



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



RASHMIKA
MANDANNA
AS A VILLAGE
BELLE
Page 13

Dasara vacation from September 28

HYDERABAD: The State government has declared Dasara vacation for government and private educational institutions from September 28. Schools will reopen on October 14th after the vacation, according to a press release from the Education Department.

Similarly, government and private junior colleges will have vacation from September 28 to October 9. The colleges will reopen on October 10.

VK Singh moved again in reshuffle of IPS officers

HYDERABAD: The Telangana State government transferred four senior IPS officers, on Tuesday.

VK Singh, who was shunted from TS Prisons Dept and made the Commissioner of Printing & Stationery Department just in July, has been requested to take charge as Director of RBVRR Telangana State Police Academy (TSPA), relieving incumbent director Santosh Mehra. Mehra has been requested to report at the DGP's Office.

Sanjay Kumar Jain has been asked to take full additional charge as Director-General of Fire Services immediately, relieving the existing Director-General M. Gopi Krishna. Gopi Krishna has been asked to take charge as Commissioner of Printing, Stationery and Stores Purchase in place of Singh.

EPFO to credit 8.65% interest into six cr EPF accounts

NEW DELHI: Union Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar on Tuesday said that over six crore EPFO members will get 8.65 per cent interest for 2018-19. Earlier, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's (EPFO) apex decision-making body Central Board of Trustees had decided to raise the interest rate on EPF to 8.65 per cent for the year 2018-19.

The EPFO is currently, paying an interest rate of 8.55 per cent for 2018-19 under EPF withdrawal claims. The 8.55 per cent interest rate on EPF deposits was fixed for 2017-18. For 2018-19, EPFO had raised interest rate to 8.65 per cent, from 8.55 per cent provided in 2017-18. The EPFO had earlier reduced the interest rate for 2016-17 to 8.65 per cent as compared with 8.80 per cent for 2015-16.

No permission granted by Centre for uranium mining

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Union government has not accorded permission for uranium mining in Nallamala forests in Telangana and the survey for the purpose was allowed by the erstwhile Congress and TRS governments in the state, Minister of state for Home G Kishan Reddy said here on Tuesday.

"It is malicious propaganda by the TRS and Congress that uranium mining is being carried out in Nallamala forests. It was the Congress which earlier gave permission for the survey for uranium. In 2016, the TRS government gave the nod. So based on the State Government's permission only uranium survey is being carried out by the central government agencies," he said.

Reddy said these agencies are mandated to conduct surveys for various mineral resources such as iron, gas, granite and uranium across the country for assessment.

"The centre has not accorded any permission for uranium mining," he said.



It is malicious propaganda by the TRS and Congress that uranium mining is being carried out in Nallamala forests
— G KISHAN REDDY
Union Minister of State

The Telangana Legislative Assembly on Monday passed a unanimous resolution, urging the Centre not to allow uranium mining operations in the Nallamala forest region and also other areas of the state.

Earlier in May this year, the Atomic Minerals Directorate (AMD) was given in-principle approval by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) under the Ministry of Forest,

Environment and Climate Change to conduct the survey for the radioactive mineral in Amrabad, one of the largest tiger reserves in the country, in the Nallamala forest.

The AMD sought to drill 4,000 boreholes in the Tiger Reserve as part of survey for uranium deposits. The AMD, under Department of Atomic Energy, carried out survey and investigation for exploration during 1992-2012 in some parts of Nalgonda and esti-

Amit Shah greets people on Hyd Liberation Day

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday greeted the people of the areas that were under the erstwhile rule of the Nizam of Hyderabad on the occasion of the merger day of the princely state with the Union of India. Shah also paid homage to those who laid down their lives fighting the Razakars, a private militia of the then Hyderabad.

He said the state government has to conduct a thorough probe to ascertain whether it was a suicide or not.

He said the state government has to conduct a thorough probe to ascertain whether it was a suicide or not.

Salve blames SC for slowdown

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior advocate Harish Salve has blamed the Supreme Court for pushing the country into the economic slowdown, citing its judgements in the 2G spectrum case. Salve said the economic slowdown begun with the 2G case order when the apex court in one stroke cancelled 122 spectrum licences issued to telecom operators. In an interview to a legal website, Salve said, "I squarely blame the SC." Though, he acknowledged that he could understand holding people responsible for the wrongful distribution of the licences in 2G spectrum allocation.

"Blanket cancellation of licences...when a foreigner invested, it was your rule that said he must have an Indian partner. The foreigner didn't know how the Indian partner got a licence. Foreigners invested billions of dollars, and with one stroke of the pen, the SC knocked all of them out", he said.

Naidu demands CBI probe into former AP Speaker's suicide

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad, Sept 17 (PTI) Terming the death of former Speaker of Andhra Pradesh, Kodela Siva Prasada Rao, who allegedly committed suicide, as "murder," TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday demanded a CBI investigation into the circumstances leading to the incident.

Blaming the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government for the death of Rao, Naidu said, "I have seen 11 chief ministers in my career and I myself have held the post for so many years.

I have never seen such a chief minister (Jaganmohan Reddy). This (suicide) is nothing but murder by the government."

"The entire case has to be investigated by the CBI. Intellectuals in this country should debate on the government's attitude," he told reporters here. Based on eyewitness accounts, Rao was suspected to have committed suicide. The 72-year old leader was last month slapped with a criminal case by the Andhra Pradesh police for alleged illegal possession of furniture of the assem-



When he was ready to hand over furniture, what's the need for filing cases against? Is it not harassment? A man, who has charge sheets against him for financial frauds worth Rs 43,000 crore, has filed cases against Dr Kodela for furniture worth Rs 2 lakh. They have filed 19 cases against Dr. Kodela including the old ones which have been reopened now
— N CHANDRABABU NAIDU
TDP Chief

The ruling YSR Congress in AP had dubbed Kodela a 'thief' who stole the Legislature prop-

erty, a charge denied by him. Flitting out at the AP government, Naidu said "baseless and unfounded" cases including some related to extortion and breach of trust were foisted against the family members of the departed leader, violating Supreme Court guidelines, which mandates an inquiry before filing such cases.

According to Naidu, the furniture missing case filed against the former speaker was "petty" in nature and the Guntur police booked a case under Section 409 (Criminal breach of trust by public servant).

Related report on Page 4

'Hospitals found indulging in fraud will be named and shamed'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan on Tuesday said that names of hospitals found involved in any kind of fraudulent practices in the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme will be put up on its official website to "name and shame" them. Nearly 1,200 cases of fraud have been confirmed and action has been taken against 338 hospitals, he said, asserting that the government has zero tolerance towards corruption.

"Not only would such hospitals found involved in any kind of fraudulent activity and practices would be de-empanelled, their names would be put up on the official website of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (Ayushman Bharat) and made public. The idea is to name and shame them," the Health Minister said at a press conference here. Indu Bhushan, CEO



Harsh Vardhan

of the National Health Authority, the apex body responsible for the implementation of the centrally-sponsored scheme, said that the decision to publicly name the health insurance fraudsters under Ayushman Bharat was taken in collaboration with the IRDAI to deter them from indulging in malpractices. "We are taking stern action against such fraudsters and have filed criminal cases and FIRs in some cases. In fact, we have suggested such hospitals should not only be de-empanelled from the PMJAY scheme but also from other scheme including that of CGHS and ECHA," Bhushan said.

Giving out figures, Vardhan said 376 hospitals currently are under investigation while the NHA has taken action in terms of issuing showcause notice, suspending, levying penalty and de-empanelling against 338 hospitals.

TDP urges Kishan Reddy to order CBI inquiry into Kodela's death

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A delegation of TDP leaders met Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy in Hyderabad late in the evening on Tuesday and sought a CBI inquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of former speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao.

Former Minister from AP Alapati Rajendra Prasada, TDP president L Ramana, TDP senior Ravula Chandrashekar Reddy and others met Kishan Reddy at his residence. They alleged that ruling YSRCP's government's 'vendetta politics' was the main reason for Kodela's suicide. The TDP leaders wanted the Union Minister to launch a probe into cases foisted on TDP leaders and workers by the YSRCP government in the State.

In response, Kishan Reddy, while expressing his grief and shock over Kodela's suicide, observed: "It is unfortunate that a senior and committed leader like Kodela Sivaprasada Rao ended his life this way. I will ask AP DGP to present a detailed report on Kodela Sivaprasada Rao's death. I will also inform the issue to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and take necessary action accordingly."

Kodela's daughter, Vijayalakshmi, also lodged a complaint with the police stating that her father committed suicide unable to bear harassment by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

FULL PLATE Modi has lunch with mother on his 69th birthday

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday met his nonagenarian mother Heeraben on his 69th birthday and had lunch with her.

Modi spent around half an hour with his mother, who lives with his younger brother Pankaj at Raisan village near Gandhinagar. TV visuals showed the PM paying obeisance with folded hands to his mother, who was seen blessing her now world-famous son.

After coming out of the house, Modi also allowed local residents to click selfies with him and gave autographs to kids. Modi reached Raisan after addressing a gathering at Kevadiya in Narmada district.

India successfully test-fires air-to-air missile Astra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's indigenously designed air-to-air missile Astra was successfully test-fired from the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Odisha, the DRDO said on Tuesday. The beyond-visual-range missile was launched from Sukhoi-30 MKI as a part of user trials.

A defence official said as part of the trial, the live aerial target was engaged accurately demonstrating the capability of the first indigenously air-to-air missile. "The mission profile was executed in a text book manner," said an official.



Seema people still want 'Rayala Telangana'

● 'They hope for merger of Rayalaseema and Telangana'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

YSRCP MLA from Panyam constituency Katasani Rambhupal Reddy has claimed that people in Rayalaseema still want their region to be merged with Telangana to create 'Rayala Telangana'. Katasani came to the Telangana Assembly here to meet Municipal Administration, IT and Industries Minister KT



Ramarao on Tuesday. While speaking to media persons later, Katasani alleged

that the idea of 'Rayala Telangana' was squelched by the walkathon of former MLA Byreddy Rajashekar Reddy. Rayalaseema had been experiencing injustice even after division of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh state. The two Telugu states would benefit with the linking of Godavari and Krishna Rivers, Katasani asserted.

Continued on Page 4



Toll in AP tourist boat mishap rises to 26

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Toll in the tourist boat accident in river Godavari in Andhra Pradesh mounted to 26 as 14 more bodies were retrieved on Tuesday.

But taking out the boat that sank over 315 feet deep in the river is proving to be a herculean task, police said.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Md Ehsan Raza said 19 bodies were recovered so far and many more could be trapped inside the boat.

Teams of expert divers of Navy and NDRF continued the search for the bodies.

The search teams found the bodies floating far away from the accident spot at Kachhuluru in East Godavari district.

One body was found near the crest gate of Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowaleswaram, police said. Identity of some of the deceased was yet to be established, they said.

The search teams found the bodies floating far away from the accident spot at Kachhuluru in East Godavari district

One body was found near a crest gate of Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowaleswaram, police said. Identity of some of the deceased was yet to be established, they said.

The bodies have been shifted to the government hospital in Rajamahendravaram.

River Godavari has been in spate for the past few days and over 5.13 lakh cusecs of flood-water was flowing on Sunday when the mishap occurred.

The Chief Minister had directed the East Godavari district Collector Muralidhar Reddy to conduct a probe into the tragedy.

With west bursting at the seams, IT looks eastward

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

With the western parts of the city bursting at the seams due to traffic snarls and other issues causing nightmares, some companies are having a look or relook at other parts of Hyderabad.

Given companies' focus on increasing productivity of employees, the big ones have expressed interest in setting up operations on the eastern side of the city. For instance, Cognizant, which has almost 20,000 employees in the city, found that 8,000 employees travel from east towards the west every day.

Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan said, "Cognizant is important player for us who wants to set up space for 6,000 employees in the eastern part of the city. They



have done an internal survey and found that there are 8,000-9,000 employees of the 20,000 who travel everyday from east. What is happening in Cognizant is not unique as every company can do a survey to find lots of people commuting from other parts

to West." Jayesh said that Genpact also expressed interest in further expansion in east. He reasoned: "Companies are figuring out that it is very wasteful to spend two hours for commuting. If opportunity is given closer to their homes,

To incentivize companies to look towards other parts of the city and thus help government in ensuring balanced development, the Industries Department has prepared a draft of 'Look East Policy (LEAP)', which will be presented to Minister K T Rama Rao for review after the current Assembly session

their productivity would be more, time to commute will be less, and employee sentiments would be better. If one big company does like that, many others will follow". To incentivize companies to look towards other parts of the city and thus help government in ensuring balanced development, the Industries Department has prepared a draft of 'Look East Policy (LEAP)', which will be presented to Minister K T Rama Rao for review after the cur-

rent Assembly session. Not just companies, about 3-4 important builders are waiting for the policy and the incentives to be announced. Once the Minister reviews and approves the policy, it would be sent to Cabinet for approval.

According to sources, the Minister, in his second term, is keen on promoting other locations in eastern and northern parts.

Continued on Page 4

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Bhadrapada & Krishna Paksha Panchangam
Tithi: Tritiya: 04:32 pm
Nakshatram: Ashwini: Full Night
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 03:12 pm - 04:42 pm
Yamagandam: 09:09 am - 10:39 am
Varjyam: 02:21 am - 04:06 am
Gulikam: 12:10 pm - 01:41 pm
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritakalam: 10:50 pm - 12:35 am
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:46 am - 12:34 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Thunderstorms
Temp: 31/23
Humidity: 86%
Sunrise: 06:04
Sunset: 06:16
Current Weather Conditions
Updated September 17, 2019 5:00 PM

PIN POINT
The mess that Andhra Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy finds himself in is obviously his own creation. He could well have chosen not to take to politics of vengeance with former CM Chandrababu Naidu, but he did. The new CM not just ousted Naidu out of his home and office first thing after taking over, purely out of vengeance, he also annulled most of the major project contracts the ex-CM had awarded. Now, there is a limit to how far one can go in terms of extracting revenge from a political rival and where to draw a line and continue governing from where your predecessor left off. Jagan should have known that any CM, even if he/she happens to be a political opponent, takes decision primarily in the interest of his state. That AP's interest and

Jagan needs to press reset button

In trying to spite Chandrababu Naidu, AP CM Jaganmohan has delayed the Polavaram project and thereby hurt the state's interest. To recoup the situation, he must show flexibility towards others, including his staunchest political rivals, and renew focus on governing the state effectively



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

his favoured business houses. Experienced politicians certainly have done this in the past, but not so often after scrapping an existing contract. Two, all of Andhra people know that whoever is finally able to bring the Polavaram project to fruition will secure a place in the annals of AP's history for all time to come - given that it is expected to be the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh that will cater to the drinking water needs and agriculture requirements of the entire state from the abundant water of river Godavari. And Jagan wanted his name etched bold and clear, front and center, on that front. Alas, it's all tied up in controversies and litigation at the moment. As for the AP people, they

still harbor the hope that their residuary state will indeed attain a level playing field and stand shoulder to shoulder with the prosperous neighbouring states eventually. In order to get there the least the AP CM can do is to pick up a leaf from his Telangana counterpart and good friend K Chandrashekar Rao's book. He didn't go about striking down every agreement and contract the earlier regime had committed to. New dispensations need to be accommodative and allow ongoing works worth thousands of crores to continue, while awarded fresh contracts to companies attuned to the new political climate. The saga of well-known firms such as Transstroy, Gayatri and Progressive Constructions

owned by prominent political figures is a case in point. Some project works need to continue irrespective of political affiliations. Telangana CM KCR, for one, continued with several contracts, including irrigation projects, awarded to firms belonging to big entrepreneurs who hail from Andhra. This move - despite severe anti-Andhra mood prevailing in TS at the time -- not only enabled projects to be completed on time and within budget, it also gained him a lot of goodwill from Andhraites who continue to live in Telangana. As a bonus, the entire rank and file of TDP -- which has a lot of Andhra influence -- rallied behind KCR and moved over to his camp. To recoup the situation, AP CM Jagan Reddy must seek reconciliation and show flexibility towards others, including his staunchest political rivals, and renew focus on governing the state effectively.

projects awarded by the preceding regime. This ensures seamless functioning of state affairs and continuance of effective governance. A few decisions here and there can be altered to suit the new agenda. Instead, Jagan went about annulling the contract for the Polavaram project and booted out Navayuga company -- the

reputable construction firm executing the project. This was done despite the central government and other foreign agencies openly expressing their disapproval at the move. What could have led Jaganmohan Reddy to take such a drastic decision? One, he saw "massive corruption" in

the entire Polavaram hydel project deal and alleged that bribes had been offered and accepted in the award of the project. He may also have wanted to hand out such a lucrative contract to some of

Series of events mark 'Hyd Merger Day'

LEADERS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES UNFURL THE NATIONAL FLAG AT THEIR PARTY OFFICES

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Merger Day was marked here on Tuesday with unfurling of the national flag at political party offices and recalling of the sacrifices made by freedom fighters who fought against the Nizam of the erstwhile Hyderabad state.

While the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), the opposition Congress and other parties celebrated the occasion as 'Merger Day', the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) commemorated it as 'Telangana Liberation Day'. It was on this day in 1948 that then princely state of Hyderabad merged with the Indian union following 'police action', as the Indian military operation against Nizam's army is popularly called.

The celebrations at Telangana Bhavan, the TRS headquarters, were led by party working president and Minister KT Rama Rao. He hoisted the national flag and garlanded the statues of 'Telugu Talli' and Telangana ideologue Professor Jayashankar. Ministers Mehmood Ali, Malla Reddy, Srinivas Goud, MPs, state legislators and other leaders participated in the programme.

"Sept 17th: The day Hyderabad was merged with Indian Union - Remembering the countless sacrifices & saluting the martyrs," Rama Rao later tweeted. BJP celebrated 'Telangana Liberation Day' across the State with its leaders hoisting the national flag. They also took out 'tiranga rali-



(L) TRS working president KT Rama Rao and other leaders at the Telangana Bhavan. (R) BJP leaders at party headquarters



KTR (KTRTRS)
Sept 17th: The day Hyderabad was merged with Indian Union - Remembering the countless sacrifices & saluting the martyrs

State for Home G. Kishan Reddy, former Maharashtra Governor Vidyasagar Rao, state BJP chief K Laxman and other leaders attended the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Laxman alleged that the TRS government is not celebrating the day officially under pressure from its ally AIMIM. Laxman claimed that CM had promised to celebrate the day officially during the Telangana movement but went back on his word after coming to power. Kishan Reddy said the TRS government was scared of

AIMIM and demanded that the history of Telangana's liberation be included in textbooks so that the future generations know about the sacrifices made by their forefathers.

The day was also celebrated at the TDP office. Party leader Ravula Chandrashekar Reddy hoisted the tricolor at NTR Trust Bhavan. BJP has been demanding for last two decades that the day should be officially celebrated like in some districts of Maharashtra and Karnataka, which were part of Hyderabad State.

BJP had no role in Hyd merger: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC president and Nalgonda MP Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy said that only Congress and Communist parties have played a role in struggle for Hyderabad's merger with Indian Union.

Speaking after hosting the national flag at Gandhi Bhavan on the anniversary of 71st anniversary of Hyderabad Merger Day at Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday, Uttam Kumar Reddy said it was ridiculous that BJP leader Ram Madhav, who hails from Andhra, was speaking about Hyderabad Liberation despite the fact that BJP or its predecessors did not participate in struggle against Nizam. He said only the Congress and

Communist parties were active in struggle for Hyderabad's merger and gave several sacrifices. He said the last Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan had refused to join Hyderabad State with the Indian Union and wanted to either join Pakistan or stay independent. He said the credit for merger of Hyderabad with Indian Union through 'Operation Polo' goes to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabh Patel.

BJP or the members of Sangh Parivar played no role either in freedom struggle, Hyderabad's merger or in formation of Telangana State. However, he said BJP leaders were trying to make an issue out of Hyderabad Merger Day.



Congress leaders at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Tuesday

'Patel prevented Kashmir-like situation by liberating Hyd'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday expressed his gratitude to Sardar Vallabhbai Patel on Hyderabad "Liberation Day", saying the freedom fighter "prevented another Kashmir-like situation" by liberating it from the Nizams.

September 17 marks the merger of the erstwhile Hyderabad state with the Indian Union in 1948.

The minister, in a series of tweets, paid tributes to Patel and homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the "liberation" of Hyderabad state.

"17th September 1948 was the day when the forces of the Indian Union gained control over the Hyderabad state and liberated it from the clutches of the tyrannical rule of the Nizams and the inhumane treatment of our people by the Razakars," Reddy said in one of the tweets.

He said the people of Hyderabad region "attained independence" on this day, nearly 13 months after India's Independence.

"We are grateful to #SardarPatel & his #OperationPolo for ensuring Hyd's successful accession into the Indian Union, thereby preventing another Kashmir-like situa-

tion," the minister said. "On this historic day, I pay tributes to Shri Sardar Vallabhbai Patel and pay homage to the martyrs who laid their lives for

the liberation of Hyderabad state," he added. Reddy on September 8 demanded that the Telangana government officially celebrate September 17 as

17th September 1948 was the day when the forces of the Indian Union gained control over the Hyd state and liberated it from the clutches of the tyrannical rule of the Nizams

— G KISHAN REDDY, Union Minister of State for Home



Cong seeks action against 12 defector MLAs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress leaders have lodged a complaint with the Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan here on Tuesday, urging her to initiate action against the 12 Congress MLAs for defecting to TRS party.

Reacting on the issue, the Governor, Tamilisai Soundararajan stated that she would do her part in protecting the democracy. Meanwhile, the Governor was all praise for CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. She appreciated him for his speech in the Assembly. "I saw your speech in the Assembly. It is good. Do your part as opposition leaders. I will do my part for the protection of democracy in the state", she suggested. The Congress Legislature



Congress leaders with Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan at Raj Bhavan

Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka Nalgonda MP and TPCC Chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy, MLAs D

Sridhar Babu, Seethakka, Podem Veeriah went to Raj Bhavan and lodged a complaint with the Governor on

Leaders lodge complaint with Governor, urge Tamilisai Soundararajan to initiate action against the MLAs who defected to TRS

party defections in the state. Later speaking to the media, Bhatti said that the Governor assured that she would do her part to protect the democracy in the state. Bhatti said that the Governor asked them to do their part as opposition leaders to protect the democracy. He said that they lodged a

complaint with the Governor alleging that democracy is being killed in the state. "The ruling TRS is destroying the Anti-Defection Law since the day Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao inducted Talasani Srinivas Yadav into his Cabinet. The Chief Minister inducted Congress MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy into his Cabinet though the 12 Congress MLAs defection issue is in the Court," he said.

He said that they discussed on the prevailing political conditions in the state with the Governor. He said that they informed the Governor that the previous Governor ESL Narasimhan killed the democracy in the state. He opined that it is good on the part of Governor for stating that she will conduct 'Praja Darbar'.

Hyderabad-Karnataka named 'Kalyan Karnataka'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa announced that the Hyderabad Karnataka region, comprising six districts, would henceforth be called 'Kalyan Karnataka'. The decision fulfilled the long-felt need of the people of Karnataka, he said. A separate secretariat would be set

up by the Government of Karnataka for development of the Kalyana Karnataka region, he said. The region comprises Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur, Yadagir, Bellari and Koppal districts. The region was part of the Nizam's dominion headquartered at Hyderabad. For several decades, the region has been called as 'Hyderabad Karnataka'.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
O/o Regional Officer PR Region, Nizamabad
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT NO.350 TO 359/2019-20. Dt: 16.09.2019
Number of Works (10), Nam of work : Construction of additional classrooms, C/o community halls and other Civil Works in under signed. ECV: 258.50 Lakhs, Tender Schedules can be upload from e-procurement market site form 19.09.2019 from 10.30am, Last date from online submission of tenders 26.09.2019 upto 3.00pm, Contact: 08462-239502. For Further details and future amendment can be had from eprocurement_market place at Sd/- Regional Officer, P.R. Region, Nizamabad, R.O. No.: Special 02-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2019-20

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES	
GOLD	
₹ 37,880 (10 gm)	
₹ 220	↓
SILVER	
₹ 46,700 (1kg)	
₹ 900	↑
CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹146
Without Skin	₹167
Broiler at Farm	₹101
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	353
VIJAYAWADA	381
VISAKHAPATNAM	370
RETAIL PRICE	₹3.53

CRIME CORNER



16 kg ganja seized from bus

An Excise Enforcement team from Medak arrested two persons including a woman with a toddler who were attempting to smuggle 16 kg of ganja from Narayankhed to Mumbai on Monday. The arrested persons have been identified as 44-year-old Sartaj Hussain and Shabanu Bhanu, both residents of Mumbai. Shabanu Bhanu was arrested along with a toddler, said officials. According to the police, Sartaj and Shabanu tried to pose as a couple to smuggle the drug from Narayankhed to Mumbai. While checking a private bus that was heading towards Mumbai at Kohir cross roads, excise officials found the duo with 16 kg of Ganja concealed in their travel bags. "They confessed to transporting the drug to Mumbai to sell it there. Upon enquiring further, we learned that they were doing this business since 2 years" said Mohan Kumar, Inspector, Prohibition and Excise Enforcement, Medak wing. "They used the same modus operandi, by posing as a couple along with a baby to make sure they don't raise eyebrows while transporting the drug" said the official, adding that Shabanu had a four-year-old boy along with her. Officials seized 16 kg of the narcotic and Rs 19,500 cash from their possession. The value of the seized drug was estimated to be around Rs 1.7 lakh, said officials.

Cheating case against builder

The Balapur police registered a cheating case against the management of Eliton Infra Developers for cheating investors to the tune of Rs 20 lakh. According to the police, they received a complaint from a woman who stated that she received a phone call from Eliton Infra about her phone number being selected for a holiday pack with the purchase of a plot at low price in Yadadri, Amangal, Aler, Bhongir and other areas. "She and her husband visited the site at Aler and were shown around by then managers and directors. The couple selected a plot and paid Rs 2,90,000 cash as a single payment towards the plot in the company's office at Himayat Nagar," said Balapur sub-inspector K Saidulu. The company promised to register the plot within one month. However, after a month when the couple visited the office, they postponed it for another month. When asked to return the money, they stopped responding, police said.

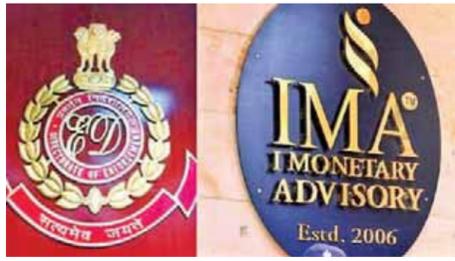
ED attaches assets worth Rs 278cr in fresh ponzi con

Property, bank accounts of TS-based MLM biz masterminds attached

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Enforcement Directorate attached assets worth Rs 278 crore in its money laundering probe in an alleged ponzi scam involving a Telangana-based firm, 'EBIZ.COM Pvt Ltd'. Sources from the agency said residential plots, apartments, farm houses and commercial buildings located in Delhi and Noida and bank deposits in the accounts of Pawan Malhan and Anita Malhan, the main promoters of the firm, their family members and associates have been attached.

The scam was unraveled in March, following a complaint filed by a 22-year-old college student at the Madhapur police station, leading to the arrest of Hitik Malhan, 31, son of Pawan and Anitha Malhan, Police Commissioner of Cyberabad VC Sajjanar said. Pawan and



The funds collected were illegally diverted into the personal accounts of the directors, their family members and other associates under various heads, including dividends, high salaries and incentives

his son Hitik are in custody of Cyberabad police at present. The total value of the

attached assets is Rs 277.97 crore which include 29 immovable properties purchased for

Rs 34.60 crore and bank deposits amounting to Rs 242.25 crore lying in 124 accounts maintained in the name of the accused directors and the firm, officials said.

The ED said the company and its promoters "fraudulently collected about Rs 1,064 crore from some 12 lakh subscribers". Directors of the company cheated the public by making false promises and inviting people to become members of a pyramid scheme.

The funds collected were illegally diverted into the personal accounts of the directors, their family members and other associates under various heads, including dividends, high salaries and incentives, the agency said.

The central agency filed a case under PMLA based on an FIR filed by the Telangana police.



Filmstar-like posters of KTR dot Hyderabad roads

Legion of fans on overdrive after KTR became Minister

MAYANK TIWARI ■ HYDERABAD

With the Cabinet expansion, the progressive-minded and future-focused TRS leader KT Rama Rao regained his position as the Minister of IT and Municipal Administration and Urban Development. For his local youth fan club, it was time to celebrate.

Overnight, there sprung up posters of the new Minister on flyover pillars, prominent building walls and other vantage points. Movie-like snaps of a nattily-dressed KTR depicted him against a backdrop of skyscrapers on one side and agriculture fields on the other, carrying congratulatory message to 'Ramanna' (nickname given to KTR).

And mind you, this was not any government mass publicity campaign. These were put up by his legion of die-hard young fans and admirers on the walls of major roads in the city, including the upmarket Banjara Hills and near the GHMC Head Office at Tank Bund.

An activist Harish Daga earlier asked GHMC to levy a fine against Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav's son T Sai

Movie-like snaps of a nattily-dressed KTR depicted him against a backdrop of skyscrapers on one side and agriculture fields on the other, carrying congratulatory message to 'Ramanna' (nickname given to KTR)

kiran for pasting posters, as per new List of Penalties for Various offenses. Apologising to the activist, Sai Kiran said, "I take complete responsibility and shall ask for penalty from concerned, shall not repeat, thank you for pointing out and I hope you shall continue doing so in the interest of city (sic)".

However, the GHMC has not yet taken the cognizance of the issue. Not only the GHMC sanitation wing officials, but also EV&DM officials will now take cognizance of sanitation and impose penalties. In July, it issued new rules for fines - Rs 2,000 for each wallposter and Rs 1,000 for wall writing.

The cost of putting up a one sq mt wall poster for a month is Rs 1,000. "These posters are illegal. They were glued by people late at night. Many were

pasted on any blank wall found at Banjara Hills Road Number 1," said Mohammed, a storekeeper at Road Number 1.

At least five big hoardings are plastered on the 'Hoarding hub of Hyderabad' that is Khairatabad flyover!

So what does the man himself feel about the mega poster blitz? KT Rama Rao had tweeted on his birthday two months ago to ask people to not splurge on advertisements and hoardings. For once, his adoring fans didn't listen to him.

Back in 2018, while addressing journalists outside the Assembly, he said, "My dream is to see a hoarding-free city, which has great potential to be an international city. Hoardings are not only an eyesore for motorists but also pose danger during storms and heavy rain."



New municipal Act tailored to benefit residents: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

MAUD Minister KT Rama Rao said the new Municipal Act is aimed at providing civic services to the public transparently and without any corruption. KTR said that in a municipality, a citizen is the ruler, and this dictum was the inspiration for the new municipal law.

KTR attended the closing ceremony of the two-day seminar for municipal commissioners on the new municipal law. During the two-day event, the old law was juxtaposed with the new one and deliberations were held on town planning, revenue and governance reforms, changes and regulations. At the closing session of the conference, Minister KTR said the new law will work for the benefit of the people, for civil services and for the administration.

He said the new regulations, such as a self-certification for building construction, would not require permits for a building within 75 yards. The minister called on the municipal administrators to work together for the development of the municipalities. He urged municipal commissioners to look into the fact that municipalities such as Siddipet, Sircilla, Warangal, Suryapet and Peerzadiguda continue to function innovatively in various areas.

Principal Secretary Arvind

Musi beautification will be hit film: Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister of Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao said that the government has shown a trailer of Musi rejuvenation, and in future they would show the full film.

KTR was responding to Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy who said in Assembly on Tuesday, "The CM had said that Hyderabad will be another Dallas or Istanbul. Even if he doesn't make it Dallas, at least we should get rid of potholes on roads. On Musi river, we were shown a cinema with Rs 4,000 crore JICA funds. They claimed to set up a treatment plant, remove encroachments from land and showed us a cinema in 70 mm. How many days more should we watch the movie?"

The Congress leader said that the water from the Musi downstream has reached Suryapet, but instead of getting fresh water, residents there are getting sewage from Musi. Responding to him, KTR said, "The cinema will

be a super hit. What the Congress hasn't done in 55 years, we are doing 5 years." He said that government is committed to the Musi Beautification and will soon set up plants for wastewater treatment.

Responding to questions posed by members during the debate in the legislature, the minister said that infrastructure will be provided to accommodate increasing urbanisation.

KTR said that the building permit system will be speeded up. As part of Swachh Bharat, the government has achieved 100% ODFs in the state. KTR said that the government is implementing Haritha Haram on a large scale in every municipality. The government is considering the request to make fresh water supply even better in urban areas. The minister said that the government is making progress in wet and dry waste management and is setting up urban development authorities.

Kumar, Commissioner D S Lokesh Kumar, Mayor Bonthu Ram Mohan, among others, participated in the event.

Commissioners of municipalities who served best in various aspects were presented awards.

2 hurt as auto carrying school kids overturns

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two children on way to school were injured when their auto-rickshaw overturned at Nampally on Tuesday morning.

According to sources, the accident took place around 9 am when the auto-rickshaw, which was travelling from Khairatabad to Abids Road, tried to avoid hitting a scooter, allegedly driven by a minor boy, and overturned at Chapel Road.

Locals rushed to the spot and pulled out six children from the auto. Two of them suffered injuries and were admitted to a private hospital.

Four held in Aasara pension fraud

Accused accessed login credentials of MRO to create fake accounts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyber Crime Police of Hyderabad arrested four men, including an employee in the Bandlaguda MRO office, who were involved in diverting the government Aasara Pensions funds for personal gain by unauthorised use of MRO login credentials.

The accused were identified as Mohammed Aslam alias, 25, Syed Sohailuddin alias Sohail, 23, Mohammed Imran Khan, 31, and Mohd Mohsin, 30.

The scam came to light when Revenue Divisional Officer D

Srinivas Reddy lodged a complaint with the police stating that the bank accounts of pensioners of Charminar mandal (255 accounts) were modified illegally through the login ID of the Charminar tahsildar, and new account numbers were entered without any request from the existing pensioners and without obtaining permission from the competent authorities.

On verification of list of 255 pensioners, it is found that

some 63 banks, including SBI, Syndicate Bank, Andhra Bank other leading banks, operated the 255 modified accounts against the existing pensioners.

Police said that the accused persons fraudulently diverted Aasara pensions by entering their names.

"Imran from MRO office in Bandlaguda obtained the username and password of the MRO of Charminar from his friend's

computer. He then shared the username and password with Aslam and Sohail, who subsequently shared these with others on a commission basis, police said.

Likewise, Mohsin also received credentials of the account. After obtaining the password, accused hired a woman to collect applications under the scheme from the various parts of the city for a commission. Irrespective of the eligibility, the accused added and replaced the new beneficiaries with existing genuine pensioners.

TJNU renews TSRTC merger call

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Jatiya Mazdoor Union (TJNU) and TSRTC Employees' Union held a meeting on Tuesday and raised the demand of merger of the transport corporation into the government. "Chief Minister KCR promised us twice that he

would merge TSRTC with government, but no decision has been taken yet," said TJNU general secretary K Hanumanthu. He said the workers are demanding a merger to save TSRTC from losses as rise in fuel prices over the last few years has impacted its revenues.



Members of the National Safai Karmachari Commission at the meeting on Tuesday

'Use robots to stop manual scavenging'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

National Safai Karmachari Commission on Tuesday warned the GHMC of initiating action against officials if remedial measures are not taken to rehabilitate scavengers, who relied on manual scavenging in the city of Hyderabad.

About 353 people were identified in a survey on manual scavenging in Hyderabad. The commission asked the government to provide work-related medical treatment, rehabilitation and better education for their children. He suggested providing employment to the families of 40 GHMC workers who died on duty. The details of those who had previously relied on manual scavenging were sent to the central government for a providing compensation.

Jagdish Hiremani, a member of National Safai Karmachari Commission, said that the country's priority is to introduce modern technology in the sanitation sector. A review meeting was held at the GHMC office on the implementation of the Manual Scavenging and Rehabilitation Act-2013 on Tuesday.

Safai Karmacharis brought up issues like appointments on compassionate grounds and other benefits. The commission member asked them to submit specific data to the commissioner, and asked the Commissioner to solve them at the earliest.

GHMC Commissioner DS Lokesh Kumar, Additional and Zonal Commissioners and representatives of Safai Karmachari Societies participated in the meeting.

Stroll around Hussain Sagar becomes hazardous

BROKEN GRILL FENCING, ROUGH PAVEMENT A HAZARD FOR JOGGERS AND PEDESTRIANS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Broken grilles are now used as a passage to get close to the lake where youths take selfies, said a security guard at NTR Park

Just this year, Hyderabad Municipal Development Authority (HMDA) laid a fresh layer of granite on the Tank Bund and NTR Marg Road pavement. But that gleaming pavement has rough, scratched up and an ordeal for joggers and pedestrians to walk on soon after the milling crowds thronged these places during the Ganesh Visarjan festival.

Not just that, metal grilles that surround Hussain Sagar Lake throughout NTR Marg have got unhinged and look bent, posing a danger to the strollers and visitors. "Broken grilles are now used as a passage to get close to the lake where youths take selfies," said Ramesh, a security guard at NTR Park.

"This is a recurring event. I

see it every year," said Anant Kumar, an evening walker at Hussain Sagar. "I am sure the authorities will not replace the grilles until next year. They do it just before Ganesh Nimarjanam, exactly like how they did this year," he added.

New grilles were welded in place by HMDA last month after receiving multiple complaints from Lake Police. Up until a few months ago, the Lake Police guarded the open areas of the lake which remained a potential threat to walkers by temporary barricading.

In an earlier conversation with The Pioneer, a Lake Police official said that "we use all moveable barricades available at our station every year after Ganesh Nimarjanam to protect people from the possible hazards. Many accidents happen while there is always a delayed response from HMDA.



The uneven surface of the walking area at Tank Bund

Nanded villages seek merger with TS

LEADERS DEMAND MAHARASHTRA GOVT TO IMPLEMENT TELANGANA SCHEMES OR ALLOW REGION TO MERGE WITH TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

People, including elected representatives from villages spread over five Legislative Assembly segments from the Telangana bordering Nanded district in Maharashtra are on an agitational mood demanding their State government to either implement the welfare schemes of the Telangana State in their villages or allow their villages to be merged with the Telangana.

The people and elected representatives affiliated to several political parties have also decided to contest the forthcoming Assembly polls with this demand. They informed the same to Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao whom they met on Tuesday afternoon, and sought his support for their agitation. They said they are ready to contest on the TRS party tickets if allotted.

Leaders from Nalgaon, Bhokar, Degloor, Kinwat and Hathgaon Assembly segments in Nanded district have met the Chief Minister in the Legislative Assembly premises. Under the leadership of Babli Sarpanch Babu Rao Ganapath Rao Kadam, who led the movement to merge the villages with the Telangana State, the leaders have expressed their anguish to KCR.



Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao with leaders from Maharashtra in Hyderabad on Tuesday

"Our villages are bordering the Telangana State villages. But the situation in our villages and in the Telangana State when compared are vast different and variant. People and farmers in the Telangana State villages bordering us are very happy while we are in distress. For farmers in Telangana state, each one is getting Rs 10,000 financial assistance per acre per year under the Rythu Bandhu Scheme. Our government is not implementing any scheme like this to our farmers. The poor people in Telangana State are getting Rs 2,016 per month as pension whereas in Maharashtra they are getting

mere Rs 600 only. In the Telangana, State farmers are getting 24-hour uninterrupted free and quality power. In our state we are promised 8-hours power supply but in reality, we are getting only 6 hours. There are matrimonial alliances between the Telangana State and Maharashtra State among the people. In the Telangana state, schemes like Kalyan Laxmi, KCR Kits, and clothes distribution during the festivals are helping the women folk immensely. While in Maharashtra there are no such schemes. Roads are very good in Telangana State and they are in a sordid state in our State,"

they told the CM. "We are facing dire straits with regard to water for irrigation. There is no water in Babli village itself! When Telangana government fills up SRSP through water from the Kaleswaram Project, we get some benefit through the backwaters," the leaders from Nanded district explained. Though the villages are geographically placed next to each other there is a vast difference in villages in Telangana State and in Maharashtra State. They said that in the past, 40 villages in the Dharmabad Taluk have passed a resolution demanding their villages' merger with the Telangana state. Responding to the resolution, the Maharashtra Government then declared Rs 40 crore grant for these villages and stated that they would be releasing Rs 12 crore immediately. But till date not even a single Rupee was released, the leaders said. "Against this backdrop, we are demanding the Maharashtra State government to implement the welfare schemes being implemented by the Telangana State. In case if the Maharashtra State government is not in a position to do, we are demanding merger of our villages into Telangana State. We will agitate with this

The people and elected representatives affiliated to various political parties have also decided to contest the forthcoming Assembly elections in Maharashtra with demand of merger with TS

demand. We will contest the coming Assembly polls with this slogan. If Sri KCR gives us an opportunity, we will contest on the TRS tickets," they declared.

The leaders from Nanded further clarified that under the then Nizam rule they were very much part of the Hyderabad State. Till date their land records verified based on the Khasra Pahani and they also celebrate Bathukamma Bonalu festivals in their villages even today. Since they have long and historic relationship with people in Telangana since ages, their demand for merger with the Telangana State is rational. They said very soon they will come with leaders from Congress, BJP, Shiv Sena, NCP will here and will meet Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao.

The Chief Minister said besides people from five Assembly segments from Nanded district, people are also asking for the TRS tickets from Bhiwandi, Sholapur, and Rajara. He said a decision would be taken on this shortly. The Chief Minister said that the demand for the implementation of welfare schemes like in the Telangana state is rational and hoped that the Maharashtra government would accede to the demand.

'Govt transformed KLIS as tourist spot'

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD



Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy

Congress MLA from Munugode Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy alleged that the TRS government transformed the Kaleswaram project as a tourist spot. "Is Kaleswaram an irrigation project or a tourist spot?", he questioned the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao. He alleged that the government is speaking only on Kaleswaram project leaving all projects to the wind.

Rajagopal Reddy alleged that the contractors were left the works in the middle as the government is not giving money to the contractors. Reacting to the comments of Rajagopal Reddy, Legislative Affairs Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy has interfered Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy's speech and asked the latter to come out from the mind set of 'contractor'.

While expressing anger, Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy said that YS Jaganmohan Reddy, who does business a lot, has become the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. "I left the contract works after entering into politics in 2009. Why I am speaking on the subject is, I know about the problems of the contractors", he retorted. When expressed anger on this comment, Vemula Prashant

Reddy later expressed regrets on it. "I am also doing business. If my comments hurt I will express my regrets", Prashanth Reddy said.

Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav alleged that Komatireddy brothers have madness on publicity and so that they speak as they wished for publicity. Rajagopal Reddy himself don't know in which party he is now. Reacting on it, Komatireddy said that he will not do as Talasani, who became Minister while winning from TDP and joined TRS. "I will join other party while tendering resignation to the present position. I will not do like Talasani", he said. He said that the TRS inducted 12 Congress MLAs into their party.

Don't politicise death: TDP

PNS ■ GUNTUR

TDP MLC Dokka Manikya Vara Prasada Road on Tuesday asked the YSRCP leaders to stop politicising death of former Speaker of Assembly Kodela Sivaprasada Rao. "Do you think the Speaker's post is so cheap? he asked the YSRCP leaders.

Refuting allegations levelled against Kodela by Minister Kodali Naani, he questioned, "Does it mean giving Kodela the Speaker post insulting him?" Earlier Minister Kodali Naani alleged that Chandrababu Naidu did not give ministerial berth to Kodela but insulted him by giving Speaker post. Then, he retorted by questioning, the YSRCP gave Speaker post to Tammineni Sita Ram only to insult him?"

He demanded Kodali Naani to respond on the issue. The MLC, condemning Kodali Naani's remarks against



Kodela, noted with concern that the Assembly furniture case depressed him and harassing him and his family turning a deaf ear to the pleadings of Kodela's family members to spare them from harassment was atrocious. He put the cause of death of Kodela as harassment by the YSRCP.

The mortal remains of Kodela would be cremated with official honours at

Narasaraopet on Wednesday. Earlier, the vehicle carrying the body of Kodela set out for Guntur with many party leaders, workers and followers accompanying it. Earlier in the day, TDP president Chandrababu and several other leaders, activists and followers paid tributes to Kodela. The body is being taken to Guntur on Kodada-Vijayawada route.

Kodela to be cremated today

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Former Speaker of AP Assembly Kodela Sivaprasada Rao will be cremated at Narasaraopeta on Wednesday. The mortal remains of Kodela Sivaprasada Rao reached Guntur from NTR Trust Bhavan here on Tuesday.

Former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, his son Lokesh Naidu and several senior leaders from Guntur district travelled along with the vehicle carrying the mortal remains of Kodela. Arrangements were made for the people to pay their last respects to Kodela en route to Guntur. On Wednesday morning a funeral procession will be taken out to Narasaraopeta. Later, the body would be cremated.

With west bursting at the seams...

Continued from Page 1

While IT companies like Infosys and Genpact are already operating in Pocharam, additional measures are being taken to develop the sector in Medchal, Keesara, Shamirpet and Pocharam areas. The draft proposal reportedly has four components: developer benefits, unit benefits, anchor, and infrastructure development. Several real estate consultancies have previously suggested to the government to boost infrastructure. Only when social infrastructure like roads, schools and colleges, and medical facilities improve, companies would want to make a move, they point out.

Seema people still want...

Continued from Page 1

Katasani mentioned that Kodela Siva Prasada Rao believed in TDP strongly and yet Chandrababu Naidu had not been inviting Kodela to party meetings for the past few days. Chandrababu did not extend even moral support to Kodela. The YSRCP had not filed any cases against Kodela. TDP activists, being victims of Kodela, lodged complaints with the police.

TTD governing body members named

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has finalised names of Tirumala-Tirupati Devasthanams governing body members and a GO is likely to be issued soon.

According to sources, eight from Andhra Pradesh and seven from Telangana have been identified for governing as TTD governing body members. Similarly, four from Tamil Nadu and three from Karnataka and one each from Delhi and Maharashtra are likely to be appointed to the TTD governing body members.

According to sources, the members from AP are identified as: Legislators Golla Babu Rao, Nadendla Subba Rao, Meda Prasanti, UV Ramana Murthy, DP Anantha, Chippagiri Prasad Kumar and

Partha Saradhy, TUDA Chairan Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy will be ex-officio member of the TTD Governing body.

The following have been chosen from Telangana for posting as: Jupalli Rameshwar Rao, B Parthasaradhi Reddy, Venkata Bhaskar Rao, M u r a m s e t t y Ramulu, D Damodarama Rao, K Siva Kumar and Putta Pratap Reddy.

The following are likely to be appointed to the governing body from Karnataka: Ramesh Setti, Ravi Narayana and Sudha Narayana Murthy.

The following have been chosen to represent on the governing body from Tamil Nadu: Vaidyanathan, Srinivasan, Dr Nishchita and Kumaraguru.



TRS burying history, says Karimnagar MP

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay alleged that the TRS government was hatching a conspiracy to tarnish the history of liberation day and it was trying to wipe out the historical giants Komuram Bheem, Doddi Komuraya and Chakali Ayilamma from the history books.

The MP unfurled the tricolour as mark of Telangana Liberation Day and asserted that his party was demanding the government to declare the Liberation day as an official fete right from the rule of Congress in undivided AP.

The BJP leader ridiculed the stand of KCR and accused him of belittling the intellectuals for his vested interests. Under these circumstances, the BJP would lead the fresh phase of movement wherein the liberation of Telangana state is recognised and the liberation day is observed officially, he asserted.

Kodela's mobile remains untraced

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Banjara Hills police who registered a case of 'death under suspicious circumstances' in the death of Kodela Siva Prasada Rao have stepped up investigation.

The police seized the cable wire, which Kodela used to

commit suicide, his dhoti and shirt but could not trace his mobile phone. They sent the articles seized to the forensic laboratory.

According to call data verified by the police, Kodela spoke on his mobile for 24 minutes on Sunday at around 8.30 am. Later, the

phone remained switched off. The police are curious to find out why the mobile was switched off.

The police are probing into who were all the persons with whom Kodela had spoken to and who had called up Kodela during the two days prior to the incident. After the cre-

mation of Kodela on Wednesday, the police would question his son, who returned from overseas.

It may be recalled that on Tuesday morning, Osmania doctors conducted post-mortem on Kodela's body for two hours. The whole exercise was videographed.

URANIUM MINING

Adivasis withdraw protest

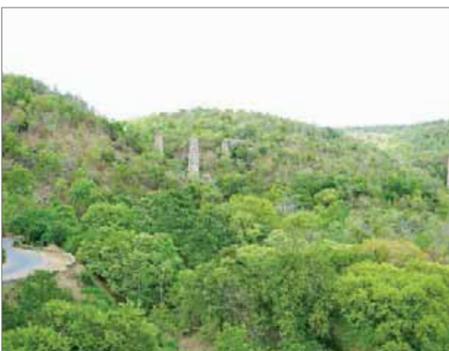
Say will launch protest again if the Govt or parties take back their word

AVINASH DEEPAK PULI
■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Though the Telangana Legislative Assembly on Monday passed a unanimous resolution, urging the Centre not to allow uranium mining in the Nallamala forest region of the state, the inhabitants of Amrabad mandal and its contiguous parts connecting the Nallamala forest belt are still expressing apprehensions.

"Since the Assembly passed the resolution that it would not give any scope to forge ahead with the possible mining activity in the region, we are suspending our agitation temporarily," said Yakaiah, a Chenchu leader.

He asserted that the movement would be renewed with a firm approach if the parties take back their stand subsequent to the urban local body polls. The Adivasis and mass organisation leaders in Nallamala and its adjacent areas say the present stand of political parties in general was certainly mirroring their moods for an urban local



body polls.

Their stand should continue even after the polls and in such a condition we would be able to understand their sincerity. However, in the given context of political parties in Telangana state and other parts of the country, the ambiguity of political parties is mirrored always.

Youths in the Adivasi Chenchu belt initially hailed the decision of the Chief Minister for his daring stand

on the uranium mining. The Adivasis now feel the Nallamala forest would survive and said it was all because of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao and the Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao. This belief would stay in tact till the government succeeds in organising the people for a serious struggle against the central government over taahis matter, Joint action committee of students felt.

FOOD FORTIFICATION CONCLAVE

'Firm on improving health standards'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

B Vinod Kumar, vice-chairman, Telangana State Planning Board (TSPB) inaugurated the Food Fortification Conclave here at The Golkonda Hotel on Tuesday. The programme was jointly organised by the office of Commissioner of Food Safety, Telangana KHPT and GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition) to take forward the food fortification strategy in the state for addressing the prevalent micro nutrient deficiencies in Telangana.

The Former MP along with Dr K Shankar, Director of Food Safety, T Vijaya Kumar, Deputy Food Collector, Mohan, Managing Trustee, KHPT and Usha Rani, Director, JSS inaugurated the conclave. The programme was attended by more than 90 participants including food safety officials, KHPT and GAIN officials, edible oil, milk and wheat flour industries.

Speaking on the occasion, the vice-chairman of state planning board said, "Telangana State is strongly



committed to improve the health and nutrition of its people. Therefore, since last one year, Food Safety wing has initiated implementation of Food Fortification in the State. Food safety officials, edible oil and milk manufacturers have been trained on the food fortification. Nearly 67 per cent of the total oil produced in the state for retail purpose is now being fortified."

On the occasion, the former MP launched the fortification poster with '+F' logo and also felicitated 10 industries who have initiated fortification in their edible oil and milk brands.

Modi spends b'day in Gujarat

PNS ■ KEVADIYA/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned 69 on Tuesday and spent his birthday in his home state of Gujarat offering prayers to goddess Narmada at the Sardar Sarovar dam filled to capacity for the first time, visiting the Statue of Unity and sharing a meal with his nonagenarian mother.

Modi, who was greeted by leaders across the political spectrum, also addressed a public rally in Kevadiya where he lauded the vision of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, saying his government drew inspiration from the country's former home minister for its decision last month on Jammu and Kashmir in an attempt to find solution to a decades-old problem.

BJP chief and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, top Congress leaders Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, BSP supreme Mayawati, chief ministers of West Bengal, Telangana, Odisha and Delhi--Mamata Banerjee, K Chandrasekhara Rao, Naveen Patnaik and Arvind Kejriwal respectively--were among others who greeted Modi on his birthday.

Shah described Modi as a leader with strong willpower and a symbol of decisive leadership and hard work while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hailed the prime minister's "visionary leadership" and said it has helped India scale new heights of glory. On his 68th birthday last year, Modi was in his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi and spent time with school children.

A 569-kg laddoo was also unveiled at an event organised in Delhi by Sulabh International, a non-profit organisation, to mark Modi's



birthday as 'Swachhta Diwas' (Cleanliness Day).

Modi met his mother Heeraben at her home in Gandhinagar after his public engagements. TV visuals showed the prime minister greeting his mother with folded hands to seek her blessings.

Modi then sat down to have a birthday lunch with her. The TV images showed the mother and son enjoying what appeared to be a Gujarati thali. Accompanied by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, Modi offered prayers as part of the state government's 'Namami Devi Narmade Mahotsav' celebrations being held to mark the Sardar Sarovar dam receiving water to its full capacity.

Modi visited the Butterfly Garden in Kevadiya and named the saffron coloured plain 'tiger butterfly' as the state butterfly.

Modi began the day with a visit to the Statue of Unity and the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the river Narmada.

The Statue of Unity, billed as the tallest in the world, was inaugurated by him on Sardar Patel's birth anniversary on October 31 last year. He also tweeted a video of the statue taken from his

helicopter.

Modi reached Kevadiya in the morning to take part in the 'Namami Narmada' festival being celebrated to mark the filling up of the dam to its full reservoir level of 138.68 metres. For the first time since the height of the dam was raised in 2017, the water level reached its highest peak at 138.68 metres on Sunday evening.

Modi along with Rupani then performed 'puja' at the dam site to 'welcome' the water of river Narmada, the lifeline of Gujarat. The prime minister also visited various developmental projects being carried out near the dam and the Statue of Unity to boost tourism. These projects include river rafting, a jungle safari park, a butterfly park and Ekta Nursery, an official said.

Modi visited the Khalvani Eco-Tourism site and the Dutt Mandir at nearby Garudeshwar village on the banks of Narmada.

"The country has taken an important decision with the inspiration of Sardar Patel, to walk a new path to resolve a decades-old problem," Modi told the public rally at Kevadiya.

SHORT READS



No compromise on India's security: Shah

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the Modi government will not tolerate any breach of India's territory and is ready to deal with any such acts strongly. Shah also asserted that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has been peaceful ever since the special status given to the state under 370 was abrogated on August 5 and added that not a single bullet has been fired nor anyone has died since then. "There will be no compromise on India's security. We will not tolerate even an inch of breach of our territory. We will deal with it strongly. We will not allow any drop of blood of our soldiers go in vain," he said addressing an event of the All India Management Association here. Coming down heavily on the previous Congress regime for not adopting a comprehensive national security policy, the home minister said the country's strategic policy was overshadowed by the foreign policy. "After the surgical strike and air strike, the perception of the world has changed and India's strength has been recognised globally," he added.



I am not joining any political party: Urmila Matondkar

MUMBAI: Amid speculation that the Shiv Sena might be her next choice after quitting the Congress recently, actress-turned-politician Urmila Matondkar on Tuesday sought to put such reports to rest, saying she is not joining any political party. Urmila's clarification comes in the wake of reports that she was in touch with Uddhav Thackeray's close aide Milind Narvekar since she walked out of the Congress, and might consider joining the Sena, the main constituent of the BJP-led Maharashtra and Central governments. Assembly elections are due in Maharashtra next month. She had announced her resignation from the Congress owing to "petty in-house politics" on September 10 this year with six months of joining the Grand Old Party and unsuccessfully contesting her maiden election from Mumbai North Lok Sabha seat against BJP's Gopal Shetty. Urmila had then said that she stood by her "thoughts and ideologies" and will continue to work for the people.



'Will focus on issues related to WB during meeting with PM'

KOLKATA: Describing her scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday in New Delhi as a "courtesy" one, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said she would highlight various issues like funds that are due to the state. Talking to reporters at city airport before leaving for the national capital, Banerjee said she would also raise issues like name change of the state as well matters like merger of public sector banks during the meeting. "I go to New Delhi very rarely. This is a routine work. This time I am going to talk about funds that are due to West Bengal. I will also highlight issues like change of West Bengal's name. 'Will also talk about matters like merger of public sector banks, issues with Air India, BSNL, Railways where there are several problems. They (employees of these organisations) cannot go anywhere and come to us," Banerjee said before leaving for New Delhi. Banerjee, who has been one of the harshest critics of BJP and Modi, earlier in the day greeted the PM on his 69th birthday.

Fadnavis: New schemes to make Marathwada drought-free

PNS ■ AURANGABAD

The Maharashtra government has launched some schemes which will help make the perennially parched Marathwada region free of drought, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Tuesday.

He said the government was working on various sectors, including irrigation, agriculture and infrastructure, to develop the region and make it overcome the water scarcity. "The water grid and other new schemes will make Marathwada shed the tag of being a drought-prone region," he said addressing a gathering here on the 71st Marathwada Muktsangram Day.

"It is the day to make resolutions. As part of this, we have initiated various schemes for Marathwada which will help this region to beat the water scarcity and drought," he



It is the day to make resolutions. As part of this, we have initiated various schemes for Marathwada which will help this region to beat the water scarcity and drought

assured. Tenders have been floated to implement the water grid scheme, on which the government will spend Rs 20,000 crore, the chief minister said.

"Besides, to meet the water needs for agriculture in Marathwada, the state government is planning to bring excess water from the Konkan region, which flows into the sea, towards the Godavari valley," he said.

Fadnavis said the government has also sanctioned a water pipeline scheme worth Rs

1,650 crore for Aurangabad. "This will help to overcome water scarcity in the city for next 50 years," he added.

He said Aurangabad will play a vital role in future on the industrial front. The first phase of Shendra node of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor project, recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will act as a magnet for investments in the Marathwada region, he said.

Along with the DMIC project, the Samruddhi corridor will also help Aurangabad and

Marathwada to make remarkable contribution in the national economic growth, Fadnavis said.

Meanwhile, some freedom fighters, who were present on the occasion, demanded equal pension amounts for them under the central and state schemes.

"We are paid less by the state as compared to the central government. We fought for one nation, then our pension should also be one," city-based freedom fighter Narayandas Rathod Aurangabad told reporters after the function.

People at times play 'caste card' to get poll ticket: Gadkari

PNS ■ NAGPUR

Union minister Nitin Gadkari has said sometimes when people fail to get tickets to contest polls on the basis of their work, they play the "caste card".

Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi "for never invoking his caste", he cited examples of a number of prominent politicians who rose above the caste and religious identity to carve out a niche for themselves.

"When people fail to get (poll) ticket on the basis of their work (krututva), they play caste card," the former BJP president said addressing a gathering here on Monday at the 'Akhil Bhartiya Mali Samaj Mahaadiveshan', organised by the Mahatma Phule Shikshan Sanstha.

"I want to ask - did George Fernandes (former Union minister and socialist stalwart) belong to any caste? He did not belong to any caste...he was a Christian. Did Indira Gandhi come to power because of caste?" he said.

Did Ashok Gehlot belong to your caste? But he became the chief minister of Rajasthan when people from other caste groups helped him, he pointed



ed out. "People told me that women should get reservation, 'I said yes they should get reservation'. But, I immediately asked them, did Indira Gandhi get reservation? For several years she ruled the country and became popular," he said.

Similarly, did Vasundhara Raje and Sushma Swaraj (BJP leaders) get reservation? The minister said to support his argument that caste was not instrumental in the success of these politicians.

"In politics those who do good work, don't have to ask for votes as the votes come to them naturally," he said.

"Prime Minister Modi never talks about his caste. I really appreciate Modiji. Aaj tak Narendra Modiji ne kabhi

People told me that women should get reservation, 'I said yes they should get reservation'. But, I immediately asked them, did Indira Gandhi get reservation? For several years she ruled the country and became popular

nahi kahaa main backward community se hun (PM Modi has never said he belongs to a backward community)," Gadkari said.

Karna reduces flood damage estimate by 3,380 crore

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Revenue Minister R Ashoka Tuesday said the state has reduced its flood damage estimate by Rs 3,380 crore after the union government objected to inclusion of private buildings that were affected.

"We had sent estimates, including private building losses...like private hospitals, schools. So today we are sending (flood damage estimate) after revising it from the earlier Rs 38,451.11 crore to Rs 35,160.81 crore. Now we have deleted private buildings as the centre had objected to it," Ashoka told reporters here.

The union government would release the amount as per the rules, he said and expressed the hope it would be done soon. As many as 103 taluks in 22 districts were affected due to floods last month, in which over 80 people were killed. Around seven lakh people were shifted to safe areas and lakhs of houses were damaged. Opposition parties, including the Congress and JD(S) have hit out at BJP governments at the centre and the state over the 'delay' in release of funds, despite Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the inter-ministerial central team visiting the affected areas.

Modi lauds Patel's vision

SAYS J&K DECISION INSPIRED BY HIM

PNS ■ KEVADIYA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday lauded the vision of Sardar Patel, adding the BJP-led government's decision last month on Jammu and Kashmir was an inspiration from the former home minister of India.

The Union government's decision on Kashmir is inspired by Sardar Patel and is an attempt to find solution to a decades-old problem, Modi, who turned 69 on Tuesday, said at a public rally here.

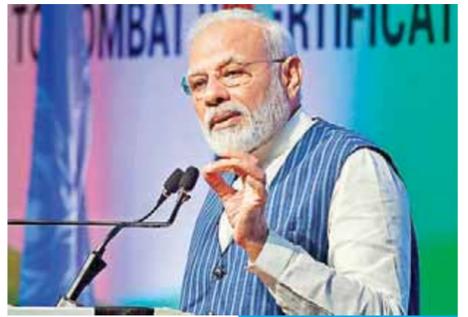
The government on August 5 revoked Article 370 which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir and proposed that the state be bifurcated into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The PM said the Hyderabad Liberation Day is a result of Sardar Patel's vision. Observed on September 17 each year, it marks the day in 1948 when the erstwhile Hyderabad State was annexed to the Indian Union.

Modi said he was happy to see the rising number of visitors to the Statue of Unity. While the 133-year-old State of Liberty gets around 10,000 visitors per day, about 8,500 people visit the 11-month-old Statue of Unity daily, he said.

The Sardar Sarovar project is catering to needs of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan and has benefited people in these four states, Modi said.

On a visit to his home state,



Modi earlier on Tuesday offered prayers to goddess Narmada at the Sardar Sarovar dam.

Accompanied by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, Modi offered prayers as part of the state government's Namami Devi Narmade Mahotsav celebrations being held to mark the dam receiving water to its full capacity.

Modi also visited the Butterfly Garden in Kevadiya and named the saffron coloured plain tiger butterfly as the state butterfly.

Modi began the day with a visit to the Statue of Unity and the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the river Narmada.

The Statue of Unity, billed as the tallest in the world, was inaugurated by him on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary on October 31 last year. He also tweeted a video of the statue, taken from his helicopter.

The PM said the Hyderabad Liberation Day is a result of Sardar Patel's vision. Observed on September 17 each year, it marks the day in 1948 when the erstwhile Hyderabad State was annexed to the Indian Union

Modi arrived at Kevadiya on Tuesday morning to take part in the 'Namami Narmada' festival being celebrated by the Gujarat government to mark the filling up of the dam to its full reservoir level of 138.68 metres.

Pictorial biography to chronicle Modi's journey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A pictorial book traces the journey of Narendra Modi from his days as a young boy from Vadnagar in Gujarat to New Delhi's 7, Lok Kalyan Marg as the 14th prime minister of India. "Turbulence & Triumph: The Modi Years", jointly authored by Rahul Agarwal and Bharathi S Pradhan, is replete with anecdotes from family, friends,

colleagues, associates, testimonials of leaders from India and the world across party lines, publisher Om Books announced Tuesday.

The book, expected to hit stores next month, also has photographs sourced from public and private archives. The publisher said the book is a definitive portrait of the prime minister in a documentary-style visual narrative. "The politician, the leader,

the orator and the ascetic committed to the idea of a new India, has been composed into a single frame by the authors for a comprehensive experience of a leader who makes compelling political history," it said.

A number of books have been written on Modi, who turned 69 on Tuesday. He has also authored a few books, including a hand guide for students and a collection of poetry.

SONIA WISHES PM ON 69th B'DAY

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday extended her greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday, wishing him a healthy, happy and long life. Modi turned 69 on Tuesday and was greeted by several top leaders from across the political spectrum. "Congress President Sonia Gandhi has extended her greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday. She wished him a healthy, happy and long life," a party statement said.



RAHUL WISHES MODI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday greeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday, wishing him good health and happiness. Modi turned 69 on Tuesday and was greeted by several top leaders from across the political spectrum. "My best wishes to Narendra Modi Ji on his 69th birthday. May he be blessed with good health and happiness always," Gandhi said in a tweet.



SEAT-SHARING ROW

Sena raking up issues to put BJP in dock



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Amid talks of the BJP seeking more seats than the Shiv Sena for the upcoming Maharashtra polls, the 288-member Maharashtra party is trying to corner the senior ally over the Aarey land, induction of leaders from the Congress and NCP and the Ram temple issues.

The BJP, however, said the Sena needs to look at things practically in view of the Amit Shah-led party's vote share going up in the Lok Sabha polls held earlier this year. In the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly, the Sena is ready for a 135 seats each formula with the BJP, while leaving 18 seats for their allies.

But, the BJP no longer seems willing to accept it. "The BJP is not willing to give more than 120 seats to the Sena and we don't approve of it. Before the announcement of alliance in February this year, Uddhavji and BJP president Amit Shah agreed to contest equal number of seats in the

Assembly polls," a senior Sena leader said.

However, a BJP leader pointed out that as compared to the 2014 polls, the party's vote share increased in the Lok Sabha elections this year.

"It is a fact that our leader (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi's image has helped some of the 18 Sena Lok Sabha members to retain their seats. Hence, we expect to contest more seats than the Sena, and it is based on the (latest) trends," he said.

With the BJP seemingly firm on contesting more seats, the Sena has been trying to put it in the dock by opposing the proposed tree felling in Aarey Colony here to make way for a Metro car shed.

It also took a jibe at the BJP over its move to induct a number of Congress and NCP leaders, and also reiterated its demand for the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Another BJP leader said this was a "trick" the Sena was playing "to put us on the back foot and negotiate for more seats with us".



'Narmada dam filled ahead of schedule for PM's birthday'

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Bala Bachchan on Tuesday claimed the Sardar Sarovar Dam was filled up to the full reservoir level "ahead of its schedule" to facilitate celebration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday at the dam site.

He said this disturbed the relief and rehabilitation works underway in the Madhya Pradesh areas submerged under the dam water.

Modi, who turned 69 on Tuesday arrived at Kevadiya in Gujarat in the morning to take part in the 'Namami Narmada' festival being celebrated by the western state's government to mark the filling up of the Sardar Sarovar Dam to its full reservoir level of 138.68 metres.

Bachchan claimed that according to the Narmada Control Authority's schedule, the dam was to be filled up to its full reservoir level by mid-October.

Bala Bachchan claimed that according to the Narmada Control Authority's schedule, the dam was to be filled up to its full reservoir level by mid-October

"However, it was filled to the full level nearly a month ahead of its schedule so that the prime minister could celebrate his birthday at the site," he told reporters here.

This change of schedule has disturbed the relief and rehabilitation works underway in the areas submerged under the dam water in four districts of MP, he said.

"It would have been better if Modiji had paid attention to the Madhya Pradesh's people affected due to the Sardar Sarovar

Dam's backwaters," he said.

The prime minister should have sanctioned immediate relief to these people, he said, adding that the Centre earlier promised the state to ensure proper rehabilitation of the dam-affected people "but it was not yet fulfilled".

Residents of nearly 178 villages in MP's Barwani, Dhar, Alirajpur and Khargone districts are affected due to dam's backwaters, Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) leader Medha Patkar told PTI on Monday.

She also said that they would protest in Barwani during Modi's birthday celebration. The NBA is demanding that the gates of the dam, built on the Narmada river, be opened immediately given that its backwaters have partially or fully flooded 178 villages in Madhya Pradesh.

The floodgates of the dam were closed on June 17, 2017, 56 years after the foundation stone of the project was laid by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Era of corrupt over; good governance has begun: Naqvi



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The "era of the corrupt" has come to an end and the phase of good governance, inclusive growth and service to the poor has begun," he said.

The senior BJP leader said Prime Minister Modi has fulfilled his commitment to good governance and service to the poor by demolishing "the political culture of arrogance. The Modi government has brought a major positive change in the country keeping in mind welfare of 'the last person in the line', he said.

Naqvi claimed that this phase in India is being recognised worldwide as "Modi Revolution". The Modi government has displayed its strong nationalist will by taking "bold and historic decisions" which had been seen as impossible to be taken, he said.

The minister said schemes such as Jan Dhan Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Mudra Yojana, Start Up India, Ayushman Bharat and Kisan Samman have proved to be the guarantee of development of the needy.

middlemen has come to end and the phase of good governance, inclusive growth and service to the poor has begun," he said.

The senior BJP leader said Prime Minister Modi has fulfilled his commitment to good governance and service to the poor by demolishing "the political culture of arrogance. The Modi government has brought a major positive change in the country keeping in mind welfare of 'the last person in the line', he said.

Naqvi claimed that this phase in India is being recognised worldwide as "Modi Revolution". The Modi government has displayed its strong nationalist will by taking "bold and historic decisions" which had been seen as impossible to be taken, he said.

JOLT TO MAYA

All 6 Raj BSP MLAs defect to Cong

PNS ■ JAIPUR/LUCKNOW

In a setback to Mayawati, all six BSP MLAs in Rajasthan have defected to the ruling Congress, a move dubbed by the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister as a "betrayal".

The development comes ahead of civic body polls and bypolls for two assembly seats in Rajasthan and has increased the tally of the Congress in the 200-member Assembly to 106. The House has an effective strength of 198 as two seats are vacant.

Hitting out at the Ashok Gehlot government, BSP President Mayawati said the Congress has once again proved that it is "unreliable" and "untrustworthy".

MLAs Rajendra Singh Gudha, Jogendra Singh Awana, Wajib Ali, Lakhan Singh Meena, Sandeep Yadav and Deepchand met Assembly Speaker CP Joshi on Monday night and handed over a letter to him stating their decision to join the Congress.

BSP legislators were earlier supporting the Ashok Gehlot government from outside and were in constant touch with the chief minister.

"All of us decided to join the Congress to strengthen the government in the interest of the state. We first met the chief minister and later gave a letter about our decision to the assembly speaker," one of the



MLAs Rajendra Singh Gudha, Jogendra Singh Awana, Wajib Ali, Lakhan Singh Meena, Sandeep Yadav and Deepchand met Assembly Speaker CP Joshi on Monday night and handed over a letter to him stating their decision to join the Congress

MLAs, Joginder Singh Awana, told reporters here on Tuesday. Mayawati termed the move as a "betrayal".

"The Congress government in Rajasthan has once again broken BSP MLAs and proved that it is an unreliable and untrustworthy party," she said in a tweet.

"The Congress, instead of fighting against its bitter opponents and organisations always work to harm those

had to resign as the first law minister of the country. The Congress neither allowed him to get elected to the Lok Sabha nor conferred him with Bharat Ratna. Very sad and shameful."

The latest political development in Rajasthan is expected to provide more stability to the Gehlot government which came to power in December last year.

The 68-year-old Gehlot had displayed similar political skills in 2009 by bringing all the (then) six BSP MLAs to the Congress fold in order to make his government stable.

The then Congress government led by Gehlot was five short of a majority and by managing to bring BSP MLAs in Congress, the chief minister had increased the tally of the Congress to 102 in the House.

Gudha is the only sitting MLA who was among the (then) six BSP MLAs to defect to the Congress in 2009. He had levelled corruption charges against Mayawati last month alleging that tickets to contest elections are given in return for money in the BSP.

The Congress now has a tally of 106 and its alliance partner Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) has one seat. The ruling party also enjoys outside support of 12 of the 13 Independent MLAs.

AGUSTAWESTLAND SCAM: CBI seeks court permission to quiz Michel in Bihar jail

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has moved a Delhi court, seeking permission to interrogate alleged AgustaWestland middleman Christian Michel in Bihar Central Jail, where he is lodged.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar sought response from Michel on the application by September 20, when the court will hear the matter.

In its plea, the CBI also sought specimen of Michel's signature and handwriting for probe. The agency has told the court that Michel needs to be confronted with some more documents.

The court directed Michel to be produced before it on September 20. It recently denied bail to Michel.

Michel, extradited from Dubai, was arrested by ED on December 22 last year.

On January 5 this year, he was sent to judicial custody in the ED case. He is also lodged in judicial custody in another case registered by CBI in connection with the scam.

Michel is among the three alleged middlemen being probed in the case by the Enforcement Directorate and the CBI. The other two are Guido Haschke and Carlo Gerosa.

Rajeev Kumar moves district sessions court seeking anticipatory bail

PNS ■ KOLKATA

After a special court refused to hear his plea on Tuesday, former Kolkata Police chief Rajeev Kumar moved Barasat District Sessions Court for anticipatory bail in the multi-crore Saradha chit fund scam case.

District Sessions Judge S Rashidi is likely to hear Kumar's prayer in the post-lunch session. One of the lawyers of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) present in the court said the agency will oppose Kumar's anticipatory bail petition.

Kumar's lawyers moved the prayer before the sessions judge after the special court in the district, in charge of trial of criminal cases against MPs and MLAs, refused to hear the petition this morning, saying it does not have jurisdiction to hear anticipatory bail pleas.

It also said Kumar could move the court of Barasat district sessions judge with his application.

The CBI office at CGO complex in Salt Lake comes under the jurisdiction of Barasat court in North 24 Parganas district.

Kumar failed to appear for questioning before the CBI in connection with the case on Tuesday. The agency had given him a notice to appear at 10



am but he failed to turn up, sources said.

They said Kumar did not appear for questioning twice in spite of CBI notices after the Calcutta High Court withdrew the protection given to him from arrest last week.

The high court had on September 13 vacated its interim order granting the former Kolkata Police commissioner protection from arrest in the case. It had also rejected Kumar's prayer for quashing the CBI notice that sought his appearance for questioning in the case.

Kumar, who is currently the West Bengal CID additional director general, was part of a Special Investigation Team set up by the state government to investigate the scam, before the Supreme Court handed over the case to the CBI in 2014, along with other chit fund cases.

SHORT READS



Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Exp to begin operations soon

NEW DELHI: The second Vande Bharat Express, which will run on the high traffic Delhi-Katra route, will begin operations before the festival season, Chairman, Railway Board, Vinod Yadav said on Tuesday. The Delhi-Katra route was chosen by the Railway Board in a bid to capitalise on the high traffic volume owing to the Vaishno Devi temple pilgrimage, they said. The high-speed train will bring down the travel time between Delhi and Katra, the last station on the way to Vaishno Devi temple, to eight hours from the current 12 hours. The first Vande Bharat Express or Train 18 was launched on the Delhi-Varanasi route.



Shivakumar moves HC seeking copy of his statements recorded by ED

NEW DELHI: Karnataka Congress leader D K Shivakumar approached the Delhi High Court Tuesday, seeking copy of his statements recorded by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case. Shivakumar, arrested by the ED on September 3, sought from the court to hold that the probe agency has no jurisdiction to invoke provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against him. He also sought the court's direction to call for the transcript of his statements recorded by an Assistant Director of the ED under Section 50 of the PMLA. Shivakumar, sitting MLA from Kanakapura assembly seat, is in the ED custody since his arrest and will be produced in the trial court later in the day.

Veteran Malayalam actor Sathar dies

KOCHI: Noted Malayalam actor Sathar, known for his character roles in films, died at a private hospital here on Tuesday, film industry sources said. He was 67. Sathar, who acted in many Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu movies, had been undergoing treatment for liver related ailments for quite some time, they said. Beginning his career in mid-70s, Sathar handled lead roles in Malayalam movies. He had acted worked in several films with actors like late Jayan. Sathar opted for negative roles in 1980s. He also acted in many Malayalam films of comedy genre. "Parayan Baki Vachathu," which released in 2014 was his last movie. He will be laid to rest at a Juma masjid burial ground in Padijare Kadungallur, sources said.



'130 cr Indians can make country plastic-free, inspire world'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

If 130 crore Indians join together to make India plastic-free and clean, it will inspire many other countries just like our Independence struggle inspired them to follow our path to gain freedom, said Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Tuesday.

He was speaking at an event organised by Sulabh International Social Service Organisation to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday as Swachhta Diwas.

Shekhawat wished Modi on the special day, crediting him for "restoring the legacy of the country and its people" in the world.

"Whenever India attains a milestone, it offers a ray of hope to many countries in the world. India had the Quit India Movement in 1942 and then gained independence in 1947.

"Our country's independence was important not only for us but also for the entire world. Within 25 years, almost all the countries became independent," Shekhawat said at the event. He said if Indians join the initiative to make the country plastic-free or self-sufficient in terms of water, many other countries would get the inspiration.

Sulabh Sanitation and Social Reform Movement founder also extended birthday wishes to the prime minister and said he has pioneered several initiatives in the country.

After HC stay, Maya calls UP govt move on OBCs 'selfish, political'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After the Allahabad High Court stayed the notification to include 17 OBC groups in the Scheduled Castes list, BSP president Mayawati on Tuesday said such government decisions are "guided by total selfish political motives" but effects the entire society.

She said the move was "most unfortunate".

"The news of the high court staying the forcible declaration of 17 OBCs as Scheduled Castes in Uttar Pradesh is naturally in limelight today. Such decisions guided by total selfish political motives do not affect any party/government but the entire society gets affected by it. Most unfortunate," Mayawati tweeted in Hindi.

Staying the notification on Monday, the high court directed the state government to file its reply in three weeks on a petition against its decision to declare 17 Other Backward Classes as SCs.

The petition stated that the Constitution has empowered the Centre to make such amendments and include a particular community in the Scheduled Caste list. Hence,

Staying the notification on Monday, the high court directed the state government to file its reply in three weeks on a petition against its decision to declare 17 Other Backward Classes as SCs

such a decision by a state government was in violation of Article 341 of the Constitution, it said. According to the petitioner, the Uttar Pradesh government issued a government order in June to include 17 communities of the OBC category in the SC list. Kahar, Kashyap, Kewat, Nishad, Bind, Bhar, Prajapati, Rajbhar, Batham, Gaur, Tura, Majhi, Mallah, Kumhar, Dheemar and Machua sub-castes were among the 17 OBC groups.

TN Cong to show black flag at Shah for Hindi pitch

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The Congress in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday announced it would hold a black flag demonstration against Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his future visit to the state in protest against his Hindi pitch. Asserting that Tamil Nadu Congress was second to none in opposing "Hindi imposition," the party accused Shah of slighting the safeguards provided to non-Hindi speaking people in the Constitution and the Official Languages Act, 1963. A special consultative meeting chaired by TNCC chief K S Alagiri, in a resolution, attacked Shah for his "arrogant views," favouring Hindi as "the only official language of India."

Centre may fence Indo-Nepal border: BJP MP

PNS ■ BAHAIRACH (UP)

Terming human trafficking the "most heinous crime", BJP MP Akshaibar Lal said on Monday that the Centre is mulling the possibility of fencing the Indo-Nepal border to curb such illegal activities.

"It has been discussed in Parliament several times...like the fencing on the Pakistan border. Can we not have it here so that no one can make illegal entry?" Lal said.

He said fencing the Indo-Nepal border is necessary and the Centre is thinking about it. Lal was speaking here at a workshop of Indo-Nepal stakeholders to end human trafficking as the chief guest.

The BJP MP said, "Human trafficking is the most inhuman crime and should be checked effectively."

"Human trafficking is an international issue for which, besides the government, social groups and defence forces will

also have to work jointly," Lal said.

"As a people's representative, I am committed to finding a solution to this problem," the Bahraich MP said.

Lal said he will soon meet the Union home minister and the defence minister and put forward the suggestions given by the stakeholders during the workshop.

Sashastra Seema Bal DIG Abhishek Pathak, who was a special invitee to the workshop, said checking human trafficking is among the priorities of the SSB and it has been continuously working in this direction.

Besides, the representatives of different social welfare organisations of India and Nepal and representatives of UNICEF also took part in the workshop.

Seven districts of Uttar Pradesh — Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Maharajganj, Lakhimpur and Pilibhit — share an open border with Nepal, which is often used for illegal activities.

Fraudulent 'Kadakhnath' scheme: 4 held after farmers lodge FIRs

PNS ■ PUNE

Four officials of a poultry firm have been arrested after farmers from several districts in Maharashtra lodged cases against the company for allegedly duping them of several crores on the pretext of helping them rear 'Kadakhnath' chickens, police said on Tuesday.

The chicken breed is popular in parts of central India, primarily Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, for its nutritional and medicinal values, with a kilogram of it selling at rates as high as Rs 900.

Cultivators have accused the Sangli-headquartered Maharayat Agro India Private Limited of swindling their investments in the name of business plans for rearing and 'buy-back' of Kadakhnath poultry birds. So far, several cases have been registered against the firm in Sangli, Satara, Pune, Kolhapur, Palghar, Nashik, and Aurangabad, Pune's Dattawadi police station's assistant police inspector Shankar Salgar told PTI.



While police are yet to ascertain the scam amount, Swabhimani Shetkari Sangthana (SSS) leader Raju Shetti claimed farmers have been duped of nearly Rs 550 crore and demanded a probe by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the matter.

He alleged that the culprits in the case are related to a political leader. Pune police earlier this month registered a case in connection with the 'scam' against the Sangli based firm's founder director Sudhir Mohite, and other directors -

Hanumant Jagdale and Sandip Mohite - for allegedly duping over 100 farmers of more than Rs 3 crore, Salgar said.

Similarly, the Islampur police station in Sangli registered a case against the firm's directors for cheating farmers of around Rs 4.5 crore, another official said.

One of the complainants, Nilesh Ambede, alleged that he invested Rs 2.5 lakh in the company's scheme but it did not deliver the chicks as promised. Based on his complaint, the Pune police regis-

Cultivators have accused the Sangli-headquartered Maharayat Agro India Private Limited of swindling their investments in the name of business plans for rearing and 'buy-back' of Kadakhnath poultry birds

tered a case against the firm's officials under Indian Penal Code Sections 407, 409 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating) and 34 (common intention), Salgar said.

Ambede claimed the company promised that it would buy back the full-grown chicken at Rs 300 per bird, he said. So far four persons - Sudhir Mohite, Sandip Mohite, Hanumant Jagdale, and one Pritam Mane - have been arrested, the police official said.

"While Mohites and Jagdale have been arrested by Sangli police, Mane, an accountant in the firm's Pune office, was arrested by police here," he said.

Explaining the alleged fraud, Salgar said the firm - previously known as Rayat Agro India Ltd - was set up at Islampur in



"Chief Justice and Judges of this Court (high court) have been pleased to order that cases pertaining to 2G Spectrum scam pending in the Court of Mr O P Saini,

HC transfers all Aircel-Maxis cases involving PC to Special judge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has transferred all cases pertaining to Aircel-Maxis scam, involving P Chidambaram and his son, from Special Judge OP Saini to Special Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar, who is trying INX-Media cases against the father-son duo.

All pending matters related to this case will be handled over to Special Judge Kuhar from October 1, since judge Saini is getting retired at the end of September.

Chief Justice and Judges of this Court (high court) have been pleased to order that cases pertaining to 2G Spectrum scam pending in the Court of Mr O P Saini,

District and Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge (PC Act)(CBI), Rouse Avenue Courts Complex, New Delhi be transferred and allocated to the Court of Special Judge (PC Act) (CBI)-09, Rouse Avenue Courts Complex, New Delhi presently presided over by Mr A K Kuhar with effect from October 1, 2019 which shall be the designated Court to undertake the trial of the said 2G Spectrum Cases in addition to matters already pending before the Court of Mr A K Kuhar," the order issued by the high court said.

Judge Kuhar is currently presiding over the special court to try lawmakers in the national capital including Congress leader D K Shivkumar, RJD supreme Lalu Prasad and his family members, former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh and his family members, among others.

The Supreme Court had appointed Judge Saini to try all cases pertaining to the alleged 2G spectrum allocation scam on a day-to-day basis.

SC judge recuses from hearing plea of disqualified MLAs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge Justice M M Shantanagoudar on Tuesday recused himself from hearing petitions filed by 17 disqualified MLAs of Karnataka challenging the decision of the then Speaker to disqualify them from the Assembly. "In this matter, I am not participating" Justice Shantanagoudar, who was part of a three-judge bench headed by Justice N V Ramana, said at the outset.

The bench has now posted the matter for hearing on September 23. The court had earlier refused to pass any order on listing of petitions filed by the 17 disqualified MLAs, asking what was the urgency as the petitions would come up in due course.

The then Assembly speaker, K R Ramesh Kumar, had disqualified 17 MLAs which eventually led to the fall of the JD (S)-Congress coalition government headed by then chief minister H



D Kumaraswamy.

Kumaraswamy had resigned as the chief minister after losing the trust vote which paved the way for the BJP-led government in Karnataka under incumbent Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa. These disqualified MLAs have approached the apex court challenging Kumar's decision to disqualify them. Some of these disqualified MLAs have alleged in their pleas in the top court that decision taken by Kumar before his resignation as Speaker was wholly illegal, arbitrary and mala fide exercise of his power under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution.

Taliban kill 48 ahead of Afghan polls

PTI ■ KABUL

Taliban suicide bombers killed at least 48 people and wounded dozens more in two blasts on Tuesday — one at a campaign rally for the president and the other in Kabul — with the insurgents warning of more violence ahead of elections.

The first attack saw a motorcyclist detonate a suicide bomb at a checkpoint leading to a rally where President Ashraf Ghani was addressing supporters in central Parwan province, just north of the capital, killing 26 and wounding 42.

Just over an hour later another blast also claimed by the Taliban rocked central Kabul near the US embassy. Authorities initially did not give casualty figures, but later said 22 people had been killed and a further 38 wounded.

The explosions came after US President Donald Trump abruptly ended talks with the Taliban earlier this month over a deal that would have allowed the US to begin withdrawing troops from its longest war.

In a statement sent to media claiming responsibility for both blasts, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the attack near Ghani's rally was deliberately aimed at disrupting the September 28 elections.

"We already warned people not to attend election rallies, if



Afghan police inspect the site of a suicide attack, in Parwan province of Afghanistan on Tuesday. PTI

they suffer any losses that is their own responsibility," the statement said.

An AFP image from the scene near Ghani's rally, roughly an hour's drive north of Kabul, showed the remains of a burnt motorcycle, with a body on top, covered by a blanket and next to a badly damaged police car.

Women and children were among the casualties, Parwan hospital director Abdul Qasim Sangin told AFP.

The president, who was speaking to his supporters at the time of the blast, was unhurt but later condemned the attack, saying the incident proved the Taliban had no real

interest in reconciliation.

"As the Taliban continue their crimes, they once again prove that they are not interested in peace and stability in Afghanistan," said Ghani in a statement.

Sixty kilometres (40 miles) away in Kabul, a shopkeeper, Rahimullah, said he had been sitting inside his shop when the second blast came.

"The wave broke all the windows," he told AFP.

"I rushed outside and saw several bodies just across the street.

This is the second time in less than a month that a blast has broken our windows. I just fixed them a week ago." The

UN's mission in Afghanistan also slammed the Taliban, accusing them of showing "despicable disregard for civilian life & fundamental human right to participate in democratic process."

The elections will see Ghani face off against his own Chief Executive, Abdullah Abdullah, and more than a dozen other candidates, including former warlords, ex-spies, and onetime members of the country's former communist regime.

For weeks, the election had been sidelined by the US-Taliban talks, with many Afghans and observers expecting the vote to be cancelled if a deal was agreed. Even candi-

dates did little in the way of campaigning.

But with the deal off, Ghani and his rivals have begun the race. Ghani is seeking a clear mandate they can use to negotiate with the insurgents on a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Trump's declaration that the US-Taliban talks were "dead" spurred the insurgents to declare last week that the only other option was more fighting.

"We had two ways to end occupation in Afghanistan, one was jihad and fighting, the other was talks and negotiations," Mujahid told AFP last week.

"If Trump wants to stop talks, we will take the first way and they will soon regret it." Observers had warned the Taliban, who hope to weaken the future president, will do anything they can to upend the election.

On the first day of campaigning in July, suicide attackers and gunmen targeted the Kabul office of Ghani's running mate, Amrullah Saleh. At least 20 people died in those attacks.

Turnout in the elections is set to be low, with experts citing fear of violence and a loss of hope among voters following widespread fraud allegations during the 2014 election.

A BBC investigation released on Monday claimed that 74 people were killed every day on average in August, with 611 incidents resulting in 2,307 deaths.

Russia, Iran, Turkey say Syrian constitution committee ready

AP ■ ANKARA

The leaders of Iran, Russia and Turkey announced on Monday that an agreement has been finally reached on the composition of a committee tasked with rewriting Syria's constitution as part of a political solution to the country's civil war, now in its ninth year.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told journalists at the end of the meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin and Iran's Hassan Rouhani in the Turkish capital Ankara that differences on one last committee member has been overcome, paving the way for the committee to start working as soon as possible.

"We portrayed a constructive and flexible attitude to determine constitutional committee members and rules of procedure. We made an effort for the political process to move forward. In short, hitches regarding the establishment of the committee were eliminated by our mutual efforts," Erdogan said.

The leaders did not provide a timeframe for the committee — set to be made up of Syrian government and opposition figures — to begin its proceedings. The procedural rules still have to be worked out, Putin told reporters.

"The proceedings must begin rapidly," Putin said.



From left, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands during their meeting in Ankara, Turkey on Monday. AP

"Extremist groups may try and destroy this process because they do not want a final agreement since they gain money from war."

Russia and Iran are key allies of Syrian President Bashar Assad while Turkey backs Syrian rebels seeking to oust him.

Rouhani said he hoped for elections to take place in Syria in 2020 or 2021.

The leaders also agreed to de-escalate the volatile situation in Idlib — the last remaining rebel stronghold in Syria — while combatting extremists and protecting civilians. A cease-fire that went into effect at the end of August has been holding despite some violations.

Idlib is dominated by the al-Qaida-linked group Hayat

Tahrir al-Sham.

Syrian forces, backed by Russia, targeted the armed group in a four-month ground and air offensive but civilians have been widely affected.

Hundreds of thousands of Syrians, some already displaced from other parts of the war-torn country, have moved toward Turkey's border.

A major conflict in Idlib has raised the possibility of a mass refugee flow to Turkey, which already hosts 3.6 million Syrian refugees.

"We cannot stand by and watch a new tragedy that would affect 4 million people right next to our border," Erdogan said, adding: "Such a calamitous development would not only affect our country but also all of Europe."

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
(Telephones: 0135-2763588, & Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866,
"e" Procurement Corrigendum Notice-1
In pursuant to clause 7 of, Instructions to Bidders (Section II), amendments against Tender Specification No. 01/EE(E&M-II)/VP/2019-20 - Annual Operation & Maintenance Contract for 33/11 KV substation & DG Set have been uploaded on the e-procurement portal. All other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in"
Executive Engineer (E&M-II),
Vyasi Project, Lakhtar Bhawan, Dakpathar
" Avoid wasteful use of Electricity "

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM
File No. CIID/SLR/Tender/2019
(Through IREPS portal)
NIT for leasing of SLR/SLRD parcel space published in various English & Hindi newspapers scheduled to be opened on 19.09.2019 through IREPS portal i.e. www.ireps.gov.in NITs following tenders are withdrawn due to technical reason.
1. F-I compartment of train no. 12826 ex. Anand Vihar Terminal to Ranchi (Tender No. SLR-FI-12826-Aug 19) is withdrawn.
2. F-II compartment of train no. 12826 ex. Anand Vihar Terminal to Ranchi (Tender No. SLR-FII-12826-Aug 19) is withdrawn.
3. R-I compartment of train no. 12826 ex. Anand Vihar Terminal to Ranchi (Tender No. SLR-RI-12826-Aug 19) is withdrawn.
Other information of NITs shall remain unchanged. 2987/19
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of tender through E-tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
NIT No. 221-S/42/ISO-292TNDL-Divn/ML-NV2019-20
Name of work and its location: "ISO 14001:2015 Certification of 29 Listed Stations over Delhi Division, Northern Railway, for three years as per scope of work"
Approx Cost of work: Rs. 28,09,500/- (Twenty Eight lakh Nine Thousand Five hundred only) plus GST as applicable
Earnest Money: Rs. 56,200/-
Completion period of work: Three years i.e. 36 months from the date of issue of ISO Certificate.
Cost of tender document on cash/by post: Rs. 3540/- with GST @ 18%
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15:00 hrs on 09.10.2019 Opening of Tender at 15:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in
Dated: 16.09.2019 2985/2019
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
N.I.T. No.: 06/19-20 dated 10.09.2019. (1) Name of work with its location: Repair to Administrative offices of NRCH store department office, medicine offices, miron linen & 1&4 office, telephone exchange, Cabin No. 7, 8 Bio-medical waste and repair other officers chambers and improvement to walls finish by CNC CUT ARCH screen behind Room No. 25 to 58 and improvement to area ahead canteen at NRCH under XEN/NRCH. (2) Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 99,38,873.99. (3) Earnest Money: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-UCT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). Rs. 1,98,800.00. (4) Completion period of Work: 8 Months. (5) Cost of tender on cash/by post: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-UCT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). Rs. 5,900.00. (6) Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15:00 hrs. on 15.10.2019. Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. On 15.10.2019. (7) Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. No.: 128-W/269/OET/19-20/NRCH/NIT 06 Dated: 16.09.2019. 2980/2019
Serving Customers with a Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location: 30-Elect-33-T-2019-20-E3 Electrical sub estimate in c/w extension of existing building for additional accommodation (14 rooms GF+FF) in running room PNP. Approx cost of the works in : Rs 14.73 lacs Address of the office: Sr Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. Earnest Money : Rs.29500.00
Date & time of submission of tender: 10.10.2019. 15.00 Hrs. Opening of tender : 10.10.2019. 15.15 Hrs. Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. 2973/19
Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location: 30-Elect-33-T-2019-20-E3. Electrical work in connection with i) Repair & widening by providing VDC to main exit road of circulating area of Ajmer Gate NDLS and repair to old TTE rest house Paharganj side. ii) Replacement of ART & AMRE for extension of washing line no. at S2M end in Delhi yard. iii) Construction of new conference room at Rail Bhawan New Delhi.
Approx cost of the works: Rs. 33.92 lacs. Address of the office: Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. Earnest Money: Rs. 67,900/-. Date & time of submission of tender: 10.10.2019, 15:00 Hrs. Opening of tender: 10.10.2019, 15:15 Hrs. Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. 2974/2019
Serving Customers with a Smile

Israelis vote in snap polls in five months



Israeli PM Benjamin and his wife Sarah casts their votes in Jerusalem on Tuesday PTI

Jerusalem: Israelis voted on Tuesday in their country's second general election in five months, a contest that is being widely seen as a referendum on incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership.

Netanyahu, 69, called the snap election after failing to form a governing coalition with a viable majority after April's vote.

About 6.3 million eligible Israeli voters started voting Tuesday morning in the unprecedented repeat polls.

Polling booths opened at 7 AM and voters can cast their votes till 10 PM to elect the 22nd Knesset (Israeli parliament) necessitated by the inability of Netanyahu to cobble a coalition of 61 members in a house of 120 following the April 9 elections.

Voter turnout in Israeli elections hit 26.8 per cent mark at noon time, a tad higher than on April 9 at the same hour, with the larger parties, ruling Likud and main rivals Blue and White, resorting to traditional mobilisation tools to create panic among their sympathisers to bring them out to vote.

"The turnout at noon time was 2 per cent higher than 24.8 per cent recorded at the same time during the last polls," Director of Central Elections Committee, Ori Adas, said calling it "an impressive trend".

Voting for Israel Defence Forces (IDF) soldiers began Saturday evening at bases around the country, and Israeli diplomats abroad have also already cast their ballots. PTI

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI
DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001
O.A. No. 514 of 2019
The under mentioned Asset will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues, in the matter of ICICI BANK LTD V/s AHMEDABAD BENGAL ROADWAYS PVT. LTD.
21.08.2019 Item no. 18
Present: Mr. Punit K. Bhalla along with Mr. Rakesh Singh, Ld. Counsels appears for applicant bank.
Mr. Dimple Arora, Ld. counsel appears for defendant no. 1.
I.A. No. 1797/19 is filed by the applicant bank seeking permission sell/auction of the hypothecated vehicles as is where is basis on the ground that trucks are in the stage of scraps position.
1. Description of Asset: hypothecated assets
Model Reg No Asset Reserve Price EMD
2014 HR37D4074T AL 2516 800000 60000
2014 HR37D5994T AL 2516 800000 60000
2014 HR37D6007T AL 2516 600000 60000
2014 HR37D6036T AL 2516 500000 50000
2014 HR37D6036T AL 2516 600000 60000
2014 HR37D6480 AL 2516 600000 60000
2014 HR37D7486T AL 2516 600000 60000
2014 HR37D7492T AL 2516 600000 60000
2014 HR37D751T AL 2516 800000 60000
2014 HR37D7688T AL 2516 800000 60000
2014 HR37D7670T AL 2516 600000 60000
2010 HR55K8412T Tata 1613 350000 35000
2010 HR55K8415T Tata 1613 350000 35000
2010 HR55K8416T Tata 1613 350000 35000
2010 HR55K8420T Tata 1613 350000 35000
2011 HR746947T LPO 1512 350000 35000
2. Date and Time of Auction: 23 September, 2019 Time: 2:00 PM To 3:00 PM
3. Auction Venue: ABR Yard, Behind Park Inn hotel, Binola Manesar, Haryana, NH-8, Pin Code- 122051.
5. Manager: Awanish Arunakar (8826893208) and Kovid Bhatnagar (9643806761)
Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.
Interested bidders shall be required to deposit an Earnest Amount mentioned above against the respective vehicle by way of pay order/ Demand Draft payable at Delhi and in favour of ICICI Bank Ltd, Delhi. Successful highest bidder shall have to deposit balance amount within 5 days from the approval shared with them.
In Case of failure to deposit the amount as mentioned above, the Amount of Earnest Money deposited shall be forfeited.
Interested participant/s are requested to participate 23 September, 2019 for physical auction or call Bank Manager Awanish Arunakar (8826893208) and Kovid Bhatnagar (9643806761)
Presiding Officer
DRT-II, Delhi

UN experts urge probe of Rohingya killings in B'desh

AFP ■ DHAKA

UN human rights experts have raised new concerns about the treatment of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh following a deadly backlash over the killing of a ruling party official.

The experts called for an "impartial" investigation into the deaths of at least six Rohingya men in gunfights with police after they were named as suspects in the killing of Omar Faruk, a youth wing official of the ruling Awami League.

Following the murder, local people vandalised refugee shops and staged protests in one of multiple camps now home to a total of more than 900,000 Muslim Rohingya who have fled oppression in neighbouring Myanmar.

In a statement released late Monday in Geneva, the six specially appointed UN experts on rights issues backed Bangladesh's probe into the murder of Faruk.

But they added, "it is equally necessary to ensure that the presumption of innocence is upheld and that reactionary, summary and ad hoc justice is not doled out solely to placate the legitimate concerns of the host community."

"We urge the Bangladeshi government to carry out an

independent, impartial and effective investigation into all deaths that have occurred with regards to this case," they said. Police inspector Ali Arshad told AFP at least 40 Rohingya have been killed in Bangladesh since July last year. Of those, at least 33 were killed by Bangladeshi security forces in gunfights and another seven were killed in shootouts among Rohingya groups, he said.

Rights groups have accused Bangladesh police of staging many of these gunfights as a cover for the extrajudicial killings of Rohingya, mainly suspects in drug smuggling. The UN experts also expressed "serious concerns" over "tight new restrictions" and a communication clampdown in all refugee camps, where there is an effective internet blackout.

The clampdown follows the failure of a new attempt to repatriate some of the refugees and an August 25 rally in which some 200,000 Rohingya marked two years since the start of the crisis.

The UN experts said that since the rally, a number of organisers have been questioned and subjected to "intimidation".

"We are alarmed by the sudden crackdown of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association," they said.

Ayatollah Khamenei rules out talks with US 'at any level'

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's Supreme Leader on Tuesday ruled out negotiations with the US "at any level", as tensions mounted between the arch-foes after Washington blamed Tehran for attacks on Saudi oil installations.

Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussein Khamenei said the US adopted a policy of "maximum pressure" on Iran because it believes it cannot bring the Islamic republic to its knees through other means.

The leader was speaking after devastating drone attacks at the weekend that halved oil output of Iran's regional arch-rival Saudi Arabia — the world's top crude exporter.

"The policy of 'maximum pressure' against the Iranian nation is worthless and all Islamic Republic of Iran officials unanimously believe there will be no negotiations with the US at any level," he said in an address.

Tensions between Iran and the US and its allies have threatened to boil over since May last year when President Donald Trump abandoned a 2015 nuclear deal and began reimposing sanctions in its campaign of "maximum pressure".

Iran responded by scaling back its commitments under the landmark accord, which gave it the promise of sanctions relief in return for limiting the scope of its nuclear programme.

Trump said the US was



NATO chief 'extremely concerned' after attacks on Saudi

Baghdad: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said Monday he was "extremely concerned" about escalating tensions following strikes on Saudi oil facilities at the weekend, accusing Iran of destabilising the region. Speaking to AFP in Baghdad, Stoltenberg's comments were his first on the strikes on two major Saudi oil facilities, which were claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels but which both Washington and Riyadh have blamed on Tehran. "We call on all parties to prevent any such attacks occurring again because that can have negative consequences for the whole region, and we are also extremely concerned about a risk of escalation," the Secretary General said. AFP

ready to help Saudi Arabia after the attacks that halted about six percent of the world's oil supply and triggered a record leap in crude prices.

Facebook suspends Bib's chatbot for sharing polling information

Jerusalem: Social media giant, Facebook, on Tuesday suspended Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Facebook chatbot for the second time in less than a week, this time for "violating local laws".

Facebook suspended Netanyahu's chatbot for the remainder of election day after it illegally shared polling information, the Times of Israel reported.

"We're working with elections officials around the world to help ensure the integrity of the elections. Our policy explicitly states that developers are required to obey all laws applicable in the country where their application is accessible," a spokesperson for Facebook was quoted by the news portal as saying.

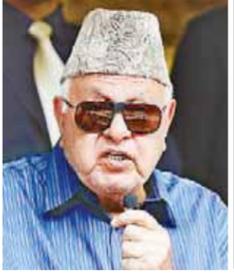
"Therefore we've suspended the (Netanyahu) bot's activity, in light of the violation of local law, until the close of the polls at 10 PM on Tuesday," he added.

The social media giant had suspended a chatbot operated by Netanyahu's official page for violating "hate speech policies" last Thursday after a message spread by his campaign warned that Arab Israeli politicians want to annihilate us all. PTI

THE PANIPAT CO-OP. SUGAR MILLS LTD., PANIPAT
Email ID : panipatsugarmills@gmail.com Contact No.:0180-2651269, 2651184
"TENDER NOTICE"
Sr. No Name of the Department Name of Work/ Notice/Tender Opening Date Closing Date Amount (Approx. in lac.) E.Money (in lac.) Website of the Department
The Panipat Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd. Panipat 18-09-2019 at 09:00 AM 24-09-2019 at 12:30 PM https://tenders.hry.nic.in
Purchase item for Sugar Mill
1 Nylon Rubber Belt (M-24) for RBC 2.00
2 Bagasse 80.00
3 Rate Contract for Oxygen & D.A. Cylinder 2.00
4 Pumps & Pumps Spares 10.00
5 Purchase for Distillery Unit
6 Pet Bottle 400.00
7 Wooden Chips 250.00
8 P.P.Seals 52.75
9 Job Works for Sugar Mills
10 Filling & Packing of small P. P. Bag (10 kgs. & 20 kgs.) 2.00
11 Removal Binding Material from Cane 5.00
12 AMC of Instrument (Season 2019-20) 2.00
13 Job Works for Distillery Unit
14 Removal & Shifting of Sludge from Spent Wash Lagoon 5.00
15 Transportation of Country Liquor 40.00
16 AMC & Operation of Ethanol Plant 9.00
17 AMC & Operation of MEE Plant 20.00
18 Contract for Operation of various station of sugar mill during season 2019-20 80.00
19 Contract for engaging out source agency to provide man power against various technical post of sugar mill during season 2019-20 & Distillery Unit from 01-10-2019 to 30-09-2020 72.00
20 1.80
The detailed tender have already been uploaded on the website https://tenders.hry.nic.in The tender should be filled on the above website on or before 24-09-2019 up to 12:30 PM. The "TECHNICAL BID" will be opened on 24-09-2019 at 01:00 PM. If a tenderer qualifies in "TECHNICAL BID" then only "FINANCIAL BIDE" will be opened. The Negotiation, if necessary will be held in the presence of lowest tenderer or his representative who may be present at that time on 25-09-2019 at 11:00AM.
Managing Director

Farooq, now a threat

Holding the NC leader and former CM under a draconian Act will undo any points the govt might claim on Kashmir



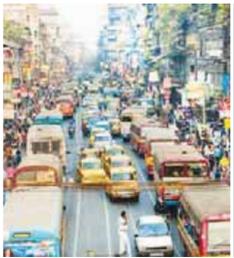
If the Government indeed wants to make an example of Kashmiri politicians, who have traded loyalties on either side of the LoC for their political relevance and continuity, then it would be advised to expose such deliberate acts on facts. Holding former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) leader Farooq Abdullah under the Public Safety Act (PSA) certainly won't achieve that purpose, considering he no longer has "high visibility" value. For normal Kashmiris, he is a recipient of much hatred and abuse. They believe he shortchanged them by choosing to

accede with a secular and democratic India and lost the only marker of autonomy they had courtesy Article 370. Now, not only that is gone, the former State has been reduced to a Union Territory. So Kashmiris are questioning his family legacy of standing by India. For New Delhi, he may have been the moderate face and an asset but one that's not needed, given the endorsement of Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) special status both at home and the world. Therefore, Abdullah's inescapable need to question the abrogation of Article 370 and appear an activist Kashmiri is more than an irritant, it is an obstacle in the new narrative. His suggestions of a negotiated autonomy for the two sides of Kashmir and converting LoC into a soft border for trade and commerce to flourish seem misplaced when all talk is about righting historical wrongs and reclaiming territories in that context rather than addressing current realities. Yet one must remember his worth through the decades of conflict. He acted as a filter and as Chief Minister did manage to keep militancy in check, give some semblance of credibility to the election process and had a pan-India acceptability. At 81, and suffering from kidney ailments, he certainly doesn't pose such a threat as to be booked under a tough law meant to be used against terrorists. Apparently, the idea is to prevent him from participating in a rally planned by Opposition leaders ahead of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session next week. Does a former Chief Minister, democratically elected and for years nurtured as an asset by the Centre, be suddenly disowned as a troublemaker under a draconian law? One which doesn't allow him to be tried before two years? All this has happened despite him and son Omar Abdullah meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier and hours before the Supreme Court was to take up a habeas corpus petition by MDMK chief Vaiko seeking to know the whereabouts of his "friend." Considering that Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad has been allowed to visit four J&K districts — Srinagar, Jammu, Baramulla and Anantnag — to meet people but not hold any political rally and that CPI(M) leader Mohd Yousuf Tarigami has been allowed back in, Abdullah's detention reeks of chicanery and intrigue, not of vision. For he may be a spent force but people, who have invested in the idea of India at his call, will only see this as betrayal and recede into separatist ways.

True Abdullah, and his son Omar, have failed to deliver to both New Delhi and their people but both have sworn by the Constitution and neutralised the shrill cries of *azaadi*. And if the peace-makers are suddenly seen as deal-breakers and made the fall guys, then we are unwittingly drawing the world's attention back to the human rights situation in Kashmir, the lockdown and the political and economic morass. Dangerously enough, our justification for reorganising Kashmir may not seem all that worthy. If the Government is not even able to restore normal lives despite its heavy-duty security presence, crackdowns and an information blockade, then there will only be a flood of questions on its intent to engage with people, convince them of their stakeholdership and erect an alternative political matrix that's more responsive to its concerns. For that to happen, people must be heard and allowed to speak. Also, leaders like Sajjad Lone, whom the Centre was at one time keen on grooming as its "enabler", continue to be detained too. The common Kashmiri, hedged in by the politics of the terror economy, knows that abrogation of Article 370 doesn't mean much on the ground as the State was anyway being run like a Union Territory for some time. But locals still want that reconciliation with honour, dignity and justice, not arbitrary impositions and demotions. Abdullah's detention is so not clever as it emasculates the political will to treat J&K as a serious matter. It's not an extension counter of Central whim.

Unsafe cities

Delhi, Mumbai slide down in a global report on security and liveability, fall behind Asian counterparts



Considering that both Mumbai and Delhi could be counted in the race to be desirable world cities, both are considered grossly unsafe, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, which ranks 60 countries worldwide across indicators, including digital, infrastructure, health and personal security. In the context of safety, Mumbai and Delhi ranked 37 and 41 respectively on the parameter of personal security and 45 and 52 overall. That is a large dollop of dampener considering that for

all our pretension to becoming an Asian powerhouse, cities in the Asia-Pacific region have bagged six of the top 10 spots. Tokyo continues to be the numero uno for the third year in a row as Singapore and Osaka take second and third places. In contrast and worryingly so, Delhi actually slid callously down the ladder, falling nine places from its 43rd position in 2017 to the 52nd position in just two years. According to data released by the Delhi police itself, the total number of heinous crime cases registered till August 31 was 2,00,485, much higher than last year's 1,57,462 cases. Mumbai, too, which witnessed the first dip in the past decade in 2017, registered 21 per cent more rapes and murders last year. If that was not all, both our cities had a poor track record on environmental and health security, pollution being the biggest bottleneck. The less said about infrastructure security the better, both cities scoring low on the road safety index. And as far as population growth is concerned, Delhi's planners, who in 2014 were expected to address needs of 6.7 million more residents between 2020 and 2030, have actually allowed that figure to swell to 8.7 million.

It's not that we didn't envision the parameters; our smart cities project was all about developing liveability indices, a vision which has failed miserably in execution. In fact, if pursued correctly, some of India's newer cities could have well made it higher up on the list. The Tokyo model needs to be emulated as it is one of the most populous cities in the world with an intense demand on its resources. Yet it scored well on almost all parameters — be it its low crime rate and improving the quality of life by banning diesel cars. Clearly, city governments have taken tough decisions and stood by them. One parameter where the Asia-Pacific region lags behind is on digital security and it is here where our cities could score by using technology for traffic management and personal safety. Also, we need responsive city governments that work with the citizenry rather than hide-bound bureaucracy, instill pride by making legislative bodies more representative and provisioning for responsible elected officials.

Message for a violent world

Gandhian beliefs need to be spread to not only eliminate emerging conflicts but also arrest the wanton destruction of nature and the ecosystems of this planet



RK PACHAURI

It is a tragic irony that the worst act by terrorists involving wanton killing of innocent people in recent times took place on September 11, 2001, when two hijacked planes were deployed to kill over 3,000 people on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, New York, while another one targeted the Pentagon and yet another crashed in Pennsylvania. Just three weeks later after that dastardly act, we commemorate the birth anniversary of the greatest human being to ever have practised non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi. This year, of course, marks a special occasion when Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary would be celebrated.

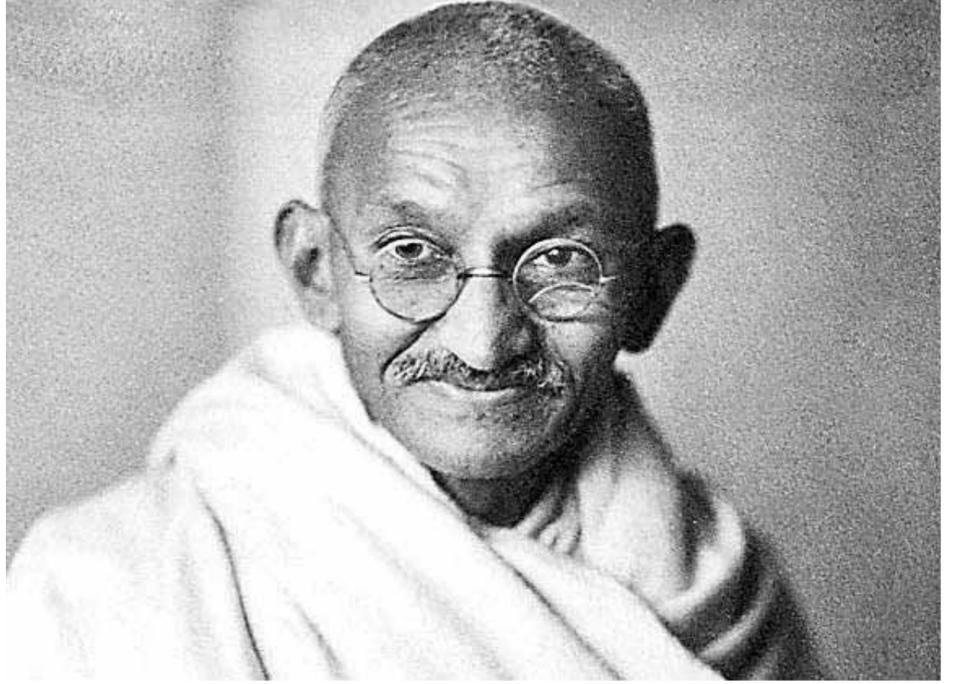
Gandhian philosophy represents a perfect integration of non-violence, non-exploitation of one community by another and respect for all human beings and other species with whom we share the planet earth. His views on these subjects are best explained by the following quotation: "Public opinion alone can keep a society pure and healthy...I claim that human mind or human society is not divided into watertight compartments called social, political and religious. All act and react upon one another...Human society is a ceaseless growth, an unfolding in terms of spirituality...ill-digested principles are, if anything, worse than ill-digested food, for the latter harms the body and there is a cure for it, whereas the former ruins the soul and there is no cure for it...It is the law of love that rules mankind. Had violence, ie, hate, ruled us, we should have become extinct long ago. And yet, the tragedy of it is that the so-called civilised men and nations conduct themselves as if the basis of society was violence."

The holistic nature of Gandhian emphasis on non-violence was expressed eloquently by his emphasis on the need for human beings not exploiting other human beings and the essential need for them, not in any way considering themselves superior to other forms of life. Here again, Gandhi was very direct in two comments that he conveyed.

"A society can be judged by the way it treats its animals."

"It is an arrogant assumption to say that human beings are lords and masters of the lower creatures. On the contrary, being endowed with greater things in life, they are the trustees of the lower animal kingdom."

Most importantly, Gandhi's concept of non-violence extended directly to human society, not in any way inflicting major damage to the ecosystems of this planet and resources, which nature provides us and on which all life survives and endures. Today, the material demands of human society are resulting in extensive damage to the earth's biodiversity, the growing dangers and risks from human-induced climate change and major pollution of the oceans, which will have serious consequences not only for life



under water but also extensively on large areas of land.

There is a section of public opinion today which seems to believe that perhaps nothing can be done to solve some of these problems simply because human society is too far gone to be able to retreat in the direction of reduced demand for goods and services.

There is now mounting evidence from all over the world on the expanding footprint of human society on the earth's ecosystems. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken up the challenge of reducing single-use plastic in this country because we have blindly emulated the developed nations, which are responsible for the mounting waste of various kinds, based on the growing demand for material goods and products.

It is for this reason scientists like Paul J Crutzen have described the current period that we are going through as one of the anthropocene as opposed to the geological age Holocene, which began 11,700 years ago. Gandhi was absolutely right when he said: "The incessant search for material comforts and their multiplication is evil. I make bold to say that the Europeans will have to remodel their outlook if they are not to perish under the weight of the comforts to which they are becoming

slaves."

For almost 50 years, human activities have increasingly exceeded the bio-capacity of ecosystems to absorb the expanding footprint of our activities. There is, therefore, the need for a radical shift by which a rapid and decisive change is brought into the devastating consumerist culture dominating modern society, which would ultimately lead to unacceptable risks in the future and exploitation by some, as was the case with colonialism.

We are already seeing signs of domination by vested interests of countries and communities by the rich and powerful seeking benefits of assured supply of raw materials, energy and rare minerals from other locations, almost in a colonial relationship. There is, therefore, an imperative for human society to move towards Gandhian principles, which, quite apart from shunning violence of one community versus another, proscribe violence used against nature and its attributes, which sustain life for all species on earth.

In actual fact, it is clearly the desire by human beings to expand material wants and the power associated with it which in some form or the other leads to violence all around. It is tragic that in the 21st century, there are still prosperous nations and groups, which are financ-

ing terrorist activities, the worst example of which leaves us with a continuing sense of horror from the events of September 11, 2001.

It appears that the global community, including the United Nations, has been largely ineffective in curbing violence in several regions of the world. The war in Yemen continues to kill innocent human beings, including children. The conflict in Syria, despite the involvement of some big powers, has not led to any movement towards peace, even as ceasefire after ceasefire is violated. In our own neighbourhood, the Taliban continues to attack innocent individuals in Afghanistan, clearly encouraged and funded by the army of another country in our neighbourhood.

Overall, Gandhian beliefs and principles are required to be spread worldwide not only to eliminate conflict within the narrow prism of one community or one nation imposing violence against another but also in respect of our wanton destruction of nature and the ecosystems of this planet. India, as the nation to which Gandhi gave so much, has a deep global responsibility to carry his message to the rest of the world, particularly on his 150th birth anniversary.

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

“IT IS TRAGIC THAT IN THE 21ST CENTURY THERE ARE STILL PROSPEROUS NATIONS AND GROUPS WHICH ARE FINANCING TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, THE WORST EXAMPLE OF WHICH LEAVES US WITH A CONTINUING SENSE OF HORROR FROM THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001”

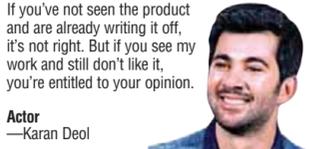
SOUNDBITE

The situation in Kashmir is bad not because of the people of Kashmir but because of all of us politicians and politics.



CPI(M) leader —Mohd Yousuf Tarigami

If you've not seen the product and are already writing it off, it's not right. But if you see my work and still don't like it, you're entitled to your opinion.



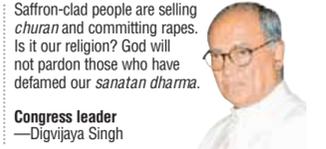
Actor —Karan Deol

There's no need to worry much beyond a point about what people will say on Kashmir. India's position on its internal issues has prevailed and will prevail.



External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar

Saffron-clad people are selling *churan* and committing rapes. Is it our religion? God will not pardon those who have defamed our *sanatan dharma*.



Congress leader —Digvijaya Singh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Respect languages

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Not Hindi *hain hum*" (September 17). Union Home Minister Amit Shah's pitch for Hindi as a national language because it is the "heart and soul of our freedom struggle" should have been best avoided because it is beset with strongly divisive attitudes, especially in the South where the earlier anti-Hindi agitations had disturbed a hornet's nest. By seeking to thrust Hindi down the throat of millions, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would be committing a grave act of indiscretion.

Any imposition would arouse a fresh round of anti-North hatred that the Centre must guard against. Our linguistic chauvinism and respective lingual ethnocentrism will hardly let us accept Hindi as the language of the country.

English has ceased to be a foreign language. Even the British have ceded exclusive rights over the English language. What is certain is that no language — indeed, nothing — can be imposed from the top. In reality, it is not even needed. Even

India will do well to emulate Belgium

This refers to the editorial, "Not Hindi *hain hum*" (September 17). Even before the controversy over the draft National Education Policy (NEP)'s pitch for the implementation of the three-language formula in schools could die down, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has opened a can of worms by advancing the theory of "one nation, one language." Shah's appeal has miffed the Southern States. As it is, India is inhabited by descendants of two distinct streams — ancestral north Indians and ancestral south Indians — who, in the modern context, have varied cultures and speak different languages. One is yet to hear of a cogent and convincing assertion about any additional element in Hindi that is not seen in other languages in the Schedule-VIII of the Constitution of India. This distinguishes it as a catalyst of growth and a unifying factor.

That the number of people speaking Hindi is more is certainly not the essential criterion for it to be anointed as the national language. Therefore, excessive activism to establish the paramountcy of Hindi is destined to backfire with unpredictable consequences unfolding. Bernard Shaw's humorous comment, "England and America are two countries separated by



the same language", is a reaffirmation of the fallacy about unity without affection. Belgium, a country of just 11 million people with three distinct regions, Flemish, Walloon and Brussels Capital, has three official languages — Dutch, French and German — but the country itself is neither bilingual nor multi-lingual. India could well be in the league of Belgium for good.

Haridasan Rajan Kozhikode

Saudi crisis

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "War clouds" (September 17). West Asia is yet again in the grip of hysteria with rebels in Yemen attacking Saudi oil infra-

structure. The development has sent alarm bells for a possible war on Iran by the US because the latter believes that the drone strike was carried out by the rebels with support from Iran. It is an open secret that Houthi rebels

are being fed by Iran for long. Yemen is Saudi Arabia's neighbouring country and has been ravaged by civil war for long.

Houthi rebels have been battling against the Yemen regime backed by Saudi Arabia and the US. So the attack on the Saudi oil facilities is only a natural extension of Houthi rebels' vendetta against Saudi Arabia.

Iran has always cocked a snook at the US. Now Iran's elite revolutionary guard force has said that it is prepared for a "full-scale war" and that their missiles could hit bases in the US and ships within a range of 2,000 km. Anything may happen anytime. This could be disastrous for the entire world.

The drone attack on the Saudi oil facilities made the authorities in Saudi Arabia slash the oil production by half and consequently, oil prices have been gone up. For India, the fall-out will be unbearable as a spike in oil prices will upset the common man's budget.

TK Nandanam Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Time to up the game

India is losing to China in the fight to woo Myanmar, the latest geo-economic battleground, says **Rupesh Dutta**

In the last five years, India has achieved notable success in strengthening relations with its immediate neighbours, Sri Lanka and Nepal. However, the other major economy in the region, China, is determined to emerge as the winner in the ongoing geo-economic clash with India and Myanmar has become the latest battleground. China has overtaken India in terms of pumping in money and finalising massive infrastructure projects in the tiny country's economy. This comes despite India's all-out efforts to boost its Act East Policy. Myanmar, whose political transition to a free democratic system is less than four years old, is in dire need of foreign investment to shun the tag of an "underdeveloped economy." While India has been sluggish in its approach to invest in Myanmar, China has grabbed the opportunity by wooing Aung San Suu Kyi, the Buddhist nation's State Counsellor, a position akin to a prime minister, with lucrative trade offers. Myanmar, has swallowed the Chinese investment bait hook, line and sinker.

According to Myanmar's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, between 1988 and 2011, India invested a paltry \$763.567 million as compared to China's whopping \$20,566 million. In 2014-15, Indian investment was \$208.886 million against China's \$511.415 million and in 2015-16 it was \$224.223 million against Beijing's \$3,324 million. In 2016-2017, New Delhi invested nothing and China pumped in \$482.591 million.

Similarly, India invested \$10.993 million against China's \$1,396.219 million in 2017-18, followed by New Delhi's \$19.925 million against Beijing's \$304.732 million in 2018-19. Year after year, Chinese investments were more than 200 per cent of that by India which even restricted its funding during the power transition from the 'Tatmadaw' (armed forces) to a democratic set up in 2015.

Significantly, the Beijing-led Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is considering providing \$20 million to Myanmar for the development, construction and operation of a Greenfield 225 MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant in Mandalay. It will be the largest gas-fired Independent Power Producer (IPP) in Myanmar, producing much-needed clean energy to meet the power deficit.

Furthermore, a master plan for a Chinese-backed, model economic zone along the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) has been prepared and the Suu Kyi Government is engaged in discussions for its implementation. The Myitkyina Economic Development Zone (MEDZ) is also in the pipeline and a pact was signed between Myanmar and the Chinese Yunnan Tengchong Heng Yong Investment Company for its implementation. The MEDZ is likely to come up in approximately 4,700 acres of land along the historic Ledo Road, built during the World War II and used by the Allies to deliver supplies to China which was fighting the Japanese forces. It was an overland connection between Ledo, in Assam and Kunming in China's Yunnan Province. The MEDZ expected to cost over \$400 million, will include nearly 500 factories and 5,000 buildings.

On the other hand, India has fallen short in its plans for Myanmar's infrastructural development. New Delhi must realise that its inability to engage with Naypyitaw will spell doom for its Act East Policy as Myanmar is the bridge linking India with South-East Asia. Sadly, most projects have remained on paper and others are likely to miss deadlines. For instance, New Delhi had funded and implemented a project to develop the deepwater Sitwe Port in Rakhine State to handle 20,000-tonne vessels by dredging the River Kaladan from Sitwe to Paletwa (a 158-km long stretch) to improve its navigability. It also involved building an inland terminal at Paletwa and constructing a 129-km-long highway linking Paletwa to the Indian border. However, the project is running behind schedule and has faced various hurdles.

Similarly, the Narendra Modi Government had cleared a ₹6,167 crore upgrade of a 352-km National Highway in Mizoram to improve connectivity to Myanmar. However, the project has been in a limbo for the last couple of years despite the contracts being awarded.

Moreover, Beijing supported the Myanmar Government during the ethnic crisis in its Rakhine province, saying it understands the country's "security concern" even when the rest of the world termed the clashes as ethnic cleansing and has since called for the repatriation of Rohingyas.

This was the opposite of what the Modi Government did, as it not only remained neutral but also constructed 250 pre-fabricated houses in Myanmar, indicating its tacit support for the repatriation of the Rohingyas to Myanmar. India's relations with Myanmar in the last couple of years have improved significantly and the cooperation between the two governments has increased, especially when it comes to sharing intelligence.

This in particular, is a boon for India, given the fact that the majority of armed extremist groups from its northeastern states have their camps on the Myanmar side of the border. India should be fully aware that to crush such forces, it will need the support of the Myanmar Government.

The Modi Government must consolidate its image as a caring neighbour who does not believe in economic adventurism like China. It must also make larger investments in Myanmar not only to check Beijing's rising regional dominance but also not to lose an immediate neighbour which has a buffer status vis-à-vis China.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

INSTEAD OF FIGHTING ITS OPPOSING PARTIES, THE CONGRESS IS HURTING PARTIES WHO SUPPORT IT. THIS IS A BETRAYAL OF THE BSP MOVEMENT. —BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY SUPREMO MAYAWATI



MLAS CONSIDERED THE SITUATION AND FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE AND THAT IS WHY THEY JOINED US. WE DID NOT PUT ANY PRESSURE ON THEM. —RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT

The need of the hour

To mitigate environmental risks, we have to make costly adaptations. Nations need funds for this, making climate finance a vital resource



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Every nation and individual is exposed to the risks of climate change and we have to make several adaptations to mitigate them. These largescale measures are costly. So nations need funds to implement them, making climate finance a vital necessity. Such a resource pool seeks to raise local, national or trans-national funds drawn from public, private and alternative sources. Recognising that it may be out of scope and capacity of several countries to initiate climate change measures, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement call for financial help from parties with more resources to those that are less endowed and vulnerable.

In accordance with the principle of "common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities" set out in the convention, developed countries are to provide financial resources to assist developing nations in implementing the objectives of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). The pact reaffirms the obligations of developed countries while encouraging voluntary contributions by parties.

Developed country parties should also continue to take the lead in mobilising climate finance from various sources, instruments and channels, through a variety of actions, including supporting country-driven strategies and taking into account the needs and priorities of developing country parties. Such mobilisation of climate finance should represent a progression beyond previous efforts. Overall, efforts under the Paris Agreement are guided by its aim of making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

Setting up of funds: A financial mechanism, which also serves the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, was set up to provide financial resources to developing countries by entrusting one or more existing international entities. Since the Convention came into existence in 1994, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has served as an operating entity of the financial mechanism. At the Conference of Parties (COP) 16, in 2010, parties established the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and in 2011 also designated it as an operating entity of the financial mechanism.

This module is accountable to the COP, which decides on its policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for funding. In addition, three more special funds have been established — the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), both managed by the GEF; and the Adaptation Fund (AF) established under the Kyoto Protocol in 2001. At the Paris Climate Change Conference in 2015, it was agreed that the operating entities of GCF, GEF, SCCF and the LDCF shall serve the Paris Agreement.

A Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) was established at COP 16 to assist it in exercising its functions in relation to the financial mechanism of the Convention. Currently, the SCF has four specific functions: assisting the COP in improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing; assisting it in rationalisation of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC; supporting it in the mobilisation of resources for climate financing; and supporting it in reporting and verification of support provided to developing country parties.

“ TO REALISE THE POTENTIAL FOR GREATER AND MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, GIVEN THE DIVERSE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACTORS ENGAGED IN CLIMATE FINANCE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THERE ARE LESSONS TO BE LEARNT BY INDIA ON HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FINANCE ARCHITECTURE AND THE EMERGING GCF IN PARTICULAR ”



The committee is also tasked with organising an annual forum on climate finance, provide the COP with draft guidance for operating entities, provide expert inputs during periodic reviews of the mechanism and prepare a biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows. Furthermore, the SCF is designed to improve linkages and promote coordination with climate finance related actors and initiatives both within and outside the Convention. At the Paris Conference in 2015, it was decided that the SCF shall also serve the Paris Agreement.

In addition, the long-term finance process is aimed at progressing on the mobilisation and scaling up of climate finance of resources originating from a wide variety of sources. The COP decided on the following activities until 2020: organisation by the secretariat of annual in-session workshops; developed countries providing, on a biennial basis, information on strategies and approaches for scaling up climate finance and convening of biennial high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance. Through the Cancun Agreements in 2010, developed countries committed, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation, to a goal of mobilising jointly \$100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries.

When adopting the Paris Agreement, parties confirmed this goal, called for a concrete roadmap to achieve the goal by 2020 and agreed that prior to 2025, the COP shall set a new collective quantified goal of over \$100 billion per year.

India's position on climate finance: Since India is quite susceptible to the impacts of climate change, it is a huge challenge for us. Given its unique and distinct topography, variations in climate remain a steady feature and any changes

in climate are likely to worsen the existing pressure on various sectors. With a growing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission profile, India is currently the third-largest discharger of GHGs globally, after China and the USA. However, according to a 2014 World Bank report, India's per capita GHG emanations remain extremely low at 1.7 metric tonnes (MT) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per capita, as compared to China at 6.2 MT and USA at 17.6 MT.

Moreover, according to the Press Information Bureau 2009(b) report on emissions, it has been estimated that even by 2031, India's per capita GHG emissions (likely to remain 4 MT of CO₂ per capita) will continue to be lower than the global per capita GHG emissions in 2005 (4.22 MT of CO₂ per capita).

Climate finance entered the dictionary of the official establishment with the release of the Economic Survey 2011-12, which contained for the first time a chapter on *Sustainable Development and Climate Change* and a dedicated section on *Climate Change Finance* and provided an overview of various domestic and international sources of finance, as well as private finance sources. An estimated ₹230,000 crore was provided as the amount needed to fulfil the mission objectives under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in the subsequent Economic Survey of 2012-13.

The Government responded by setting up the Climate Change Finance Unit (CCFU) in September 2011. In spite of the creation of the CCFU, there is no formal coordination mechanism around climate finance. As a result multiple processes for financing thrive within the country including the Centre, States, private sector and civil society actors, all playing significant roles in low emission and climate-resilient development.

Due to the well-defined national climate policy, climate-related finance is

available through a variety of domestic, international, public and private sources. Domestic resources in India can be broadly divided into public climate finance and private climate finance. Public finance comprises budgetary support, taxes, subsidies and other market mechanisms. Private finance usually comprises clean development mechanism finance, debt instruments, equity finance and partial risk guarantee facilities. To realise the potential for greater and more effective action on climate change, given the diverse public and private actors engaged in climate finance at the national level, there are lessons to be learnt by India on how to engage with the international climate finance architecture, and the emerging GCF in particular. India can develop a long-term, coherent strategy around climate finance, by interfacing ongoing efforts on mitigation and adaptation with the emerging financial arrangements.

It would also be worthwhile to think of ways in which India could develop new, transformative ideas with a high mitigation or adaptation potential and use GCF financing to unlock a range of domestic financing and implementation capacity around such efforts. India needs to debate on the "readiness" for climate finance.

It has to identify and link existing pipelines of projects to the financial channels that have emerged, both domestically and through international flows. It has to create a new pipeline of domestically-owned projects that could seek international finance for their transformative potential.

To achieve this, several Government departments will need to work closely together not just on climate policy issues but also on operational questions around how to prioritise action.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

Will Modi bite the UCC bullet?

'One nation, one law' is a necessity and the sooner the Uniform Civil Code comes, the better, though it is a sensitive issue and should be handled delicately by having more public debates and discussions



KALYANI SHANKAR

Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi go for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), particularly after being prompted by the Supreme Court (SC) last week?

Right now several of the religious communities in India follow their own personal laws. Under the UCC, all personal religious laws in the country, including marriage, divorce, property rights, inheritance and maintenance will be brought under a secular umbrella in a unified way.

The apex court battled for the UCC, pointing out that the founding fathers who framed the Constitution had hoped that the

State would bring in such a code. Justice Deepak Gupta said, "Though Hindu laws were codified in the year 1956, there has been no attempt to frame a Uniform Civil Code applicable to all citizens of the country despite exhortations. A belief seems to have gained ground that it is for the Muslim community to take a lead in the matter of reforms of their personal law. No community is likely to bell the cat by making gratuitous concessions on this issue. It is the State which is charged with the duty of securing a Uniform Civil Code for the citizens of the country and, unquestionably, it has the legislative competence to do so."

Citing the case of Goa, where a UCC is applicable to all, regardless of religion, except while protecting certain limited rights, the court asked why the Centre has not brought an UCC as yet.

The SC's observation has strengthened the Modi Government's resolve to bring the UCC, which is part of the core agen-

da of the Sangh Parivar. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has also managed to nuance its narrative by adding the issue of gender equality.

The BJP's argument is that though Hindu laws were codified in 1956, there is no law applicable to all citizens of the country even after seven decades of Independence.

India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, while defending the introduction of the Hindu Code Bill in Parliament in 1954, said, "I do not think that at the present moment the time is ripe in India for me to try to push it through." Today Modi has the mandate and the ability as well as willingness to bring the UCC for the benefit of the country.

Taking advantage of the weak and divided Opposition, the Prime Minister has already pushed through two controversial Bills in Parliament, the Triple Talaq and the abrogation of Article 370, in his second term despite not having a majority in the Rajya Sabha. The

Ram temple issue is in court. Though the Law Commission in its report last year said that the UCC is "neither necessary nor desirable at this stage", the party promised to bring the UCC in its 2019 manifesto. However, the immediate priority of the Government is to deal with the economic situation and Kashmir. There is trouble in the Northeast on the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Then there are elections to three State Assemblies, Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand soon. Therefore, the work on the UCC could be taken up after that.

Supporters of the UCC argue that it is long overdue. The issue was discussed during the Constituent Assembly debates where BR Ambedkar was batting for it, but many Constituent Assembly members shot it down. Thus it was added to Part IV of the Constitution as one of the Directive Principles of State policy.

Second, Modi's vision of a New India is also a young India with 65

per cent of the population under the age of 25 years. These young people are influenced by global views and would appreciate the UCC. Third, it would promote national integration as it would provide one law for all citizens. Fourth, it would provide gender justice.

The opponents point out that the Muslims perceive the UCC as an encroachment on their religious freedom, even though some of the Islamic countries have adopted a common law for all. They also note that there is no consensus on the issue.

However, today, the issue is more political than legal and each time the subject comes up, there is a heated debate from both its supporters and opponents. As for political parties, there is no consensus and most of them use it for vote bank politics.

The Congress wants a political consensus while the Samajwadi Party has accused the BJP of doing it for Muslim votes. On the other hand, the BJP's ally, the Janata Dal-

United (JD-U), has diplomatically asked for consultation with all stakeholders. The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) wants reforms across all religions and the Nationalist Congress Party wants discussions on a broader spectrum. While the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) is opposed to it, the Shiv Sena supports it. So where is the consensus?

However, there is merit in having one law for all. One can understand the stand of the Muslims but the Congress and other political parties should not play politics in bringing uniformity in laws. In the 80s, even the late Rajiv Gandhi had explored the possibility of introducing a voluntary civil code.

"One nation, one law" is a necessity and the sooner the UCC comes, the better, though it is a sensitive issue and should be handled delicately by having more public debates and discussions to bring about a consensus.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

FOREIGN EYE



CALIFORNIA HAS SEEN THE LIGHT

California is one of the few economies large enough to set the rules in a globalised world. It was also the birthplace of the gig economy, and the use of webs of casual labour tied together by algorithms to subvert labour laws and other regulations in all sorts of fields, ranging from taxi firms to B&Bs. So it's an important development that the state's senate has now turned decisively against the exploitation of casual workers.

(The Guardian editorial)

CAPSULE



ADB President Takehiko Nakao resigns

NEW DELHI: Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday said its President Takehiko Nakao has announced his resignation which will be effective from January 16 next year. He became the President of ADB on April 28, 2013. The new president will be elected in accordance with an open, transparent and merit-based procedure, ADB said in a statement. "I am announcing my resignation with a deep sense of satisfaction and gratitude. With support from staff, Board members, and member governments, we have achieved many things," Takehiko said in his remarks to the staff and board of members of ADB. ADB, enlisting the achievements of the current President, said he expanded the operations of the funding agency from USD 14 billion in 2013 to USD 22 billion in 2018 while incorporating more advanced technologies into projects.



Tata Motors partners location tech provider

NEW DELHI: Tata Motors on Tuesday said it has tied up with location technology provider what3words for navigation services in its cars. The partnership will enable drivers to enter a three-word address by voice or text input and then navigate to that address. The technology provider has taken the entire world, divided it into 3mx3m squares, and assigned each square a unique identifier - made of three random words. The what3words system is available in 36 languages, including Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu and Marathi.

MMTC, STC AND PEC

All options open : Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday that all options are open with the ministry for closure or merger of three public sector undertakings - MMTC, STC and PEC.

When asked whether the government is considering to shut or merge these units, Goyal said: "All options are open".

He said gradually the purpose of these companies is getting eroded and they are no more canalising agencies.

"It is not the government's business to be in the business," he told reporters here at the sidelines of a CII function.

He said there is no meaning for such a big infrastructure (MMTC) to carry out gold imports.

"We have started discussions. One by one we will do," he added.

STC and PEC are debt-ridden firms.

According to STC's annual report for 2018-19, the company is facing "severe liquidity crisis" as all the lender banks have reported STC's



When asked whether the government is considering to shut or merge these units, Goyal said: "All options are open"

account as NPA due to non-payment of interest on the banking limits availed by the company".

Therefore, at present, the

company has no banking limits, funded or non-funded, available with it.

The company has reported a net loss (after tax) of Rs 881

crore during 2018-19 as compared to net profit (after tax) of about Rs 38 crore in 2017-18.

The net loss reported in 2018-19 was mainly due to write-offs amounting to about Rs 626 crore made in the books of accounts.

STC was set up in 1956 as a trading arm of the government to undertake trade with east European countries.

PEC was incorporated as a subsidiary of STC in 1971 to handle canalised business of export of railway and engineering equipment. It became an independent firm in 1997.

MMTC was created in 1963 as an independent entity on separation from STC primarily to deal in exports of minerals and ores and imports of non-ferrous metals.

All three companies are under the administrative control of the commerce ministry.

When asked about India, US trade talks, he said both countries are in continuous dialogue on trade related issues.

"If things get resolved, we will announce something," he added.

India more vulnerable to big oil price moves

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Given weak consumer demand, higher oil prices can result in stagflation in an emerging economy like India, which imports more than 70 per cent of its oil needs, says a report.

In economic parlance, stagflation means a situation in a country's economy when inflation is persistently high, demand is stagnant and unemployment rates are high.

According to the Japanese financial services major Nomura, when the rise in oil prices is driven more by supply-side factors - as is the case currently - it tends to be more damaging to large net oil importers.

This is because, "in the absence of a strong pick up in exports, higher import cost of oil could sharply worsen current account positions, compress profit margins and, to the extent that firms pass on higher production costs, raise consumer price index (CPI) inflation," it said.

Crude oil benchmark, Brent futures, surged by almost 20 per cent to USD 71.95 per barrel (intra-day) on Monday



The drone attacks on Saturday targeted Abqaiq, the site of the largest oil processing plant run by the Saudi state oil company, Aramco, and the Khurais oilfield

after twin drone attacks on Saturday wiped out more than half of Saudi Arabia's crude supply. It was also the biggest gain in Brent in dollar terms since futures started trading in 1988.

The drone attacks on Saturday targeted Abqaiq, the site of the largest oil process-

ing plant run by the Saudi state oil company, Aramco, and the Khurais oilfield.

As per the report, for a country like India, higher oil prices are equivalent to a negative terms-of-trade shock that weakens growth, pushes up inflation and deteriorates the twin deficits.

'We need to follow global standards of governance'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian corporates need to hold themselves accountable to global standards of governance if India wishes to re-shape the global economic order, Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said on Tuesday.

Speaking at an event here, Birla said that with changing times the core business philosophy is rapidly moving away from shareholder capitalism to stakeholder capitalism which includes investors, customers, employees and value chain partners.

"For India to reshape the global economic order, Indian companies will have to hold themselves accountable to global standards of governance. I believe this cannot happen by running roughshod over minority shareholders," Birla said.

Issues such as professional CEOs acting as promoters and founders wielding undue and disproportionate clout also need to change, he added.

Birla said that increasingly all the stakeholders are demanding a higher value, order, accountability and additionally the businesses will have to earn their license to operate in the society as a whole.

"As ease of doing business improves, the way of doing business needs to change... If we want to make our mark in the world we have to be prepared for the world to leave its mark on us," he noted.

Birla said there were various sectors in India which had the potential to grow into billion dollar business over a period of time.

"There is one severely under-exploited sector and that is tourism. Only 11 million for-

eign tourists come to India annually. This is roughly the same as Bali and possibly close to half of what Barcelona gets," he said.

If Stonehenge in UK can get close to million tourists in a year, the historic world heritage sites of Hampi and Gaya and Ajanta Caves have potential to get ten times more, he added. "Tourism alone, I believe can be a USD 100 billion industry. Same is the story with various sectors in India. The country for example can be centre for development of healthcare solutions, in the digital domain India can generate trillions of data points due to its sheer size and hence it could posi-

tion itself as a hub for data analytics industry globally," Birla said.

So from tourism to health care to data sciences, the sheer scale of Indian economy will ensure that India's imprint is felt on the world, he added.

"It will be a two-way engagement with the world, global companies will seek to harvest India's growing and robust consumption market which is slated to cross USD 6 trillion in the next

ten years," Birla noted.

Commenting on global trade, Birla said that globalisation is here to stay.

"The current climate of protectionism and trade friction will make you believe that globalisation is under retreat. I don't believe so, I believe it is a process and trend that is irreversible," he added.

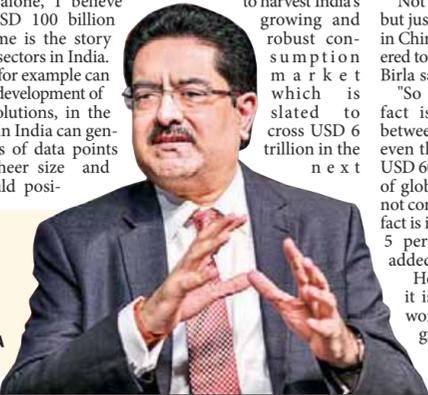
Not many would be aware but just two weeks ago a made in China cruise liner was delivered to an American company," Birla said.

"So despite the chatter, the fact is that bilateral trade between the US and China even this year will be close to USD 600 billion. So the wheels of globalisation are definitely not coming off. Global trade in fact is increasing at a pace of 3-5 per cent every year," he added.

However, at the same time it is very evident that the world is now witnessing growing nationalistic sentiment as well, Birla said.

As ease of doing business improves, the way of doing business needs to change... If we want to make our mark in the world we have to be prepared for the world to leave its mark on us

—KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA
Aditya Birla Group Chairman



No slowdown in automobile sector, claims traders body CAIT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traders body CAIT on Tuesday said there is no slowdown in the domestic automobile sector and the industry is making hue and cry only to get a package from the government.

The auto industry has been attributing the sales downturn to several factors like high GST (Goods and Services Tax) rates, farm distress, stagnant wages and liquidity constraints.

"There is no slowdown in the domestic automobile sector. They are saying this to get a package from the government," Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal told reporters here.



Citing an example of new vehicle launches, he said companies have received huge number of bookings, which do not reflect any slowdown in the sector.

Talking about recent festival sales announced by global e-commerce firms like Amazon and Flipkart, Khandelwal

demanding immediate action from the government to ban these mega sales.

He claimed that such firms are violating foreign direct investment (FDI) norms in the e-commerce sector.

"If the government does not take action, we will approach the court," he said.

L&T Finance Holdings to raise Rs 150 cr by issuing bonds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

L&T Finance Holdings on Tuesday said the company will raise up to Rs 150 crore by issuing bonds on a private placement basis.

The committee of directors of the company on September 17 approved the offer and issuance of up to 150,00,000 cumulative compulsorily redeemable non-convertible preference shares (CRPS) to amount of up to Rs 150 crore on a private placement basis, L&T Finance Holdings said in a regulatory filing.

The bonds carry a coupon rate of 7.95 per cent per annum payable annually, it said.

The date of allotment of the bonds is September 20, 2019. Redemption of the bonds is set for January 20, 2023.

ONGC fined Rs 2.05 cr for green norm violation in Assam

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The Pollution Control Board, Assam has slapped a fine of Rs 2.05 crore on PSU firm Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for allegedly violating an order by the Supreme Court and causing pollution to the environment.

The board's order was issued considering violation of environmental laws in six wells of the state-owned energy behemoth in Assam.

"Pollution Control Board, Assam, is constrained to inform you that you have nonchalantly violated the provisions of law in force causing pollution to the environment."

"Environmental compensation fine amounting to Rs 2,04,90,000 only has been assessed as per formula provided by the National Green

Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench," said the order dated September 5, 2019.

ONGC has been asked to deposit the money within one month of issuance of the order.

When contacted, ONGC officials declined to make comments immediately.

Before taking the action, the Pollution Control Board, Assam (PCBA) had issued a show cause notice to the company on June 28 this year and ONGC replied to it on July 18.

"Your reply to the show cause notice is not based on the facts and findings of the inspection carried out during July 2 to July 8, 2019 by engineers and scientists deputed from Head Office cum Central Laboratory of this board," the order said.

It also said that the drilling operation of the six well units were "either completed or in



operation without installing any primary effluent treatment plant" (PETP) at the sites.

"During inspection by the officials of the board's Regional Laboratory cum Office, at Sivasagar, it has been observed

that there is seepage/leakage in the waste pits of the wells. Waste pits were full of effluent and without having any treatment facility," PCBA said.

It also mentioned that the Supreme Court, in its judgment

Pollution Control Board, Assam, is constrained to inform you that you have nonchalantly violated the provisions of law in force causing pollution to the environment

passed on February 22, 2017, had directed all the effluent discharging units to install PETP within three months, which was by May 22, 2017.

"Thereby you have violated the aforementioned order of the Supreme Court of India pertaining to installation of primary effluent treatment plant," the board told ONGC.

As per the "analysis report" of samples collected during the inspection by the officials, it was found that parameters such as "oil and grease and total suspended solids" are beyond

the permissible limits in all cases, which indicate "your failure in pollution control measures", the order said.

Though the penalty was for six wells, but the board informed ONGC that the Regional Laboratory cum Office had reported there was no mobile ETP for treatment of the effluent of the waste pits in eight wells.

"You are directed to take necessary measures for proper treatment of the effluent and arrange for reclamation of the completed drill sites," it added.

Ramkumar Ramamoorthy named Cognizant India CMD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

US-based IT major Cognizant on Tuesday said it has elevated Ramkumar Ramamoorthy as Chairman and Managing Director of its India operations.

Ramamoorthy, who has worked with the company for over two decades, will report directly to Cognizant's Executive Committee.

In an email to employees, Cognizant CEO Brian Humphries said Ramamoorthy had played a leading role in developing many of the company's India-based portfolios.

These include areas like marketing and communications, market research and intelligence, public affairs, and knowledge management, he said.

Ramamoorthy - as the Executive Director at Cognizant India - had also spearheaded work for Cognizant Foundation and Cognizant Outreach.

Before joining Cognizant, he has worked with Tata Consultancy Services. Prior to that, he was a lecturer at two premier colleges in India and went on to officiate as the Principal at one of them.

"Terminating its India operations as a 'jewel' and 'prized asset', Humphries said the country is a hub of its global delivery, solutioning, and innovation. "We are fortunate to have many talented and engaged colleagues in India, more than 2,00,000 in all, who excel at serving our clients," he noted.

At the end of June 2019 quarter, the company had said its global headcount stood at about 288,200 people.

Ramamoorthy said India has played a key role in Cognizant's growth story from USD 2 million to USD 16 billion in revenue

ahead, Ramamoorthy will set up a management committee and an operating committee for India.

"These committees will help us further strengthen our operations in the country, proactively advance our agenda as we engage with the media and government, drive greater diversity and inclusion throughout our organisation... and work to accelerate Cognizant's topline growth," he added.

Ramamoorthy said India has played a key role in Cognizant's growth story from USD 2 million to USD 16 billion in revenue.

"It is both a privilege and an honour to lead Cognizant's India operations to our next level of growth and innovation, driven by the digital opportunity," he said.

"We are fortunate to have many talented and engaged colleagues in India, more than 2,00,000 in all, who excel at serving our clients," he noted.

At the end of June 2019 quarter, the company had said its global headcount stood at about 288,200 people. Humphries said in the weeks



Bamboo handiworks take a lot of hardwork to complete. Bamboo artisans are a small, tightly-knit community of labourers who are forced to live in dingy bylanes of metropolises. The margin they earn from selling the products after putting their blood and sweat into them is meagre. Though the government claims to be giving them bamboo at subsidised rates, there is more to it than meets the eye. Read on to find out how these artisans eke out a living, their grouse with the government and much more

WEAVING THEIR DESTINY ONE BASKET AT A TIME



K RAMYA SREE & SEELAM AROZIE
 ■ HYDERABAD/VIJAYAWADA

Leonardo Da Vinci, once said 'Art is never neglected, it's abandoned.' That resonates now like never before

regarding the condition of Hyderabad's bamboo artisans. Bamboo workers live a neglected life and are a community of migrants. In most households, women are the main breadwinners. The skills are passed down generations with children aged under three also working. With no exposure to the market, they live a life devoid of sanitation and hygiene, lack clean drinking water and food. Earning a meagre Rs 1,200 to Rs 3,000 a month is not even enough for them to put food on the plate, let alone buy a house and send their kids to school. To add to it all, stinking lanes and congested houses make matters worse for them.

Seasons do little to dampen their spirit though. Rain or shine, bamboo workers go about their profession in the corner of the street. They make bamboo mats for your windows and balconies to help you stay cool in summer, but they don't keep one for themselves as most of them don't have homes. Sitting right beside the drain amidst the stink at Nampally exhibition grounds is something they have to live with every day. Sarita, a bamboo artisan at

Nampally, said, "The profits made by weaving baskets, mats and other items is not even enough to even feed our children. The lack of literacy among the community and less exposure to the market, only makes things worse for us."

"As we don't make enough money to take care of our monthly expenses, even our children, who are supposed to be in school, end up helping us in earning our daily bread," she added.

"While people with good exposure to the market earn well by selling their products to big firms, we are neglected, as neither the government nor people help us. Since we are not trained in any other work we try to make ends meet with whatever we earn. We request the people not to bargain as we don't even gain Rs 10 from the item. But there are times when we have to sell the product at the manufacturing price as we don't want to ruin our work," said another artisan in Nampally.

The situation is no different in Vijayawada, where about 280 Medara families live in Girpuram, Kothapeta, Payakapuram, Kandrika, Rajarajeswaripeta, Ranigarithota, Ajit Singh Nagar, Chuttugunta and other surrounding in Vijayawada.

Thirty-nine-year-old Pilli Yesebu, who starts his day by



peeling off a bamboo near Railway Officers' Quarters compound wall on the Gopalareddy Road, told this correspondent that he was born at that very place and that his parents too worked there. Asked if he was happy with his profession, he replied in the negative saying that bamboo is pricey and the income is not sufficient. Echoing his words, Grandhi Satti Pandu and his wife Lakshmi said they have been living in a rented house, paying Rs 5,000 as rent each month. "This is too much for us to bear. Bamboo prices are going through the roof, making our lives difficult. How can we meet our daily expenses and provide for education of our children with our meagre earnings?" asked Satti Pandu.

The couple said they had been sanctioned a house under the NTR Housing Scheme during the previous TDP government and had even paid Rs 1,00,000 towards

it. But, the house is yet to be handed over to them. "Though it has three months since the new government has formed, we are yet to take possession of our home," said Satti Pandu's wife, Grandhi Lakshmi

Rokka Lakshmi, a basket weaver, who sits close by said she was also expecting the government to sanction a house to her so that she can spend the amount saved on rent for other day-to-day expenses. Though the government provides subsidy to bamboo workers, it is alleged that the forest department supplies low-quality material to them.

Grandhi Nageswara Rao, President of the Kanaka Durga Cane and Bamboo Workers' Cooperative Society said that the forest department auctions three categories of bamboo — special, first grade and second grade. He alleged that in each of these categories the best variety is set aside for private dealers and the low-quality bamboo

is auctioned to the societies (there are six such societies in the city) at subsidised rates. Therefore, the societies are forced to purchase quality bamboo from private dealers. The subsidised bamboos are priced at Rs 38, Rs 27 and Rs 16 apiece. This apart, the societies have to pay GST and VAT, he said alleging that the bamboos auctioned at subsidised rates are not worth using. Mr Rao added that when the societies complained against the forest department the commissioner of industries promised to look into the matter.

Another blow for these workers is that there is no common stock point for lifting of bamboos. This forces them to park their vehicles and unload their products on the road, thereby incurring the wrath of officials and the police, Mr Rao demands a site be allotted to these societies for setting up a common stock point from where bamboo can be lifted in a hassle-free manner.



Pilli Yesebu



Rokka Lakshmi

RAIN OR SHINE, BAMBOO WORKERS GO ABOUT THEIR PROFESSION IN THE CORNER OF THE STREET. THEY MAKE BAMBOO MATS FOR YOUR WINDOWS AND BALCONIES TO HELP YOU STAY COOL IN SUMMER, BUT THEY DON'T KEEP ONE FOR THEMSELVES AS MOST OF THEM DON'T HAVE HOMES. SITTING RIGHT BESIDE THE DRAIN AMIDST THE STINK AT NAMPALLY EXHIBITION GROUNDS IS SOMETHING THEY HAVE TO LIVE WITH EVERY DAY.

SPEAKING DESIGN:

When art meets marriage

The wedding season is near and the big fat Indian wedding is famous worldwide for being grand. Many couples turn to wedding planners to showcase their best for their special day. Wedding planners met in the city to discuss the art and business side of great marriages



FILMMAKER S.S. RAJAMOULI RECENTLY WENT TO JAIPUR FOR HIS SON'S WEDDING. THIS RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER THERE ARE ANY GOOD DESTINATIONS FOR LUXURY WEDDINGS IN THE SOUTH.

The Hyderabad Edition of Intercontinental World of Wedding organised by Inter Continental, Chennai, was held in the city on Saturday at Ashiana Convention on Road No 1, Banjara Hills. The event was moderated by D. Ramchandram from Solus media featured two unique engagements. The first event was about bringing wedding professionals on a single platform and the second one was a panel discussion on 'Affordable Luxury Destination Weddings in the South'. The

panelists included: Rakhi Kankariya, wedding planner and academy head who offers wedding management as a curriculum; Farah, a wedding and event planner; Mintu Sarna, a wedding curator and Anand G. Nair, general manager, Inter Continental Chennai Mahabalipuram resort. Filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli recently went to Jaipur for his son Karthikeya's wedding to Pooja Prasad. This raised questions about whether there are any good destinations for luxury weddings in the South. The panelists felt that the South is home to good and afford-

able luxury wedding destinations like Mahabalipuram, Ramoji Film City and Falaknuma Palace among others. South India is emerging as a one-stop destination that offers both luxury and affordable venues. What is lacking however is marketing, branding and public relations. India is a young nation and about 60 per cent of its population or is under 35-years-old. Nearly 18 crore people of the 30 crore youngsters in the South, dream of a destination wedding, they observed. The event was held with an aim

to prove that destination weddings can be affordable too. The second event was a master class on bridal styling for a limited group of brides-to-be and the class included everything from tips on choosing the right kind of lehengas or saari, to make-up tips and tricks for the best overall look.

PARTY



● Anand and Sheetal



● Sushila and Milap Bokadia



● Prasad and Saritha

CITY GUIDE

» **COMEDY**

FUNNY BUZZNESS

● Funny Buzzness is a well known comedy gig series by Buzz Kya Entertainment and has been instrumental in bringing up artists like — Amit Tandon, Sorabh Pant, Sumukhi Suresh and Naveen Richards. October 20 at 6 pm HICC.



» **THEATRE**

GOOD ANSWER BY MARK

● Good Answer depicts one very unpleasant morning in the life of Michael Kaminski, a mathematics professor at a small Iowa college who is currently serving as its acting president. He would like to get the word "Acting" removed from his job title. September 21 at 7.30 pm at Phoenix Arena



INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

● The fifth edition of the Indian Photography Festival will be held from September 19 to October 20 at various locations in Hyderabad. IPF is an international photography festival which showcases various events, including talks, discussions and more.



EK DURACHARI RAJA

● All of us believe that our present may be bad but our future will be good. The Hindi play Ek Durachari Raja (the story of a despot) adapted from Albert Camus' 'Caligula' remains universally relevant. It represents the face of despotism, not only in terms of the whimsical madness and deification of rulers but also in terms of how people react to such rule with glimmer of hope for the future. September 22, 7.30 pm, Lamakaan



» **ART AND CULTURE**

VENTRILOQUISM

● Ventriloquism is an art of voice manipulation through a puppet or doll. Sathoshi is an international Ventriloquism artiste, with more than 20 years experience in performing Ventriloquism shows. He is the only ventriloquist who has been attending international Ventriloquism convention at USA since 2012. He regularly works with schoolchildren and teachers helping them to improve their skills. September 21, 11 am at Lamakaan



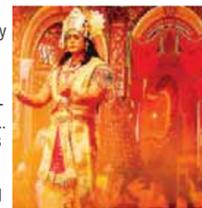
BAAGH

● Baagh, a play written by Badal Sircar and directed by Malyaban Lahiri has friendship and relationships at its core. The play revolves around repressed pain, relationships, and structures that we adhere to. October 2 at 8 pm Phoenix Arena



MAHABHARATA - THE EPIC TALE

● All history and mythology is based on cause and effect. Mahabharata - The Epic Tale... in-depth deals with the primary emotional and psychological causes that were the genesis of this destructive war. The planet has witnessed destruction based on the whims of a few people. Till October 6, multiple venues



● Hithish and Jyothi



● Subhashini

MOVIE TIME

Several high-profile socialites and movie enthusiasts had a gala time as they gathered for a special screening of a recently released Bollywood movie in the city. The members of the audiences were visibly enthralled by the movie and offered admirable reviews and insights into the movie.

Photos by SV Chary



● Komal and Sudeep

» **EXHIBITION**

EMERGING PALETTES

● A group art exhibition, a platform for emerging artists to display their work. This is the 11th edition of the exhibition organised in collaboration with Goethe-Zentrum. Till October 6 at Shrishti Art Gallery, Jubilee Hills.



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

FUN TIME

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



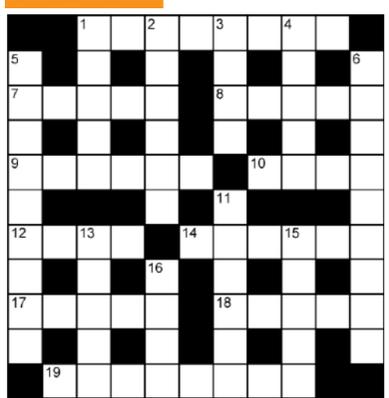
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

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

ACROSS

- 1 Calm and quiet
- 7 Sit on this
- 8 Steam bath
- 9 Oboe player
- 10 Applaud
- 12 An area of cut grass
- 14 A box for a body
- 17 Once more
- 18 Heartbeat
- 19 Practise something before doing it for an audience
- 4 Normal
- 5 A student might carry this (6,3)
- 6 Someone who makes things out of wood
- 11 A reddish-brown metal
- 13 The largest mammal
- 15 Untrue
- 16 Leg joint

DOWN

- 1 A keyboard instrument
- 2 From one side to the other
- 3 Simple to do



KARTHIKEYA GOES WITH ANOTHER NEWCOMER

Presently shooting for his home production *90 ML* with Sekhar Reddy Yerra, who assisted Chandra Mahesh in the past, the actor has greenlit another film, finds
NAGARAJ GOUD

As early August release *Guna 369* might not have been a box-office smash but Karthikeya's year has just got better with the success of Nani-starrer *Gang Leader*, where he was seen in a part with grey shades. Presently, shooting for his home production *90 ML* with Sekhar Reddy Yerra, who assisted Chandra Mahesh in the past, the actor has greenlit another film, *The Pioneer* has exclusively learnt. Sree will make his directorial debut with the project.

"The film is a commercial action entertainer set in a realistic space. Karthikeya got hooked to the screenplay that Sree conceived and he believes the film will help him consolidate his market further and give him an image makeover of sorts after a film like *90 ML*. The pre-production is going on silently. The makers are tight-lipped about the untitled project because they first

THE FILM IS A COMMERCIAL ACTION ENTERTAINER SET IN REALISTIC SPACE. KARTHIKEYA GOT HOOKED TO THE SCREENPLAY THAT SREE CONCEIVED

want *90 ML* to hit the screens before they make anything official about it," informed a source close to the development.

Meanwhile, the filming of Hyderabad-set *90 ML* is in the final leg. By October first week, the entire shoot will be wrapped up, post which the unit will be flying off to Europe to shoot a couple of numbers. Noted actor Ravi Kishan is playing Karthikeya's bête noire, while the likes of Rao Ramesh, Ajay, Posani Krishna Murali, Praveen and Ali will be seen in key supporting roles in the film. Newbie Neha Solanki is making her Tollywood debut as a leading lady.



PURI JAGANNADH and CHARMME's hot wheels

After their maiden collaboration Mehbooba failed to light-up the box-office last year, there was a lot riding on *iSmart Shankar*, their second venture. Living up to the expectations, the film performed phenomenally, grossing more than Rs 70 crore and emerging as Ram Pothineni's biggest money spinner till date. All the distributors who have purchased the film too have landed in heavy profits. No wonder, director and producer duo, Puri Jagannadh and Charmme Kaur, are a happy bunch. After throwing multiple parties to celebrate its success post the release, they have now gifted themselves brand new cars from the profits they've made from the release.

While Puri, who is known for his luxurious lifestyle, brought home a grey colored swanky Range Rover Vogue, Charmme is now the proud owner of BMW 7 Series car. Both have

PURI JAGANNADH AND CHARMME KAUR WILL BE BUSY COMPLETING THEIR NEXT PROJECT, ROMANTIC

flaunted their brand new cars for a picture together.

Up next, the duo is keen on wrapping up *Romantic*, featuring Akash, in the next couple of months. The film is 60 per cent over. Once it is wrapped up, Puri will shift his attention to *Fighter* with Vijay Deverakonda. He has already wrapped up penning the first half of the script and he will be visiting Bangkok again to complete the second half.

SYE RAA... event postponed, again!



The pre-release event of megastar Chiranjeevi-starrer *Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy* has been delayed further. Instead of Wednesday, the event will now take place on Sunday at LB Stadium, Hyderabad. According to the film's Twitter handle Konidela Pro Company, weather forecast for Wednesday played spoilsport and the event had to be rescheduled to Sunday.

Earlier, the event was planned in Kurnool but with the district witnessing rainfalls, the location was shifted to Hyderabad.

Nonetheless, makers did confirm that the trailer will be dropping on Wednesday.

With the event now set to take place on Sunday, it remains to be seen whether Telangana Municipal Administration and IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao will be gracing the function. He was scheduled to attend Wednesday's event initially but due to his other commitments, he conveyed it to the team that he wouldn't be making it. Pawan Kalyan and a host of other mega heroes will be gracing the pre-release event.

VIJAY Deverakonda is World Famous Lover

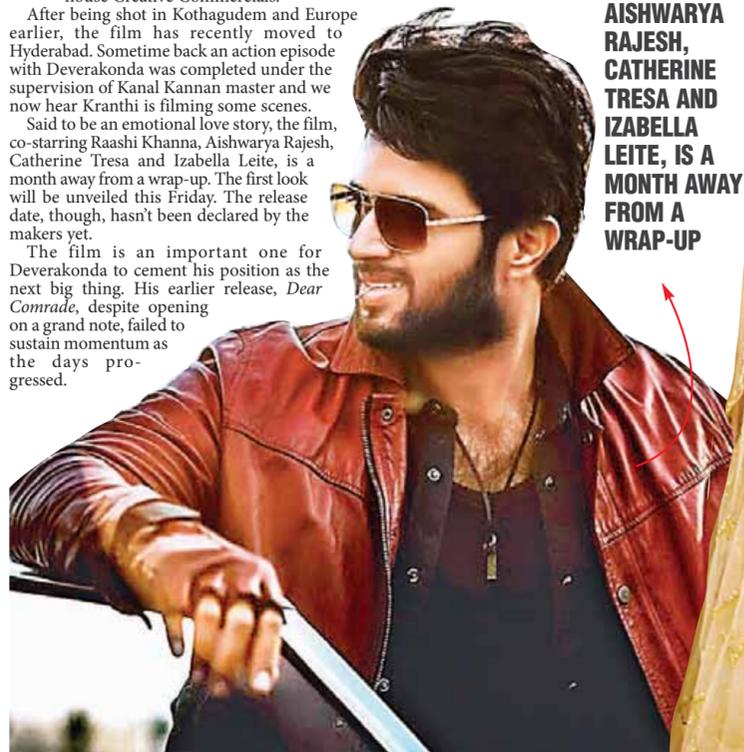
Cashing in on the image he cuts across youth, the makers of Vijay Deverakonda's next film with *Malli Malli Idi Raani Roju* director Kranthi Madhav have titled the film as *World Famous Lover*. The announcement was made on Tuesday by film's production house Creative Commercials.

After being shot in Kothagudem and Europe earlier, the film has recently moved to Hyderabad. Sometime back an action episode with Deverakonda was completed under the supervision of Kanal Kannan master and we now hear Kranthi is filming some scenes.

Said to be an emotional love story, the film, co-starring Raashi Khanna, Aishwarya Rajesh, Catherine Tresa and Izabella Leite, is a month away from a wrap-up. The first look will be unveiled this Friday. The release date, though, hasn't been declared by the makers yet.

The film is an important one for Deverakonda to cement his position as the next big thing. His earlier release, *Dear Comrade*, despite opening on a grand note, failed to sustain momentum as the days progressed.

THE FILM, STARRING RAASHI KHANNA, AISHWARYA RAJESH, CATHERINE TRESA AND IZABELLA LEITE, IS A MONTH AWAY FROM A WRAP-UP



Rashmika Mandanna as a village belle

After playing small-town girl in films like *Chalo*, *Geetha Govindam* and *Dear Comrade*, Rashmika Mandanna will now be seen as a village belle in Sukumar's next with Allu Arjun. Like is the case with the director's earlier leading ladies, Rashmika's part too has a vital importance in the context of the narrative. The film deals with red sanders

THE FILM DEALS WITH RED SANDERS SMUGGLING AS ITS CORE POINT AND A MAJOR CHUNK OF THE SHOOT WILL TAKE PLACE IN FORESTS

smuggling as its core point and a major chunk of the shoot will take place in forests. "Rashmika's character hails from a village

where Bunny resides. It's a well-etched part, which like Bunny's, drives the story from beat to beat. It calls for a cracking chemistry between the two of them," points out a source.

The still-untitled action-thriller will most likely be launched around Dasara next month. Bunny might shoot it for a schedule, before shifting attention to Trivikram's *Ala Vaikunthapuramlo*. Mythri Movie Makers are producing it, while Devi Sri Prasad has already started recording music.



Chenna's Commitment to mirror society

After his last *Parichayam* failed to woo the audience, filmmaker Lakshminath Chenna has recently announced his next as *Commitment*. Speaking to *The Pioneer*, he said right nowadays audience wants film content in the mould of *Arjun Reddy* and *RX 100* and his *Commitment* is one such affair. "To pull the audience to theatres in this day and age where content is just a swipe away from their smartphones, one need to make something different and innovative. *Commitment* is that something else," he declared.

Guarded about revealing the film's plot line, the director who earlier made films like *Hyderabad Nawabs* and *Ninna Nedu Repu* said, "The word commitment is the most misused cutting across groups. Say if a girl bags a job and her employer asks her to work with commitment, there's every chance for her to think that he's expecting some sexual favours. The word carries a lot of weight as it can determine one's career going up or down. The film will deal with people who are using it for both genuine and not-so genuine purposes. It will be told in an entertaining way but the audience will carry some good out of it at the end."

Chenna is in plans to take the film to floors next month. The movie is most likely to feature six new actors. "We will be shooting in Hyderabad, Karimnagar,



Lakshminath Chenna

Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and some parts of Rayalaseema for around 50 days. The teaser will create a storm of sorts," he promised and added that a couple of his friends are producing the film.

— NG



RAJKUMMAR HAS SPOILED ME FOR LIFE: MADE IN CHINA DIRECTOR

Made In China director Mihil Musale is impressed with Rajkumar Rao's dedication towards a project, and says the actor has spoiled him for life.

Made In China is Musale's first Hindi directorial. In the film, Rajkumar essays a small-time businessman in Ahmedabad. For the role, the actor spent a month in that city before the shoot, learned the language and gained weight to get the part right.

"When he signed on to be part of the film, he was already thinking ahead and making mental notes about what aspects he will need to work on to ace his characterisation," said Musale, who has grown up in Ahmedabad.

"Raj and I had many conversations to solidify the space of Raghu Mehta's world. Next thing I know, I get a call from him telling me that he is in Ahmedabad. He took a video camera and visited many busy areas of Ahmedabad from Lal Darwaja to Gandhi market to Manek Chowk and also a few places that lots of people don't know about. He visited these places completely under the radar — going virtually unrecognisable," added the director.

Musale was impressed that Rajkumar "spoke to local store owners, young people shopping in those areas and also ate food from the local places to sink his teeth into the colloquialism and the culture."

"My co-writer Karan Vyas, a typical Gujarati, also joined Raj for a few days and he

took Raj to meet his friends to understand the culture a little more. When I met him close to the shoot, I saw a completely different man, I saw Raghu — nuanced even beyond my script. Right through the film shoot too, he asked us to speak to him and around him in Gujarati as much as possible so that he develops an ongoing ease with the language and accent," he added.

In terms of physical appearance, Rajkumar gained eight kgs.

"I really don't know how he did it. And that too, in such a short time span. That's his secret and that's honestly the magic of a performer as incredible as Raj. I think he has spoiled me for life as this was my first Hindi film and I was fortunate enough to work with possibly the most collaborative artist," Mihil added.

Dinesh Vijan presents Made In China in association with Jio Studios. A Maddock Films production, the film also stars Mouni Roy, Boman Irani, Paresh Rawal and Gajraj Rao.

Made In China tells the story of the Gujarati entrepreneur Raghu Mehta and his *jugaadu* business journey. The film is being juxtaposed with the tag *India ka Jugaad*. It is slated to release around Diwali this year.

Producer Dinesh Vijan said: "I'm a strong believer that certain energies gravitate towards each other and that's how this film has been made... We are excited for the audience to see the endearing chemistry between Raj and Boman, and the special part Gajraj and Paresh play in Raghu and Dr Vardi's entrepreneurial journey."

— IANS



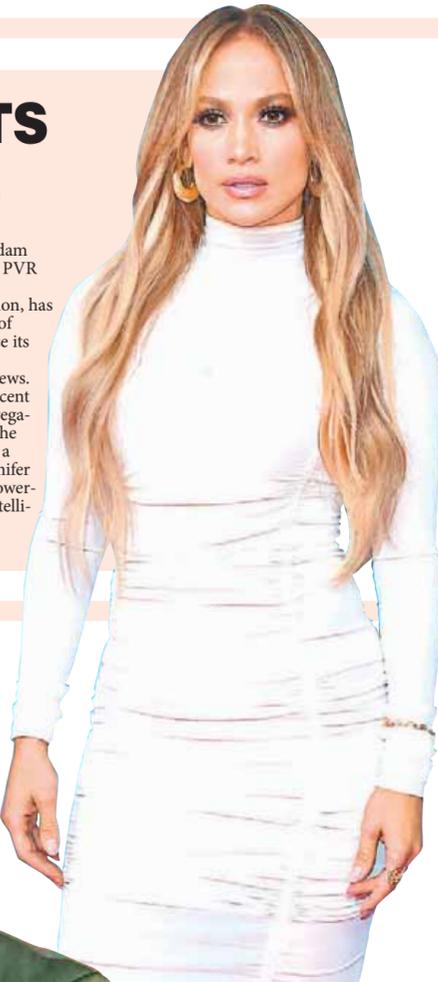
JLO'S HUSTLERS GETS INDIA RELEASE DATE

Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez's *Hustlers* will open in India on September 27. Directed by Lorene Scafaria, the heist thriller is based on a 2015 *New York* magazine article by Jessica Pressler. The film is about a group of strippers in New York City who begin to drug stock traders and business honchos who visit their club, in order to steal their money. The story is set against the backdrop of the 2008 recession.

Along with Lopez, *Hustlers*, which premiered at Toronto International Film Festival this year, also stars Constance Wu, Julia Stiles, Keke Palmer, Lili Reinhart, Lizzo and Cardi B. The film is co-produced by Lopez

along with Jessica Elbaum, Elaine Goldsmith-Thomas, Lopez and Adam McKay, and is brought to India by PVR Pictures.

Hustlers, budgeted at \$20.7 million, has already done business to the tune of \$37.7 million at the last count since its release last weekend in the United States, and has garnered good reviews. The film currently hold an 88 per cent approval rating on the review aggregator website *Rotten Tomatoes*, and the website's consensus reads: "Led by a career-best performance from Jennifer Lopez, *Hustlers* is a uniquely empowering heist drama with depth and intelligence to match its striking visual appeal."



CARDI B SPILLS PLAN TO HAVE SECOND CHILD

Rapper Cardi B has revealed her desire to have a second child, but that won't be happening soon.

She confirmed that she does want to expand her family with rapper Offset. The 26-year-old "Bodak Yellow" rapper revealed over Instagram Live on Monday her desire to have another child. On the Live session, she also shared her plans for her music career, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

She said, "My plan is to take a couple of months working on my album. And right after I finish my album, I'm going to rehearse for a tour. I'm already working on a tour deal. Point is that everything is going good."

Cardi added that she has already had three songs for the follow-up to her 2018 debut album *Invasion of Privacy*, but she's "not sure about one of them".

"After my tour, I want to have a kid. I want to have another kid," she said.

Based on her planned timeline, Cardi's second child is coming no sooner than next year. Cardi and Offset welcomed their first child together, a daughter named Kulture Kiari Cephys, in July 2018, after secretly tying the knot in their hotel room in September 2017.



THANK YOU FOR BEING MINE: PRIYANKA TO NICK JONAS

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas penned a love-filled note to her husband Nick Jonas on his 27th birthday. Sharing a video collage of herself with her husband on Instagram on Monday night, Priyanka wrote: "The light of my life. Everyday with you is better than the last. You deserve all the happiness in the world. Thank you for being the most generous loving man I have ever met. Thank you for being mine. Happy birthday Jaan. I love you Nick Jonas."

The *Quantico* actress tied the knot with the American singer in two extravagant ceremonies at the Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur in December 2018.

She is gearing up for the release of Shonali Bose's *The Sky Is Pink*, which also stars Farhan Akhtar and Zaira Wasim.

YOUR STYLE REFLECTS YOUR PERSONALITY: TAAPSEE PANNU

Bollywood actress

Taapsee Pannu says she likes to experiment with her looks and her personal style personifies independence, confidence and beauty with ease and comfort. The *Pink* star, who is the brand ambassador of Melange by Lifestyle, recently launched its new festive collection of the contemporary ethnic wear brand at DLF Mall of India in Noida. Excerpts from an interview:

What is your style mantra?

TP: For me, your style reflects your personality, which clothes and accessories only enhance. Festive patterns and bright colours with a modern silhouette — that's my style. I love to combine Indian colours and patterns with western silhouettes for a contemporary look. My style personifies independence, confidence and beauty with ease and comfort.

Three fashion hacks.

TP: Keep it contemporary. Keep it comfortable and classy.

Your fitness travel essentials.

TP: I never forget to carry my workout gear.

How important is it for women to understand that being fit is more important than being thin?

TP: Fitness is a way of life more than anything, it keeps you fresh and energised. Everybody should indulge in an activity that not only keeps them fit, but also makes them happy.

Your preferred look.

TP: Colourful, comfortable and contemporary — that's me and my wardrobe.

Your fitness regime.

TP: I play squash for an hour and I do weights for muscle toning.

What do you think of the Melange festive collection?

TP: The Melange festive collection has many versatile pieces and is perfect for many occasions. The ensembles in the collection celebrate the season's trends like intricate gold detailing, zari and sequin embroideries and accents of bright colours. In fact, the entire collection has a very festive vibe. I like to experiment with my looks, and I love the creative freedom this collection gives me. Though I am partial to the entire collection, the ensemble I

wore for the fashion show is one of my favourites. It is perfect for the festive season and I can see myself wearing it on several occasions.

What do you think about the brand Melange by Lifestyle and how has the journey with the brand been?

TP: Melange is a contemporary ethnic wear brand by Lifestyle that inspires and complements the sensibilities of the modern woman, who has a distinct sense of style. It is all about reinventing ethnic wear. I cherish my association with Melange and look forward to anything new that the brand comes up with. I think it's because I truly believe in the brand ethos and the fact that I love the ensembles is what makes our journey together even more special.



AFP ■ PARIS

The visit of Real Madrid to the French capital today means a glamour tie for Paris Saint-Germain to begin their Champions League campaign but a meeting with the Spanish side also brings back unhappy memories.

When the clubs last met in Europe two seasons ago, a PSG side missing an injured Neymar were dumped out in the last 16.

That was one of three consecutive exits in the first knockout round for PSG, who have failed to make their mark on the Champions League despite all the money spent by their Qatari owners.

So the inevitable question at the start of another continental campaign is can Thomas Tuchel's team this time at least reach a semi-final in Europe's elite club competition?

Last season it was Manchester United who embarrassed PSG. Since 2012 the only teams PSG have beaten in a Champions League knockout tie are Valencia, Bayer Leverkusen and Chelsea.

NEYMAR OVERSHADOWS EVERYTHING

For now, PSG will just be eager to make a statement in their opening match. But with Galatasaray and Club Brugge the other teams in Group A, it would be a monumental surprise if PSG failed to progress, even with Neymar suspended for the first two matches.

The world's most expensive player has overshadowed everything else at the club in recent months, with the saga of his hoped-for move back to Barcelona and then his return to action at the weekend, featuring a brilliant winner against Strasbourg in response to boos from angry supporters.

There is no doubt the presence of Neymar gives PSG a far greater chance of winning the biggest prize in European club football, as long as he stays fit.

As well as Neymar's suspension against Real, Kylian Mbappe is still out with a hamstring injury, but the arrival of Mauro Icardi has added another

Clock is ticking

With Neymar staying and Icardi in, PSG hope to finally deliver in Europe



Neymar, left, celebrates his goal with PSG's teammate Mauro Icardi during the French League One match against Strasbourg at the Parc des Princes Stadium. AP

explosive element to their attack. Icardi was prolific for Inter before being stripped of the club captaincy last season amid a contract dispute. He signed on loan just before the transfer deadline.

It is elsewhere that Paris really needed to strengthen, though.

Tuchel was unable to settle on a first-choice goalkeeper last season

between Alphonse Areola and Gianluigi Buffon. Both have since left and Keylor Navas has signed from Real Madrid to take over the gloves.

Abdou Diallo has provided an extra option in defence after arriving from Borussia Dortmund.

There has been major surgery in the midfield with the signings of Ander Herrera, Idrissa Gueye and

Pablo Sarabia. Whether Marco Verratti can blend with the newcomers to form a midfield as fearsome as it was in the days when he was flanked by Blaise Matuidi and the peerless Thiago Motta, remains to be seen.

Neymar is still there but, brilliant as he is, PSG know from experience that the Brazilian alone will not win

Neymar's ban cut to 2 games

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar's Champions League ban for insulting match officials on social media has been reduced from three games to two following an appeal, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled on Tuesday.

The world's most expensive player following his move from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain for 222 million euros in 2017 will miss the fixtures against Real Madrid on today and Galatasaray in two weeks' time due to the original ban from UEFA.

However, he will now be free to face Belgian side Bruges on October 22.

"The Sole Arbitrator partially upheld the appeal and reduced the suspension imposed by UEFA on Neymar Jr to two (2) UEFA competition matches for which he would otherwise be eligible," CAS said in a statement.

The Brazilian criticised the referee and his assistants after PSG's last-16 collapse against Manchester United in March which he watched from the stands due to injury.

United were awarded a penalty deep into injury time after a protracted VAR decision, which Marcus Rashford scored to knock the French side out in the last 16 of the Champions League.

"It's a disgrace. They get four guys who don't understand football to watch a slow motion replay in front of the TV," Neymar posted on his Instagram account after the 3-1 defeat.



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring against Napoli. Juve/Twitter

Felix leads charge for revenge

AFP ■ MADRID

Young gun Joao Felix will lead the charge today as his Atletico Madrid seek revenge on Juventus and their old enemy Cristiano Ronaldo in a potentially fiery Champions League opener.

Felix, touted as the heir to Ronaldo's throne, will make his debut in Europe's top competition when the when the Portuguese pair meet at the Wanda Metropolitan, with the La Liga outfit keen to shoot down the five-time Ballon d'Or winner.

Juventus dumped Atletico out of the competition last year as Ronaldo scored a sensational hat-trick that overturned a 2-0 first-leg deficit and put the Italian champions in the quarter finals.

The former Real Madrid man rounded off the evening by celebrating provocatively in front of the away fans at Juve's Allianz Stadium.

Now Felix is charged with bringing the old master down a peg or two.

The 19-year-old has been hailed as the new 'CR7' after his breakout season at Benfica last year, scoring 20 times as the two-time European champions won the Primeira Liga and reached the Europa League quarter finals.

Ronaldo's former manager at Madrid Jose Mourinho is convinced that Atletico bagged a "an incredible player" for a club record fee of 126 million euros (\$142 million).

The noise surrounding Felix was amplified after a sublime pre-season that included a brace in a 2-1 win over Juve, but Felix has shied away from the comparisons. A poor display in Saturday's 2-0 La Liga loss at Real Sociedad showed that. Despite the obvious promise, it is still too early to speak of Felix and Ronaldo in the same breath.

Ronaldo, meanwhile, is in a rich vein of form, with six goals in five matches this season for club and country, as he hunts a sixth Champions League title and aims to extend his record total of 126 goals in the competition.

Today, Felix has a chance to redeem himself and add to the one goal he has scored so far in Atletico colours, even if Ronaldo's achievements seem a long way off.

"I am here to write my own story," Felix said. "Cristiano is Cristiano and I want to be myself."



Pep Guardiola hugs Kun Aguero & Gabriel Jesus. ManC

GUARDIOLA'S CHASE

AFP ■ LONDON

After a series of painful failures, Pep Guardiola is on a mission to seal his Manchester City legacy by finally getting his hands on the trophy again.

City start their latest bid to win the club's first European Cup with a trip to

Shakhtar Donetsk in the Group C opener.

The long flight to the Ukraine will give Guardiola plenty of time to ponder his curious streak of Champions League flops in recent years.

Guardiola has conquered English football spectacularly after winning the last two Premier League titles, the

Shakhtar vs Man City
Live from 12:30am IST
SONY SIX NETWORK

first in record-breaking fashion and the second as part of an unprecedented domestic treble last season.

Yet the Champions League has proved impossible for Guardiola to master since

he arrived at the Etihad Stadium.

In fact, Europe's elite club competition has been a cruel mistress for Guardiola for most of the last decade, with a series of frustrating exits during his spells in charge of Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City.

Guardiola first won the

Champions League as a manager in 2009 with Barcelona.

But he has failed to reach the semi-finals in any of his three seasons as City boss, extending his long wait to win the tournament for the third time — his second triumph coming with Barca in 2011.

City's best Champions League run was under Guardiola's predecessor Manuel Pellegrini, who made the semi-finals in the last season before the Spaniard took over.

SINGLES

XAVI S AL SADD STORM INTO ACL SEMIS

DOHA: Top Qatar club Al Sadd bounced back from their first leg loss to win 3-1 on Monday and oust Saudi giants Al Nassr in an AFC Champions League quarter-final. Coach Xavi punched the air in delight as the 2011 continental champions put on a commanding home performance to secure a 4-3 aggregate victory and another shot at continental glory. "We never lost hope after the first leg defeat and I had drilled into the players the importance of staying upbeat," Xavi said after the match. "They lived up to their promise and now we are one step away from the final."

ANKOLEKAR IN MUMBAI HAZARE SQUAD

MUMBAI: The hero of India's U19 Asia Cup triumph, Atharva Ankolekar has been named in the 17-member Mumbai squad for the upcoming Vijay Hazare ODI tournament. The Mumbai Cricket Association announced the squad on their website on Tuesday. Ankolekar, a left arm spinner, had taken a match winning five wicket haul for India U19 against Bangladesh in a low scoring thriller and his fier had helped the team retain the Asia Cup title. Among other notable inclusions in the squad, to be led by India player Shreyas Iyer, are batsman Sarfaraz Khan and talented batsman & young prodigy Yashviji Jaiswal. Other regulars like Aditya Tare, Suryakumar Yadav, Siddhesh Lad, pacers Shardul Thakur, Dhawal Kulkarni, Tushar Deshpande, Eknath Kerker and spinner Shams Mulani have retained their spots.

DHAWAN, PANT AVAILABLE FOR HAZARE

DELHI: Delhi's India internationals Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant and Navdeep Saini will be available for the state team's Vijay Hazare Trophy campaign, which starts against Vidarbha on September 24. India's three-match T20 International series against South Africa ends on September 18 in Bengaluru but Delhi's star players have confirmed their availability for the national one dayers, said Delhi and District Cricket Associations (DDCA) president Rajat Sharma. However, Pant is part of the Indian Test squad and may not be available after the first few games while Dhawan is expected to play all matches. "It's really heartening to see that Rishabh, Shikhar and Navdeep opted to play for Delhi at the first available opportunity," DDCA president Sharma said. He is hopeful that Ishant Sharma and Virat Kohli would also take the field whenever they get time from their international commitments.

GILL TAKES INDIA A TO 233/3 AT STUMPS

MYSURU: Shubman Gill shone again with a fine 92 as India A reached 233 for three by the end of first day's play in the second unofficial Test against South Africa A here on Tuesday. Opener Gill struck 12 fours and a six before getting out eight runs short of a century. This is the second time he has missed out on the three-figure mark, having scored 90 in the first match at Thiruvananthapuram. The out-of-favour Karun Nair was batting on 78 and skipper Wriddhiman Shah was on 36 at stumps, which was called after 74 overs due to bad light. Philander bowled steadily but couldn't pick up a wicket while Ngidi (1/41), Mulder (1/19) and Sipamla (1/54) got a scalp each.

AGENCIES

4 Indians march into quarters Dipa is down but not out



Amit Panghal (52kg) in action during a bout against Batuhan Citici. PTI

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

The Indian juggernaut seemed unstoppable as four boxers, including Asian champion Amit Panghal (52kg), advanced to the quarterfinals with impressive victories to round off an all-win outing at the World Men's Championships here on Tuesday.

Asian Games Gold-medallist and second seed Panghal was joined by Asian Silver-winner and fifth seed Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) and the debutant duo of Commonwealth Games Silver-winner Manish Kaushik (63kg) and Sanjeet (91kg).

Panghal defeated Turkey's Batuhan Citici, while Kaushik stunned fourth-seeded Mongolian Chinzorig Baatarsukh, who is an Asian Games Silver-medallist and also a two-time medal-winner at the Asian Championships. Both the Indians claimed 5-0 victories.

Sanjeet (91kg) then caused another massive upset by defeating second-seeded Uzbek Sanjar Tursunov 4-1. Tursunov is a Bronze-medallist from the previous World Championship besides

being an Asian Silver-winner.

In the evening session, Bisht defeated Finland's Arslan Khataev 3-2 to claim a second successive quarterfinal spot at the marquee tournament.

Second-seeded Panghal, the reigning Asian champion, will next be up against Filipino Carlo Paalam, who had lost to Panghal in the semifinals of the Asian Games in Jakarta last year. Paalam defeated Korea's Jo Sehyeong in a unanimous verdict in his pre-quarterfinal bout.

Kaushik, on the other hand, will square off against Brazil's Wanderson de Oliveira. Oliveira defeated Japan's Saisuke Narimatsu in his last-16 stage bout.

Sanjeet will be up against seventh-seeded Julio Cesa Castillo Torres of Ecuador. Torres got the better of Hungary's Adam Hamori.

Awaiting Bisht in the last-eight stage is fourth-seeded Englishman Peter McGrail, a former Gold-medallist at the European Championships and reigning Commonwealth Games champion.



Dipa Karmakar performs during 2018 Asiad. PTI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star India gymnast Dipa Karmakar has just not yet given up on her dreams of qualifying for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, insists long-time coach Bishweshwar Nandi, after his ward failed to recover in time for next month's World Artistic Gymnastics Championship.

Dipa's Tokyo dreams suffered a severe setback, when she failed to recover from a nagging right knee injury to make it to the World Championships, an Olympic qualifier, to be held at Stuttgart, Germany from October 4 to 13.

Long-time coach Nandi admitted that the road to Olympics would be extremely tough considering Dipa will need at least two months to get back to training.

"Dipa was upset after missing the World Championship but she is mentally strong and I know that she will make a successful comeback to international gymnastics," Nandi said.

"She is still undergoing rehab. I will start her training only after getting a clearance from the doctor and the physio. As her coach, I need to think about (her) life beyond gymnastics as well. Hopefully by November end, we'll get the go ahead and after that another two months of training and she should be back."

Asked about the Olympics qualification, Nandi said: "There are three World cups starting about three months after the world championship but it would be much tougher to qualify now."

"She will need to win Gold or Silver in all the three World Cups next year to qualify. But she is taking it up as a challenge. We are not yet giving up hope."

"If she unfortunately misses the Tokyo, there is 2024 Paris Olympics," Nandi put up a brave front.

Mirabai eyes Olympic berth

PTI ■ PATTAYA

Former champion Mirabai Chanu will look to repeat her 2017 Gold-medal winning feat and seal an Olympic spot when she spearheads the Indian challenge at the World Weightlifting Championships, starting here today.

The ace Indian weightlifter, who had won the Gold in the 48kg category at the 2017 World Weightlifting Championships, remains India's brightest medal prospect but she needs to significantly step up her game to salvage hopes of a podium finish here.

The 25-year-old, who jumped from 48kg to 49kg following the International Weightlifting Federation's (IWF) decision to rejig weight categories, has logged personal bests at two of the three events that she has competed this year.

In the last edition, Thai weightlifter Chayuttra Pramongkol, who is currently embroiled in a dope scandal, had broken the World record in the women's 49kg category by lifting 209kgs (89+120) to take home the Gold, while the Silver and Bronze went for 208kg and 206kg, respectively.

This year Mirabai will be competing alongside 2018's Silver and Bronze medal winners



Mirabai Chanu in a file picture. Mirabai/Twitter

China's Hou Zhihui, who is also the current world record holder in the 49kg category, and Jiang Huihua respectively.

The two Chinese weightlifters have logged an entry weight of 210kg, a whopping 10 kgs more than Mirabai's 200kg. Ri Song-gum of North Korea and Dominican Republic's Beatriz Piron have also set it at 200kg.

The diminutive Manipuri is aware of the competition posed by the Chinese and is working towards reaching the 210kg mark.

"I have lifted 203kg in training. My aim is 210kg but it has to be done slowly, hopefully till Tokyo I will be able to achieve it," Mirabai said.

Satwik-Ashwini notch up stunning win

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

India's mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa stunned Indonesia's world No 7 combination of Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti in the opening round of the China Open badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

Rankireddy then paired with Chirag Shetty to beat the Canadian duo of Jason Anthony Ho-Shue and Nyl Yakura 21-7, 21-18 in a 30-minute match to enter the men's doubles second round. The Indian pair now face the fourth seeded Japanese duo of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda.

World No 26 Satwik and Ashwini showed their grit as they recovered from a mid-game slump to outwit the sixth seeded Indonesian pair 22-20, 17-21, 21-17 in a 50-minute match to enter the second round of the \$1,000,000 World Tour super 1000 tournament.

Jordan and Melati have so far reached five finals, including the 2018 India Open, but they wilted under the



Ashwini Ponnappa & Satwik in a file picture.

relentless pressure created by the Indian pair.

The Indian pair had fallen back 4-7 early on but they reeled off five straight points to turn the tables and then held a slender 11-10 advantage at the break.

Jordan and Melati, however, build up a huge lead of 18-12 after the interval but the Indian duo slowly erased the deficit and caught up at 20-20 and then sealed the opening game.

In the second game, the Indonesian pair moved ahead from 4-4 to enter the breather with a 11-8 cushion. Jordan and Melati continued to march ahead to eventually roar back into the contest.

In the decider, Satwik and Ashwin changed their tactics and jumped to a 4-2 lead initially. The Indian duo kept things under control, entering the break with a 11-6 lead.

Jordan and Melati tried to make a comeback but the Indian pair kept their nose ahead to shut the doors on their fancied rivals.

India look to draw first blood

After Dharamshala washout, Men in Blue search first home T20 win against Proteas

PERFORMANCE IN TWENTY-20 CRICKET

Team (Rankings)	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
India (4th)	118	73	41	1	3	63.55
South Africa (3rd)	113	67	44	1	1	60.17
Ind v SA	13	8	5	-	-	61.53

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS

India	203-5 in 20 overs at Johannesburg	18-02-2018
South Africa	219-4 in 20 overs at Johannesburg	30-03-2012

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS

India	92 in 17.2 overs at Cuttack	05-10-2015
South Africa	116-9 in 20 overs at Durban	20-09-2007

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES

India	106 Rohit Sharma at Dharamshala	02-10-2015
South Africa	78 Colin Ingram at Johannesburg	30-03-2012

BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCES

India	5-24 Bhuvneshwar at Johannesburg	18-02-2018
South Africa	3-12 Albie Morkel at Cuttack	05-10-2015

FAISEL FEATURES

PTI ■ MOHALI

Rishabh Pant's form would be an important subplot when India look to seize the advantage against South Africa in the second T20 International here on Wednesday after a washout in Dharamshala effectively made the series a two-match affair.

The T20 World Cup is more than 12 months away but India captain Virat Kohli has already detailed his plans and expectations from the youngsters in the side.

The skipper did not expect to get a bagful of opportunities when he arrived on the international scene and believes the current crop of youngsters also need to make it count in the limited time they are going to get.

One of them is 21-year-old Rishabh Pant, who can't be bracketed as a "youngster" anymore having made his

debut back in February 2017.

Not a single ball was bowled in the series-opener but there was enough happening on the sidelines and most of it was focussed on Pant.

In a chat with the host broadcaster, the message for Pant from the team management was loud and clear: he can't repeatedly throw his wicket away and if he does "there will be a rap on the knuckles".

"We'll let him be but at times when you see a shot, like the first ball dismissal in Trinidad (during the tour of West Indies), if he repeats that, then he will be told. There will be a rap on the knuckles, talent or no talent," said head coach Ravi Shastri ahead of the series-opener.

With Kohli still very much open to having Mahendra Singh Dhoni back on board, pressure is mounting on Pant to do justice to his rich talent.

Considering the circum-

stances, it was not a surprise that Pant had a hit in the nets right after the team flew here from Dharamshala on Monday.

Pressure will also be on leg-spinner Rahul Chahar and off-spinner Washington Sundar, both of whom have been picked ahead of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal for the second straight series.

With 20-odd games to go before the World Cup, the Indian team wants to boost its batting which will require number 8, 9 and 10 to score runs on a regular basis, something which has never been India's strength.

Will a deep batting line-up compromise India's ability to wake wickets in the middle overs? Only time will tell.

It is also an important series for Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey, who have been brought back into the side to solidify the middle order.

The game will also be an opportunity for Shikhar Dhawan to play a substantial knock, having endured a lean tour of the West Indies by his standards.

It a ground he is fond of, having scored a memorable 187 on his Test debut and more recently a 143 in the ODI against Australia in March this year, albeit in a losing cause.

On the other hand, it will be an uphill task for South Africa to beat this Indian side, which has been on a roll for most part.

Time in the middle for a team in transition would have been valuable but rain robbed the Proteas of that opportunity in Dharamshala.

The Kagiso Rabada-led attack would have to bowl really well to contain the Indian batsmen especially skipper Kohli, who played one of his best knocks against Australia in March 2016, the last T20 played here, to take India to the World T20 semi-finals.



Vikram Rathour speaks during press conference ahead of 2nd T20

Fine line between fearless and careless cricket: Rathour

PTI ■ MOHALI

The youngsters in the Indian team have got a clear message from the management — to understand that there is a fine line between "fearless cricket and careless cricket", new batting coach Vikram Rathour said on Tuesday.

The message conveyed was directed mainly at the likes of youngsters like Pant, who have been often criticised for his reckless choice of shots.

"At times, we over emphasise on technique. It is more about the mindset at this level, getting your gameplan right. As far as Rishabh is concerned, he is a phenomenal player, he just needs to sort out his gameplan, needs to bring in a little bit of discipline in his cricket," said Rathour on

"All the young players need to understand that there is a fine line between fearless cricket and careless cricket. What the team management is asking from them is fearless cricket, having clear gameplans and playing with intent but at the same time, you can't be careless. I am sure they are smart enough to understand that."

The former selector was reacting to comments from skipper Virat Kohli, who recently said that a youngster should not expect more than five opportunities at the highest level.

"They (Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri) have said five

matches but it is not going to be a specific number. What they meant was that you need to grab your opportunities when you get them. They (youngsters) have played so much of cricket. They have come through after doing so well. I don't think it is a massive issue. The team will be backing them fully."

Elaborating more on the expectations from Pant, Rathour said "We want him to play all his shots. That is what makes him special, he is an impact player but at the same time you can't be careless."

Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey have made a comeback in the middle-order and Rathour is expecting them to seize their opportunities. But could they solve India's middle-order middle?

"Those two are very fine cricketers who have done really well in domestic cricket. Shreyas has got a good start (in ODIs against the West Indies). Manish has done well in the past and made a comeback after performing consistently in domestic cricket. I am confident they will come good, they just need to be more consistent."

India have begun their preparations for the T20 World Cup in Australia next year and there is a significant shift in the way they will approach their batting in the shortest format.

Kohli wants the team to bat deep, increasing the expectations from spin all-rounders Krunal Pandya and Washington Sundar.



Ravindra Jadeja bowls during India's nets session ahead of 2nd T20 at PCA Stadium in Mohali on Tuesday

PTI

Senior players inspire & motivate us to get better

The experience of playing with the Haryana Steelers has been marvellous. This is my first Pro Kabaddi League and I couldn't have asked for a better team to start my PKL career with. The management is fantastic. Everyone is supportive and motivates one another to perform to the best of their abilities. All players are aware of their responsibilities and each of them execute their plans, therefore there's not much of pressure on the players.

I was a bit nervous at the start of the league and therefore I hesitated to carry out my game freely on a few occasions, but, as I kept playing matches, I kept getting better and better. I kept honing my skills with each match and now I feel very confident every time I step on the mat. I have realised that if I follow whatever the coach and captain tell me to do, I will always perform for my team.

Vikash Kandola and I discuss before every match about the skills I should work on. We talk about where I should attack to pick up points for the team. Vikash tells me just before I start my raid on the mat — when I should attack and when I should carry out an empty raid. Haryana Steelers' coach Rakesh Kumar has taught me a very important skill this season. He has told me that an immediate reaction is imperative for success in kabaddi. The coach has largely focused on immediate reaction and escape skills this season. Rakesh is very shrewd when it comes to tactics and I have been very lucky to train under him in PKL-7. Being a young player, I wasn't sure that I would get a chance to play. But I knew that if I get a chance then I would definitely make the most of it. I am very pleased with the fact that I have been able to grab my opportunities and be one of the best raiders of Haryana Steelers this season.

I really enjoy playing with established players like Vikash Kandola, Dharmaraj Cheralathan and Prashanth Kumar Rai. Dharmaraj has a fantastic knowledge of match situations. His experience has been invaluable for the team. He knows how the team should react to every situation and keep improving. If Haryana is behind in the scoreline in a certain match, then Dharmaraj knows how the side can make a comeback in the match. The senior players make the strategy for the team, but now I am starting to understand how a team should work out plans before a match.

The Pro Kabaddi League is a great platform for youngsters to showcase their skills. The players can test their skills against the best players from around the world. The level of competition is very high and therefore if a youngster performs in this competition then he can certainly gain a lot of confidence for the rest of his kabaddi career. At the moment, I am looking to maintain my fitness and practice regularly. And going forward, I want to represent the Indian kabaddi team. Playing and achieving great heights for my country is the ultimate dream for me.

(The writer (VINAY) plays for Haryana Steelers in Pro Kabaddi League season 7)



Double-edged sword

PTI ■ MOHALI

Newly-appointed South African T20 captain Quinton de Kock on Tuesday said the additional responsibility could be a double-edged sword but he is not thinking too much about it.

De Kock is one of the senior players in this new-look team and has been handed captaincy in the absence of Faf du Plessis as the management is looking to groom him ahead of the T20 World Cup next year.

"Not too concerned to be honest. It is a new stepping stone in my career, gives me extra responsibility. Not sure if it would affect me negatively or positively" said the wicket-keeper batsman ahead of the second T20 against India here on Wednesday.

Asked if he is prepared to play the mentor's role in the team, like du Plessis and Ab de Villiers played when he burst on to the scene, de Kock said: "I think they (Faf and ABD) gave me lots of room to play the way I wanted to. I don't see it



Quinton de Kock and Kagiso Rabada during practice session

why that would change without them being here.

"Even they in their career have had to do the same thing we are doing. So we will take it as it comes. In the leadership group in the team we have had a chat (on grooming the youngsters). It is under control so far but we are still learning as part of a young leadership group."

De Kock said some youngsters could get a longer rope while some may not.

"I not going to put a number on it. For some it could be one, for some it could be 10, so can't really say."

It has effectively become a two-match series with the series opener in Dharamshala being washed out.

"It is a bit of a negative," said de Kock.

"We would like to have played three games against the Indian team. Leading into the World Cup, to lose out on a game in different conditions, it is not ideal but it is what it is."

Vinesh to fight for Bronze



Vinesh Phogat in a file picture

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Vinesh Phogat was pushed out of the title race by reigning champion Mayu Mukaida of Japan but one of India's biggest hopes remained in bronze medal hunt in the 53kg category at

the World Wrestling Championship here on Tuesday.

Mukaida later reached the final to help Vinesh stay in the medal hunt as well as Tokyo Olympics qualification. Two victories will ensure her place in Tokyo Olympics.

She will now have to beat three wrestlers in the repechage- Yuliia Khavaldzhy Blahinya from Ukraine, world number one Sarah Ann Hildebrandt and then Maria Prevolaraki from Greece to win her first Worlds medal. It was second consecu-

ive defeat for Vinesh against the Japanese this season after losing to the two-time world champion at the Asian Championship in China. Vinesh has CWG and Asian Games titles but is yet to win a medal at the Worlds. "Japan is a wrestling powerhouse. It takes some time to attack these girls. It's about one technique, one move one point that changes the bout. I tried, it did not happen and she succeeded," Vinesh told PTI after her bout.

Vinesh said Mukaida was no different from the Asian Championship though she and her coach Woller Akos had plotted the fall of the formidable Japanese. "It happens. But Mukaida is not the only target for me. We focus on all wrestlers. Everyone is tough in 53kg. It's not over yet," said Vinesh,

In another Olympic category, Seema Bisla (50kg) lost her pre-quarterfinal 2-9 to three-time Olympic medallist Mariya Stadnik.

Like Vinesh, she too remained in hunt for bronze and Olympic qualification as Stadnik reached the final. "It's not that Mariya was more powerful than me. She is more experienced than me. I have just competed in 5-6 competitions in 50kg. I am learning and will get better," said Seema.

In the non-Olympic categories, Komal Gole was too defensive against Turkey's Beste Altug and lost her 72kg Qualification bout 1-4 while Lalita was outplayed 3-10 by Mongolia's Bolortuya Bat Ochir in 55kg.

Both Lalita and Komal are now out of the championship since Bolortuya and Altug later lost their quarter-finals.



Rohit Sharma in a file picture

Too good to ignore

PTI ■ MOHALI

Newly appointed India batting coach Vikram Rathour feels Rohit Sharma is "too good a player" to not be playing in all three formats and backed him to do well as a Test opener in all conditions.

Rohit is one of the greats of white-ball cricket but has had a start-stop Test career. He has been given another opportunity in the five-day format, this time as an opener in the upcoming series against South Africa.

"He is too good a player to not be playing in any game. That is what is everyone is thinking. He has done so well in white-ball cricket as an opener so there is no reason why he can't succeed as a Test opener provided he gets enough opportunities," Rathour said ahead of the second T20 against South Africa here on Monday adding that, "If he comes good, he will be a huge asset for the team."

Rohit will be getting the opportunity to open in Tests at home but Rathour said the stylish batsman has it in him to succeed overseas also.

"At the moment, I am not too sure what the playing eleven for the first Test will be but if Rohit does well and is opening, why not," he said, when asked about the possibility of him opening on overseas tours.

Paddlers remain in champions division

PTI ■ YOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

The Indian men's team beat Singapore 3-0 in the 5-8 classification match in the ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships to remain in the champions division of the continental event here on Tuesday.

India lost to Japan 1-3 in the quarterfinal on Monday but ensured that it will finish in the top six of the tournament with the win over Singapore on Tuesday. India will thus gain direct entry in

the next championships in 2021. India will play Hong Kong on Wednesday in the match for fifth position.

"This is an achievement in itself," said Sharath Kamal, who played an important role in India's 3-0 win over Singapore.

Sathiyam beat Poh Shao Feng Ethan in straight games (11-5, 11-5, 13-11). But Sharath needed to dig deep into his vast experience to beat Pang Yew En Koen 7-11, 13-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-3 and put India 2-0 ahead.