVIDED COVER FOR THE CONGRESS. IT DOES NOT BEHOVE A FORMER PM TO MISREPRESENT FACTS. -BJP SOCIAL MEDIA CELL CHIEF

Fuelling new partnerships

India must broaden its vision of oil security which should go beyond increasing indigenous production, to cover arrangements with other nations for assured supplies of crude and gas



UTTAM GUPTA

espite loud talk by successive Governments about increasing domestic production of oil and gas to make India self-sufficient in energy, we are producing less than 20 per cent of our requirement. The balance, over 80 per cent, continues to be imported. This heightens our vulnerability to a point whereby the slightest disruption in any of the major sources of imports (be it imposition of sanctions by the US against Iran or an attack on oil installations in Saudi Arabia) creates major ripples that have the potential to destabilise the country's

The problem is not lack of resources. India has 26 Sedimentary Basins (SBs) covering an area of 3.14 million square kilometres (sq km). But, the lack of a conducive policy environment and cumbersome regulatory processes have deterred global firms (who have the technology, expertise and capital) from investing in their exploration, development and commercialisation. At present, only six SBs covering 0.518 million sq km or barely 16 per cent of the total area are under commercial exploitation. Even these six SBs are suboptimally utilised.

An overwhelming share of throughput comes from fields discovered over four decades ago in the 1970s, namely Bombay High and the South Bassein fields and so on, with no major discoveries in recent times. The only exception were finds in the Krishna Godavari (KG) basin in the early 2000s, touted as ones that would contribute nearly 50 per cent of the country's total gas production. Even that turned out to be a damp squib with the high-profile KG-D6 operated by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) ending up with meagre reserves of about two trillion cubic feet (Tcf) against an initial estimate of

The Narendra Modi Government has tried to entice global energy giants by assuring a higher price for difficult deep/ultra-deep water fields on the one hand and giving flexibility to operators in choosing new areas with freedom of pricing and marketing under the 2017 Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) on the other. It has also tried to simplify processes for approval and reduce bureaucratic red tape. But controls on supply, distribution and use remain, even as multiple pricing regimes, depending on the supply source and hydrocarbon type, give confusing signals.

In the absence of any major breakthrough in securing a jump in production from fields already given under the 1999 New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) and given the lukewarm response to the first three rounds of bidding held under HELP, it is unlikely that India would be able to reduce dependence on imports even by 10 per cent as committed by the Modi Government. The Centre will, therefore, need to explore other options for meeting the country's oil and gas requirements.

The first option involves sourcing a major share of requirements under long-term arrangements with exporters, leaving a small gap, say 10-15 per cent, for buying spot to take advantage of price fluctuations, depending on global-demand supply at any given time.

India being the third-largest importer of oil and gas, we may leverage this to negotiate better prices. Joining hands with another major



GOVERNMENT SHOULD **ORCHESTRATE** ITS STRATEGY COMBINING THE BEST OF ALL AVAILABLE OPTIONS LIKE BOOSTING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLIES, LETTING GLOBAL OIL MAJORS OWN EQUITY IN THE COUNTRY'S REFINERS AND RETAILERS AND INDIAN **COMPANIES**

ACQUIRING OIL ASSETS ABROAD FOR ENSURING **ADEQUATE** SUPPLIES OF CRUDE AND GAS TO MEET OUR **GROWING** REQUIREMENTS BASIS





buyer, say China, could further improve the country's bargaining power (but this is easier said than done). However, the threat of disruption always remains; due to the force majeure clause in such tie-

A second alternative is for Indian companies to pick up equity stakes in foreign oil and gas assets with arrangements for buy-back. For instance, ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), holds participating integer in over 40 coests in ticipating interest in over 40 assets in 20 countries. RIL, too, acquired assets in several jurisdictions. But this route is subject to a huge downside risk of erosion in the value of investment as already experienced by both RIL and

A third alternative is one in which global behemoths such as Aramco the Saudi Arabian Government-owned biggest petro giant and the world's largest oil exporter — pick up stake in Indian companies which are focussed on refining and marketing of oil products. This route is free from the vulnerabilities inherent under the above two

Already, in sync with Saudi Arabia's intent to invest \$ 100 billion in India's downstream sector, including refining, petrochemicals, retailing and so on, Aramco has proposed to acquire 25 per cent equity in the \$ 60 billion West Coast refinery (another 25 per cent will come from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company-Adnoc) and petrochemical project in Maharashtra in which the other 50 per cent will be owned by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

It is also contemplating picking up 20 per cent equity in oil and gas assets of RIL. The most crucial feature of this partnership/joint venture is assured supply of crude oil by Aramco to meet 50 per cent of the requirement of the West Coast refinery. The arrangement is mutually beneficial. While, on one hand, India gets what it needs the most, that is crude in desired quantities on a long-term basis without any disruption, on the other, Saudi Arabia also gets what it needs the most, which is an opportunity to diversify its sources of income, thereby reducing its overincome, thereby reducing its over-dependence on crude alone. There While, pursuing these initiatives, India's political class needs to broaden could not be a more apt example of the two countries exploiting synergies to the advantage of both.

Indian companies can pursue similar arrangements with other major suppliers of crude oil like Iraq, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), who will also be very keen to reduce their over-dependence on crude alone and make their economies immune to vulnerabilities resulting from price fluctu-

From our perspective, even if there is loss of output in their crude production facilities, being a co-owner in Indian firms, they won't cut supplies to the country. To take it a step further, the Government may even consider divesting its entire stake in oil refining and marketing PSUs to strategic investors who have ownership and control over crude assets.

As part of its ambitious programme of disinvestment to garner ₹105,000 Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan crore during the current year, it has

decided to divest all of its 53.3 per cent shareholding in BPCL. If, it is sold to say Aramco or Adnoc, this will not only yield a whopping ₹57,000 crore (at 2020) rent market capitalisation of ₹107,000 crore) but also ensure assured supplies of crude.

The Modi Government may also consider sale of HPCL — at present owned by ONGC which in turn is majority-owned by itself — to global energy majors. The sale of BPCL and HPCL won't face any legal hurdles as the relevant legislations, which led to the creation of these PSUs, have already been repealed in 2016.

its vision of oil security which should go beyond increasing indigenous production to cover arrangements for assured supplies of crude from all sources. It also needs to unshackle itself from the "socialist era" mindset that crucial assets such as oil must necessarily be owned by PSUs. In a world wherein supply chains are globally integrated, the focus should be on how best our economic interests are served rather

than worrying about ownership.
The Modi Government should orchestrate its strategy combining the best of all available options like boosting domestic production, long-term contracts for supplies, letting global oil majors own equity in the country's refiners and retailers and Indian companies acquiring oil assets abroad for ensuring adequate supplies of crude and gas to meet our growing requirements

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

on a sustained basis.

Vital tools in India's healthcare delivery

While equipment manufacturers have mostly focussed on improving the quality of care and life expectancy, they also need to increase affordability so that there is a largescale impact



NIKHILESH TIWARI

uccessful healthcare delivery depends both on the availability of personnel and technologies.

Medical devices are an important cog in the delivery system as they equip health service providers with the necessary tools to perform their job effectively. Though the country's healthcare industry has grown significantly over the last decade, our health ecosystem is plagued by the lack of availability and affordability of quality services. In fact, India lags behind Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa and a number of other developing countries in this regard. While technological advancements have expanded to encompass almost every stage of the healthcare contin-

uum, accessibility and democratic of diseases. Portable/point-of-care normal life with the help of advanced availability remains a hurdle. India faces a dual challenge as the rising burden of lifestyle diseases is added to the burden of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis. Non-communicable diseases are currently responsible for 61 per cent of the deaths in the country, a number that is only set to go up in the coming years. While both the Government and private participants have undertaken several measures to address the lack of quality services, these efforts have been executed in discrete silos.

In this scenario, medical appliances play a key role in offering better screening, diagnosis and treatment along with restoration and monitoring of health indicators to boost prevention. While equipment manufacturers have mostly focussed on improving the quality of care and life expectancy, they also need to increase affordability so that there is a large scale impact.

Technology has improved the complexity and accuracy of screening

accessories have made it possible to improve diagnostic mechanisms at the primary healthcare level, provide care at home and resulted in improved health outcomes and patient satisfaction. It has also improved the access to quality care in underserved and remote regions, while also making it possible for patients to avail treatment outside traditional healthcare facilities.

Technological advancements in surgical equipment have enabled doctors to treat highly complex and critical cases and reduce the length of extended hospital stays. It has increasingly made it possible for elective and complex operations such as knee replacement and bariatric surgery to be moved to short stay/outpatient surgery centres. For example, laproscopic surgery procedures remarkably improve outcomes; reduce length of hospital stays as well as cost of treat-

Rehabilitative centres and hospitals are making it easier for patients to recuperate and return to a relatively

restorative and assistive devices. Advancements in curative technology have also allowed people with dis-

abilities to lead productive lives. Advancements in screening devices have enabled patients to monitor their condition at home, keeping a close track on all major health indicators. Furthermore, smart appliances are being increasingly used to remotely monitor patients and diagnose life-threatening conditions early, reducing the need for hospital visits and bringing down the pressure on overburdened healthcare centres. However, there is a need for a more congenial ecosystem for indigenous manufacturers as medical technology is a significant contributor to the cost of healthcare delivery. According to conservative estimates, medical equipment contributes to at least 30 per cent of the capital of setting up a secondary or tertiary care center. Moreover, diagnostics and medical devices contribute to at least 20 per cent of the cost of medical services. Unfortunately, the ecosystem is not very conducive for the sector to drive affordability and accessibility. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) on devices currently stands at 12 per cent. On the other hand, customs duty is low. This tax policy negatively impacts indigenous production and supports imports, which is counter-intuitive to the 'Make in India' initiative. As the inverted duty structure favors bringing in finished goods over raw material, imports constitute 75 per cent of the industry's sales. As a result, local manufacturers make products at the lower end of the

The Government must consider revising its tax policy to help local manufacturers gain a larger share of the market. This will also help them make products at more affordable

With a changing regulatory and economic environment, the medical device sector is set to grow in the future and there are a range of factors fuelling it. According to estimates, non-communicable diseases will cause 75 per cent of the deaths in the country by 2025, with an increasing number of people suffering from diabetes, heart disease and progressive lung diseases. The geriatric population is also set to increase and would require a higher need for quality healthcare and medical devices, both at homes and

Apart from devising a more congenial tax structure, the country needs to strengthen its regulatory mechanisms and testing procedures to ensure highest standards of quality are met. According to news reports, the NITI Aayog has prepared a roadmap to ensure better regulation of medical equipment under which all devices imported or locally manufactured will have to be certified by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). While improving regulation is welcome, the authorities must ensure that the process remains

smooth, hassle-free and fast. (The writer is director of a medical device marketing and distribution company)





BACK THE GREEN NEW DEAL

For many years, the World Bank and the IMF were the international manifestation of the New Deal. They backed expansionary economic policies and were mindful of the rights of individual countries to govern. There are now proposals, backed by the UN, for a global Green New Deal. It would be a good thing for global economy, the planet and for their own long-term prospects, if the IMF and World Bank chose to back the idea.

(The Guardian editorial)

The properties to go under the hammer

include agricultural land, land parcels,

premises across the

office space and

commercial

three states

Ex-director of Bishal Distillers

barred from securities mkt

CAPSULE



DHFL reports Q1 net loss of Rs 242 cr

NEW DELHI: Debt-ridden housing finance firm DHFL has reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 242.48 crore for the first quarter ended June of the current fiscal. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 431.71 crore in the corresponding April-June period of 2018-19. DHFL said the losses registered in Q1 of this fiscal were fully attributable to owners of the parent (company). Total income of the company fell to Rs 2,399.84 crore during the three months to June 2019, as against Rs 3,154.25 crore in the year-ago period, it said in a late night regulatory filing. DHFL said the company is undergoing substantial financial stress since the second half of the previous financial year.. The company has suffered consistent downgrades in its credit ratings since February 2019. "On 5th June 2019, the credit rating was reduced to default grade despite there being no default till that date. As a result, the company's ability to raise funds has been substantially impaired and the business has been brought to a standstill with there being minimal/virtually no disbur-sements," the



company said.

L&T to buy Old Lane's stake in subsidiary for Rs 48 cr

NEW DELHI: Larsen & Toubro on Friday said it has signed an agreement to buy the entire stake of Old Lane Mauritius III Ltd in L&T Infrastructure Development Projects (L&T IDPL) for Rs 47.9 crore. The share purchase agreement was executed on Thursday, the company said in a filing to BSE. L&T will buy 2.55 per cent stake (81,90,000 shares) of Old Lane in L&T IDPL. "At the request of Old Lane, subject to completion of certain conditions precedent L&T has agreed to purchase its small holding in L&T IDPL as a gesture of goodwill towards a longtime investor, the filing said. Post the completion of this acquisition, L&T will have 100 per cent shareholding in L&T IDPL.

The CEO of Apple has met

with the top market regulator

in China, a statement said

Friday, a week after the tech

giant faced heavy criticism

over an app Beijing accused of

supporting Hong Kong pro-

from the App Store after a bar-

rage of criticism by Beijing,

which is stepping up pressure

on foreign companies deemed

to be providing support to the

pro-democracy movement in

Chinese state media said

the app allowed protesters in

the semi-autonomous city.

Apple removed HKmap.live

Adani awards AUD 100 mn Oz rail contract to Martinus Rail

The Adani Group on Friday said it has awarded a rail contract worth over AUD 100 million to Australia-based Martinus Rail, as part of efforts to boost infrastructure to support its mining services.

Adani Mining CEO Lucas Dow said that contracts worth over 450 million Australian dollars (AUD) had already been awarded on the Carmichael Project, the majority to regional Queensland

The contractor will base itself out of Adani's newly Rockhampton opened Business Centre, ensuring Rockhampton businesses and people will be in prime position to participate in the contract delivery, the company said in a

statement. have 'We always promised Queenslanders that we will deliver jobs and economic benefits for the regions,



Since receiving our approvals we have not wasted a moment. Construction on the Carmichael mine and rail Project is well and truly underway on site, and our big conacross environmental and safety conditions. He further said that

dards of project delivery

Martinus Rail is a proud Australian-founded and operated company and it has always been highly focused on ensuring the work it delivers is resourced through regional areas that need it the most.

Adani Mining CEO added, "We now have our mining services contractor and one of our earthworks contractors for the rail project in place based in Rockhampton.

Martinus Rail will be our rail laying construction contractor also in based in Rockhampton, initial rail camp provision will be based in Collinsville, earthworks and civil works is coming from Townsville, fuel supply is from Townsville, telecommunications is from Mackay, and many other regional businesses across regional Queensland also have a piece

Since receiving our approvals we have not wasted a moment. Construction on the Carmichael mine and rail Project is well and truly inderway on site, and our big contracts are now also lined up as we ramp up activity

tracts are now also lined up as

we ramp up activity," he said.

Martinus Rail Managing

Director Treaven Martinus

said, "Adani's commitments to

regional jobs for Queensland

is a good fit for our business,

and we're pleased to partner

with a company like Adani

that understands the impor-

tance of supporting regional communities, while also upholding the highest stan-

LUCAS DOW, Adani Mining CEO

Oil companies defer snapping fuel supplies to Air India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned oil companies on Friday decided to defer snapping fuel supplies to Air India after the national carrier promised to adhere to the schedule of clearing past outstanding dues, officials said.

Indian Oil Corp (IOC),
Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd
(BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) had on October 5 written to Air India that they will stop supplying aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to its aircraft at six major airports from October 18 if it didn't honour its payment commitments.

"It (Air India) has made a request not to stop supplies and promised to make regular payments. In view of their commitment, we have decided to defer the decision to terminate supplies," an official at one of the fuel retailers said

Air India owes the three firms over Rs 5,000 crore in past fuel bills and had first in June and again in September agreed to pay this amount in monthly installments of Rs 100 crore. But Air India failed to honour

Cook meets Chinese regulator after HK app flak



Air India buys about Rs 25-26 crore worth of fuel every day from the three oil companies

its commitment, leading to the October 5 notice.

IOC Director (Finance) Sandeep Kumar Gupta had earlier this week stated that the Rs 100 crore monthly payment was beside the airline being put on cash-and-carry where it was given fuel only against cash

Air India owes IOC about Rs 2,700 crore in unpaid fuel bills. This includes Rs 450 crore of interest. It's outstanding towards the three oil firms is about Rs 5,000 crore including interest

Air India buys about Rs 25-26 crore worth of fuel every day from the three oil compa-

On August 22, IOC, BPCL and HPCL had stopped fuel supplies to Air India at six airports of Kochi, Mohali, Pune, Patna, Ranchi and Vizag over payment defaults. The supplies were resumed on September 7 after the intervention of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

mjunction to conduct elignite for NLC

PTI ■ KOLKATA

B2B e-commerce major mjunction services limited on Friday said it has been appointed to conduct e-auction of raw lignite and minor minerals for NLC India Limited.

The e-commerce firm will carry out e-auction of raw lignite and minor minerals from mines of the erstwhile Neyveli Lignite in Tamil Nadu, the company said in a statement.

The white and other clay from NLC India's mines at Barsingsar in Rajasthan will also auctioned by the com-

The 'Navratna' PSU, NLC India Limited, has the vast reserves of raw lignite in the country, ensuring uninterrupted supply of the resource to its consumers across various sectors.

The company sells the resource only through e-auc-

The online platform of mjunction will help the staterun company to connect with various buyers, and facilitate e- selling of raw lignite in a "fair and convenient manner", the statement said.

Domestic equity market

extended its gains for the sixth

straight session on Friday,

with the benchmark Sensex

rising 246 points on sustained

buying across sectors.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 246.32 points, or 0.63

PNS MUMBAI

auction of raw

Tech giant Samsung Electronics

Samsung is the flagship subsidiary of the giant Samsung Group and crucial to South Korea's economic health. The conglomerate is by far the biggest of the familycontrolled empires that dominate business in the world's

iating setbacks with major products, most notably a worldwide recall of its Galaxy Note 7 devices in 2016 over exploding batteries, which hammered its reputation.

Earlier this year it had to delay the launch of its first foldable smartphone, the Galaxy Fold, after pre-release users found faulty screens.

Samsung's latest problem emerged after a user in the UK



simply by putting on a screen protector and applying an unregistered fingerprint.

The flaw meant anyone who got hold of her phone could transfer funds using her financial apps, the user told the British paper.In a statement released Friday, Samsung said the issue involved "fingerprint sensors unlocking devices after recognising three-dimensional patterns appearing on certain silicone screen protecting cases as users' fingerprints." The firm advised users of the Galaxy Note10, 10+ and Galaxy S10, S10+, and S10 5G to "delete all previous finger-

prints" and register their data

and Infosys fell up to 1.05 per

formed major global mar-

kets for the week. Equity

markets witnessed a sharp

rally on foreign investor

buying, progress in US-China trade talks and as well

'Indian equities outper-

rupee. The spot rupee was trading 5 paise stronger against the dollar during the day,"

Patel said.

fell by Rs 315 to Rs 46,325 per kg from the previous close of Rs 46,640 per kg.

In the international mar-

prices traded lower on easing

'Saudi Aramco

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Saudi Aramco plans to push back its initial public offering, which had been expected to be launched next week, a person familiar with the situation said Thursday.

The move could delay stock market trading of the oil giant to December or January instead of November, the person said. The company is expected to be valued at between \$1.5 and \$2 trillion, making it the biggest ever.

Sources had told AFP in mid-September that the IPO could be pushed back after an attack on Saudi oil facilities curtailed output. The IPO is part of Riyadh's efforts under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to diversify its economy away from petroleum. Aramco has envisioned a two-stage public listing, with about two percent of the capital trading on the Tadawul exchange in Saudi Arabia and an additional listing on a foreign exchange,

sources say.

China's GDP growth slows to 6 per cent in Q3

Hong Kong to track police -but the move to withdraw it prompted accusations the firm the website of China's State was putting business interests Administration for Market

PTI BEIJING

above human rights. According to a statement on

Xiao Yaqing, the director general of the State Administration for Market Regulation, on Thursday in Beijing.
"The two sides had in-depth

Regulation, Tim Cook met with

exchanges on a wide range of topics including expanding investment and business development in China, protecting consumer rights and interests, and fulfilling corporate social responsibility," the statement said.

Communist Party mouthpiece The People's Daily said last week in an opinion piece that by stocking the app, Apple was "mixing business with politics, and even illegal acts".

cent higher ahead of its quarper cent, higher at 39,298.38. as a deal being reached It hit an intra-day high of terly earnings, scheduled to between UK and EU on 39,361.06 and a low of be announced later in the day. Brexit," said Sanjeev Zarbade, VP PCG Research, 38,963.60. On the other hand, Tata The broader NSE Nifty Motors, Bajaj Auto, Bharti Kotak Securities.

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

Govt throws a challenge to startups for alternative

The government has launched a challenge for startups to develop an alternative for single-use plastic. The first winner will receive a cash price of Rs 3 lakh for each problem statement, while the second

winner will get Rs 2 lakh. "The target of the single-use plastic grand challenge is to incentivise innovators and startups to develop design solutions," the department for promotion of industry and

internal trade (DPIIT) said. The challenge is open to all startups. The product should at least be in any of these stages



proof of concept or a deployed solution which requires further scaling up.

An interim jury of experts will review the eligible applications and shortlist the best entries on the basis of an evaluation criteria as set by the DPIIT. The result will be announced on October 31.



data released on Friday. The GDP figures emerged just one week after the US and China reached a tentative trade truce to avoid more damages to the world's two largest economies.

China's gross domestic product grew at 6 per cent in the quarter ended September, the weakest quarterly growth rate since 1992 and down from 6.2 per cent in the previous



quarter, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

The slowdown comes despite government efforts to support the economy, including measures such as tax cuts. The latest figures mark a further loss of momentum in the economy, which had already seen growth languishing at its slowest pace in around three

This week the International Monetary Fund trimmed its 2019 growth forecast for China

to 6.1 per cent from 6.2 per cent due to the long-running trade dispute and slowing domestic demand.

Meanwhile, China's GDP expanded 6.2 per cent year on year in the first three quarters of 2019 to about 69.78 trillion yuan (about USD 9.87 trillion), the NBS data showed.

The growth was in line with the government's annual target

of 6-6.5 per cent set for 2019, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The Chinese economy has maintained overall stability, a senior official from the NBS said at a press conference, while acknowledging that China faces downward pressure amid slower global economic growth and more exter-

nal uncertainties.



crore by issuing redeemable

preference shares (RPS) to 238

persons without complying

with the public issue norms.

in 2011-12, and former director Prabir Chowdhury

held the position from 2012

The funds were mobilised

Sebi to auction 200 properties

of Sai Prasad Group in Nov

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

for four years.

company had incurred the Acting against the illegal mobilisation of funds, reguliability to refund the money collected by it which it failed to discharge, therefore, any lator Sebi barred the former director of Bishal Distillers person who is or becomes from the securities market director of such company also becomes liable for ensuring refund by the company." The Securities and Exchange Board of India While (Sebi), in a probe, found that the firm had mobilised Rs 4

took place, however, as the

restraining Chowdhary from accessing securities market, Sebi on Thursday said that he shall be banned "for a period of four years from the date of this order or till the expiry of four years from the date of completion of refunds to investors as directed in the order dated May 16,

2016, whichever is later."

Gold falls by

Rs 145 on weak

Gold prices on Friday

global trends,

strong rupee

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

to 2013, the order passed by In May 2016, markets regthe regulator noted. ulator had ordered the com-Sebi said "though the pany and its directors to refund the illegally mobilised investors' money along with an interest amount of 15 per cent per annum.

Samsung admits Galaxy S10 access flaw

PTI ■ SEOUL

on Friday acknowledged a major flaw with its fingerprint system that allows other people to open its top-end smartphones, advising users to delete all registered prints.

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday said it will auction

nearly 200 properties of Sai

Prasad Group firms and three

of its directors next month in

order to recover funds worth

thousands of crores raised by

the entity through illicit col-

The regulator has been auc-

tioning properties of the

group's companies and their directors for the past two years.

Besides, it had put up on sale, jewellery, ornaments and other

valuables of Sai Prasad Group.

In separate notices, Sebi said

it will auction 90 properties in

Madhya Pradesh, 62 in Odisha

and 46 in Maharashtra at a total

reserve price of over Rs 74

crore. The auction will be con-

The companies whose prop-

erties will be auctioned are Sai

Prasad Corporation, Sai Prasad

Properties and Sai Prasad

Foods, while the directors are

Balasaheb Bhapkar, Shashank

Bhapkar and Vandana

The properties to go under

the hammer include agricul-

tural land, land parcels, office

space and commercial premis-

The regulator has asked the intending bidders to make

their own independent

enquiries regarding the mea-

surement, nature, type, classi-

fications, encumbrances, liti-

gations, attachments and lia-

bilities of the properties put on

es across the three states.

Bhapkar.

ducted on November 22.

lective investment schemes.

11th-largest economy.

But it has a history of humil-

told the Sun newspaper earlier this week her Galaxy S10 anew.

Sensex rallies for 6th day, rises 246 pts

0.65 per cent, to settle at

Yes Bank was the top gain-

er in the Sensex pack, rally-

ing up to 8.44 per cent, fol-

lowed by Maruti, PowerGrid,

NTPC, L&T and SBI.
Shares of Reliance
Industries ended 1.37 per

11,661.85

too spurted 75.50 points, or Airtel, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank

China's gross domestic product grew

growth rate since 1992 and down from

at 6 per cent in the quarter ended

September, the weakest quarterly

6.2 per cent in the previous quarter,

according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)



declined Rs 145 to Rs 38,925 per 10 gram in the national capital on weak global trends and a strong rupee, as per HDFC Securities. On Thursday, the precious metal had closed at Rs 39,070 per 10 gram. "Spot gold price for 24 Karat in Delhi was trading down by Rs 145 to Rs 38,925 on weak global prices and a stronger

HDFC Securities Senior Analyst - Commodities, Tapan

Silver also lost ground and

ket, gold was ruling lower at USD 1,488 an ounce and silver at USD 17.46 per ounce. "The international gold

worries over Brexit deal," he

to delay IPO'

G Follow us on @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/

> Saturday October 19, 2019

dailypioneer

Every powerful movement starts with one person. That's exactly what Bhavin Patel has achieved

through his dedication to see the Karimnagar's Lower Manair Dam

free of garbage, finds V SATISH **REDDY**



nspiration, followed by perspiration, is the key to do anything. Karimnagarbased Bhavin Patel is inspiring his locals to clean the Lower Manair Dam, which has been filled with trash for years. He started the #CleanKarimnagardam campaign on September 28 this year all by himself and after witnessing his attempts to make the dam

cleanliness drive has completed 21 days and sees no signs of slowing down. 'I once visited the dam area for walking. I found the place to be very dirty

area a hangout place,

many of his friends and

locals joined him. The

and unhygienic with trash dumped all over. The Lower Manair Dam is one of the major tourist attractions in Karimnagar district. As nobody cared to clean the dam which is one of the major tourist attractions of the district, I have decided to clean it by myself and eventually I witnessed more people joining me in cleaning the dam," says Bhavin Patel to The Pioneer.

Bhavin goes to the dam area early in the morning every day to clean it. He also posts the same on social media to let others know about the change that is happening from his efforts. "After seeing my posts, my friends Surya Karan, Mounika Reddy and others joined me. The



BHAVIN GOES TO THE DAM AREA EARLY IN THE MORNING EVERY DAY TO CLEAN IT. HE ALSO POSTS UPDATES ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO LET OTHERS KNOW ABOUT THE CHANGE THAT IS HAPPENING FROM **HIS EFFORTS**

number of people participating in the #CleanKarimnagardam is

increasing," he shares.

But he believes that a lot more has to be done as he still sees trash being dumped even after the clean-up drive. He laments the lack of dustbins in the area due to which volunteers have to travel three

km to dump the garbage.
"I used to dump the trash through my car but it was not easy and the trash keeps increasing every day," says Bhavin adding, after requesting the Municipal Commissioner for aid, the officials

now send a tractor every day to transport the garbage. He adds that many have come forward to distribute bins for the drive.

On a concluding note, Bhavin says, "We are active on Twitter about making the government accountable on keeping the dam clean. We are planning to meet the district collector and request bins in the dam area. Disposing garbage properly every day is important for cleanliness. Interested people can join us at the dam every day from 6 am



I once visited the dam area for walking. I found the place to be very dirty and unhygienic with trash dumped all over. The Lower Manair Dam is one of the major tourist attractions in Karimnagar district. As nobody cared to clean the dam, I decided to clean it by myself.

BHAVIN PATEL

All work and no sleep makes Jack A SICK BOY

Sleep offers the quiet escape from our overwhelming work-life schedule. But we are being deprived of that escape, sometimes by our own doing, reports ANUSHKA PRADEEP

hen was the last time you had a good night's sleep? Or the last time you remember waking up wellrested? If it was anytime soon, consider yourself luck ier than at least 25 per cent of the world population who suffer from various forms of sleep disorders. Yes, sleep is a big deal. Since we observed World Mental Health week recently, we look at how sleep disorders have become the new norm.

"Sleep disorders are mostly a neuropsychiatric issue. But what we witness these days is a form of a self-inflicted disorder that comes off as something that the society inflicts on individuals. Sleep deprivation is often the result of anxiety, depression, hypertension and other neuropsychiatric disorders," says Dr Purnima Nagaraja, psychiatrist, psychotherapist, mentor

and a motivational speaker. "If I were to make a count of all the reported cases, the number of patients who suffer from abnormal sleep pat-

Given the hectic work schedules, the advent of technology and the boom in the IT sector, the ideal sleep cycles have gone haywire. Lack of sleep has become so com-mon that people force them-selves to take caffeinated drinks and make harmful lifestyle changes to keep themselves awake, thus purposely inducing a sleep disorder. And sadly even children these days suffer from various forms of sleep disorders," says Dr Purnima, who also is also the director of Dhrithi health services such as their wellness clinic, rehabilitation centre and a day-

terns has only increased.

While adults are constantly trying to keep up with the demands and responsibilities of being an adult by sacrificing various aspects of their health, we try to understandwhat is keeping the children

also up at night.
"While it is true that adults are subjected to an incredible amount of stress in their day-to-day life, children these days too have to

deal with their share of stress which more often than not induced by the adults around them seconded by peer relationships," says Dr Juhi Choudhary, who is a Counsellor, Educational Therapist, specialising in counseling children.
"Insomnia from stress

related to education, peer relationships and radiation from electronic gadgets are the most common reasons for sleep disorders among children. Sleep deprivation results in low productivity and lack of proper social engagement which once again results in spending more nights awake to attain better results. This puts them on the road of a never ending vicious circle," says Dr

Juhi Chowdary.
It is true that most Indian parents expect their child to stay up late or wake up quite early to finish the last chapter or even the entire syllabus during the week of exams. The pursuit of good grades costs children their health, the effects of which would only be visible as time pass-



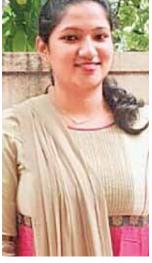
After facing sleep issues for years, now, at the age of 31, I am a victim of several physical ailments including hypothyroidism, which comes with its own problems like chronic fatigue and restless leg syndrome. This hinders my productivity.

> KALEEM SHAIK PHOTOGRAPHER



If I were to make a count of all the reported cases, the number of patients who suffer from abnormal sleep patterns has only increased. Given the hectic work schedules, the advent of technology and the boom in the IT sector, the ideal sleep cycles have gone haywire

DR PURNIMA NAGARAJA



While it is true that adults are subjected to an incredible amount of stress in their dayto-day life, children these days also have to deal with their share of stress which more often than not induced by the adults around them seconded by peer relationships

> DR JUHI CHOUDHARY EDUCATIONAL THERAPIST

sleep for 6 to 7 hours and on Online newsletter Medical some days for 2 to 3 hours. My sleep patterns are unpre-News Today explains the adverse changes the body goes through due to sleep deprivation. This includes been my case for past 14 years now," says Kaleem obesity and type 2 diabetes. "Not getting enough sleep prevents the body from photographer in the city. strengthening the immune system and producing more cytokines to fight infection. A lack of sleep can affect two cal ailments including important hormones in the

ghrelin, which control the feelings of hunger and satiety or fullness thus resulting in obesity. Sleep deprivation is known for increasing the risk of type 2 diabetes." What do sleep disorders

body, leptin and

do if left unchecked for sev-

eral years? "Some days I can

dictable and sleeplessness has become my normal. This has Shaik, who is a well-known "After facing sleep issues for years, now, at the age of 31, I am a victim of several physihypothyroidism, which comes with its own problems like chronic fatigue and rest-less leg syndrome. This hin-ders my productivity. Being a photographer I need to be on the move all the time and these problems prove to be a huge issue," he adds. The problem lies with

stress. It leads to lack of sleep **DIABETES**

which in turn results in the physical, emotional and/or mental illnesses. This illnesses/disorders then lead to more stress and thus creating a vicious circle. "Stress is the biggest culprit. Being stressfree as much as possible is one of the most important steps to a peaceful sleep and proper health," says Kaleem.

SOME STUDIES EXPLAIN ADVERSE CHANGES THE BODY GOES THROUGH DUE TO SLEEP DEPRIVATION. THIS INCLUDES **OBESITY AND TYPE 2**

Much awaited **AKASHVANI** Sammelan today

ll India Radio has played a stellar role in nurturing

India's heritage and helped portray and preserve its diverse culture. Launched in the year 1954 with a

glorious tradition spanning over six decades, All India Radio is back this year with its unique calendar event Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan. These music

organised all over the country and feature talents from all walks of life, from eminent artistes to talented young musicians Renowned artists such as MS Subbalakshmi

pt. Ravi Shankar, Voleti Venkateshwarlu, Pt. Jasraj, Ustad Zakir Hussain are known to have performed at the Sangeet Sammelan in the previous

years. Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan concerts, this year will be held across India in 24 cities involving about 177 musicians from all over the country at dif-

ferent venues simultaneously on October 19 2019. The Sammelan in Hyderabad will be held at 6 pm at NTR Kalamandiram, Potti Sriramulu Telugu University, Nampally.

Among performers at the event this year prominent artistes such as Artiste and Composer Allam



Durgaprasad, Hindustani Vocal Artist Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan the recipient of the prestigious National Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2014 and others are also expected to grace the occasion with their presence and mesmerize the audience with their performance.

tollywood



AM Ratnam leads race to fund PK's comeback film

e've already informed you that a host of filmmakers like A.M. Ratnam, Krish, Hari, Y. Naveen and Y. Ravi Shankar of Mythri Movie makers, met actor-turnedpolitician Pawan Kalyan in the past couple of months, adding fuel to rumours about Pawan's comeback to cinema. While an official word to this end is awaited, sources close to him told us that he is careful-

"If he plans to start the film next year, the first person who would get his vote is A.M. Ratnam, the produc-

er who gave him the blockbuster *Khushi*, and later went on to work with him on Bangaram. Krish has impressed the actor with a social message-driven story and is likely have Ratnam produce the film. Pawan had participated in the muhurat shoot of a Ratnam movie (the remake of

Tamil monster hit Vedalam) in October 2016, which was later shelved. The actor is keen to honour his commitment to the ace producer. The others can wait for now," a well-placed source close to the development told The Pioneer.

The same source, however, warned that the possibility of the film being made depends on the current state of affairs in Andhra Pradesh, where the actor is politically active. "Pawan is looking at a lot factors before making up his mind. He wants to balance his political work with films. He has built his party from scratch and so is built his party from scratch and so is keen to devote time to political life whenever necessary — even if it means sacrificing a day

or two from the schedule of his film," the source added.

Pawan's last film was 2018's Sankranti release, Agnyaathavaasi, which was directed by his good friend Trivikram Srinivas. Released under skyhigh expectations, it failed to light up the box-office.

While Pawan tries to find a balance between his political career and love for films, NAGARAJ **GOUD** throws light upon the directors and producers who are eagerly

waiting for the power star's nod



Balayya mourns little fan's demise

grief over the death of his little fan, master Gokul Sai. A resident of Madanapalle in Chittoor, Gokul passed away due to complications from dengue. He gained prominence by flawlessly imitating Balayya's famous dialogues that won him praise from the actor himself. He had even participated in TV shows. "I'm saddend by the death of Calval LIA had a bright fortuna I dened by the death of Gokul. He had a bright future. I would feel joyful every time I saw the way he went about uttering my dialogues. May his soul rest in peace and I extend my deep condolences to his family," Balayya

Nama parts with George Reddy's Nizam rights

roducer-distributor Abhishek Nama, who was quick to grab the distribution rights of George Reddy after its trailer went viral on Dussehra, has given away the Nizam rights of the film to Global Cinemas. An announcement to this end was made on Friday. Both the distribution parties will now decide the release date together and a little birdie tells us that they are looking at a November release.

"Although a date hasn't been zeroed in on yet, the makers want to make the most of the buzz the film has gen-

erated from the trailer and release it at the earliest. They've told director Jeevan Reddy to be ready with the film by the first week of December and even asked him to get his cast ready for a promotional blitzkrieg beginning this month-end. Both the producers are considering releasing it in the second half of next month," said a source.

Featuring *Vangaveeti* fame Sandeep Madhav, the film, a production venture of Appireddy under Mic Movies in collaboration with Silly Monks and Three Lines Cinema, is a biopic of stu-

dent leader George Reddy who was killed on Osmania Campus in 1972. Devika, Satyadev, Manoj Nandam, Meesala Laxman, Chaitanya Krishna, Shatru and Jay Kay (Padi Padi Leche Manasu cinematographer) have played supporting roles in the film. The film has been shot by Sairat cinematographer Sudhakar Yakkanti.



FOR A GOOD CAUSE sonalities like Ali, Taraka Ratna, Siva Balaji, Venu, Dhanraj, Archana Veda, Sai Karthik among others will be participating in multiple entertainment programmes aimed at the Telugu diaspora in the USA. Beginning with

Virginia on December 20, the four-state tour will culminate in Chicago on December 31. The events include dance performances, stand-up comedy, ramp walk, Ali's special show and a quiz. Veranica Entertainments, in association with Cloud Nine Events, is organising the whole tour to raise funds for Adharana, a non-profit organisation, which sponsors education and well-being of 300 poor

At a curtain raiser in Hyderabad, Siva Balaji said that the concept of the whole show, which girl signs her second filn he cast of *Thadam* remake, starring

Nela Ticket

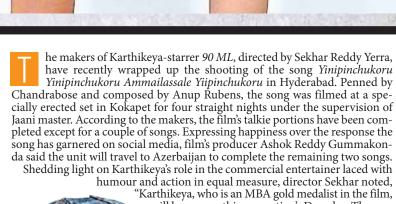
Ram, has got a new addition. After roping in Nivetha Pethuraj to play a cop sometime back, director Kishore Tirumala now has the nod of *Nela Ticket* girl, Malvika Sharma, to play the other leading lady. "Although she was offered multiple projects after Nela Ticket, Malvika was on the lookout for a part that will showcase the actor in her. She liked how Kishore Tirumala gave Malvika — who will play a journalist in the film — more screen time and has decided to hop on board," said a source.

The film, to be produced by Sravanthi Ravi Kishore, will move to floors in the second week of November. The pre-production is in full swing. Featuring Arun Vijay in a dual role of a software engineer and a gangster, the original, which released earlier this March, narrates the confusion that prevails when an accused in a murder case turns out to have a look alike.

Except for bringing in some situational humour, Kishore hasn't tweaked the script much," added the source. Ravi Kishore is looking to release the film

MALVIKA LIKED HOW KISHORE TIRUMALA GAVE HER MORE SCREEN TIME





will be seen as this generation's Devadas. The reason why he turned into an alcoholic forms the gist of the film. The film has elements that will attract family audience as well." In the film, Ravi Kishan will be seen as Karthikeya's bête noire, while Rao

Ramesh, Ajay, Posani Krishna Murali, Praveen and Ali form the supporting cast. Newbie Neha Solanki is the leading lady.

90 ML Romance in Azerbaijan

Makers of this Karthikeya-starrer travel to picturesque Azerbaijan for shooting two songs



is devoid of unnec-

essary speeches,

appealed to him. "I will be doing a live

talk show with my

wife Madhu and

our part will end with a jig to a romantic retro number," he said.

will entertain the

audience with

Telangana folk numbers.

Archana, an expert dancer,

said she is planning to groove to the fusion of

classic and western music. Jabardasth fame actors

Venu and Dhanraj will be performing new skits

on the show while singer Madhupriya said she

celeb talks



PRIYANKA CHOPRA, PARINEETI ENTER THE 'FROZEN' WORLD

ctress Priyanka Chopra Jonas along with her sister and actress Parineeti Chopra will be dubbing for the Hindi version of Hollywood animated movie Frozen 2.

Disney India has roped in Priyanka to dub for Elsa and Parineeti will voice for Anna in the upcoming sequel of hit film

"Elsa is a fictional character who's known to be strongly-opinionated and level headed, traits that I deeply connect with. This not only made me want to be part of the film, but also gives me a wonderful opportunity to present one of the most-successful animated films to our local audiences,"

Priyanka said.
"My happiness just goes up

a notch knowing that Parineeti will be voicing Anna's character. The two of us have never worked together before and this seems like a perfect movie to come together and an experience that I am going to cherish forever," she added.

Talking about entering the Frozen world, Parineeti said, "You don't need to be an actress to dream of being a Disney princess!! I absolutely loved the first film, it's my favourite animation film but never thought that I'd get to voice Anna.

"But of course the real cherry on the cake is that I've been cast in a film about sisters with my real life sister!! While dubbing we would keep laughing about the fact that we are actually like our characters in real life! Mimi didi is totally like Elsa and I'm totally like Anna! This is why this movie will always be special. I can't wait for

the audience response."

The second part of the Disney franchise promises to be more intense as it traces the pasts of Princesses Anna and Elsa, voiced by Kristen Bell and Idina Menzel in Hollywood version, respectively, and piece together their pre-

With Elsa being filled with intrigue as to why was she born with magical powers, her sister Anna is the happy-go-lucky forever optimist.

Priyanka and Parineeti fits perfectly into giving Elsa and Anna the much-needed depth to their "With Elsa and Anna, both sis-

ters, boasting their own fan following amongst young girls world over, having Priyanka and Parineeti to voice these two felt no less than perfect. From being just a character, Elsa has grown to be

no less than a superhero that girls around the world now connect with. She, along with Anna, continue to empower girls owing to their powerful personalities. The bond between the two is so strong that we wanted to bring in a real sibling duo for these two roles. The chemistry that we are looking for is something that Priyanka and Parineeti bring with them and is sure to elevate the film-watching experience," said Bikram Duggal, Head — Studio Entertainment, Disney India. Directed by Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee, Frozen 2 will release in India in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu on November 22.

This comes close on the heels of another announcement where Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has dubbed for Angelina Jolie's character in Maleficent: The Mistress of

KEVIN JONAS DEBUTS SUCKER TATTOO DEDICATED TO WIFE

inger Kevin Jonas has paid tribute to his wife Danielle with a The eldest Jonas Brother, 31, got a tattoo to commemorate

Danielle's cameo in the Sucker music video, reports pagesix.com. "Brand new addition to the fam. So proud of this time in our life and getting to remember this with @daniellejonas forever!" Kevin cap-

tioned a photograph of his new ink, which was

done by celebrity tattoo artist Winterstone. The image of a woman in a big dress was inspired by the scene in the music video in which Danielle, 33, wears a voluminous Giambattista Valli gown while walking a gaggle of corgis through the outdoor grounds of Hatfield House in England, Queen Elizabeth I's childhood home.

The video is particularly special, not only because the Jonas Brothers'

wives — including Sophie Turner and Priyanka Chopra Jonas — made surprise appearances as the love interests, but also because it was the first single the reunited band released after their six-year hiatus.

This isn't Kevin's first family-focused tattoo; he has Dani tattooed on his left ring finger, along with four doves symbolising himself, his wife and their two children Alena, 5 and Valentina, 2. Most recently, Kevin had his daughter's favourite stuffed animals tat-tooed on his forearm ahead of the Happiness Begins tour.

SOPHIE ELLIS: CAMEO IN THRONES WAS

inger Sophie Ellis, who played a cameo in the popular American show Game Of Thrones, feels it was a little absurd to be an

extra on the hit series. On Lorraine Kelly's show, Ellis spoke about her role and shared her shooting experience with her husband Richard Jones, reports dailymail.co.uk.

'Richard and I are really big fans of the show and we knew a couple of other musicians that had also become extras. We just asked! It was the third episode of the last series where they had the

massive battle? "At the time it was the most expensive single piece of television ever filmed, so even if you don't watch the programme, just seeing enterrise on that level and walkng into a room full of extras, 300 men with beards on was really funny," she said.

And the Murder on the

dancefloor hitmaker added that the moment was so surreal, that it was 'slightly absurd". She added, "It was

definitely fun, there was a lot of giggles as it was 🐧 slightly absurd. It was a very dark battle so we couldn't see ourselves at all. But we were there in spirit."

The eighth and final season of Game Of Thrones aired earlier this year, bring to an end the much-loved fantasy

ROBERT PATTINSON 'BEAT HIMSELF UP'

ollywood star Rober Pattinson used to beat himself up on the set while

shooting the The

In an interview to Mr Porter, Pattinson's co-star Willem Dafoe shared that Pattinson used to beat himself up on the sets to get into character for the horror drama, reports

metro.co.uk.

He said, "He's not interested in craft, I think. He wants to throw himself into deep water and he

He added at the time

didn't want boys was

three brothers, which

house growing up.

feels like it will only be true if he's drowning. For me that seemed wacky. But I'm not trying to judge. He has a good sense of the visual, of what's needed in a close-up. Sometimes he'd beat himself up so bad. He'd stick his fingers down his throat, things like that."

Pattinson had previously opened up on what he put himself through in order to personify Ephrain, who slowly descended into madness after mundane task, after mundane task in the *The Lighthouse*.

He used to carry out chores such as cleaning, scrubbing floors and carrying coal.

yan Reynolds confirmed the arrival of his third child with Blake Lively with a photo of the two parents snuggling up with what appeared to be their new bundle of joy

in British Columbia, Canada. "I love B.C.," the

Canadian-born actor, 42, said in a tweet Wednesday urging people to vote for climate policy.

"I want my daughters to experience the same natural playground I grew up in," he said in the tweet revealing the sex of his

baby.
The photo accompanying the Deadpool star's tweet featured the couple smiling at each other with their child, presumably their latest little one, in a baby carrier worn by her dad, but her face had been blurred out and a smiley face drawn over her real face. The trio stood on a forest trail with sunlight glinting through the massive trees, and Reynolds sweetly placed his hand on Lively's head as the two parents beamed at each

Reynolds and Lively, 32, are also parents to daughters Inez, 21/2, and James,

People confirmed on October 4 that the couple had welcomed their third child, but no details about the baby's sex, name or birth details were released at the time. Lively debuted her

baby bump at the premiere for her husband's movie Pokémon: Detective Pikachu in May, dazzling fans in a fitted yellow dress that highlighted her growing

bump. "They are so happy and excited about having another baby," a source told People at the time. "They really are the most in-love and intune couple, and very hands-on parents. They'd have a dozen kids if they could."

It's no secret that Reynolds loves being a father to girls, and told Entertainment Weekly Radio in 2016 "if I could have nine daughters, I would be thrilled. Really,

like I genuinely would be." IT'S A GIRL FOR RYAN that part of the reason he **REYNOLDS AND** because he grew up with **BLAKE LIVELY** caused some chaos in the





Indian captain Virat Kohli, right, and teammate Rohit Sharma, center, listen to coach Ravi Shastri during a training session ahead of 3rd Test

Complete Whitewash

In last outing before Diwali, Virat & boys go for Proteas hunt with aim to consolidate lead at top in Test Championship

t would have been a dead rubber but with valuable World Test Championship points on offer, India would be eyeing victory while South Africa would be desperate for some consolation in a wretched tour when the third and final Test starts

There are 40 points on offer and a 3-0 series whitewash, both of which India would be targetting against the hapless visitors.

India, who have 200 points from four games, have a massive 140-point lead over nearest rivals New Zealand and Sri Lanka in the WTC standings. Skipper Virat Kohli has also made it clear that there is plenty to play for in the final Test and the team cannot afford a drop in intensity. Going into the game, India have very few holes to plug, be it their batting or bowling.

The home team could not have

asked for more from their top-order with Rohit Sharma showing why he is such an impact player as he feasted on the South African bowlers with twin hundreds in the first Test while opening for the first time. The *Mumbaikar's* opening part-

ner Maynak Agarwal on the other hand went on to convert his maiden hundred into a double in Visakhapatnam and followed it up with another century in Pune.

Then it was the turn of 'King

Kohli' who came to the party in the Pune with a career-best double hundred —a majestic 254 not out and made it look like a routine job. Rohit will be eyeing a big score after not firing in the first innings

India vs South Africa Live from 9:30am IST STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

of the Pune Test while Cheteshwar Pujara, who has scored two fifties in the series, would be looking to cross the three-figure mark.

That India have lost only 16 wickets while routing South Africa in both the Tests sums up their dominance.

Toss has also been kind to India so far and things are likely to get more exciting if the stroke of luck favours Faf du Plessis in the final

The last time South Africa toured the India, rank-turners had welcomed the side but this time both the pacers and spinners have been able to extract something out of the

Umesh Yadav made a fine comeback in the Pune Test to return with fine figures of 3/22 with some brief hostile spells as wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha who took some breathtaking catches to aid to the pacer's tally.

Kohli played an extra pacer in Umesh at Pune by benching Hanuma Vihari but only time will tell what combination he chooses for the final Test.

South African captain Faf du Plessis has already predicted the Ranchi pitch to be a turner, bringing a third spinner into picture. Since Kuldeep Yadav has been

ruled out of the match due to a shoulder injury, left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem has been drafted into the squad and he might sneak into the playing XI as well.

South Africa batsmen showed some fight in Visakhapatnam but

they let themselves down in Pune. It was only the tailenders who showed some character and frustrat-

ed the Indian bowling. Du Plessis has urged experiences players like Dean Elgar, Quinton De Kock and Temba Bavuma to bat with respon-

Their batting woes are further compounded by the absence of opener Aiden Markram who has been ruled out of the third Test with an injury.

The pace attack comprising Kagiso Rabada, Vernon Philander and Anrich Nortje has also not been as effective as expected while the Indian pacers have managed to provide the breakthroughs.

With their senior-most spinner Keshav Maharaj also ruled out, South Africa will find it tougher to stop the Indian juggernaut.

India: Virat Kohli (c), Mayank Agarwal, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vc), Hanuma Vihari, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Shahbaz Nadeem, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill.

South Africa: Faf du Plessis (c), Temba Bavuma (vc), Theunis de Bruyn, Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Zubayr Hamza, George Linde, Senuran Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Vernon Philander, Dane Piedt, Kagiso Rabada, Rudi



I share good understanding with Pant: Saha

PTI RANCHI

The cut-throat competition for a I place in India's playing XI has not affected Wriddhiman Saha's relationship with his understudy Rishabh Pant as the duo try to help each other with notes on glovework.

Saha was out of the Indian team for 20 months due to a shoulder surgery but his now back to his best as a keeper with some stunning catches in the second Test in Pune.

Six days short of his 35th birthday, the sprightly Saha is often seen helping Pant with keeping drills after his own training, something that has been directed by the team managed.

Ask him if he is mentoring Pant and the ever-reticent Saha replied in negative.

There's nothing (mentoring) like that. We just discuss normally the way the wicketkeepers discuss. With Śridhar and Pant, we three jointly decide on how to go about our wicketkeeping on a particular type of wicket," he said.

The co-ordination and rapport between them helps it easier for them to work together.

'We always observe each other's wicket-keeping. We work hard in our practice sessions and have a good understanding and co-ordination among ourselves. We always try to point out each other's mistakes.

It's been going well so far," he said. While his keeping has been rated as the best in world cricket, even BCCI president-elect Sourav Ganguly has spoken about the need to improve on his batting aver-

ages.
"Whoever plays in the team wants to contribute. As a wicketkeeper, I look to get sometime in the middle and if I get time I try to build a partntership and score a fifty or so. Everyone tries like that. Sometime it works, sometime it does not," Saha said.

Leading 2-0, Saha said, it's time to complete a whitewash against South Africa.

"I have good memory of the last match. I made 117 in the last match. I remember how I approached the innings. I also remember the Steve Smith incident. If you see we drew it last time. We are 2-0 up in the series so this time we will try to make it 3-0 this time." he concluded.

Faf wants to 'bat big' like



Couth African captain Faf du Plessis has urged his embattled batsmen to mental," the South African take a leaf out of India's book and "bat big" like the hosts in order to salvage skipper told reporters.
The Proteas' batting pride in the third and final

"For me it's important that the guys don't feel like there is one week left in South Africa, the Test and I am not different to

is points still up for grabs every Test match. So for me the challenge is more

Visakhapatnam but disappointed in the second Test. Urging his batsmen to convert their starts, Du India and almost when Plessis said: "For all of us you get on that plane to it is just about converting

get a hundred.

The fact that I have done it twice already this series, there is no reason for me not to go and get a big one. That's a chalshowed some fight in lenge for myself because I understand that sixties is not going to win Test matches for us. I need to bat big like the Indian team has done and score big runs.

Du Plessis also asked

series we play now is for any one of those players his bowlers to buck up as Test championship, there when I get to 50, I want to India lost only 16 wickets in two Tests, clearly reflecting their domi-

"From the bowling point of view how can we get 20 wickets, we haven't done that this series. If we do those things then we will compete with India. It is tough when we are losing. We are very competitive people so for us it does take a dent out of your confidence," he said.

coin in the third and final Test. South Africa have struggled in Indian conditions and not winning the toss in the first two Tests has only made things tougher for them. Opting to bat in Visakhapatnam and Pune,

India put up 500-plus totals to virtually bat the visitors out

RANCHI: Having lost nine successive tosses in Asia, an exasperated South Africa

captain Faf du Plessis won't

mind sending "someone else"

in his place for the toss of the

"We really want to make sure that we compete with this team in their own conditions. We have done it in stages in the first Test. So, hoping that we can start with the toss tomorrow.

'Someone else' at the toss

"Probably we will change... Send someone else to the toss tomorrow. I can give you that... Because my records so far has not been great," said du Plessis, in a lighter vein, on the eve of the game. Du Plesiss said "anything is

possible" if his side get to bat "If you put big runs in the

first innings, that's where it need to stop. Then anything from there is possible. Hopefully that will unfold in the next couple of days and hopefully we can put some runs on. "The pitch looks a little bit

drier and crustier so first innings runs will be vital and then anything from there is possible in the second innings," Faf added.

Dhoni to watch today's proceedings

team is likely to have dinner Bangladesh. Diwakar said nobody knows about Dhoni's cricket

Simaliya, in outskirts of decisions. "All cricketing decisions Dhoni has moved from his Harmu residence about are solely made by him. No two years back and lives with one other than him knows about his cricketing decisions. his parents at his farmhouse You have seen how he stopped about 30 kilometres from the

Post India's World Cup semi-final exit, Dhoni's whereabouts has been a matter of speculation as the 'Captain Cool' took a sabbatical and opted out of the series against West Indies and South Africa, fuelling retirement specula-

at his sprawling farmhouse in

Dhoni is certainly not going to be picked for the upcoming series against should leave him alone.

playing Tests. It's difficult to predict, and we don't discuss that matter. What will be the difference between commmon public and friends if we start asking him the same questions? Dhoni's childhood coach-

Keshav Ranjan Banerjee and Dr Moti Prasad, who is still the sports teacher at the DAV School, also feel people

MODRIC, BALE TO MISS MALLORCA TRIP MADRID: Real Madrid will be without both Gareth Bale and Luka Modric for this weekend's Liga match against Real Mallorca, Zinedine Zidane confirmed on Friday. Modric and Bale both picked up injuries during the Euro 2020 qualifier between Croatia and Wales. Bale is suffering with cramp in his calf while Modric is recovering from heavy bruising in his right thigh. "Modric is not fit for tomorrow," said Zidane in a press conference. "Gareth Bale is not going to be with us, neither Toni Kroos nor Lucas Vazquez. We have to accept it. There are other players." Kroos injured his foot playing for Madrid against Granada while Vazquez

JUNIOR BOXERS NOTCH UP 21 MEDALS

NEW DELHI: Indian boxers packed quite a heavy punch at the Asian Junior Championships, clinching a bumper tally of 21 medals, including six Gold and nine Silver, to end with the best medal haul among 26 competing countries in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates. The Indian men's squad fetched two Gold, three Silver and an equal number of Bronze, while the women claimed four Gold, six Silver and three Bronze medals to round off a stupendous performance on Thursday evening. The team ended top in terms of medals won but finished second behind Uzbekistan (20) which had a better Gold count of eight.

ENG ROPE JEETAN AS CONSULTANT

LONDON: Former New Zealand spinner Jeetan Patel has been appointed as spin-bowling consultant of England for the upcoming five-match T20I series against the Black Caps. Patel, the native-born New Zealander, who is contracted to Cricket Wellington, has been given dispensation to miss the first three matches of the Plunket Shield season. He will join up with the England squad when they arrive in Christchurch next

BULGARIA COACH QUITS AFTER RACISM

Sofia: Bulgaria's coach quit Friday over the 6-0 loss to England in a Euro 2020 qualifier which was overshadowed by racist abuse that sparked a storm of protest. Monkey chants and apparent Nazi salutes during Monday's match caused indignation in the football world and led to the resignation of Bulgaria's football federation chief. Bulgaria coach Krasimir Balakov, who took over the team in May, said he handed in his resignation during a meeting of the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) executive committee. "I said that if I am the problem of Bulgarian football, I am handing in my resignation. There is no way back," the former midfielder told reporters after the meeting. AGENCIES

Sarfaraz sacked as Test & T20 captain

Babar to lead in T20s while Azhar Ali appointed as red-ball skipper

PTI KARACHI

arfaraz Ahmed was on Friday sacked Sas Pakistan's Test and T20 captain with Azhar Ali and Babar Azam elevated to leadership roles for the upcoming tour of Australia. In an official announcement on

Friday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said that experienced batsman Ali would lead the Test side in the two Tests in Australia while Babar Azam would be the captain in the three T20 matches Down Under. Sarfaraz has been captain in all three

formats of the game since the last two years and led Pakistan to the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy title. In Tests and ODIs, Pakistan's rank-

ing has slipped under his captaincy while they were whitewashed in the recent T20 home series against Sri Lanka. Sarfaraz, who was the toast of the nation after Pakistan beat India in the

Champions Trophy final, has had a torrid time in the Test and ODI formats in the last two years. He came under fire recently when a depleted Sri Lankan team swamped

Pakistan 3-0 in the T20 series in Lahore. With his own form suffering with the bat, speculations were rife that the new head coach cum chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq would move to make changes in the captaincy in the three formats but no one was expecting Sarfaraz

to be sacked so quickly. The PCB said the squad for the Australian tour would be announced on

The PCB also released a short state-

ment from Sarfaraz. "I wish the best for both Azhar and Babar in their new endevours and I must



thank my coaches, fellow players and the selectors for having supported me a lot in my tenure as captain," Sarfaraz said. This is the first experience for

any format. He has been Pakistan's leading scorer in the last two years in the white ball formats and is also slowly establishing himself in Test cricket.

Babar, 25, to lead the national team in

Azhar, 34, who has played in 73 Tests and 53 ODIs led Pakistan in Oneday Internationals between April 2015 and February 2017, winning 12 and losing 18 matches. He stepped down as ODI captain

and was replaced by Sarfaraz in February

2017 after a 1-4 loss in Australia.

PTI RANCHI

He has quit longest format five years back but local boy Mahendra Singh Dhoni is expected to watch the third and final Test against South Africa beginning here today, his man-

ager Mihir Diwakar confirmed. "Mahi will definitely come and you will see him during the first day's proceedings tomorrow (today). I was there with him in Mumbai and he will fly down tomorrow (Saturday) morning," Dhoni's manager and one-time Jharkhand teammate Diwakar said.

The Jharkhand State Cricket Association president, Nafis Khan, has personally sent an invitation to Dhoni's

"We have sent an invitation to his family. Yeh to unka hi stadium hai (It's his stadium ly to come alone as the Indian

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday

steered clear of the con-

troversy triggered by

boxer Nikhat Zareen's

demand for a trial bout

against the celebrated M

C Mary Kom, saying he

"should not" get involved

beyond advising the fed-

eration to make the best

letter to Rijiju on

Thursday, demanding

that she be given a trial

bout against Mary Kom

before the Indian squad

for next year's Olympic

qualifiers in China is

Boxing Federation of

India (BFI) stated that it

This was after the

Zareen had written a

choice.

decided.

only). He is most welcome anytime," Khan said. However his friend, Diwakar, who is the founder of Aarka Sports that runs MS Dhoni Cricket

Academy, said Dhoni is like-

intends to pick six-time

world champion Mary

Kom (51kg) for the event

in China on the back of

her recent Bronze medal

at the world champi-

interest of the NATION,

SPORTS & ATHLETES.

autonomous as per

OLYMPIC CHARTER,"

Rijiju tweeted in

response to Zareen's let-

post, Zareen said she

hopes for a fair chance.

Responding to Rijiju's

onships in Russia.

Minister should not be involved in selection of players: Rijiju sir for your immediate action. I just hope favouritism and nepotism doesn't take place for athletes who all work very hard to bring laurels

"I'll surely convey to for our country," she Boxing Federation to tweeted. The BFI introduced a take the best decision keeping in mind the best point-based selection system last year under which boxers are now being Although, Minister picked on the back of should not be involved in their performances in the selection of the playvarious graded tournaers by the Sports ments and the national Federations which are

Trial bouts, a norm earlier, are being conducted only in those weight categories in which the coaches and selectors find the competition to be exceptionally close.

1. Nikhat Zareen 🧆 @nikhat_zareen - 1d All I want is a fair chance. If I'm not given the opporunity to compete what am I training for. Sports

is about FairPlay & I dont want to loose faith in my



Kiren Rijiju 📀 @KirenRijiju

I'll surely convey to Boxing Federation to take the best decision keeping in mind the best interest of the NATION, SPORTS & ATHLETES. Although, Minister should not be involved in the selection of the players by the Sports Federations which are autonomous as per OLYMPIC CHARTER



Nikhat Zareen @ @nikhat_zareen - 5h Replying to @KirenRijiju

Thank you so much sir for your immediate action. I just hope favouritism and nepotism doesn't take place for athletes who all work very hard to bring laurels for our country