

ANALYSIS 9

BEATING
DESERTICATION

CELEB TALKS 14

ANUSHKA IN FORTUNE INDIA'S LIST
OF MOST POWERFUL WOMEN

SPORTS 16

RAHUL CLINCHES
BRONZE

HYDERABAD, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



the pioneer

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NIHARIKA BETS
BIG ON DIGITAL
FRONT

Page 13

3 Maoists gunned down in 'encounter' with AP police

AMARAVATI: Three members of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) were gunned down in an alleged encounter with security forces in Vishakhapatnam district on the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha border on Sunday, police said. The elite anti-naxal squad Greyhounds of the AP Police encountered the Maoists near Gummirevula and that led to an exchange of fire in which two women and a man were killed, Visakhapatnam district Superintendent of Police Babuji Attada told PTI over phone.

The deceased belonged to the Galikonda 'dalam' (squad) of the Maoists that operated on the Andhra-Odisha Border (AOB) area. The SP said one self-loading rifle and two .303 rifles were seized from the Maoists in the encounter that happened under Sileru police station limits.

Petrol price rise in past 6 days highest in 2 years

NEW DELHI: Petrol prices have been increased by Rs. 1.59 a litre and diesel by Rs. 1.31 in the last six days — the most since the current system of daily price reviews was introduced in 2017. Petrol price on Sunday was hiked by 27 paise to Rs. 73.62 a litre in Delhi. The rate of diesel was increased by 18 paise to Rs. 66.74 per litre in Delhi. This is the sixth straight daily increase and has taken the cumulative price hike since September 17 to Rs. 1.59 per litre in case of petrol and Rs. 1.31 for diesel. On September 17, global energy prices spiked by 15 per cent after a weekend attack on key oil facilities in Saudi Arabia caused the worst disruption to world supplies on record.

Coast guard seizes Ketamine worth Rs 300 cr

NEW DELHI: The Indian Coast Guard has seized a huge cache of ketamine drug worth Rs. 300 crore from a Myanmar ship, the agency said on Saturday.

The Coast Guard, in a coordinated sea-air operation on Thursday, apprehended the ship off the Car Nicobar islands. On rummaging the vessel, 57 suspicious gunny bundles were found aboard, the Coast Guard said. The gunny bags were then transferred to Indian Coast Guard Ship Rajveer, which has apprehended the ship.

TODAY

ALMANAC
Month & Paksham:
Bhrapada & Krishna Paksha
Panchangam

Tithi : Shashthi : 08:11 pm

Nakshatram: Kritika: 10:20 am

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

RahuKalam: 10:39 am - 12:09 pm

Yamagandam: 03:10 pm - 04:40 pm

Varjyan: 03:01 am - 04:42 am

Gulika: 07:38 am - 09:08 am

Good Time: (to start any important work)

Amritakalam: 07:47 am - 09:29 pm

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:45 am - 12:33 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Thunderstorms
Temp: 29/23
Humidity: 98%
Sunrise: 06:04
Sunset: 06:14
Current Weather Conditions
Updated September 19, 2019 5:00 PM

Modi, Shah must change their attitude: KCR

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD



'Schemes I have in mind can finish Cong in TS'

Issuing a cryptic warning to the grand old party, KCR observed in the Assembly on Sunday: "We have 2 to 3 more new schemes with us. The Congress will be finished in the State if I introduce those schemes."

Berating the Congress on the last day of the Assembly budget session, KCR said the Congress should not harp on its demand that the government provide jobs to every household. For,

the government had been keeping all promises made in the House. KCR said that the TRS government had done 8 lakh sada bainama registrations freely. "We did it in a big way and not like Congress, which had done it for namesake", he remarked. The Congress was the 'breeding centre' for all kinds of atrocities. Human trafficking and all started with the rule of Congress, he alleged.

"As a Chief Minister, I am appealing to Modi and Shah to withdraw their comments... It is a question of self-respect of Telangana. We are not going to tolerate such comments," KCR said.

The Centre had not given a single paisa under NITI Aayog. It was not correct on the part of Modi and Shah to speak ill of Telangana, KCR said in the State Legislative Assembly.

Targeting Telangana BJP leaders, KCR said that nothing would happen if BJP came to power in the state. "The Rythu

Bandhu will go and Kisan Samman will come, which gives Rs.6000 each to all farmers. Arogyasri will go and Ayushman Bharat will come. There would not be Rythu

Continued on Page 3

Beema if BJP came to power in Telangana. BJP-led states were not implementing pension schemes like those in Telangana.

Continued on Page 3

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"If they (Pakistan) repeat it, they would have to think what would become of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Human rights violations are committed against Balochs and Pashtuns there. If it continues, no power will be able to protect Pakistan from getting further divided into

mistake of repeating 1965 and 1971," Rajnath said at a "Jan Jagran Sabha" (public awareness meet), organised by BJP in Patna.

You can see they're getting discouraged. Pakistan PM comes to PoK and says 'countrymen don't go to India-Pak border'. I say it's good because if they do, they would not be able to return to Pakistan. They should not commit the mistake of repeating 1965 and 1971

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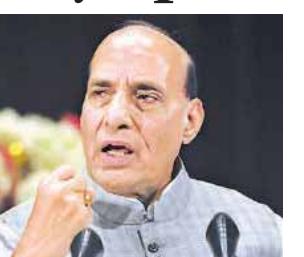
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Continued on Page 3

Pakistan may split into pieces: Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



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How often in the recent past have we seen Speakers in Assemblies and Chairpersons in Upper Houses instinctively favouring parties they've come from - whether it is ex-LS Speaker Sumitra Mahajan or current Rajya Sabha Chairman and V-P Venkaiah Naidu? The latest entrant in the club is Pocaharam Srinivas Reddy, Speaker of Telangana Assembly and ex-Agriculture minister of the state. On Saturday, the penultimate day of the Session, he happened to respond to protesting Congress MLAs stating: "We didn't pass the Bill when the Congress MLAs were outside of the House." That made it look he was defending the ruling TRS instead of being impartial as the Speaker. Not to be undone, CLP leader Bhatti Vikramarka seized the opportunity to make the Speaker realise his faux pas with a stinging remark: "We are not attributing any motives to the Chair. We are asking only Treasury Benches!" Bhatti shot back at Speaker Pocaharam Reddy.

Dengue extent not quantified

So, how bad is the dengue epidemic scene after all, and how many have fallen prey to the disease in the state so far? Fact is, there aren't any definitive answers. The Health Department admits that the number of dengue patients reported in Hyderabad this year is much higher than the season's average annual data. Officials have not measured the magnitude of dengue outbreak and so we might not be provided an exact figure any time soon. However, one can get a reliable estimate of the epidemic from doctors who are treating patients

currently. One of the doctors at Fever Hospital told us, "Of about 50 cases I see in a day, at least 12 are dengue positive. The Fever Hospital alone has assigned more than 50 doctors to especially tackle dengue. Most of them concur that at least 100 cases get detected at the hospital every day. This can serve as fair enough pointer of how widespread the epidemic is."

IT's control+Z -- back to Hyd from Amaravati

Hyderabad is seeing the return of IT experts, who had once gone all-out in marketing Amaravati under the Chandrababu Naidu regime. So much so that somebody no less than JA Chowdary, the IT advisor of Andhra Pradesh government himself, who at one point did all he



could to promote Sunrise State of AP, returned recently to set up the 'Hyderabad Fintec Forum' in the tech city. Chowdary, who in his previous role used to tom-tom 'Vishakapatnam Fintec Valley', 'Hackathons' and other initiatives of the AP government. But in the Hyderabad venture, there was no mention of Andhra Pradesh. Call it what you will - pressing 'reset' button, or backspace or control+Z - but the move is quite a turnaround for the IT tsar. These days he is busy

networking and re-working all his old connections in the IT industry, and the Telangana government is all too happy about the turn of events.

Jagan taking cue from KCR?

There is nothing secret about the close friendship between AP CM Jaganmohan Reddy and Telangana CM KCR. Both leaders have openly exhibited their 'dosti' and even vowed to lend support to each other for better coordination between the Telugu states and progress of Telugu people. While the benefits of the two CMs' camaraderie are yet to accrue, Jagan has surely borrowed a leaf or two out of friend KCR's playbook. He recently banned two TV channels in AP, apparently after being miffed at those channels'

anti-government stance. KCR, for his part, had set the ball rolling first by showing the door to two channels in TS soon after he assumed power in the state. Okay, they are pals, but wonder if they are actually sharing the 'best practices' between them.

YSRCP MLAs in low spirits

Four-odd months into its fresh tenure, YSRCP's honeymoon should have been barely over if not still continuing. But its party MLAs' relationship with the electorate seems to have hit a rocky patch. The trouble is they are finding it difficult to convince people of anything meaningful being done in AP. The masses had a lot of expectations from the Jaganmohan Reddy government, but it has hardly done

anything to speak of in terms of tangible change for the better. Frustrated MLAs vented their discomfort in front of Ministers M Srinivasa Rao and Mopidevi Venkataramana at a review meeting held in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. One MLA said revenue officials were just not listening to party leaders, while another one said they were feeling hamstrung because the police were behaving like they were the actual bosses. Minister Srinivasa Rao tried lift spirits by saying all will fall in place with time. But the MLAs weren't buying the Minister's word much like the voters who are beginning to shrug off the MLAs themselves.

(Contributed by
Kolishetty Venkateshwari,
Mayank Tiwari,
Naveena Ghanate,
Deepthi Nandan,
KMP Patnaik)

House Speakers still dyed in party colours?

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

IT Minister KT Rama Rao since he took oath as the Minister, vowed to promote handloom. But the machinery is unable to cater to the demand which the Minister is trying to create. KT Rama Rao's first post after swearing as the Minister for second time was with #HandloomSunday. While he tried to spread the word online, the TSCO website, where people can buy clothes is an eyesore.

There are just about 100 sarees and about 10 dupattas. The website, which was glorified last year, became a victim at the whims of the contractor who used to run it. According to a senior official of Department of Handlooms and Textiles, "The website was handled by a one contractor Siva Reddy, who found handloom business lucrative and left our website in limbo in most unethical way. We will have the website updated in another 2 months. We are trying to get our handloom on shopify."

For months, the website has been showing the same sarees



■ According to officials, supply of handloom is unable to meet the demand
■ For months, the TSCO website has been showing the sarees of same model without any changes resembling a dummy website

without any changes resembling a dummy website. It has 38 gadwal sico, 19 gadwal silk sarees, 13 spun silk sarees, 12 Narayapet silk sarees, 9 golabrama sarees, 8 pochampally cotton, 6 pochampally ikat, 6 Gadwal cotton and 10 dupattas. About 13 of these 100 are sold out, so evidently government can provide only 87 sarees online. Official said that when the website was functional, it was generating higher sales and lot of traction. For handloom enthusiasts, the TSCO possesses 9 outlets located in Northern India and 37 outlets situated in Telangana State. Meanwhile the TS government is also exploring

alternate modes of promoting handloom. The government has partnered with Amazon to promote its handloom products and crafts. However, when it comes to textiles, the government is following the approach of one step forward and two steps backwards. With Amazon currently only cheriyal masks, Nirmal paintings and other crafts are being shipped. When it comes to clothing, officials point that supply from our weavers is unable to meet the demand.

According to a senior official, "The production speed of handloom textiles is not matching the demand it generates.

If we put up on Amazon, thousands of buyers may start showing interest, but we couldn't raise our production capacity. This is because it takes time to create designs especially the modern ones. Even for the designers to learn and pass it on to others, it is time consuming. Once we are confident our production capacity is fast enough to meet the market demand, then we will open up."

The government has been repeatedly stating that it has been concentrating on design modernisation, but nothing concrete has come up. Jayesh Ranjan said, "Handloom has niche market. The sarees are good, but it needs to much more contemporary as it won't appeal to all, especially young persons and fashion conscious persons. We started working with designers like Bibi Russell, Shrawan Kumar, Divya Reddy, Ishita and recently Reena Singh. About half a dozen designers with modern understanding are collaborating with us. Weavers have to become comfortable, because modern designs also have some level of complexity."



Ramadugu project water reaches FRL
PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

After four years, the Ramadugu medium irrigation project in the district reached its full reservoir limit. With the project full to the brim, the farmers belonging to 11 villages would benefit, as it would provide irrigation to 5,000 acres.

The project was constructed across Ramadugu Vagu at Ramadugu village of Dharphally mandal in 1964. On Friday and Saturday the project received heavy inflows and reached FRL level, after obtaining inflows of over 1,000 cusecs.

The project has left and right canals with the left canal extending to a length of 9.60 km and cultivating 1,400 acres, while the right canal has a length of 18.80 km and cultivates 3,601 acres. Ramadugu benefits 11 villages of Dichpally and Dharphally mandals whose farmers grow kharif and rabi crops under an ayacut of 5,000 acres. North Telangana's boon, Sri Ram Sagar Project, is getting heavy inflows since the last two days and on Saturday evening, the project received 57,820 cusecs inflows and water in the project level was 45,700 TMC.

SRSP capacity is 90 TMC and FRL level is 1,091 feet. On Saturday evening, the project's water level reached 1,077.40 feet, and of 90 TMC the project now has 45,700 TMC of water.

All this is due to heavy inflows into Vishnupuri and Jayakwadi projects, which reached FRL level, and excess water being released into river Godavari. On Friday evening, Maharashtra irrigation officials released flood waters from Vishnupuri project by lifting two gates. Thanks to these inflows and local catchment recording good rainfall, the SRSP is receiving 57,820 cusecs inflows and until night they may go up.

KTR's push for handloom not matched by supply

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Standard gold declined by Rs 180 and closed at Rs 37,700 . Ornamental gold too, moved in tandem and was quoted in the range of Rs 35,760 - 35,860 on the closing day

between moderate and strong.

The inflow of agro-goods supplies from other states, particularly Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, has been obstructed due to heavy rains and flood situation in these states.

During the week, common pulses such as tuar dal, moong dal, urad dal, chilies, turmeric and masoor dal recorded marginal appreciation, while staple food grains and common edible oils remained steady at the previous week's closing levels. With lower crop estimates for soyabeans, its price is expected to go up in the near future.

Coriander remained divergent within narrow margins.

The prices of common vegetables rose considerably during the week. Common vegetables such as cabbage, cauliflower, ribbed gourd, snake gourd, lady fingeers, cucumber, potatoes, onions, tomatoes and French beans, along with other leafy vegetables, recorded an increase in the range of 30 per cent to 45 per cent.

In Hyderabad, the NECC wholesale egg price appreciated by Rs.34 and closed at Rs.378 (per 100). The highest price of Rs.438 was recorded at Kolkata, while Hospet closed at the lowest price of Rs.370.

At home, due to on-going Sraddhapaksh, trading was dull. As such, both the precious metals remained divergent.

Standard gold (24 carats) declined by Rs.180 and closed at Rs.37,700 (per 10 gms). Ornamental gold too, moved in tandem and was quoted in the range of Rs.35,760 - 35,860 on the closing day.

Other economic parameters too moved northward. Brent closed at US\$ 63.82 (per barrel), while Crude oil was quoted at Rs.4,178 (per barrel). Gold MCX stood at Rs.37,697 (per 10 gms). Sensex and Nifty 50 closed at 38,014.62 and 11,274.20 points respectively.

Leading foreign currencies' exchange rates were: US \$: Rs.71.27, British Pound: Rs.88.79, Euro : Rs.78.42, Singapore \$: Rs.51.86, Swiss Franc: Rs.72.30, Australian \$: Rs.48.19, Saudi Rial : Rs.19.03, New Zealand Dollar : 44.63, Kuwaiti Dinar : Rs.234.40, Omani Rial : Rs.184.93 and UAE Dinar : Rs.19.41.

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Other economic parameters too moved northward. Brent closed at US\$ 63.82 (per barrel), while Crude oil was quoted at Rs.4,178 (per barrel).

Gold MCX stood at Rs.37,697 (per 10 gms). Sensex and Nifty 50 closed at 38,014.62 and 11,274.20 points respectively.

Leading foreign currencies' exchange rates were: US \$: Rs.71.27, British Pound: Rs.88.79, Euro : Rs.78.42, Singapore \$: Rs.51.86, Swiss Franc: Rs.72.30, Australian \$: Rs.48.19, Saudi Rial : Rs.19.03, New Zealand Dollar : 44.63, Kuwaiti Dinar : Rs.234.40, Omani Rial : Rs.184.93 and UAE Dinar : Rs.19.41.

At home, due to on-going Sraddhapaksh, trading was dull. As such, both the precious metals remained divergent.

**CRIME
CORNER**

Two held with unaccounted cash, gold

Mirchowk police found two jewellers in possession of unaccounted gold worth Rs 1.25 crore and net cash of Rs 3.69 lakh on Saturday night. The duo, identified as Vishal Mahender Bandari, 35, and Ronak Mahender Bandari, 30, both brothers who run Harshi Jewels, were residents of Blue Sky society in Mumbai, police said. They were found moving suspiciously near Kali Kaman of Gulzar House and were stopped for questioning, and were searched. Police found they were in possession of gold about 3,530 gm and cash of Rs 3,69,500. The duo revealed their identities as Vishal and Ronak. On further questioning, they confessed that they were on their way to sell the gold ornaments but failed to produce any valid records about the source, said police. A confessional statement was recorded and the gold ornaments and cash were seized from them. Mirchowk police booked a case and started a probe.

Woman arrested for burglary

A 37-year-old woman was arrested for burglary offences by the North Zone Task Force and valuables worth Rs 4,70 lakh were recovered from her. The accused was identified as Pasupula Kalpana alias Mallamma, a house help from Rasolpura area in Begumpet, police said. DCP of Commissioner's Task Force, P Radhakishan Rao, said that she moves about carrying cutting pliers, a screwdriver and targets locked houses. She opens locks and decamps with cash and valuables. During investigation, officials verified CCTV footage at the place of offence and verified fingerprints with old offenders. Through local sources, police identified the address of Kalpana and apprehended her on Saturday. She was handed over to Market police for further investigation.


Man held for selling e-cigarettes

A 45-year-old man was apprehended by the Central Zone Task Force Team for illegally marketing and selling e-cigarettes. Officials seized 35 machines and 86 flavour bottles from his possession. Police conducted raid at Gulnar's Perfumes shop in Abids and found that the accused Syed Noor Arif Ali, 45, has been illegal marketing and selling tobacco contents, banned electronic cigarette ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery System) which contains propylene, glycol, glycerin, water, nicotine and flavorings with no manufacturing dates. Syed ran the business clandestinely. Telangana banned the sale, manufacture, distribution and storage of noxious tobacco and all its variants. The accused violated the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTP Act), police said. The accused and seized material were handed over to Abids Road police for further investigation.

KCR, Jagan to meet today

Continued from Page 1

The issue figured in the earlier meetings of the CMs of Telugu states.

Earlier, committees of engineers of both the states jointly and separately discussed the issue in tune with the decisions of the CMs. Various proposals have been formulated and examined on the issue. The proposals of the two states have been taken into the notice of the CMs. Besides this, pending issues of the bifurcation of AP into Telangana and AP will also figure in the meeting.

'BABA' CLAIMING TO BE EXORCIST ARRESTED



Insecurity, superstition fertile conditions for 'Babas' to exploit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Old City seems to be happy hunting ground for neighbourhood 'Babas', who promise people life free of ailments in exchange for large sums of money. They create a fear among victims and then offer a 'panacea'. These men claim to perform black magic to solve problems ranging from family strife and health to career and finances.

According to South Zone police of Hyderabad, these criminals exploit people by taking undue advantage of any bad situation they find themselves in. The thugs extort from victims money, gold ornaments and other such valuables.

"Sorcerers and fake babas are thriving in the Old City. 'Miracle healers', treasure hunters and even relationship advisers now have their 'offices' in Hyderabad. Many even use mainstream media for advertisements to attract

A complaint was filed by Jawed Khan, 42, a videographer, with the Hussaini Alam police station stating that Tipu Baba had accused him of performing black magic on his employee Mohd Irfan, making him fall ill.

The Baba convinced Irfan

that Jawed has done black magic on him which made him fall sick. He then offered him treatment and claimed to have treated him and uploaded a

video of him doing so on YouTube. This is a hoax and a big scam. The man is cheating

These criminals exploit people by taking undue advantage of any bad situation they find themselves in, and money, gold ornaments and other such valuables

clients. And then there are 'online babas', who cheat victims through shady websites," said a senior police official.

These criminals have offices in Secunderabad, Panjagutta, Basheerbagh and other places in the city and its outskirts. Another group of these men solve problems through telephone conversations without disclosing their locations. The crooks, who keep changing

their locations from time to time and from city to city, ask clients to deposit money in specific bank accounts, and then go untraceable.

"These thugs place actual advertisements in leading newspapers where they promise to help out with problems like court cases, career issues, love affairs, infertility and family disputes. They also claim to be specialists in Maha Vashikaran," said a police officer from the city's central crime station.

There are also black magicians who maintain websites to gather a following, especially from Hyderabad's low-income background families. "Black magic and Vashikaran are powerful tools of ancient astrology. The person who has expertise in both has the power to solve life problems," claims a website run by 'specialist' Ayush Sharma, who offers services to all Hyderabad residents.

public with his fake tricks," said Jawed Khan.

Based on the complaint, the

police booked cheating cases against the Baba and arrested him on Saturday night.

'Sye Raa Narasimha...' lands in trouble again

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Tollywood actor Chiranjeevi's upcoming movie 'Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy' has landed in controversy with the descendants of freedom fighter Uyyala Narasimha Reddy, on whose biography the film is made,



lodged a complaint with Jubilee Hills police alleging that the filmmakers 'cheated' them.

According to sources,

Dastagiri and Laxmi, who are the fifth generation family members of the freedom fighter, approached the police stating that the filmmakers had not only taken the movie's story from them but also used their assets and other places for shooting the film.

"They said there were 23 family members of Uyyalavada Narasimha Reddy and the film unit had promised

to pay them for sharing the story. However, the amount was not paid to the family members till date" police said. The movie unit is organising pre-release function of 'Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy' on Sunday.

Jubilee Hills Inspector K Balakrishna Reddy confirmed that they had received a complaint against the film unit of 'Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy'. "We are taking legal opinion before booking a case," he said.

Student held for killing two in accident

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad police on Saturday arrested a college student who was reportedly driving an SUV that was involved in an accident in Alwal in which a nurse and her nephew were killed.

The deceased was identified as Anjamma, aged about 45, wife of Chandraiah, a resident of Champet. Her dead body was found on September 13, and has been 70 percent

Woman's rapist-killer held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The East Zone Task Force police have detained a man and are wrapping up the case by gathering evidence against him in connection with a rape-and-murder case reported with the Saidabad police earlier last week.

The deceased was identified as Anjamma, aged about 45, wife of Chandraiah, a resident of Champet. Her dead body was found on September 13, and has been 70 percent

decomposed, making it initially hard to confirm the rape angle, said the Saidabad police, adding that they are checking the CC cameras in the vicinity for further evidences about the murderer.

However, the PME report has confirmed that she was raped and killed by a man who has been taken into custody by the Task Force officials, said the DCP of Commissioner's Task Force, P Radhakrishna Rao.

TRS govt has left State bankrupt: Bhatti

Continued from Page 1

The Congress leader objected to the removal of "Anubhavadar" (occupier) column from land records. It was not correct on the part of the government to remove

the column, Bhatti Vikramarkha said. For, Anubhavadar was different from tenant farmer.

Former Minister D Sridhar Babu alleged that the government had failed to fulfil its assurance in regard to filling

job vacancies. The government presented a hopeless budget.

MLA Seethakka alleged that TRS members used the House for their political campaign.

The government had suc-

cessfully shut the mouths of the opposition with their strength in the House.

She alleged that CM K Chandrasekhar Rao was the reason for corrupt practices in the Revenue Department.

The government had suc-

Delinquency: Parents must control kids' gadget time

Incidence of juvenile offenders on rise; proliferation of violent content on Net among causes

NAVEEN KUMAR

■ HYDERABAD

Among the factors primarily contributing to delinquency of juveniles are lack of parental affection and security, lack of family ties and skipping school. A strong bond with parents or other responsible caregivers is core to developing resilience and a healthy personality, said an official from Hyderabad police. Children should be moulded in a proper way as they tend to get influenced easily.

In recent times, the compulsive need to possess a 'cool gadget' is one of the biggest causes which forces a child to get involved in criminal acts, officials said, adding that a role played by social media is having a more negative than positive effect on young minds.

If juvenile criminals were to be categorised, there would be three groups, said Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjan Kumar. "The first one will be those who are denied a comfort level in life; then the ones who are spoilt brats of rich people, and the last lot would be the ones committing crimes due to peer pressure," he said.

Earlier this year, a gang of six students, including three juveniles, were apprehended by West Zone Police, who would watch YouTube videos to learn how to hotwire bikes and drive them away. They were involved in 15 cases of bike thefts in the city.

The gang used to target high-end bikes and sold them to unsuspecting customers by promising original documents. All the six offenders live a lavish lifestyle and developed bad vices which they fed by committing crimes, said DCP, West Zone, AR Srinivas.

Usually, children who experience parental abuse or neglect are more likely to show negative traits that continue in adult life. Most of them struggle with emotional issues, low self-esteem, poor social skills as well as serious learning and adjustment problems, said an official working at a Bharosa centre.

Apart from bad upbringing, some of the most common causes associated with juveniles committing crimes are poverty, drug abuse, anti-social peer group, easy availability of weapons, child sexual abuse and the role of media, said psychologist Dr Mamta C.

"However, in India it is mainly poverty and the adverse effect of media, especially the social media, which makes juveniles inclined towards criminal activities. Poverty is also a big cause which forces a child to get involved in criminal acts," she said.

'Schemes I have in...

Continued from Page 1

dicate to the government. However, we will discuss with the employees on new Revenue Act. Employees will be at a loss if they resort to strikes madly. I will remain on farmers' side as a farmer", he said.

The government had not been benefiting upper caste people alone. "Only 20 percent land is in the hands of upper caste people. The remaining 80 percent of the land is in the hands of SCs, STs and BCs. It is not correct on the part of opposition parties to allege that Rythu Bandhu money is going into the pockets of rich", he said.

The government would not encourage tenant farmers at any cost. KCR asked farmers to clear their bank loans for renewal their loans as the government would send loan waiver cheques directly to their residences through post. The government had allotted Rs.6,000 crore for loan waiver scheme, he said.

Modi, Shah must change their...

Continued from Page 1

in Telangana in their villages or merge their villages with Telangana. The Sarpanches in Nanded district of Maharashtra had also sought TRS tickets to contest the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections.

ALL STUDS & STEEDS



METRO



Larsen & Toubro, no less. It's begun to be seen as a preferred means of transport for many a commuter. Last heard, travel on the luxurious Metro was cheaper than on AC buses.

For his part, HMR managing director NVS Reddy said, "It is very unfortunate that a young lady lost her life. The height and the sharpness of the plaster piece directly

falling on her head seemed to have caused her demise. Though it is a freak accident, we have taken it seriously and will get it independently investigated to take necessary remedial measures. I have

been investigating the cause of the mishap at Ameerpet Metro station.

There surely is more than what we are told about the

causes of the mishap at Ameerpet Metro station.

The Metro authority said it

will pay adequate compensation to the victim's family. It, however,

had no comments to make over

the poor maintenance of Metro station.

How can 'plaster' come off its walls?

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CAG report finds fault with TS govt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has found fault with the state government stating that delays in completion of irrigation projects not only adversely affected the quality of the expenditure but also deprived the state of intended benefits and economic growth.

In respect of 19 projects, whose original cost was Rs 41,201 crore, delays ranging from three to 11 years led to escalation of projected cost to Rs 1,32,928 crore. On Sunday, the last day of the Assembly Budget session for the year 2019-20, the TRS government introduced CAG report in the Assembly.

The CAG mentioned in its report that the Telangana government has placed creation of infrastructure as a priority area



since the formation of the state. It has spent Rs 79,236 crore on capital projects during 2014-18.

Within the capital projects, more than 50 per cent of the capital expenditure was on irrigation and flood control,

except in 2016-17. Delays in completion of projects, however, not only adversely affected the quality of the expenditure but also deprived the State of intended benefits and economic growth. In respect of

19 irrigation projects, whose original cost was Rs.41,201 crore, delays led to escalation of projected cost to Rs 1,32,928 crore. An amount of Rs 70,758 crore was spent on these incomplete projects so far.

- Says delays in completion of irrigation projects ranging from 3 to 11 years led to escalation of projected cost from Rs 41,201 crore to Rs 1,32,928 crore

- State government's actions adversely impacted DISCOMS

The State government did not disclose financial results of any of the irrigation projects.

In this regard, CAG recommended that the state government may compile working results of major irrigation projects to assess benefits from persistent heavy outlays in irrigation sector. These working results should guide future investments in the sector.

The CAG further mentioned in its report that as of March 31, 2018, the state government's investment in statutory corporations, government companies, joint stock companies and cooperative stood at Rs 16,365 crore. The ROI from corporations/companies was low at 0.62 per cent while the average rate of interest on government borrowing was 7.21 per cent. Government investments are highest in power sector.

Losses from the power sector (Rs.6,202 crore), however, accounted for 94 per cent of total losses (Rs 6,619 crore) incurred by State working PSUs in 2017-18. State government's actions have adversely impacted the DISCOMS, which in turn could impact return on investment.

KTR tables CAG report in Council

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Municipal Administration, IT and Industries Minister, KT Rama Rao has placed the Comptroller Auditor General of India (CAG) report for the year 2018 in Legislative Council on final day of the Budget session on Sunday.



He said that the CAG pointed out the Telangana government is backward in education sector. He said that the CAG opined that the Capital Expenditure decreased when compared with the year 2016-17. The CAG said that the primary deficit was decreased, however, it further pointed out that the revenue was not in a position to clear the debts.

The CAG stated that the government has to rationalise the Finance Department to prepare the Budget to ensure that the difference between budget estimations and realities to be decreased.

CAG mentioned that Rs 24,259 crore revenue decreased when compared with the last Budget estimations though the efficiency of the government in collecting Taxes increased for the last three years. The CAG mentioned in its report that revenue gains and Revenue expenses decreased when compared with GSBP.

The CAG further men-

tioned that the Telangana state is in ahead when compared with other states in regard to development expenditure and capital expenditure. CAG explained that the responsibilities of the state government in regard to payments as the government depended on dents for the last several years. However, the CAG stated that the state government gave top priority to basic infrastructure.

The CAG opined that there is a need to the state government to release the arrears if it wanted to rejuvenate DISCOMs. KTR said that the CAG mentioned in its report that the government spent Rs.70,758 crore on irrigation projects.

Earlier, the Council passed the resolution on uranium mining introduced by KTR. The resolution reads the central government has to take its decision on uranium mining in Telangana state.

'Ascertain remaining assets of Schedule IX institutions'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pradesh Re-organization Act, 2014. An expert committee constituted for the purpose gave recommendations for merger of 86 institutions. The Telangana government has accepted the recommendations in respect of two institutions.

The CAG recommended the State government to take steps to ascertain the assets and liabilities of remaining Schedule IX institutions and also take concrete steps for apportionment of Capital Heads and Loans and Advances.

A total of 91 institutions were supposed to be demerged as per Schedule IX of the Andhra

1,170 PD accounts inoperative

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Comptroller Auditor General of India (CAG) has stated in its report that there were 89 Personal Deposits (PD) Accounts in 2017-18 with adverse balances; 701 non operational PD Accounts with 'nil' balance; 949 PD Accounts with a total balance of Rs 14.23 crore, which had no transactions during the year 2017-18.

As per information furnished by Director of

Treasuries and Accounts, 1,170 PD Accounts with an outstanding balance of Rs 315.43 crore were inoperative for more than three years as on March 31, 2018, the CAG further said in its report.

Government officers, Public Sector Undertakings and Autonomous Bodies, were also operating heads of accounts meant for local funds. PD Accounts were being opened not in consultation with Accountant General (Accounts and

Entitlement) but by duly notifying Accountant General (A&E) after opening.

Opening PD Accounts as a matter of routine with weak accounting controls, transferring funds to PD Accounts to avoid lapse and keeping large balances in the PD Accounts without lapsing within the stipulated period entails dilution of legislative controls, inflation of expenditure figures and overstating of the liabilities of the government and enhances the risk of misuse

and misappropriation of funds.

The CAG recommended in this regard that government to put in place a mechanism to review category 'C' PD Accounts and lapse the unspent balances by the Treasury Officers concerned as stipulated in the government orders. Transferring money to PD Accounts from the Consolidated Fund of the state at fag end to avoid lapse of funds should be avoided.

Will borrow more, if necessary: CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Unfazed by criticism in several quarters about the long-term consequences of heavy borrowing by the State, Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao on Sunday shared in the Assembly how borrowed money was going for development of the state and asserted that, if necessary, the government would borrow more.

Referring to the slew of irrigation projects being executed by his government, KCR demanded to know whether any of the erstwhile Congress regimes had executed irrigation projects without borrowing funds. In any case, the government would not mislead the House about the State's fiscal position, he said, while addressing members as part of the current budget session. Boldness and a spirit of sacrifice were characteristic of TRS. Challenges were not new to the pink party, KCR remarked, while seeking to allay fears over the size of borrowings.

The verdict of the people in the last Assembly elections reflected people's faith in TRS. The pink party's rule had always been far better than that of the Congress, says Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao in Assembly

regard, he said. The Government wanted to extend Metro Rail to the Old City.

In an effort to blunt criticism over TRS' perceived operation to woo leaders and cadre from other parties, KCR said TRS was certainly not prepared to receive lessons on morality from the Congress. People had seen how the Congress encouraged defection of TRS MLAs during the movement for Telangana. Likewise, BJP, on its part, had wooed four TRS MPs to its fold. The TRS, on the contrary, had been "merging" MLAs into the party in line with the statute, KCR maintained. The party had advised MLAs of other parties wishing to join TRS that 'merger' of the respective party's blocs would be technically safer route.

KCR assured the House that the government would resolve the problems plaguing the Telangana Waqf Board. Further, the TRS government was committed to providing 12 per cent quota for Muslims and had even adopted a resolution to this effect. The government would have no objection to adopt another resolution in this

zero. The Congress had ruled undivided AP for 51 years. During Congress and TDP regimes, the names of schemes might have differed, but the administration was more or less similar, he said.

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SHORT READS
Mumbai man drowns in Nagpur lake

NAGPUR: A Mumbai resident drowned in Ambajari Lake in Nagpur on Sunday morning, police said. Anand Dwivedi, who hails from Matunga in Mumbai, was working in an Information Technology company here, an official said. "He had gone to the lake with 6-7 friends. He did not know how to swim and drowned soon after he entered the water. The incident happened at 7 am. His body was brought out later by people who were swimming nearby," the Ambajari police station official said.

Policeman's son electrocuted in UP's Bareilly

BAREILLY: A son of a police personnel was electrocuted here on Sunday morning as he pressed the door bell of a police outpost, where his father was posted. According to Superintendent of Police (City) Abhinandan Singh, the incident took place at the Biharipur police outpost in the city. Singh said, "It was raining when Saurabh (20), son of outpost in-charge Devendra Singh, pressed the door bell. He got an electric shock and died." He said at the time of the incident, the police outpost was filled with water. "The fire brigade was called to pump out the accumulated water," the SP said, adding that the incident would be probed. He said the body had been sent for a post-mortem examination.

Now Mulayam set to lose his Mercedes SUV

LUCKNOW: After losing the plush bungalow allotted to him as former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and then the sprawling Lohia Trust office, Samajwadi Party (SP) patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav is now set to lose his swanky Mercedes SUV. The Mercedes, according to Estate Department sources, has developed some technical fault and some Rs 26 lakhs is required for the repairs. "Our budget does not allow us to undertake the expensive repairs so we will give another suitable car, probably a Prado, to Mulayam Singh," said an estate department official. SP leaders, meanwhile, see this as yet another attempt by the state's BJP government to target the party leaders. "The government can spend crores of rupees in publicity and advertising but cannot afford a mere Rs 26 lakhs for a car repair. This proves that the BJP is pursuing the politics of vendetta," said an SP leader. Mulayam Singh and his son Akhilesh Yadav were made to vacate their official bungalows, allotted to them as former Chief Ministers, after a Supreme Court order. Earlier this month, the state government also got the Lohia Trust office vacated as per the direction of the apex court.

PRACTICE IN UK

Doctors, nurses need not take TOEFL, IELTS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Doctors, nurses, dentists and midwives who wish to practice in the UK will no longer have to appear for English language tests like TOEFL and IELTS as the country will now accept scores of Occupational English Test (OET) which the candidates have to anyway clear for registering with the relevant healthcare regulator.

The OET is an international English language test that assesses the language communication skills of healthcare professionals, who seek to register and practise in an English-speaking environment.

The candidates had to earlier take OET to register with Nursing and Midwifery Council and the General Medical Council, which are the two healthcare boards in the UK, as well as TOEFL or IELTS like exam to apply for visa.

"The UK Home Office has streamlined English language testing ensuring that doctors, dentists, nurses and midwives,



who have already passed an English language test accepted by the relevant professional body, do not have to sit another test before entry to the UK on a Tier 2 visa," said Sujata Stead, CEO, Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment, which conducts the OET.

"This change which was announced last week will make sure that hospitals and medical practices across the country will be able to access the staff they need more quickly," she added. The change will apply

to all Tier 2 (General) visa applications submitted from October 1. The Occupational English Test (OET) is designed to meet the specific English language needs of the healthcare sector. It assesses the language proficiency of healthcare professionals who wish to register and practise in an English-speaking environment.

OET is conducted by Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment (CBLA), a venture between Cambridge Assessment English and Box

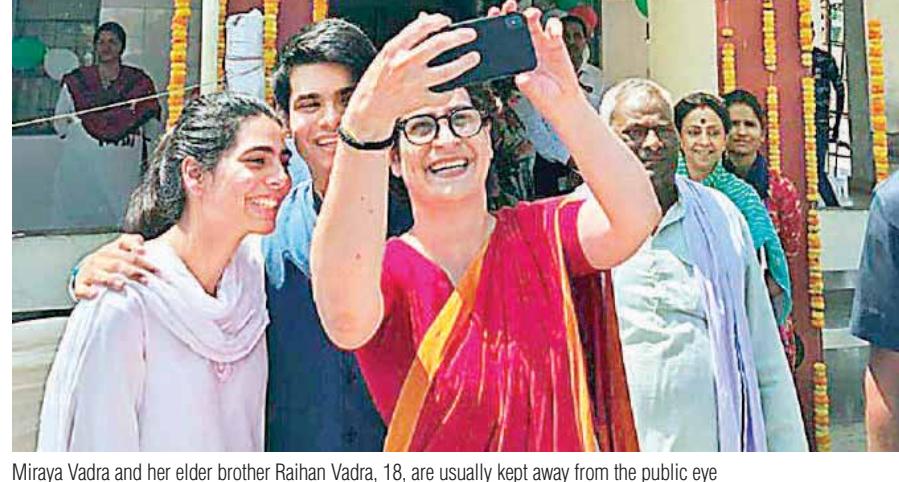
The Occupational English Test (OET) is designed to meet the specific English language needs of the healthcare sector

Hill Institute. Cambridge Assessment English is a not-for-profit department of the University of Cambridge.

The test is recognised as proof of English proficiency for registration purposes by major healthcare boards and councils in the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Dubai, Singapore, Namibia and Ukraine. It is also accepted in Australia and New Zealand for visa and immigration purposes.

OET is used as an entry or exit test for healthcare courses by educators and as recruitment criterion for employment of healthcare professionals.

On daughter's day, Priyanka Gandhi's note on 16-yr-old Miraya

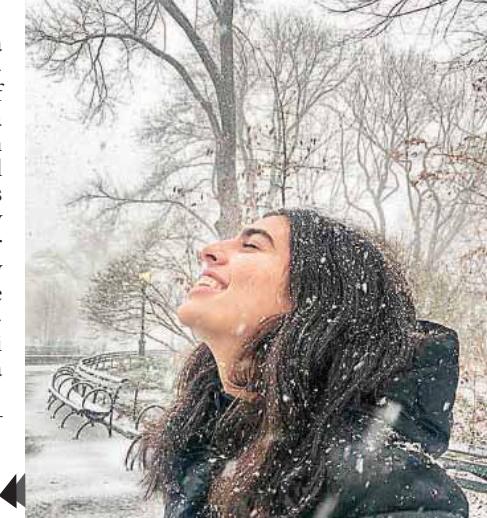


Miraya Vadra and her elder brother Raihan Vadra, 18, are usually kept away from the public eye

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra posted a picture of her daughter this morning on Twitter on the occasion of Daughter's Day. In the picture, Miraya Vadra, her 16-year-old daughter, is seen enjoying the snow. The Congress general secretary tweeted, "Who knew there was a '#Daughtersday' I thought it was every day." Miraya Vadra and her elder brother Raihan Vadra, 18, are usually kept away from the public eye. However, they were seen posing for a selfie with their mother in April when their uncle Rahul Gandhi filed his nomination for the Lok Sabha election from Uttar Pradesh's Amethi.

Happy Daughter's Day: Priyanka Gandhi Vadra posts photo of her daughter Miraya on Daughter's Day



west-northwest towards Oman coast over the next 72 hours, the IMD added.

The cyclonic storm will cause light to moderate rains in several places in the Saurashtra region. It is likely to intensify into a deep depression and subsequently convert into a cyclonic storm in 24 hours and move

Kutch region of Gujarat, and heavy rainfall in isolated places in the coastal districts during the next 24 hours, the IMD informed.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the east-central and adjoining north-east Arabian Sea along and off Gujarat coast during next 48 hours as the condition of the sea would be very rough with winds with speeds of 45-55 kmph to 65

kmph, the IMD informed. The depression over east-central and adjoining north-east Arabian sea off Gujarat coast moved west-northwest with a speed of 15 kilometres per hour and lay centred, at 11:30 am on Sunday, around 170 km west-southwest of Veraval in Gujarat, 570 km south-southeast of Karachi in Pakistan, and 1170 km east-southeast of Muscat in Oman, the IMD said.

The Election Commission on Saturday had announced polling for 11 Assembly seats in the state mostly belonging to MLAs who had won the Lok Sabha elections and resigned as members of state assembly will be held on October 21. Assembly constituencies which will vote in bypolls are Gangoh, Rampur, Igla (SC), Lucknow Cantonment, Govindnagar, Manikpur, Pratapgarh, Zaidpur (SC), Jalalpur, Balha (SC) and Ghosi.



Depression off Guj coast, may become storm

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

A depression formed over east-central and north-east Arabian Sea was now around 170 kilometres west-southwest off Veraval in Gujarat, the India Meteorological Department said on Sunday.

It is likely to intensify into a deep depression and subsequently convert into a cyclonic storm in 24 hours and move



west-northwest towards Oman coast over the next 72 hours, the IMD added.

The cyclonic storm will cause light to moderate rains in several places in the Saurashtra-

region. It is likely to intensify into a deep depression and subsequently convert into a cyclonic storm in 24 hours and move

west-southwest towards Oman coast over the next 72 hours, the IMD added.

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BJP raising Article 370 to divert attention: Soren

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP is raising the issue of abrogation of Article 370 provisions in the run up to the Jharkhand Assembly polls as a "ploy" to divert people's attention from "monumental failures" of the Raghubar Das government, JMM working president Hemant Soren alleged on Sunday.

The former Jharkhand chief minister's sharp attack comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah referred to Article 370 abrogation while listing the achievements of the NDA government 2.0 in their public addresses in the poll-bound state.

Soren said the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) will raise people's issues in the campaign and promised that if voted to power, his government will ensure 75 per cent reservation for the youth of Jharkhand in private jobs.

In an interview to PTI, he said if JMM forms the government, it will ensure five lakh jobs within one year, unem-



ployment allowance to those who are jobless, reserve government tender up to Rs 25 crore for people from the state, implement 50 per cent reservation for women in jobs and 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Asked about the BJP aggressively raising the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and

Kashmir and the nationalistic fervour around it, Soren said a government which fails to address economic and social crises and key issues that affect everyday lives of citizens, resorts to "creating sharp polarisation in the society".

"Lightning doesn't strike a place twice and similarly the BJP cannot fool the people all

the time. Raising the issue of Article 370 during state assembly polls campaign is nothing but the BJP's ploy to divert people's attention from its monumental failures in governance in Jharkhand," the Leader of the Opposition in the Jharkhand Assembly said.

Modi might have been successful in securing an NDA vic-

Lightning doesn't strike a place twice and similarly the BJP cannot fool the people all the time. Raising the issue of Article 370 during state assembly polls campaign is nothing but the BJP's ploy to divert people's attention from its monumental failures in governance in Jharkhand

tory based on the post-Pulwama and Balakot nationalistic fervour, but the people of Jharkhand have had enough of this "apathetic" state government and are waiting to throw it out in the upcoming assembly polls, he claimed.

Last week, Union Home Minister Shah, while addressing a public meeting in Jharkhand, had said Prime Minister Modi showed Pakistan its place by abrogating Articles 370 and 35A, and established that J&K is an integral part of India.

Earlier, Modi, while speaking in Ranchi, had also referred to the government's step of creating the Union territories of

Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, while abrogating Article 370 provisions.

Asked whether an opposition grand alliance will be formed up for the assembly polls, Soren said his party's sole aim is to free Jharkhand's 3.5 crore people from the "insensitive" BJP government.

"For this purpose, we are willing to coordinate with all like minded parties to collectively fight the BJP and its divisive policies. JMM was instrumental in the fight to achieve Jharkhand as a separate state, and if necessary, will again engage in the struggle to ensure Jharkhand shines bright on the nation's map," he said.

"The entire Opposition has already had a meeting and once I get over with the ongoing 'Badlav Yatra', I will sit again with all party leaders," the 44-year-old son of JMM chief Soren said.

JMM, Congress, Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik) and Rashtriya Janata Dal had contested the Lok Sabha polls in alliance earlier this year, but managed to win just two out of the 14 seats.

Referring to the understanding of JMM fighting the general elections under the Congress leadership and vice-versa for state polls, Soren said the contours of the alliance for both Lok Sabha and the upcoming Assembly elections were mutually decided by the senior most leadership of both parties.

"So, the Congress leadership including its state leadership in Jharkhand should be cognizant about this commitment especially when they make public statements or remarks to the media. I do expect a lot more responsibility from them in this regard," he said.

Government likely to order 36 more Rafale fighter jets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shrugging off the controversy around the previous deal, the Narendra Modi government has finalized a deal for another 36 Rafale fighter jets, according to media reports.

An Indian Defence Research Wing report published on Saturday said the new order will be inked in early 2020. The Indian Air Force has recently been handed over its first Rafale aircraft from France.

The official handing over will take place on October 8 when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be visiting France.

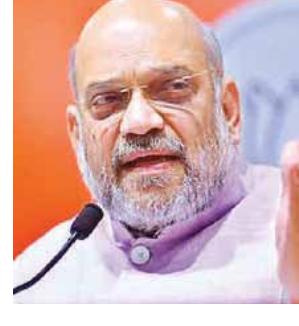
The purchase of another 36 Rafale fighter jets will take the fleet to 72, which will be key to bolster India's air power, particularly in the aftermath of the



Even the F-21 isn't something India is keen to procure, irrespective of the pressure from US. But the Boeing F-18, which has both a carrier as well as an Air force variant, is under consideration of the IAF along with Rafale, say sources.

Amit Shah blames ex-PM Nehru for PoK's existence

PNS ■ MUMBAI



Blaming former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru for the Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said it would not have come into existence had Nehru not declared untimely ceasefire with the neighbouring country.

Targeting Nehru over "non-integration" of Kashmir with India, he said Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the country's first home minister, should have handled the issue, instead of the then prime minister.

Addressing a rally here on the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and to campaign for the BJP for the next month's Maharashtra Assembly polls, he said, "The Congress sees politics behind Article 370 abrogation, we

don't see it that way."

"The PoK wouldn't have come into existence had Nehru not declared untimely ceasefire with Pakistan...Sardar Patel should have handled Kashmir, instead of Nehru handling it," he said.

"Not a single bullet has been fired in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370," he said.

The senior BJP leader said there was no unrest in Kashmir

and in the coming days, "terrorism will be finished".

Without taking any names, he said three dynasties which ruled Kashmir didn't allow the anti-corruption bureau (ACB) to be set up there.

"Those who indulged in corruption in Kashmir now are feeling the heat despite the cold there," he said in remarks laced with sarcasm.

He asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar to tell people whether they support or oppose removal of Article 370.

Addressing the gathering, he also expressed confidence that Devendra Fadnavis will again be the chief minister after the state polls next month.

The state Assembly elections will be held in a single phase on October 21 and results will be declared on October 24.

Voting for Dantewada bypoll today, security stepped up

PNS ■ RAIPUR

Voting for the by-election in the Naxal-affected Dantewada Assembly constituency of Chhattisgarh will be held on Monday amid heightened security. Total nine candidates are in fray for the bypoll which was necessitated following the death of sitting BJP legislator Bhima Mandavi in a Naxal attack in April this year.

The main opposition BJP in the state is fighting to retain the seat, reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates. "All preparations have been done for conducting a free and fair by-election in Dantewada," state's Chief Electoral Officer Subrat Sahoo told reporters here on Sunday.

There are total 1,88,263 voters, including 89,747 men and 98,876 women, in the constituency where 273 polling stations have been established. Voting will be held from 7 am till 3 pm. Elaborate security arrangements have been made for conducting the bypoll," he said.

Nearly 18,000 security personnel, including paramilitary forces, have been deployed in the Naxal-infested Assembly segment, which is part of the Bastar region, a senior police official here said. Besides, drones will also keep a hawk eye to track the movement of Naxals, especially in areas close to the polling booths and camps of security forces, he said. As many as 1,302 polling personnel have already left for their respective booths, he said. Both the leading parties have fielded candidates who have been victims of Naxal violence.

Earthmover's loader collapses on passenger tempo, kills one

BHAUDH: A 43-year-old woman died and eight other persons were injured on Sunday, when the front loader of a JCB earthmover collapsed on the tail end of a tempo in which they were travelling, police said on Sunday.

Gopiganj police station in-charge Sanjay Kumar Rai said the accident took place when the tempo with 10 passengers while going to Gopiganj from Handia tried to overtake the JCB machine. As the tempo driver tried to overtake the earthmover, the vehicle was hit by JCB machine with its front loader collapsing on it, said the SHO. The rear portion of the tempo was badly damaged and one of the passengers, Sheela Devi died in the accident, said Rai. Eight other passengers suffered injuries in the accident, said Rai, adding three of the injured persons have been sent to Varanasi for treatment.

Teenager arrested for murder of grandfather

BANDA: An 18-year-old youth was arrested here for allegedly hacking to death his grandfather over a property issue, police said Sunday. Superintendent of Police Ganesh Prasad Saha said the incident took place in Sandi village in the district on Friday night. Pradeep killed his 65-year-old grandfather Motilal Pal with an axe. "During investigation, it was found that Pal had given 22 bigha of land to his elder son Sabhajeet, and 21 bigha to the wife of his younger son. The rest 40 bigha of land he had kept with himself. It was over this piece of land that Sabhajeet's son Pradeep killed his grandfather," Saha said.

'Justice should neither be instant, nor unduly delayed'

PNS ■ GUWAHATI



There should not be undue haste or delay in the justice delivery mechanism, Justice S A Bobde of the Supreme Court has said.

Instead the mechanism should be viewed in proper perspective, Justice Bobde said at a national conclave here on Saturday.

The concept of 'instant justice' has been associated with the worst regimes of the world but justice should not be delayed either, he said.

"Nobody wants delayed justice but giving justice takes time and it must be under-

Roadmap for the future' was attended by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Acting Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Arup Kumar Goswami, sitting and retired judges of the Gauhati High Court and judges from other high courts of the country.

Justice Bobde also pointed out the low judge-population ratio in the country which is 20 judges per ten lakh population, while in most countries it is 50 to 80 judges per 10 lakh people. "The ratio of judges compared to the litigations filed is another perspective which should be considered", he said.

stood in the right perspective," the Supreme Court judge said while reading out the resolutions taken at the conclave.

The conclave on 'Challenges facing the Indian Judiciary -

Kashmir status withdrawn to protect nation's integrity: Gowda

PNS ■ MANGALURU

The BJP's prime objective of protecting the integrity of the nation and its development agenda led to the decision for abrogation of Article 370 and 35 A of the Constitution that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, according to Union Minister D V Sadananda Gowda. He said the party had long back started the process to annul both the Articles, which offered special status to J&K. The minister said that once normality is restored in Kashmir, the Union government would focus on the development of the region.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will create this digital repository with the help of the Tata Trust, which will build this facility under its Corporate Social Responsibility. The data will be hosted in India with a high security cloud based access.

SATELLITE MAPPING Central heritage database of archaeological sites soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Archaeological Survey of India will create this digital repository with the help of the Tata Trust, which will build this facility under its Corporate Social Responsibility

"ASI will sign a MoU to this effect with the Tata Trust soon and this will mean that unknown archaeological sites and related antiquities can be discovered and documented in over next 10 years using the satellite imagery and remote sensing technique," a source said. The documentation

through this technique will help in building a sound knowledge base and safe future of artefacts for the successful implementation of the key articles of the UNESCO Convention on the means of prohibiting and preventing of illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property.

We are committed to meet India's energy security needs: Saudi Arabia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



A series of drone and missile attacks on oil facilities of Saudi Aramco, the country's national petroleum company, on September 14 knocked out half of its daily oil production, severely impacting the global oil market and triggering fresh tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

severely impacting the global oil market and triggering fresh tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

As the investigations are ongoing, the Kingdom will invite UN and international experts to view the situation on ground and to participate in the investigations," the ambassador said. "The Kingdom will take appropriate measures to ensure its security and stability. The Kingdom affirms that it has the capability and resolve to defend its land and people,

and to forcefully respond to these aggressions," he said.

Yemen's Houthi terror group has taken responsibility for the biggest-ever attacks on Saudi oil facilities which severely impacted global oil supply. Saudi Arabia and its ally, the US, have blamed Iran for the attacks but Tehran has strongly denied the allegations.

The recent attack against Saudi Aramco was not only against the Kingdom, but against the international community as a whole.

A series of drone and missile attacks on oil facilities of Saudi Aramco, the country's national petroleum company, on September 14 knocked out half of its daily oil production,

Saudi Arabia will continue working constructively with other producers within and outside OPEC to maintain market stability, thus protecting all the interests of producers and consumers alike.

OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) is a 14-nation powerful bloc of oil producing countries. "India condemned the attacks on our oil facilities and reiterated its resolve to oppose terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. As a friend and strategic partner, we appreciate India's support and solidarity," Al Sati said.

He said initial investigations have indicated that the weapons used in the attack were Iranian, adding probe was going on to determine the source of the strike.

"The Kingdom condemns this egregious crime which threatens international peace and security and affirms that the primary target of this attack is in line with the previous attacks against Saudi Aramco pumping stations using Iranian weapons," he said.

Hoping to change the lives of the capital's have-nots, a shopkeeper in Delhi has been running a makeshift school for more than 300 underprivileged children beneath a metro bridge in the Yamuna Bank area for the last over eight years without any assistance neither from the government nor any NGOs.

"The Free School Under The Bridge", where hundreds of children living in shacks and huts close to the Yamuna Bank metro station get education, is run by its founder Rajesh Kumar Sharma.

The sole breadwinner of his family of five who live in Laxmi Nagar, Sharma belongs to Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district and runs a small grocery shop in the same locality to support his family.

The 49-year-old's journey of teaching more than 300 children of slum dwellers, rag-pickers, rickshaw-pullers and beggars began with two children in 2006 when the idea came to his mind while wan-

dering around the empty fields close to the Yamuna river.

Today, he runs two shifts -- one from 9-11 AM for 120 boys and the other 2-4.30 PM for 180 girls -- with the help of seven teachers who live in nearby areas and in their free time, volunteer to teach the students -- aged between four and 14 years. The open house school, whose roof is a Delhi metro bridge, has five blackboards painted on the wall of the metro complex and some stationary such as chalks and dusters, pens and pencils.

The children, who sit on the ground covered with carpets, bring their own note books and study in groups. The place is far from traffic and the noise of frequently passing metro trains hardly gets noticed by the students.

Sharma, who could not complete his B.Sc and dropped out of college due to his family's poor financial condition, says that no one should be deprived of education due to poverty and to fulfil his or her dream, he dedicates over 50 hours a week to the children.

Although he started the movement of educating the poor children on his own, Sharma is now assisted by teachers Laxmi Chandra, Shyam Mahto, Rekha, Sunita, Manisha, Chetan Sharma and Sarvesh who take classes on their free will and none of them get paid for the deed.

SHORT READS



HCL's Shiv Nadar to be chief guest at RSS' Vijayadashmi function

NAGPUR: HCL founder-chairman and Padma Bhushan awardee Shiv Nadar will be the chief guest at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Vijayadashmi function to be held at its Nagpur headquarters on October 8, a functionary of the organisation said on Sunday. The function, an annual affair, is keenly watched by political observers as the speech by the RSS chief tends to lay down the agenda for it as well as affiliated Sangh Parivar outfit for the year ahead. "HCL founder-chairman Shiv Nadar will be the chief guest at the Vijayadashmi function on October 8," said the RSS' Nagpur 'mahanagar sanchalak' Rajesh Loya. The RSS was founded by Keshav Baliram Hedgewar at Nagpur on Vijayadashmi Day in 1925. Last year, Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi was the chief guest at the Vijayadashmi function

Iran warns foreign forces of meddling

AFP ■ TEHRAN

President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday denounced the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf and said Iran will offer a peace plan, after arch-foe the United States ordered reinforcements to the tinderbox region.

"Foreign forces can cause problems and insecurity for our people and for our region," Rouhani said in a televised speech at an annual military parade.

Rouhani also said Iran would present a peace plan to the United Nations in the coming days.

"In this sensitive and important historical moment, we announce to our neighbours that we extend the hand of friendship and brotherhood to them," he said.

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

The tensions escalated in the wake of devastating September 14 attacks on Saudi oil installations that Washington and Riyadh have, to varying degrees, blamed on Tehran. Following the attacks, which caused global oil prices to spike, Trump initially raised

MILITARY PARADE ON IRAN-IRAQ WAR ANNIVERSARY



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Presidency, President Hassan Rouhani speaks at a military parade marking 39th anniversary of outset of Iran-Iraq war, in front of the shrine of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran, Iran on Sunday

comes from within," said the Iranian president.

Following his speech, the Iranian armed forces paraded their latest equipment, including tanks, missiles and armoured vehicles as Rouhani and top military commanders saluted them.

Rouhani is expected to travel to New York on Monday, a day before general debate is not reached soon between the two countries, a key White House adviser has said.

The world's two largest economies have been locked in a bruising trade war since Trump in March last year imposed tariff hikes of up to 25 per cent on USD 250 billion of Chinese goods.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who is subject to US sanctions, has already arrived in New York ahead of the annual gathering.

Tensions have flared in the Gulf since May, when Iran began reducing its commitments to the nuclear deal and the US said it was sending forces to waters near the Islamic republic in response to "indications of a credible threat" from its forces.

The US deployed an aircraft carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the sensitive waterways, before sending B-52 bombers, an amphibious assault ship and Patriot missile battery.

Following the deployments, commercial ships were mysteriously attacked, drones downed and oil tankers seized in Gulf waters. Trump in June authorised a military strike after Iran shot down a US drone, only to call off the retaliation at the last moment.

US likely to escalate trade war with China if no deal is agreed soon: Trump's advisor

PTI ■ BEIJING

intellectual property rights (IPR) technology transfer and more access to American goods to Chinese markets.

Trump delayed a planned tariff hike on USD 250 billion of Chinese goods as a "gesture of good will" ahead of China's 70th year of National Day celebrations on October 1.

The two countries are preparing for the next round of trade talks in Washington on October.

"Does the president have options to escalate the trade war? Yes, the tariffs can be raised higher. These are low level tariffs that could go to 50 per cent or 100 per cent," Michael Pillsbury, adviser to the White House on China policy, said that Trump would likely escalate the trade war by raising existing tariffs, if no deal is reached.

In

an interview in Hong Kong on Thursday, Pillsbury said that Trump had been "remarkably restrained in the pressure he has brought to bear on China in the trade field".

Both sides so far have held

12 rounds of talks but failed to work out a deal as China continued to resist Trump's demand for intrusive verification mechanism to supervise Beijing's promise to protect

GLOBE TROTTING

NOT TOO LATE FOR BREXIT DEAL: JUNCKER

Madrid: There is still time for London and Brussels to make a Brexit deal, outgoing European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker said in remarks published Sunday, as the clock runs down to a October 31 deadline.

Juncker also told the Spanish daily El País that he wished the Commission had played a more active role in the 2016 British referendum to counteract "lies and fake news".

WORLD FEELS HEAT OF CLIMATE SUMMIT

United Nations: Saying humanity is waging war with the planet, the head of the United Nations isn't planning to let just any world leader speak about climate change at Monday's special "action summit." Only those with new, specific and bold plans can command the podium and the ever-warming world's attention, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.

TANZANIA NOT SHARING EBOLA INFO: WHO

Nairobi: The World Health Organization has accused Tanzania of failing to provide information on suspected cases of Ebola in the country, potentially hindering efforts to curb the spread of the deadly virus.

Israeli Prez says 'stable' Govt should include Likud, Blue and White

Jerusalem: Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said Sunday the country's next Government should include both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party and Benny Gantz's Blue and White alliance to form a "stable" coalition.

Rivlin made the comments during meetings with representatives from political parties to hear their recommendations on who should be prime minister following last week's deadlocked elections.

Blue and White won the most seats in Tuesday's poll, with 33 out of parliament's 120, while Likud finished second with 31.

Neither has an obvious path to a majority coalition, raising the possibility of a third election in a year's time after April polls also ended inconclusively. Rivlin had so far met representatives from Blue and White and Likud as part of his consultations.

PTI

ISRAELI ARAB PARTIES BACK GANTZ FOR PM IN BREAK WITH PRECEDENT

Jerusalem: Israeli Arab political parties are backing ex-military chief Benny Gantz as the country's next prime minister in a break with precedent, they announced Sunday.

The mainly Arab Joint List alliance made the announcement at roughly the same time as its leader, Ayman Odeh, published an opinion piece on the New York Times website speaking of the move.

AFP

Trump, Biden spar over Ukraine after whistleblower complaint

AFP ■ WASHINGTON



Joe Biden accused Donald Trump Saturday of "an overwhelming abuse of power" and called for an investigation into accusations the US leader pressured his Ukrainian counterpart to investigate the presidential candidate's son.

Biden's allegations prompted a swift rebuke from Trump, who himself accuses the Democratic frontrunner of wrongdoing in Ukraine during his time as vice president under former president Barack Obama.

The back-and-forth recriminations stem from a Washington Post report stating a whistleblower complaint had been filed over Trump's communications with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, and a "promise" allegedly made by the US leader.

Trump allegedly pressured Zelensky to investigate possible corruption involving Biden and his son Hunter, who had worked with a Ukrainian natural gas company while his father was vice president.

Trump has urged media to "look into" Biden's comments in early 2016 when the then US vice president said the Obama administration would freeze \$1 billion in US loan guarantees unless Kiev fire its top prosecutor, who was looking into the gas company.

"This appears to be an overwhelming abuse of power, to get on the phone with a for-

Trump to boast to UN about US success, but troubles mounting

AFP ■ UNITED NATIONS

US President Donald Trump will stand before the United Nations on Tuesday to declare his country top of the world. But with diplomatic troubles building, his annual boast may ring hollow.

Trump's political brand is as well known inside the United Nations as his businessman version is to the rest of New York: brash, unabashedly self-promoting, and all about claiming the win.

At this year's UN General Assembly, the former real estate tycoon won't disappoint.

"We'll say the United States is the greatest country in the world. It's never been stronger and it's never been better," he said in a mini-review of his speech.

Oh -- and that Americans "certainly have one of the great presidents in our history."

Trump's declaration last year that he had "accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country" triggered laughter in the cavernous UN hall.

Headlines like "The Whole World Laughed at Trump" followed, to which Trump insisted that diplomats were chuckling with, not at him.

A year later, with Trump beset by setbacks from North Korea to Iran and Venezuela to China, will his Big Apple bragadocio get a better reception?

A senior administration official told reporters ahead of the assembly that Trump would work to "affirm America's leadership role in the rules-based international system."

But the US president prefers to go it alone, preferring bilateral deals to coalitions, negotiating with enemies and clashing with friends.

On Monday, he'll skip a big climate change summit organised by the UN secretary general. Trump, who promotes fossil fuels and derides the need for renewable energy, also missed climate change talks at the recent G7 summit in France.

While at the UN, he'll meet separately with around a dozen leaders.

But of them, the only European representative currently on the list is Boris Johnson, the prime minister running the chaotic Brexit process of trying to pull Britain out of the EU.

There will be intense scrutiny of a meeting on Wednesday with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Trump is alleged to have attempted to persuade the Ukrainian to investigate one of his 2020 presidential challengers, Joe Biden.

A larger-than-life figure, Trump believes that his personality enables him to succeed where conventional diplomacy fails.

UN welcomes Houthi offer to halt attacks on Saudi Arabia

AFP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations envoy for Yemen welcomed Saturday an offer from the country's Houthi rebels to halt all attacks on Saudi Arabia, saying it could bring an end to years of bloody conflict.

Implementation of the initiative by the Houthis "in good faith could send a powerful message of the will to end the war," Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths said.

The Iran-backed Houthis, which control the capital Sanaa and other parts of Yemen, have been fighting against a Saudi-led coalition which supports the country's internationally recognised government in a devastating five-year war.

Griffiths hailed "the desire for a political solution to end the conflict" in a statement issued from the UN headquarters in New York. On Friday, the Houthis proposed halting attacks on Saudi Arabia as part of a peace initiative.

Saudi Arabia gave a cautious response, with minister of state for foreign affairs Adel al-Jubeir saying on Saturday, "We judge other parties by their deeds, actions and not by their words, so we will see (whether) they actually do this or not."

Griffiths stressed "the importance of taking advantage of this opportunity and moving forward with all necessary steps to reduce violence, military escalation and unhelpful rhetoric."

Demonstrators clash with Egyptian security forces in rare anti-Sisi protests

AFP ■ CAIRO

forces

fired tear gas, rubber and live bullets and there were injuries", a man who took part in the demonstration but declined to be named told AFP.

Another resident, who also preferred to remain anonymous, said the tear gas was so thick it had reached her apartment block a few kilometres away from the turbulent downtown area.

"My nose started burning up. The smell was seeping through the balcony. I also saw some youth run and hide in our street," the woman said.

On late Friday, hundreds of Egyptians poured through the streets of Cairo, chanting slogans including "Leave, Sisi" and demanding the "fall of the regime".

At least 74 people were arrested after clashes between the crowds and police in the capital, a security source told AFP. The protests came after Mohamed Aly, an exiled businessman and opponent of Sisi posted calls online for demonstrations against Sisi.

He upped the pressure on Saturday in an explosive-filled video, imploring Egyptians to join a "million-man march" next Friday and to fill all "major squares" of the country.

"This is a people's revolution... We have to link up together as one... And organise going down to the major squares," he said in a Facebook appeal to his followers.

Study: Melting Antarctic glaciers to slip faster towards ocean

PTI ■ LONDON

Antarctic peninsula coincides with spikes in snowmelt.

The researchers add that this is due to the surface meltwater penetrating into the ice bed, and lubricating the sliding of glaciers.

As temperatures continue to rise in the Antarctic, surface melting could occur more frequently and across a wider area, the researchers said.

According to the study, the Antarctic temperature is an important factor in determining the speed at which glaciers move towards the sea.

Ultimately, the researchers said that glaciers on the Antarctic Peninsula would behave like those in present-day Greenland and Alaska, where meltwater controls the size and timing of variations in glacier flow across seasons and years.

"Our research shows for the first time that surface meltwater is getting beneath glaciers in the Antarctic Peninsula – causing short bursts of sliding towards the sea 100 per cent faster than normal," said co-author Jeremy Ely of the University of Sheffield.

According to the researchers, gravity causes glaciers to move downhill with the internal deformation of ice, and by sliding over the ground beneath them — a process lubricated by liquid water called basal sliding.

The study shows that the movement of glaciers in the

Gandhi's 150th birthday to be celebrated in Netherlands

PTI ■ THE HAGUE



and Message of Gandhi" will be displayed in the Atrium of the City Hall of The Hague.

The exhibition in Dutch will show the viewers the important phases of Mahatma Gandhi's life.

From September 24 to October 3, volunteers will fan out to schools and universities of the Netherlands in a "Follow the Mahatma" campaign and talk about Gandhi's message of non-violence and its relevance in today's world.

This school project aspires to reach over 25 schools and over 1,600 children.

The aim of the programme is to bring together volunteers who in turn can reach out to several thousand students aimed at disseminating the message of non-violence.

Other celebrations on October 2 include garlanding of Gandhi statues in The

Hague, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Zoetermeer, with the public paying tributes by placing flowers at the feet of the statues as a mark of respect amidst speeches, singing of favourite songs of Gandhi, cultural programmes and a memorial meeting by Stichting Standbeeld Mahatma Gandhi in the Peace Palace.

A social media campaign will also be conducted inviting people to post messages reiterating their commitment to the principle of non-violence.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. He led India to independence from the British rule through peaceful and non-violent resistance.

In 2007, the United Nations declared his birthday October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence and called upon countries and people across the world to celebrate and observe this day by disseminating the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness.

The International Day of Non-Violence is observed annually on October 2 to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The day aims to promote non-violence and peaceful co-existence among people of different cultures, religions, and backgrounds.

26 people killed as bus rams into mountain in Pak

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Chilas and some of them were in critical condition.

The passenger bus, belonging to a private company, departed from Skardu on Saturday for Rawalpindi. On Sunday morning, the driver lost control of the bus while taking a turn on a hilly road in Pakistan's northwest, killing at least 26 people, including children, and injuring 13 others, police said.

The accident happened in the Babusar Top area, bordering Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province with Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

The bus was going towards Rawalpindi from Skardu city and there were 40 passengers, including 16 Pakistan Army personnel, the Express Tribune reported.

Rasheed Arshad, a spokesman for the Gilgit-Baltistan chief minister, confirmed that 26 bodies, among them women and children, have been retrieved from the wreckage.



A dose of adrenaline

The Indian economy needed a booster shot. Was Nirmala Sitharaman's corporate tax cut the way to do it?



On the face of it, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement to cut the corporate tax rates in India from 30 to 25 per cent, making for an effective slab of 25.17 per cent for all companies in India that do not use incentives, is a smart move, both for the corporate sector and the optics of politics. This avoids any potential conflict with sector-specific reductions in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates, which would have led to a showdown in the GST Council. By cutting a Central tax, a decision solely of the Central

Government, days of headache have been avoided. Of course, Opposition politicians will make a fuss about these rates but the smarter among them will understand that not only did something need to be done but that the private sector was essential for creating employment and the challenges thereof might potentially be reduced. Now, how the tax cuts will be utilised could determine how they benefit the economy. Companies could use the extra cash to fund expansion, pare debt or even not reduce their workforces in what has been a difficult year. That said, the reduction in corporate tax rates would also be extremely beneficial for potential foreign investors who might have shied away from India due to higher rates and could, therefore, give a boost to the 'Make in India' initiative. This shows that the Government is not just taking half-hearted selective measures to revive the economy but is actually taking matters seriously.

The prime disappointment though has been felt by middle-class income tax payers, who were also hoping for some adjustments in personal income tax rates that remain relatively high. While the after-effect of demonetisation and the GST rollout, both of which brought in a lot of the informal economy into the formal scheme, was an increase in the overall tax base, there have been no commensurate rate reductions. The investing classes are still peeved about long-term capital gains tax on money market investments and any reduction in these will excite the markets once again. The problem is that while this might have given the bourses a booster shot, it could take several quarters for the effects to really start taking hold of the economy. In the short-term, consumer sentiment might take a while to recover. And that is worrisome. With companies already stressed, some feel that the rate cut will be absorbed in the near-term by firms balancing their books. While there could be some concerns and some cribs, there should be no doubt that the measures taken by the Government are on the whole an extremely positive given the overall state of the economy, and could even improve collections in the long-run once investments increase. If companies pare their debts, it could encourage the banks to start lending more. Increased investments could spur job creation as well. Yes, the Government has huge social responsibilities but the best way to help people is to create jobs and India's challenge on that front is unparalleled. This will help. However, this looks more like a distress management module rather than embodying a vision of either long-term goals, structural or big bang reforms that will take us to the next level irrespective of market trends and crisis. If only, this gives credence to the idea that no Government really changes the status quo unless it is forced to by the scale of an economic crisis. This is a repeat of the scenario in 1991 when the then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh liberalised the economy in the face of an unprecedented crisis. India's economy cannot afford to be reactive anymore, it has to be proactive.

Role model

Greta Thunberg's call is reverberating in India where school kids in metros are missing classes for a climate strike



Youth leadership is certainly changing the world. And the greatest impact among activist leaders has been achieved by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg from Sweden, who has taken upon herself the task of awakening the consciousness of the world community to the only issue that will matter to us — climate change. From launching a protest outside her country's Parliament on August 2018, till a little more than a year now, the teenager has indeed caught the attention of not just the intended audience, the lawmakers across the world, but gathered traction among the youth. Her message has been plain and simple: Stop talking, start acting. And she is leading by example, taking the road and sailing the waters in solar-powered rides while strictly not flying. Now her call for "climate strikes" till the end of the month has ensured the largest student demonstration on planet earth till now. Millions of youth, predominantly school-going, are giving their classrooms a miss to take part in peaceful street protests demanding world leaders to take concrete actions and avert environmental catastrophes. Her echoes have been heard here, too, as millennials in Delhi launched a march from the city centre that snaked past Lodhi Garden and ended at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The students even submitted a memorandum to the powers that be. In the spirit of the freedom movement and a display of our vibrant culture, brightly dressed students held up placards that read, "The show must go on" and "if the weather can change, so can you." Young people in other metro cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kolkata followed suit, setting aside their weekday pursuits.

Ahead of the 2019 Climate Action Summit, while speaking to the members of Congress in the House Ways and Means Committee last week, Greta said, "This is the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced, you cannot solve a crisis without treating it as one. Stop telling people that everything will be fine. As it looks now, everything won't be fine." Bluntly, she told the US lawmakers, "Listen to the scientists, unite behind the science, then take real action." Echoing her words, even the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres could not afford to remain a mute spectator and asked member nations to bring a plan and not plain speeches to slash greenhouse gas emissions. Greta's success and freshness have been that as a disruptor, she is being heard more and as a representative of a generation we will be bequeathing the earth to, is stirring up enough guilt within us. Besides, her passionate campaigns and demonstrable actions of how to reorient modern living in a sustainable manner have given everybody an individual goal that is easier to meet than effecting a policy change. Climate scientists had for long warned that the world is running out of time to avert the worst effects of global heating. They had alerted about the consequences — food scarcity, water stress, deaths due to high temperatures, forest fires, and mass displacements — all of which have become a reality. Youth leaders are more aware in a knowledge society, more user-oriented and practical. It's time we go by their blueprint. For a child is indeed the father of man.

What's a degree worth?

As graduates and class VIII dropouts are forced into the same career stream, India's joblessness is leading to desperate choices

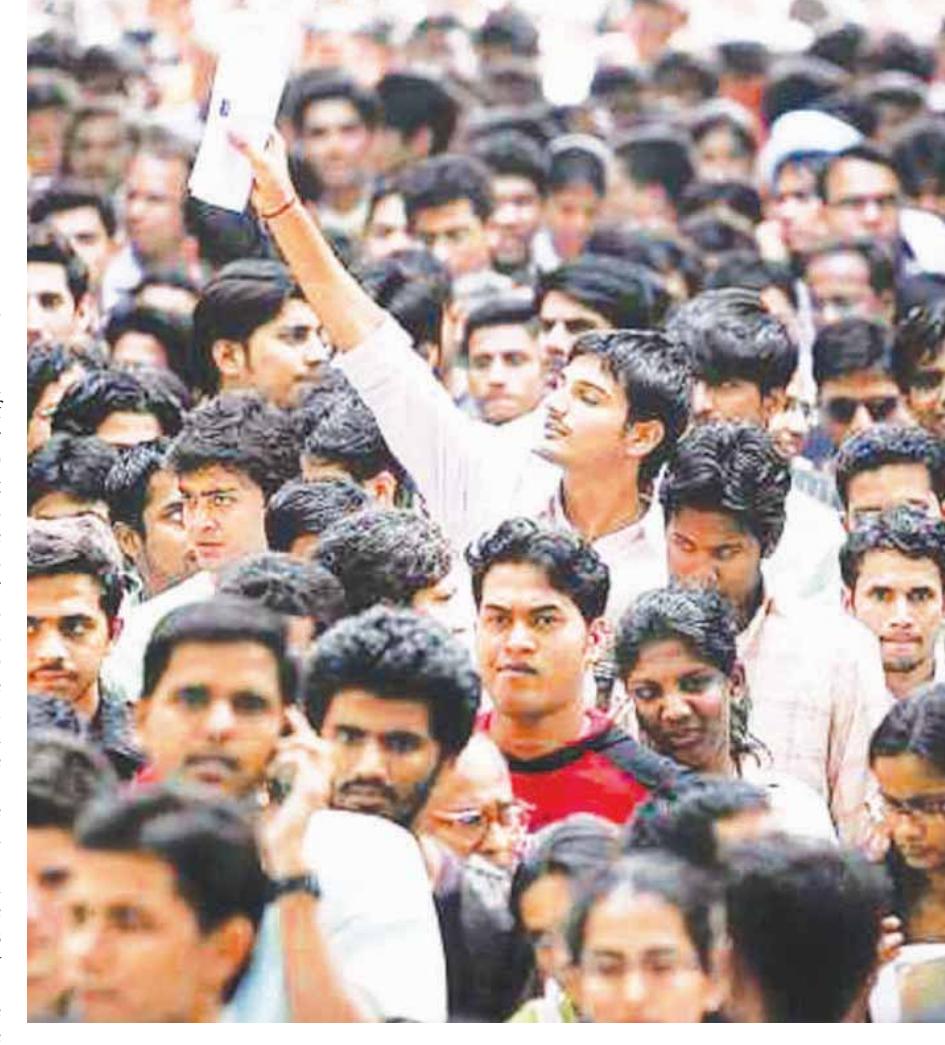


RINKU GHOSH

They say the story of India is found in its people, its complexity unravelling in everyday life. And so it is that I chanced upon Ankit, who is an owner-driver of a Hyundai Xcent with taxi aggregator Uber and makes anything about ₹40,000-50,000 a month. That's not new or surprising. But Ankit was a verification officer at Barclay's bank, who found himself jobless at a time when he was expecting his first child and his family deep in a financial trough for other reasons. Maternity meant his wife, too, was hived off from her firm that justified job cuts in the name of smart-sizing. Another job with his qualifications was difficult to come by and the offer that came guaranteed him nothing more than ₹35,000 a month. With mounting debts, he invested his severance package in a car and drove around the city, 17 hours on normal days, 22 hours over the weekend, so that he could earn the high points and incentives that Uber guarantees. Despite the inhumanity of sleep deprivation that such trips entail, Ankit's biodata on the company's app flashes the only thing that has become his calling card; that he is healthy and ever-ready to run. Now a father of a one-and-a-half month daughter, a fan of Adele whose songs motivated him on each ride, he has invested in a second car which he uses for inter-city tours. Some day, he hopes to grow his tourist car business, may be even set up his own agency. But a job he is not going back to, even if it means devaluing his education or explaining to neighbours in the Ghaziabad condominium he lives in why he scours the city at night. "Whatever gives me money, there is no shame. My education isn't working anymore."

Many like Ankit, young graduates and with middling incomes that are on freeze in a sputtering economy, are signing up with taxi aggregators to make ends meet across the country. A very infrequent user, over the last couple of months I have chanced upon at least six graduates who believe in dignity of labour provided it ensures the right price. There was Sandeep, who was a junior sales executive at a company and a people's person but once retrenched, chose the graveyard shift to rush people to their destinations. There was Vikas, who junked a job of ₹25,000 simply because it involved gruellingly long hours and he realised he could make more money in the same time period. "Now I can pace out my work on my own terms, be my boss and take home everything," he had told me. "What social embarrassment, I am my own company and I can vary my workflow depending on my needs. Which job will give me this flexibility? This is my choice." There was a young woman too, Suman, who is funding her vocational course by driving around women professionals in a WagonR owned by the family. "I drive select hours, am on GPS, so safety isn't an issue. This is good supplementary income for me."

The fact that I found all these drivers in



Noida's one-time booming SEZ area also presents a sordid tale of a slowdown and shutdown that's forcing our young people to find their own means of survival. With taxi aggregators like Uber and Ola finding the third largest ride-sharing market in India after the US and China, a driving partnership has now become a viable self-entrepreneurial option. Yet others are signing up with food and other service aggregators. Some are even relooking at their passions and acquired skills as there is a shop for every kind of service, utilitarian and entertainment, online.

If a report released by the Azim Premji University's Centre for Sustainable Employment is to be believed, then people with a graduate degree are more than twice as likely to be unemployed than the national average.

The same study also found that women are more likely to fall by the wayside. Not only that. Even if graduates decide to take up low-skill work, they have to face intense competition from those who apply to such categories normally. This trend was echoed by a Kotak Institutional Equities report too, which cited data from the Government's periodic labour force survey (PLFS). The unemployment rate among male job seekers with secondary

level education far exceeds joblessness among illiterates in both rural and urban areas: "The unemployment rate is highest among youth with education until diploma (37 per cent), graduate (36 per cent) and post-graduate and above (36 per cent), suggesting the lack of opportunities for a higher skilled workforce." The crisis was found to be more acute in urban areas (7.8 per cent) than in rural (5.3 per cent). A report by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) had also found that qualified youth — those with bachelor's degrees and above — faced the highest unemployment.

There have been alarming news reports about how graduates and post-graduates are applying for Class IV services in Maharashtra and how nearly a third of the 93,000 applicants for 62 police courier jobs in Uttar Pradesh had doctorates. With more people moving away from agriculture sector jobs to services, the pool of applicants is now an ocean of missed opportunities. There's a big rush for any kind of Government jobs as they provide what has become elusive today — job security, salaries that are routinely revised and a relatively good beginners' package. The minimum

Government salary is now ₹18,000 per month, higher than what 70 per cent employed people make in this country in desolate times. No data encapsulates this better than the Hindi film *Dream Girl*, where Ayushmann Khurana plays an educated young man from Mathura, who has pursued the conventional path of BA, MA and MPhil but finds himself without a job. Out of sheer desperation, he signs up for a phone-sex call centre simply because it promises an income that his degrees cannot give him.

Undoubtedly, this trend is setting off a socio-economic transformation. At one level, it is offering recourse to students who are not academically brilliant and won't make the cut in higher institutions, just plain regulars who, however, make up the bulk of our educated workforce. At another level, it also means we are diluting their core competence, productivity and belief that education and knowledge are tools for an elevated life.

We are teaching them the art of compromise, building values numerically than holistically. In fact, if basic skills like driving and cooking can earn people the moolah, then our young may just give up the idea of "becoming a graduate," still an aspiration that

parents sacrifice their earnings for across the vast hinterland of India. If that benchmark is seen as a redundancy, then it is another challenge in a country where literacy is often mistaken to be good enough as an education, compromising the overarching process of evolution of the mind. Let's not forget the last Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) which found that one out of every four Class VII students in rural India is unable to read even a Class II text and over one in two Class VIII students cannot solve a basic division.

In the end, there is the socio-psychological impact of levelling out to a bare median, of a graduate and a class VIII dropout being forced into the same bloodstream. Is a compromise ever happy when you are told that excellence should be your only pursuit? Besides crushed expectations can have ramifications in the form of increased manifestation of disturbing and deviant behaviour among the youth.

How then can we customise higher education for a segmented job market rather than dumping a one-size-fits-all formula on sectors that can hire but need specific domain knowledge? How can we make our graduates job-ready? As a recent skill research has shown, employers found 80 per cent of Indian engineering graduates failing to meet minimum requirements for a hire. Many such firms say prospective candidates lack sufficient industry experience because our courses are too theoretical and not application-oriented. There must be an industry-aided skill requirement map so that the problem of over-qualification, as evidenced by the latest job rush queues in Maharashtra, does not dash hopes. Besides, there must be a provision for career-long skill upgrading given that the economic paradigm can change due to technological breakthroughs and fluidity of the economy. There should be enough start-up incentives for engineers to set up small units that are viable. Yes, use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) may kill some traditional jobs but as seen with the IT revolution, they also encourage an allied layer of human services and talent. That spinoff is often overlooked in umbrella decisions. The jobs crisis is severely threatening our demographic dividend, given that half our population is below the age of 25. But a potential asset could become our biggest liability if we don't look at the bigger picture now.

(The writer is Associate Editor, *The Pioneer*)

SOUND BITE

The Government has initiated a major exercise to formulate a National Education Policy that will aim to fulfil the aspiration of the youth.

HRD Minister
—Ramesh Pokhrayal

I cried the day Article 377 was abolished in India. The next step is gay marriages are allowed in our country. I hope that happens very soon.

Filmmaker
—Karan Johar

India is an important actor in climate action. Obviously, part of the dialogue was also related to our own efforts and the need to green the UN.

UN chief
—Antonio Guterres

The people of the country have been divided into black and white and there is no shade in between which is called tolerance.

Congress leader
—Shashi Tharoor

A wake-up call

Sir — The world's largest oil facilities in Saudi Arabia have faced massive damages in the recent drone attacks. Various conspiracy theories have been doing the rounds regarding the culprits and the US President, Donald Trump, has as usual pointed a finger at Iran. But it must be remembered that Saudi Arabia has for long been threatened by internal conflicts by fringe elements and other radical groups. Further, the dependence of the world on Saudi Arabia for fuel makes it crucial for any strife there to be solved at once. This incident goes on to show how such attacks can impact world economics and politics.

P Senthil
Via email

Boosting the economy

Sir — This refers to the report, "Corporate tax slashed to 25% to rev up economy" (September 21). In a bold move to revive the economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an eight percentage points cut in

the corporate tax rate. This means that the effective tax rate for firms who do not avail exemptions will fall from 34.94 per cent presently to 25.17 per cent. However, for new domestic manufacturing companies, incorporated after October 1, the tax rate

will be as low as 15 per cent. Due to high corporate tax rates, investments had remained at the lowest ebb. The present move will encourage private investment. It may also give a boost to foreign investments given that global value chains

Apathy towards a football player



Besides playing for Mumbai's top outfit, Konar was also part of the Maharashtra squad that won the gold medal in football at the 1999 National Games as well as the 2000 Santosh Trophy. Such indifference towards one of India's sporting heroes does not behove well. When it comes to matters of livelihood, it is essential that the administration takes a stringent view of the matter and ensures that the Konar family is allowed to operate from its ancestral hawking spots.

Pachu Menon
Mangalore

Timely action

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Missing woods for trees" (September 20). With more than 100 million adult smokers, India has a huge market for both electronic and conventional cigarettes. Although few Indians vape at present, the Indian ban cuts off a vast potential market of 1.3 billion consumers for makers of e-cigarettes. In particular, the e-cigarette market is acquiring 'epidemic' proportions among the youth and children. Given their attractive appearances and the availability in a number of flavors, teenagers are likely to be more prone to such devices.

In this backdrop, the Government's comprehensive ban on these battery-operated devices is welcome. The perception that e-cigarettes are a less-harmful alternative to cigarettes is entirely wrong. In fact, youngsters who use ENDS are more likely to start smoking conventional cigarettes.

Bal Govind
Noida

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Unsung hero of the downtrodden

Though Bhola Paswan Shastri worked tirelessly for the benefit of the underprivileged, he was never credited for his socio-political work



RAJU PARASHAR

The name, Bhola Paswan Shastri, might have a different meaning for different sections of society, but his contributions and accomplishments in the social and political arena speak for themselves. It is unfortunate that Shastri's endeavours have not been accommodated in the political history of India. Though he worked tirelessly for the benefit of the underprivileged and the oppressed, and for the freedom of the country from colonial rule, Shastri has never been duly credited for his socio-political work.

Simple living and high thinking was a way of life for the three-time Chief Minister of Bihar, who not just dedicated his whole life for the uplift of the marginalised sections of society but also followed a righteous path in the murky world of politics.

Not one to believe in politics of opportunism, nepotism, favouritism, glorification and cashing in on his following by bargaining for political posts, Shastri charted his own course in life and was always guided by political ethics and constitutional morality.

Born in 1914 in Bairagachhi, Purnea district, Bihar, in a family that belonged to the Pasi community (considered untouchables) Bhola Paswan, as he was known at that time, faced intense discrimination and atrocities. However, rising above that, he charted his way forward and was a brilliant student. He gained a respectable position in society by studying from the renowned Kashi University and the title of Shastri was conferred on him due to his keen intellect. Using his education as a means to fight for the emancipation of his people, Shastri began raising his voice against the caste system and the atrocities inflicted on members of the Dalit community. He participated in many of the struggles launched for the betterment of Dalits and later on joined active politics to make their voice heard as their representative.

Being a follower of Gandhi, he strongly advocated the Mahatma's ideas during the days of freedom struggle and reiterated that political independence could not be achieved unless one was socially equal and liberated. Realising the important role education had played in his life; Shastri always stressed on the need for learning and urged Dalits to pursue higher education for an overall and holistic development. His keen understanding of socio-political dynamics allowed Shastri to ignite the minds of the oppressed and encourage them to break the shackles of poverty and social stigma attached to the caste-system.

Later Shastri, who also had a nationalistic bent of mind, was to jump into the struggle for India's independence as a revolutionary and play a significant role in it. Shastri's dynamic personality and love for the country, politics and social issues resulted in him becoming the first Dalit Chief Minister of Bihar in 1968. He was to occupy that post twice more. Shastri was also a member of the Rajya Sabha and a vocal advocate for his community and the progressive plans he had for them.

Shastri's unmatched wit and intellect came through in an interview he gave in 1978 in his capacity as the Chairman of the then newly-founded Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. When asked about caste-based discrimination in the country, he said, "With more people from different communities becoming educated, the discrimination against Harijans is slowly becoming less. But then, you also have rigid Hindus, like the ones who washed with Ganga water a statue that Jagjivan Ram had unveiled at Varanasi, in order to 'purify' it."

He mobilised the Harijan community to enter the national mainstream and join hands with other landless peasants to change their lives for the better. Shastri supported affirmative action and termed it as a way to rectify the history of injustice dating back thousands of years. A proponent of the reservation policy, Shastri often pointed out that Harijans have a double impediment, poverty and social discrimination, to overcome and quota would help them beat this.

Shastri was one of the unsung leaders and visionaries of yesterday who contributed a lot to the nation but never took advantage of their capacity and position. He always gave priority to society over his family and was against amalgamation of wealth, which is why Shastri was left with just a few clothes, a pair of shoes and a meagre bank account at the time of his death. Socialism and egalitarianism were the inalienable attributes of Shastri's personality which is evident from the journey of his life.

It will be an injustice to let his name be erased from the annals of history, especially whenever we remember frontline social reformers and Dalit ideologues. In an era where politics of vendetta and nepotism is being used as a means to further personal agendas or decimate rivals, his simple lifestyle and brand of selfless politics can prove to be the guiding light for modern-day politicians and inspire many budding leaders.

(The writer is a Research Scholar at Patna University.)

analysis

09

POINT COUNTERPOINT

BJP SHOULD STAGE A SIT-IN AT DELHI FOR RELEASE OF FLOOD RELIEF FUNDS INSTEAD OF INDULGING IN TONGUE WAGGING AGAINST MY GOVERNMENT.

—MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

KAMAL NATH



KAMAL NATH SHOULD GO TO DELHI HIMSELF AND ASK FOR HELP. HAVE I EVER TOLD THE OPPPOSITION TO GET HELP FROM DELHI WHEN I WAS CM?

—FORMER MP CHIEF MINISTER AND BJP LEADER

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUDHAN

Beating desertification

At the COP14 held in India, 196 countries and the EU adopted voluntary land degradation neutrality targets that include their restoration by 2030



VK BAHUGUNA

At the just-concluded Conference of Parties (COP) 14 hosted by India under the aegis of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 196 participating countries and the European Union adopted the 'New Delhi Declaration' wherein they agreed that land degradation is a major economic, social and environmental problem, and welcomed strengthening of the adoption of voluntary "land degradation neutrality" targets that include restoration of degraded land by 2030.

The UNCCD, one of the three environmental conventions running after the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992, (the other two being The United Framework Convention Climate Change and Convention on Biological Diversity) was established in 1994 as a legally-binding international agreement within the parameters of the UN and connects the environment and development with sustainable land management. The conventions deal with most vulnerable ecosystems in arid, semi-arid and dry lands areas. The basic aim of the convention is to work for improving the livelihoods of the people in these ecosystems through restoration of soil and land and combat draught conditions.

Under the UNCCD, the developed countries are supposed to transfer technologies to the developing countries for sustainable land development. The UNCCD had adopted a strategic framework for the period 2018-2030, which among other things, primarily focusses on improving the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification, land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality. It also aims to mitigate, adapt to and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems; mobilise resources for implementation of the convention and improve the living conditions of the people residing in dry land ecosystems.

By far this is the most important convention and the success of two other conventions' objectives depends upon the success of the UNCCD. The secretariat of the convention had



global efforts to mitigate and manage the risks of crippling drought.

Countries will now be expected to address insecurity of land tenure, including gender inequality; promote land restoration to reduce carbon emissions and mobilise innovative sources of finance from public and private sources to support the implementation of these decisions at a national level.

All countries recognised that desertification undermines health, development and prosperity in all regions and were deeply concerned that the impacts would be felt most keenly by vulnerable people. They were also convinced that participation from civil society organisations, local governments and the private sector would be crucial to achieving the objectives of UNCCD.

The document laid special emphasis on community-driven transformative projects that are gender-sensitive at local, national and regional levels to drive implementation.

While the declaration is a statement of consensus, the 35 decisions are legally binding on each of the 197 signatories. Activities carried out over the next two years would be monitored by India.

The resolutions adopted in the New Delhi Declaration are vital for India and the world, which is grappling with the ever-increasing effects of climate change and faces a major desertification threat.

Around 30 per cent of the world's populations live in dry areas, which cover more than 40 per cent of Earth's land surface. Countries like Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea, Afghanistan, China and Pakistan are prone to repeated drought and in fact, 40 per cent of the world is now facing draught-like conditions due to climatic vagaries.

In India, around 20 per cent (63.8 million hectares) of the land is categorised as waste lands and most of this is in dry areas. Latest statistics show that 42 per cent of the Indian land mass faces draughts where more than 600 million people live.

In the light of these findings, the COP14 is vital for the entire world and its recommendations need to be implemented in all seriousness. The people and the institutions of governance must focus on physical structure of land and quality of soil; improve the availability of water; control landslides, floods and movement of soil and conserve

COUNTRIES WILL NOW BE EXPECTED TO ADDRESS INSECURITY OF LAND TENURE, INCLUDING GENDER INEQUALITY; PROMOTE LAND RESTORATION TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AND MOBILISE INNOVATIVE SOURCES OF FINANCE FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOURCES TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE DECISIONS AT A NATIONAL LEVEL

the bio-diversity and use of land for sustainable development of the people living in these areas.

India must gear up its diplomatic channels to ensure creation of fund and technology for tackling the threat by all countries. As for India, an action plan must be prepared to deal with deforestation, water conservation and land degradation for forest and non-forest lands. The degraded forests below 40 per cent crown density have increased from 24 million hectares in 1985 to 30 million hectares in 2017 and regeneration of natural forests needs to be backed up.

The recent proposal of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to bring private investments in forest areas of less than 10 per cent crown density should be started on pilot basis after taking the local people into confidence. If it succeeds, it will give a big fillip to forest conservation and enhancement of land productivity. The land vested with tribals under Forest Right Act should also be taken up for investment for productive use and livelihoods.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who addressed the ministerial segment of the convention, outlined the success achieved by India in implementation of the objectives of the convention in checking desertification and land degradation as well as help in saving the livelihoods of the people residing in dry areas. Modi asserted that India was looking forward to making an effective contribution at the global level as it took over the chairmanship for the next two years.

He called for concerted attempts as two-third of the countries are affected by desertification and are in the grip of severe water crisis. He exhorted the delegates to create a Global Water Action Agenda and offered Indian expertise to other countries in land degradation and raised the target of its land restoration from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares by 2030.

Pointing out that India was on course to achieve its Paris climate change targets, Modi announced setting up of a Centre of Excellence at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education to facilitate scientific and technological collaboration between South-South Cooperation and with those who wish to access knowledge and training of manpower so that land degradation is addressed effectively.

(The writer is a retired civil servant)

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CAPSULE


BSNL pays August salaries to staff: CMD

NEW DELHI: Ending days of agonising wait for employees, crisis-ridden Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) has made salary payment to its staff for August, according to a top official. BSNL Chairman and Managing Director P K Purwar confirmed to PTI that the corporation transferred the funds and made August salary payment to its employees, last week. "Employees have got their salary now. The salary requirements were met internally," Purwar said. State-owned distressed telecom firms Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) and BSNL have been incurring losses and have been facing problems in clearing staff salaries in the recent past. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for some time now has been working on a rescue plan for the two companies in the form of a revival package that entails components such as voluntary retirement scheme, asset monetisation and allocation of 4G spectrum.


Torrent Pharma expands recall of hypertension drug

NEW DELHI: Drug firm Torrent Pharmaceuticals is expanding its voluntary recall for tablets used to control hypertension in the US due to detection of traces of N-Methylnitrosobutyric acid, according to health regulator USFDA. The company is expanding recall for Losartan potassium tablets USP and Losartan potassium / hydrochlorothiazide tablets to the consumer level due to the detection of trace amounts of an unexpected impurity while testing some finished product batches manufactured utilising active pharmaceutical ingredient manufactured by Hetero Labs, Torrent Pharmaceuticals said in an announcement posted on the website of USFDA.


Amway aims 12% of India biz from consumer durables

NEW DELHI: Amway India is expecting its consumer durables business to contribute around 12 per cent to the company's overall turnover in the next two to three years as the direct selling firm carrying portfolio expansion plans in the segment, a top company official has said. Amway India, as part of expansion of its product portfolio, also announced foray into emerging home air purifier segment and aims to clock sales of around Rs 100 crore in the next 12 to 18 months. Besides, the company is planning to enter the water purifier segment and working on the project.

'SHE LOVES TECH'

Indian researcher wins accolade at global startup contest

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

An Indian startup mentored and curated by the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) for the 'She Loves Tech Global Startup Competition-2019' in Beijing has won accolades at the meet.

Odisha based researcher and entrepreneur Dr Nusrat J M Sanghamitra was honoured at the meet for the path-breaking cancer drug delivery device developed by CyCa OncoSolutions founded by her.

The molecular drilling device that can inject directly and precisely anti-cancer drugs to the affected cells, developed by the Odisha-based research and technology startup, has been hailed as a breakthrough in cancer treatment, a

press release here said.

'She Loves Tech' is a global platform committed to building an ecosystem for technology, entrepreneurship and innovation that creates opportunities for women.

Cyca OncoSolutions had ear-

lier won honours at the She Loves Tech India meet, organised by KSUM in Kochi recently.

Following this, KSUM sent Dr Nusrat to the four-day boot camp in Beijing and subsequently she made her way to the global summit.

Cyca OncoSolutions has

She Loves Tech' is a global platform committed to building an ecosystem for technology, entrepreneurship and innovation that creates opportunities for women



Cyca OncoSolutions bagged the third prize at the summit, held to identify and encourage innovative and successful technological ventures promoted by women.

Startups from Germany and US bagged the first two prizes at the summit, which had lined up 15 women led enterprises from around the world for the final round to present their imaginative and trail-blazing products and ideas.

Cyca OncoSolutions has

developed an efficient, non-toxic invitro and in vivo delivery method for various clinical applications, especially for cancer therapeutics, the release said.

Since the nano technology based molecular drilling device has proved effective in delivering anti-cancer medicines to the affected cells directly, it is expected to cause minimum harm to the unaffected cells and to reduce the side-effects.

CENTRE MULLS IMPOSING STOCK LIMITS

Onion prices shoot up

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is mulling imposing stock limits on onion traders as the retail prices of the key kitchen staple have shot up to Rs 70-80 per kg in the national capital and other parts of the country owing to supply disruption in the wake of excess monsoon rains in the major growing states, according to sources.

As per the data maintained by the consumer affairs ministry, retail onion prices rose to Rs 57/kg in Delhi, Rs 56/kg in Mumbai, Rs 48/kg in Kolkata and Rs 34/kg in Chennai last week. The prices were quoted at Rs 60/kg in Gurgaon and Jammu during the same period.

However, trade data showed retail onion prices skyrocketing to Rs 70-80 per kg towards the end of the last week from Rs 50-60/kg in the previous week.

Onion prices are on the rise despite several measures taken by the central government to boost supply.

"The government has taken several measures in the last few weeks to improve the domestic supply and check further increase in prices of onion. However, retail prices have suddenly shot up in the last 2-3 days because of supply disruption due to excess rains in the growing states," a source told PTI.

It is a short-term supply disruption and if the situation does not normalise in the next 2-3 days and prices rise, then the government may consider seriously imposing stock holding limits on onion traders, the source said.

According to the Met Department, main onion producing regions especially Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, eastern Rajasthan and western Madhya Pradesh have received excess monsoon rainfalls in the last two days.

Right now, stored onions are sold in most parts of the coun-



It is a short-term supply disruption and if the situation does not normalise in the next 2-3 days and prices rise, then the government may consider seriously imposing stock holding limits on onion traders, the source said

try as fresh kharif (summer) crop will hit the market from November onwards, traders said.

Traders further said that there is enough supply of stored onion of the previous year's crop in the country but its transportation has been affected because of heavy rains.

Much of the onion is stored in Maharashtra, where rains disrupted the transport of the kitchen staple to other parts of the country, said a wholesale trader from Lasalgao in Maharashtra, Asia's largest onion market.

Besides, the Centre has discouraged export of onion by increasing the minimum export price and withdrawing incentives. It is also cracking down on blackmarketeers.

Besides rains, prices are under pressure on likely fall in kharif production of this year owing to less planted area under onion on account of excess rains, the sources added.

The Centre has taken several measures to arrest the prices of onion in Delhi and other parts of the country. It is offloading onion from its buffer stock through agencies like Nafed

and NCCF which are selling at around Rs 22/kg and state-run Mother Dairy at Rs 23.90 per kg in the national capital.

The state governments have been asked to boost supply in their states lifting central buffer stock. Some states like Delhi, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh have shown interest so far.

The centre has a buffer stock of 56,000 tonnes of onion, of which 16,000 tonnes has been offloaded so far. In Delhi, 200 tonnes a day is being offloaded.

Besides, the Centre has dis-

couraged export of onion by increasing the minimum export price and withdrawing incentives. It is also cracking down on blackmarketeers.

Besides rains, prices are under pressure on likely fall in kharif production of this year owing to less planted area under onion on account of excess rains, the sources added.

India's coal import declines about 4%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's coal import declined by 3.7 per cent to 18.93 million tonnes (MT) in July this year from 19.67 MT in the same month a year ago.

Of the total coal imports in July 2019, non-coking coal shipment was at 12.66 MT, coking coal was at 4.17 MT, among others, according to a provisional compilation by junction services based on monitoring of vessels' positions and data received from shipping companies.



CANCER FEARS

Dr. Reddys halts worldwide supply of Ranitidine until FDA probe over

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Dr Reddy's Laboratories Limited on Sunday said that it is suspending supply of its drug Ranitidine worldwide as a precautionary measure, following the ongoing probe by the US Food and Drug Administration into the reported impurity N-nitrosodimethylamine in it at low levels.

Ranitidine is an Over-The-Counter (OTC) and prescription drug which decreases the amount of acid created by the stomach.

"Dr. Reddys is still evaluating potential impact of the



Ranitidine is an Over-The-Counter (OTC) and prescription drug which decreases the amount of acid created by the stomach

issue. As a precautionary measure, Dr Reddys is suspending all shipments worldwide of Ranitidine products until the investigation (by the FDA) outcome is available.

We have both a prescription

and an over-the-counter portfolio of the product," Dr Reddys spokesperson told PTI in an email reply.

The FDA in a statement on September 13 had said it is working with international

regulators and industry partners to determine the source of this impurity in Ranitidine being manufactured by several companies and examining levels of NDMA in Ranitidine and evaluating any possible risk to patients.

Though the FDA is not calling for individuals to stop taking Ranitidine at this time, however, patients taking the prescription and wishing to discontinue its use should talk to their health care professionals about other treatment options, the US drug regulator said.

Petrol price jumps

Rs 1.59/ltr, diesel Rs 1.31/ltr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol prices have soared by Rs 1.59 a litre and diesel by Rs 1.31 in the last six days - the most since daily price revision was introduced in 2017, as a massive strike at Saudi Arabian oil facilities jolted oil markets.

Petrol price was on Sunday hiked by 27 paise to Rs 73.62 a litre in the Delhi market - the benchmark for national rates, according to a price notification by state-owned oil firms.

Price of diesel was increased by 18 paise to Rs 66.74 per litre in Delhi.

This is the sixth straight daily increase and has taken the cumulative price hike since September 17 to Rs 1.59 per litre in case of petrol and Rs 1.31 for diesel.

Global oil prices shot up the most since the Gulf war in the immediate aftermath of the unprecedented drone missile strikes on key oil facilities in Saudi Arabia that disabled 5 per cent of the global supply.

Oil prices have cooled since the spike on September 16 but remain on the edge.

Attackers using low-flying drones and cruise missiles knocked out 5.7 million barrels of production, or about 60 per cent of what Saudi Arabia currently produces. It was the largest supply disruption in



Oil prices have cooled since the spike on September 16 but remain on the edge

history. On Monday, Brent oil futures soared 15 per cent.

Analysts have warned that the style of the attacks on Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq and Khurais oil facilities may add a permanent risk premium to oil and gasoline prices.

While Saudi Arabia is saying it can quickly bring supply back online, experts say the shock to the global oil market will be felt for years.

India depends on a fifth of its oil imports and has been in constant touch with Kingdom officials on securing its supplies.



GOING GREEN: WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR KIDS TO TRAVEL BY SCHOOL BUS

As the government is keen on spreading awareness about environment by promoting travel via Metro and public transport, it should also educate schools to provide buses for students and encourage them to use the same, reports ANUSHKA PRADEEP

The morning school run has turned into a nightmare as every family drops their kids in their personal vehicles. But there are steps a family can take to tackle pollution and congestion by being selective about the use of private vehicles to drop and pick up children from schools and colleges.

Despite several private and international schools offering transportation, the proportion of students going to schools in cars and bikes is much higher than the number of students attending government schools.

Although the government promotes using public transport, most state-run schools and Central government schools do not provide transportation facilities in schools.

Around 41 per cent of students attending private schools arrive in motorised vehicles as compared 24 per cent attending government schools, according to an article published by BMC public health on the NCBI website.

While some parents sight the lack of basic safety as a major deterrent for not using school buses, others feel the time taken to travel via a school bus and a common pick up and drop point for an area is an extra hassle for working parents.

Speaking about the same, actor Navdeep Pallapolu, who had recently commented on this issue on his Twitter handle said, "Chirec Public school has a rule that its students have to commute by school bus and in a country like ours with such a large population, we cannot expect the government to educate everyone. Hence, it is better to impose a rule on the students in various schools and colleges about making usage of buses mandatory keeping in

mind the students' needs. For example, students coming from far off areas or students with physical disability can be the exceptions. I'm aware that several parents find that the price for school transportation is pretty high and this is where I believe the schools should come in. They must try to regulate the fee amount they charge for transportation in order to encourage the parents to consider the school bus as an option."

The actor feels that using school buses as the mode of transport might reduce carbon footprint along with fuel consumption as several groups of these students travel together. Also, another very important aspect of this move is that the parents would be able to teach their children about being environment-friendly. A sense of responsibility towards the environment is planted in the minds of the next generation at a very young age."

Escorting children to schools in private vehicles every day is known to account for a large population of household travel and in most cities peak traffic density coincides with the beginning and the end of the normal working days of schools. Curious about the opinion of parents on the issue, we approached Prasoona who is a mother of two kids. She has firsthand experience of being a parent who sends their kids in both private vehicles as well as buses. When asked about her opinion she clearly stated, "I prefer my kids traveling in school buses than any other means of transportation. The school my son was going to provided bus facility for its students. And compared to any other means of transport we have provided for him in the consecutive years I still feel that using school bus was convenient for children and par-

ents alike." P Navya, another parent says, "Although public transport reduces pollution, we prefer private transport as we get to know the whereabouts of the child. Also, most school buses lack basic safety features and hire inexperienced drivers, leading to an increase in accidents involving them."

"If schools and governments impose stringent action against errant bus drivers and mandate basic safety rules, parents would eventually veer towards public transport," she concludes.

According to a source at a higher-level at Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, under the condition of anonymity, has revealed that several state and central government schools do not really provide transportation facilities. "The government ensures that the fees they charge from the students is considerably less so that the students are not burdened by the fee structure and can avail education which is ideal, but at the same time it leads to a dearth of funds when it comes to providing transportation to the students. Therefore the government must try to come up with initiatives towards the promotion of school buses because more than anything else they provide the children with safe travel which would be the primary concern of any parent," he says. Since the government is keen on encouraging people to adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle, initiatives such as making school buses mandatory at all state and central schools would yield great benefits. And more importantly it would bring down the traffic congestion to a considerable degree.

Narasimha Reddy, Principal HPS Ramanthapur said, "We prefer public transport. In

fact, our school hires public transport exclusively for our students. Once the bus has picked up and dropped the students the bus becomes another normal RTC bus, which benefits both us as well as the RTC authorities. Out of 1,200 students approximately 200 of them travel by these buses provided."

"The reason we are having a hard time to convince students to use school buses is that these buses that we hire cannot go door to door unlike autos or vans or their private vehicles. Children have to walk up to the bus stops. And for working parents, a transport which picks up their kid from their doorstep is way more convenient than having their kids walk a bit further. We understand this, but the benefits of travelling in a bus are greater compared to that of private transports, when we look at the bigger picture here. Thus, in order to encourage students to travel via buses provided by the school we personally took certain measures such as organising talks and sessions with members of the traffic police, training older students to take care of younger ones on the buses and so forth. We do wish more students would come forward to opt for buses as their daily mode of commute," Mr Reddy said.



“The school my son was going to provided bus facility for its students. And compared to any other means of transport we have provided for him in the consecutive years I still feel that using school bus was convenient for children and parents alike”

— PRASOONA
A PARENT



“Using school buses might reduce carbon footprint along with fuel consumption as several groups of these students travel together instead of their private transport. Also, another very important aspect of this move is that the parents would be able to teach their children about being environment-friendly. A sense of responsibility towards the environment is planted in the minds of the next generation at a very young age”

— NAVDEEP PALLAPOLU
ACTOR



“The reason we are having a hard time to convince students to use school buses is that these buses that we hire cannot go door to door unlike autos or vans or their private vehicles. Children have to walk up to the bus stops. And for working parents, a transport which picks up their kid from their doorstep is way more convenient than having their kids walk a bit further.”

— NARASIMHA REDDY
PRINCIPAL, HPS RAMANTHAPUR



STANDING UP FOR ONESELF

At some point of time in your life - maybe you were walking through a dark alley at night or being shoved indiscriminately in the mid-afternoon rush on the railway platform - the need for defending oneself might have occurred to you. Many working women are vocal about the need for classes that teach self defense techniques to adults and children alike.

Recently, a three-hour workshop on self defense for girls using Hapkido at the Guidance High School in Old Malakpet, witnessed a turnout of 100 girls from classes 6 to 10.

Md. Zaheeruddin,



A chance for young football talent to shine

There are many young kids who are interested in football but are without the financial means to pursue their passion. Keeping this in mind, Fateh Hyderabad AFC announced the second season of the Hyderabad Baby League which will be held in mid October at Hyderabad Riding and Polo Club Baby League.

Yogesh Maurya, Technical and Sporting Director of

Fateh Hyderabad AFC, shed more light on how the Hyderabad Baby League would function. "The League will be held for the Under 6, Under 8, Under 10 and Under 12 age groups. The cost of the league shall be borne entirely by Fateh Hyderabad AFC. Kids from local teams and schools are more than welcome to come and participate. The matches will be held on Sunday and will be geared towards making the participants enjoy themselves. We will be scouting

the league for talent that can go into Fateh Hyderabad AFC's U-13, U15 and U-18 teams. This chapter of the initiative is more advanced in terms of venue and sponsors."

Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Ministry of IT, Telangana and Andrew Fleming, the British Deputy Commissioner for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh expressed their support for the event and hoped that more will come forward to conduct such events.





GARBA GALA

The Park hotel witnessed colourful pre-Navratri celebrations recently. A Garba dance, organised by Bina Mehta, was attended by many women who laughed and danced in well choreographed steps wearing colourful traditional dresses. Exhausted after dancing in tune with the playful music



PARTY

what's brewing?

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.



BAS KAR BASSI

This is a show where comedian Anubhav Singh Bassi will tell you an honest story about his career choices and lifestyle. 'Bas Kar Bassi' is what he said to himself when he was fired from his last job. The show will be held from September 22 to October 16 at Kulapati Munshi Sadan, King Koti, Basheer Bagh.



» ART AND CULTURE

INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

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



» THEATRE

HONEYMOON (A HINDI PLAY)

Manch Theatre is going to organise a comedy play in Hindi about two friends. The play revolves around one friend, on a honeymoon, is forced to find a way to help his other friend in trouble. The play will be organised on September 29 at 7.30 pm at Phoenix Arena.



PAKITMAA RANGMANDAL

Pakitmaa Rangmandal is a Hindi play written by Asghar Wajahat. The story is about a pickpocket named Bhagwan who is passionate about theatre. After watching a Parsi play he decides to do a theatre show himself and leave pickpocketing. The play is about the troubles he faces organising the show due to the label of a thief that the society has put on him. The play will be on September 28 at 7.30 pm 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.



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

FUN TIME

ARCHIE



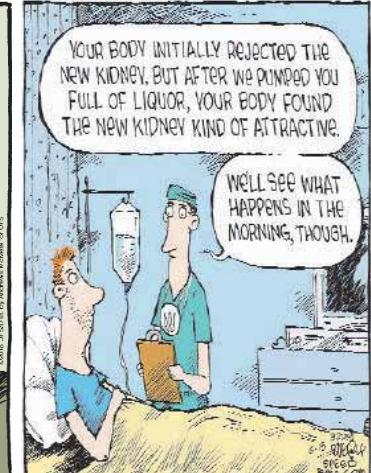
CALVIN AND HOBBES



GARFIELD



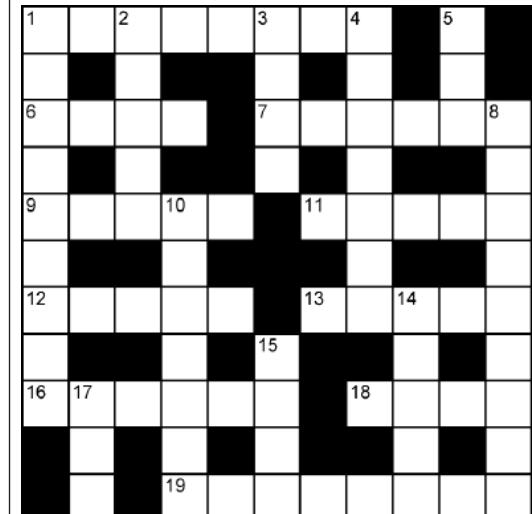
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

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.

5 Come first in a race
8 A type of warship
10 Someone who calls in to see you
14 You have one on each hand
15 Group of players in a game
17 Pixie

ACROSS

- The punishment announced to a criminal in court
- Strong affection
- To make or become larger
- Bend
- Salary
- From Ireland
- Go in
- A stinging plant
- A month
- Recall

DOWN

- Choice
- Not ever
- Requirement
- Say why

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

GINGER MEGGS



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SUDOKU

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

Rules

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17 Pixie



Starting his journey with novels, Shammeer Sultan has now evolved to become a director who is backed by stars like Vijay Deverakonda and Tharun Bhascker. He talks about his rise to recognition with NAGARAJ GOUD.

tollywood

FROM NOVELS TO SHORT FILMS TO SILVER SCREEN

Shammeer Sultan, the director of *Meeku Maathram Cheptha*, never expected that happening faces like Vijay Deverakonda and Tharun Bhascker would associate with his maiden film as a producer and as an actor respectively. "Moreover, our entire team is from Chennai and we don't know Telugu. Turns out, we've made a Telugu film and with utmost satisfaction," the 33-year-old lad from Chennai says in an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*.

Sultan started off his creative journey by penning a novel in 2010-11. In a first-of-its-kind, he attached an audio CD to the book, as he wanted people to listen to the songs while reading the book, so that they can connect to it at a deeper emotional-level. After writing a couple of novels, he decided to switch to visual medium. Shammeer who was an engineer by profession quit his corporate job and started making short films along with his friends Madan (cinematographer) and Arjun (co-director). "I wouldn't have made shorts films and a web series, Weekend Machan, with Gautham Menon if it wasn't for them," he adds.

One of the first short films he made was part of an anthology drama *Aviyal* compiled by *Jigarthanda* director Karthik Subbaraj. It even got a theatrical release. "The last short film *Naan 8* travelled to various national and international festival film circuits,

ending up bagging eight awards," he exults.

The success of *Naan 8* meant that he landed opportunities at feature film direction but his maiden project couldn't get going in Tamil. Luckily for him and his team, Vijay Deverakonda was mighty impressed with *Naan 8* and soon a meeting followed in Hyderabad. This happened before *Arjun Reddy* released. "He really liked the script of *Meeku Maathram Cheptha*, but there was this debate whether we should do it in Tamil or Telugu as we were handicapped when it came to the latter. After *Arjun Reddy* released, equations changed overnight for him and we understood it. Our film is more of a screenplay-based content driven comedy and didn't demand any star as such. But he was kind enough to tell us that

he will produce it," Sultan reminisces fondly.

It was Vijay's father Vardhan Deverakonda who proposed the name of Tharun Bhascker to be the film's lead. The *Pellichoodupulu* helmer, who is fluent in Tamil as well, helped Sultan and team to translate and adapt the Tamil script of *Meeku Maathram Cheptha* into Telugu but was disinclined to act. "He was like, 'Why are you asking me to act? I'm writing the script for my next.' After the narration, he got excited and said he would do it. He

felt the role was close to his real self," Sultan avers, adding that Tharun's reservations went on after saying ok. "We had a few workshops, where we practiced some scenes. There itself we discovered a hidden actor in him and his comic timing was spot on, helping the scenes to come alive more. Even if

he wasn't a director we would've still cast him."

During the film's pre-production, which went on for almost five months, Sultan, a fan of Martin Scorsese, David Fincher and Edgar Wright, and his team figured out that language barrier wasn't as tough as they predicted it to be.

"Tharun helped us to overcome our barrier. Abhinav Gomatam who is playing another lead knows Tamil as much as he knows Telugu. Vani Bhojan who is cast opposite Tharun in the film is a Chennai-based actress, so it was kind of easy to communicate with our lead actors," he explains, adding that once Tharun was on sets, the director in him took a backseat. "He didn't interfere much in writing or direction on sets. Only when we needed his help, he was there."

Shot completely in and around Hyderabad in 44 days spread over four schedules, the film is a tragic comedy of sorts, a rare genre for Telugu audience.

"The title is relevant to the theme of the film 'my best friend's secret'. The screenplay follows the journey of an embarrassing secret and how it turns into a different story altogether, putting the concerned friend's life in a spot of bother. We wanted to generate curiosity about the film in the title itself, which is why we've named it *Meeku Maathram Cheptha*. In fact, it gets repeated multiple times by different characters in the film," he concludes.

ONE OF THE FIRST SHORT FILMS MADE BY SHAMMEER SULTAN WAS PART OF AN ANTHOLOGY DRAMA AVIYAL COMPILED BY JIGARTHANDA DIRECTOR KARTHIK SUBBARAJ. IT EVEN GOT A THEATRICAL RELEASE



GETUP SREENU is NAGA BABU's favourite

Ram Prasad, Sudheer and Getup Sreenu, noted comedians from the TV show *Jabardusth*, have teamed up for a film called *3 Monkeys*. Directed by G. Anil Kumar and producer by G. Nagesh, the film's title logo was unveiled by actor Naga Babu in Hyderabad on Sunday.

Speaking later, Naga Babu expressed his happiness on *Jabardusth* helping film industry discover new comic talents. "There's a still lot of potential which can be tapped from the show," he told, addressing the industry.

He said that in the group, Getup Sreenu is his favourite. "Ram Prasad is good at writing funny skits, while Sudheer can easily be the leading face of a film. Sreenu is my favourite and he can perform on an international platform too. He must've played closed to 90 roles in the show now and every role had a different diction and body language. It's not an easy task for any comedian. Telugu industry will lose a gem of talent if it doesn't use his potential to its full effect," he said.

Sudheer said the film is a comic caper which will make the audience laugh and teary-eyed at the same time as it culminates into a climax.



NIHARIKA bets big on digital front

Her film career might not have been as successful as she would've expected it to be, but Niharika Konidela has been a success story on the digital front, having produced and featured in successful web series like *Muddapappu Avakai* and *Nanna Koochi* in the past. Scaling her production further, she has now produced a 100-episode comedy series called *Mad House* under her Pink Elephant Pictures. Debutant Mahesh Uppala has directed the series which will

stream on YouTube from October first week. Niharika says, "Except for *Amrutham* not many sitcoms have been made in Telugu. Our show follows the same pattern as *Amrutham* but it is different in its own way. It explores the problems faced by millennials and how they go about solving it. Sometimes the problems get the better of them. The chain of events, however, is dealt in an entertaining way. Each episode will be of 15-20 minutes and the series will go on for almost 18 months. A new episode will be uploaded every week."

KALYANRAM's next to have boat fight sequence

The filming of Nandamuri Kalyanram-starrer *Entha Manchi Vadavu Ra*, directed by Satish Vegeesna, has been going on in Rajahmundry and its surrounding areas for the past 20 days. The schedule will go on till this Wednesday. Producer Sivalenka Krishna Prasad says, "A jathara set worth Rs 35 lakh has been erected at Thorredu where an item song has been shot on Kalyanram and Natasha Doshi. Around 50 dancers and 500 junior artistes participated in it. We've even shot a thrilling climax action

sequence in Godavari with 16 boats. The film will be releasing on January 15."

The next schedule will commence from October 9 in Hyderabad and will go on till October 22. The final schedule will take place in Kerala and Karnataka. A joint production venture between Umesh Gupta of Aditya Music and Sivalenka Prasad of Sridevi Movies, *Entha Manchi Vadavu Ra* sees the likes of V.K. Naresh, Suhasini Mani Ratnam, Tanikella Bharani, Pavitra Lokesh, Vennela Kishore, Praveen and Prabhass Sreenu in supporting roles, while Mehreen is the film's leading lady.



Ala Vaikunthapuramlo release advanced

Although it wasn't officially announced, Allu Arjun-starrer *Ala Vaikunthapuramlo* was expected to release on January 14 — four days after Mahesh Babu-starrer *Sarileru Neekevvaru* opens. But in a latest development, we've learnt that the film has been advanced by two days to January 12. While reasons regarding the change are unknown, January 12 happens to be a Sunday but

since it's the Sankranti season, producers Allu Aravind and S. Radha Krishna seem to be fine.

Meanwhile, the shooting of the family entertainer is in full-swing in Kompally, Hyderabad. The major cast, including Allu Arjun and Tabu are participating in the schedule which will go on till the month ends. Featuring an ensemble cast consisting of Sushanth, Navdeep, Nivetha Pethuraj, Jayaram, Sathyaraj, Sunil, Rajendra Prasad, Rahul Ramakrishna, Brahmaji, Harsha Vardhan and Vennela Kishore, the makers are planning to complete the shoot by November-end.



celeb talks



ANUSHKA IN FORTUNE INDIA'S LIST OF MOST POWERFUL WOMEN

Actress Anushka Sharma has been named in the Fortune India's top 50 list of Most Powerful Women of 2019.

The actress, who ventured into

Bollywood in 2008 with the film *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi*, is the youngest woman on the list and ranks at 39.

Fortune India wrote about the actress, "Sharma is not only the face of her clothing line Nush and several other brands such as Nivea, Elle 18, Myntra and Lavie, but also a producer. Clean Slate Films, which Sharma set up when she was 25, has produced three small-budget Hindi films *NH10*, *Phillauri*, and *Pari*.

"They made around Rs 40 crore each at the box office. Moving beyond Bollywood, Clean Slate Films has tied up with Netflix to produce a feature film titled *Bulbul* and a web-series called *Mai*. It is also developing and producing a web-series for Amazon Prime Video.

Fortune's annual ranking of India's most powerful women in business is chosen for making an impact by virtue of their business acumen and social and cultural influence.

IT'S SPLITSVILLE FOR MILEY CYRUS, KAITLYNN CARTER

Singer Miley Cyrus and Kaitlyn Carter have gone their separate ways a little over a month after they started dating.

"Miley and Kaitlyn broke up. They're still friends," people.com quoted a source as saying.

The split came as Miley headed to Las Vegas on Saturday with her mother Tish and sister Brandi to attend the iHeartRadio Music Festival. Carter remained at her home here.

"They've been friends forever and were there for each other when they were both getting separated, but they're just not in a romantic relationship anymore," the source added.

The two had been spending quality time together since announcing their splits from their respective husbands. They were first linked in early August, when they were spotted kissing on vacation in Italy.



VARUN TO STAR IN MUSIC VIDEO WITH BUDDING HIP-HOP ARTISTES

Street Dancer 3D actor Varun Dhawan will shake a leg with budding hip-hop artistes in a music video.

The artistes are winners of

a hip-hop dance festival.

After touring 10 cities across the country and with an international round in Bangkok, hip-hop dance festival, Breezer Vivid Shuffle, concluded Season 3 with a finale on Saturday here.

Varun, Breezer Vivid Shuffle's Ambassador,

announced Bfab Crew as the winner of the Crew Showcase category of Season 3, along with winners Eshwar Tiwari AKA Bboy Wild Child (Breaking category) and Neeraj (popping category).

The winners bagged a cash prize, the chance to go to an international dance festival, the opportunity to feature in a music video alongside Varun, and the chance to perform at BACARDI NH7 Weekender.

"It feels amazing to have been part of India's ultimate

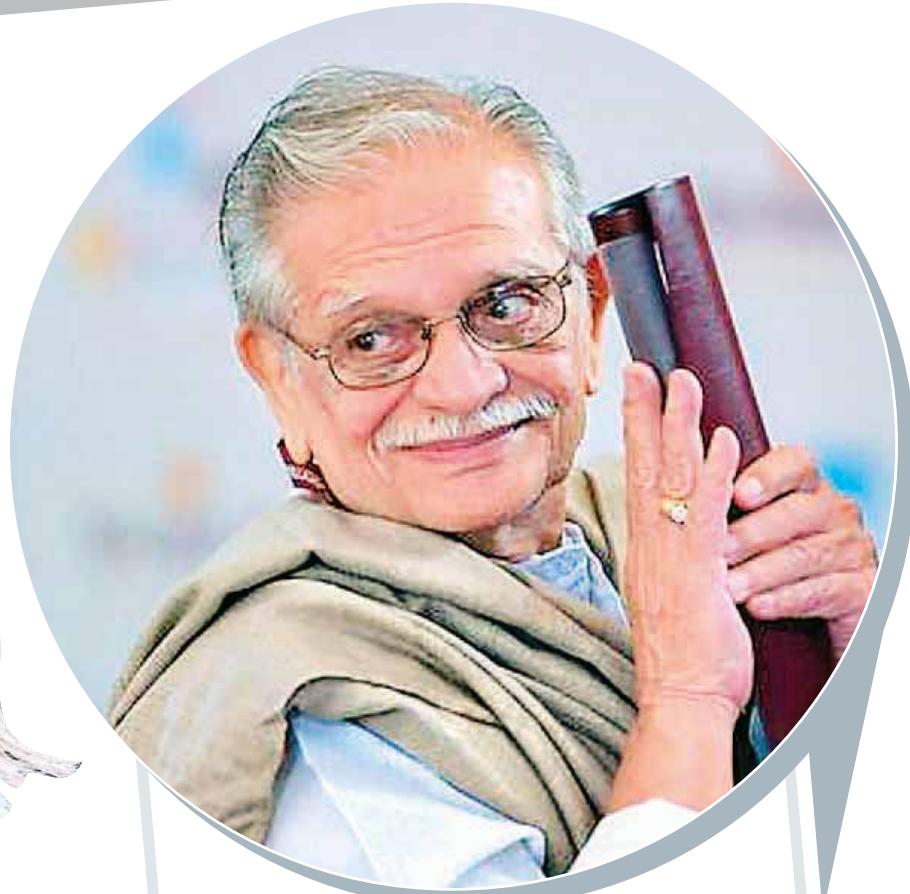
hip-hop dance platform for the third time. There is so much talent out there which often goes unrecognised. This is a platform where they can express themselves and live their passion in colour, with their crazy and fun moves," said Varun.

This year the festival witnessed participation from nearly 1,500 dancers.

"Three years ago, when we started out, our objective was to help provide recognition to budding hip-hop artistes in the country. The festival went international

this year and we look forward to expanding it more with the future editions," said Anshuman Goenka, Marketing Head, Bacardi India.

Raashi Sanghavi, Festival Director, Breezer Vivid Shuffle, OML, added: "Sending out a lot of respect to the dancers/artists who have been a part of the fest over the last three years. I've seen massive growth in the community and we will continue to develop more talent to make a mark in the global hip hop scene."



GULZAR RETURNS TO PEN SONG IN THE SKY IS PINK

Bollywood's poet-lyricist par excellence Gulzar remains active as ever at 85. Although he has grown selective with time, he is still penning songs as diverse as the sprightly *Hello hello* in *Pataakha* and the lilting *Dilbaro* in *Raaz*.

While every new Gulzar track is eagerly awaited by fans, he returns with a new song in Shonali Bose's upcoming film, *The Sky Is Pink*.

The lyricist has collaborated with composer Pritam after a hiatus to create the number *Dil hi toh hai* in Bose's film, which stars Priyanka Chopra, Farhan Akhtar and Zaira Wasim. Arijit Singh has sung the song along with Antara Mitra and Nikhil D'Souza.

"It was an honour to work with Gulzar Saab for the music of this film. *Dil hi toh hai* is a very special song and it was also an amazing experience to work with Shonali (Bose)," said Pritam.

The Sky Is Pink recently had its world premiere at Toronto International Film Festival. The October 11 release is a bittersweet drama about a couple, played by Priyanka and Farhan, over 25 years, by their daughter (Zaira Wasim), who is afflicted by the deadly disease pulmonary fibrosis.

HILARY DUFF'S HAS MOM GUILT

Actress Hilary Duff, who is battling "very contagious" strep throat, has opened up about feeling mom guilt.

The actress took to Instagram stories about how she was battling a "very contagious" case of strep throat. Although Duff, 31, felt terrible, she said her mom guilt was making her feel even worse because she is currently unable to spend time with her children — son Luca Cruz, 7, and daughter Banks Violet, 10 months — as she recovers from the illness, reports people.com.

"I'm super sick — I think I have strep throat - and I'm in bed... I'm getting an IV to hopefully feel better," Duff explained, before asking her followers, "As a parent, why does it feel so horrible to be sick? Like, the guilt of being in bed."

"There's obviously times when I've had to be with my kids all day long, sick and feeling horrible, with no help. But today, I have help and I should be resting and the guilt is crazy."

"My head is spinning, and I feel like I should be doing a million things and being with my kids every minute when really I'm very contagious," she added.

"It's just the hard part of being a parent. It s**ks." Since she is unable to do anything or go anywhere, Duff said she was using her time in bed wisely — to prepare for the upcoming *Lizzie McGuire* reboot.

"I'm going to take this opportunity to watch *Lizzie McGuire*, like, start to finish," she shared. "I'm going to do all my research and get it all fresh in my mind."

INDIA MISS, PROTEAS HIT

de Kock leads the chase as South Africa beat India by 9 wickets to level series 1-1

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India captain Virat Kohli's bold move to bat first boomeranged on his team as Quinton de Kock (79) spearheaded South Africa's chase for a series-levelling nine-wicket win in the third T20 International here on Sunday.

To everyone's surprise, Kohli opted to bat after the coin landed in his favour on one of the smallest grounds, always known to favour teams chasing in the shortest format.

Initially though, the decision seemed to have worked as India raced to 54 for one in six overs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The departure of Shikhar Dhawan gave the South Africans an opening, and they grabbed it with both hands, snuffing out eight Indian wickets for 71 runs.

In their chase, South African captain de Kock looked in complete control and struck six fours and five sixes in his unbeaten 52-ball unbeaten 79.

He added 76 runs for the first wicket with Reeza Hendricks in 10 overs and then put on another 64 with Temba Bavuma. After moving to 19 in four overs, De Kock cut loose by hitting Navdeep Saini for two sixes, and there was no look-



ing back.

Earlier, India were stopped at 134 for nine by a disciplined South African attack.

Top-scorer Dhawan blazed

away to a 25-ball 36 and got India off to a brisk start that yielded them 54 runs in the first six overs.

Kagiso Rabada was expensive but picked up three wickets, while

there were two apiece for Bjorn Fortuin (2/19 in 3 overs) and Beuran Hendricks (2/14).

Playing in his first game of the series, Beuran Hendricks was the

team's best bowler without a doubt as he choked run-flow in the middle overs along with left-arm spinner Fortuin.

Rohit Sharma got out early but

he did put pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada under pressure straightaway, striking him for two boundaries in his first over - one over cover and the other through extra

cover.

That brought crowd favourite Kohli in the middle but Dhawan, who began the innings with a boundary, was in charge and welcomed leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi with back-to-back sixes.

The first six was smashed over long-on and for the second maximum, Dhawan sashayed down the ground, played against the turn, before striking the ball towards long-off.

Going for one too many, Dhawan mistimed Shamsi, who had his revenge after Temba Bavuma completed a neat catch. Kohli, too, followed suit as Andile Phehlukwayo pulled off a fine running catch in the deep, much to Rabada, the bowler on the occasion, and his team's relief.

Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant, who improvised to scoop Dwaine Pretorius over the fine leg boundary, threw away their wickets within two balls, leaving India in trouble at 92 for five in the 13th over.

After Pant fell prey to Fortuin's smart piece of bowling, Iyer stepped out only to be stumped off a wide ball.

It was yet another failure for Pant and once again to a left-arm spinner. After Santner accounted him in the World Cup, Fortuin has now got him twice in two games.

At the toss, Kohli's contention was that he doesn't want the team to slip into a comfort zone. Batting first or second, he wants his team to be a master of all situations with little more than a year left for the T20 World Cup.

However, it did not prove to be a successful move as South Africa staged a strong comeback to level the three-match series 1-1 after the first game was washed out.



MARIN RETURNS WITH CHINA TITLE

PTI ■ SHANGHAI

Triple world champion Carolina Marin retained her China Open title on Sunday, eight months after suffering a career-threatening injury.

The Spaniard recovered from a game down to defeat Taiwan's second-seeded Tai Tzu-ying 14-21, 21-17, 21-18 in Changzhou.

A tearful Marin collapsed to the court floor and buried her head in her hands after powering to victory in 65 minutes.

"It's unbelievable," said the 26-year-old, who injured her anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee in January.

"I couldn't imagine during my rehabilitation that I could win in my second tournament back."

"But I did and I feel so happy with myself," added the reigning Olympic champion.

Japan's world champion Kento



Momota cemented his place as the top men's player with a 19-21, 21-17, 21-19 win over Indonesia's seventh seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in their final.

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel ended his year-long drought without a win at the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday, mastering a hazy circuit to claim a record fifth triumph in the city-state.

The German was chased home by teammate Charles Leclerc, who started on pole but lost the lead to the four-time world champion after making his pit stop, and Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who finished third.

"It was a very late call on the pit stop and I just gave it everything on the out lap. I was surprised to come out ahead and it was difficult to manage the tyres but we controlled it to the end," Vettel told reporters.

Championship leader Lewis Hamilton finished fourth but extended his advantage over fellow Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas to 65 points, with six races remaining, after the Finn finished in fifth.

The race got off to a clean start with the top six retaining



their grid positions despite Vettel putting immense pressure on second-placed Hamilton in the opening lap.

While a few drivers were

shifting position further down

the field, the frontrunners were

maintaining a one-second gap

between each other as Leclerc

set a slow pace to make his soft

tyres last as long as possible.

Ferrari and Red Bull were

the first of the big teams to bring their cars in for pit stops as Vettel and Verstappen were fitted with the more durable hard tyres on lap 20, with Leclerc following suit on the next lap.

Leclerc, however, was dismayed to leave the pits behind Vettel. Hamilton stayed out on track in the lead to set about forging a big enough gap to retain the lead when it was his

turn to come in. But Vettel, Leclerc and Verstappen were lapping much quicker than Hamilton and when the Briton finally stopped seven laps after his rivals, he emerged in a distant fourth place.

Hamilton's only hope of victory was to capitalise on his rivals' degraded tyres late in the race.

But three safety car periods — when both George Russell and Sergio Perez stopped on the track, and when Daniil Kvyat collided with Kimi Raikkonen -- allowed the front three plenty of time to cool their rubber.

Ferrari will be delighted to have recorded a one-two finish

at a circuit they were not expected to muster a podium finish.

But Leclerc was unhappy

with the pit strategy that dashed his hopes of a hat-trick after wins in Belgium and Italy.

Mumba win against Gujarat

PTI ■ JAIPUR

UMumba produced an all-round show to beat Gujarat Fortunegiants 31-25 in a VIVO Pro Kabaddi League match at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Sunday.

Abhishek Singh secured a Super 10 (11 raid points) for U Mumba who were also miserly in their defence, with Surinder Singh and Harendra Kumar picking up vital points.

The victory meant the Mumbai side jumped to the fourth place in the points table to consolidate their chances of making to the play-off stages.

The match was a closely-fought affair with two of the best defences in the league going head to head.

But Abhishek's raiding backed up by some incredible defence by Sandeep Narwal and Surinder Singh opened up



a lead for U Mumba as they inflicted an all-out on Gujarat to move to a five points lead with eight minutes still left for half time.

Rohit Gulia found chinks in the U Mumbai armour after the all-out and his eight-point half helped the Gujarat team claw their way back with an all-out with under two minutes to play. The first half ended with both the sides locked at 16-16.

The second half continued

to be the same with both defences trading blows.

Unfortunately for Gujarat, Sunil Kumar picked up an injury which disrupted the team's structure.

With Arjun Deshwal out for U Mumba with an injury, the raiding responsibilities for the Mumbai side were solely on the shoulders of Abhishek.

The raider produced a two-point raid in the 13th minute after which the Mumbai defence successfully tackled Gujarat's Sachin to give U Mumba a three-point lead after a long time.

The raider picked his game up and helped U Mumba secure an all-out with less than three minutes left in the match to move to a six-point lead.

The defence held firm in the final minutes to clinch an important victory for the Mumbai side

Dutee hopes to run personal best at Worlds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's fastest woman Dutee Chand has set herself a target of reaching the finals of the women's 100m dash in the World Championships starting in Doha on September 27 with a personal best timing.

Dutee, who these days has been training at night similar to her competition schedule in Doha, said she is determined to make amends of her disappointing performance in the last edition of the event in 2017 London.

"I hope to run my best in Doha, that is my target. I could not reach the semifinals last time but I am hoping to reach the finals this time. It will not be easy but I will be really happy if I do that," Dutee told PTI.

In the 2017 London World Championships, Dutee ran a disappointing 12.07 second in the heats and failed to reach the semifinals.

Dutee could not touch the Doha World Championships' qualification mark of 11.24 seconds but her personal best effort of 11.26 seconds, which is also the national record, during the Asian Championships in Doha in April, ensured that she was among the maximum target number of competitors for the event.

"I am training at night these days around 7pm to 8pm to adjust to my race timings in Doha and my preparations are going well. Let us see what happens in Doha," said the 23-year-old Odisha athlete, who became the first top Indian athlete to have confessed to same sex relationship.

Dutee, who became the first Indian to win a 100m gold in a global event during the World



University Games in July, has been training with her coach N Ramesh at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

In Doha, she will run in the women's 100m heats on September 28 at 4:30pm local time and 7pm Indian time.

She, however, is not hoping to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics from the World Championships - for which the qualification standard is a tough 11.15 seconds.

"It is the end of the season and I have run a lot of races this year. So, I have to see how far I can push my body to run faster. It will be difficult to run that mark (11.15). It

SA women beat BPXI

PTI ■ SURAT

South Africa women started their India tour on a positive note as they defeated Board President's XI (BPXI) by 83 runs in the second T20 warm-up match here on Sunday.

The first warm-up game was abandoned due to inclement weather.

South Africa women first posted a descent 174 for 5 after opting to bat and later bundled out the hosts for paltry 91 to kick off their campaign on a high.

Luus, a leg-break bowler, returned with best figures of 3-17 for South Africa women as she ran through the BPXI's middle-order.

Wicket-keeper Lizelle Lee stoked her way to 65 off just 48 balls for South Africa women, Tazmin Brits made 20 off 19 as they duo shared 61 runs for the opening stand to lay the founda-

tion for the score.

Lee was in her elements as he took on the opposition bowlers, hammering 10 fours and a six.

BPIXI bowlers then removed Brits and one-down Laura Wolvaardt (7) in quick succession, but that did not deter Lee from playing her natural game.

For the visitors, a late onslaught by Mignon du Preez (40 off 18 balls) coupled with Nandine du Clerk's 29 helped them go past the 170-run mark. Prezz stuck six boundaries and cleared the fence once during her entertaining knock.

For the hosts, off-break bowler Tarannum Pathan grabbed two wickets conceding 23 runs, while pacers Pooya Vastarakar, part of the main squad, had forgettable figures of 1 for 32.

Chasing the target, BPXI were tottering at 4 for 6 after their first four batters walked back to the pavilion in no time.

"I was sitting at home and I normally put out a photograph and it became a news item. I think it was a lesson for me, that the way I think, the whole world does not think that way. There was nothing in the farthest stretch of my imagination (that it could be taken as retirement tribute) while putting that picture out on social media," he said.

Recently, rumours about Dhoni announcing his retirement were doing the rounds after captain Virat Kohli tweeted a pic of him and Dhoni during a match with the caption: "A game I can never forget. Special night. This man, made me run like in a fitness test."

When Kohli was asked about it in a press conference ahead of India's first T20I against South Africa in Dharamsala, the skipper said that he had nothing on his mind when he posted the tweet.

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Rahul clinches bronze

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Rahul Aware won the biggest medal of his career by bagging a Bronze while an injured Deepak Punia settled for a Silver after pulling out of the final as India celebrated its best-ever performance at the World Wrestling Championship here on Sunday.

Aware outclassed Tyler Lee Graff, the 2017 Pan-American champion, 11-4 in the 61kg bronze play-off to take India's tally to five medals.

Deepak, the reigning junior world champion did not take mat against Iranian great Hasan Yazdani due to an ankle injury, sustained during the semi-final.

The other medal winners in this edition are Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya and Vinesh Phogat.

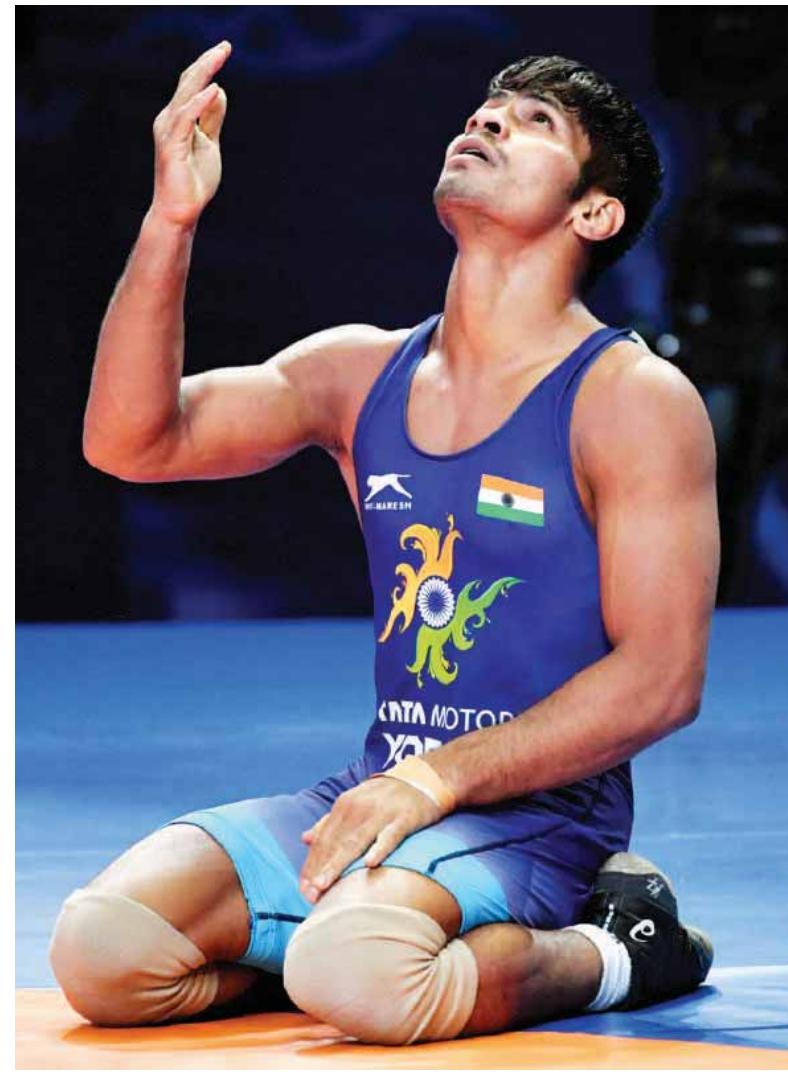
India's previous best show was at the 2013 edition, when the country had won three medals through Amit Dahiya (Silver), Bajrang Punia (Bronze) and Sandeep Tulsi Yadav (Bronze) in Greco-Roman.

Winning Gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games was 27-year-old Aware's best performance before.

"I could have won a Gold. It was within my reach. I could have won that semi-final (against Beka Lomtadze). I botched it up in the first period," Aware told PTI.

Aware had shown early promise when he won Bronze medals at the Asian Championships in 2009 and 2011 but suddenly vanished from the scene after that.

"The injuries pegged me back. I was ready in 2014 but then there were no trials for the CWG or the Asian Games. So



I could have won a Gold. It was within my reach. I could have won that semi-final (against Beka Lomtadze). I botched it up in the first period

I did not get a chance to prove my worth," he argued.

"I feared for losing this chance. After a long time, something good was waiting for me and I was really scared to lose it. I am glad I pulled it off," Aware heaved a sigh of relief.

Wrestling of late has been a sport dominated by grapplers from Haryana and Aware is first from Maharashtra to win a senior World medal.

"But Maratha sports history will remember me for winning this medal. I am first from that region to do this," he said adding that he would dedicate his medal to his first coach, late Harichander Brajdar.

For the record, the greatest ever Maharashtrian wrestler undoubtedly is late KJ Jadhav, who won independent India's first individual medal, a bronze in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

Aware, who now trains under Kaka Pawar in Pune, said he was under a lot of self-imposed pressure going into the bout. The American surprised Aware with a double leg attack, the moment the bout started and earned two points with a takedown.

However, he became alert and twice

wriggled out of Graff's right leg attacks. He also scored consecutive takedown points to lead 4-2 at the break.

In the second period too, Graff got hold of Aware's right leg but the Indian got himself out of trouble in an impressive manner.

He then pulled the bout away from the American with a flurry of moves - the takedowns and exposé-taking a commanding 10-2 lead. It consolidated further when the American lost a challenge. Eventually he won 11-4.

The morning of the final day of the championships brought with it the news that Deepak will not be able to compete in Sunday's final.

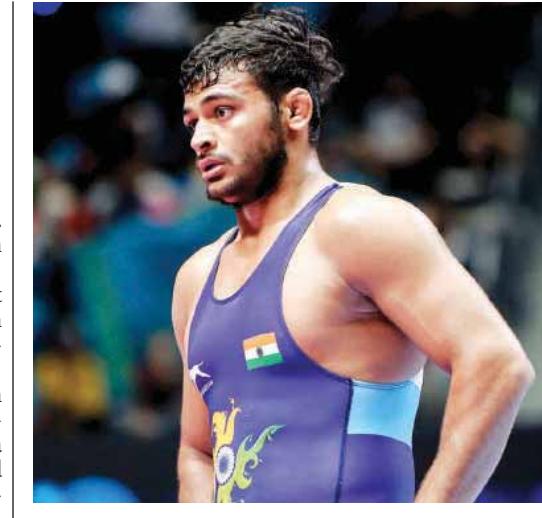
"The left foot is not taking the load. It's difficult to fight in this condition and could have aggravated the injury. I know it was a big chance to fight against Yazdani but I can't help it," Deepak told PTI.

Deepak had come out of the mat limping and a swollen right eye after his semifinal against Switzerland's Stefan Reichmuth.

It was a good draw for Deepak and he exploited it to get the biggest medal of his career.

In a dream run, Deepak reached the final with wins over Reichmuth, Colombia's Carlos Arturo Mendez and Kazakhstan's Adilet Daylumbayev. He became only the fifth Indian ever to reach the World Championship final after Bishamber Singh (1967) Sushil Kumar (2010), Amit Dahiya (2013) and Bajrang Punia (2018). Only last year he had won the junior world championship.

Sushil Kumar remains India's only World Champion. He had won a Gold in 2010 in Moscow.



Lure of job brought Deepak to wrestling

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Wrestling was just a route which Deepak Punia hoped would find him a good job to help sustain his family.

He wanted a job and was even offered the post of a sepoy in the Indian Army back in 2016.

But he was told to dream big and not settle for little things in life by none other than Sushil Kumar.

"Keep wrestling as your priority, jobs will chase you later," Sushil, India's most successful wrestler with two Olympic medals and a world title, had told him, besides arranging for a sponsorship.

He became a World Cadet champion in 2016 and only last month won the junior World title, only the fourth Indian ever to do so and first in 18 years.

Within one month of that feat in Estonia, he found himself face-to-face with his idol and Iranian great Hasan Yazdani for a clash, the winner of which would be crowned the senior world champion.

It is a pity that the bout did not happen because of the ankle injury he sustained during the semifinal against Switzerland's Stefan Reichmuth and he settled for a silver.

He missed out on a great opportunity to wrestle with one of the best the sport has seen in its history.

But the last three years in Deepak Punia's life still sounds like a dream.

So what is it that makes Deepak India's best in heavyweight category in recent times. The results have come thick and fast.

"It's a combination of a lot of things. Everything has to come together," said India's former foreign coach Vladimir Mestvirishvili, who has played a key role in Deepak's progress as a world-class grappler.

"You need four things — brain, power, luck and flexibility on the mat. Deepak has all. He is a disciplined wrestler and that he gets from his father.

"Boys usually get bored with the repetition process when they are told to learn a new technique but Deepak would do it for two, three, four days unless he gets it. It comes from family."

It's true.

His father Subash has been coming to his training centre every morning to deliver milk and fruits to him since 2015 despite the fact their Chhara village in Haryana district in India is at a distance of 60km.

That Deepak has immense appetite for milk was known from his childhood when he was a four-year-old kid and even it has a role in him getting the moniker 'Ketti pehalwan'.

The Sarpanch of his village once offered him milk which was kept in a 'ketti' (kettle). He drank that in one go. He was offered a second, a third and a fourth and he finished all.

From then onwards, people started calling him 'ketti pehalwan'. Deepak said staying disciplined has been a big reason for his success.

"I like hanging out with friends, going to malls and doing some shopping. But we are not allowed to go out of the training centre. I like buying shoes, shirts and jeans, though I don't get to wear them because I am always in a tracksuit," he said.

"Whenever I get a chance, like after the tournaments, I go out and eat even junk food. But once the break is over, I don't think about anything else. Wrestling and training is life then."

The sponsorship he got from OGQ took away a bit of worry and he began to concentrate on honing his skills.

From bad to worse (Barcelona suffer shocking defeat against Granada)

AFP ■ MADRID

Barcelona threw on their stars of the present and the future but neither Lionel Messi nor Ansu Fati could save them from a dismal 2-0 defeat away at Granada.

Messi was still not deemed fit enough to start at Los Carmenes while Fati, the 16-year-old who has lit up La Liga in recent weeks, also began the game on the bench on Saturday.

But while both came on at half-time with Barca trailing to Ramon Azees's opener, it was Granada that scored again, Alvaro Vadillo converting a penalty after Arturo Vidal was found guilty of a handball.

Barcelona have now won only two of their opening five league games and none away from Camp Nou, thus their second loss already, just one fewer than the three they suffered during the entirety of last season.

With seven points on the board, this is their worst start to a season since 1994.

"Obviously I am worried," said coach Ernesto Valverde.

"Because we are not getting good results and when that happens in two or three games, it means we are not playing well."



Instead, Granada go top of the table after capitalising on Atletico Madrid's goalless draw at home to Celta Vigo a few weeks before.

They will stay there until Sunday, when Sevilla, Real Madrid or Athletic Bilbao could overtake them.

Barcelona are sixth, grasping onto the consolation of Messi's second substitute appearance in five days that now suggests he has finally recovered from the niggling calf injury sustained at the start of August.

Their problems though are unlikely to be solved simply by their captain's return. Junior Firpo's error two minutes into his first start for the club gifted Granada their opening goal and set the tone for a chaotic night in defence.

And up front, Antoine Griezmann was quiet again,

with little in any of the combinations to suggest Ernesto Valverde has yet worked out who will form his best attacking trio and in what positions.

"In the end, the coach is responsible and I feel responsible," Valverde said.

"I always think you can win or lose but at least you have to deserve to win when you lose, and today it hasn't been like that."

MESSI IMPACT LIMITED

With Firpo on the floor, Gerard Pique scrambled across but Puerta's shot only looped up off the defender to the back post where Azees headed in.

Granada seemed hungrier than Barca and their dominance persuaded Valverde to make two changes at half-time, Messi and Fati replacing Carles Perez and Firpo.

Messi won a free-kick 30 yards out but hit it straight at the wall while Marc Andre ter Stegen fumbled a cross and had to react quickly to claw it back off his own line.

Any hopes of a Barca comeback were dashed in the 66th minute as Vidal handballed at the end of a scramble in the box and Vadillo made no mistake with the spot-kick.

Milan belongs to Inter

AFP ■ MILAN

Romelu Lukaku fired Inter Milan back top of Serie A with the second goal of a 2-0 derby win that extended their perfect start to the season at the expense of city rivals AC Milan.

Belgium striker Lukaku and Marcelo Brozovic's second half strikes gave Inter their fourth win in as many games, putting them two points ahead of Juventus after the champions' came back from a goal down beat Verona 2-1 thanks to Aaron Ramsey's first Serie A goal and a Cristiano Ronaldo penalty.

Antonio Conte's Inter were looking for a boost after their dismal 1-1 draw in their Champions League draw against Czech outsiders Slavia Prague.

And they hit back in a fiery Milan derby with Belgian striker Lukaku heading in his third goal in four games with 12 minutes remaining after Brozovic's 49th-minute opener.

"At 26 years old, I needed and wanted a coach like this, one who motivates me every day," said Lukaku of Conte.

"My relationship with Conte is very strong, he's a really good coach because he's someone who helps players to develop a lot."

"I'm really happy to be here and to be wearing this shirt."

Milan could thank Gianluigi Donnarumma for keeping the match goalless in the first half after



he denied Lautaro Martinez, Lukaku and Danilo D'Ambrosio. Lukaku had a goal ruled out after 35 minutes for being marginally offside.

But the breakthrough came four minutes after the break when Stefano Sensi set up Brozovic, whose deflected shot beat Donnarumma and was confirmed after consultation with VAR.

Lukaku sealed the win and a perfect 12 points from four games when he guided Nicolo Barella's cross home with a glancing header, as AC Milan slip to ninth place with six points.

"We came from a performance in the Champions League that left us with a bitter taste, but gave us more impetus to face the derby in the best way," said Conte.

"It is a deserved victory, I am happy for our fans, because the derby is always the derby."

Ole's veering off road

AFP ■ LONDON

West Ham inflicted more away-day pain on a poor Manchester United side on Sunday, lifting themselves to fourth in the Premier League with a comfortable 2-0 win at the London Stadium.

Andriy Yarmolenko's goal shortly before half-time and a wonderful late Aaron Cresswell free-kick extended United's barren run on the road.

United, who started the season by thumping Chelsea 4-0, have lost twice already in their opening six league games and lie seventh, without an away win in any competition since March.

Injury-hit United were without midfielder Paul Pogba and forward Anthony Martial and huffed and puffed but failed to break down their dogged opponents.

West Ham are riding high under Manuel Pellegrini, unbeaten since a 5-0 drubbing in the first match of the season and this victory followed a home win last season against United at the London Stadium.

But it was a chastening day for Ole Gunnar Solskjær's men, just a day after champions Manchester City came close to matching United's Premier League record for margin of victory -- 9-0 against Ipswich in 1995.

Solskjær played the same side that triumphed against Leicester last week while Pablo Fornals came in for the injured Manuel Lanzini for the home side. Both sides were cagey at the start of the match, with neither side able to create clear-cut chances.

West Ham looked the more inventive team when they broke forward



while United looked ponderous in attack and lacking in ideas, with Marcus Rashford isolated up front.

The match was drifting towards the interval before Felipe Anderson and Yarmolenko combined to sap United's confidence with a goal in the 44th minute.

United went close to an equaliser early in the second half as the rain came down in London, with Juan Mata missing from close range after an Andreas Pereira cross.

Already short of options up front and missing creators in midfield, they lost Rashford just before the hour mark, replaced by the out-of-form Jesse Lingard. West Ham went close to doubling their lead shortly afterwards but David De Gea got down low to keep out an Anderson shot from a tight angle.

United upped the pressure and West Ham had goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski to thank for keeping out a Harry Maguire strike from close range.

But West Ham continued to look more dangerous on the break and made United pay when Ashley Young brought down Mark Noble on the edge of the penalty area.

Sock, Kyrgios keep World in touch

AFP ■ GENEVA

Jack Sock and Nick Kyrgios paired up to defeat Rafael Nadal and Stefanos Tsitsipas as Team World cut Europe's lead to 7-5 heading into the final day of the Laver Cup in Geneva.

Sock and Kyrgios won Saturday's doubles 6-4, 3-6, 10-6 after Nadal defeated Milos Raonic in his first match since his US Open triumph in the singles.

"There was a lot on the line there," said Sock. "We obviously wanted to keep the overall weekend close. Being down 9-3 is different than 7-5."

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