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VIJAYAWADA, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer



BALAYYA, BOYAPATI
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14 DEAD IN GODAVARI BOAT TRAGEDY

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a major tragedy, around 14 holiday revelers died when a tourism boat they were aboard capsized in River Godavari en route to Papikondalu (bordering East and West Godavari) from Gandipochamma temple in Devipatnam Mandal in East Godavari. Though the incident occurred around 10 am on Sunday, it was reported three hours later. According to sources, of the 36 persons found missing, three are from Andhra Pradesh while of the remaining, 10 are from Hyderabad and 17 from Warangal and Hanamakonda.

According to reports, the boat Royal Vasita Punnami was on its way to Papikondalu with 63 tourists and a six-member crew. On reaching Kachhuuluru en route while negotiating a curve in swelling Godavari River the boat over-turned and capsize. Officials said the river was in spate due to release of five lakh cusecs of excess water from Dowalaiswaram barrage in to sea on Sunday. The state port authorities permitted tourism from Sunday and only one boat was permitted after a break of two weeks. Chief Secretary L V Subrahmanyam spoke to East Godavari District Collector Muralidhar Reddy and enquired about the incident.

The Chief Secretary directed that a helicopter be pressed into service to trace the boat mishap victims.

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy announced

Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia for bereaved families. According to an official statement, Jagan directed National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Navy and ONGC helicopters to carry out rescue operations on a war-footing. He has also ordered the ministers in the district to supervise the rescue works.

District officials have been directed to suspend all the boating services in the region immediately and check for the license of the boats. He asked officials to form an expert committee to suggest guidelines to permit boats on rivers. According to East Godavari SP, Adanan Nayeem Asmi, three bodies were recovered and 16 more, who wore life jackets, were rescued.

It is suspected that though wearing of life-jackets is mandatory, a majority of tourists did not wear them resulting in the tragedy. East Godavari Agency Rampachodavaram OSD Arif Hafez said the police, revenue, NDRF, besides Navy and ONGC choppers have been on search. However, owner of the boat Vankata Ramana made it clear that they operated the only service cleared for Sundays from Papikondalu after getting clearance from port department.

Meanwhile, Indian Navy has dispatched a Dornier plane with a diving team to assist in the search operation to locate missing persons, following a request from the Andhra Pradesh government.

Related reports on Page 4

36 MISSING

36 MISSING

- AP CM YS Jagan announces Rs 10 lakh exgratia
- TS CM KCR announces Rs 5 lakh
- No of persons on board around 72
- No of persons rescued 28
- No of bodies retrieved 8
- No of persons missing 36
- Most victims from Hyderabad, Warangal and Vizag
- 1 ONGC chopper pressed into service for search operations
- 2 NDRF, 2 SDRF teams deployed
- 1 deep divers teams of Indian Navy deployed
- 1 ONGC chopper pressed into service for search operations
- Rescue operations in full swing
- 5 members of family missing from Uppal
- A specialized deep divers team with 'side scan sonar' equipment from Uttarakhand to land today to retrieve remaining dead bodies from river



The ill-fated Royal Vasita Punnami just before commencement of the journey

Official inaction in reining in boat trips blamed

PNS ■ KAKINADA/DEVIPATNAM

Despite of flood fury in River Godavari, the owners of private boats have been playing havoc with lives of tourists by operating the boat services in the swirling waters of the river.

For the past two months, the river is in spate and flowing menacingly inundating several low-lying villages on the river's bank. Yet the private boat operators have been operating services to various tourist destinations. The boats are being operated under hazardous conditions at Papikondalu from Posammagandi.

When a boat set sailed in the river with 50 passengers on

board, the officials remained as mute spectators let alone preventing the boats from undertaking the trip.

Because of the flood fury, at least 36 villages still remained marooned. Operating a boat under such prevailing conditions to Papikondalu is a misadventure. Earlier, a launch capsized between Manturu-Vadapalli in the river putting 19 on board to death. Since then, only West Godavari district officials are looking into permission for boat tours. The East Godavari district has nothing to do with the boat trips in the river. However, the district strongly feels that the boat trips from Posamma Gandhi should be reined in.



Trimurtulu joins YSRCP

VIJAYAWADA: Senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Thota Trimurtulu, who resigned from the party three days ago, joined the YSRCP on Sunday. He had convened a meeting with leaders of the Kapu community in TDP in July. Later, speaking to the media, he said that the people of Andhra Pradesh had given a massive mandate to YS Jaganmohan Reddy believing that he would lead the State efficiently.

He said, "The Opposition should act in a constructive way. But, I don't want to comment on them, as, until three days back, I was with them. I also don't want to react to Pawan Kalyan's statements."

MP Vijayasai Reddy stated that with the joining of Tirumurtulu a new trend has begun. The Chief Minister is trying to unite people of all castes and religions to steer the State towards development, he added.

No lessons learnt from the past

SEELAM AROZIE

■ VIJAYAWADA

The boat capsized in the swollen River Godavari near Devipatnam of East Godavari district on Sunday, which left 14 drowned and 26 missing, is a grim reminder of officials not sticking to the rules.

Lobbying by boat owners and the officials ready to please them for a few bucks has cost precious lives. This is the third such incident starting from the one in River Krishna at Pavitra Sangamam at Ibrahimpattam near Vijayawada.

River Godavari has been in spate on and off in the past few days due to heavy rains in the catchments in Maharashtra. Even Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy wondered how the officials had given permission for the boat ride to Papikondalu in the swirling waters. Throwing rules and regulations to the winds, the officials allowed the boat to set sail to the tourist spot, much to the chagrin of the YSRC government which has been time and again declaring its zero-tolerance to corruption. In the incident that preceded the cur-

Throwing rules and regulations to the winds, the officials allowed the boat to set sail to the tourist spot

rent one during the TDP government, inefficiency of the boat driver was blamed for the tragedy. In yet another incident that took place at Pavitra Sangamam, 19 people had died as the boat, on that occasion, hit a dune and overturned. Failure of the officials to monitor the situation and the absence of a mechanism to ensure that procedures are followed are seen as the main reasons for the tragedy. As per the rules, the condition of the boat is to be verified thoroughly by all the departments concerned. Even at the time renewals, the officials are said to be doing favours to boat owners by accepting bribes. Lobbying in boat business has been going on no matter what strictures are being passed by the governments from time to time.

BJP hopes to cash in on Rayalaseema sentiment

G RAVI KIRAN

■ VIJAYAWADA

Cashing in on the Rayalaseema sentiment, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appears to be planning to strengthen its base in the backward region of the State. The recent statements of State BJP leaders are a pointer in that direction. While Rajya Sabha MP TG Venkatesh, who defected to BJP recently, is doing everything to portray himself as a prominent leader in the region, State President Kanna Lakshminarayana demanded that the AP High Court be set up at Kurnool after declaring the city the second Capital of the State. Focusing on region-specific issues, the BJP has unveiled its power game with what may be called 'Operation Rayalaseema'. When the High Court was divided and set up at Amaravati, the BJP had taken up an agitation demanding that the High Court be relocated to Kurnool. They finally settled for an additional bench of the High Court at Kurnool, but the TDP government did not care for it and the High Court started functioning from Amaravati in the course of time. Uncertainty is also looming over the Capital

While Rajya Sabha MP TG Venkatesh, who defected to BJP recently, is doing everything to portray himself as a prominent leader in the region, State President Kanna Lakshminarayana demanded that the AP High Court be set up at Kurnool after declaring the city the second Capital of the State

after Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Botsa Satyanarayana's controversial statements and the subsequent political scenario with TDP, BJP and Janasena taking on the YSRCP government. BJP has made it clear that it would oppose any attempt to move the Capital from Amaravati.

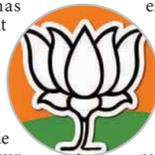
At this juncture, TG Venkatesh made yet another controversial statement saying four Capitals corresponding to the four Regional Development Boards are required to be set up in the State. He started upping the ante on the government to make use of the ITD funds for Rayalaseema development.

Kanna Lakshminarayana said, "Many leaders from Rayalaseema became Chief Ministers but the region has remained underde-

veloped. This is the reason why the BJP has increased its focus on the development of Rayalaseema. We will fight for the development of the region. Kurnool has to be made the Second Capital of the State to ensure that the govern-

ment will focus on development of the region." BJP leaders have assured the State Government that if it makes proposals for the development of Rayalaseema, they are ready to influence the Union government to allocate funds. But, the YSRCP government did not seek funds for development of backward areas as per the AP Reorganisation Act.

With TG Venkatesh, CM Ramesh and Adinarayana Reddy joining, its support base for the party has increased. Former MP JC Diwakar Reddy and others in his family are also ready to defect to the BJP.



Will not make KTR Chief Minister: TS CM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Putting an end to speculations in some quarters that he would make his son and IT Minister KT Rama Rao the next Chief Minister of the State, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Sunday declared that he had no such plans and that he would remain the Chief Minister for the next 10 years.

KCR made these remarks to this effect while giving reply to the general discussion on Budget in the Legislative Assembly on Sunday.

KCR expressed his confidence that TRS would win the Assembly elections for the next three terms. "I am 66 years old now. I have no health issues. Several people have been spreading rumours on my health condition for the past 20 years, saying that KCR is not well, he will make his son KTR as CM and take rest. But I have not died in these 20 years. My health condition is absolutely good. Why would I make my son KTR as CM? TRS will win Assembly polls for the next three terms and I will be able to work as CM at least for the next 10 years," he said.



"I am 66 years old now. I have no health issues. Why would I make my son KTR as CM? TRS will win Assembly polls for the next three terms and I will be able to work as CM at least for the next 10 years"

—KCR
 Telangana Chief Minister

next 10 years," KCR remarked, amid thunderous applause from the treasury benches.

KCR took a dig at rumour mongers on his health condition. "Let them curse me as they like. Nothing will happen to me. I am healthy and I will continue as CM for the next ten years," he said.

TODAY

ALMANAC
 Month & Paksham: Bhadrpada & Krishna Paksha Panchangam
 Tithi : Dwitiya : 2:35 pm
 Nakshatram: Revati: 04:22 am (Next Day)
 Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
 Rahukalam: 07:38 am - 09:09 am
 Yamagandam: 10:40 am - 12:10 pm
 Varjyam: 03:04 pm - 04:50 pm
 Gulika: 01:41 pm - 03:12 pm
 Good Time: (to start any important work)
 Amritakalam: 01:43 pm - 03:29 am
 Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:46 am - 12:35 pm

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Thunderstorms
 Temp: 35/26
 Humidity: 79%
 Sunrise: 06:04
 Sunset: 06:17
 Current Weather Conditions Updated September 15, 2019 5:00 PM

Justice Lakshmana Reddy sworn in as Lokayukta

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan administered the oath of office to Justice P Lakshmana Reddy, retired Judge of AP High Court, as the Lokayukta of the State at a solemn ceremony held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram auditorium here on Sunday.

The ceremony commenced at 11 am with Principal Secretary RP Sisodia reading out the Warrant of Appointment.

Later, the Governor and Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy congratulated Justice Lakshmana Reddy upon assumption of office as the Lokayukta.

Several retired and serving



Justice P Lakshmana Reddy after being sworn-in as Lokayukta with Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan and Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Sunday

Judges of AP High Court, Ummareddy Vekateswarlu, Government Chief Whip in the Legislative Council, Ajeya

Kallam, Samuel, Advisors to Government, bureaucrats and public representatives attended the ceremony.

No uranium mining in Nallamala: KCR

K VENKATESHWARLU
 ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has asserted that his government would not permit uranium mining in the Nallamala forests of Telangana at any cost as the project was bound to harm environment in a big way.

He declared that the State Legislative Assembly would pass a single-sentence resolution on Monday denying permission for uranium mining and send a copy of it to the Centre. His government was ready to fight against the Centre, along with all political parties in the state, in case it ignores the House resolution and goes ahead with uranium mining.

While giving reply to a discussion in House on budget on Sunday, the Chief Minister



assured members that his government would protect the Nallamala forests. There was no need for people to feel concerned over uranium mining as the state government would never give permission to the Centre to take up uranium mining in the Nallamala forests.

The previous Congress government had given permission for uranium mining, though

● KCR makes a statement in Legislative Assembly
 ● Assembly to pass a resolution against Uranium mining today and send to Centre
 ● Congress itself gave permissions in the past and UCIL mining Uranium in Kadapa
 ● KTR makes similar statement in Legislative Council

political parties and people had objected. Already the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) was mining uranium in Kadapa. KCR expressed his concern, saying that the Krishna water would be polluted if the Centre mined uranium in Nallamala forests. People in Hyderabad would also be affected as they were drinking Krishna water, he pointed out.

At this point, CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka suggested that the government

should to pass a single-sentence resolution in the Assembly stating that the state government would not give permission for uranium mining and send a copy to the Centre.

The Chief Minister accepted the CLP leader's suggestion. Municipal Minister KT Ramarao made it clear in the Legislative Council that the TRS government would not give any permission for uranium mining not only now, but also in future.

Visakha Urban Coop Bank achieves record growth

ANNOUNCES DIVIDEND OF RS 27.1 CR

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The city based The Visakhapatnam Urban Cooperative Bank made a profit of Rs 37.27 crore during the financial year 2018-2019. This was disclosed by bank chairman Chalasani Raghavendra Rao, who presided over the 104th annual general body meeting, held here on Sunday.



Former chairman of Visakhapatnam Urban Cooperative Bank M Anjaneyulu speaking at the annual general body meeting in Visakhapatnam on Sunday

The bank also announced a dividend of Rs 27.1 crore to its share holders at the rate of 21 per cent. Established in 1916, the bank has emerged as the leading urban cooperative bank in the country rating among top five banks. It has 50 branches covering all the districts of the State, including Hyderabad.

The chairman said the bank accumulated Rs 3,110 crore deposits at the end of March 31, 2019 and advanced loans to the tune of Rs 2,139 crore. "We have plans to increase our deposits to Rs 6,000 crore by end of March 31, 2020," the chairman said.

Other than banking, the cooperative bank also has accident and life insurance cover to its members. The chairman said Rs 3 crore has been spent on CSR activities during the last financial year. Former chairman

City youth bitten by fitness bug

G RAVI KIRAN
■ VIJAYAWADA

The soaring number of youth, who are making a beeline to gyms, is a clear indication of the fitness trend that has gripped the city. Apparently inspired by Tollywood heroes, who shed their extra flab to build six-pack bodies to attract fans, more young people are turning to fitness gurus to develop their bodies.

Normally for those below their 20s, lifting weights and doing hard workouts do not come easy. According to gym instructor Kiran from Power Gym, "Of late, scores of teenage boys are visiting the gym for fitness.

It's a good trend. Focusing on fitness at this age is a positive attitude. But, they have to be careful while doing heavy workouts.

If they go for workouts without the assistance of experts, their health will be at risk." He further stated that for teenagers, their muscles will not support the lifting of weights. "They have to get habituated to lifting weights and doing workouts," he stated.

Many young people, after getting used to workouts will eye six-pack bodies and start doing abs exercises. K Kalyan, a Junior Intermediate student said, "We are inter-



According to Dr Chiranjeevi, "Physical growth will be rapid during teenage. So, the youth should do workouts only under the supervision of instructors, after which they can increase the intensity"

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According to gym instructor Kiran from Power Gym, "Of late, scores of teenage boys are visiting the gym for fitness. It's a good trend. Focusing on fitness at this age is a positive attitude. But, they have to be careful while doing heavy workouts. If they go for workouts without the assistance of experts, their health will be at risk."

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ested in doing workouts. And yes, we are influenced by movie heroes.

Even girls are influenced by film stars. They expect us to be fit and strong as well. In the beginning it was hard to do workouts, but gradually we have gotten used to the routine. Now, we are doing them comfortably."

Obesity at a young age is

also prodding the youth to go to the gym. M Rohit, a first-year engineering student, said: "I was in an embarrassing situation in the past because I was obese. Now, after joining the gym, I have become fit and healthy. I didn't lose much weight, but I am fit."

Even doctors are suggesting light exercises or work-

outs at the gym for young people to stay healthy. According to city-based physician Dr Chiranjeevi, "Physical growth will be rapid during teenage. So, the youth should do workouts only under the supervision of instructors, after which they can increase the intensity gradually. Else, they may harm their muscles."



All the finalists of the 19th State Ranking Table Tennis tournament at District Sports Authority Indoor Stadium in Anantapur on Sunday

Golden double for Sailu Noor Basha

PNS ■ ANANTAPUR

Keeping up her image as the undisputed women's table tennis numero uno in the State, Vijayawada's Sailu Noor Basha achieved a golden double on the concluding day of the 19th State Ranking Table Tennis Tournament and the 9th Late Father Dr Vincent Ferrer Memorial Tournament at District Sports Authority Indoor Stadium here on Sunday.

In top form, Sailu made mince-meat of her final opponents B Nagasravani and T Hasini to annex the Women's and Youth Girls' Singles titles respectively.

Meanwhile, the formidable A Jagadesh Krishna from Guntur crushed the aspirations of Vijayawada's Sentura Panddy with a lopsided 11-8, 11-6, 11-9, 11-6 verdict to bag the men's crown. The Youth Boys honours

was clinched by T Suryateja after he defeated R Saiswaroop 11-9, 11-5, 11-8 in the title clash.

Results: All finals-Women: Sailu Noor Basha (VJA) bt B Nagasravani 14-12, 11-7, 11-9; Men: A Jagadesh Krishna (GNT) bt Sentura Panddy (VJA) 11-8, 11-6, 11-9, 11-6; Youth Girls: Sailu Noor Basha bt T Hasini 11-3, 11-3, 11-6; Youth Boys: T Suryateja bt R Saiswaroop 11-9, 11-5, 11-8; **Junior Girls:** N Dohadavahi bt T Hasini 11-9, 11-9, 7-11, 11-7; **Junior Boys:** L Akshath bt Ch Nitesh Varma 6-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6; **Sub-Junior**

Girls: T Aashritha bt Vaishnavi Surya 11-9, 11-6, 5-11, 6-11, 11-5; **Sub-Junior Boys:** MV Karthikya bt T Prabhath Sai 9-11, 11-2, 11-6, 11-2; **Cadet Girls:** P Sanhitha bt G Sushimitha 11-7, 11-3, 11-2; **Cadet Boys:** T Samyed bt Ch Vijadhar 11-8, 11-8, 11-9.

Gold closes at \$ 1,490.85, silver at \$ 17.52

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Amidst increased tensions between the US on the one hand and Iran and N.Korea on the other, coupled with looming uncertainty over the outcome of trade talks with China, the yellow metal hovered around US \$ 1,500 (per Oz) during the week ended Saturday. Gold closed at \$ 1,490.85, while Silver stood at \$ 17.52 on the closing day. Platinum and palladium were firm, and closed at \$ 950.60 and 1,610.75 respectively.

Other economic parameters, except Brent oil, moved northward. Brent closed at US \$ 59.73 (per barrel), while Crude oil was quoted at Rs.3,915 (per barrel). Gold MCX stood at Rs.37,731 (per 10 gms). Sensex and Nifty 50 closed at 37,384.99 and 11,075.90 points respectively. Leading foreign currencies' exchange rates were: US \$: Rs.71.03, British Pound: Rs. 88.83, Euro: Rs. 79.25, Canadian \$: Rs.53.43, Swiss Franc: Rs.71.75, Australian \$: Rs.48.85, Saudi Rial: Rs. 19.08, Kuwaiti Dinar: Rs.233.73, Omani Rial: Rs. 184.51 and UAE Dinar: Rs.19.34

At home, due to higher prices, despite fast approaching festival season, trading was

dull. However, both the precious metals surged ahead and closed at the higher levels. Standard gold (24 carats) appreciated by Rs.1,040 and closed at Rs.38,920 (per 10 gms). Ornamental gold too, moved up in tandem and was quoted in the range of Rs.36,040 - 36,140 on the closing day. Silver (0.999), too, appreciated by Rs.2,100 and closed at Rs.47,900 (per kg). The sentiment in gold and silver is likely to remain strong, considering the geo-political situation of the day.

The sentiment in principal wholesale

Sugar production in the current year is likely to be around 282 lakh tonnes, slightly lower than estimated earlier

commodity markets in the twin cities was from moderate to strong. Rythu Bazars and the various commodity markets located in Begum Bazar, Kishangunj, Mukthyargunj, Risala Abdullah, Mir Alam Mandi, Dilsukhnagar, Kukatpally, Bowenpally and General Bazar did brisk business.

According to unofficial reports, sugar production in the current sugar year is like-

ly to be around 282 lakh tonnes, slightly lower than estimated earlier. However, in view of the comfortable stock position, there is no likelihood of price rise.

During the week, common pulses such as tuar dal, moong dal, urad dal and masoor dal recorded a marginal appreciation, while staple food grains and common edible oils remained unchanged at the previous week's closing levels.

The prices of common vegetables continued to be on the higher side considerably during this week also despite good arrivals. Common vegetables such as cabbage, cauliflower, ribbed gourd, snake gourd,

potatoes, cucumbers, lady's fingers, cucumber, potatoes, onions, tomatoes and French beans, along with leafy vegetables, recorded an increase in the range of 12 per cent and 25 per cent.

In Hyderabad, the NECC wholesale egg price appreciated by Rs.21 and closed at Rs.340 (per 100). The highest price of Rs.401 was recorded at Kolkata, while Hospet closed recorded the lowest price of Rs.330.



Andhra University Vice-Chancellor Prof PVGD Prasad Reddy paying tributes to Visvesvaraya by garlanding his portrait during the Engineers' Day celebrations at Andhra University Engineering College in Visakhapatnam on Sunday

AU Engineering College holds Tech Fest on Engineers' Day

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra University Civil Engineering Department organised the symposium ACCESS-2019 as part of the Student Tech Festival in connection with Engineers' Day celebrations to mark the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya at the Dr YVS Auditorium in Andhra University College of Engineering.

Addressing the gathering, Vice-Chancellor Prof PVGD Prasad Reddy emphasised that students should have pride and self respect irrespective of their branch. He suggested to students to introspect and draw inspiration from the life of luminaries like Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya. Prof Reddy advised the stu-

dents that hard work was the only way for achieving their goals in life. He mentioned the involvement of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya in forming the syllabus of Sugar Technology, one of the earliest programmes of the Engineering College of Andhra University, later renamed as Department of Chemical Engineering. Prof VSRK Prasad, Director, IIPPE, suggested to students that in spite of boom in Information Technology, the accessible information may not have authenticity.

Prof Per Srinivas Rao highlighted the innovative works of Sir Visvesvaraya and his contribution to the harbour of Visakhapatnam. Senior faculty of the Engineering College and a large number of students participated in the programme.

Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya remembered at GITAM event

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

GITAM Deemed to be University celebrated Engineers' Day here on Sunday marking the 159th birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, who was conferred with the Bharat Ratna in 1955.

Vice-Chancellor Prof K Sivaramakrishna, Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof N Sivaprasad, Registrar Prof KVG Balaji and other senior faculty offered floral tributes to Visvesvaraya by garlanding his statue at Visvesvaraya Bhavan at GITAM Campus.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice-Chancellor emphasised that consistent learning was essential to carve the path to success. He elaborated that the role of an engineer does not end at achieving the title,

Prof N Sivaprasad mentioned that Sir MV's engineering genius was clearly reflected in the channelling of water resources and consolidation of dams across the construction



GITAM University Vice-Chancellor Prof K Sivaramakrishna paying tributes to Visvesvaraya by garlanding his statue at Visvesvaraya Bhavan in GITAM Campus of Visakhapatnam on Sunday

● The 159th birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was celebrated at GITAM campus to mark his 159th birth anniversary

● Vice-Chancellor Prof K Sivaramakrishna emphasised that consistent learning was essential to carve the path to success

● He elaborated that the role of an engineer does not end at achieving the title, but rather goes much beyond for the larger good of society

but rather goes much beyond for the larger good of society.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof N Sivaprasad mentioned that Sir MV's engineering genius was clearly reflected in the channelling of water resources and consolidation of dams across the construction. His outstanding planning skills not just bolstered irrigation facilities in the country, but also saved thousands of

people from ravaging floods. He said that modern-day engineers were playing an important role constantly in revolutionising technology making everything around simpler and bringing us closer to nature.

GITAM Institute of Technology In-Charge Principal Prof C Dharmaraj, along with a large number of students and faculty, participated in the event.

IN A SHOW OF STRENGTH, INDIA STANDS UP LIKE A COLOSSUS!

HC UPADHYAY
■ HYDERABAD

By declaring unconditional, unstinted and spontaneous support to the latest acts of abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A of the Constitution of India, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, a premier Muslim body, has not only served a solid punch on the Muslim fanatics, but also sent a message, loud and clear, to the war-mongering Pakistan as well as its supporters within India who have been playing the sinister game of inciting the Muslim community in the name of religion that India is one and shall remain united in all circumstances.

The most influential Muslim organisation following the Deoband School of Islamic thought is a widely respected religious congregation having over ten million members in the country. Its general secretary, former Rajya Sabha member, Moulana Mehmood Madani, has condemned Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in very strong

words and exhorted the people, including the Muslims, not to fall prey to the vicious propaganda by the enemy country, Pakistan and its 'paid' henchmen within the country.

Unity in diversity is the beauty of this great country, called Bharat or India. Whenever nation faces the external threat, be it from Pakistan or China, all people, irrespective of their different religions, creeds, castes or languages, unite and stand up like a rock. Such a show of strength, indeed, is equal to winning half the battle as the enemy certainly feels threatened and demoralised.

SC GIVES ITS MIND TO UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

The candid observation made by the Apex Court in the recently delivered judgement that despite the hope and expectation expressed in Article 44 of the Constitution of India, no concrete steps have been taken by the successive governments to introduce a Uniform Civil Code in the country.

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Citing the example of Goa, where no person, including Muslim, can practice polygamy or give oral divorce (Triple Talaq), the court exhorted the government that necessary steps towards introduction of Uniform civil code throughout the country should be taken in right earnest.

UP IN ARMS AGAINST SC: COINCIDENCE OR CONSPIRACY?

Once again the top judiciary has been in the news. And, this time it has been targeted for exercising its power of transferring some high court judges. While the Telangana High Court's lawyers, supported by the subordinate courts advocates asso-

ciations and the State Bar Council, have not yet totally given up the threat of abstaining from the court work on the issue of transfer of a senior judge, Sanjay Kumar, to another high court in lower seniority, Madras High Court too is facing a similar conundrum. Its Chief Justice Vijaya K. Tahilramani has defied her transfer orders to the Meghalaya High Court and tendered resignation, which is yet to be accepted.

Meanwhile the lawyers of Madras High Court boycotted

the courts and now there are reports that the lawyers in Maharashtra too would do so. In Madhya Pradesh, the Bar Association of High Court is on a different wicket. It has demanded transfer of Justice Sanjay Kumar Yadav

alleging that the said judge has been 'misbehaving' with advocates and there have been several complaints against him. Added to this, former judge of the apex court, Markandeya Katju has also taken a plunge into the troubled waters in favour of the Collegium of the Supreme Court. In a web-article, the former chief justice of Madras High Court came down heavily on the



LEGAL ROUNDUP

present incumbent and said that she hardly devoted time for the judicial work which also demoralised other judges of the high court.

Indeed, this is a very unpleasant situation. It does not behove well that a wheel of the judicial machine, called the Bar Association, in its anxiety to streamline or overhaul the justice delivery system, comes out openly in public and, forgetting its limitations, and indulges in abstaining from judicial work thereby causing hardship to the litigant public.

HAVING SEX KNOWING UNCERTAINTY ABOUT MARRIAGE, NO RAPE: SC

If a woman continues to maintain physical relationship with a man for a long time despite knowing it won't fructify in marriage, she cannot accuse him of rape on the ground that he made a false promise of marriage.

The verdict of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Indira Banerjee came as it quashed the rape case lodged by an assistant

breach of a promise which is made in good faith but subsequently not fulfilled.

"Where the promise to marry is false and the intention of the maker at the time of making the promise itself was not to abide by it but to deceive the woman to convince her to engage in sexual relations, there is a misconception of consent. On the other hand, a breach of a promise cannot be said to be false promise. To establish a false promise, the maker of the promise should have had no intention of upholding his word at the time of giving it," the court said.

The court said, "To summarise the legal position that emerges from the above cases, the consent of a woman with respect to Section 375 must involve an active reasoned deliberation towards the proposed act. To establish whether the consent was vitiated by a misconception of fact arising of a promise to marry, two propositions must be of immediate relevance, or bear a direct nexus to engage in the sexual act."

The bench said any false promise of marriage must be of immediate relevance or bear a direct nexus to the woman's decision to engage in the sexual act. It said there is a distinction between a false promise given on the understanding by the maker that it will be broken, and the

Panchayat Raj minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao was left blushing after finding himself in a slightly awkward situation in Telangana Assembly on Sunday. Without warning, CM KCR came up with an episode of some years ago when Errabelli was in TDP. KCR, known for his sharp memory, recalled the incident of protest against Babli project when Errabelli toed the TDP line and happened to oppose the TRS party. Rubbing in salt, but all in jest, KCR reminded the House how TDP MLAs, including party chief N Chandrababu Naidu, got roundly beaten by counter-protesters. He said, "Our Dayakar Rao too received Marata lathi blows." The anecdote came as a welcome relief of Legislators perhaps, but Errabelli wanted the moment to

pass ASAP.

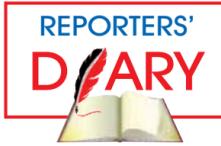
Lazy Sundays for cops too

Cops generally like being on Assembly duty, basking in the afterglow of being in close proximity while escorting powerful people who matter. Some though find it a punishment. Often, police personnel talk among themselves about issues in debate, which all Legislators' words in the House carry weight, etc. A few also share their feelings with scribes. Gleaning from such interaction, one realises that cops, like everybody else in jobs, they too like lighter work - such as early adjournment of the House and or

how tough it is to work on Sundays when the Assembly is in session. "Sir, how much more before the House is adjourned? Arre... what is the need to run the Assembly even on Sundays," is how one policeman's conversation with a scribe went.

Padmarao Goud rescues Bhatti

A little help to a rival during a debate lifts the bonhomie in the Assembly, should be welcome and is very much on. The other day, Deputy Speaker T Padmarao Goud happened to chip in with a little help when CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka was struggling to get the name of a hospital right.



Bhatti was in the midst of a tirade against the TRS government on the condition of government hospitals in the state. He somehow couldn't recall a certain hospital name, fumbled with all sorts of other names and couldn't get on with his argument. "Mulugu hospital", prompted Padmarao Goud to put an end to Bhatti's discomfiture and setting him free to

continue with his criticism of the government. However, Padmarao Goud's gesture amused the Treasury benches and Opposition members in equal measure. Why, you can only appreciate an effort to help out a colleague, even if from another camp.

News flow interruptions

The reported restrictions imposed on two vernacular TV news channels have led to some speculations in political corridors. There was no official ban on the channels, but it is learnt that MSOs (Master Cable Operators) were asked not to telecast their news feed in the Amravati Capital region. The mat-

ter, as it turned out, was only about the annual fee to MSOs. While the ruling YSRCP had nothing to do with it, the episode brought back memories of the time when TDP regime reportedly instructed news channels not to air Jaganmohan Reddy's padyatra last year, as also interruptions in the telecast of PM Narendra Modi's speech during his visit to Guntur after the TDP fell out with BJP two years ago.

'Hindi' unites opposition

On Hindi Divas, Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed his view that Hindi would unite India, pitching for 'One nation-One lan-

guage' idea. Contrary to uniting India, Shah's comments sparked protests across the country, especially the southern part of the nation. Senior communist leader and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, Puducherry CM V Narayanasamy, DMK president MK Stalin, former CMs of Karnataka Siddaramaiah and HD Kumaraswamy, AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, all have all raised objections against Amit Shah. The issue turned into a political storm with 'Hindi imposition' hash tag getting viral. Shah's idea of 'uniting' everyone backfired spectacularly; instead it only succeeded in uniting Opposition leaders from different backgrounds and ideologies.

(Kolishetty Venkateshwarlu, Patri Vasudevan, Deepthi Nandan)

CAPSULE

SATYA NADELLA ATTENDS FATHER'S LAST RITES IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad: Microsoft Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella attended his father BN Yugandhar's last rites here on Sunday. Nadella, who reached Hyderabad on Saturday night, lit the funeral pyre at Mahaprastanam in Jubilee Hills. Yugandhar, a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, died on Friday after a brief illness. He was 80. Nadella, the only child of Yugandhar, and other relatives and friends bid a tearful adieu to the former bureaucrat, who served in the Prime Minister's Office and the Planning Commission. Telangana's Director General of Police M Mahender Reddy, senior IAS official Suresh Kumar and other retired IAS officials attended the last rites. An IAS officer of the 1962 batch, Yugandhar held many key positions both in undivided Andhra Pradesh and at the Centre.

SCR TO LAUNCH CLEANLINESS DRIVE FROM TODAY

VIJAYAWADA: The Vijayawada Division of the South Central Railway (SCR) will observe Swachhata Hi Seva - Swachhata Pakhwara from September 16 to October 2. As part of the Swachhata Pakhwara, a cleanliness pledge will be administered and a rally will be taken out from the railway stadium on Monday. Nukkad Natakas will be performed at 10 am followed by Shramdaan by railway officials and stakeholders at Vijayawada Railway Station at 11 am.

Illegal transactions of Pawan will be exposed: Ambati

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP MLA Ambati Rambabu said that the Jaganmohan Reddy's government will soon expose illegal transactions of Jana Sena Chief Pawan Kalyan. Coming down heavily on the actor-turned-politician at a press conference here on Sunday, Rambabu alleged that the real paid artiste of TDP is Pawan Kalyan. He said, "We can understand if Chandrababu Naidu is making unnecessary criticism of the government as he is out of power. It is ridiculous to know why Pawan Kalyan is doing the same," he added.

He said Chandrababu Naidu had encouraged Pawan Kalyan only to divide votes of Kapu community, but the Jana Sena Chief is continuing the same even after the elections. Rambabu opined that Pawan Kalyan should run Jana Sena on his own and not under the instructions of Chandrababu Naidu. He said, "It looks as though Pawan Kalyan were copying a book while Naidu is writing one, sitting in the next bench." Leaving all measures taken for the welfare of the people despite financial odds and the revolutionary decisions to change the old policies, Pawan Kalyan has simply reading out the Chandrababu Naidu's script, Rambabu said. Meanwhile, YSRCP's Nagari MLA and APIC Chairperson RK Roja criti-



■ Chandrababu Naidu had encouraged Pawan Kalyan only to divide votes of Kapu community, but the Jana Sena Chief is continuing the same even after the elections, YSRCP MLA alleged

■ YSRCP's Nagari MLA and APIC Chairperson RK Roja criticised the Jana Sena Chief's remarks on 100 days of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy's rule and that he had no right to talk about his governance. She alleged that Pawan Kalyan is accepting 'packages' from TDP to do favours to Naidu. Speaking to the media on Sunday, Roja said after the drama enacted by 'paid artistes' employed by TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu was exposed, he is now sending Pawan Kalyan to divert the public's mind.

"It is a known fact that he was always working in alliance with and in favour of the TDP Chief," she said. cised the Jana Sena Chief's remarks on 100 days of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy's rule and that he had no right to talk about his governance. She alleged that Pawan Kalyan is accepting 'packages' from TDP to do favours to Naidu. Speaking to the media on Sunday, Roja said after the drama enacted by 'paid artistes' employed by TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu was exposed, he is now sending Pawan Kalyan to divert the public's mind.

Patient's pals, medicos clash at new GGH

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a shocking incident, a group of medicos clashed with the associates of a patient admitted to the New Government General Hospital in the city on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday. However, the police entered the scene and brought the situation under control by pacifying both the groups.

According to sources, a man was admitted to the hospital with grievous injuries. While associates of the patient claimed that he had sustained the injuries in a road accident, some others said he was wounded in a clash.

Former corporator of YSRCP Palle Ravi called up the hospital authorities and asked them to take care of the victim. Junior doctors, who were on duty, provided first aid and were waiting for senior doctor's instructions for further treatment.

Meanwhile, the patient's associates, who were in an inebriated condition, started hurling abuses at the junior doctors saying that they were unnecessarily delaying the treatment. They attacked the duty doctors. When the news spread to the Siddhartha Medical College hostel, medicos rushed to the spot and countered the patient's associates. Both the groups clashed as the situation went out of control. Soon, the police entered the scene and took away the injured patient's associates. Later, junior doc-



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tors lodged a complaint with the Machavaram Police Station against them. The patient's associates too filed complaints.

Junior doctors requested the authorities to increase security at the hospital. According to sources, Palle

Ravi and others are trying for a patch-up and requested the junior doctors to withdraw their complaint.

The police and the hospital authorities refused to reveal the name of the patient despite several enquiries by the media.

Barua beach to be developed: Tourism Minister

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Minister for Tourism M Srinivasa Rao stated that Barua beach in Srikakulam would be developed to draw more tourists from Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

Holding a review meeting with tourism officials of the three north coastal districts - Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam at the circuit house on Sunday, he said that the Barua beach would be developed on a public-private partnership model. Executive Director of Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) Radhakrishna Murthy, along with other officials from the districts attended the meeting.

The Minister said that tourism buses would also be operated to various destinations to encourage temple tourism. The buses would ply between the three north-coastal districts and Simhachalam.

He stated that Appu Ghar would be renovated at a cost of Rs 2 crore. A drive-in restaurant would also be inaugurated at Araku next week, as well as the set up of a container restaurant at Bhimli. The Lammasingi resorts would be opened to tourists by November end, the Yarada beach front by next week and a tourism police station in another week.

The Tourism Department is currently operating 10 buses in the region, which will be



Tourism Minister M Srinivasa Rao addressing a press conference on tourism developments at Circuit House in Visakhapatnam on Sunday

Appu Ghar would be renovated. A drive-in restaurant would also be opened at Araku next week, as well as the set up of a container restaurant at Bhimli

increased to 20. More amenities will be created for tourists in hotels. Local artists will be encouraged for Visakha Utsav and Bhimli fests, the Minister said.

BJP looks for political gains from 'Telangana Liberation Day'

MOHAMMED SHAFEEQ ■ HYDERABAD

Aiming to emerge as an alternative to the ruling TRS, the BJP is looking to garner maximum political benefit from its two-decade-old demand for the official celebration of Telangana Liberation Day on September 17.

Buoyed by its impressive performance in the Lok Sabha elections and the support it received for scrapping Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is trying to put Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) on the mat by accusing it of surrendering to All India Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) by not celebrating the day officially.

Though the BJP camp is disappointed over Union Home Minister and party president Amit Shah not attending the celebrations, it is expected to make every effort to highlight its demand and corner the mileage by playing the card of polarization.

The party has planned 'tiranga yatras' across the State and its leaders and cadre will hoist the national flag in all 33 districts to mark the occasion. A public meeting is also scheduled at Patancheru near Hyderabad.

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy and three other BJP Lok Sabha members from the state will be participating in the celebrations.

Preparing the ground for the celebrations, a delegation of BJP state unit led by the party's State unit chief K Laxman on Saturday met Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, urging her to direct the state gov-



"The demand to celebrate September 17 as the Liberation Day existed for decades, but with BJP emerging stronger politically in Delhi, the party considers it as the right time to play politics around it," said analyst Raghava Reddy

ernment to officially celebrate Telangana Liberation Day.

"It is well known that BJP has been trying to celebrate September 17 from communal angle for last 20 years. The demand this time may be strong in the wake of scrapping of Article 370 but polarisation on this issue is marginal," says political analyst Telakapalli Ravi. He believes that the BJP's attempts may benefit TRS.

Muslim groups have been opposing any celebrations as they claim that Muslims were massacred during the 'police action'. AIMIM, which is often dubbed by BJP leaders as party of 'razakars', maintains that there is only one Independence Day for the entire country and hence there is no need for separate celebrations in Telangana.

The Congress, TDP, TRS, Left parties and other groups celebrate September 17 as Telangana merger day by hoist-

ing the national flag. They refrain from calling it liberation day. TS CM K Chandrababu Naidu, while speaking in the Assembly last year, had rejected the demand for celebrating 'Telangana Liberation Day'. Stating that the BJP wished to portray the day as 'liberation from Muslim rule', Rao said it was not the government's wish to antagonise any particular community.

"The demand to celebrate September 17 as the Liberation Day existed for decades, but with BJP emerging stronger politically in Delhi, the party considers it as the right time to play politics around it," said analyst P. Raghava Reddy.

He added that as the BJP is emboldened by the support it received following abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir it would be encouraged to harp on a similar "nationalistic/national integration" card in Telangana too.

TTD Chairman inspects Alipiri footpath

Tirumala: The Trust Board Chairman of TTD YV Subba Reddy on Sunday inspected Alipiri footpath route.

He instructed the shopkeepers to sell the goods for MRP rate only to pilgrims and deviation in this regard will not be spared. Later, he instructed the sanitation staff to clean the bathrooms at regular intervals along the footpath route.

Woman thrashes husband, lover

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Angered over her husband's extra-marital affair, a 28-year-old housewife thrashed him and her lover in their apartment under Gopalapatnam Police Station limits here on Sunday.

Reports said K Pushpalatha of Kotturu village of Anakapalle rural mandal while working in a real estate company fell in love with a real estate agent S Gngadhar Reddy and married him in 2016. They have a son.

Pushpalatha raised Rs 35 lakh from her friends and relatives to help her husband improve his business. He did not make any profits and Pushpalatha wanted the money back to return to those from whom she had borrowed. Reddy started picking up a fight.

Later, Reddy developed relationship with another woman Laxmi, who also worked in a real estate firm. The relationship became deep and both started living together in an apartment

in Gopalapatnam. Pushpalatha lodged a complaint with the Gopalapatnam police for dowry harassment and a case under 398(A) was booked. The police summoned the couple and counselled them, but in vain.

Enraged over the affair, Pushpalatha with the help of women organisations went to the apartment and staged a dharna after locking the flat from outside. The police rushed to the scene and took both Reddy and Laxmi to the police station.

Six-year-old girl seeks CMs' intervention to 'Save Nallamala'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A Class II student from Vijayawada urged the governments of both Telugu States to withdraw from the process of exploration of uranium from Nallamala forest. Six-year-old Yuktha Sree Pulleta explained the importance of balancing nature in a novel approach through her drawings during a fancy dress competition held in the capital city. She wore a green dress covered with leaves and flowers and drew the attention of the judges as well as the audience with her slogan 'Save Nallamala, stop exploration of uranium and save tigers.'

Yuktha, a Class II student from KKR Gowtham School in the capital city, has taken a cue from her parents Tirumala and Praveen to choose the subject 'Save Nallamala' for the fancy dress competition. She wanted to convey the message that Nallamala forests were the lungs of the two Telugu States and promoted a healthy environment, as well as



■ Yuktha Sree Pulleta explained the importance of balancing nature in a novel approach through her drawings during a fancy dress competition held in the capital city

■ She wore a green dress covered with leaves and flowers and drew the attention of the judges as well as the audience with her slogan 'Save Nallamala, stop exploration of uranium and save tigers.'

■ The Class II girl also sent a mail to the Chief Ministers of both the Telugu States urging them to look at the issue in the larger interest of the ecological balance in the Nallamala region



being wildlife friendly. Expressing her concern over the decreasing tiger population in the Nallamala region, which is supposed to be the second largest tiger reserve in the country, Yuktha felt that many

other creatures, such as small birds, will also slowly disappear from the region and lead to ecological imbalance. She took up the topic in order to spread the message as no celebrities or political leaders from Andhra

Pradesh have raised their concern about Nallamala. The Class II girl also sent a mail to the Chief Ministers of both the Telugu States urging them to look at the issue in the larger interest of the ecological balance in the Nallamala region.

Accountants have role in climate change: MLC

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

MLC and former Chairman of Visakhapatnam Chapter of Cost Accountants, PNV Madhav, on Sunday said that professional accountants have a greater role in accounting and helping factories, industry, business and the corporate houses in reducing carbon emissions and conversion fossil fuels and scarce natural resources. Cost-effective use of scarce resources can be done through the implementation of cost and management accounting techniques.

Addressing an interactive session with the CMA students on "Climate Change - Role of Cost and Management Accountants" in the Visakhapatnam Chapter of Cost Accountants premises Madhav said cost and management accountants could help management to implement various schemes through their programmes, which are nature friendly. The accountants through their audit and accounting practices are in a position to help implement the schemes of government and regulatory bodies in achieving the expected results in respect of climate change. Around 60 students participated in the session apart from the professional accountants.

Students participated in the elocution competition and prizes and certificates would be provided to them. The gist of deliberations will be forwarded to the head quarters of Institute of Cost Accountants of India for further action.

TRAGEDY STRIKES TOURISTS

OF THE 72 MEMBERS ON BOAT, AT LEAST 36 PERSONS BELONG TO TELANGANA

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the ill-fated boat, there were at least 36 persons belonging to Telangana, including Hyderabad. Of them, 22 hail from erstwhile Warangal district and 14 from Hyderabad. According to reports, they hail from Kadipikonda of Warangal district. They left their place for a tour of Papikondalu on Sep 13. They were identified as Baske Dasaradham, Baske Venkata swamy, Baske Prasad, Baske Avinash, Darsanam Suresh, Sunil, Baske Rajender, Sivvi Venkataiah, Aarepalli Yadagiri, Sunil, Gorre Rajender, Prabhakar, Konduri Raj Kumar, Kommala Ravi and Baske Dharmaraju.

Residents of Hyderabad who were feared dead in the boat tragedy were: Gandhi, Vishal, Lakshman, Janakairam, Rajesh, Raghu Ram, Abdul Salim, Saikumar, Vishnu Kumar,



Maheswar Reddy's family, While Murali and five others survived the boat tragedy, nine others have gone missing. One of the survivors, Murali gave an account of how the tragedy occurred. He said that

the boat tilted to one side at Kachaluru, near Devi patnam, and soon it went completely under the water.

To save his skin, he along with some others climbed onto the top of the boat. Many of his

fellow passengers fell into the river as the water speed increased. He and some others managed to stay on the top of the boat. Around the same time, another boat came their way helping them survive the

accident. Earlier also, two boat tragedies with high casualties were reported from Kachchaluru, where the Royal Punnami went down under water with 62 on board. The water depth is will be about 80 feet in Kachchaluru.

In 1964, at least 60 persons died when a boat 'Udaya Bhaskar' drowned at Kachchaluru. Subsequently, a boat 'Jhansi Rani' drowned at the place leading to death of eight. The Sunday's tragedy occurred soon after the boat set sailed for Papikondalu from Gandhi Pochamma temple.

Bitting a boulder is stated to be the cause for the drowning of the launch. The deceased include boat drivers Sangadi Nookaraju and Tamaraju. According to launch owner Venkata Ramana, the drivers did not negotiate a large whirlpool near Kachaluru leading to the tragedy.

'Not heeding warnings, drivers ventured into river'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The owner of the ill-fated Royal Vasistha launch, K Venkata Ramana, claimed on Sunday that the launch had capacity to have at least 90 people on board and that it was equipped with life jackets for 150 people.

However, official sources pointed out that, though the Devipatnam police had warned the drivers against venturing into the river, which had been flowing menacingly, the drivers were adamant. They claimed to have obtained licence from the Kakinada Port authorities and operated the boat, leading to the tragedy. Incidentally, the drivers -- Sangadi Nookaraju and Tamaraju -- figured among the dead. Venkata Ramana said that the course of the swollen river was very rough, especially at Kachchaluru. The drivers



perhaps could not control the vessel at that spot. Moreover, there was a huge whirlpool in the area.

Cell phone signals do not reach the area where the boat went down. The boat owner claimed that the tourists were wearing life jackets at the time of the mishap. According to him, those seated in AC rooms of the launch were missing.

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Tweets

Extremely pained by the capsizing of a boat in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari. My thoughts are with the bereaved families
- NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

The loss of lives due to capsizing of a boat in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh is very unfortunate. I am deeply pained. My thoughts are with families of those who have lost their loved ones. May god give the bereaved families strength to withstand this tragic loss.
- AMIT SHAH, Union Home Minister

Deeply Saddened to learn about the loss of lives in tourist boat capsizing in the Godavari River near Kacchuluru village in Devipatnam Mandal of the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh today.
- VENKAIAH NAIDU, Vice President of India

Deeply anguished at the loss of precious lives due to capsizing of a boat in East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh. My heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased.
- RAJNATH SINGH, Former Union Minister

I'm sorry to hear about the boat accident in the Godavari river, in #AndhraPradesh. My deepest condolences to the families of those who have perished in this tragedy. I pray that all those reported missing will soon be accounted for and that they are safe.
- RAHUL GANDHI, Congress

Saddened at the loss of lives in the Godavari boat tragedy in Andhra Pradesh. My condolences to the families of the deceased. My prayers that the missing passengers are rescued.
- MATAMTA BANERJEE, West Bengal Chief Minister

Shocked with the terrible boat accident in AP. Praying for the victims & the bereaved families Will speak to colleague ministers in AP to assist with whatever we can
- KT RAMA RAO, Telanagan IT Minister

Boat tragedy near Devipatnam in Andhra Pradesh is unfortunate and I convey my sympathies to bereaved family members. The state government should take necessary measures since the people of Telangana also figured among the dead and lend every support to the bereaved family members.
- T HARISH RAO, TS Finance Minister

Shocked to know about the boat tragedy near Devipatnam. It's painful to note that many tourists from Telangana also figured among the victims. I urge the Andhra Pradesh Government to order a full probe into the boat tragedy. I had spoken to Union Minister of State for Home G Kisan Reddy on the incident.
- K LAXMAN, TS BJP president

SURVIVORS OF THE MISHAP

PNS ■ DEVIPATNAM

Of the 72 people travelling by the ill-fated Royal Vasistha boat that went down the water near here on Sunday, only 27 people survived the tragedy.

When the boat capsized, there were nine crew members on the vessel.

1. Bopala Lakshmi (45)	-	Gopalapuram of Visakhapatnam
2. Darasanala Suresh (29)	-	Kadipikonda of Warangal
3. Baske Venkataswamy (60)-	-	Kadipikonda of Warangal
4. Baske Dasaradham (52)	-	Warangal
5. Durgam Madhulata (35)	-	Tirupati
6. Gorre Prabhakar (47)	-	Kadipikonda of Warangal
7. Janaki Rama Rao (65)	-	Uppal, Hyderabad
8. Arepalli Yadagiri (42)	-	Kadipikonda of Warangal
9. Kattapu Gandhi (29)	-	Gollapudi, Vijayawada
10. Galla Sivasankar (25)	-	Kodada, Suryapeta district
11. Soteti Rajesh (24)	-	Sanat Nagar, Hyderabad
12. Narnapuram Suresh (31)-	-	Jagadgirigutta, Hyderabad
13. Mazeeruddin (28)	-	Hyderabad
14. Kirankumar (29)	-	Hyderabad
15. Janani Kumar (21)	-	Hyderabad
16. Kodada Arjun (23)	-	Hyderabad
17. Gangadhara Kumar	-	Narsapuram
18. G Subrahmanyam	-	Hanuman Junction
19. Ungaral Srinu	-	Hanuman Junction
20. Maddila Jojibabu	-	Hanuman Junction
21. K Jagannadhareddi	-	Kadapa



Navy dispatches diving team, plane

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Indian Navy has dispatched a Dornier plane with a diving team to assist in the search operation to locate missing persons in Godavari river boat capsizing tragedy based on a request from the Andhra Pradesh government. A Naval Dornier along with naval diving team, inflatable Gemini boat and associated equipment was deployed

from Naval Air Station, INS Dega to Rajahmundry on Sunday evening. The naval diving team will join the search operation for missing personnel from the capsized tourist boat in Devipatnam on Sunday. Two naval helicopters will also be deployed from INS Dega with first light on Monday morning to join the search operation along with NDRF, SDRF and civil authorities.

Boat didn't have permission, says AP Tourism Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Much to the chagrin of everyone, the boat which capsized in Godavari River, killing 12 tourists did not have permission. The boat, 'Royal Vasistha' was carrying tourists on Papikondalu tour, without any permission from Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department. It is said to be owned by a person called Kodigudla Venkataramana.

"The boat which was overturned did not have any permission from AP Tourism Department. It was being run by a private operator. As Godavari was in full spate, government boats which were taking tourists on Papikondalu tour were stopped. As soon as we received information about accident, we



Avanthi Srinivas

have pushed into service NDRF teams and even sought Indian Navy's support. Tourism department boats were also immediately pushed into service rescue tourists. We are also using helicopters to rescue travellers on boat," said AP Tourism Minister Avanthi Srinivas.

It is said that the Kakinada Port authorities give permis-

Rescue operations in full swing

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan expressed shock over the boat accident that occurred near Devipatnam. Several people were feared dead in the incident. The Governor called Chief Secretary LV Subrahmanyam and enquired about the incident and relief operations being undertaken.

The CS informed the Governor that rescue and relief operations are going on in full swing under the supervision of the East Godavari District Collector. The Governor expressed his condolences to members of the bereaved families. Meanwhile, Praveen Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Tourism Department, said the incident was unfortunate. He said two boats of the Tourism Department by names Haritha and Sir Arthur Cotton were immediately pressed into service for rescue operations from Singanapalli village in coordination with NDRF and SDRF teams.



AP announces Rs 10L ex gratia

CHIEF MINISTER JAGANMOHAN ASKS OFFICIALS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has announced Rs 10 lakh ex gratia to the families of the victims who died in the boat tragedy that took place near Devipatnam in East Godavari district on Sunday. In the wake of the incident, the CM called for an emergency meeting with officials and ordered that all boat services on rivers in the State be cancelled with immediate effect.

He also spoke to Home Minister M Sucharitha, Ministers Kurasala Kannababu and Tourism Minister Avanthi Srinivas who were monitoring the

rescue operations and asked them to deploy NDRF and SDRF personnel to help in rescue operations.

He also requested the Navy to help State government officials in rescue operations. He directed the officials to inspect the licences and check whether necessary safety gear and equipment in the boats are present in the tourist boats. An expert committee should be constituted to suggest guidelines to permit the boats, he added.

The CM wondered how the boat was given permission when the river is in spate and directed the officials to conduct an inquiry to examine how the tragedy occurred.

Stop all boat services: Jagan tells officials

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy ordered to stop all the boat services on rivers in the state with immediate effect, on the wake of boat capsized incident on

Godavari river in East Godavari district. He further ordered officials to check the licences of the boat crew. He asked officials to form an expert committee to suggest guidelines to permit the boats on rivers.

Corpse pose helps man survive tragedy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 65-year-old Janaki Rama Rao from Uppal area of the city survived the boat tragedy by practicing corpse pose of yoga, while many of his fellow tourists were washed away with bleak hopes of their survival given the furious course of the river.

Rama Rao lives in Srinivasa Colony under Medipally police station limits. He along with spouse Jyoti, brother-in-law, brother-in-law's spouse and their son went for pleasure trip two days ago. Barring Janaki Rama Rao, the rest of his family members are missing.

On learning about the tragedy, a pall of gloom descended on Srinivasa Colony. Apart from them, Vishal, Dharani Kumar, Arjun and Laddu of Kayath Nagar in the city remained untraced so far.

The flood level in the river



Janaki Rama

was put at 5 lakh cusecs when the boat mishap occurred. Besides Janaki Rama Rao, 20 others could reach the shore safely. Janaki Rama Rao is undergoing treatment in a hospital.

Narrating how the tragedy took place, he said that the incident had taken place after everybody had finished their breakfast and about to reach Papikondalu in a few moments

and when the launch was passing through 'danger zone', as said by the crew, in the river.

The crew asked the tourists not to be afraid as the boat rocks violently because of the flood level in the river. Even as the crew finished cautioning the passengers on board the vessel, the launch started rocking and went to one-side but could not regain its original position, he said.

Survivors recall trauma

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

According to Dasaradham of Kazipet, who has been hospitalised following the boat tragedy, said that the boat turned topsy-turvy all of a sudden dislodging the passengers into the river. He is lucky to find a life jacket floating in the river. He quickly wore it to keep his head above water. Meanwhile, some people came to his and others' rescue in a small boat.

He said that only five of the 14 could survive the tragedy and the fate of others is not yet known. Another survivor from Warangal district, Gorre Prabhakar, who is hospitalised in Devipatnam, said that there were 61 passengers and 10 crew members in the ill-fated boat.

Prabhakar, one of the 14-member tourist party from Warangal district, said that the boat tilted to its side as all passengers gathered at one place and gradually went under the water. Out of fear, some of them climbed onto the top of the launch. A rescue boat that

came their way saved him and others. He thanked villagers for coming to their rescue. He expressed anguish over some persons drowning in front of his eyes. Many passengers did not wear life jackets.

Woman survives, but husband untraced

A housewife Madhulata of Tirupati has been weeping inconsolably for her husband and daughter who remained untraced following the Royal Vasistha tragedy on Sunday. She was heard speaking on her mobile with her relatives saying, "How can I live without my husband and daughter. I also should have died in the incident."

The near and dear of the persons remained untraced have been spending anxious moments about safety of their relatives. The relatives lament that the calls made to mobile phones of their relatives evoke no response at all. They are seen eagerly enquiring officials about safety of their relatives.

SHORT READS



Around 45,000 cases disposed of in MP national Lok Adalat

JABALPUR: Around 45,000 cases, including those pending and in the pre-litigation stage, were disposed of in the national Lok Adalat held in Madhya Pradesh whose proceedings were affected in many districts due to rains and inundation, a senior state government official said on Sunday. The cases pertained to power and water dues, acquisition of land, matrimonial disputes and others. "Proceedings of the National Lok Adalat were affected due to heavy rains and flooding on Saturday in Mandasaur, Dhar, Badwani, Ujjain and Vidisha districts," D K Singh, deputy secretary, MP State Legal Services Authority, told PTI. While proceedings could not be held in Mandasaur due to water-logging of the areas around the district court campus, he said, adding that the work was partially affected in Dhar, Ujjain, Vidisha and Badwani due to heavy rains and flooding. More than 44,970 cases, including those pending and in the pre-litigation stage, were disposed of, he added.

61 held in Mumbai bar raid, four women rescued

MUMBAI: As many as 61 people were arrested and four women dancers rescued after a major raid by police at a bar in suburban Borivali, a senior police official said on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off that some obscene activities were going on at Charvak Bar, the police raided the premises around 11.30 pm on Saturday and found several people there involved in such acts, he said. Following the raid, 32 bar staff members and 29 customers were arrested, the official said. Four bar dancers were rescued from the bar, he added. "The 61 arrested accused were booked under Indian Penal Code Sections 294 (indulging in obscene acts and songs), 114 (abetter present when offence is committed) and 34 (common intention)," Kasturba Marg police station's senior inspector Nandedo Shinde said. All the accused were on Sunday produced before a local court which granted them bail, he said.

Australian man found dead at Jaisalmer guest house

JAIPUR: A 45-year-old Australian citizen was found dead at a guest house in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district, police said on Sunday. The guest house staff found Nocolas's body on Saturday and informed police. The body was then taken to a hospital, said Kiran Kang, Jaisalmer's Superintendent of Police. He had checked into the guest house on Thursday, police said. The Australian high commission in New Delhi has been informed about the incident. Officials said the cause of the death will be known only after postmortem.

'One nation-one language will never be a reality'

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Amid a raging debate over Hindi as a common language for the country, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday said it would never be a reality. The Rajya Sabha member also noted that former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was under daily attack by forces out to "denigrate and obliterate" his legacy and the very idea of India would "die" if his ideas were abandoned.

"...we may have one nation-one tax, but one nation-one language will never be a reality...we are one nation- we are many languages, we are one nation-many countries," he said.

Ramesh, who began his speech by addressing the dignitaries, including the Governor and Chief Minister and the audience in English, Kannada, Hindi, said "I have spoken in three languages in one minute, just to give you a message..."

"We may have one nation-one tax, one nation-one election, but under no circumstances can we have one nation-one culture, one nation-one language," he added.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday had pitched for Hindi as a common language for the country, reigniting the debate on the issue as parties in the South said they would oppose any attempt to "impose" the lan-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday had pitched for Hindi as a common language for the country, reigniting the debate on the issue as parties in the South said they would oppose any attempt to "impose" the language

guage. Congress too had cautioned against stirring up "emotive" issues "settled" by those who framed the Constitution, after Shah said that while diversity in languages is India's strength, a national language is needed so that foreign languages and cultures do not overpower the country's own.

Ramesh was delivering the Sir M Visvesvaraya memorial lecture- "A Prime Minister and an Engineer" at an event organized by the Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry to commemorate the birth anniversary of its founder Visvesvaraya, who was also the Diwan of Mysore state.

A "war cry" against non-Hindi speaking people

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Slamming Union Home Minister



Amit Shah for his Hindi language pitch, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday said it was a "planned attempt" to stir up a controversy and divert attention from pressing problems in the country. He termed it as a 'war cry'

against the mother tongue of non-Hindi speaking people.

The Chief Minister, in a Facebook post, said that despite protests erupting in many places on the issue, Shah was not prepared to withdraw from the "Hindi agenda", which are signs to show that the sangh parivar was getting ready to open a new "agitational platform". However, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan welcomed the move, saying language inspires and unites the people and the country's unity can be strengthened through Hindi.

CPI(M) slams Shah's statement

NEW DELHI: Any attempt to impose one language will lead to disruption of the country's unity, the CPI(M) said on Sunday criticising Union Home Minister Amit Shah's comments on Hindi. Shah's statement that "Hindi should be treated as the national language runs contrary to the spirit of the Indian Constitution and our country's linguistic diversity," the Left party said.

"All languages listed in the Eight

Schedule of the Constitution are national languages and must be treated equally. Any attempt to impose any one language will lead to the disruption of our country's unity and integrity," it said in a statement.

Speaking on Hindi Divas, Shah on Saturday pitched for Hindi as a common language, asserting it can unite the nation as it is spoken the most in the country.

Stalin decries "autocratic imposition" of Hindi

CHENNAI: The DMK president M K Stalin on Sunday accused the Centre of "autocratic imposition of Hindi" and underscored the need for unity in opposition ranks to take forward protest against the government on such issues. Addressing an MDMK party event chaired by its leader Vaiko here, Stalin said Tamil was sidelined in the competitive examination conducted by the railways and postal department. After Home Minister Amit Shah's pitch for Hindi as a common link language,

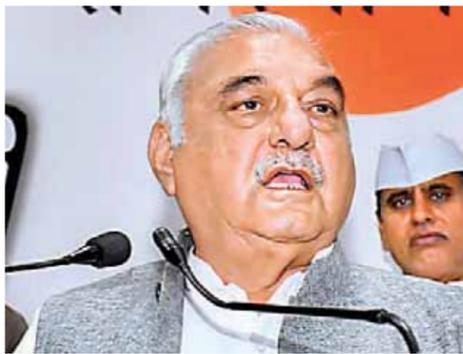
the DMK chief had Saturday said that such a view was against national integrity and demanded that it be taken back. "We have been compelled to go the protest mode everyday to get our rights," he said and sarcastically added "even if we snooze they (the Centre) will thrust Hindi and ease out Tamil if went tired."

Pondy CM registers protest

PUDUCHERRY: Puducherry Chief Minister V



Narayanasamy on Sunday registered strong protest against Union Minister Amit Shah's pitch for Hindi as common language and claimed it was a "clear exposure of the hidden agenda" of the Centre to impose the language on non-Hindi speaking states. The CM's comments come a day after Shah batted for a common language for the country and said it is Hindi which was spoken the most and can unite the whole country. "India is a multi lingual, multi cultural and secular nation and any move to impose Hindi would only strike at the pluralistic features of the nation and its cultural identity," Narayanasamy said.



At party workers' meet, Hooda gives call to oust Khattar govt

PNS ■ LEH

Senior Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Sunday said the days of the "anti-people" BJP government in Haryana are numbered and people have made up their mind to throw them out of power in the upcoming Assembly polls.

The Haryana Congress Legislature Party leader said the "false promises" made by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have been exposed before the people. Addressing a party workers' meeting in Faridabad, Hooda called on all Congress workers to work hard to oust the BJP regime.

He also targeted the BJP governments at the Centre and in Haryana over the amended Motor Vehicles Act.

Giving an example where a hefty challan was imposed on a motorcyclist in Gurgaon for violations, Hooda said under the amended act hefty challans were being issued, which were burdening the common people. "A bike is worth Rs 15,000, but a challan is issued for Rs 15,000," he said.

Targeting the Khattar government, Hooda said, "This government showed hurry to implement the amended Act because it is an anti-people government...when we come to power,

we will reduce the fines'. The Leader of Opposition in the presence of state Congress chief Kumari Selja further said "all sections of the society were fed up with the BJP government".

"All sections of the society, including farmers, workers, traders and government employees, have been hit by the anti-people policies of the BJP," the former Haryana chief minister said. On law and order front, Hooda claimed that no person in the state is happy or safe as the state has become a hideout of criminals. "The days of the anti-people BJP-led government in Haryana are numbered and people of the state have made up their minds to vote it out," he said.

Appealing to the people to strengthen the hands of the Congress, he said only his party can get rid of "this anti-people government". He said the BJP made tall promises to the people before coming to power but failed to fulfil these. "Whereas, whatever the Congress promised in its manifesto in 2005, 2009, we fulfilled that," he said. Hooda said if the Congress comes to power, it will increase the old age pension, give pay scales to its employees at par with those enjoyed by Punjab government employees and develop Faridabad at par with Gurgaon.

BJP's Ladakh MP puts conditions before mega solar power project

PNS ■ LEH

Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, the BJP MP representing Ladakh Lok Sabha constituency, has welcomed the Rs 50,000-crore mega solar power project in the region, but made it clear that it can go ahead if jobs are reserved for the locals and can work on a land lease model.

Protecting the fragile ecology of Ladakh is of paramount importance, Namgyal said, adding the investor should also devote a part of the earnings as royalty for the locals.

Following the Centre's moves to abrogate Article 370 and create a separate Union Territory of Ladakh, there has been media report of a Rs 50,000-crore solar power project coming up in the region.

"Investments are essential to come from outside, I welcome those. But there are a few conditions - we can't give the land in



"The developmental model should keep in mind the fragile ecology of the region. We are not going to allow you otherwise, he made it clear"

your name, you will have to take it on lease and a portion of the jobs will have to be reserved for the local youth.

"And whatever you earn from here, a part of it will have to be given to the council fund as roy-

alty for ground development," he said.

The developmental model should be keeping in mind the fragile ecology of the region. We are not going to allow you otherwise, he made it clear.

The need is to tread on a "middle path" between the development and the local interests, such that both the Ladakhis as well as rest of India benefit, he said.

"It's not that we are closing ourselves, nor do we want anybody to exploit Ladakh," he stressed. Namgyal said Ladakh always possessed huge potential to develop solar energy and credited the Narendra Modi government for trying to tap the potential.

The young lawmaker said Ladakh should not be looked at as an infertile piece of land alone, pointing to the region being an important tourist destination, rich in rare medicinal plants and also a repository of glaciers.

The Rs 50,000-crore project is touted as the single biggest investment in the space. A recent media report said sites have been identified for the grid-connected project.

4 lions rescued from 100-foot deep dry well in Gir forest

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Three lions and a lioness were rescued from an open well in Sarasiya range of Gir East forest division in the early hours of Sunday, an official said. The unused well was about 100 feet deep and was situated on a farm in Manavay, and the four big cats, in the 2-3 year age group, fell into it on Saturday evening. Sarasiya Range Forest Officer M R Odedra said. "The farm owner alerted us. A forest department team managed to rescue the lions and lioness after working through the night. The well was dry and the four had to be dragged out with the help of residents and equipment we had carried for the purpose," he said. The incident comes within a month of the state government telling the Gujarat HC that it had, so far, constructed 37,201 parapets on open wells in forests to prevent lions from falling into them.

'Zindagi' edu prog in Odisha wins praise from Hrithik

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A noble initiative in Odisha to mentor aspiring medics from financially downtrodden families has drawn effusive praise from Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan among others.

Modelled along the lines of Super 30, helmed by ace mathematician Anand Kumar, non-governmental organisation Zindagi Foundation runs a free-of-cost coaching programme for poor students aspiring to crack the NEET exam, and also bears their food and lodging expenses.

Roshan, who earned accolades for playing Kumar in the recently released 'Super 30', took to Twitter to laud the efforts of Ajay Bahadur Singh, the man behind the success stories of Odisha boys and girls hailing from remote areas of Koraput, Behrampur, Angul, Malkangiri, among other areas.



"What a fantastic initiative. Kudos to you, Ajay Bahadur Singh," the actor tweeted.

"Zindagi", as the project has been named by Singh, also drew appreciation from Kumar, who had pioneered the initiative in Bihar way back in 2002 by providing free food and lodging along with regular tuitions to 30 meritorious students willing to crack JEE exams.

"It's heartening to see that the concept is inspiring people like Ajay Bahadur Singh, who

'Zindagi', as the project has been named by Singh, also drew appreciation from Kumar, who had pioneered the initiative in Bihar way back in 2002 by providing free food and lodging along with regular tuitions to 30 meritorious students willing to crack JEE exams

has launched a similar effort," Kumar told PTI.

Others who have extolled the 'Zindagi' programme include writer and director Ratan K Gupta, filmmaker Harshan Shankar and Punjab's ex-education minister Amarjeet Singh.

Singh, who had to give up his dream of becoming a doctor early in life and sell tea and sherbet to sustain his family, said "kind words" from different sections of the society

have boosted his confidence.

"It will inspire me to serve the society with greater dedication," he told PTI on Sunday.

Currently, the 'Zindagi' programme is mentoring and providing for 19 students, selected through a statewide screening test, in the state capital.

Last year, 14 of its students had cracked NEET, 12 of whom secured admission in government medical colleges. Chief minister Naveen

Patnaik had in July invited the meritorious students here and felicitated them.

Senior coordinator of the Zindagi Foundation, Shiven Kumar Choudhry, said the accolades received from a large cross-section of people have helped the students firm up their resolve to do well in life, some of whom hail from families of vegetable sellers, fishermen and marginal farmers.

As "guru dakshina" (fees), Singh said, the students are told to take a pledge that they would never turn away "hapless patients with empty pockets".

Asked why he chose to name his educational programme "Zindagi", he said, "It is inspired by the thought 'zindagi jeetna sabhi chahte hain, par kisi aur ki zindagi jeetna sab ki bas ki baat nahin hain' (everybody wants to triumph in life, but it's rare to win over others).

'Safarnama' New app to let people engage with heritage on the go

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seeking to engage the people with architectural legacy and the forgotten stories of the past, a new heritage app is all set to be launched on Tuesday that will allow them to "digitally interact" with Delhi's cultural landmarks.

The app -- 'Safarnama' -- is endowed with an "enormous range of material" drawn from archives in India and abroad, said Deborah Sutton, the principal investigator of the project.

"From conception to execution, the project has taken us nearly two years, and the app uses the GPS location of the phone to pinpoint the heritage buildings nearby with a small notification that pops up once in the vicinity," Sutton told PTI.

She said the idea of such an app is to make people engage with history and heritage on a daily basis and on the go.

available on Google Play, has two components -- Delhi Partition City and Ghadar se Azadi Tak -- spanning the period from 1857-1947.

"After downloading the app, a user will need to scan QR codes available on customised postcards which we have designed for the project. After scanning, the user would be able to access the archival material pre-loaded in the app," said Sutton, who is from Lancaster University in the UK.

The material has been drawn from the Delhi State Archives, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, British Library, University of Michigan repository, Library of Congress in the US, Times of India archives, among other sources, she said.

"The idea is to enhance the digital heritage experience with audio-visual aid and pictures embedded in the app. So, if a user is walking through



Chandni Chowk and happens to be nearby Begum Samru's Palace, he or she will get a pop-up notification," Sutton said.

"Quite often we walk past a place but don't know the layers of history that lie behind it. Also, in many cases old buildings have either been renamed, re-purposed or rebuilt after demolition. So this app essentially creates a sense of curiosity among people about the city's heritage," she said.

So, many people walking on the Rajpath or Janpath almost regularly wouldn't know they were originally called Kingsway and Queensway respectively, or the story behind those names. The app with its archival bank

"After downloading the app, a user will need to scan QR codes available on customised postcards which we have designed for the project. After scanning, the user would be able to access the archival material pre-loaded in the app"

enhances the knowledge and experience of users, Sutton said.

In many cases, the old buildings have been demolished but the legend and the story survived. So, the app gives a peep into that "forgotten or erased

past" too, with the help of archives, she said.

The project was supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the UK and Lancaster University, she said.

The partners in the project included, INTACH Delhi Chapter, 1947 Archives, and Centre for Community Knowledge at Ambedkar University in Delhi, said Sutton, who has a PhD in History from the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

The Ghadar se Azadi Tak segment deals with the 1857 Mutiny, creation of new imperial capital of New Delhi (from 1911-1931) and its growth till 1947 when India earned Independence.

Sutton said, people are busy with their daily lives and so the app seeks to engage them with their surrounding landmarks.

"So, people going to office, or transiting from one place to another in a cab, or travelling

to airport, these are the moments when the app will alert them if they are travelling past an old monument or take them to the stories associated with these landmarks," the researcher said.

If a user has chosen 1947 Partition City segment on the app, and travelling past Purana Quila, then a notification will come up to inform that refugees from Pakistan had sought shelter here right after the bloody Partition, she said.

"We are launching the app on Tuesday in Delhi and soon we will decide where all these QR-code postcards will be available. Also, this is a first version of the app and we invite suggestions from people to improve it or point mistakes if any," Sutton said. "The primary idea is that of heritage can be made aware of a person can be made during a heritage walk but also be engaged during day-to-day lives as well," she said.

PAPER WITH PASSION
Odd-even blues

As Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal proposes the controversial vehicular restriction, we must question its feasibility



Before we start a debate on vehicular curbs in the city, we need to recognise a few things. First, vehicular congestion is a problem and is impacting economic prospects with millions of man-hours lost in fruitless traffic jams in the city. The second is that while vehicular pollution is not the worst sort of pollution, it does create a whole host of noxious gases, particularly nitrous oxides, which are unique to the burning of petroleum products.

In that light is the proposal by the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to reintroduce the "odd-even" vehicle rationing scheme after the Diwali festivities to control the November smog practical or not? There is after all, little evidence to show that previous "odd-even" schemes have worked significantly and one must remember that the last time it was planned, the scheme was shot down by the courts. Besides, pollutants have been going down this year. But Kejriwal has cited an issue that he has no control over, namely stubble burning in neighbouring States.

While a vehicular restriction scheme is not a bad idea per se, something like "odd-even", which is heavy-handed, needs to be fine-tuned. In this context, Delhi-NCT should take inspiration from other cities where such practices are followed, notably London and Beijing. In Beijing for example, on weekdays numberplate based restrictions affect just 20 per cent of vehicles. In London, a heavy congestion charge on bringing vehicles into the city has resulted in a dramatic decline in inner-city pollution. However, in both cities, both local and regional public transport services, are far superior to that in the Delhi-NCT. The capital of India still suffers from a dramatic shortage of buses for example, something that has not been solved. And while the city has one of the most extensive mass-transit systems in the world today in the form of the Delhi Metro, it barely scratches the surface and one wonders where Delhi would have been minus it. Possibly once the Regional Railway Transit System (RRTS), that will connect Delhi to nearby cities alongside Phase-IV of the Delhi Metro, takes off, there could be potentially be a more planned offloading of vehicles from the city's roads. One other problem with "odd-even" plan before was the huge number of exemptions, particularly for two-wheelers and for women. If a scheme is to be successful, not only should all private vehicles be covered, no exemptions must be made. But Delhi-NCT should look at long-term and permanent solutions to vehicular congestion and pollution. A congestion charge in Central Delhi, alongside a steep increase in parking charges for example, could be considered. This could be followed up with building parking towers outside and not just rely on inefficient surface parking. Also the government can look at a "pollution charge." New BS6 capable vehicles, particularly BS6 diesels, are cleaner than their BS3 and BS4 brethren, and since registration data includes such details, these vehicles should be charged extra to enter the congestion zone or at parking bays. Most importantly, just like the Delhi Traffic Police has installed hundreds of cameras across the city to monitor traffic, the State transport department should use the funds raised from the new fines under the Motor Vehicles Act to install more cameras and automated systems for traffic management. As for Diwali, it would be better to crack down on firecrackers as well as increasing awareness drives for the public about the dangers of the toxic gases that these produce.

Myth versus reality

ASCI ticks off misleading ads featuring celebrities as claims are grossly exaggerated



Ad guru Leo Burnett once said how advertising does not just circulate information, it penetrates the public mind with desires and belief. And at a time when lifestyle choices are aplenty and we seek to govern our lives with the right one, advertisements, especially those helmed by celebrities and their

gone-in-60-seconds wisdom, have a profound impact. Artful lying it is, but when it is outright falsehood, there's a problem. That's why the Advertising Standard Council of India (ASCI) has decided to verify tall claims made by companies in mass media campaigns and banned 106 of 334 ads for violating consumer rights and interests. Most of these campaigns were by topline brands and found to be selling mistruths concerning crucial sectors like healthcare, home appliances, personal care, housing, food and beverages and education, in short our everyday life and well-being. The ASCI said the commonest reason for pulling out ads was their unsubstantiated and exaggerated claims that exploited the consumers' lack of knowledge. Besides, some of the products made unverifiable leadership claims, improper use of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) logo in contravention of the FSSAI advisory and labelled products organic without fact-checks. One ad claimed an endorsement by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) which had supported the technology but never the product. It also came down heavily on celebrity campaigns, considering their mass popularity and impact, suggesting that each brand ambassador should, while endorsing products, at least ensure that all description, claims and comparisons made in the advertisement are genuine. The misleading advertisements include those of Asian Paints, featuring actors Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone; Fena Superwash Powder peddled by Preity Zinta, cricketers KL Rahul and Ravichandran Ashwin; Eureka Forbes RO hawked by Madhuri Dixit; CricPlay online game by cricketer-turned politician Gautam Gambhir and housing firms ads by actress Vidya Balan.

Earlier, too, products that falsely claim doctoral research or clinically proven results had been pulled out, be it enriching clay shampoos, chemical-free hair colours or pure *atta* noodles, all of which have a certain ratio of concentrates and ingredients that they claim to have done away with. For example, *atta* noodles have *maida* or refined flour, too, and 100 per cent dandruff-free shampoo is never a possibility. Consumer awareness and rights are anyway not scaled up in this country and without questioning, such products are not only misleading and overrated but cheating the consumer of his expectation and right to a good and healthy life. Going by the list, most of the products prey on the consumers' health insecurities instead of addressing them through scientific corroboration. Of course, there are consumer laws and various codes about advertisement in general to curb malpractices. And though food safety norms have made labelling with details mandatory, the same does not extend to other product categories with equal seriousness. However, the absence of a single statutory, regulatory body further aggravates the problem. But hopefully this will be taken care of by the Consumer Protection Bill 2019, which seeks to penalise deceptive advertisements. Disclaimers should run as tickers on both audio, print and video campaigns. Of course, the core of the advertising industry is based on tempting the consumer, capturing their mindspace and then driving up sales. True, it is hard to expect the creators to be "conscience-oriented," but given the social cascade of information flow, they have to be self-regulatory, considering their rule cultural sensibilities.

Betraying the Uighurs

The deafening silence of nations towards the oppressed Muslims in China exposes a potent combination of greed, fear and insincerity that has been guiding them



BHOPINDER SINGH

There is a deafening silence that surrounds the ongoing fate of the beleaguered Uighurs, incarcerated in Chinese detention centres. This indifference is especially ironical from the affluent Gulf sheikhdoms, who themselves cry hoarse on issues like Palestine, Rohingya, Bosnia or even Kashmir, albeit unsuccessfully. Countries like Saudi Arabia, who have used religion to legitimise their own regime, political standing and global efforts pertaining to the matters of Ummah, are conspicuous by their feeble and pusillanimous stand against the Chinese for their treatment of the Uighur Muslims. Even the theoretically-powerful multilateral forum (world's second-largest organisation with 57 member countries representing 1.8 billion people) like the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which positions itself as "the collective voice of the Muslim world", has been equally fearful of slamming Beijing.

On the contrary, the OIC had incredulously passed a resolution at the Abu Dhabi declaration to "commend the efforts of the People's Republic of China in providing care to its Muslim citizens." Whereas voluble and belligerent nations like Pakistan, who are virtually surviving (economically and diplomatically) on the Chinese doles and bail-out packages, are expectedly mum on the Uighur affairs and are only selectively pitching Kashmir. Matters like the fate of the besieged and oppressed co-religionists like the Uighurs are not allowed to vitiate the "all-weather friendship" with China. On the contrary, it was left to the 22-odd countries, including Australia, Canada, Japan, the UK, France, Germany and the US among others, to jointly write to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) stating: "We also call on China to refrain from the arbitrary detention and restrictions on freedom of movement of Uighurs, and other Muslim and minority communities in Xinjiang."

The undeniable reality is that a lot of public posturing, cause-spousal and haranguing that is routinely done by Islamic countries is only on account of convenience, selfish considerations and not on account of morality or conscience. As Pakistan wraps itself up as the self-appointed custodian of the Kashmiris, its embarrassing silence on the Uighurs and the state-sponsored complicity against its own Baluch populace or other minority denominations like Hindus, Christians and even the sectarian "others", like the Shias and the Ahmediyas among others, makes a mockery of its self-righteousness. Pakistan's patent two-facedness has earned it the ire of its own Islamic neighbours like Iran and Afghanistan. Even though Pakistanis play up the rote "brother-Islamic-nation" card with both Iran and Afghanistan, the former fumes at the sectarian intolerance that is "allowed" within Pakistan, whereas the Afghans bristle at the active support that Islamabad bestows on Afghan-facing terror organisations. Whereas "Kashmir" unites the polity of Pakistan like



nothing else can, it is the singular societal unifier that legitimises the unwarrantedly generous budgets of the Pakistani military. The poison of the Pakistani clergy emerges as the pivotal rallying cry for Pakistani civil politicians. "Kashmir" is the ultimate weapon of distraction that can sway mood, deflect attention and cobble together the semblance of a unified nation. No such tears are even pretended on the hapless Uighurs even though the situation, treatment and Constitutional status of the Kashmiris and Uighurs cannot even be compared. Kashmiris are entitled to all Constitutional rights, guarantees and opportunities as is applicable to others. Clearly, realpolitik and commerce overrides all other considerations in the Middle East. China is the high-temple of transactional relationships and is flexing its "scale" muscle to extract its own pound of flesh. Beyond beholden or vassal nations like Pakistan (owing to the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor investment) or pathologically anti-US countries like Iran for whom China has a natural traction, others like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and Qatar are engaged in very high-stakes trade and commerce with Beijing. That is perennially at the risk of earning China's ire, should these countries speak out against the Uighurs. Reciprocally, China never

“ AS PAKISTAN WRAPS ITSELF UP AS THE SELF-APPOINTED CUSTODIAN OF THE KASHMIRIS, ITS EMBARRASSING SILENCE ON THE UIGHURS AND THE STATE-SPONSORED COMPLICITY AGAINST ITS OWN BALUCH POPULACE OR OTHER MINORITY DENOMINATIONS MAKES A MOCKERY OF ITS SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS ”

expresses any concern with state actions like the Jamal Khashoggi episode, Baluch insurgency or other human right issues in the region. It is a mutually-beneficial silence maintained by both China and these nations that selectively bury some issues like the blatant Uighur exploitation, while allowing for some others.

Even when the United Nation forums were taking up the Uighur issue against China (often by Western powers on account of their own realpolitik considerations against China), the visiting Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman endorsed the Chinese "counter-terrorism" strategy against the Uighurs in Xinjiang by stating, "We respect and support China's rights to take counter-terrorism and de-extremism measures to safeguard national security. We stand ready to strengthen cooperation with China." He added for good measure that the Saudis oppose "interference by external forces in China's internal affairs."

Shortly thereafter, a multi-billion Saudi-Chinese oil deal and agreement to partake in the gargantuan "One Belt, One Road" initiative was promptly confirmed. Independent bodies have consistently called the bluff on Chinese camps that forcibly host up to one million Uighurs in what the Chinese regime calls "boarding schools", "vocational centres" and even "re-education centres". Independent researchers

have described the same as "wartime concentration camps" that are part of a "systematic campaign of social re-engineering and cultural genocide."

Reports of torture, forced sterilisation and political re-education are commonplace, yet there is not a twitch of condemnation from major Islamic nations. Already, the Chinese have brazenly forbidden people from practising Islam in certain areas and banned elements of religiosity like keeping fasts, wearing hijab, growing a beard or even retaining "Muslim" sounding names. The Chinese Government has openly announced its five-year to "Sinicize" Islam via a virtual denouncement of religion. The ingenious attempt to "guide Islam to be compatible with socialism and implement measures to Sinicize the religion" is a barely concealed socio-cultural genocide that has escaped any tangible condemnation from Islamic nations. The sheer hypocrisy of silence surrounding Uighur suppression exposes a potent combination of greed, fear and insincerity that guides some of these nations, who often shroud themselves with fake emotions about issues that do not earn them either petrodollars or the wrath of countries like China.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry)

SOUNDBITE

We reiterate our commitment to the welfare of (Singur) farmers, alongside promoting industry. My humble pronam to Maa, Mati, Manush.

West Bengal CM — Mamata Banerjee



FM's measures will help make exports competitive & especially benefit MSME exporters with a new scheme for reimbursing taxes & ease of doing business.

Commerce Minister — Piyush Goyal



I want to appeal to people to promote their native languages but also use Hindi to make the dream of Babu and Sardar Patel of one language come true.

Home Minister — Amit Shah



As an actress, I am okay with constructive criticism from film critics because it is a part of my job to take it all in my stride.

Actor — Kangana Ranaut



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fix driving culture

Sir — Looks like Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will not relent easily. Undaunted by opposition from BJP-ruled States to the hefty road penalties, he has boldly asserted that he is not afraid of street protests, explaining, "My responsibility is to save the lives of 1.20 lakh people who die on road in accidents."

He further reasoned that it is everyone's responsibility to save people's lives besides underscoring "the duty of the State as well." We can blame successive Governments for failing to stem the rot at the "rogue" transport office but what about the way we have chosen to drive?

Frankly, in India, one can procure a vehicle, learn to drive and get licence from a tout. It could be a truck, a light commercial vehicle or a motorbike. Which means that just about anyone can start driving on the road in real traffic.

The dangers are immense, for what one is driving has the ability to kill. The working presumption is not a scientific one: That everyone's life is dear to

The need for an anti-lynching law

Attempts being made to help those who committed the murder of Tabrez Ansari in cold blood amount to subversion of justice. Ansari was attacked by a mob on June 17 after he was accused of being a thief. Like the Pehlu Khan case, the Ansari case now does not credit to India's criminal justice system. Something must be terribly wrong if even open-and-shut cases go the way they do without a glimmer of hope for justice to the victims of hate crime. By dropping the murder charges and choosing to slap culpable homicide not amounting to murder, the Jharkhand police has shown utter lack of professionalism and naked partisanship.

The footage of the mob lynching a person clearly establishes the identity of the killers; yet the ruling dispensation has been far too lenient with them. In both the cases of lynching, heart attack was cited as the cause of death. The logic is that the lynching (captured on camera) does not matter because the alleged victims would have been dead anyway due to cardiac arrest.

The attribution of heart attacks to stress, drug and injuries is a vain attempt at impartiality. Obfuscation, by mixing up head injuries with heart attack and vice versa,

them so they will by default drive carefully, learn to swim quickly than sink. Along with fear, Indians need to learn how to make the process of driving a pleasurable one.

KS Jayatheertha Bengaluru



convincing nobody. The adjectives "light" and "minimal" introduced by the police to describe the brain haemorrhage sustained by Ansari in the mob attack says it all. By the prosecution's logic, death must occur on the spot for a crime to be treated as murder. The way the lynching cases are going, there's a dire need to formulate a special anti-lynching law.

G David Milton Maruthancode

Solution for Kashmir

Sir — Irrespective of its merits and demerits, a step at unravelling the Gordian knot in Kashmir has been taken. A pause should certainly be in order but it can-

not prolong beyond a point. Restoring normalcy, even in calibrated stages, must be visibly seen to be prompt and earnest. We cannot increasingly be circumspect as the structure and strategy are in place, built all these years as we countered militancy

and unrest in the Valley. International opinion has always been counted in our diplomatic stances and initiatives and it tends to be in our favour. But there always exists the probability of a tilt towards an abrupt change. Besides, we must also factor in the reality that ensuring socio-economic imbalances post the abrogation of Article 370 would be onerous to tackle. The sooner we move on to the next phase, the quicker we can put the Kashmir episode behind us.

R Narayanan Navi Mumbai

Suppressing voices

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Grudge war in Andhra" (September 14). The house arrest of N Chandrababu Naidu and his son was unwarranted. Leaders have the right to take out rallies to express their dissatisfaction with the Government. Resorting to such tactics amounts to curtailment of Constitutional rights.

Shambhavi Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The gains of sustainability

It's time to prepare for the future before the nature of raw materials and inputs changes so drastically that a new civilisational order is required



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

There comes a time in management of knowledge when phrases become clichés and are repeated ad nauseam, without many pausing to think about their meaning or significance. One such phrase is "The world is changing."

What is often not clear is what is changing, by how much and in which direction? Unfortunately though, this does not even bother people sufficiently for them to pause. This is also true about the watershed times that we live in. Fossil fuel is now nearly passé. Hydrocarbon-based energy, to move vehicles and generate heat, is given a lease by the most optimistic of forecasters of not more than 30 to 40 years. The rest of the debate is known too well to bear recount.

Yet, there are obvious aspects which never figure in the debate. The overall consumption would indeed go down if the population was to remain a constant. The reduction in the quantum of the demand of the existing population is more than made up by the rise in demand from the population which is subsequently added. To bridge the gap between past consumption of the horizon year and current year of reckoning, therefore, becomes a methodological requirement. New consumers keep the level of consumption constant.

Similarly, developments of one sector are very often serenaded without factoring a composite picture. Consider the way a particular Minister has been propagating electrical vehicles. These, in their present state of research and development (R&D), are at best a showpiece purchase by those who can afford a third or fourth car. The battery of an electrical vehicle is not only exorbitant and with a short life but cumbersome to maintain and tricky to deal with. Yet, coming as it does from the exalted office of the Minister-concerned, it has had a dampening influence on the enthusiasm for petrol or diesel vehicles. Inter se parity rarely passes the mind of those whose careers depend on attention-grabbing statements or positioning themselves as 'innovative'!

No less dramatic is the threatening effect of climate change: the melting glaciers, sometimes the change in nature of the rivers. Not unknown is the level of the sea water rising in certain parts of the world, at certain times.

Not only is there a fight for the forest cover but there are lifestyle issues related to forest produce. Typical of the products would be Gum Karaya. This product is used in food industries as a thickener and emulsifier of food. It can be used in concentration as stabiliser for aerated dairy products and frozen dessert. It can also be used for controlling the formation of ice crystals. Clearly it is an input to lifestyle issues of many urbanised folks. The examples can be multiplied.

The snag is people are not talking of this enough and not enough R&D is going into it. These are big issues. Perhaps so big, that they get trivialised. Whereas all the structures are there to pay attention to these concerns, the outcomes are difficult to locate or for that matter even draw significant attention. The non-descript of the urban elite is likely to yawn over all this, shrug his shoulder and say "well... these are complicated issues." In one breath the line of thought has been both mystified and de-constructed and the bandwagon rolls on.

For the sake of argument one can be tolerant about this attitude and one can talk of lesser rarified things like forest cover. There are silent workers, say in Manipur, who are working to not only save the forest cover but to extend them. One such person is Moirangthem Loiya. He works silently to clear the roots of the trees and plant fresh saplings to keep the acreage of the forest cover growing. He has not been recognised by any award. Apparently he does not even care. Even comparatively more experienced people in forestry have testified to his having saved flora and fauna by replanting 300 acres of forests. Indeed, he quit his job to plant different types of plants in Punshilok forest in Langol hill range of Manipur. It took him nearly two decades and, of course, Punshilok has become a plastic-free zone. He claims that he does not want to buy land and own it. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Manipur, Kereihouvi Angami claims that anyone else is equally welcome to replicate Loiyo's feat. There are reserved forests, there are protected forests and there is a whole typology of forests entirely lost to the learning of avant garde curriculum of so-branded elite schools. The preposition is simple: What is the kind of generation we are preparing for the future? In the meanwhile, the water table keeps receding and water conservation is more talked of than acted upon. It's time to think of the future and prepare for it before the nature of the raw materials and the inputs changes so drastically that a new civilisational order is required.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

INFLATION HAS BEEN KEPT VERY MUCH BELOW THE FOUR PER CENT MARK AND THERE ARE CLEAR SIGNS OF REVIVAL IN THE ECONOMY.

—FINANCE MINISTER
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN



THE STEPS ANNOUNCED TODAY WILL NOT REVIVE THE INDIAN ECONOMY, THEY ARE PURELY COSMETIC AND PIECEMEAL.

— CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON
ANAND SHARMA

Powerless, cosmetic moves

Given the extant tariff policy and Power Purchase Agreements, the Centre's plans to reform PPAs to provide power at competitive prices and make discoms viable fall far short



UTTAM GUPTA

The Union Government has set up a committee to reform Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) to ensure power availability at competitive prices and make distribution companies (discoms) viable. A PPA is a contract between a generation company (genco) and discom which lays down the terms of electricity purchase by the latter from the former, including the tariff, which is subject to approval by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC).

The Cabinet is also considering a new tariff policy which will inter alia require discoms to pay a surcharge to the genco for delayed payment, which would be equal to the commercial rate of interest. The Government has already made it mandatory for discoms to open Letters of Credit (LoC) for getting supply from gencos from August 1, 2019. However, State-owned gencos are not covered by this dispensation.

The discoms would be allowed to recover only up to 15 per cent of under-recovered power supply cost from other consumers implying they need to absorb the remaining 85 per cent. Also, they won't get any grant or loan if they don't reduce losses.

When seen in juxtaposition with the extant tariff policy environment as also the architecture of PPAs, the intended reforms and proposed measures are laughable.

On tariff policy, under directions from the State governments, discoms sell electricity to poor households and farmers at heavily subsidised rates, even free in some States. To make up for the under-recovery, they charge exorbitant rates from industries and businesses; yet they continue to incur losses forcing the Centre to come out with packages to bail them out. Three packages have already been given since 2000, with the latest being Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) launched in 2015 and the fourth is in the offing as alluded to by Power Minister RK Singh.

In this backdrop, if discoms' recovery of under-recovered power supply cost from others (industries) is restricted only to 15 per cent, their losses will multiply.

Instead of allowing proper pricing of supplies to households and farmers and curb theft (the only logical way to cut under-recovery), the Government wants discoms to absorb losses. Do they have Alladin's lamp? Penalising them by charging commercial rates of interest, insisting on LoC or denying them loans, for not reducing losses, amount to adding insult to injury.

Yet another factor adding to the woes of discoms is the unusually high price they are forced to pay to gencos under long-term PPAs which account for nearly 86 per cent of the power sold (of the balance, ten per cent is covered under short-term agreements and four per cent sold on trading platform). Herein, two extreme scenarios are discussed to show how discoms and eventually the consumer and the taxpayers are taken for a ride.

First, in consonance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan of giving a big push to renewable energy, in Andhra Pradesh, promoters of 139 power plants based on solar and wind energy had signed agreements with the discoms during the last five years under the erstwhile dispensation led by N Chandrababu Naidu. Under

PPAs SHOULD HAVE A CLAUSE TO PROVIDE FOR CANCELLATION OF THE CONTRACT IF ANY IRREGULARITY INVOLVING CORRUPTION IS NOTICED. ON THE CONSUMPTION SIDE, THEY SHOULD DO AWAY WITH SUBSIDISED OR FREE SUPPLY AND BRING DOWN POWER THEFT TO ZERO. SANS THESE REFORMS, THERE IS NO WAY OF SALVAGING DISCOMS AND PROTECTING INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES FROM HIGH TARIFF



the PPAs, the discoms had agreed to pay to the gencos ₹4 to 6 per unit which is almost double the cost of supply, about ₹2.4 per unit. At such high tariff, discoms are incurring huge losses. Of the total loss of close to ₹7,000 crore in the last five years, an overwhelming ₹5,500 crore was on account of excess payments to the generators of renewable energy.

This prompted the new Government led by YS Jaganmohan Reddy to set up a high-level committee in July, to review those agreements with a view to bring down the tariff. But the decision has been stayed by the Andhra Pradesh High Court (APHC). The issue is heading for a protracted legal battle and it will be some time before the proceedings get concluded and final pronouncement from the Supreme Court comes.

Meanwhile, investors in these projects (mostly foreign investors) have raised the pitch, arguing that any review will dent the sanctity of contracts, thereby eroding their confidence in India as an attractive investment destination. The countries from where these companies come have taken up the matter with the Centre, which in turn, has asked the AP Government to honour the PPAs. The way events are unfolding, it is unlikely that the issue will get settled in favor of discoms.

At another extreme, gencos had agreed to charge from discoms low tariff — using the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) method. Under the long-term PPAs signed by

Tata Power Ltd (TPL) and Adani Power Ltd (APL) with regard to their Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP) in Gujarat, these companies had committed to sell at ₹2.26 per unit and ₹2.35 per unit respectively for supplies to discoms in the State. Both projects are based on coal; TPL is entirely on imported coal, APL uses 70 per cent domestic and 30 per cent imported coal.

Unlike all other PPAs wherein increase in the cost of fuel is pass-through, for supplies from these UMPPs, the consumers were fully shielded. In fact, TPL/APL had arrangements in place to ensure that they got coal supplies at a fixed price all through the project life.

These included TPL acquiring 25-30 per cent equity in three Indonesian mines. Likewise, Adani acquired a coal mine in Queensland, Australia in 2010. But, this turned out to be an illusion.

In 2012, TPL/APL petitioned the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) seeking 'compensatory tariff' — a sophisticated nomenclature for hike in tariff. They argued that following an order of the Indonesian Government in September 2011, fixing a Minimum Export Price (MEP) of coal, they were forced to pay more which should be compensated. This was instantly allowed by the CERC and confirmed by the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) in December 2016.

The Supreme Court (SC) after initially rejecting the claim (order of

April 2017), finally directed CERC "to amend the PPAs to enable pass-through of fuel price escalation subject to a cap" (order dated October 29, 2018).

We see a typical syndrome of "head I win and tail you lose." While, on one hand, there are PPAs which allow gencos to charge more from day one, even where the agreements were crafted to charge low tariff, those were subsequently altered to provide for escalation (TPL and APL).

For the discoms being squeezed at both the ends by having to pay more to gencos and compelled to charge less from preferred users (farmers and poor households), any talk of making them financially viable or reduce tariff burden on industries — as contemplated in the new tariff policy — is meaningless.

The Government should look at as to why cost of supplying power is high; especially aspects such as 'gold plating' (a euphemism for claiming higher investment than actual), over-invoicing of fuel bills need to be seriously examined and remedial steps taken. For instance, PPAs should have a clause to provide for cancellation of the contract if any irregularity involving corruption is noticed. On the consumption side, they should do away with subsidised or free supply and bring down power theft to zero. Sans these reforms, there is no way of salvaging discoms and protecting industries and businesses from high tariff.

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

Pakistan and the Muslim Ummah

With the Saudi monarchy and Gulf Arabs making unprecedented and self-interested political moves, Islamabad should also refigure its nationhood in the context of its South Asian heritage



NADEEM PARACHA

On August 31 this year, former chairman of the Senate and long-time member of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Raza Rabbani was quoted in the media as saying it is high time for Pakistan to pull out of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He then added that the "bubble of an Islamic ummah (global Muslim community) had burst."

Rabbani was echoing the thoughts aired by many Pakistanis — especially on social media sites — who are incensed by the manner in which Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) reacted to India's move to controversial-

ly remove Article 370 from India's Constitution and thus nullify the 'special status' that the article provided to India-Occupied Kashmir.

The Saudi monarchy went ahead with a \$15 billion investment deal with an Indian business giant, whereas the UAE Government bestowed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the UAE's highest civilian award.

The English weekly *The Friday Times* had reported on August 9 that Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was not happy with Saudi Arabia and the UAE's passive stance on Kashmir. But when, in mid-August, news of Saudi investment in India became common knowledge, and later, when Modi was bestowed with an award by the UAE, Imran Khan didn't say much. In fact, his Foreign Minister went to the extent of suggesting that "international relations are above religious sentiment."

Of course, Pakistan was never given this privilege by the same Arab monarchies. In the 1970s when Saudi/UAE jobs, money and

oil began to arrive in Pakistan it was with the condition to gradually roll back the manner in which the state and governments of Pakistan had advocated Islam — sometimes by merging it with Islamic modernism and sometimes fusing it with socialism.

After the Shia clerics came to power in Iran in 1979, Pakistan could still not claim that foreign relations are above religious sentiment as the state of Pakistan gladly embraced militant Saudi proxies in Pakistan against the country's Shia minority, segments of which eventually became Iranian proxies.

Nevertheless, there is nothing incorrect about what the Foreign Minister says. Indeed, foreign relations are almost entirely based on geopolitical and economic interests of states. Yet, for over 40 years or so, the Pakistani state and governments have been passionately lecturing their citizens about the notion of a "Muslim ummah" and that Pakistan was at the core of it.

The more immediate roots of this claim can be found in the mid-

1970s when oil-rich Arab countries began enjoying windfall profits due to an unprecedented rise in oil prices, and when Saudi Arabia successfully replaced Egypt as the most influential Muslim country.

The Pakistani state's thinking also began to transform after the country lost its eastern wing in 1971. Pan-Islamist ideas and the word "ummah" became a lot more common in the post-1971 state narrative, mainly to offset the creeping paranoia that Islam alone could not keep an ethnically diverse Pakistan together.

The perception that there was an ummah and Pakistan was an important part of it was bolstered when Pakistan was made the launching pad for an armed jihad against the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul.

Saudi Arabia (along with the US) became the largest donor of financial and military aid to Pakistan during this period. Their reasons were geopolitical in nature but, of course, Saudi Arabia and Pakistani dictator General Zia

explained the endeavour as a jihad by the ummah against the godless Soviet Union. What's more, it also gave Zia the excuse to start defining himself as 'Mard-i-Momin'.

Former senator Rabbani is right in saying that this bubble has burst — especially when the Saudi monarchy is making some unprecedented political and social moves to change the geopolitical and ideological complexion of the Kingdom.

Pakistan, on the other hand, is left lamenting that it was made a proxy of the Arabs when they needed to enhance their political clout in the Muslim world through the ummah narrative.

Fact is, the roots of the idea of an ummah run even deeper than when the populist ZA Bhutto regime first floated the idea in 1974 to get close to oil-rich Arab monarchies. According to historian Mubarak Ali and celebrated sociologist Hamza Alvi, in the 19th Century, when the already depleted Muslim rule in India completely collapsed, many Muslims became

aware of their minority status vis à vis the Hindus.

In his 2011 book *Pakistan In Search of Identity*, Ali writes that this is when some members of the fading Muslim elite began to claim that the Muslims of India were a part of the larger Muslim universe, the ummah. In a 1997 essay "Ironies of History", Alvi explains that the idea of the ummah was proliferated among India's Muslims by 19th Century pan-Islamists, many of whom had the backing of the last remaining caliphs of the Ottoman Empire.

Interestingly, according to Christopher Jaffrelot's *Pakistan Paradox*, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, actually discouraged the whole idea of the ummah because he believed it diluted his idea of forming a concrete Indian Muslim identity.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah, too, aired similar concerns when he refused to join the Khilafat Movement (1919-24) led by pan-Islamists and the ulema.

Yet, some 25 years after

Pakistan's birth, the state reinstated the idea of the ummah. Just as this idea had emerged in the 19th Century to appease Indian Muslims who had suddenly become conscious of their minority status, in the 1970s, the shock of losing East Pakistan because of ethnic divisions, reinvigorated the same idea to (albeit artificially) lift Pakistan from its South Asian roots and place it at the core of the larger Muslim world.

This diluted Pakistan's identity and the manner in which it described itself as a Muslim majority state. It began looking for validation from Arab monarchs to the extent of sometimes changing the way its South Asian Muslim ancestors had practised their faith for centuries, and adopting the behaviours of rich Arabs.

It is time to refigure Pakistani nationhood in the context of its rich South Asian heritage, especially now that India is digging exactly the kind of hole that we once dug and then fell into.

(Courtesy: *The Dawn*)

CAPSULE



Govt to come up with agri-mall for farmers in Jammu

JAMMU: A multi-facility agricultural mall will be constructed in Jammu at Bishnah at a cost of Rs 70 crore to provide various facilities to farmers under one roof, officials said on Sunday. The proposed mall is a part of infrastructure development project and a similar project has also been sanctioned for Kashmir division, the officials said. They said the agri-mall is visualised to provide facilities like controlled atmosphere or cold storage, tractors, tillers, spray equipments, fertilizers, pesticides, and organic fertilizers or manure. The other facilities at the mall will include vermicompost, soil testing laboratory, harvesting machinery like combines, threshers, husking facility and other agriculture related machinery for farmers under one roof on sale or hire basis, the officials said.



Linen Club aims Rs 1,500 cr business by 2024 ; to add 200 stores

NEW DELHI: Jaya Shree Textiles' fabric brand Linen Club expects to double its business to Rs 1,500 crore and add 200 stores in its sales network by 2024, said a company official. As part of expansion, the Aditya Birla Group company is focusing to expand in tier II and III markets along with its cluster based approach, where people are spending more on tailored clothes. Besides domestic expansion, Linen Club, which has couple of stores in the Middle East, is also exploring opportunities to open stores in southeast Asian regions. "We want to double our business and be around Rs 1,500 crore by 2024 along with a network of 400 brand outlets," Aditya Birla Group CEO - Domestic Textiles & Thai Acrylic Fibre - Satyaki Ghosh said.



Aeroflot to resume flights on Mumbai-Moscow route

MUMBAI: Russian flag carrier Aeroflot plans to revive its services to Mumbai from the second quarter of the next fiscal year, even as its New Delhi-Moscow route continues to see high demand, the airline has said. The airline said India remains a priority market and sees "immense" growth potential with traffic surging dramatically since the doubling of its services to New Delhi in 2016, clocking around 3 lakh passengers annually. Connecting India for more than six decades now, Aeroflot currently flies twice daily between the two capitals, the airline told PTI in an e-mail response from its Moscow headquarters and confirmed Mumbai-Moscow flight plans from mid-2020.

NHA, IRDAI moot steps to check frauds, standardise data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Health Authority, responsible for implementing the Ayushman Bharat scheme, and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) have launched a report recommending best practices, common standards, collaborative measures and IT framework for data standardisation and to check frauds.

A joint working group of IRDAI and NHA was formed to work on key areas of mutual interest and co-operation which focussed their work on four key areas Hospital Network Management, Data Standardization and exchange, Common IT infrastructure for health insurance claims management and Fraud and abuse control.

In the report on Hospital Network Management, the experts recommended building a national repository of empanelled hospitals under insurance/government schemes with defined standards for quality and package rates and codes.

The report on Data Standardization and Exchange stresses on creating standard data formats across health insurance payers for analysis and policy-making by developing standardised data tables to capture and report the data, identifying data elements common with IRDAI and PMJAY.

It also includes setting up a framework for capturing and exchanging data.



It also recommends creating a repository of fraudulent transactions, modus operandi and entities and develop standards for field verification and investigation and developing the "name and shame" guidelines

The report on Fraud Control focuses to help detect and deter frauds through common repository and capacity building by developing a standard reporting format for fraud and abuse to be used across the industry and government schemes.

It also recommends creating a repository of fraudulent transactions, modus operandi and entities and develop standards for field verification and investigation and developing the

"name and shame" guidelines.

The report on the Common IT Infrastructure for Health Insurance Claims Management focuses on increasing service efficiency and transparency amongst stakeholders in the delivery of Health insurance services by defining the roadmap for electronic, paperless, codified data exchange between payer and provider, collation and analysis.

Sixty per cent of the Indian population today is covered

under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and privately paid health insurance making it a great opportunity for IRDAI and NHA to jointly work on key areas for the strengthening of health insurance eco-system in the country, making it more efficient and effective, an NHA official said.

"The recommendations in the report are a step forward in enabling quality healthcare and access to the patients. These reports would help further strengthen the transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of AB-PM-JAY, benefitting millions in India directly," Indu Bhushan, CEO of NHA.

The completion of these report in record time is a huge achievement, and I thank the members of the Joint Working Group who have toiled to put them together. We are confident that implementation of these recommendations shall create a positive impact and lead to further growth of health insurance in the country, Subhash Khuntia, chairman IRDAI said.

The recommendations will benefit all stakeholders beneficiaries, policyholders, insurers, state health agencies, healthcare providers, implementing agencies and intermediaries etc, officials said.

The Reports of Joint Working Group shall be available on IRDAI and NHA website for comments by industry and public at large.

AIMS OPERATING PROFIT THIS FISCAL

Air India posts Rs 4,600 cr operating loss in 2018-19;

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Air India posted an operating loss of around Rs 4,600 crore in the last financial year mainly due to higher oil prices and foreign exchange losses but the debt-laden carrier expects to turn operationally profitable in 2019-20, according to senior officials.

Reflecting tough business conditions, the airline's net loss stood at about Rs 8,400 crore while total revenues touched around Rs 26,400 crore in 2018-19, one of the senior officials told PTI.

Another senior official said the airline is projected to post an operating profit of Rs 700 to 800 crore in 2019-20, provided oil prices do not shoot up significantly and there is no steep fluctuation in foreign exchange rates.

However, the airline incurred an operating loss of Rs 175 to 200 crore in the three months ended June as closure of Pakistan airspace for Indian carriers resulted in higher costs and caused a daily loss of Rs 3 to 4 crore when the restrictions were in place, the official said.

Air India had a loss of Rs 430 crore in the four-month period when Pakistan closed its airspace after the Balakot air strikes.

The official noted that load factor and yields are improving for Air India, which currently flies to 41 international and 72 domestic destinations. Load



Air India had a loss of Rs 430 crore in the four-month period when Pakistan closed its airspace after the Balakot air strikes

factor is a measure of seat occupancy and yield refers to average fare paid per passenger.

The situation is anticipated to improve further as more wide-body planes would be available for operations in the coming months, the official added. Air India had grounded several of its wide-body aircraft for maintenance and most of them are in the process of being re-inducted into the fleet.

Air India is to start flying to Toronto from September 27 and to Nairobi in November.

The airline has a debt burden of more than Rs 58,000 crore

and servicing the loans is a major challenge as the annual outgo is more than Rs 4,000 crore.

The official who was quoted first said the carrier is facing a financial crisis and disinvestment is the option.

Aviation consultancy CAPA South Asia CEO and Director Kapil Kaul said Air India's financial position is likely to "significantly improve" in the current financial year.

"CAPA expects a closer to break-even in FY 20 excluding increased costs incurred due to closure of Pakistan airspace. With oil prices expected to stay below USD 60, expect a closer to break-even for Air India in FY 20, he told PTI.

Noting that improved financial performance would be a positive for divestment, Kaul said a fully divested Air India that is well capitalised and with improved governance and management would ensure that the airline has a relevant future.

India needs a stronger Air India which is viable without taxpayers' support, he added.

Vistara to revamp its frequent-flyer programme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vistara is planning a complete revamp of its frequent-flyer programme "Club Vistara" by increasing the number of partner companies across different segments and moving to a dynamic award-pricing system, a top airline official has said.

Under the proposed dynamic system, a seat will always be available for member-passengers in exchange for points and it will also allow members to earn and use points to book seats across all partner companies, the official said.

However, Club Vistara currently has just two airline partners Singapore Airlines and Silk Air, but it has seven other partners across other segments.

Moreover, member-passengers can earn points by using services of any of the partners, the points earned can only be spent to purchase tickets on Vistara or other airline-partners.

Also, Club Vistara uses the traditional award chart system, wherein the seats available for members and the points required to get each such seat are fixed beforehand.

Frequent-flyer programmes across the world are junking the traditional award chart system as passengers complain that they are unable to get a seat on a flight when they need it.

"The new way that some airlines have moved is that they don't publish the award chart... There, the number of points that are required for booking a seat are dynamically prepared," Vistara's Chief Commercial Officer Sanjiv



“The new way that some airlines have moved is that they don't publish the award chart... There, the number of points that are required for booking a seat are dynamically prepared”
—SANJIV KAPOOR
Vistara's Chief Commercial Officer

Kapoor told PTI.

"For example, a ticket on Saturday afternoon may be available for 7,000 points but the same ticket for Monday morning would be for 30,000 points. The benefit of this dynamic system is that a seat is always available in exchange for points," Kapoor explained.

There is another variant of this dynamic system.

If a person wants to book a ticket, he or she can estimate how much money and points should be spent in combination to book a ticket.

For example, when a seat is available for 20,000 points or Rs 8,000, the dynamic system shows the seat can also be bought by expending 10,000 points and Rs 4,000 in combination.

SBI may offer fixed-floating rate home-loans

PTI ■ LEH

The largest lender State Bank of India will be seeking clarifications from the Reserve Bank whether it can offer long-term home loans with fixed rates in the beginning and convert the same into floating rates later, chairman Rajnish Kumar has said.

The move comes after the Reserve Bank has mandated banks to shift all retail lending to floating rates that will be determined by external benchmarks like the repo rate.

Kumar said there is a lack of clarity on how it can go ahead with the fixed rate products, after the RBI's new regulations on floating rates.

Rahul Bajaj visits memorial of RSS founder

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Veteran industrialist Rahul Bajaj paid a "courtesy" visit to the memorial of RSS founder Dr K B Hedgewar in Reshimbaug area of Nagpur in Maharashtra, a Sangh functionary said on Sunday.

He did not visit the Sangh headquarters located in nearby Mahal area.

Bajaj, who was accompanied by Nagpur Mahanagar Sanghchalak Rajesh Loya and other Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) functionaries, offered flowers at the memorial on Saturday, he said.

Hedgewar founded the RSS in 1925 on the day of 'Vijayadashmi' (Dussehra)

with an aim to organise Hindu community for its cultural and spiritual regeneration.

Meanwhile, a senior RSS functionary told PTI that Bajaj visited the memorial on his personal invitation.

"It was a courtesy visit. I had invited Bajaj to visit the memorial whenever he comes to Nagpur. Since he was in neighbouring Wardha district, he came here. It was an informal invitation," he said.

It can be recalled that Bajaj, known for speaking out his mind, had turned down an invite from the RSS headquarters to visit the Sangh leadership earlier this year.



Rahul Bajaj paid a "courtesy" visit to the memorial of RSS founder Dr K B Hedgewar in Nagpur on Sunday

CAIT: Issue guidelines to remove confusion on single-use plastic

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traders' body CAIT has written to Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar to remove confusion on use of single-use plastic and urged him to come out with clear guidelines which asks big players to stop using single-use plastic.

The body is of the view that traders are forced to sell the goods packed in single-use plastic by big manufacturers.

In a letter to Javadekar, the Confederation of All India Traders drew the minister's attention to the confusion prevailing among trade and industry about stoppage of single-use plastic, the traders' body said in a statement.

Such confusions, if not taken cognisance of, may prove to be



a roadblock in success of eradication of single-use plastic, CAIT said. CAIT has urged that suitable guidelines should be issued immediately to bring an end to single-use plastic in the country, it added.

The traders body further

said that traders are the last mile connect with 130 crore people of the country and as such can play a major role in extending the call down the line across country through more than 7 crore shopping outlets.

Ericsson acquires Niche AI workforce for India centre

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Swedish telecom gear maker Ericsson has acquired workforce of Niche AI for its Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence centre, and looking for more buyouts to build a team of 150 high-tech engineers for India operations this year, a senior company official said.

The company started India wing of Global Artificial Intelligence Accelerator (GAIA) last year to develop open source solution to modernise telecom network, using AI and machine learning.

"We are looking at both organic hiring, one by one through recruitment off the market, as well as what you might call as inorganic, which is more through acquisitions and acquires (acquiring only talents)"

—SANJEEV TYAGI
Head of Ericsson R&D Bengaluru

Ericsson has plans to have a team of around 300 highly qualified engineers in GAIA by end of 2019 of which half are expected to be located in India.

"We continue to be on our target and towards our objective we have hired more than 75 engineers between Bangalore and Chennai and with a couple of dozen more expected to join in the coming months and we continue to recruit actively," Tyagi said.

The company is acquiring talents from companies for GAIA and not their assets like patents, clients etc.

Tyagi said that as 5G technology will start spreading, there will be huge proliferation



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—SANJEEV TYAGI
Head of Ericsson R&D Bengaluru

of internet of things devices and large number of different elements in the network, which can be efficiently managed only through AI and ML like technologies and for which GAIA is developing solutions.

"The exponential growth in IoT devices will mean that the traditional methods of managing networks are no longer going to scale and that is an area where we are going to need self-organizing, self-healing, self-governing networks using AI and ML. We're also looking at leveraging machine learning techniques to optimise the volume of signalling needed between a 5G handset and the radio base station so as to conserve battery life," Tyagi said.

He did not disclose financial details of NicheAI acquisition.

Air India's low-fat meals for healthier flight crew

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Air India has revised its menu for flight crew and is now providing them 'special low-fat diet meals', which include dishes like Saute Spinach, Beetroot Ki Tikki, Palak Matar Bhurji, Tinda Masala and Dal Malka Masoor, so as to improve their health.

The changes in the menu as of yet were made only on the flights operating from Delhi and Mumbai, and officials said the move was cost effective as well for the airline that was grappling with a debt of over Rs 58,300 crore.

"As per GM (General Manager) Catering, initially the changed menu will be introduced only on ex-Delhi/Mumbai flights with



effect from September 15, 2019, midnight on all domestic and international flights," said an

order issued by the Air India. "The same is applicable to all flying crew i.e. Cockpit and

The changes in the menu as yet were made only on the flights operating from Delhi and Mumbai, and officials said the move was cost effective as well for the airline that was grappling with a debt of over Rs 58,300 crore

Cabin Crew. A copy of the menu is attached herewith for reference," stated the order dated September 11, a copy of which is with PTI.

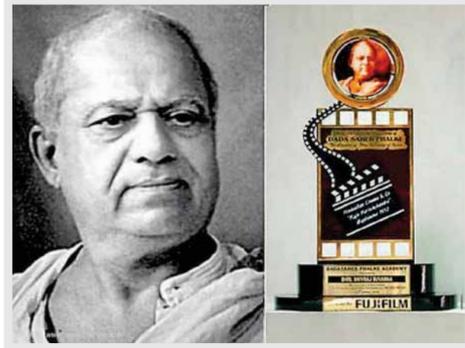
Low-fat diet meals like Nutri Peas Bhurji, Dal Arhar, Pudina Raita, Dry Chapattis, Murg Dhaniya, Fresh Green Salad, Chaunk ki Subz, Dal Kabila, Boondi Raita and Palak Corn Tikki will be

prepared for the crew on the flights.

Some of the other dishes that the flight crew would be getting during operations are: Vermicilli Upma, Beetroot ki Tikki, Saute Spinach, Bhanu Kebab, Tinda Masala, Dal Malka Masoor, Cucumber Raita, Murg Methi, Dal Hara Moong and Khus Veg Kebab.

HONOURING SOUTH FILMS

To encourage filmmakers from South India, Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival is all set to begin its first ever Dadasaheb Phalke Awards in the South in Hyderabad on September 20, reports V SATEESH REDDY



“Six Telugu people won bagged this highest honour till date towards Indian cinema. I'm very happy that this has been introduced to the south films. This award helps many aspiring filmmakers to give quality output.”

KAUSHAL, ACTOR AND MODEL



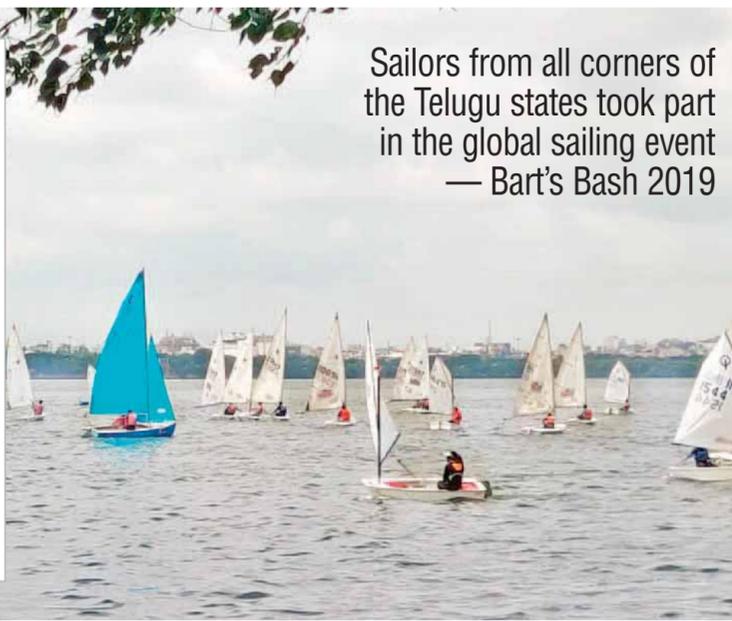
Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) is all set to launch its first-ever Dadasaheb Phalke Awards South on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Dadasaheb Phalke, the father of Indian cinema. The awards will honour and appreciate the creativity and talent of Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam film industries. It is a unique initiative intended to honour the entertainment industry and appreciate the creativity, and the DPIFF team will set up a platform in the South where the talent and creativity can be honoured. Abhishek Mishra, CEO of DPIFF says, "The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival is to honour the lifetime effort of the father of Indian cinema, Dadasaheb Phalkeji. The award function will celebrate the brilliance

of Indian cinema, which is making an effort to acknowledge as well as aid nascent projects by bringing them to mainstream audiences." He adds, "These days the South is making bigger movies than Bollywood. Many South movies are also being remade in Bollywood. To inspire many talented people, these awards were introduced time. We are excited for the first ceremony scheduled on September 20." Kaushal, Telugu Bigg Boss season 2 winner said, "Six Telugu people have won the Dadasaheb Phalke Award till date. It is the highest honour for a filmmaker in India to get this award. I'm very happy that the award is being introduced in the South for the first time. This award helps many aspiring filmmakers to give their best." Tollywood actor

Sampurnesh Babu said that this is a great initiative and that it will inspire many filmmakers from South India. Many from the cine fraternity attended the event and shared their views about the award. The organisers informed that the award ceremony will take place at N-Convention, Madhapur, on September 20, in the presence of Telangana Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan and the grandson of Dadasaheb Phalke.

Sailing at their best

Sailors from all corners of the Telugu states took part in the global sailing event — Bart's Bash 2019



new heights in sailing through the Secunderabad Sailing Club," said Arjun Pradipak, Commodore of the Secunderabad Sailing Club. Tarun, one of the participants, says, "Since childhood, I was interested in sailing. What started as a hobby has become my career. My father and brother are national-level sailors and they helped me learn the sport." He added that sailing is an eco-friendly sport and teaches discipline. Another participant Virendra says, "Such events help sailing reach more people. It is a worldwide competition and an ideal platform for people who want to learn sailing. For me, sailing is all about utmost concentration and discipline."

It was a day to remember for sailors in Hyderabad who participated in the third edition of Bart's Bash — a worldwide sailing race held in the city on Sunday. Around 90 sailors took part in different categories and gave their best to bag the winner's

title. The event has been organised by the Secunderabad Sailing Club along with EME Sailing Association. Verified by Guinness World Records as the 'Largest Sailing Race in the World', Bart's Bash, an annual global sailing race is being held in many venues with thousands of sailors from

around the world taking part in it. This year, the race was held on September 14 and 15 all over the world. Pranoy Chauhan, secretary of the Secunderabad Sailing Club, said, "The objective is to create awareness about sailing and encourage more people to take up the sport." "It was a great opportunity for the sailors to showcase

their skills at the competition. It seems like the good days for sailing are finally here as more youngsters take to this sport every year." "For this year's Bart's Bash, over 5,000 sailors participated from all over the world. Sailors from over 80 countries participated in this year's race. We are helping many youngsters achieve

SALMAN to rock the town

As part of *Dabangg 3* promotions, the team of the film will tour Hyderabad. The team is all set to rock the town with power packed performances by Salman Khan, Sonakshi Sinha, Jacqueline Fernandez, Prabhu Deva, Daisy Shah, Guru Randhawa, Maniesh Paul, Ayush Sharma and Kamaal Khan, at LB Stadium, on November 2. The Live-in concert brought to us by Farhad Hussain, scripted and directed by Sohail Khan Entertainment and JA Events, is the most anticipated Bollywood fest of the year. After fascinating the audience in New Zealand, Australia, UK, USA, Canada and Hong Kong, the crew is all set to take to Hyderabad the star-studded evening of entertainment, fun, music and dance performances. Around 35,000 to 40,000 audiences are expected to attend the concert.



GANGS OF WASSEYPUR ONLY INDIAN FILM IN 'THE GUARDIAN' BEST 100 LIST

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap's cult film *Gangs Of Wasseypur* has become the only Indian film to feature in *The Guardian* list of 100 Best Films of the 21st century.

Kashyap on Saturday took to Instagram to announce that his action drama has bagged the 59th position.

He wrote, "Proud to be here but this wouldn't be my list. So many films which are my favourites can't be below my film... and *The Dark Knight* deserves to be way up. The number 1 film in the list I totally agree with. That's my absolute favourite of the 21st century."

"P.S. this is also is that film of mine that totally destroyed my filmmaking life by the expectations it sets from me as a filmmaker and has been continuously so, and I have forever been trying to break away from it. Hopefully someday that will happen (sic)."

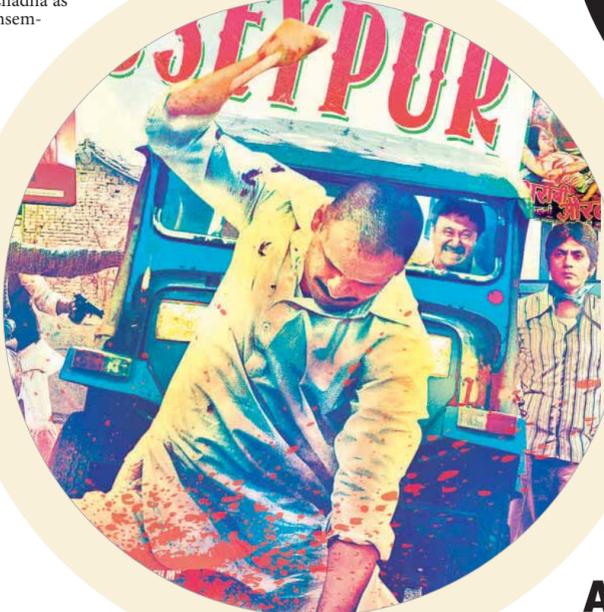
Critically acclaimed films as *Persepolis*, *Waltz With Bashir* and

Capernaum are also on the list.

The two-film *Gangs Of Wasseypur* series was released in 2012, and narrated the saga of a coal mafia family in the town of Wasseypur in Dhanbad district of Jharkhand.

Both films were loved by the masses for their drama and rawness, and acclaimed by the classes for cinematic aesthetics. The two films were box-office hits.

The gang-war drama featured Manoj Bajpayee, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Piyush Mishra and Richa Chadha as part of an ensemble cast.



Singer Adele is feeling free after filing for divorce from her estranged husband Simon Konecki.

Adele and Konecki, who share six-year-old son Angelo, announced their separation in April this year after three years of marriage. She has now filed for divorce.

"Adele feels free and is moving on with her life. It looks like the divorce will be straightforward at this stage. They both want what is best for their son," *mirror.co.uk* quoted a source as saying.

She is also working on new music.

"She is definitely getting ready both mentally and physically to promote new music. It seems it will happen later this year. She talks about last year as a very difficult year and she's said in the past that creating new music is almost like therapy," said the source.

ADELE FEELS FREE AFTER FILING DIVORCE



AUTHOR PAULO COELHO ALL PRAISE FOR NAWAZUDDIN, ACTOR FEELS HONOURED

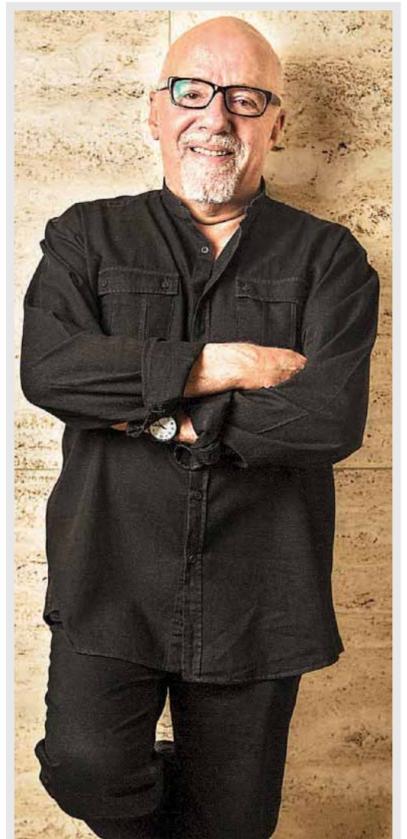
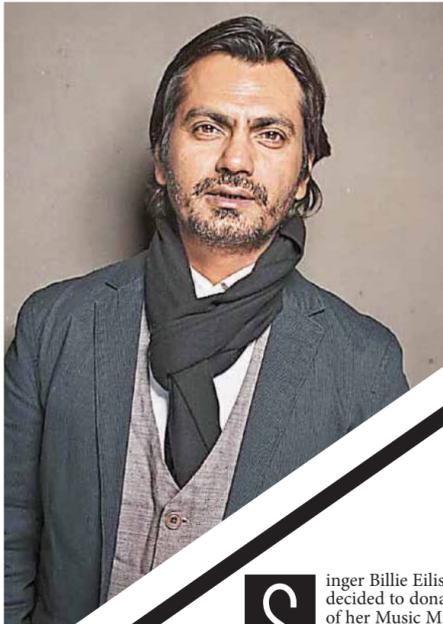
Bestselling author Paulo Coelho has praised Nawazuddin Siddiqui's work in *Sacred Games*.

In turn, the Bollywood actor says it's an honour for him to be noticed and mentioned by someone like the noted author.

Coelho had shared the link of Netflix's *Sacred Games* and wrote: "One of the best series on Netflix, with the great actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui."

To which, Nawazuddin replied: "Sir Paulo Coelho, I have read your books *The Alchemist* and also watched the film *Veronika decides to Die* based on your novel. I have always been an ardent fan of your writing and it's an honour to be noticed and mentioned by someone like you. I don't have words to describe the feeling."

Nawazuddin will next be seen in *Bole Chudiyan*, which marks the directorial debut of his brother Shamas Nawab Siddiqui and is produced by Rajesh Bhatia and Kiran Bhatia under their banner Woodpecker Movies.



PAMELA ANDERSON GETS FOIEGRAS REMOVED FROM CLUB MENU



Actress and animal rights activist Pamela Anderson has won her battle to ban foiegras from the Playboy Club here.

Foiegras is a luxury food product made of the liver of a duck or goose that has been especially fattened. By French law, foiegras is defined as the liver of a duck or goose fattened by force-feeding corn with a feeding tube, a process known as gavage.

The actress urged the heads at the venue to stop selling foiegras, pointing out it was produced by force feeding the birds, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

"I'm part of Playboy's family and... was confused - and disappointed - to learn that the Playboy Club London is serving foiegras. There's nothing sexy about foiegras, which means "fatty liver". In fact, it's downright vile," she wrote.

"Selling this abhorrent pate is not in keeping with the Playboy brand I know and love, and I hope you'll remove it from the menu right away."

The heads at the entertainment club in Mayfair have now assured the former *Baywatch* star that they have cut the liver pate from the menu.

Singer Billie Eilish has decided to donate part of her Music Midtown festival fee to charity.

The *Bad guy* hitmaker took to her Instagram account

and shared that she will give away a part of her guarantee to Planned Parenthood Southeast, after the state of Georgia imposed new laws that restrict the circumstances in which women are legally able to have an abortion, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

"ATLANTA. one of my favorite places in the world, to be in, and play shows. But I do not love the state's lawmaker's decision to take away women's rights. I still cannot believe we are even having this conversation in 2019. I'm dedicating my performance and donating a portion of my guarantee to @plannedparenthood. We need this organisation more than ever. Swipe up to learn more and join me to sign the petition, and if you have any spare change, donate," Billie wrote.

Last month, Billie was among 136 artists who joined Planned Parenthood — an NGO that provides reproductive health care — to protest laws in states across the US that restrict abortion.

BILLIE EILISH TO DONATE HER MUSIC FEST'S FEE



SURIYA ON A MISSION

After the debacle of *NGK*, the superstar is right now looking forward to the release of *Bandobast*, which marks him reteaming with KV Anand after *Veedokkade* and *Brothers*, finds NAGARAJ GOUD

After the debacle of his last, *NGK*, Suriya's Telugu market has shrunk drastically. He hides his disappointment with a smile when asked about *NGK*. "Selva Raghavan sir invested two-and-a-half years on the film's script and he has written three drafts. We picked the best one. So was the climax among three different versions. At that given point of time, with a release date around... with the producers associated at the creative level and the director too giving his creative best, it was a collective decision to leave the film the way it was and see how the audience responds," he maintains.

The superstar is right now looking forward to the release of *Bandobast*, which marks him reteaming with KV Anand after *Veedokkade* and *Brothers*. For the actor, the lensman-turned-director is a big brother of sorts in real life. "He was the cameraman for my first film. He took my first picture in a Russian angle and it was splashed across newspapers the next day in Tamil Nadu back then. Before he made



Mohanlal and KV Anand on the sets of *Bandobast*

the switch to feature film cinematography, he was a photo journalist with a media house. Which is why, all his films have been inspired by real-life incidents and he makes it a point to collect interesting articles about what's happening in the country and across the globe. His films have an entertainment value but the stories he

picks will always be unique," Suriya points out.

He is lucky to have been offered a film like *Bandobast* whose story span is wide, requiring the unit to travel to Delhi, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pollachi, London and Cambodia and shoot for 115 days in total. The fast-paced action thriller follows

the actor's SPG (Special Protection Group) part to thwart attempts by a high-ranking member of the group who has gone rogue and is plotting to assassinate the Prime Minister (played by Mohanlal) of the country. The actor that he is, he prepped for the part by visiting SPG facility at Manesar near New Delhi and interact-

ing with the commandoes. "They don't lead a normal life for sure. I got a lot of insights about how they go about their job, which I applied to the part. They act as human shields for the VIP. Despite most of them coming from different corners of the country, I saw a lot of brotherhood among them. An SPG commando spends more time with a VIP that he is assigned to, than with his family. The film covers the conversations between them and the relationship they share. The VIP knows his protection detail members in and out, so it gets emotional at times. I was happy to have played a role like this," Suriya says, quick to mention that he will not be seen as a typical hero as his role has his own share of conflicts in the film, which he believes also has a "nice blend between politics and agriculture as one layer."

It's for the first time the actor has rubbed shoulders with Malayalam superstar Mohanlal and the actor can't contain his excitement to speak about the legend. "He is an actor who makes the camera disappear. Most of the times, you see actors

standing next to a camera and performing but even if one places a moving camera in front of him, his eyes will never catch the lens. He was so effortless with his small nuances. To see him prepare for a scene was a learning curve for me," he rhapsodises.

The actor is grateful for Arya to have stepped in at the last minute in place of original choice Allu Sirish for a key supporting role. "Due to last-minute issues, Sirish couldn't be a part of the film. Arya listened to the story for four hours and said he will do the film. In fact, we spoke to him in the morning and he reported to the sets in the noon. It was magnanimous of him and I believe his role will be spoken at length after the film opens," Suriya, who is five days away from completing *Sudha Kongara's* next based on the life of captain Gopinath, founder of the budget airline Air Deccan, signs off.



Suriya



Miriyala Ravinder, Balakrishna and Boyapati Sreenu

Balayya, Boyapati set for a hat-trick

Nandamuri Balakrishna's project with Boyapati Sreenu is on. After the latter's efforts to find a top-league producer failed, seems he has finally settled with his *Jaya Janaki Nayaka* producer Miriyala Ravinder Reddy to pool in resources for the film.

The film was officially announced on Sunday. It will mark the third time that Balayya and Sreenu will be coming together after *Simha* and *Legend* that made big at the

THE UNTITLED FILM WILL TREAD A BURNING SOCIAL ISSUE AS THE CORE THEME AND WILL SEE BALAYYA IN A BRAND NEW AVATAR

box office. Like their earlier collaborations, the untitled film will tread a burning social issue as the core theme and will see Balayya in a brand new avatar.

His looks in Sreenu's films have been raved. According to the official statement, the film will roll in December-probably

after the actor completes *KS Ravikumar's* on-sets film - with an intention to arrive in May next year. To rewind a bit, Balayya was supposed to work with Boyapati after *NTR* biopic but due to reasons best guarded, he picked Ravikumar.

SUNDEEP CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE 'LUCKY'

The teaser of *Tenali Ramakrishna BA BL*, starring Sundeep Kishan and Hansika Motwani, was unveiled in Hyderabad on Sunday. A directorial venture of G Nageswara Reddy, the film, which is a courtroom crime comedy, has been produced by Sanjay, Nagi Reddy and Sreenu under Sri Neelakanteshwara Swamy Creations.

Speaking after the teaser launch, Nageswara Reddy, who is in desperate need of a hit after his last set of ventures - *Aatadukundam Raa*, *Intlo Deyyam Nakem Bhayam* and *Achari America Yatra* fared poorly at the box-office, said the producers are his friends who've helped him many a time in the past. "Making a film for them is a small thing compared to what they did to me," he said.

Sundeep, who is on a high post the success of *Ninu Veedani Needanu Nene*, said that shooting for the film has been the most fun ever he had till now in his career. "I consider myself lucky to have gotten an opportunity to be directed by Nageswara Reddy. I learnt a lot from him, especially some minute details. I was ashamed I didn't know about them until now."

Praising Hansika, he added, "I've shot with her for 30 days and never did I saw her stressed out one single day. She is always smiling and full of positive energy. When I asked her why she didn't associate with different kind of cinema despite being in the industry for this long, she told me that she is a typical filmi girl who loves to whistle upon hero's introduction. It is the reason why she prefers commercial cinema," he noted. — NG

SUNDEEP, WHO IS ON A HIGH POST THE SUCCESS OF NINU VEEDANI NEEDANU NENE, SAID THAT SHOOTING FOR THE FILM HAS BEEN HIS MOST FUN EVER



Sundeep Kishan and Hansika Motwani

Avika Gor is 'scared' of horror movies

Avika Gor, who is making a comeback to Telugu cinema after two-and-a-half years with Ohmkar's *Raju Gari Gadhi 3*, says she feels good and proud to be back. "There was no way I could've said no to the project because of the talent it had. The first meeting with Ohmkar was fun because he kept narrating me the story and I kept getting scared. Horror is new to me; in fact, I'm scared of watching horror films. Chota sir (cinematographer) made sure that I was scared during the shoot (smiles) as well. He kept pulling my leg often. The experience of working for the project was joyous. The shoot went on smoothly and I had a lot of fun on sets, a reason why the project is close to my heart," the actress said. She was speaking at the film's trailer launch in Hyderabad on Sunday. Victory Venkatesh unveiled the trailer.

Director Ohmkar, on his part, said that he could complete the film in a little more than two months because of the speed of Chota K Naidu and dialogue writer Sai Madhav Burra, who despite being busy with other projects, penned the film's dialogues and handed over it to him in no time. The horror-comedy, featuring Ashwin Babu, Urvashi, Ali, Brahmaji, Prabhas Sreenu, Hari Teja and Ajay Ghosh in key roles, will open in cinemas for Dasara.

— NG



Vijayendra Prasad

VIJAYENDRA VARMA director stages a comeback

After his first directorial venture *Vijayendra Varma*, Nandamuri Balakrishna, tanked at the box-office, opportunities dried up for director

Swarna Subbarao. Fifteen years after his maiden film released, Subbarao has got another shot at direction to redeem himself. Interestingly, his first film's story writer Vijayendra Prasad has

penned his comeback film's story as well. The untitled film will be headlined by Saptagiri. In fact, this was a story that Prasad wanted Sunil to do long back but it couldn't transpire. To roll out next month, the film,

to be presented by Prasad, will be a comedy entertainer and will see newbie Priyanka Agarwal alongside Saptagiri. She was earlier seen in Malayalam film *1971: Beyond Borders*, featuring Mohanlal.



Saptagiri



Avika Gor

Dream didn't come true for Aussies

England close in on Ashes-levelling win after Broad double on day four



AFP ■ LONDON

England closed in on a series-levelling victory in the fifth Test at the Oval on Sunday as Australia slipped to 68-3 at lunch on the fourth day. Joe Root's side set the tourists an unlikely 399 to win in London after adding just 16 runs to their overnight total. Paceman Broad pounded in, roared on by a packed crowd, who raised the roof when he demolished Marcus Harris's off-stump in the fifth over, removing the batsman for nine. In his following over, Broad ended David Warner's miserable

series, with the opener edging him to Rory Burns in the slips and departing for 11. Warner, who returned to international cricket in June after a 12-month ban for ball-tampering, had a good World Cup but has endured a torrid time in the Ashes. The attacking batsman has scored just 95 runs in 10 innings and has been dismissed by Broad seven times. Warner's dismissal brought Steve Smith to the wicket and he opened his account



with a sweet drive through the covers for four off Jofra Archer. Smith and Marcus Labuschagne (14) took the score to 56 before off-spinner Jack Leach beat the outside edge of Labuschagne's bat and Johnny Bairstow whipped off the balls to complete a sharp stumping. Seamer Sam Curran and Leach continued to apply pressure

on Smith and new man Matthew Wade but Australia reached the lunch break without losing a further wicket. Smith was unbeaten on 18, with Wade 10 not out. England, who became world champions in the one-day game for the first time in July, are desperate to end a long summer by levelling the five-match series at 2-2. If they manage to win, it would be the first drawn Ashes series since 1972. The tourists' hopes rest almost entirely on the shoulders of Smith, who has dominated the series with his bat despite miss-

ing one-and-a-half Tests after being hit by an Archer bouncer. His 769 runs so far put him fifth on the list of highest tallies in an Ashes series behind Don Bradman's two entries, England's Wally Hammond and former Australia skipper Mark Taylor. Australia are seeking their first Test series win in England since 2001 but only once before have they scored 399-plus runs in the fourth innings to win a Test match, against England at Headingley in 1948. Earlier, England took their second-innings total to 329, with Archer and Leach the last men out.

Australia having a 'mare' with Ashes DRS calls

AFP ■ LONDON

Australia captain Tim Paine admitted he was having "a mare" after twice failing to review umpiring decisions in the fifth Ashes Test even though the challenges would have brought wickets.

England, seeking to level the series at 2-2, are firmly in control of the final Test with two days to go, 382 runs ahead with two second-innings wickets left.

Australia toiled in the field at the Oval on the third day of the match on Saturday and were not helped by Paine's misjudgements.

Joe Denly, who went on to score 94, should have been out lbw to Mitchell Marsh when he was on 54 but Australia opted not to review the not-out decision.

Later on the skipper, who is the team's wicketkeeper, failed to review a not-out decision against Jos Buttler after an appeal for lbw, with replays showing Nathan Lyon's delivery would have hit the stumps.

Buttler, then on 19, went on to score 47.

"I'm getting it wrong," said a tetchy Paine.

"I don't know what else to say. We're having a mare (nightmare). We've got it wrong."

"It's fast," he added.

"It's a tough job as I've said throughout the whole Test series. I've got a new respect for umpiring, particularly in Test cricket because it's a hard job."

When asked what he could do about it, he said sarcastically that he would enrol in "umpiring school" when he returned home to Australia.

Paine said after his side's defeat in the third Test at Headingley that he would be putting someone else in charge of the team's reviews.

During the closing stages of that match, Lyon had a huge appeal for lbw against Ben Stokes but the England vice-captain was given not out and Australia could not challenge that verdict as they had used up all their reviews.

Their misery was compounded when replays revealed that Stokes would have been given out.

Paine said it was sometimes difficult to judge from behind the stumps,



saying he was not sure where the ball hit Denly, for example.

The skipper said his team, guaranteed to retain the Ashes urn, still had a chance to win the series outright.

"The only thing that's been a bit upsetting this Test match is our catching and our referrals but that's not anything new," he added.

He described his top-scorer Steve Smith as a "freak" after he took a stunning diving slip catch late on to see the back of Chris Woakes.

"Cricketers like him, I think Stokes is the same, they're just in the contest and in the game all the time," he said.

"That's what makes great cricketers great because they're always in the contest, they're always aware of what's happening. It was a pretty special catch."

'Youngsters need to prove themselves'

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

India captain Virat Kohli has made it amply clear that the youngsters drafted into the squad ahead of the T20 World Cup next year will have to prove themselves in the "four or five" opportunities they get.

Giving his own example, Kohli, who made his India debut in 2008, said he never expected to get a bagful of opportunities in his early days as an international cricketer.

"We have 30 odd games (before T20 World Cup). From team's point of view, it is very clear. Even when I got into the team it is not like I was expecting 15 opportunities. You get four to five opportunities and you have to make the most of it. That is the level we are playing at," Kohli told Star Sports.

"I think individuals coming in need to have the mindset (of limited opportunities) because team definitely has that mindset.



Besides the T20 World Cup in Australia next year, the team is also focussing on the World Test Championship.

For the last two T20 International series, including against the West Indies and the ongoing one against South Africa, India have left out spinners Kuldeep Chahal and Yuzvendra Chahal who have made way for Rahul Chahal and Washington Sundar. The selectors have also brought in batsmen Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey.

"Before we reach the World Cup, focus is on T20s and Tests. Youngsters are being pushed in from time to time. It is very important to settle the team combination and you will have to figure out the players who will take the team forward," added Kohli.



The first T20 International match between India and South Africa at Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium on Sunday was called off without being a ball bowled due to rain. The consistent showers throughout the day didn't even allow the toss to take place and both the team had to walk away without any action on the field. Source: Twitter

Pant has unquestionable talent: Shastri

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

India head coach Ravi Shastri has made it clear that Rishabh Pant will be "rapped on the knuckles" if he keeps on playing rash shots like the one he did against the West Indies recently.

Shastri did not mince words as he pointed out that the young wicketkeeper-batsman has let the team down during India's recent tour of the West Indies where he was dismissed first ball in an ODI game.

"We'll let him be but at times when you see a shot, like the first ball dismissal in Trinidad, if he repeats that, then he will be told. There will be a rap on the knuckles, talent or no talent," the head coach said.

"As simple as that. Because you are letting the team down, forget letting yourselves down. In a situation where you have the captain at the other end, a target to chase, the need of the hour is sensible cricket," Shastri was quoted as saying in an interview with Star Sports.

Shastri said Pant has unquestionable talent but if he



can sort out his shot-selection and decision-making, he will be unstoppable.

"No one will even think of changing his style. Like Virat said, reading the situation, match-awareness and shot-selection becomes crucial. If he can fathom that, he could be unstoppable."

"It could take one game, it could take four games. He has played so much IPL cricket, he will learn. It's time now for him

to step up and show how devastating he can be," Shastri said with captain Virat Kohli by his side. Kohli, on his part, said he wants Pant to play according to situations.

"The only expectation from Rishabh is that he read situations well," Kohli said.

"We don't expect him to play the way you might be thinking. It is about analysing a situation and dealing with it in your own way."

PKL: Dabang Delhi beat Gujarat Fortunegiants

PTI ■ PUNE

Naveen Kumar was once again the hero for Dabang Delhi KC as they beat Gujarat Fortunegiants 34-30 in a Pro Kabaddi League match here on Sunday.

Naveen Kumar picked up another Super 10 (13th consecutive) as Delhi produced a composed performance, despite being closely challenged in the second half by Fortunegiants, to pick up five points and consolidate their stay at the top of the points table.

The initial minutes of the match suggested it would be a closely-fought encounter with both defences looking sharp.

Ravinder Pahal pulled off two successful tackles for the Delhi side while, at the other end, Rituraj Koravi was looking in form.

But Naveen had other plans, as

The initial minutes of the match suggested it would be a closely-fought encounter with both defences looking sharp

he unlocked the Gujarat defence with a five-point raid in the ninth minute to clinch an All-Out for Delhi.

The restart didn't bring good fortunes for Fortunegiants, with their raiders looking rather one-dimensional against a Delhi defence that was slowly growing in stature.

The first half ended with Naveen claiming another two-point raid that reduced Gujarat to



a single player and gave Delhi an 11-point lead (20-9).

Sadly for Delhi, both Meraj Sheykh and Anil Kumar had to be substituted due to injuries.

Delhi secured their second All-Out in the first move of the second half but the restart marked the revival for last season's runners-up Fortunegiants.

Pankaj, playing in the left corner for Gujarat, ensured Naveen Kumar had no influence in the game, while Rohit Gulia produced a quick-fire Super 10 to inflict an All-Out on Delhi (sixth minute of the second half) and reduced the margin.

Sachin also got into the act for Gujarat as the team kept pace with the Delhi side.

But Naveen's clinical Super 10 and a dash by Vishal Mane on Gujarat's Sachin was enough for Delhi to pick up a victory