

EPFO to credit  
8.65% interest  
into six cr EPF  
accounts

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

The EPFO is currently paying an interest rate of 8.55 per cent for 2018-19 under EPF withdrawal claims. The 8.55 per cent interest rate on EPF deposits was fixed for 2017-18.

For 2018-19, EPFO had raised interest rate to 8.65 per cent, from 8.55 per cent provided in 2017-18.

HC notices to  
Ganta, Gadde  
and Anagani

**VIJAYAWADA:** The AP High Court served notices on TDP MLAs Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Anagani Satya Prasad and Gadde Rammohan leaders, who have contested against these them, filed a petition in the High Court seeking cancellation of their election, alleging that they had filed affidavits without furnishing full details. The High Court posted hearing to October 14. K Kannappa Raju from Visakh North Constituency, Minister Mopidevi Venkata Ramana from Repalle constituency and Boppala Bhava Kumar filed petitions. Manohar Reddy is the counsel of the petitioners.

Advocate Manohar Reddy alleged that the three TDP MLAs did not declare their real properties, income, and other details. Hiding those details will lead to a disqualification, he added.

No night flights  
to Bhubaneswar  
for 8 months

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Biju Patnaik International Airport here will remain partially closed for eight months due to the runway re-carpeting work, said an official on Tuesday. The flight services would be rescheduled as the re-carpeting work of the runway will be taken up from Nov. The re-carpeting of the runway would take place in two phases.

"We are planning for Runway re-carpeting with effect from November 1 to March 31 from 10 pm. to 5.30am. We have requested Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for permission. Once we get the approval, the work will start," informed airport director Suresh Chandra Hota.

## TODAY

## ALMANAC

Month &amp; Paksham:

Bhradrapada &amp; Krishna Paksha

Pancharangam

Tithi : Tritiya : 04:32 pm

Nakshatram: Ashwini: Full Night

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

Rahukalam: 03:12 pm - 04:42 pm

Yamagandam: 09:09 am - 10:39 am

Varjika: 02:21 am - 04:06 am

Gulika: 12:10 pm - 01:41 pm

Good Times: (To start any important work)

Amritakalam: 10:50 pm - 12:35 am

Abhijit Muhrtham: 11:46 am - 12:34 pm

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Thunderstorms

Temp: 29/25

Humidity: 89%

Sunrise: 06:04

Sunset: 06:16

Current Weather Conditions

Updated September 17, 2019 5:00 PM

KODELA TO BE CREMATED  
WITH STATE HONOURSG RAVI KIRAN  
■ VIJAYAWADA

Photo: Tirupatirao G

TDP legislator from Visakhapatnam Vasupalli Ganesh Kumar paying tributes to Kodela Sivaprasad at Visakhapatnam beach on Tuesday

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy announced that Rao will be cremated with State honours. He directed the Chief Secretary to make the necessary arrangements in this regard

Braving heavy rain, TDP workers paid their last respects to Rao at different places as the procession entered Guntur district

The body will be kept at the TDP office in Guntur town to enable party leaders to pay homage. It will then be taken to Narsaraopet

Guntur district to prevent any untoward incident. Prohibitory orders have been imposed to prevent any outbreak of violence.

Continued on Page 4

Kodela's mobile missing

The police have found the mobile phone of Dr Kodela Siva Prasada Rao missing. After 5 pm on Monday, the mobile was switched off. The police extracted the call data of the mobile and found that at around 8.30 a.m before his suicide, Dr Kodela had spoken on a number for about 24 minutes. However, the number has not been disclosed.



'Naidu's  
humiliation  
drove Kodela  
to suicide'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) lambasted the TDP for politicising the death of Dr Kodela Siva Prasada Rao.

Countering the TDP's attack on it saying that the former Speaker had died only due to harassment by the government, YSRCP leaders held Naidu as being responsible for Kodela's suicide.

Minister Kodali Nani and Chief Whip Gandikota Srikanth Reddy launched a tirade against Naidu during their press meets at Tadepalli on Tuesday.

Kodali Nani said, "It was Naidu who had humiliated the former Speaker by not giving him due respect in the party, encouraging rival groups in party activities and not responding to his phone calls, which drove him to the extreme step. If the call data of his cell phone is taken out, the reason for his death will come to light."

Continued on Page 4

## Chandrababu Naidu demands CBI probe

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

— N CHANDRABABU NAIDU

TDP chief

harassment? A man, who has charge sheets against him for financial frauds worth Rs 43,000 crore, has filed cases against Dr Kodela for furniture worth Rs 2 lakh. They have filed 19 cases, including old ones which have been reopened now." Calling Kodela "Palnat Tiger", he said even the police humiliated him by not responding to his appeal. He alleged that all police officials and IAS officers had surrendered to the ruling party.



TDP President N Chandrababu Naidu with party leaders on way to the Guntur office on Tuesday

Foxconn Country to  
boost its Andhra market

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



Foxconn International Holding's Country Head and Managing Director Josh Foulger with Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Tuesday. Additional Chief Secretary PV Ramesh is also seen

taking steps to make the state an electronic hub.

Stating that Andhra Pradesh is the best investment destination and provides full cooperation to investors, the Chief Minister said that the government was ready to welcome new opportunities and

"The government is planning to create more jobs through these skill development centres and Foxconn should take steps in this regard," a statement from the Chief Minister's Office quoted him as saying.



Vatti  
brandishes  
gun, booked

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Arilova Police registered a case against former minister Vatti Vasant Kumar and his friend a person, who alleged that Vasant Kumar had threatened him with a revolver over property dispute.

The case was registered on Monday. According to Arilova police, one B Ravi Shankar approached them on Monday and complained that the former minister threatened his people with a gun in a land dispute.

Continued on Page 3

## TDP urges Kishan Reddy to order CBI inquiry

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TDP leaders and workers by the YSRCP government in the State.

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

to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and take necessary action accordingly."

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

The search teams found the bodies floating far away from the accident spot at Kachhuluru in East Godavari district. One body was found near the coffee dam of Polavaram project while another was recovered near Pattiseema.

## Toll in boat mishap rises to 26

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Toll in the tourist boat accident in river Godavari in Andhra Pradesh mounted to 26 as 14 more bodies were retrieved on Tuesday. But taking out the boat that sank over 315 feet deep in the river is proving to be a herculean task, police said.

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

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

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## Fraudulent hospitals will be shamed: Harsh Vardhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Union Minister Harsh Vardhan on Tuesday said that names of hospitals found involved in any kind of fraudulent practices in the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme will be put up on its official website to "name and shame" them.

Nearly 1,200 cases of fraud have been confirmed and action has been taken against 338 hospitals, he said, asserting that the government has zero tolerance towards corruption.

"Not only would such hospitals found involved in any kind of fraudulent activity and practices be de-pannelled, their names would be put up on the official website of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (Ayushman Bharat) and made public. The idea is to name and shame them," the Health Minister said at a press conference here. Indu Bhushan, CEO of the National Health Authority, the apex body responsible for the implementation of the centrally-sponsored scheme, said that the decision to publicly name the health insur-

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

we have been able to detect all these frauds because of a proactive robust strong IT anti-fraud detection system. Our message is loud and clear that no fraud, even of minute nature, will be tolerated in the whole scheme," he said.

Vardhan said the government's ambitious Ayushman Bharat scheme will complete first year of its launch on September 23 and the fortnight of September 15-30 is being marked as the "Ayushman Bharat Pakhwara" where several activities will be carried out in the states to generate awareness around the whole scheme.

A mega national event 'Gyan Sangam' will be organised from September 29-30 during which the Prime Minister will take stock of the progress of the insurance

scheme and its achievements will be highlighted.

Adopting the true spirit of cooperative federalism, 32 states and Union Territories have already implemented the scheme so far, Vardhan said and appealed to the remaining states including Delhi and West Bengal to join the scheme so that people there are not deprived of its benefits. He said that 10 crore e-cards have been given out to beneficiaries and the government so far has spent Rs 7,500 crore on treatment. 18,073 hospitals have been empanelled and around 53 per cent of the hospitals are from the private sector.

More than 39 lakh people have availed cashless treatment worth over Rs. 6,100 crore for serious illnesses since the launch of AB-PMJAY.

## FULL PLATE



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lunch with his mother Heeraben on his 69th birthday in Gandhinagar on Tuesday

## Modi has lunch with mother on his 69th birthday

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

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

Modi reached Raisan after addressing a gathering at Kevadiya in Narmada district. Modi, who arrived in Gujarat late on Monday, inaugurated the Namami Devi Narmada Mahotsav, celebrating the overflowing of the Sardar Sarovar dam.

seen blessing her now world-famous son. After coming out of the house, Modi also allowed local residents to click selfies with him and gave autographs to kids.

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

# Jagan needs to press reset button

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

ties with the ruling party at the Centre are ample evidence. Jagan's action of scrapping the existing contract for the Polavaram project and ordering a reverse tendering for it, along with review of all other irrigation projects and power purchase agreements (PPAs), has ended up being his most injudicious step so far. In trying to spite Chandrababu Naidu, Jagan has delayed the project, hurt the state's interest and inadvertently portrayed himself to be a little naïve in statecraft. In normal circumstances, an incumbent begins with a 'give-and-take' approach and carries forward projects awarded by the preceding regime. This ensures seamless functioning of state affairs and continuance of

effective governance. A few decisions here and there can be altered to suit the new agenda. Instead, Jagan went about annulling the contract for the Polavaram project and booted out Navayuga company -- the reputable construction firm executing the project. This was done despite the central government and other

foreign agencies openly expressing their disapproval at the move.

What could have led Jaganmohan Reddy to take such a drastic decision? One, he saw "massive corruption" in the entire Polavaram hydel project deal and alleged that bribes had been offered



M D RATNA KUMAR  
Senior Journalist

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

As for the AP people, they still harbor the hope that their residuary state will indeed

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

figures is a case in point. Some project works need to continue irrespective of political affiliations. Telangana CM KCR, for one, continued with several contracts, including irrigation projects, awarded to firms belonging to big entrepreneurs who hail from Andhra. This move - despite severe anti-Andhra mood prevailing in TS at the time -- not only enabled projects to be completed on time and within budget, it also gained him a lot of goodwill from Andhras who continue to live in Telangana. As a bonus, the entire rank and file of TDP -- which has a lot of Andhra influence -- rallied behind KCR and moved over to his camp.

To recoup the situation, AP CM Jagan Reddy must seek reconciliation and show flexibility towards others, including his staunchest political rivals, and renew focus on governing the state effectively.



## Tips to improve sleep routine

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

British self-help author and hypnotherapist Glenn Harrold's new book 'Look Young, Live Longer' offers interesting insights into improving fitness and being a happier, healthier you.

Among the things the best-selling author suggests for better sleep are:

- Get into the habit of going to bed at the same time every night, the earlier the better. Remember - an hour before the midnight is worth two after.
- Remove any television, hi-fi equipment, mobile phones or landline telephones from your bedroom. Your bedroom is for sleeping and its environment should be conducive to sleep.
- Sleep in complete darkness so that not even the light from your alarm clock is seen. Make sure you turn off any lights outside your room. Use black-out blinds if necessary, to block out the morning light.
- Do not eat or drink anything other than water or herbal tea for at least four hours before you go to bed.
- Keep a notepad and pen by your bedside so that you can jot down things you need to do the next day. Once you have written them on your pad, you can forget about them and go to sleep safe in the knowledge that what you have written down will be remembered.
- Avoid stress as much as possible by meditating, playing a gentle sport, or practising yoga, pilates or tai chi, especially in the evenings. Calm your mind to alleviate tension before you hit the bed, either by listening to soothing music, doing some sort of relaxation exercise that helps you wind down 30 minutes or so before you retire to bed.

## Shut down 'Bhagiratha', demands HRF

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Human Rights Forum (HRF) has intensified its struggle on the Bhagiratha factory, Human Rights Forum on Sunday visited Cheruvukkumupalem, Tufan Nagar and interacted with the villagers to ascertain the facts of the case. They have spoken with a doctor from the RIMS, Ongole.

"A supervisor, Lakshmi Narayana, from the Bhagiratha factory was present all through the visit occasionally threatening to call hooligans from the factory and get us beaten up," they alleged.

## Daily wage worker crowdfunds daughter's cancer treatment

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Isolation - It's what most cancer families would tell you how they felt during the treatment. It can often feel like nobody else around you understands what your family is going through.

Ramu, a daily wager from Guntur is one such example. It wasn't easy for anyone to believe that his cheerful and active child Somitha was fighting cancer, despite all the weakness she managed to smile and was hopeful that she would go back to school soon, but her parents were continually running on flames.

Doctors assured that her cancer was curable, but with his meagre income, Ramu knew that treatment cost was beyond his means. When doctors suggested about Milaap, South Asia's largest crowdfunding platform, Ramu did not believe that it would give back all his lost happiness and hope. Thanks to 595 supporters from across the world, they showed the strength of stranger's kindness, around 12 lakh was



raised in less than a month for her intense chemotherapy and maintenance chemotherapy. Now, Somitha is out of danger and is back to her normal life.

Commenting on medical crowdfunding trends Milaap has observed specifically in Guntur, Anoj Viswanathan, President and co-founder, Milaap, said: "Even here in Guntur, out of the total Rs 1.5 crore raised for causes from

With over a crore raised for medical needs, the wheels of healthcare funding are beginning to turn towards crowdfunding in Guntur

the city, more than 86% are for medical needs. What's heartening the fact that 94% of the fundraisers raise funds on their own by sharing with their friends, family and community without any additional help from Milaap."

Setting up an online fundraiser is a process of less than five minutes and does not require a lot of technical know-how. Campaigns can be set up using WhatsApp, other instant messaging apps and even without typing, by recording their story in any of the eight available Indian languages. It is then automatically transcribed to create text.

All of these features open up online fundraising to anyone with a smartphone. Milaap has so far raised over Rs 650 crore for such causes from across the country, over 80% of which is for medical and related needs.

Similarly, TTD has taken

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When I first met Dr Kodela Siva Prasada Rao some 20 years back, I was taken aback with his "How are Amma" address. Although, it was our first meeting, his smile made it look like we had known each other for quite a long time. A distinctive of his was addressing everyone with an "Amma" suffix.

That disarming style earned him lots many friends in the media. In 1999 when a bomb exploded in his house in Narsaraopet, I went to his place to write follow-up stories.

Congress had been gunning for Kodela's head and there was a widespread demand for a CBI enquiry into the incident. The whole of Guntur was tense after the bomb explosion but not Kodela. He welcomed me to his house and explained about what happened. A large

number of people gathered in and around his residence fearing his arrest. He started enquiring their health and prescribing medicines for some. During our lunch when I asked him how he could stay calm and smiling, his reaction was point blank "Taking tension is useless".

I knew as a leader of one section in Narsaraopet, a highly divided region in Palnadu, he also involved in some excesses as a minister. There was a rumour in 1980s that he was the one who protected the killers of Vangal Mohana Ranga. Kapu community along with Reddys in Palnadu saw Kodela as a villain. Overall, he lived in a highly

stressful and tense life all through his life. Tensions were almost integral to him. However, he survived many political threats.

Kodela was not given berth in 1999 cabinet, during the second term of Chandrababu Naidu. Instead Sanakkayala Aruna was accommodated from Guntur district. Kodela was kept outside the cabinet for quite a long time in 1999. Added to that was the commencement of CBI inquiry

## CONTEXT



KRISHNA PRASAD B

into Narsaraopet bomb blast incident. This was a real testing time for Kodela.

The number of visitors to his big bungalow, which, incidentally, is the present

Telangana State Chief Minister's official residence, started dwindling. During that time, he used to call me for breakfast or lunch. His personal secretary K Gopalam used to call me to tell the time. Not

many know that Kodela was a fitness-freak. He used to swim, go for walks, jogging and did yoga regularly. When YSR government asked him to vacate his bungalow, he said he would miss a wonderful swimming pool in ITC Kakatiya, which is exactly opposite Pragati Bhavan. He maintained good habits, had a balanced diet and did exercises regularly throughout his life. When asked about this, he said "Amma we are in a most

stressful field that is politics. If we have other habits we can't run with the young leaders."

When he became Speaker of residual Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly he made me a member of the media advisory committee of Assembly. He told him that as deputy political editor in Times of India I would not get time to spare for these things. But he insisted telling that working journalists must be in committees to give better ideas to the speaker. He was meticulous in every sphere of activity he took up. He had a clear idea about politics and its ill-effects. Even before any other leader encountered, he faced full-length caste hatred, com-

munal divide and political vendetta. But he dealt all of them with rare gusto. But that image was shattered when he was alleged a 'thief' of the Assembly furniture. He was in pin when he was blamed with 'K tax' by some of his own followers in Narsaraopet. When one by one his followers changed loyalties, Kodela was in a state of depression. He tried to defend him but a series of complaints by his own people devastated him completely. When I last spoke to him in August, he was recuperating from a heart stroke and told me that we would meet once he is better. But he never came back.

A man who lived with pride and confidence throughout his life eventually conceded defeat. It will not be easy for TDP and Palnadu region to get such a live-wire leader.

## VRO lands in ACB net

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Officials of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday arrested Kotti Madana Mohana Sundara Rao, working as Village Revenue Officer (VRO), Neradi cluster under Kotturu Mandal in Srikakulam district, for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 from a complainant for doing an official favour.

According to ACB officials, one Savara Minna Rao, a farmer was doing the rounds to the VRO office to obtain pattadar passbook and mutation for a farmland in favour of Minna Rao's mother-in-law Savara Sayamma. But, to get the work done, the VRO demanded Rs10,000 bribe.

Acting on the complaint of the farmer, the ACB officials caught the village revenue officer red-handed when he was accepting the bribe from the complainant. A case has been registered and the VRO has been taken into custody. He will be produced before the ACB court here.



## Many projects sanctioned for Vizag yet to take any shape

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

As several projects sanctioned by the Union Government yet to see light of the day, many issues are crippling development of the Port city and Andhra Pradesh, members and stakeholders from Vizag Development Council, AP Chambers of Commerce and CII apprised National Executive Member of BJP Dr. K. Haribabu, Rajya Sabha MPs, YS Chowdary and TG Venkatesh at an interactive meeting here on Tuesday.

Both the MPs assured that they would take a delegation of representatives from Vizag to the concerned Union Ministers for developing EODB and expediting sanction or approvals of pending projects.

The members also called for financial support from the Centre to help the State make payments to contractors, whose bills have been put on hold due to fund crunch.

Among the issues and demands raised at the meeting were establishment of CDAC (Center for the Development of Advanced Computing) at Visakhapatnam and IT



Rajya Sabha MPs YS Choudary, TG Venkatesh addressing a press conference in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

**The members also called for financial support from the Centre to help the State make payments to contractors, whose bills have been put on hold due to fund crunch**

## Massive clean-up to mark cleanliness fortnight

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Cleanliness programme was organized at Visakhapatnam Railway station under the leadership of DRM

grand success, intensive awareness campaigns were organized using social media, Nukkad Natak, audio/video clips to motivate and involve passengers, students, families, pensioners, SHGs and other stakeholders to also participate in the various activities of the "Swachhta-Hi-Sewa Pakhwada".

Massive cleanliness programme was organized at Visakhapatnam Railway station under the leadership of DRM.

Addressing the media, DRM said "We have started campaigning for Clean Railways - Clean India by creating awareness among the rail users and public and we did not limit for slogans but our commitment towards Swachh Bharat is reflected through our

activities after he left Gajuwaka.

## Another family goes missing

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In the evening, his relatives tried to reach him and his wife but their mobile phones were switched off. His close friend and senior advocate Ramakrishna Reddy made serious inquiries with the officials and was told that the car was found on the banks of Godavari where the tourists boarded the ill-fated boat.

Confirming the family's trip on the boat, East Godavari police told the advocate that Maheswara Reddy booked the boat tickets through Hyderabad based KVK Tours and Travels.

The tickets were booked in the name of Maheswara Reddy, Swathi, Vikhyat Reddy and MV Seetharama Raju. Hansika name was not included since she was below five years.

## 'Naidu's humiliation drove Kodela to suicide'

Continued from Page 1

Nani said that from the beginning Kodela was discriminated against by Naidu. He has not been given Ministry, not allotted the Assembly seat which he requested, Nani added. Despite the favour done by Dr Kodela while not taking any action on the defection of YSRC MLAs into TDP, Naidu had neglected him, the Minister alleged.

Srikanth Reddy said that Naidu was relaxed after knowing that there was no suicide letter of Dr Kodela Siva Prasada Rao. If there was a suicide note, Naidu would have been in soup, he added.

Once the air was cleared, Naidu started playing with sentiments and whipping up passions blaming the State Government and has been carrying out a sustained campaign against the government, leveling false and baseless allegations by pumping in the same data through dedicated media and a handful of spokespersons, he alleged.

## City doctors perform complex surgery

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Doctors in the city performed a complex surgery on a 74-year-old person by putting a stent in a critically narrowed blood vessel, here on Tuesday saving his life. The patient Sanyasi Rao suffered a stroke recently.

He was admitted into a corporate hospital with right-sided weakness and in a comatose state.

Explaining the case, consultant neurologist from KIMS Icon Hospital, Dr Kiran Buddaraju, said keeping in view his age, the attendants did not opt for the injection due to the risk of bleeding associated with it. Angiogram of the patient showed highly narrowed basilar artery with risk of the stroke progressing to severe complications. The patient gained consciousness over the next two days. Subsequently, he



Sanyasi Rao with the team of doctors from KIMS Icon Hospital in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

was removed from ventilator and stayed in the ward for six days prior to discharge," he said.

Speaking about the case, consultant neurologist from the hospital Dr Ch Vijay said, "Conditions like location of the stroke, size of the vessel involved, age, risk factors, time period of onset of treatment,

## RTA plans to ban substandard helmets

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Trying to evade fine just using a sub-standard helmet? If so, two-wheeler riders need to know that wearing a non-ISI helmet or low-quality helmet would also attract punishment as the traffic police and Road Transport Authority (RTA) will treat them as helmetless riders.

It has been observed that most of the two-wheeler riders are using non-ISI marked helmets. Hence, the cops have decided to initiate a drive against sub-standard headgear. There were instances of two-wheeler riders succumbing to death even after wearing helmets mainly due to the counterfeit helmets.

With the regular drives against the helmetless riders by the traffic police and RTA in cities and towns in the state, the demand for the protective head-guards has increased.

Cashing in on the situation, non-ISI-marked or substandard helmets (head-guards) are flooding the markets in the state



head-guards would not give any protection in case of accidents, we have been urging the two-wheeler to distance themselves from the helmets sans ISI marks which can put their lives at a risk, he added.

The Section 129 of Indian Motor Vehicles Act says that two-wheeler riders should have to use protective head-guards. They should conform to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and users should check their quality. Soon we will check the quality of the helmets also. Those wearing helmets without ISI mark will be penalized in the coming days as they would be treated as riding helmetless, according to sources in police and RTA.

An officer with traffic wing said that nobody is concerned about the quality of the helmets as most of the riders wear these to just escape from the police checks. There is urgent need to check the quality of the head-guards and have to insist fear among the two-wheeler riders who use non-ISI mark helmets and do not follow the norms, they added.

## Vatti brandishes gun, booked

Continued from Page 1

In a photo the former minister is seen holding a gun while talking to people. The police have registered cases under section 447 and 506 (34) of IPC. When questioned, Vasant Kumar admitted that he had a gun in his hand. But he denied the allegations that he had threatened people.

He said, "I have not threatened anyone with the weapon. After coming out of my house in Vizag, I saw some people cutting off trees in a land. I am aware that the land belongs to one of my close associates and I have sent my driver to talk to them."

"The person who was cutting the trees had come menacingly at my driver with an axe that he was using to cut the tree. I immediately got down the car along with a weapon. I have questioned them about why they are cutting it down. Nowadays questioning injustice has also become a problem."

Everything we can do is to keep quiet and continue with our own business," he said. Sources in the police said Vasant Kumar might be taken into custody along with his friend in a day or two.

## Kodela to be cremated with State honours

Continued from Page 1

Blaming the YSRCP government for Rao's death, the TDP staged protests in Guntur and other districts on Tuesday. Holding black flags and pictures of Rao, TDP workers took out rallies, raising slogans against the government. They alleged that harassment by the government forced Rao to take the extreme step.

The 72-year-old, who also served as minister in undivided Andhra Pradesh, committed suicide by hanging at his residence in Hyderabad on Monday. The family members told the police that he was under stress.

Terming this as a murder by the government, N

Chandrababu Naidu demanded a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He told reporters in Hyderabad that the government of YS Jaganmohan Reddy humiliated Rao and harassed him physically, mentally and economically, leading to his death. "Such an incident has not happened anywhere in the country. Never before a senior leader like Kodela committed suicide due to harassment by the government," said the former Chief Minister.

Naidu said Jaganmohan Reddy, who was charged with corruption to the tune of Rs 43,000 crore, got a case booked against Rao in connection with furniture worth a few lakhs of rupees.

The TDP chief was referring to the case against Rao for allegedly diverting Assembly furniture. Rao and his son Sivarama Krishna were last month booked by police for allegedly diverting Assembly furniture. Some furniture was recovered from a motorbike showroom of Sivarama Krishna in Guntur. The YSRCP rubbed Naidu's allegations that harassment by the government drove Rao to suicide. YSRCP leader and Government Chief Whip G Srikanth Reddy alleged that Naidu is playing politics over the death. He pointed out that a member of Rao's family had lodged a complaint with the police that a dispute in the family led to his death.

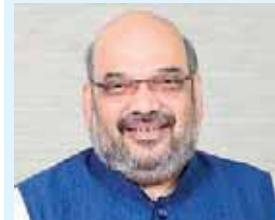
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play a vital role in deciding the treatment. Also, it is not possible to give the injection (Alteplase) to all the stroke patients nor all the stroke patients can be stented. Large vessel clots can be stented after clot removal and smaller vessel clots can be treated with the intervention.

Results will be encouraging if the interventions are attempted at the earliest after the onset of symptoms."

## SHORT READS



## No compromise on India's security: Shah

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



## I am not joining any political party: Urmila Matondkar

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



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

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

# Fadnavis: New schemes to make Marathwada drought-free

PNS ■ AURANGABAD



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

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

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

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

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

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

Fadnavis said the government has also sanctioned a water pipeline scheme worth Rs 1,650 crore for Aurangabad. "This will help to overcome water scarcity in the city for next 50 years," he added.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NAGPUR



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SEAT-SHARING ROW

## Sena raking up issues to put BJP in dock



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Assembly polls," a senior Sena leader said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Sena is ready for a 135 seats each formula with the BJP, while leaving 18 seats for their allies.

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"The BJP is not willing to give more than 120 seats to the Sena and we don't approve of it. Before the announcement of alliance in February this year, Uddhavji and BJP president Amit Shah agreed to contest equal number of seats with us."



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

PNS ■ BHOPAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SAYS J&amp;K DECISION INSPIRED BY HIM

PNS ■ KEVADIYA

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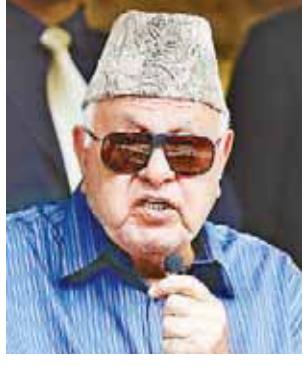
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## Farooq, now a threat

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

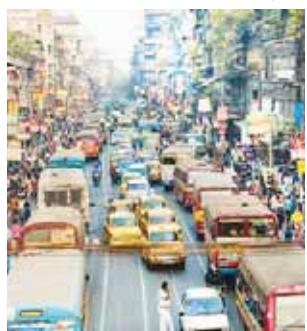


If the Government indeed wants to make an example of Kashmiri politicians, who have traded loyalties on either side of the LoC for their political relevance and continuity, then it would be advised to expose such deliberate acts on facts. Holding former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) leader Farooq Abdullah under the Public Safety Act (PSA) certainly won't achieve that purpose, considering he no longer has "high visibility" value. For normal Kashmiris, he is a recipient of much hatred and abuse. They believe he shortchanged them by choosing to accede with a secular and democratic India and lost the only marker of autonomy they had courtesy Article 370. Now, not only that is gone, the former State has been reduced to a Union Territory. So Kashmiris are questioning his family legacy of standing by India. For New Delhi, he may have been the moderate face and an asset but one that's not needed, given the endorsement of Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) special status both at home and the world. Therefore, Abdullah's inescapable need to question the abrogation of Article 370 and appear an activist Kashmiri is more than an irritant, it is an obstacle in the new narrative. His suggestions of a negotiated autonomy for the two sides of Kashmir and converting LoC into a soft border for trade and commerce to flourish seem misplaced when all talk is about righting historical wrongs and reclaiming territories in that context rather than addressing current realities. Yet one must remember his worth through the decades of conflict. He acted as a filter and as Chief Minister did manage to keep militancy in check, give some semblance of credibility to the election process and had a pan-India acceptability. At 81, and suffering from kidney ailments, he certainly doesn't pose such a threat as to be booked under a tough law meant to be used against terrorists. Apparently, the idea is to prevent him from participating in a rally planned by Opposition leaders ahead of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session next week. Does a former Chief Minister, democratically elected and for years nurtured as an asset by the Centre, be suddenly disowned as a troublemaker under a draconian law? One which doesn't allow him to be tried before two years? All this has happened despite him and son Omar Abdullah meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier and hours before the Supreme Court was to take up a habeas corpus petition by MDMK chief Vaiko seeking to know the whereabouts of his "friend." Considering that Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad has been allowed to visit four J&K districts — Srinagar, Jammu, Baramulla and Anantnag — to meet people but not hold any political rally and that CPI(M) leader Mohd Yousuf Tarigami has been allowed back in, Abdullah's detention reeks of chicanery and intrigue, not of vision. For he may be a spent force but people, who have invested in the idea of India at his call, will only see this as betrayal and recede into separatist ways.

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

## Unsafe cities

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



Considering that both Mumbai and Delhi could be counted in the race to be desirable world cities, both are considered grossly unsafe, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, which ranks 60 countries worldwide across indicators, including digital, infrastructure, health and personal security. In the context of safety, Mumbai and Delhi ranked 37 and 41 respectively on the parameter of personal security and 45 and 52 overall. That is a large dollop of dampener considering that for all our pretension to becoming an Asian powerhouse, cities in the Asia-Pacific region have bagged six of the top 10 spots. Tokyo continues to be the numero uno for the third year in a row as Singapore and Osaka take second and third places. In contrast and worryingly so, Delhi actually slid callously down the ladder, falling nine places from its 43rd position in 2017 to the 52nd position in just two years. According to data released by the Delhi police itself, the total number of heinous crime cases registered till August 31 was 2,00,485, much higher than last year's 1,57,462 cases. Mumbai, too, which witnessed the first dip in the past decade in 2017, registered 21 per cent more rapes and murders last year. If that was not all, both our cities had a poor track record on environmental and health security, pollution being the biggest bottleneck. The less said about infrastructure security the better, both cities scoring low on the road safety index. And as far as population growth is concerned, Delhi's planners, who in 2014 were expected to address needs of 6.7 million more residents between 2020 and 2030, have actually allowed that figure to swell to 8.7 million.

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

# Message for a violent world

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



R.K. PACHAURI

**I**t is a tragic irony that the worst act by terrorists involving wanton killing of innocent people in recent times took place on September 11, 2001, when two hijacked planes were deployed to kill over 3,000 people on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, New York, while another one targeted the Pentagon and yet another crashed in Pennsylvania. Just three weeks later after that dastardly act, we commemorate the birth anniversary of the greatest human being to ever have practised non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi. This year, of course, marks a special occasion when Gandhiji's 150th birth anniversary would be celebrated.

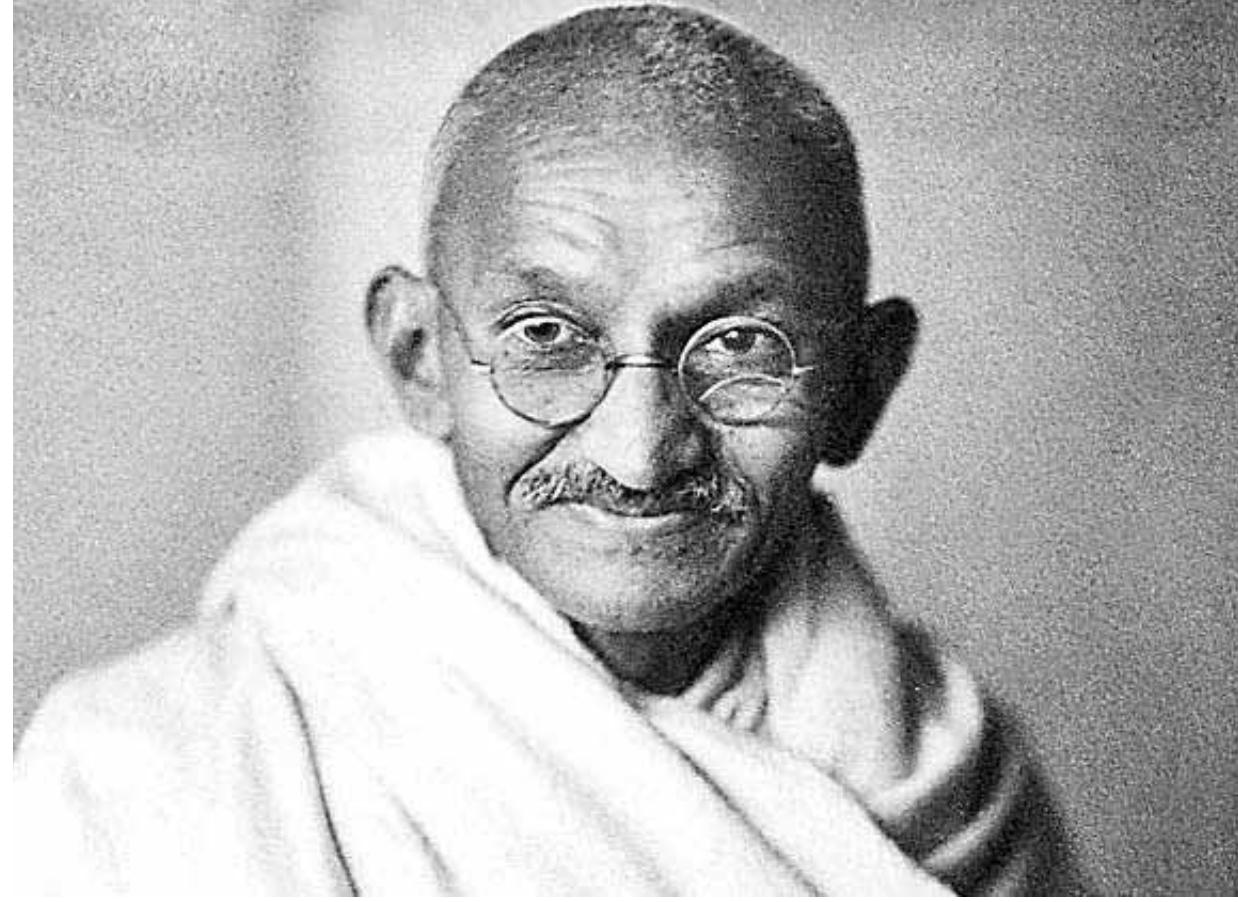
Gandhian philosophy represents a perfect integration of non-violence, non-exploitation of one community by another and respect for all human beings and other species with whom we share the planet earth. His views on these subjects are best explained by the following quotation: "Public opinion alone can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

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

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

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

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



under water but also extensive

on large areas of land.

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

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

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

slaves."

For almost 50 years, human activities have increasingly exceeded the bio-capacity of ecosystems to absorb the expanding footprint of our activities.

There is, therefore, the need for a radical shift by which a rapid and decisive change is brought into the devastating consumerist culture dominating modern society, which would ultimately lead to unacceptable risks in the future and exploitation by some, as was the case with colonialism.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11, 2001

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

CPI(M) leader —Mohd Yousuf Tarigami



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

Actor —Karan Deol

SOUND BITE

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

External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar



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

Congress leader —Digvijaya Singh



## Respect languages

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

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

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### India will do well to emulate Belgium

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

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

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

are being fed by Iran for long. Yemen is Saudi Arabia's neighbouring country and has been ravaged by civil war for long. Houthi rebels have been battling against the Yemen regime backed by Saudi Arabia and the US. So the attack on the Saudi oil facilities is only a natural extension of Houthi rebels' vendetta against Saudi Arabia.

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

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

TK Nandan  
Chennai

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

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

Send your feedback to:  
[letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## FIRST COLUMN

### Time to up the game

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

In the last five years, India has achieved notable success in strengthening relations with its immediate neighbours, Sri Lanka and Nepal. However, the other major economy in the region, China, is determined to emerge as the winner in the ongoing geo-economic clash with India and Myanmar has become the latest battleground. China has overtaken India in terms of pumping in money and finalising massive infrastructure projects in the tiny country's economy.

This comes despite India's all-out efforts to boost its Act East Policy. Myanmar, whose political transition to a free democratic system is less than four years old, is in dire need of foreign investment to shun the tag of an "underdeveloped economy." While India has been sluggish in its approach to invest in Myanmar, China has grabbed the opportunity by wooing Aung San Suu Kyi, the Buddhist nation's State Counsellor, a position akin to a prime minister, with lucrative trade offers. Myanmar has swallowed the Chinese investment bait hook, line and sinker.

According to Myanmar's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, between 1988 and 2011, India invested a paltry \$763,567 million as compared to China's whopping \$20,566 million. In 2014-15, Indian investment was \$208,886 million against China's \$511,415 million and in 2015-16 it was \$224,223 million against Beijing's \$3,324 million. In 2016-2017, New Delhi invested nothing and China pumped in \$482,591 million.

Similarly, India invested \$10,993 million against China's \$1,396,219 million in 2017-18, followed by New Delhi's \$19,925 million against Beijing's \$304,732 million in 2018-19. Year after year, Chinese investments were more than 200 per cent of that by India which even restricted its funding during the power transition from the 'Tatmadaw' (armed forces) to a democratic set up in 2015.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is a senior journalist)

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

## POINT COUNTERPOINT



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

# The need of the hour

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



HIMA BINDU KOTA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“ ”



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

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

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

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

in climate are likely to worsen the existing pressure on various sectors. With a growing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission profile, India is currently the third-largest discharger of GHGs globally, after China and the USA. However, according to a 2014 World Bank report, India's per capita GHG emanations remain extremely low at 1.7 metric tonnes (MT) of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per capita, as compared to China at 6.2 MT and USA at 17.6 MT.

Moreover, according to the Press Information Bureau 2009(b) report on emissions, it has been estimated that even by 2031, India's per capita GHG emissions (likely to remain 4 MT of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita) will continue to be lower than the global per capita GHG emissions in 2005 (4.22 MT of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita).

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

# Will Modi bite the UCC bullet?

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



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The BJP's argument is that

though Hindu laws were codified in 1956, there is no law applicable to all citizens of the country even after seven decades of Independence. India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, while defending the introduction of the Hindu Code Bill in Parliament in 1954, said, "I do not think that at the present moment the time is ripe in India for me to try to push it through." Today Modi has the mandate and the ability as well as willingness to bring the UCC for the benefit of the country.

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

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

per cent of the population under the age of 25 years. These young people are influenced by global views and would appreciate the UCC.

Third, it would promote national integration as it would provide one law for all citizens. Fourth, it would provide gender justice.

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

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

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

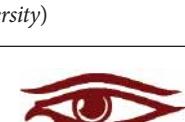
United (JD-U), has diplomatically asked for consultation with all stakeholders. The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) wants reforms across all religions and the Nationalist Congress Party wants discussions on a broader spectrum.

While the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) is opposed to it, the Shiv Sena supports it. So where is the consensus?

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

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

(The writer is a senior journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



## CALIFORNIA HAS SEEN THE LIGHT

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

(The Guardian editorial)

## CAPSULE


**ADB President  
Takehiko Nakao  
resigns**

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


**Tata Motors  
partners location  
tech provider**

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

## MMTC, STC AND PEC

# All options open : Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

STC and PEC are debt-ridden firms.

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



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

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

Therefore, at present, the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

K RAMYA SREE & SEELAM AROZIE  
 ■ HYDERABAD/VIJAYAWADA

**L**eonardo Da Vinci, once said 'Art is never neglected, it's abandoned'. That resonates now like never before regarding the condition of Hyderabad's bamboo artisans. Bamboo workers live a neglected life and are a community of migrants. In most households, women are the main breadwinners. The skills are passed down generations with children aged under three also working. With no exposure to the market, they live a life devoid of sanitation and hygiene, lack clean drinking water and food. Earning a meagre Rs 1,200 to Rs 3,000 a month is not even enough for them to put food on the plate, let alone buy a house and send their kids to school. To add to it all, stinking lanes and congested houses make matters worse for them.

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

Sarita, a bamboo artisan at

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

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

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

The situation is no different in Vijayawada, where about 280 Medari families live in Girapuram, Kothapeta, Payakapuram, Kandrika, Rajarajeswaripeta, Ranigarthota, Ajit Singh Nagar, Chutugunta and other surrounding in Vijayawada.

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

peeling off a bamboo near Railway Officers' Quarters compound wall on the Gopalareddy Road, told this correspondent that he was born at that very place and that his parents too worked there. Asked if he was happy with his profession, he replied in the negative saying that bamboo is pricey and the income is not sufficient.

Echoing his words, Grandhi Satti Pandu and his wife Lakshmi said they have been living in a rented house, paying Rs 5,000 as rent each month. "This is too much for us to bear. Bamboo prices are going through the roof, making our lives difficult. How can we meet our daily expenses and provide for education of our children with our meagre earnings?" asked Satti Pandu.

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

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

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



WORLD BAMBOO DAY



Pilli Yesebu



Rokka Lakshmi

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

## SPEAKING DESIGN:

# When art meets marriage

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



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



**T**he Hyderabad Edition of Intercontinental World of Wedding organised by Inter Continental, Chennai, was held in the city on Saturday at Ashiana Convention on Road No 1, Banjara Hills. The event was moderated by D. Ramchandram from Solus media featured two unique engagements. The first event was about bringing wedding professionals on a single platform and the second one was a panel discussion on 'Affordable Luxury Destination Weddings in the South'. The

panelists included: Rakhi Kankariya, wedding planner and academy head who offers wedding management as a curriculum; Farah, a wedding and event planner; Mintu Sarna, a wedding curator and Anand G. Nair, general manager, Inter Continental Chennai Mahabalipuram resort.

Filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli recently went to Jaipur for his son Karthikeya's wedding to Pooja Prasad. This raised questions about whether there are any good destinations for luxury weddings in the South. The panelists felt that the South is home to good and afford-

able luxury wedding destinations like Mahabalipuram, Ramoji Film City and Falaknuma Palace among others.

South India is emerging as a one-stop destination that offers both luxury and affordable venues. What is lacking however is marketing, branding and public relations.

India is a young nation and about 60 per cent of its population is under 35 years old. Nearly 18 crore people of the 30 crore youngsters in the South, dream of a destination wedding, they observed. The event was held with an aim

to prove that destination weddings can be affordable too.

The second event was a master class from celebrity stylist Esha Amini, who is one of the biggest names in the styling world. She has styled for many Bollywood actresses such as Karishma Kapoor, Jhanvi Kapoor, Lara Dutta and others.

Ms Amini conducted her master class on bridal styling for a limited group of brides-to-be and the class included everything from tips on choosing the right kind of lehengas or saari, to make-up tips and tricks for the best overall look.



## RAJKUMMAR HAS SPOILED ME FOR LIFE: MADE IN CHINA DIRECTOR

**M**ade In China director Mikhil Musale is impressed with Rajkummar Rao's dedication towards a project, and says the actor has spoiled him for life.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In terms of physical appearance, Rajkummar gained eight kgs.

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

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

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

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

— IANS



Rajkummar

## JLO'S HUSTLERS GETS INDIA RELEASE DATE

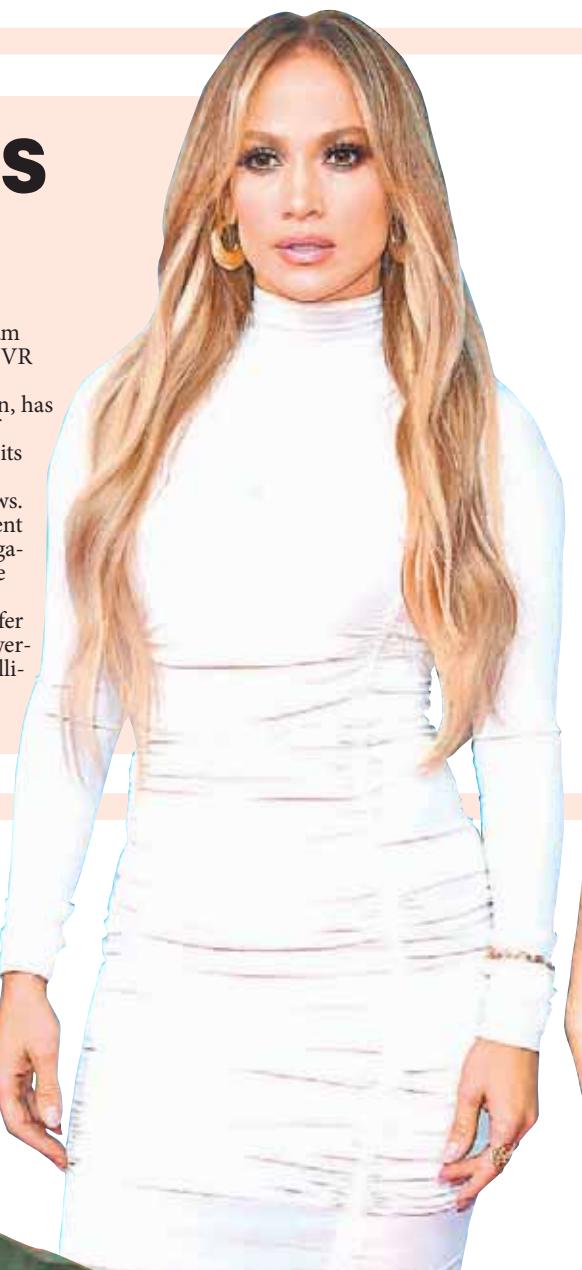
**S**inger-actress Jennifer Lopez's *Hustlers* will open in India on September 27. Directed by Lorene Scafaria, the heist thriller is based on a 2015 *New York* magazine article by Jessica Pressler. The film is about a group of strippers in New York City who begin to drug stock traders and business honchos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

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

The film is co-produced by Lopez

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

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



## CARDI B SPILLS PLAN TO HAVE SECOND CHILD

**R**apper Cardi B has revealed her desire to have a second child, but that won't be happening soon. She confirmed that she does want to expand her family with rapper Offset. The 26-year-old "Bodak Yellow" rapper revealed over Instagram Live on Monday her desire to have another child. On the Live session, she also shared her plans for her music career, reports *acehowbiz.com*.

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

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

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

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

**THANK YOU FOR BEING MINE: PRIYANKA TO NICK JONAS**

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

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

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

## YOUR STYLE REFLECTS YOUR PERSONALITY: TAAPSEE PANNU

**B**ollywood actress Taapsee Pannu says she likes to experiment with her looks and her personal style

personifies independence, confidence and beauty with ease and comfort. The *Pink* star, who is the brand ambassador of Melange by Lifestyle, recently launched its new festive collection of the contemporary ethnic wear brand at DLF Mall of India in Noida. Excerpts from an interview:

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

**Three fashion hacks.**  
TP: Keep it contemporary. Keep it comfortable and classy.

**Your fitness travel essentials.**  
TP: I never forget to carry my workout gear.

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

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

**Your preferred look.**  
TP: Colourful, comfortable and contemporary — that's me and my wardrobe.

**Your fitness regime.**  
TP: I play squash for an hour and I do weights for muscle toning.

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

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



# KARTHIKEYA GOES WITH ANOTHER NEWCOMER

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

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

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

**THE FILM IS A COMMERCIAL ACTION ENTERTAINER SET IN REALISTIC SPACE.**

**KARTHIKEYA GOT HOOKED TO THE SCREENPLAY THAT SREE CONCEIVED**

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

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



## PURI JAGANNADH and CHARMME's hot wheels

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

flaunted their brand new cars for a picture together.

Up next, the duo is keen on wrapping up *Romantic*, featuring Akash, in the next couple of months. The film is 60 per cent over.

Once it is wrapped up, Puri will shift his attention to *Fighter* with Vijay Deverakonda. He has already wrapped up penning the first half of the script and he will be visiting Bangkok again to complete the second half.

## SYE RAA... event postponed, again!



**T**he pre-release event of megastar Chiranjeevi-starrer *Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy* has been delayed further. Instead of Wednesday, the event will now take place on Sunday at LB Stadium, Hyderabad. According to the film's Twitter handle Konidela Pro Company, weather forecast for Wednesday played spoilsport and the event had to be rescheduled to Sunday.

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

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

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

## VIJAY Deverakonda is World Famous Lover

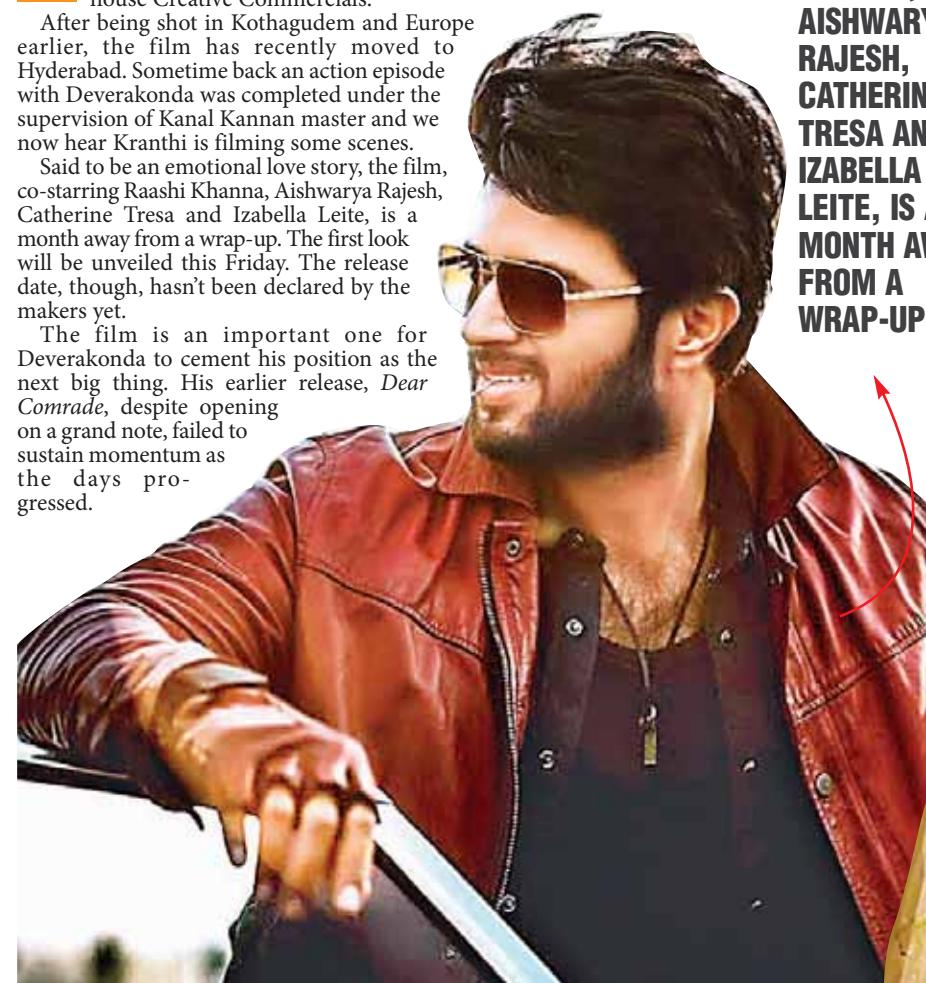
**C**ashing in on the image he cuts across youth, the makers of Vijay Deverakonda's next film with *Malli Malli Idhi Raani Roju* director Kranthi Madhav have titled the film as *World Famous Lover*. The announcement was made on Tuesday by film's production house Creative Commercials.

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

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

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

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



## Rashmika Mandanna as a village belle



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

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

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

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

## Chenna's Commitment to mirror society

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

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

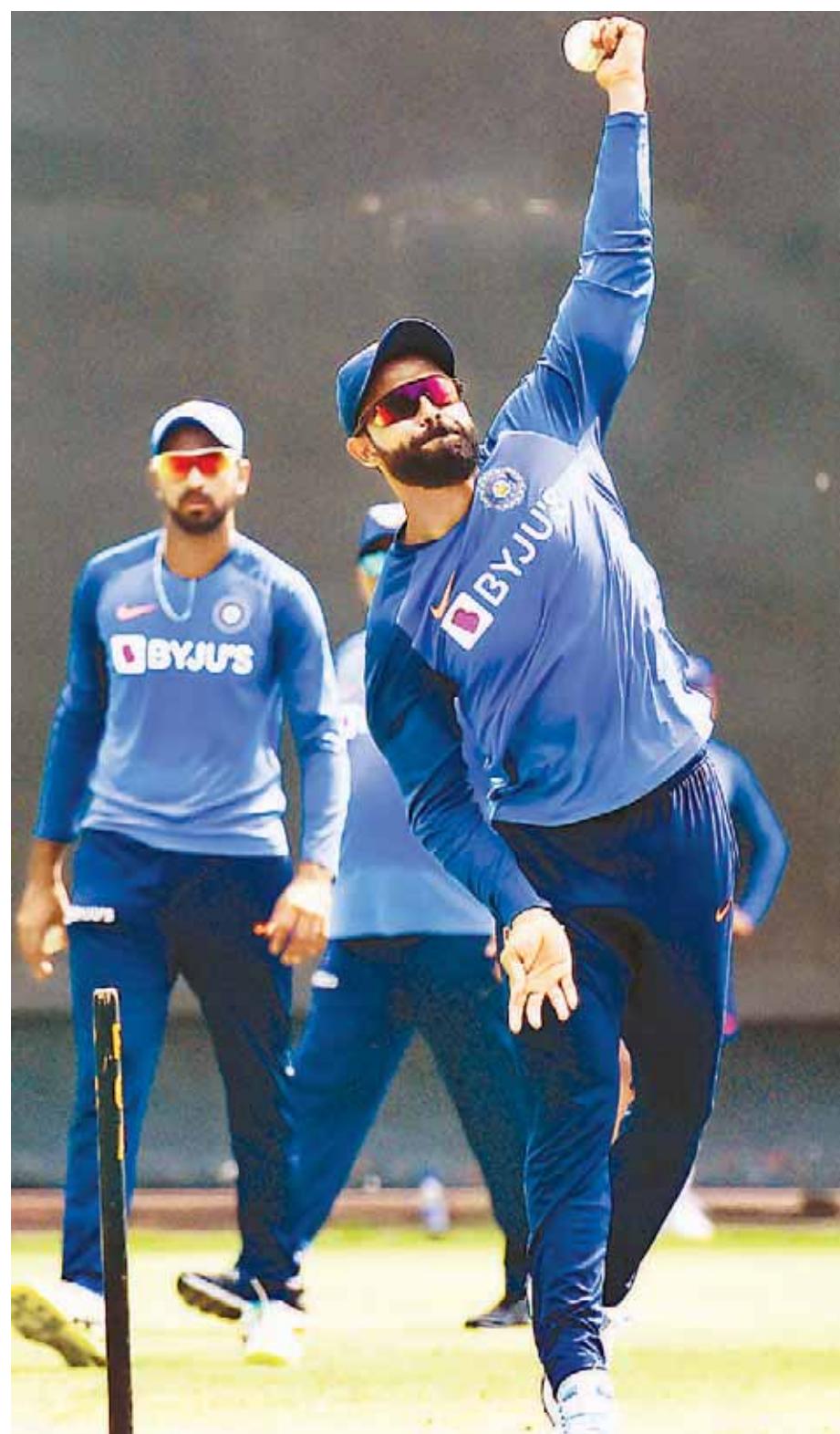
Chenna is in plans to take the film to floors next month. The movie is most likely to feature six new actors. "We will be shooting in Hyderabad, Karimnagar,



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

— NG

# India look to draw first blood



Ravindra Jadeja bowls during India's nets session ahead of 2nd T20 at PCA Stadium in Mohali on Tuesday

**After Dharamshala washout, Men in Blue search first home T20 win against Proteas**

## PERFORMANCE IN TWENTY-20 CRICKET

Team (Rankings)	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
India (4th)	118	73	41	1	3	63.55
South Africa (3rd)	113	67	44	1	1	60.17
Ind v SA	13	8	5	-	-	61.53

## HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS

India	203-5 in 20 overs at Johannesburg	18-02-2018
South Africa	219-4 in 20 overs at Johannesburg	30-03-2012

## LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS

India	92 in 17.2 overs at Cuttack	05-10-2015
South Africa	116-9 in 20 overs at Durban	20-09-2007

## HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES

India	106 Rohit Sharma at Dharamshala	02-10-2015
South Africa	78 Colin Ingram at Johannesburg	30-03-2012

## BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCES

India	5-24 Bhuvneshwar at Johannesburg	18-02-2018
South Africa	3-12 Albie Morkel at Cuttack	05-10-2015

## FAISAL FEATURES

PTI ■ MOHALI

Rishabh Pant's form would be an important subplot when India look to seize the advantage against South Africa in the second T20 International here on Wednesday after a washout in Dharamsala effectively made the series a two-match affair.

The T20 World Cup is more than 12 months away but India captain Virat Kohli has already detailed his plans and expectations from the youngsters in the side.

The skipper did not expect to get a bagful of opportunities when he arrived on the international scene and believes the current crop of youngsters also need to make it count in the limited time they are going to get.

One of them is 21-year-old Rishabh Pant, who can't be bracketed as a "youngster" anymore having made his

debut back in February 2017.

Not a single ball was bowled in the series-opener but there was enough happening on the sidelines and most of it was focussed on Pant.

In a chat with the host broadcaster, the message for Pant from the team management was loud and clear: he can't repeatedly throw his wicket away and if he does "there will be a rap on the knuckles".

"We'll let him be but at times when you see a shot, like the first ball dismissal in Trinidad (during the tour of West Indies), if he repeats that, then he will be told. There will be a rap on the knuckles, talent or no talent," said head coach Ravi Shastri ahead of the series-opener.

With Kohli still very much open to having Mahendra Singh Dhoni back on board, pressure is mounting on Pant to do justice to his rich talent. Considering the circum-

stances, it was not a surprise that Pant had a hit in the nets right after the team flew here from Dharamsala on Monday.

Pressure will also be on leg-spinner Rahul Chahar and off-spinner Washington Sundar, both of whom have been picked ahead of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal for the second straight series.

With 20-odd games to go before the World Cup, the Indian team wants to boost its batting which will require number 8, 9 and 10 to score runs on a regular basis, something which has never been done before.

Will a deep batting line-up compromise India's ability to wake wickets in the middle overs? Only time will tell.

It is also an important series for Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey, who have been brought back into the side to solidify the middle order.

The game will also be an opportunity for Shikhar Dhawan to play a substantial knock, having endured a lean tour of the West Indies by his standards.

It is a ground he is fond of, having scored a memorable 187 on his Test debut and more recently a 143 in the ODI against Australia in March this year, albeit in a losing cause.

On the other hand, it will be an uphill task for South Africa to beat this Indian side, which has been on a roll for most part.

Time in the middle for a team in transition would have been valuable but rain robbed the Proteas of that opportunity in Dharamsala.

The Kagiso Rabada-led attack would have to bowl really well to contain the Indian batsmen especially skipper Kohli, who played one of his best knocks against Australia in March 2016, the last T20 played here, to take India to the World T20 semi-finals.



Vikram Rathour speaks during press conference ahead of 2nd T20

PTI

## Fine line between fearless and careless cricket: Rathour

PTI ■ MOHALI

The youngsters in the Indian team have got a clear message from the management — to understand that there is a fine line between "fearless cricket and careless cricket", new batting coach Vikram Rathour said on Tuesday.

The message conveyed was directed mainly at the likes of youngsters like Pant, who have been often been criticised for his reckless choice of shots.

"At times, we over emphasise on technique. It is more about the mindset at this level, getting your gameplan right. As far as Rishabh is concerned, he is a phenomenal player, he just needs to sort out his gameplan, needs to bring in a little bit of discipline in his cricket," said Rathour on

"All the young players need to understand that there is a fine line between fearless cricket and careless cricket. What the team management is asking from them is fearless cricket, having clear gameplans and playing with intent but at the same time, you can't be careless. I am sure they are smart enough to understand that."

The former selector was reacting to comments from skipper Virat Kohli, who recently said that a youngster should not expect more than five opportunities at the highest level.

"They (Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri) have said five

matches but it is not going to be a specific number. What they meant was that you need to grab your opportunities when you get them. They (youngsters) have played so much of cricket. They have come though after doing so well. I don't think it is a massive issue. The team will be backing them fully."

Elaborating more on the expectations from Pant, Rathour said "We want him to play all his shots. That is what makes him special, he is an impact player but at the same time you can't be careless."

Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey have made a comeback in the middle-order and Rahur is expecting them to seize their opportunities. But could they solve India's middle-order mudle?

"Those two are very fine cricketers who have done really well in domestic cricket. Shreyas has got a good start (in ODIs against the West Indies). Manish has done well in the past and made a comeback after performing consistently in domestic cricket. I am confident they will come good, they just need to be more consistent."

India have begun their preparations for the T20 World Cup in Australia next year and there is a significant shift in the way they will approach their batting.

Kohli wants the team to bat deep, increasing the expectations from spin all-rounders Krunal Pandya and Washington Sundar.

# Double-edged sword

PTI ■ MOHALI

Newly-appointed South African T20 captain Quinton de Kock on Tuesday said the additional responsibility could be a double-edged sword but he is not thinking too much about it.

De Kock is one of the senior players in this new-look team and has been handed captaincy in the absence of Faf du Plessis as the management is looking to groom him ahead of the T20 World Cup next year.

"Not too concerned to be honest. It is a new stepping stone in my career, gives me extra responsibility. Not sure if it would affect me negatively or positively" said the wicket-keeper batsman ahead of the second T20 against India here on Wednesday.

Asked if he is prepared to play the mentor's role in the team, like du Plessis and AB de Villiers played when he burst onto the scene, de Kock said: "I think they (Faf and AB) gave me lots of room to play the way I wanted to. I don't see it



why that would change without them being here.

"Even they in their career have had to do the same thing we are doing. So we will take it as it comes. In the leadership group in the team we have had a chat (on grooming the youngsters). It is under control so far but we are still learning as part of a young leadership group."

De Kock said some youngsters could get a longer rope while some may not.

"I'm not going to put a number on it. For some it could be one, for some it could be 10, so can't really say."

It has effectively become a two-match series with the series opener in Dharamsala being washed out.

"It is a bit of a negative," said de Kock.

"We would like to have played three games against the Indian team. Leading into the World Cup, to lose out on a game in different conditions, it is not ideal but it is what it is."



Rohit Sharma in a file picture

PTI

## Too good to ignore

PTI ■ MOHALI

Newly appointed India batting coach Vikram Rathour feels Rohit Sharma is "too good a player" to not be playing in all three formats and backed him to do well as a Test opener in all conditions.

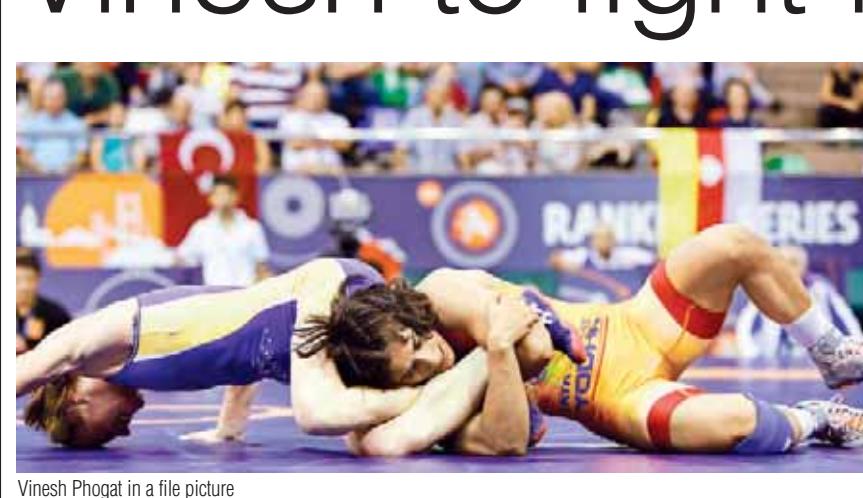
Rohit is one of the greats of white-ball cricket but has had a start-stop Test career. He has been given another opportunity in the five-day format, this time as an opener in the upcoming series against South Africa.

"He is too good a player to not be playing in any game. That is what everyone is thinking. He has done so well in white-ball cricket as an opener so there is no reason why he can't succeed as a Test opener provided he gets enough opportunities," Rathour said ahead of the second T20 against South Africa here on Monday adding that, "If he comes good, he will be a huge asset for the team."

Rohit will be getting the opportunity to open in Tests at home but Rathour said the stylish batsman has it in him to succeed overseas also.

"At the moment, I am not too sure what the playing eleven for the first Test will be but if Rohit does well and is opening, why not," he said, when asked about the possibility of him opening on overseas tours.

# Vinesh to fight for Bronze



Vinesh Phogat in a file picture

Vinesh Phogat was pushed out of the title race by reigning champion Mayu Mukaida of Japan but one of India's biggest hopes remained in bronze medal hunt in the 53kg category at the World Wrestling Championship here on Tuesday.

Mukaida later reached the final to help Vinesh stay in the medal hunt as well as Tokyo Olympics qualification. Two victories will ensure her place in Tokyo Olympics.

She will now have to beat three wrestlers in the repechage-

Yuliia Khavalidzhy Blahinya from Ukraine, world number one Sarah Ann Hildebrandt and then Maria Prevolarki from Greece to win her first Worlds medal.

It was second consecu-

tive defeat for Vinesh against the Japanese this season after losing to the two-time world champion at the Asian Championship in China.

Vinesh has CWG and Asian Games titles but is yet to win a medal at the Worlds.

"Japan is a wrestling powerhouse. It takes some time to attack these girls. It's about one technique, one move one point that changes the bout. I tried, it did not happen and she succeeded," Vinesh told PTI after her bout.

Vinesh said Mukaida was no different from the Asian Championship though she and her coach Woller Akos had plotted the fall of the formidable Japanese.

"It happens. But Mukaida is not the only target for me. We focus on all wrestlers. Everyone is tough in 53kg. It's not over yet," said Vinesh.

In another Olympic category, Seema Bisla (50kg) lost her pre-quarterfinal 2-9 to three-time Olympic medalist Mariya Stadnik.

Like Vinesh, she too remained in hunt for bronze and Olympic qualification as Stadnik reached the final.

"It's not that Mariya was more powerful than me. She is more experienced than me. I have just competed in 5-6 competitions in 50kg. I am learning and will get better," said Seema.

In non-Olympic categories, Komal Gole was too defensive against Turkey's Beste Altug and lost her 72kg Qualification bout 1-4 while Lalita was outplayed 3-10 by Mongolia's Bolortuya Bat Ochir.

Both Lalita and Komal are now out of the championship since Bolortuya and Altug later lost their quarterfinals.

The Indian men's team beat Singapore 3-0 in the 5-8 classification match in the ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships to remain in the champions division of the continental event here on Tuesday.

India lost to Japan 1-3 in the quarterfinal on Monday but ensured that it will finish in the top six of the tournament with the win over Singapore on Tuesday. India will thus gain direct entry in

"This is an achievement in itself," said Sharath Kamal, who played an important role in India's 3-0 win over Singapore. Sathiyan beat Poh Shao Feng Ethan in straight games (11-5, 11-5, 13-11). But Sharath needed to dig deep into his vast experience to beat Pang Yew Eun Koen 7-11, 13-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-3 and put India 2-0 ahead.