

**ANALYSIS 7**  
SOCIAL EXPERIMENT  
GONE AWRY

**MONEY 8**  
SENSEX SWINGS,  
ENDS 416 PTS LOWER

**SPORTS 12**  
KOHLI GREATEST ODI  
PLAYER OF ALL-TIME: FINCH

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# the pioneer



'MY WISH OF AN  
INDUSTRY HIT WITH  
DAD HAS BEEN  
REALISED'

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## AP ASSEMBLY APPROVES JAGAN'S PUSH FOR THREE STATE CAPITALS

The AP Assembly on Monday passed by Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Equal Development of All Regions Bill 2020, putting into motion the government's decision to have three capitals for the state. The Bill was introduced by Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy on Monday, who said that the three Capitals would be located at Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool for legislative, executive and judicial functions of the State. The village and (municipal) ward secretariats system will now get statutory backing as it has been made part of the new Bill.



## AFTER 88 YEARS, MUMBAI POLICE TO PATROL CITY ON HORSEBACK

Mumbai will get a mounted police unit for traffic and crowd control after a gap of 88 years, and the horses will be deployed on duty after taking part in the Republic Day parade at Shivaji Park this year, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said on Sunday. Mr Deshmukh said the mounted police unit, which would patrol the streets of the bustling metropolis, was disbanded in 1932 due to growing vehicular traffic. "Today Mumbai police has modern jeeps and motorcycles".



## KEJRI GETS STUCK IN ROADSHOW, MISSES DEADLINE TO FILE PAPERS

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday missed the deadline for filing his nomination because of his massive roadshow and will now file it on Tuesday. The filing of nominations was allowed between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., but the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief was not able to reach the office of the sub-divisional magistrate as he was stuck in the roadshow. Kejriwal said he will now file the nomination for the New Delhi Assembly seat on Tuesday morning, which is the last day of filing nominations.



## 63 INDIAN BILLIONAIRES HAVE MORE MONEY THAN UNION BUDGET

India's richest 1 per cent hold more than four-times the wealth held by 1953 million people who make up for the bottom 70 per cent of the country's population, while the total wealth of all Indian billionaires is more than the full-year budget, a new study said on Monday. Releasing the study 'Time to Care' here ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), rights group Oxfam also said the world's 2,153 billionaires have more wealth than the 4.6 billion people who make up 60 per cent of the planet's population.



**TRULY SPEAKING**

**Amit Shah has been BJP's real rock**

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## TS to become 'election-free state' after Jan 25. till 2023

L VENKAT RAM REDDY  
■ HYDERABAD

Campaigning for the municipal elections, the last scheduled elections in Telangana State before the 2023 Assembly polls, ended on Monday at 5 pm. The municipal elections will be the last chance for all political parties in Telangana State to prove their mettle before 2023 Assembly polls. This is because Telangana will become an "election-free state" once the results of municipal elections will be declared on January 25.

There will be no elections in Telangana for the next four years covering entire state. Only the elections for GHMC and municipal corporations in Warangal and Khammam are due in the next two years, and these will be confined only to those areas.

The TRS government led by Chief Minister K

- Municipal polls campaign ends, polling on Jan 22
- Last chance for all parties in TS to prove their mettle before 2023 Assembly polls
- TRS juggernaut faces test
- 'Do-or-die' situation for Opposition

Chandrasekhar Rao, after retaining power for the second consecutive term with a landslide majority in December 2018 Assembly polls, had taken a conscious decision to complete all the polls in Telangana State within a year so as to focus entirely on offering better administration to people for the remaining term of four years by introducing revolutionary initiatives in governance as the frequent elections in between were hampering the administration due to enforcement of model code of conduct during elections.

Subsequently, the government completed gram panchayat elections in January/February 2019, Lok Sabha polls in May 2019, zilla parishad/mandal parishad elections in May/June 2019 and finally municipal elections in January 2020 making Telangana an 'election-free state' till December 2023 Assembly polls.

With this, all the parties in Telangana are giving unprecedented importance to municipal polls and fighting as if they are facing Assembly polls.

Continued on Page 2

**Thakur, 18 others convicted in Muzaffarpur shelter home case**

**5**

## DS dares on KCR

Challenges TRS to take action against him

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

TRS Rajya Sabha member and former PCC president D Srinivas, popularly known as DS, said that leaving Congress party was a big mistake in his political life.

He said that he left the Congress party as he faced disrespect. "I left the Congress with mental agony due to the differences with the then AICC general secretary in-charge of the state Digvijay Singh. Digvijay Singh gave misinformation about me to Sonia Gandhi," DS said.

DS made it clear that the Congress party accorded separate Telangana state and BJP extended support.

Targeting Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and his family indirectly, DS alleged that father, son and daughter became gold in the name of 'Golden Telangana'.

Reacting to the criticism made by the Roads and Buildings Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy on Monday against him at municipal election campaign in Nizamabad on Monday, DS said that he was keeping away from the



**Targeting KCR and his family indirectly, DS alleged that father, son and daughter became gold in the name of 'Golden Telangana'**

media as he does not want to be caught in any unsavoury war of words and also not to do selfish politics.

He questioned district leaders to come out in the open if they had the guts to speak against him.

Alleging that Prashanth Reddy was making comments "like a mad person", DS challenged the TRS to initiate action against the minister if it had guts.

Continued on Page 3



## Nadda elected BJP president

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jagat Prakash Nadda was elected unopposed as the BJP's national president on Monday, taking over the reins from Amit Shah whose tenure of five-and-a-half years saw the party turning into a formidable election-winning machinery despite occasional setbacks.

The 59-year-old leader from Himachal Pradesh is seen as an affable and low-key politician who enjoys the trust of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the RSS -- the BJP's ideological mentor. He is largely expected to continue with the course it took under Shah with Modi laying out the broader agenda.

Continued on Page 2  
More reports in Page 2

## 'We are fighting against money and liquor'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday claimed that his party was fighting against 'money power' of the ruling party.

In an interview with The Pioneer, Uttam said that notwithstanding the tough blows his party had suffered in the recent electoral battlefields, Congress will spring a surprise by winning a majority of the municipalities and corporations in the forthcoming elections.

"We are not fighting against a political party, but against massive money power. TRS has turned these elections as a show of its money power. Fearing defeat, TRS leaders are organising camps and distributing liquor for days together. Money bags are being distributed to even ward candidates," Uttam alleged.

Answering a question on the preparedness of the Congress party, he said "The TRS made the democracy a mockery in Telangana. The schedule was given without taking our concerns into consideration. Opposition parties were kept in the dark till the last minute," said TPCC chief. He continued: "We made some quick changes in our strategy and geared up for the civic polls. Our cadre also understood the need to rise to the occasion."

Responding to a question on Municipal Minister KT Rama Rao's claims that TRS will sweep the polls, the TPCC chief termed the statements as



TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy waves during campaign for the urban body elections that ended on Thursday.

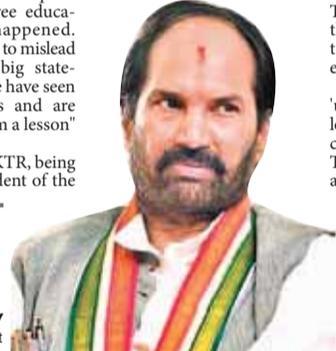
**Finding fault with the 'undemocratic' means followed by TRS party to win the civic polls, TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy said that it looks as if the ruling party wants power at any cost and is stooping to new lows in every election**

'headline management'.

"If you notice, KTR and his father are known for their tall claims. What happened to 2BHK houses for the poor? What happened to Mission Bhagiratha, land to SCs, integrated buildings in each district and mandal headquarters, KG-to-PG free education? Nothing happened. They are still trying to mislead the people with big statements. Now people have seen their true colours and are ready to teach them a lesson" Uttam said.

He alleged that KTR, being the working president of the

party and minister for municipal affairs, has failed in providing basic facilities in all municipalities. "He failed as minister as there is no urban development since the TRS came to power. KTR has only been making false claims of devel-



—UTTAM KUMAR REDDY  
TPCC president

**Since the TRS had information about the ward reservations well in advance, it had an unfair advantage. The Congress party moved the High Court challenging the election schedule**

## Swine flu on the rise in TS, 150 samples return positive

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A total of 150 cases of swine flu have been detected in Telangana so far. The State health officials have sent out medical officials to screen for the fever in the districts across the state.

Dr K Shankar, director of

the Institute of Preventive Medicine, Hyderabad said that around 370 people have been screened in the state of whom 150 samples have returned positive.

He said that medical authorities had been sent to various districts to screen and curb the spread of swine flu.

Dr Narendran, Medical Superintendent of Osmania General Hospital has said that a separate ward for swine flu cases has been allocated and they have the necessary masks and protective gear and have also ensured that enough ventilators are available.

Continued on Page 3

## Three kids drown in pond

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Three children drowned in a pond, at Kandakurthi village, when they tried to collect some wild fruits. On Sunday afternoon, three children Waghmare Deepak (9), Waghmare Siddarth (8) and SK Huzoor (8) went to collect fruits on Kandakurthi village outskirts, but they did not return home till the night.

Continued on Page 3

## People advised not to touch balloons

TIFR-ECIL balloons to fly for scientific purpose from Jan 3rd week

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Residents of several districts in Telangana have been advised not to disturb the balloons or instruments attached to parachutes launched for scientific purposes if these land in their fields or backyard.

The advice, by Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Government of India, is to immediately call the number given on the instruments attached to it or call the police.

According to B. Suneel Kumar, Scientist-in-charge, TIFR, 10 balloon flights will be launched from Hyderabad for scientific purpose till April 30 under the auspices of the Department of Atomic Energy



Tata Institute of Fundamental Research scientists test one of the balloons ahead of its launch around the third week of January.

and ISRO. The balloons, filled with hydrogen gas, carrying scientific instruments will be launched from balloon facility

TIFR-ECIL. The first balloon flight is planned around the third week of January.

The balloons are normally

launched during night. The balloons, which carry scientific instruments for research at high altitudes, are expected to reach heights between 30 km and 42 km depending on the experiments being undertaken. The instruments will be kept at these heights for periods ranging from a few to 10 hours and then they will be released from the balloon.

After release, the instruments will come down to ground on large colourful parachutes. During ascent and at peak, the balloons will drift in the prevailing winds and the instruments may, therefore, land at points as distant as about 200 to 350 km from Hyderabad.

Continued on Page 3

## Leopard on roof of a building in Shadnagar tranquilised, captured

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A five-year-old male leopard spotted sitting on the roof of a single storey building at Shadnagar town, about 55 km from here, was tranquilised on Monday by the Forest Department officials and shifted to a zoo. The feline after being shot with a tranquiliser dart entered the kitchen and sat down before the sedatives took effect.

It was then shifted to a cage and examined for any external injuries and none were found, the officials said. The animal was later taken to the Nehru Zoological park, zoo officials said. The house owner first spotted the leopard sitting on



Forest Department officials strap the leopard securely to a gurney after tranquilising it in Shadnagar town on Monday.

the roof of his house, sparking panic among residents. He rang up police and they informed Forest Department

officials, who rushed to the spot along with a team of city-based Nehru Zoological Park.

Continued on Page 3

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Paush & Krishna Paksha  
Panchangam  
Tithi: Dvadashi: 01:44 am (Next Day)  
Nakshatram: Jyeshtha: 11:43 pm  
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)  
Rahukalam: 03:14 am - 04:37 pm  
Yamagandam: 09:40 am - 11:03 am  
Varjyam: 10:06 pm - 11:43 pm  
Gulika: 12:27 pm - 01:50 pm  
Good Time: (to start any important work)  
Amritakalam: 02:50 pm - 04:27 pm  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:05 pm - 12:49 pm

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Clear with periodic clouds  
Temp: 30/18  
Humidity: 75%  
Sunrise: 06:49  
Sunset: 06:04  
Current Weather Conditions  
Updated: January 20, 2020 5:00 PM

# Amit Shah has been BJP's real rock

From the day Amit Shah became the national president of the BJP, the party has been going through its most glorious era, and has reached pinnacle not only by grabbing power at the Centre and in many states but also ideologically, politically and structurally.

The period between July 9, 2014, when Amit Shah became BJP national president and January 20, 2020 when JP Nadda replaced him is undoubtedly the party's most glorious and fruitful period.

Amit Shah left his indelible mark on the BJP much before the 2014 general elections. He was made in-charge for the UP elections in July of 2013 giving him less than a year to lead BJP in the UP Assembly polls. He was aware of the fact that the BJP would have to win the highest number of seats from UP for Narendra Modi to become the PM. The BJP won 73 out of 80 seats, reflecting his prowess.

Modi became the PM riding on the electoral success

of the BJP in UP.

Success in UP elections vaulted Amit Shah in the BJP national president's seat, saddled with responsibilities of leading the party successfully in elections and building it into a strong organisation.

The BJP emerged strong during the Jan Sangh era and gained firm roots in states during LK Advani's term as its president. However, during Amit Shah's term it emerged as a formidable force.

The BJP has more members than even the Communist Party of China; the 1921-founded Chinese Party enjoys 9-crore membership as against the BJP's 16 crore. The BJP was founded in 1951 with just 10 leaders but has emerged as the largest political party.

When the BJP surpassed China's record by March 31, 2015, reaching an important

**The BJP has more members than even the Communist Party of China; the 1921-founded Chinese Party enjoys 9-crore membership as against the BJP's 16 crore. The BJP was founded in 1951 with just 10 leaders but has emerged as the largest political party.**

milestone because of Amit Shah's leadership, Modi had not even completed one year in office as the PM.

When Amit Shah took reins of the party, it had only 3,60,000 members. How did Amit Shah build the BJP as the largest party in the country in no time and propel it to power in many states?

As soon as he took reins of the party, he relaxed and reformed membership rules.

He exploited computers and mobiles to enrol new members.

Rules of enrolling primary and active members were changed. He identified those who enrolled 100 members and remained active in party activities as active members. Instead of issuing receipts, he digitized fee collection.

Using social media extensively, Amit Shah enrolled Narendra Modi as the first member online. On that day,



**Y SATYA KUMAR**  
BJP National Secretary

4,77,000 were enrolled.

His methods laid stronger foundations and helped expand the party. Undisputedly, the BJP became the largest political party in the country because of the Sadasyata Maha Abhiyan, a mission launched by him.

He constituted teams with state and national-level lead-

ers and appointed 5000 visitars. The abhiyan was described as another 'Dandi march'.

He deputed party members to states and travelled 39,682 km across the country to supervise enrollment. Targets were fixed taking into consideration the number of members of the party in each state, the number of votes polled and response of the party sympathisers and people to party activities.

He made the dream of Deendayal Upadhyay's come true. The latter propounded that the today's opponent should become tomorrow's voter, today's voter should become tomorrow's party member and the members should become active party workers.

**TRULY SPEAKING**

In 1990, Amit Shah conducted extensive membership drive under Narendra Modi's leadership enabling the BJP to become the Opposition party first and ruling party later.

After he became the national president of the BJP, the BJP got 18 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal with a vote share of 40 per cent. The BJP succeeded in limiting the CPM's vote share to six percent and confined the century-old Congress vote share to less than five per cent. The BJP enjoys membership of 77 lakh in West Bengal because of his strategy.

The BJP replaced Left party in Tripura and has 10 lakh members there. Amit Shah implemented the same strategy across the country.

The BJP has over one crore new members in the

south. It got rid of the Hindi belt party tag because of strong foundations laid by Amit Shah. The party's presence is felt from Kashmir to Kanyakumar and Kutch to Kohima.

Close on the heels of implementing Sadasyata Maha Abhiyan, Amit Shah introduced Maha Sampark Abhiyan to introduce party ideology to new members thereby to strengthen the party at the booth level.

The membership drive is not mechanical, but aimed at meeting three objectives: to increase party voters, propagate ideology and make the party stronger.

He insisted on party leaders and activists have an ideological clarity on any issue right from J&K issue to CAA and advised them against taking part in any programme if they are not able to clearly state the party's viewpoint.

During his six-year tenure as national president, he gave ideological direction to the party. His term is described as the red letter day in the BJP's history.

# Nadda, a low-profile leader who rose up the ranks

Jagat Prakash Nadda, 59, who has his roots in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its affiliates, was appointed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president on Monday, replacing his 'mentor' and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Former Environment, Health and Law Minister from Himachal Pradesh, which has just four of the Lok Sabha's 543 seats, Nadda has tried to carve out his own space in national politics with his low profile and astute organisational skills, believe his party leaders.

He rose through the ranks from the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the RSS, from where he has managed to build inroads from university to the state politics.

Nadda has been active on the national political scene since 2010 when he was picked by then BJP chief Nitin Gadkari to

join his new team. He was made the party's national general secretary.

Born on December 2, 1960, Nadda did his graduation from Patna and holds a post-graduate degree in political science and Bachelor of Legislative Law (LLB) from Himachal Pradesh University in Shimla.

Starting his political career as a student leader of the ABVP in 1978, Nadda had also worked both with Gadkari and Shah even in the party's youth wing the Bharatiya Yuva Morcha from 1991 to 1994.

In the previous BJP government (2007-12) in the state, Nadda was forced to resign as Forest Minister in 2010 owing to differences between him and then chief minister Prem Kumar Dhumal.

He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2012.

Nadda won his first Assembly election

■ Minister of Health and Family Welfare (Assumed office 9 November 2014)

■ Member of the Rajya Sabha from Himachal Pradesh (Assumed office 3 April 2012)

■ Himachal Pradesh's Minister of Environment, Forest, Science & Technology (1998-2003)

■ Member of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly for Bilaspur (2007-2012)

from Bilaspur (Sadar) in Himachal in 1993. In 1998, he again won from that seat and became the state Health Minister.

He lost the Assembly elections in 2003, but again won in 2007 and was appointed the

Forest Minister in the Himachal Pradesh.

Nadda, as a Forest Minister, was the brain behind opening forest police stations to check forest crimes, launching community-driven plantation, setting up forest

ponds and the massive plantation of deodars to boost the depleting green cover of the 'Queen of Hills', as Shimla was fondly called by the British.

A close confidant of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nadda was among those who were mentioned as likely aspirants to the BJP top post after Rajnath Singh was inducted into the Central government as the Home Minister in 2014.

Later, Nadda was inducted into the Union Cabinet in its first expansion in 2014 as the Health Minister.

Hailing Nadda's appointment, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said it is a proud moment that a leader belonging to a small state in the national politics is today the leader of the country's biggest national party.

His father NL Nadda, who was a Vice-Chancellor of the Ranchi University, resides in Bilaspur town.



## Nadda elected BJP president

Continued from Page 1

The Delhi assembly election is the first challenge for Nadda, who has been touring the capital extensively as the Bharatiya Janata Party works overtime to oust the Aam Aadmi Party from power.

BJP leader Radha Mohan Singh, who was the in-charge of the organisational election process, made the announcement of Nadda's election as the party's 11th president after he emerged as the only nominee in the fray.

Modi later arrived at the party headquarters to felicitate the newly-elected president at a ceremony that was attended by members of the BJP parliamentary board, its highest body, and veterans like L K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi.

Earlier, Shah was joined by senior party leaders, including Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari, besides several functionaries from state units in filing nominations in support of Nadda.

BJP chief ministers like Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh and Vijay Rupani of Gujarat were also at the party headquarters to endorse his bid.

Nadda's elevation was on expected lines since his appointment as the BJP working president last June after Shah joined the Modi government as the home minister.

## BJP will become stronger, grow under Nadda: Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who handed over the presidency of the BJP to JP Nadda on Monday, said that under his successor's leadership the party will become stronger and expand further.

Nadda was elected unopposed as the BJP national president after he emerged as the only leader in the fray following the nomination process in which his candidature was endorsed by top party brass.

"Heartiest congratulations to JP Nadda Ji on being elected the national president of the Bharatiya Janata Party. I firmly believe that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guidance and your leadership, the BJP will become stronger and expand even further," Shah said in a tweet.

"The party will benefit from Nadda Ji's organisational skills and experience and will set new records,"

he said in a series of tweets. Under Nadda's leadership, all BJP workers will continue to walk on the organisation's path, he said.

**"I am grateful for the affection and support that I got from the organisation as the BJP national president. I thank Prime Minister Modi, all senior leaders and colleagues for always keeping faith in me"**

—AMITH SHAH  
Union Home Minister



Nadda was appointed the BJP's working president in June last.

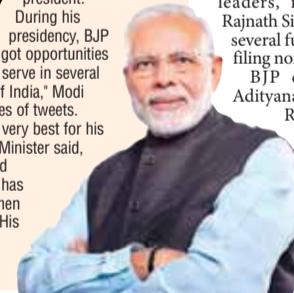
"I am grateful for the affection and support that I got from the organisation as the BJP national president. I thank Prime Minister Modi, all senior leaders and colleagues for always keeping faith in me," Shah added.

"I consider myself fortunate to have had the privilege of working as president for five years in this great organisation, nurtured by many great personalities and great men," Shah said. He also expressed gratitude to activists and well-wishers for standing with him "like a rock".



## Party will scale newer heights during Nadda's presidency: Modi

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated J P Nadda on his election as the BJP president and said he was sure that the party will scale newer heights during his presidency. Modi, who felicitated Nadda at the BJP headquarter here, also praised Amit Shah for his contribution, describing him as an 'outstanding karyakarta (worker)'. "I do not think words can do justice to the rich contribution of Amit Shah Ji as BJP president. During his presidency, BJP got opportunities to serve in several parts of India," Modi said in a series of tweets. Wishing Nadda very best for his tenure, the Prime Minister said, "Nadda Ji is a dedicated and disciplined Karyakarta who has worked for years to strengthen the party at the grassroots. His affable nature is also known to all."



HYDERABAD BULLION RATES	
<b>GOLD</b>	
₹ 40,230 (10 gm)	
₹ 210	▲
<b>SILVER</b>	
₹ 46,800 (1kg)	
₹ 100	▲
<b>CHICKEN RATES</b> ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹158
Without Skin	₹180
Broiler at Farm	₹109
<b>EGG RATES</b> ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	395
VIJAYAWADA	420
VISAKHAPATNAM	420
<b>RETAIL PRICE</b>	<b>₹3.95</b>

## TS to become 'election-free state'...

Continued from page 1

Though the results of municipal polls will not dethrone the incumbent government or bring a new administration, even if TRS loses, the stakes are high for all the parties just because the results will give a clarity on Telangana political landscape and what future holds for each party in the coming days in the run-up to the 2023 Assembly polls.

Municipal polls will decide who will be the prime opposition for TRS in Telangana, whether the Congress or BJP in the run up to the 2023 Assembly polls.

The municipal elections will test whether TRS juggernaut

will continue to roll or not. For Opposition, these elections are nothing short of a 'do-or-die' situation because the Opposition parties in Telangana are facing existential crisis due to successive defeats at the hands of TRS since 2014.

A reasonable performance in municipal polls will save the Opposition parties from extinction before 2023 Assembly polls as large chunk of leaders and cadre from Opposition already migrated to TRS in keep their political career alive.

A sweep for the TRS will only crush the Opposition further as the remaining leaders and cadre in Opposition parties will have no choice but to look at TRS to safeguard their political future.

## Law varsities violating rules: Congress

Dasoju Sravan demands implementation of BC quota in universities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All India Congress Committee (AICC) national spokesperson Dr Dasoju Sravan on Monday demanded that OBC quota must be strictly implemented in all 23 National Law Universities, including Hyderabad-based NALSAR, in view of the interim order given by National Commission for Backward Classes withholding admission process in NLUs for non-implementation of OBC quota.

Following a complaint lodged by Dr Sravan on May 28, 2019, the BC Commission had directed the Vice Chancellors of all the 23 NLUs



AICC national spokesperson Dr Dasoju Sravan submits a representation to the Chairman of National Commission for BCs Bhagwan Lal Sahni in New Delhi

in December 2019 to appear before the commission to explain the ad hoc manner in

which admissions were conducted. The hearing was conducted by the NCBC in New

## OBC quota must be implemented in all 23 National Law Universities, including Hyd-based NALSAR, said Dasoju Sravan

Delhi on Monday. After hearing the matter, Commission Chairman Bhagwan Lal Sahni directed all the national law universities to withhold the admission process for the year 2019-20 until the OBC quota issue gets resolved.

Sravan informed that he had secured information on imple-

mentation of OBC quota in all national law universities under RTI and based on the output, a comprehensive complaint was lodged before the National BC Commission.

Later, speaking to media persons, Dr Sravan said that the law universities were violating the law by not implementing the legally mandatory quota for students belonging to Backward Classes. He said that he had made a representation to Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao against the NALSAR University which was not implementing 85% quota for local students besides ignoring the BC students.

CRIME CORNER



Two held for duping public of Rs 10 crores

HYDERABAD: The Central Crime Station (CCS), Hyderabad arrested two persons on Sunday who had duped 100 persons of more than Rs 10 crore. Police said that the duo were hiding in Maharashtra, after collecting money in the guise of providing profits in the stock market. The accused were identified as Fiyaz Mehmood Ansari, 42 and Hamed Ali, 43. The duo were hiding in an apartment at Bhiwandi in Thane of Maharashtra. The police had received a complaint from several persons who were duped by the duo. Ansari and Jahangir had lured people by claiming that they would get huge profits in stock market if they invested into their company 'Ansari Capital Solutions' and 'Ansari perfumes and cosmetics'. They collected more than Rs 10 crores from nearly 100 depositors and absconded in the month of September 2019. Based on credible information, officials of the CCS, Hyderabad arrested them on Sunday while they were hiding in Thane and were sent for judicial remand on Monday.

CEO of company held for cheating employees

The CEO of a private firm was arrested on Monday for not paying his employees, their dues. The accused had fled the country in 2016, after committing a fraud of Rs 3.50 crore. The arrested person has been identified as Pranav Tiwari, the CEO of Waterbucks Technologies Private Limited in Panjagutta. According to the police, Tiwari cheated the employees by not paying their salaries, not depositing their Provident Funds subscriptions and Income Tax deductions to the concern departments and misappropriated funds of trust to a total of Rs 3.50 crores. After committing the fraud, Pranav Tiwari fled to Nairobi in Kenya in the year 2016 and was absconding since then. A complaint was lodged by one of the employees, after which, a case was registered. On Monday, Tiwari arrived in Hyderabad on his Kenya Passport from Dubai. Police arrested him on Monday.

Man gets 5 years in jail for raping adopted daughter

A local court at LB Nagar convicted a man for sexually assaulting his minor daughter on Monday. Police said that the accused tried to kill his daughter when she resisted the rape. The accused identified as Ramesh, 48, is a resident of Ghatkesar. According to the police, Ramesh and his wife were not having children and adopted the 13-year-old girl. In 2015, Ramesh sexually assaulted the girl at their home when his wife had gone out. Ramesh threatened her to kill the victim if she revealed the same to anyone. On May 30, 2015, Ramesh went to his house in an inebriated condition and tried to assault the victim again. However, this time, the victim resisted and shouted. Angered Ramesh then hit her and cut her wrist. Basing on a complaint, a case was registered at Ghatkesar. A charge sheet was filed in the court and during the trial, Ramesh was convicted. The court awarded him to undergo a five year rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 2,500.

Warming winter across TS

DAY AND NIGHT TEMPERATURES INCREASE IN BOTH TS, AP

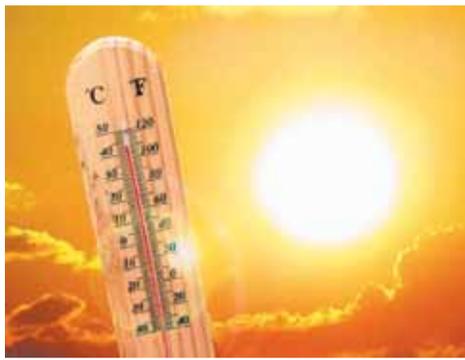
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

People in Hyderabad and other districts across the state experiencing warmer winter as the minimum and maximum temperature remained above normal. Hyderabad recorded at 31.7 degrees during the day and 19.7 degrees at night which is four degrees above the normal range, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials.

Other regions also experiencing warmer nights due to the increase in temperature. The change in the temperature is due to the formation of pressure across the Maldives, said the officials. According to IMD officials, chilly nights will soon end in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh as the night temperatures are expected to get warmer each day.

IMD senior official Rajanikanth Poonna said that the maximum temperature in Visakhapatnam will reach 30 degree Celsius this week.

Rajanikanth stated that it was a warmer winter this year as the northern winds from Himalayas were disturbed by easterlies and



Adilabad district experienced a minimum temperature of seven degrees Celsius this winter, after which the mercury levels rose due to moderate rains in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

south easterlies. He says, "The winter in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is ending soon this year as we did not receive much of cold waves from the North, which were disturbed by easterly winds coming from Bay of Bengal. This week we can see increase in the night temperatures and winter will gradually fade in the two states."

Mahesh Palawat of Skymet Weather, a private weather forecaster said both the two states will experience winters till the middle of February.

"Though the wind directions are changing, temperature will not increase in the coming weeks and winter will continue for some more time," he added.

Adilabad district of Telangana experienced a minimum temperature of seven degrees Celsius this winter, after which the mercury levels rose due to moderate rains in Andhra and Telangana.

After the rain clouds moved to Uttar Pradesh a temperature decrease of two to three degree Celsius was

noticed in the Telugu-speaking states, but mercury levels did not decline.

Rajanikanth says, "The winds from sea are usually warmer than the winds from land and this winter as we had easterlies from Bay of Bengal, we experienced a warmer winter. This doesn't mean that summers will also be warmer than usual."

Cyberabad Police gear up for municipal polls

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With the urban local body elections 2020 being held on Wednesday, the Cyberabad Police geared up to prevent any untoward incident by deploying 4,500 civil police and Armed Reserve Force.

In the limits of Cyberabad Police Commissionerate, elections are being held for 12 municipalities and two corporations including Tellapur, Narsingi, Manikonda, Amanagal, Shadnagar, Shamshabad, Shankarpally, Bandlaguda Jagir, Nizampet, Thumkunta, Kompally, Gundlapochampally, Medchal and Dundigal.

As many as 726 polling stations and 197 polling locations are in Cyberabad, of which, 597 are normal and 129 are critical polling stations.

"Elaborate security and traffic arrangements have been planned to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of elections. To meet the above bandobast requirement, The Cyberabad Police deployed 4,500 civil police and Armed Reserve Force" said VC Sajjanar, Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad.

"With the state of Telangana



being identified by the Election Commission of India as one of the 'Expenditure Sensitive States', 20 Model Code of Conduct Teams, 26 static surveillance teams and 26 flying squads have been formed. All the teams will function under the charge of executive magistrate along with police personnel to curb and prevent the flow of illegal money, liquor and other materials intended to influence the voters," added the official.

Check-posts have also been established to prevent illegal transportation of liquor, money, explosives and objectionable materials. To have effective and visible policing, vehicle checking and frisking has been organised in Cyberabad limits. All the above teams will ensure implementations of Model of Conduct as per the guidelines of the EC,

Wine shops to remain closed for elections

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In view of the upcoming urban local body elections, scheduled to be held on January 22, the Rachakonda and Cyberabad Police issued orders to close toddy shops, wines including bars attached to restaurants, bars attached to hotels and registered clubs. The orders will be in force from 5 pm on January 20 to 5 pm on January 22 and again on counting day i.e., January 25 between 5 am and 7 pm in order to maintain law and order.

said the police officials.

As on Monday, three non bailable warrants have been executed, out of 542 private arms, 380 weapons were deposited, 162 arms were exempted for the security personnel working at banks and other sport institutions and 208 persons were bound over in 36 cases for good behavior.

Leopard on roof of a building in Shadnagar tranquilised, captured

Continued from Page 1

The animal was captured after being tranquilised. "The leopard came to the residential area on Monday morning from the nearby forest blocks and was sitting on the terrace of the building. Our zoo team safely captured it after tranquilising it," Ranga Reddy District Forest Officer Bheema Naik said.

The animal now in stable condition and would be kept under the observation of veterinary doctors for the next 48 hours, zoo officials said. It seemed that the leopard was habituated to killing calves and goats and might have entered the area in search of food, forest officials said. On January 14, a leopard which was found trapped in a snare in Nalgonda district was rescued safely by chemical immobilisation. It suffered injuries and was brought to the veterinary hospital of the Zoo and is under medical care, Zoo officials said.

Man gets 5 years in jail for raping adopted daughter

A local court at LB Nagar convicted a man for sexually assaulting his minor daughter on Monday. Police said that the accused tried to kill his daughter when she resisted the rape. The accused identified as Ramesh, 48, is a resident of Ghatkesar. According to the police, Ramesh and his wife were not having children and adopted the 13-year-old girl. In 2015, Ramesh sexually assaulted the girl at their home when his wife had gone out. Ramesh threatened her to kill the victim if she revealed the same to anyone. On May 30, 2015, Ramesh went to his house in an inebriated condition and tried to assault the victim again. However, this time, the victim resisted and shouted. Angered Ramesh then hit her and cut her wrist. Basing on a complaint, a case was registered at Ghatkesar. A charge sheet was filed in the court and during the trial, Ramesh was convicted. The court awarded him to undergo a five year rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 2,500.

TSCHE NAMES TS CET CONVENERS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TSCHE on Tuesday announced convenors for CETs to be held this year. Prof A Govardhan, rector, JNTU has been appointed as Convenor for EAMCET. Prof M Manzoor Hussain, JNTU has been entrusted to conduct ECET. Similarly, Prof K Raji Reddy, Kakatiya University and Prof V Satyanarayana of OU have been appointed convenors of ICET and PECET.

Three OU professors have been appointed as convenors for LawCET, PGLCET, PGECET and EdCET respectively.

Jharkhand High Court Judge visits Hyd Commissionerate

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Justice of Jharkhand High Court, Rajesh Kumar visited the Hyderabad Commissionerate on Monday.

The Hyderabad Commissioner of Police, Anjani Kumar and Rajesh Kumar visited Abids Police Station where the commissioner explained about the working of CCTV cam-

eras, 5S and vertical implementation.

The duo then visited the Command and Control Centre where the Jharkhand High Court judge was briefed on IT initiatives, public safety measures and their enforcement, CCTV projects, work flow of CCC, video enhancement unit and facial recognition.



Swine flu on the rise in TS, 150 samples return positive

Continued from Page 1

The disease is caused by the H1N1 virus, a strain of the influenza virus. It is spread via droplets in the air and contracted from an infected individual. Some of the most common symptoms of swine flu include high fever, persistent cough, cold, sore throat, nausea, headache and vomiting.

Maintaining routine hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing, using masks and other general measures, are advised by doctors to prevent the transmission of the virus. While a vaccine is available against the virus, it is largely recommended for health officials and workers who are constantly in the vicinity of the disease as a routine.

People advised not to touch balloon flights...

Continued from Page 1

The balloon drifts will be on the Visakhapatnam-Hyderabad-Sholapur line.

The parachute with the instruments suspended underneath it on a long rope usually comes down to ground quite slowly. The TIFR requested persons who find the parachute and instruments not to remove them from its place of landing and to call or send a telegram to the address given on packages.

They are also requested to contact the nearest police station and district authorities about the finding. Instruments are kept inside wooden cages or large aluminum framework containers for safety.

People are advised not to open the instruments as there may be high voltage on some of the instruments. On receipt of information from finders, scientists carrying out these experiments will collect the instruments and pay the finder a suitable reward.

3 kids drown in pond

Continued from Page 1

Their parents searched for them till Sunday night and registered complaint in Renjil police station. On Monday, police launched a search for them near a pond with the help of fishermen. On Monday morning, fishermen found three bodies in the pond. Police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the Bodhan government hospital for postmortem.

We are fighting against money and liquor...

Continued from Page 1

"The Rs 5-meal scheme was introduced by the previous Congress government on March 1, 2014, in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). Congress was in power at the Centre, State and also in GHMC when the scheme was launched. It is ridiculous how TRS leaders are claiming that their government started Rs 5-meal scheme," he said.

Uttam described the TRS as group of greedy, unscrupulous, disgruntled leaders from different parties who are only interested in making money

out of every government activity. "You can see number of turncoats in TRS and their graph in political career. It is not a party with principles but a gang of robbers," the alleged. The TPCC chief asked people to study CAA and NRC patiently and vote for secular forces. He charged TRS with double game by "managing both BJP and AIMIM" at the same time.

"KCR says big words about secularism but is not ready to pass a resolution against CAA and NRC in the Assembly. He plays to the tunes of Modi while in Delhi and misleads people with the help of MIM,"

he said. Uttam reminded that the TRS had extended support to Narendra Modi-led government in electing the President, Vice-President of India and Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

The ruling party in Telangana had also backed the Central government on demonetisation, GST and Triple Talaq Bill, the TPCC chief reminded, asking the minorities not to vote for TRS in the municipal elections.

"The TRS leadership would mend its ways only if it is defeated in these municipal elections," Uttam said.

DS dares on KCR

Continued from Page 1

He asked the party to reveal why it had not taken action against the minister.

He said that he was condemning the criticism of Minister Prashanth Reddy against him. He asked the party leadership to suspend him from the party if it had guts to prove that he made a mistake.

He said that some TRS MLAs from Nizamabad district, though they were not interested to do so, signed on the resolution paper seeking his suspension.

Finding fault with Prashanth Reddy for demanding to know what he had done for Nizamabad in the 40 years, DS demanded the minister to say what he and others have done.

He explained that he had spent the MLA funds for construction of a Railway bridge which however was

stalled due to un-avoidable reasons. He said that they had taken up an underground drainage project at a cost of Rs 90 crore. DS announced that he is ready to give his residence for the sake of medical colleges.

He called upon the people of Nizamabad to cast their votes in favour of good candidates who perform service for the city. It may be recalled that TRS leaders from Nizamabad district lodged a complaint against DS before 2018 Assembly elections. DS tried to give an explanation to KCR however the CM didn't give him time.

Since then DS has been staying from party activities. However, he attended the Parliamentary Party meeting held after Assembly elections creating a debatable issue. In the LS polls, his son Arvind was elected from the BJP, defeating none other than KCR's daughter K Kavitha.

TRS activist dies as vehicle rams divider

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An active member of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi died in a road accident at Mankhal on the outskirts of Hyderabad when his vehicle crashed into the road divider on Sunday.

The victim was identified as Aleti Mahender Reddy. Police said that he was associated with the TRS state youth wing and had actively participated during the agitation for statehood for Telangana region.

According to the police, Mahender Reddy was residing at New Nagole in LB Nagar.

His father runs a party flag manufacturing unit at Shamshabad. On Sunday, he went to his father's factory, loaded flags of different political parties into his DCM van and was heading to city.

When the vehicle had reached the limits of Mankhal village, one of its rear tyres burst. Police sources said Mahender lost control of the vehicle which crashed into the divider and toppled. Mahender, who was alone in the van, sustained multiple injuries and died on the spot.

Alerted by passersby, the police reached the spot and shifted his body for postmortem.

Prakash Raj compares Modi with Hitler

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Actor Prakash Raj took part in protests against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) organised by Young India in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

With the protests against the CAA surging across the country, film actors started to speak out.

Addressing the gathering, the actor said, "Protesting is our right, but illiterates like the Prime Minister Narendra Modi won't understand that. Modi says that he has a degree in political science but says 'Kaagaz Nahi Dikhayenge'. Actually, Modi and Adolf Hitler are one, the actor said.

Prakash Raj said that Modi is living with the money of citizens.



He needs to be held accountable for that. "The clothes that Modi wear are from our money. The

tours that he goes are from our money. We don't need big statues, we need basic facilities and that is

ignored by this government."

He further said that if the government wants to make a register, why don't they go on to make a National Register of unemployment. "This is the government that has implemented NRC in Assam. If they want to make a Register, let them make one that documents the number of unemployed in the country. Let them develop this country first."

The actor concluded the speech by extending his solidarity with the CAA protests in the country. "I am with you. We won't allow this government to change the constitution. Let this struggle continue, non-violently, and I am with you all through the way," said the actor.

Mulugu District Gazette No. MLG/LA/01/2020. Date: 10-01-2020. Collector, Mulugu. Procdgs. No. G/E/554/2019. Date: 9.01.2020. GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA. District Collector, Mulugu. FORM-C. NOTIFICATION. (Under Section 11 of the Act, where 10A Exemption is given). (See Rule 6/12). Revenue Divisional Officer. Date: 09-1-2020. Mulugu File No. E/268-1/2018. Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana / Collector, Mulugu that a total extent of Acres 3-20/34 gts land is required in the Pathipally Village of Mulugu Mandal of Mulugu District for public purpose. The Executive Engineer, I&CADDD JCR DLIS Division 2, KC Colony, Chinigattu Warangal has filed the requisition for acquisition of land to an Extent of Ac. 3-20/34 gts for the excavation of Link Main Canal to RMC of Rangalah Cheruvu and Eraiah Cheruvu to create irrigation potential. Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in Pathipally Village of Mulugu Mandal Mulugu District for public purpose namely for Excavation of Right Main Canal from KM 12.350 to 14.800 of Rangalah and Eraiah Cheruvu. Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the village of Pathipally, Mulugu Mandal, Mulugu District land measuring, more or less 3-20/34 gts acres of standard measurements, whose details description is as following is proposed for acquisition. VILLAGE: PATHIPALLY MANDAL: MULUGU DISTRICT: MULUGU. Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer / Joint Collector. Sd/- Revenue Divisional Officer. Mulugu. Sd/- Collector. Mulugu. DIPP Ro.No.1192/LA/PP/Agency/2019-20.

Sr. No.	Type of Land	Area (in Acs. gts)	Name of the Patta-dar	Name of the Anubhavadar	Address of person interested	Interests
1		0-33			Bhukya Jagan s/o Lulu	0 0
2		0-12			Tejavath Vijaya w/o Bixapathi	0 0
3		0-34/34	Poramboku, Marri	Poramboku, Bhukya	Bhukya Lulu s/o Mangya	0 0
4	Govt. Dry	0-21	Saramma, Lulu, Toti	Narsaiah, Lachamma	Bhukya Mangya w/o	0 0
5		0-25	Sarammaiah, Birra	Banoth Jayaram Banoth	Bhukya Kommla s/o Sath	0 0
6		0-08	Ramulu	Agamma	Bhukya Kishan s/o Lulu	0 0
7		0-04			Buva Buchalah Road	0 0
8		0-03				0 0
		Total	3-20/34			



# URBAN POLL 2020



Minister Errabelli addresses a road show in Mahabubabad on Monday



MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy at Chandur municipality



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kishan Reddy at Choutuppal

## Parties keep fingers crossed

K VENKATESHWARLU  
■ HYDERABAD

As the high voltage campaign for municipal elections came to a close on Monday evening, the leaders of all political parties are making last ditch efforts to woo the voters. Some leaders are concentrating on meeting the voters personally to influence them in all aspects to make them vote in their favour. While the ruling TRS is confident of continuing the winning streak, the opposition Congress and BJP are hoping that the urban voters may give a different verdict this time unlike rural local body elections. Especially, the BJP is pinning all its hopes on these elections though it failed to field its candidates in all municipalities.

As the campaign for the municipal elections came to a close on Monday evening, the leaders of various political parties are making last ditch efforts to woo to the voters

on January 25. The State Election Commission (SEC) has set up 6,325 polling centres for municipalities and 1,586 polling centres for 9 corporations. Section 144 will come into force at the polling booths. A total of 53,36,505 voters will utilise their franchise in these elections in which male voters account to 26,71,694, while the female voters are 26,64,557. Highest number of voters (6.40 lakh) are in Rangareddy district and lowest number of voters (39,729) voters are there in Janagan district. Already TRS was elected unanimously in 69 wards and AIMIM in three wards across the state.

The SEC ordered to close wine shops, bars and banned sending of bulk messages through phones and other from Monday evening onwards. For the first time the SEC is using Face Recognition APP to stop fake voters. The government already announced holiday on January 22 in the areas where elections to be held.

# CURTAINS DOWN ON POLL CAMPAIGN

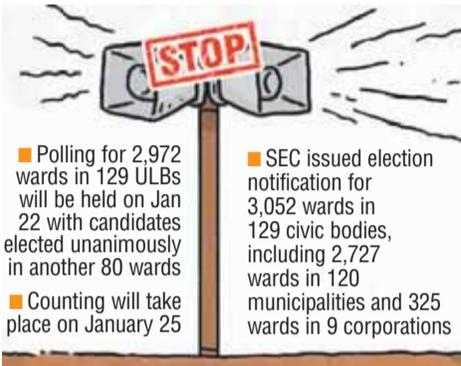
### ■ TRS CONFIDENT OF WINNING A LION'S SHARE OF THE URBAN LOCAL BODIES

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The curtains came down on the high-octane campaigning by political parties for municipal elections in the State at 5 pm on Monday. Polling for 2,972 wards in 129 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) will be held on January 22 with candidates elected unanimously in another 80 wards.

Counting will take place on January 25. Telangana State Election Commission issued election notification for 3,052 wards in 129 civic bodies, including 2,727 wards in 120 municipalities and 325 wards in nine municipal corporations, in the State. A total of 12,898 candidates from 129 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are in the fray.

A separate notification was issued for 60 wards in



■ Polling for 2,972 wards in 129 ULBs will be held on Jan 22 with candidates elected unanimously in another 80 wards

■ SEC issued election notification for 3,052 wards in 129 civic bodies, including 2,727 wards in 120 municipalities and 325 wards in 9 corporations

Karimnagar Municipal Corporation after two days due to the High Court directions. Accordingly, the campaigning will continue in the corporation till 5 pm on

January 22, and polling is scheduled on January 24.

The main contestants - TRS, Congress, BJP and the AIMIM - tore into the Telangana hinterland with a no-holds barred

campaign in support of their candidates which at times degenerated into personal vilification. As far as TRS is concerned, it is quite confident of winning a lion's share of the ULBs.

"We are confident of winning a majority. People will vote for development," party working president KT Rama Rao has stated repeatedly. Though KTR campaigned mainly in Sircilla, his home constituency, he has constantly maintained a watch on what is happening elsewhere.

Using the campaign vehicles specially designed for TRS, candidates and ministers hit the roads in the towns, seeking the support of voters. The TRS candidates in 77 wards and three AIMIM contestants in various ULBs were declared

elected unanimously after the expiry of time for withdrawal of the nominations.

TRS working president KT Rama Rao held a series of meetings with party leaders at Telangana Bhavan. For one such meeting, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao too turned up and explained to the MLAs and ministers how important elections to the local bodies are for the ruling party. Rama Rao was so confident of winning a majority of the ULBs that he had no hesitation to say that the results would be a referendum on him as Municipal Administration Minister. At the ground level, all ministers launched a publicity blitzkrieg lambasting the BJP and Congress at every given opportunity.

In constituencies where there are no Ministers, MLAs

led the charge and in constituencies where there are no MLAs, constituency in-charges are shouldering the responsibility of steering the party to victory. The BJP, which wants to prove that it is a force to reckon with, after its humiliating defeat in Huzurnagar Assembly by-election, has left nothing to chance during its campaigning tours.

BJP State unit president K Laxman has taken it as a challenge to make sure that his party would make a dent in the TRS fortress that would be noticeable to all. He has been touring all over Telangana taking KCR and his party to task, sometimes whipping up passions on CAA and NRC, and sometimes telling people that if any development took place in towns, it was with the funds released by the Centre.

### CAPSULE

## Rs 5,100cr released for Rythu Bandhu

**KOTHAGUDEM:** State Agriculture and Cooperation department has issued orders for release of Rs 5,100 crore for the Investment Support Scheme (Rythu Bandhu) for farmers in the state. After careful examination, the Telangana Government accorded administration sanction for Rs 5,100 crore to the State agriculture commission from the Budget estimates provision of 2019-20 towards meeting the expenditure for Investment Support Scheme, according to the GO issued by the Agriculture Secretary C Parthasarathy here on Monday. Out of the Rs 12,862 crore allocated by the government for Rythu Bandhu for 2019-20, it released Rs 6,862 crore during Kharif and credited into the bank accounts of farmers. Meanwhile, Telangana BJP chief K Laxman asked the people to think whether releasing Rythu Bandhu funds a day before the municipal elections is correct or not. "Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao indulged in such bad practices even before too. KCR is known for speaking lies and cheating the people," Laxman alleged.



## BJP will come to power in 2023: Kishan Reddy

**HYDERABAD:** Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy on Monday exuded confidence that the public mandate in the municipal elections would lay the foundation for the BJP to come to power in Telangana State in 2023 elections. He further said that even if a lakh Owaisis try to stop it, they would not succeed in preventing a BJP candidate from becoming the next Chief Minister of the state.

Further he blamed Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao and Owaisi brothers for allegedly obstructing the Central welfare schemes implementation in the state. Reddy was campaigning for the local body elections in Chowtuppal-Thangadpally and Nalgonda old city on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said that TRS failed to spend a single rupee to a municipality or a village in the last six years. He alleged that the state government is diverting the funds coming for MGNREGA funds and rural development funds released by the Centre to Haritha Haram. He said that the people of Telangana are wishing to free the state from MIM and Kalvakuntla families and nobody will stop the victory of the BJP in 2023.



## KCR 'absconded' from campaign: Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Treasurer Gudur Narayana Reddy on Monday alleged that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao did not campaign for his party in municipal elections as he had no guts to face the common people due to the long list of unfulfilled promises.

"KCR did not skip the campaign by choice. But he had to 'abscond' to avoid people's wrath for his failures," Narayana Reddy said in a media statement on Monday.

He said elections for 120 municipalities and 9 municipal corporations was not an occasion to be taken lightly.

However, he alleged that KCR remained confined to his palace Pragathi Bhavan as he had no guts to face the people with whom he had made several promises and did not fulfill them. He said KCR was afraid of facing the jobless youth who were not paid the promised Unemployment allowance of Rs 3,016 since December 2018. Similarly, KCR feared the homeless people who are still waiting for the promised double bed room houses. Since KCR had no explanation for the long list of failures, he went into hiding mode while his son and Minister KT Rama Rao gave an impression as if he was leading the campaign.

The Congress leader said KCR should have some accountability. People have trusted KCR and voted him for the first time in 2014. They

again voted for TRS based on reassurances given by KCR in December 2018. Instead of facing the truth that there was no development in the last six years and almost all major promises remained unimplemented, TRS leaders went into denial mode. In fact, they started making wrong claims that their party created a record for 100% implementation of electoral promises.

Narayana Reddy said that the absence of KCR from election campaign was an indirect confession by the Chief Minister that TRS Government has failed to deliver on promises. He reminded that KCR had announced in December 2014 that he would not seek votes if his government fails to provide drinking water to all households through taps. Since the promise remained unfulfilled, KCR personally did not seek votes although he deputed his son and party leaders to beg for votes. People have understood that TRS leaders have gained expertise in cheating the people with fake promises and this time they would teach them a fitting lesson.



GUDUR NARAYANA REDDY  
TPCC Treasurer

## Only TRS can develop TS: Niranjan

PNS ■ WANAPARTHY

Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy said that those voting for opposition parties in the ensuing municipal elections would be wasting their invaluable franchise, as development was possible only through the TRS. The Minister assured the people that he would take complete responsibility of developing the municipality in all possible ways.

During his election campaign at Rajanagaram, Nagavaram, Nagavaram Thanda and Hanuman Tekdi localities of Wanaparthi municipality, he said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's dream was to see people's money reaching the people without the influence of middlemen and therefore he had devised welfare schemes keeping in mind the needs of the people of Telangana. He said that Wanaparthi was



neglected in the past 60 years by the then governments. "In the past, sewage used to be let into Rajanagaram's Amma Cheruvu. We have filled this irrigation tank with Krishna waters and are going to install a sewage treatment plant soon," he said.

Observing that the food crops cultivated in sewage-mixed water could cause dis-

eases, he said there was a need to make a clean environment to future generations and that would be done by beautification of Rajanagaram Cheruvu by constructing a mini-tank bund, on which the famous Rajanagaram jatara stalls would be placed in the near future. He said that the Ramakrishneshwara temple in

**Minister Niranjan assured the people that he would take complete responsibility of developing the municipality in all possible ways**

Rajanagaram, where the annual jatara is held, was the first-of-its-kind in southern India and there was a need to conduct it in a grand way. Pointing out that road-widening works in Nagavaram were being done, the Minister said the government would construct 2BHK houses for those who lose their homes as part of the works in a phased manner.

## TPCC lodges complaint against Malla Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC official spokesperson Sama Rammohan Reddy has lodged a complaint with the Nampally Police alleging that Labor Minister Ch Malla Reddy indulged in irregularities by selling TRS tickets to the candidates in municipal elections. He demanded Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to dismiss Malla Reddy from the Cabinet position immediately.



Later speaking to the media, Rammohan Reddy urged the SEC to take up the Malla Reddy's issue as suo-moto. He

also asked the SEC to initiate action against not only Reddy but also the candidates who allegedly tried to purchase the tickets. He questioned KCR and KTR, who were chanting corruption-free governance in municipalities, to tell as to why they were not initiating action against Malla Reddy.

He alleged that the TRS is trying to get benefited in every election with the weakness of the people by investing money, liquor in the elections.



**Jagga's remarks on Harish may prove costly for Congress**

T AMARENDER  
■ MEDAK

Comments of MLA Jagga Reddy on Finance Minister T Harish Rao are likely to show an impact on the possibilities of the Congress in the municipal elections in Sangareddy. The TRS was waiting for an appropriate time to weaken Jagga Reddy and the MLA too has taken a stand of passing personal remarks on the Minister at the crucial polls. Since many of his followers too are opposing the stand taken by Jagga Reddy, the comments of the MLA are likely to prove a bane at the crucial hustings. The MLA has sent some feelers an year ago that he would not have any controversies with the Chief Minister and his family members for the sake of achieving development. It is said that as the trends in the municipality favoured TRS, the MLA lost his temper and passed personal remarks.

## Oppn unlikely to pose any challenge to TRS

PP KONDAL RAO  
■ WARANGAL

Urban local body elections are unlikely to witness any miracles in the rural Telangana districts as the ruling TRS is sure to romp home the 90 per cent of the municipalities and corporations spread across the districts. The opposition parties - Congress, BJP, Communists and others failed to put up any resistance whatsoever in all the urban parts of the rural Telangana districts where the elections will be held.

Reports from several erstwhile rural Telangana districts indicate that though the opposition succeeded in fielding the candidates in the urban local bodies, it could not pose any challenge whatsoever to the ruling party nominees as the TRS forged ahead of its rivals in campaign, polls tactics and booth management techniques.



The booth committees established by the ruling party successfully gave the TRS an upper hand and in almost all the municipalities spread across the districts like erstwhile Warangal, Khammam, Nizamabad and Nalgonda, the opposition parties were minimised in strengths as there was not even a token challenge from them in so far as the campaign trail is concerned. The Congress is almost decimated in the electioneering as the beleaguered cadre of that party preferred to stay aloof from the campaign in

**Though the oppn succeeded in fielding candidates, it could not pose any challenge to ruling party nominees**

most all the seats and there was a feeling among the cadre that even if their nominees emerge victorious the winning candidates would not stay intact in the party.

The BJP of course matched the TRS in campaign process in certain municipalities but their cadre strength is unlikely to give them the much-needed break through to wrest any of the municipalities of corporations as it did in the Parliament polls. There was some talk that the BJP would emerge victorious in certain municipal

corporations like Nizamabad in the initial stages of the campaign process but the TRS took the election as a major challenge and deployed additional poll management forces in that municipal corporation this time in order to clinch the initiative.

The Communists in all these areas are unlikely to surpass a total of below twenty ward victories and in the event of mustering support, the Communists are likely to get seats in the industrial areas and townships spread across the districts. There is some challenge evident in the Kollapur municipality from the Forward block candidates and in Bhupalpally too, the FB is likely to give some resistance. The campaign process and the whirlwind tours of Ministers and MLAs in the districts have ultimately helped the TRS to repeat its fete in the elections in the urban local bodies too.

SHORT READS

Cops launch hunt for four Maoists after pamphlet distribution

**KANNUR (KER):** Four suspected Maoists, including a woman, raised slogans and distributed pamphlets and pasted posters at a village in Kannur district on Monday, prompting the police to launch combing operations to nab them. The police said they were informed by the local people about the presence of the ultras at Ambayathode in Kottiyoor. Police and "Thunderbolt", an elite commando force of the Kerala police, was combing the forest area. A banner wanted people to cooperate with the CPI (Maoist) "Bharat Bandh" call on January 31 against the Centre's "Operation Samadhan"-anti-Left Wing Extremism (LWE) strategy.

'Live bomb' found near ticket counters of Mangaluru airport

**MANGALURU:** A 'live' bomb was found placed in an unattended bag near the ticket counters at the airport here in Karnataka on Monday, creating panic. According to police, the bomb was found in the unclaimed laptop bag and has been taken in a bomb disposal unit vehicle for controlled explosion at an open place here. "According to the preliminary reports, a live bomb was found at the Mangaluru Airport today. Steps have been taken to neutralise it and carry out further inquiry to identify people behind it," said Karnataka Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Earlier, after the suspicious bag was noticed, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which is maintaining security at the airport, cordoned off the area and reported the matter to the police.

Modi, Nepal Premier to jointly inaugurate projects on Tuesday

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli will on Tuesday jointly inaugurate the second integrated check post at Jogbani-Biratnagar, built with Indian assistance to facilitate trade and people's movement between the two nations. Both the prime ministers will also witness the remarkable progress in Indian-assisted post-earthquake housing reconstruction projects in Nepal, the Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet.

VIP movement, R-Day rehearsals throw Delhi traffic out of gear

**NEW DELHI:** Commuters in Delhi had a harrowing time on Monday as VIP movement, a protest march and Republic Day rehearsals affected movement of traffic on several key stretches. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took out a roadshow from Valmiki Mandir near Gole Market to Patel Chowk metro station, causing huge traffic jams near Connaught Place and Panchsheel Road. Several students held a march from Mandi House to Jantar Mantar to protest the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens. Rajpath, from Vijay Chowk to India Gate, was closed for traffic from 9 am to 12 noon for the Republic Day parade rehearsals. Traffic movement was also restricted on Rafi Marg, Janpath and Mansingh Road during this time.

# Thakur, 18 others convicted in Muzaffarpur shelter home case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court Monday convicted Brajesh Thakur and 18 others for sexual and physical assault on several girls in a Muzaffarpur shelter home.

Additional Sessions Judge Saurabh Kulshreshtha convicted Thakur for aggravated sexual assault under POCSO Act and gang rape.

The shelter home was run by Thakur, former MLA of Bihar People's Party (BPP).

The court acquitted one of the accused, who included 12 men and eight women.

It fixed January 28 for arguments on quantum of sentence. It had held trial for the offences of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, drugging of minors, criminal intimidation among other charges.

Thakur and employees of his shelter home, as well as Bihar department of social welfare



officials were charged with criminal conspiracy, neglect of duty and failure to report assault on the girls.

The charges also included offence of cruelty to child under their authority, punishable under the Juvenile Justice Act.

The court had reserved order on September 30, 2019 after final arguments by the CBI counsel and 20 accused in

the case in which former Bihar Social Welfare Minister and the then JD(U) leader Manju Verma also faced flak as allegations surfaced that Thakur had links with her husband.

She had resigned from her post on August 8, 2018.

The case was transferred on February 7, 2019 from a local court in Muzaffarpur in Bihar to a POCSO court at Saket district court complex in Delhi on

**The court had on March 30, 2019, framed charges against the accused, including Thakur, for offences of criminal conspiracy to commit rape and penetrative sexual assault against minors**

the Supreme Court's directions.

The matter had come to light after the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) submitted a report to the Bihar government on May 26, 2018, highlighting the alleged sexual abuse of minor girls in the shelter home for the first time.

# Joint secretaries appointed for dept. of military affairs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior bureaucrats Rajeev Singh Thakur and Shantanu have been appointed as joint secretaries in the newly-created department of military affairs, as part of major bureaucratic reshuffle effected on Monday by the Union government.

Thakur, a 1995 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, will have a tenure till December 3, 2022. Shantanu, a 1997 batch Tripura cadre IAS officer, has been appointed to the post till March 27, 2024, an order issued by the personnel ministry said.

A total of 31 IAS officers have been appointed as joint secretaries in central government departments.

Odisha cadre IAS officer Vishal Gagan will be joint secretary, department of defence for a tenure of five years, it said.

Ashutosh Agnihotri has been appointed joint secretary in home ministry.

Jammu and Kashmir cadre IAS officer Ashok Kumar Parmar will be advisor, inter-state council secretariat under the home ministry.

Bharat H Khera has been appointed joint secretary in



**The Centre had last month created the department of military affairs headed by Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat**

Cabinet Secretariat. Vimalendra Anand Patwardhan, an officer of Indian Audit and Accounts Service, has been named as joint secretary and financial adviser in ministry of civil aviation, and IAS officer Nagaraju Mad-dirala will be joint secretary in the coal ministry.

S Suresh Kumar and Puneet Agarwal have been appointed as joint secretaries in department of commerce and department of defence production respectively.

Vineet Mathur, a 1994 batch officer of Indian Postal Service, will be JS, department of consumer affairs and Indian Forest Service (IfoS) officer Sanjukta Mudgal has been appointed as joint secretary in culture ministry. IAS officer Tanmay Kumar has been appointed joint secretary in the power ministry. Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer Hari Ranjan Rao will be joint secretary, department of telecommunications for five years.

# Shah says BJP will thrive under Nadda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who handed over the presidency of the BJP to J P Nadda on Monday, said that under his successor's leadership the party will become stronger and expand further.

Nadda was elected unopposed as the BJP national president after he emerged as the only leader in the fray following the nomination process in which his candidature was endorsed by top party brass.

"Heartiest congratulations to J P Nadda Ji on being elected the national president of the Bharatiya Janata Party. I firmly believe that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji's guidance and your leadership, the BJP will become stronger and expand even further," Shah said in a tweet.

"The party will benefit from Nadda ji's organizational skills and experience and will set new records," he said in a series of tweets.

Under Nadda's leadership, all BJP workers will continue to walk on the organization's path, he said.

# Good marks are not everything, PM tells students facing exams

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reaching out to students across the country in exam season, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said good marks in exams are not everything and also suggested that homes should have a "technology free" room where those entering can't carry any gadgets.

Addressing students during a "Pariksha Pe Charcha" programme, the prime minister sought to speak to them in their own language and said his conversations with them will be "hashtag without filter". "Speak to me hashtag without filter," he said at the interaction held at the Talkatora Stadium here.

In the event, telecast and streamed live, Modi said everyone should keep abreast of the latest technology but stressed that it should not be allowed to govern lives.

"We should have the strength to keep technology under our control and ensure it does not waste our time. One room in our homes should be technology free. Whoever enters will not carry any gadgets," he told students.

Assuring students of his complete focus, Modi said they could speak to him openly.



**The PM highlighted the importance of extra-curricular activities and said there is a growing tendency among parents to push their children into activities considered "glamorous"**

The prime minister also urged students to spend their spare time with the elderly.

He said students should not be afraid of failure and take it as a part of life.

"I was told I shouldn't attend Chandrayaan landing as there was no guarantee of success but I needed to be there,"

the prime minister said, recalling the failed landing of the Chandrayaan-2 mission's Vikram lander.

Good marks in exams are not everything, he told the students. "We have to come out of the thinking that exams are everything," the prime minister said.

"Parents should take time out to find out what their children want to do instead of pushing them into activities that are considered glamorous which they can discuss in their conversations with their friends," he said.

Modi also said children should be "pursued not pressured into studies" and recommended that students read his book, "Exam Warriors", to get over the stress of appearing for exams.

# Shiv Sena should clarify over Chavan's statement: Fadnavis

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said Shiv Sena should clarify over Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan's statement that it had proposed to form a coalition government with Congress and NCP after the 2014 Maharashtra Assembly election to stop the BJP from coming to power in the state.

Fadnavis, now Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, said Chavan's remarks were very surprising and revealed the "true face" of the Uddhav Thackeray-led party, which in November formed the government in the state along with Congress and NCP.

"What Chavan has said is very surprising. Coming from someone of his stature, it has to be taken seriously. The disclosure has revealed the real face of Shiv Sena," Fadnavis told media in Delhi.



"The Shiv Sena should come out with a clarification over Chavan's remarks," Fadnavis said.

Chavan has said that after the 2014 Assembly polls, Shiv Sena and NCP had approached him to form a coalition government to stop the BJP. But the Congress had rejected the demand immediately, Chavan told PTI in an interview on Sunday.

Even after the Assembly election in 2019, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi was not ready for a coalition with the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena but she relented after long deliberations, Chavan has said.

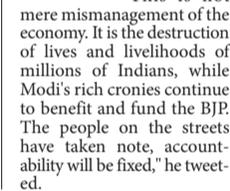
# Yechury attacks govt on slowdown in economy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Monday slammed the government over the slowdown in economy and said that this was not just "mismanagement" but "destruction of lives".

Reacting to reports that the government's tax collection is likely to fall short of its estimate by Rs 2.5 lakh crore or 1.2 per cent of GDP in 2019-20, Yechury

said that the Centre will be made accountable. "This is not mere mismanagement of the economy. It is the destruction of lives and livelihoods of millions of Indians, while Modi's rich cronies continue to benefit and fund the BJP. The people on the streets have taken note, accountability will be fixed," he tweeted.



# J-K woos businesses with its first investors' meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday organised a first of its kind pre-summit investors' meet here, inviting investments from across the world by highlighting the untapped potential of the newly-formed union territory.

The event, which was a curtain-raiser to the three-day Global Investors' Summit to be held in Srinagar and Jammu this year, showcased policy and regulatory environment, investment opportunities in 14 focus sectors to boost manufacturing and employment generation in the region.

On the occasion, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu said that the Global Investors' Meet -- with the theme of 'explore, invest and



grow' -- is a platform that will bring together senior entrepreneurs, leaders from corporate sector across the country, senior policymakers, development agencies, investors from across the world and local businessmen.

"We intend to take a leap forward in making Jammu and Kashmir an economic par-

adise for investors and I would like to invite you all to take the lead in setting up your enterprises in Jammu & Kashmir.

"Today's Pre-Summit Investors' Interaction has been organised to deliberate with you all on desired initiatives for creating an investor-friendly ecosystem and make you interested in Jammu and Kashmir,"

**Minister of State, PMO Jitendra Singh congratulated the lieutenant governor for taking such an initiative "at the right time and right place"**

Murmu said. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam said, "Jammu & Kashmir is little known about the places except what we have seen in the films, it is quite different what we know. J&K is not a backward place but it has the brightest and skilled people. I have read in a book that people in J&K don't die from the disease but from the old age."

# Nirbhaya case: SC rejects death row convict's plea claiming juvenility

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday rejected the plea of a death row convict in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case challenging the Delhi High Court order which had dismissed his claim of being a juvenile at the time of commission of offence.

A bench comprising Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bushan and A S Bopanna dismissed the plea of the death row convict, Pawan Kumar Gupta, and upheld the Delhi High Court



verdict. The apex court said there was no ground to interfere with the high court order that rejected Pawan's plea and his claim was rightly rejected by the trial court as also the high court.

Advocate A P Singh, appear-

ing for Pawan, said that as per his school leaving certificate he was a minor at the time of the offence and none of the courts, including trial court and high court, ever considered his documents.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Delhi police, said that his claim of juvenility was considered at each and every judicial forum and it will be a travesty of justice if the convict is allowed to raise the clam of juvenility repeatedly and at this point of time.

# Shamsher Surjewala passes away

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

Veteran Congress leader Shamsher Singh Surjewala passed away in Delhi on Monday following prolonged illness. He was 87.

Surjewala, father of party leader Randeep Surjewala, breathed his last at the AIIMS hospital in New Delhi this morning, family sources said.

Shamsher Singh Surjewala was a five-time MLA and one-time Rajya Sabha MP from Haryana. He was also the former president of the Haryana Congress and a former minister.

He was president of the Haryana Krishak Samaj and fought for the rights of farmers.

His body was taken from AIIMS to Narwana in Haryana where his cremation will take place later in the day.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited AIIMS and met Randeep Surjewala to convey his condolences on Monday morning.

"In the passing of Shri Shamsher Singh Surjewala, we have lost a popular & respected Congressman who worked tirelessly in the service of India's farmers & the development of Haryana. My condolences to his family & friends. Om Shanti," Gandhi tweeted. Former Haryana chief min-

ister Bhupinder Singh Hooda also condoled his demise and said he was sad on hearing the news.

"My tribute to the departed soul. May God give peace to his soul and strength to the family to bear this grief," he said. Haryana Congress chief Kumari Selja said, "Deeply pained at the demise of former Haryana Congress chief, former Rajya Sabha MP and former Haryana minister Shamsher Singh Surjewala.

# ED arrests NRI in case against Robert Vadra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ED has arrested NRI businessman C C Thampi in connection with its money laundering probe against Robert Vadra, the son-in-law of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, and absconding arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari in a case related to acquisition of alleged illegal assets abroad, officials said on Monday.

Thampi is stated to be "controlling" a Dubai-based company Sky Light. In 2009, Bhandari's firm Santech FZE purchased a London asset from a private company, which was acquired by Sky Light.

Vadra is alleged to have acquired this London-based asset, and few purported emails between him and Bhandari, regarding renovation of this flat, are part of the evidence in the case.



The agency claims Thampi met Vadra through an aide of his mother-in-law and Congress president Sonia Gandhi, while the latter reportedly told the Enforcement Directorate that he only met him on board an Emirates flight some years ago. Thampi, during his earlier

grilling session with the ED, claimed that Vadra had stayed at the Bryanston Square property in London. Vadra, in his statement made to the agency, denied Thampi's claim.

The agency arrested Thampi on Friday under the provision of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after

**It is understood that the arrest will unravel the "missing links" in the case where the ED has charged Vadra of acquiring illegal assets abroad in coordination with Bhandari**

he was summoned in the case, they said.

It is understood that his arrest and subsequent custodial grilling will unravel the "missing links" in the case where the ED has charged Vadra of acquiring illegal assets abroad in coordination with Bhandari.

Thampi has been charged by the agency in the past in an

alleged illegal hawala dealings and land purchase case in the country in 2017, in alleged contravention of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

It had also issued a FEMA show-cause notice to Thampi for alleged violation of foreign exchange laws to the tune of over Rs 1,000 crore in the purchase of vast tracts of land in Kerala.

The firms that are being investigated by the ED, as part of the two FEMA show-cause notices issued against him, include Holiday City Centre Private Limited, Holiday Properties Private Limited and Holiday Bekal Resorts Private Limited.

Agency sources had said the NRI businessman is also under the scanner for his reported dealings with some politicians and bureaucrats.

## BJP's new chief

J P Nadda is being considered a proxy for Shah but has organisational strengths of his own. Will he be allowed to rise?



When LK Advani was the BJP president and clearly the more "seen" face of a resurgent Right, having steered the Rathayatra and the temple campaign in Ayodhya, he stepped back and proposed the name of the moderate and avuncular Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the party's prime ministerial candidate. That was in 1995 and Advani's wisdom lay in understanding why governance needed a softer, inclusive and acceptable face and a broader alliance with other parties. He had the foresight to set the foundation upon

which a winning formula could be built. In that sense, the BJP president's post became important in carving out a legitimate space for the Right within the coalition template of the times and ensuring that it emerged as a sound electoral alternative to the Left of Centre Congress-dominated narrative. That was a tough time of building and managing the party, positing all that the Congress was fast-losing — a credible organisational decorum, regular elections, fair processes and an inner-party democracy. To that extent, the party president's post was originally intended to be sacred. The arrival of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah clearly changed all that, the two building the BJP's base not so much by processes but the weight of their persona. While Modi concentrated on building a pan-India image as a trusted leader, deputy Shah took up backroom mathematics and personally weighed in on even the microscopic, unit-level decisions of the party. During his tenure of over five-and-a-half years, Shah's focussed aggression strengthened the BJP's matrix and ensured its political conversion as the party's best ever electoral performance. Barring a few setbacks in State polls, the party has managed to become the single-largest in the Lok Sabha. That gave him more than stature; the cadres held him in awe. And he revelled in the arrogance of that absolutism, pushing most contentious issues in the BJP manifesto as Home Minister in the Government, a man in a hurry to prove his heft in the party than in people's minds. And now that he is the Home Minister, he is duty-bound to honour the party's "one person, one post" formula and has handed over its reins to Jagat Prakash Nadda, a loyalist and a low-key worker of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the BJP's ideological anchor that, at this point of time, has complete hold of policies and deliverance, and cares not much about realpolitik. In many ways, therefore, Nadda is being considered a proxy for Shah, who would like to be remembered as the usherer of Right wing legacies and a neo-cultural revolution, one that seeks to overturn liberalism as an imposition and Hindu theocracy as the natural evolution of history — the Ram temple, the abrogation of Article 370 and the review of citizenship based on ancestry. Shah wouldn't want to relinquish this helmsmanship of BJP's transitional moment. The ascension of Nadda, therefore, seems to be about ticking off the right boxes. Besides, it also allows Shah to escape the heat arising from the citizenship row at the moment. Seen as the architect of the otherisation politics in the country and linking the party's agenda to Government policy, the delegation of party responsibilities to Nadda is an attempt to seemingly dilute this autocracy.

Nadda may be following Shah's footsteps but in the end will have to be the media face and explain the BJP's most difficult phase — keeping the faith of the Lok Sabha verdict and presiding over the social unrest over citizenship. The extent of civil society protests proves that it is fast losing hope in the BJP as a "party with a difference." If the States the BJP lost after the general election are any indication, then the people now want it to account for its non-performance on the economy and jobs crisis and subversion of social equilibrium through religious polemics. Nadda, while continuing the existing party's agenda, can do so subtly and use his newness to soothe anxieties through sensible outreach programmes. There are parts to Nadda that the BJP can use smartly to change perceptions before the next round of general elections. A student leader, who has plodded his way up the ranks, he has a grasp on grassroots, having been in-charge of the BJP's Lok Sabha campaign in Uttar Pradesh and the Maharashtra polls. He has to deliver Delhi and Bihar, the former quite a difficult challenge. But going by the speeches of the Modi-Shah duo at his appointment, it seemed the election of the BJP president was another missile aimed at the Congress which is yet to hold the most basic of organisational elections. Nadda may appear to be gifting BJP a "lit" moment but that will have little value if he is a cipher.

## Flying kites

The Government may be testing waters with silly proposals. But this points to a lack of creativity in policy-making



The bureaucrat, who thought about the preposterous suggestion to limit duty-free alcohol purchases to a single bottle, will one day head the entire department. And that frankly is more worrying than the proposal itself because such ideas can come only from the heads of narrow-minded individuals with a puritanical sense of morality. Of course, one is not encouraging alcoholism or smoking. It remains unlikely that the Government will ever go down the route of prohibition, although given some previous illogical decisions taken by it and the

fact that the ruling BJP is an ally of arch-prohibitionist Nitish Kumar, nothing can ever be ruled out. That said, drinkers and smokers are a rich source of funds for the Government and Bihar is still reeling from the after effects of Kumar's bizarre decision. In addition, the Commerce and Industry Ministry led by Piyush Goyal wants to restrict the volume of goods Indians can bring into the country while coming back. The derision that these decisions have been met by is completely justified. But what boggles one's mind is that the Government is looking at such minor issues when it should be thinking about ways and means of reviving the economy. If the thinking is that Indians will suddenly quit their Scotch whisky and start buying the *shudh desi* molasses-derived liquid that masquerades as "whisky", then one can safely assure the powers that be that it won't happen. Such thinking will only take us back to the command and control economy of Indira Gandhi when smugling and bootlegging ruled. Ironic then that the BJP is trying to highlight Indira's links with Mumbai's most notorious smuggler of that era, Karim Lala.

The simple fact is that to get the economy going again, the Government needs a whole new thinking, the concept of wealth transfer from the very rich being impractical. The Modi Government, despite such schemes as Digital India and Start-up India, hasn't been able to spur entrepreneurial growth. Job creation is at its lowest and India risks turning its demographic dividend into a time bomb. The greatest advantage this country has is being squandered with a pliant Opposition, which has sought to focus on issues that do not have large-scale appeal. But the Government is more keen on looking at silly minutiae than the bigger picture. At the end of the day, a masterpiece not only has fabulous details but looks appealing overall. This Government is concentrating on trying hard to choose the colour for a dull, monochromatic image of modern India.

# A new lurking danger

The three-day *Ijtima* organised by the Tablighi Jamaat last year points towards a larger trend of home-grown radicalism within the country. Radicalisation of the vulnerable must end



SANDHYA JAIN

Few would have missed the videos of children (under 10 years of age) chanting *azadi* and abusing the Prime Minister and Home Minister for alleged animosity and evil intent towards one community. Since one cannot expect children of such tender age to have knowledge or understanding of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Population Register (NPR), it is safe to conclude that family elders tutored them to express such visceral anger towards the Government.

A dangerous radicalisation of the Muslim community is being fostered — with deliberate intent — the consequences of which are yet to unravel. Barring perhaps Saudi Arabia, it is doubtful if even Islamic countries make girls of such tender age wear full *abaya* (head and neck covering). Certainly, it has not been seen in India before. This points to deep indoctrination of every family within a targeted area and does not bode well for the future.

On the one hand, it will intensify the ghetto mentality within the community. On the other, it will make other citizens wary of dealing with those who wish to leave or avoid the ghetto. This is a double-edged sword that can only harm the Muslim community in the long and short run.

Doubtless, a powerful section of the community is behind the radicalisation agenda, for reasons unknown. The first indication of this phenomenon came during the three-day *Ijtima* (religious gathering) organised by Tablighi Jamaat (November 30 to December 2, 2018), when 15 lakh Muslims gathered at Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, though permission was given for only two lakh people. Many guests came from abroad.

The proceedings of this gathering are not known. It attracted national attention when some cows were killed in a village on the road to Bulandshahr. Police inspector Subodh Kumar Singh died in the violence that followed but managed to contain the situation within the affected village. The *Ijtima* concluded peacefully but analysts said such a large gathering should not have been permitted in such a sensitive State and by such an orthodox body. Tablighi Jamaat exhorts Muslims to strictly follow practices adhered to during the lifetime of the Prophet, especially in matters of dress and ritual. All traces of non-Islamic (syncretic) behaviour are to be erased.

This converges with a larger trend of home-grown radicalism within the country. After the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIM) and the Indian Mujahideen (IM) were banned, the Kerala-based Popular Front of India (PFI) emerged as the successor militant body and spread to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.



Experts expect the Islamic State (IS) to formally tie up with the PFI to entrench itself in India and reach Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Sri Lanka has already been radicalised by people who visited southern India before the Easter blasts in 2019. Several youth from Kerala have travelled to Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan to join the IS; others have been caught doing online propaganda for it. Intelligence agencies are aware that the IS is attracting youth in India and in May 2019, it announced a new "Wilayah of Hind" (Hind Province) without specifying its geographical limits.

The Counterterrorism Group (CTG) Analysis & Intelligence Report (November 2019) states that after being driven out of Syria and the Middle East, the IS asked its leaders to move to South-east Asia as almost every country in this region has deep ties to the Middle East. Its focus is on female domestic workers in Hong Kong and Singapore, who are vulnerable on various counts; Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines are next.

Female migrant workers are chosen because of their low (but stable) incomes, familiarity with English and wide network of international connections. Typically, they earn around \$1.00 to \$1.50 per hour and are often in need of financial help, for which they agree to join the Caliphate. English-speaking workers help

“  
MIGRANT WORKERS ARE EASY TO MANIPULATE AS THEY ARE POORLY EDUCATED, LIVE IN AN ALIEN ENVIRONMENT AND ARE LONELY. THE RECRUITER CONTACTS THE MOST VULNERABLE AND OFFERS A SECURE, ROMANTIC, AND LOVING RELATIONSHIP. SOON THE MIGRANT IS INVITED FOR TRAINING VIA ONLINE CHAT ROOMS  
”

the IS reach other demographics and regions. They help it acquire resources and intelligence from areas its members normally don't frequent.

Migrant workers are easy to manipulate as they are poorly educated, live in an alien environment and are lonely. Radicalisation usually begins after a traumatic event such as divorce, financial hardship or culture shock. The recruiter contacts the most vulnerable and offers a secure, romantic, and loving relationship; soon the migrant is invited for training via online chat rooms. Often migrants are recruited by fellow workers at a prayer group or social gathering on their day off. Some workers have been known to reach out to militants; they are quickly inducted into radical groups and groomed to become militants.

In a survey of radicalised domestic workers, the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC) found that at least 50 Indonesian women working overseas as maids, nannies and caretakers for the elderly were radicalised by the IS and its affiliates. A study between 2013 and 2018 found that around 800 domestic workers from South-east Asia tried to enter Syria or Iraq to join the IS after being radicalised abroad. This shows the efficacy of the IS' recruitment methods. IPAC has asked Governments to create mandatory training modules to educate migrant workers about the

signs of exploitation and to help exploited victims.

In September 2019, Singapore arrested three Indonesian women domestic workers who promoted the IS online in their spare time, donated money to militants overseas and became so committed that at least one was ready to die as a suicide bomber in Syria. One Indonesian maid revealed that she listened to Salafi podcasts while working and an Indonesian butcher she met online encouraged her to go to Syria to join the IS. However, the Singapore authorities discovered her plans and deported her back to Indonesia in 2017.

Zachary Abuza, expert on IS in South-east Asia at the National War College, Washington, says the real stuff happens in dedicated chat rooms on encrypted apps — from bomb designs to active coordination. The female recruits serve as financiers, recruiters and coordinators; they collect funds from radicalised maids and send them to domestic *jihadi* groups. India is sitting on a tinderbox. When elementary school children chant obnoxious slogans against the nation and its top leadership, the masterminds behind the scenes should ponder what poison harvest they will reap from these toxic seeds. *Azadi* cannot hide behind the *tiranga*; India will never submit to further loss of territory.

(The author is a senior journalist)

## SOUNDBITE

This is not mere mismanagement of the economy. It is the destruction of lives and livelihoods of millions of Indians while Modi's rich cronies continue to benefit and fund BJP.

**CPI(M) general secretary**  
—Sitaram Yechury

The world is respectful; there's a lot to do and give. And for the first time, I can think about myself. Let me be a little self-centered and enjoy what I have earned.

**Actor**  
—Kangana Ranaut

We will not take retaliatory action against India over its boycott of palm oil purchases amid a political row between the two nations. We are too small to take action.

**Malaysian Prime Minister**  
—Mahathir Mohamad

Our job is to explain to people that we are right and they are wrong. Just because we have numbers today we can't do terror politics. Let's go to people explaining benefits of CAA.

**WB BJP vice president**  
—Chandra Kumar Bose

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Whose sentence?

Sir — One fails to understand why so many chances are being given to depraved humans indulging in heinous acts. Why do we need to empathise with an undeserving handful of the worst behaved citizens? It is time to change this thinking. There is a worldwide debate on whether the death penalty stands scrutiny. There have been strong arguments for and against. Suffice it to say that our legal system currently allows death penalty to be prescribed only for the rarest of rare cases.

Rather than discussing this aspect, I would like to draw attention to the "sentence" meted out by criminals to innocent citizens for no fault of theirs. The relatives of the accused, sometimes abetted by the local officials, put pressure on the victim to withdraw the case. The victim and her family thus live under fear and dread constantly. Now activists have joined the bandwagon. Instead of focussing on the human rights of the criminals, why do we not vociferously argue about the right to life and liberty of the victim as guaranteed by Article 21 of our

### Nation at the cusp of political extremes

The nation is passing through trying times with the Modi Government at its nadir of popularity. Its reputation as the architect of "modern" India has taken a sound beating. The nation-wide protests over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) has doused all intentions of the Modi-Shah duo to usher the country into a "golden" period. Branded as "dictatorial", the BJP's rule has only created a wedge between communities. Every decision of the Government that was flung at the people has been met with "distrust" and "apprehension." A slew of laws that have been passed in recent times have had a debilitating effect on the secular fabric of the country. The ruling dispensation's agenda, which is to alienate the masses, is not difficult to understand.

Nevertheless, one would certainly not want to believe in "hearsay" and rather expect the Government to come clean on its will and intention on issues that matter to the country. By allowing "misinformation" and "rumours" to dwell in the minds of the people, the saffron party is doing a disservice to its own image. The highly-hyped "*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas*" slogan sounds all but hollow now. A massive public mandate does not give any Government the right to push through with its agenda at the cost of public sentiments.

Constitution? Or the human right against cruelty in the Universal Declaration?

It is ironical how those, who brutally violate the rights of another, clamour for their own rights to be protected and are listened to

with a great show of fairness. Those adults, who commit these heinous crimes, know it well that they are punishable with severe sentences.

**Padmini Raghavendra**  
Secunderabad



Agreed, every Government is well within its right to frame legislations. But shouldn't they be implemented after proper deliberations? More importantly, after taking the people into confidence? What we see now is that a "popular" Government installed at the Centre is hell-bent to dislodge its predecessor but has earned the wrath of the countrymen for "authoritarianism" and "evasiveness" that has become its "virtue." Will the citizenship imbroglio make the people of the country seek a change of guard at the Centre? In any case, oscillating between the Congress and the BJP is the only answer right now.

**Pachu Menon**  
Margao

### Stop interfering

Sir — US President Donald Trump and Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg are both attending the ongoing World

Economic Forum (WEF) meet. For sure, Trump will renew his running battle with the young climate campaigner when they join the A-list movers and shakers attending the 50th anniversary of the Davos conclave this week. Thunberg has already made her message clear: Put an end to the fossil fuel "madness." That her missive is aimed at Trump, among others, would be anybody's guess.

Thunberg hogged the limelight when she began a grassroots campaign at the age of 15 by skipping school every Friday to demonstrate outside the Swedish Parliament. The protests had inspired millions of young people to take action against climate change. Her meteoric rise from an ordinary school-going child to becoming a world-renowned climate campaigner must be appreciated. If Trump and other leaders cannot appreciate her efforts to fight climate change, then we can only pity them. If they can't help her cause, they must at least not throw a spanner in her efforts to fight climate change.

**TK Nandanam**  
Chennai

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

## FIRST COLUMN

### Centre must not lose the vision

Nobody would like solar and wind power generators also to turn into NPAs with the key parameters being compromised



AMIT KUMAR

The national vision of infrastructure services, which raises the quality of life and ease of living in India to global standards, sets the context of the recently-unveiled National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) for the next five years. Projects in energy, roads, railways, urban, rural and social infrastructure constitute the NIP. Of the ₹102 lakh crore outlay of the NIP, energy takes the lion's share at 24 per cent of the total investment. Within the energy sector, the share of conventional power, renewable and nuclear energy is 48 per cent, 38 per cent and six per cent respectively. About 42 per cent of the projects are already under implementation whereas 19 per cent are under development and 31 per cent are in the conceptual stage. In both the latter categories, key projects are in the renewable energy sector. According to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Central and State Governments would have an equal share of 39 per cent each in the NIP. The private sector, on the other hand, would have a 22 per cent share, which the Government expects to increase to 30 per cent by 2025.

Elaborating on the energy sector vision 2025, the NIP Task Force envisages an increase in the total installed capacity from the present 356 GW to 619 GW. Furthermore, it expects the share of thermal power to come down from 66 per cent to 50 per cent while the share of renewables rises from 22 per cent to 39 per cent in 2025. Indeed, renewable energy's share in consumption is envisioned to reach 19 per cent from the present nine per cent. The continued thrust on energy transition is certainly encouraging. Interestingly, unlike the conventional power sector where only six per cent of the NIP is implemented by the private sector, in the renewable energy sector, 100 per cent of implementation would be by the private sector.

Without going into the merits of the projected capacity of 619 GW in a decelerating economy at a time when the existing capacity is either severely underutilised or stressed, the private sector's appetite to reach 241 GW in five years has to be viewed critically. Reasons for slippages in the 12th Five Year Plan outlined in India's National Electricity Plan, 2018 include problems in acquisition of land; issues in timely completion of power evacuation systems plus capacity of the transmission system and issues in availability of adequate finances from banks and financial institutions.

In fact, even now, the challenges pertaining to land availability, transmission infrastructure/connectivity, inordinate payment delays, and discoms' disinclination to sign Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for renewable energy continue to act as roadblocks to the sector's growth. On top of it is the tendency of some discoms to renegotiate the existing PPAs because of an excessive obsession with low tariffs elsewhere, without understanding the dynamics of renewable energy technologies. All these factors ultimately have put a dampener on the sentiments of private players. The spate of tender cancellations or multiple rounds of re-bidding is a testimony to this troubling trend.

This in turn has resulted in a perception of political peril among the renewable energy industry, something that would have been unimaginable earlier. Couple it with the risk-averse approach of financial institutions on one hand and a general lack of appetite for new investments by the private sector on the other, and we have a scenario not exactly conducive to implementation of renewable energy projects.

While several Government initiatives such as reverse auctions and ultra-mega solar parks successfully catapulted this sector to commendable heights, it is time for the Government to provide another push by working proactively to remove already well-recognised bottlenecks. A consistent policy regime with long-term visibility is a prerequisite to encourage private sector investments, whether domestic or foreign. Unfortunately, even at the Central level, lack of clarity on various aspects such as applicable GST and safeguard duty did actually disrupt the pace that the industry had gathered. As electricity is a concurrent subject between the Centre and States it adds another layer of complexity. A conducive policy environment at the Centre alone is not sufficient unless it is backed by an equally supportive State-level policy framework. Discoms being the primary buyers of renewable electricity, whether from large plants or from distributed solar energy, their financial health and willingness to purchase renewable electricity play a crucial role. Curtailment from renewable energy generators, overdue payments and reluctance in adopting solar energy are not only indicators of archaic mindsets but are roadblocks. This reinforces the urgent need for reforms in the power sector — much more fundamental and structural than the ones undertaken so far, backed by strong political will. It is equally important to recognise the risks associated with unviable tariffs. No one would like solar and wind power generators also to turn into NPAs with the key parameters being compromised for the sake of artificially created tariff caps. Against this background, it would be crucial for the Centre to seize the initiative to take along the States, bringing them on board for effective delivery through the infrastructure pipeline.

(The writer is Senior Fellow and Senior Director, TERI)

ALMOST 50 LAKH MUSLIM INFILTRATORS WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND CHASED OUT OF THE COUNTRY IF NEEDED.

—WEST BENGAL BJP CHIEF  
DILIP GHOSH

## POINT-COUNTERPOINT



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE ARE SAFE BECAUSE THEY HAVE MAMATA. WE ARE IN A POSITION TO FIGHT AGAINST NPR AND CAA TO RETAIN THEIR CITIZENSHIP —WEST BENGAL EDUCATION MINISTER  
PARTHA CHATTERJEE

# Social experiment gone awry

Because of CAA, even the NRC exercise gets debunked. This gives a further jolt to ethnonationalist identities, who take CAA to be a bigger threat than illegal immigration



PRASENJIT BISWAS

Do those among the linguistic and religious minorities of Assam, who have failed the test of citizenship in the recently-concluded updation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), become the soft target of the heightened cry for protection of indigenous identity in Assam and North-east India? With the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), one section of those left out of the NRC now gets an opportunity to be citizens, solely on the basis of religion, while another section remains ignored. Does such a contrived outcome make anyone happy in Assam?

Assam's Bengali-origin religious minorities, popularly called *Miyas* or *Bhatiyas* in Brahmaputra Valley and *Bangals* in Barak Valley face the biggest threat of proving their credentials after being left out of the NRC. Those excluded will now have to prepare for a complicated legal battle to prove their citizenship through the Foreigners' Tribunals. These tribunals are supposed to decide the fate of an estimated five lakh presumed illegals and how many would succeed in such a trial is anyone's guess. The tribunals, governed by the Foreigners' Act, 1946, place the "onus of proof" on the suspect and not on the prosecution, making it difficult for a "suspect" to get natural justice. As citizenship is considered the most basic right to have or not to have all other rights, the shifting of the "onus of proof" makes it extremely difficult for anyone to prove credentials. Worse is the case when the tribunals at random *ex parte* declare too many people foreigners. Many of those people have been put in inhumane detention camps in six places, numbering around a thousand, of which 23 have already died in custody.

The protest against the CAA remains silent on this humanitarian crisis and the ignominy of effacing these unfortunate excluded people from public discourse. With the coming of CAA, a section of these excluded people now wait for some redemption, while another section silently prepares for a long and uncertain legal battle that lies ahead. Both the sections, however, face another cultural test of proving their antecedents, which could be satisfied only by accepting the dominant language of the State.

Any democratic movement, such as one currently against the CAA, should have taken into account the plight of these people. But they are looked upon as "foreigners" and "illegal immigrants" whose very presence threatens indigenous language and culture. This is how, much of the protesters favour the NRC to weed them out while they reject the CAA. The CAA bears the signature of sheltering "persecuted religious minorities from three neighbouring countries" and thereby changes the rules of the game with which the NRC was carried out. Because of CAA, even the NRC exercise gets automatically debunked. This gives a further jolt to ethnonationalist identities, who take CAA to be a bigger threat than illegal immigration. The layered and nuanced ideas of citizenship as indigeneity stand in contrast to granting citizenship to a section of illegal immigrants on the basis of religion. In effect, old faultlines between indigenous ethnic identity and non-indigenous Indian citizens is reinvoked, turning both the CAA and NRC exercise as detrimental to the language, land and culture of ethnic groups. The question is no longer just saving the indigenous habitats of North-east from illegals but it is also a question of "protective discrimination" for the native and the indigenous from non-indigenous Indian citizens. The land policy of the Government of Assam

“ THE FEAR AND ANXIETY SURROUNDING THE NEW ENTRIES RELATING TO FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH IN THE NPR FORMAT AND DROPPING OF ALL MUSLIM FESTIVALS FROM THE LIST OF HOLIDAYS SUGGESTED IN THE NPR CREATE A BIGGER SENSE OF DISCRIMINATION. THE SENSE OF PROTECTION GENERATED OUT OF FEAR OF BEING OUTNUMBERED IN THE NORTH-EAST FEEDS THIS FEAR OF DISCRIMINATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND VICE-VERSA. ALTHOUGH FEAR TRANSMITS EASILY, YET THE CAUSE AND PURPOSE OF ANTI-CAA PROTESTS ALSO REMAIN DIFFERENT BETWEEN THE NORTH-EAST AND THE REST OF INDIA ”



clearly why non-indigenous citizens, being settlers cannot buy/own land.

CAA's exclusion of the Sixth Schedule tribal States from its ambit created a sense of heightened anxiety in Assam and Tripura for being forced to accept those non-indigenous settler immigrants who would be legalised by the CAA. The possible demographic impact and squeeze on language and culture has reinvoked the fear of getting outnumbered. To rein in such a majoritarian impact of the CAA, there are rising demands for introduction of an Inner Line Permit (ILP) system to physically restrict the movement of other citizens from outside the State.

In a sense, the CAA meets its toughest resistance from such demands of protective discrimination, as it would further alienate the North-east and its people from the mainstream while ensuring their specific rights. Certainly this would negatively impact economic transaction between the North-east and the rest of India and as a corollary break the idea of seamless economic connections with South and South-east Asian countries, as mooted in the Act East Policy of the Centre.

The governance structure of States in the North-east seemingly is not able to face the implosion of sentiments of ethnic and indigenous groups against the CAA and is also unable to contain the fight against the CAA from relapsing into a full fight against the State and the Government. In an Assam-specific way, a slew of measures like amendment to Article 345, 347 and Article 371B to ensure protection of Ahomias as the State language, culture and identity of the people of Assam has been announced by the State Government to neutralise the anti-CAA protests, but social organisations are not convinced of some measures. They argued that if protective measures had preceded CAA, probably it would not have become such a big

protest. The shift of focus in the protest from illegal immigrants to strict measures of protection in Assam and Tripura not only created an alternative political discourse of pre-colonial identity assertion and securing of homelands, but it also harmed those who are supposed to benefit from the CAA, notably the Hindu Bengalis. This change into community affirmation rigidly redraws several boundaries, creates a reverse discrimination towards the beneficiaries of the CAA by uniting everyone else.

The announcement of the National Population Register (NPR) at the national level and much of the resistance to the idea that the NPR and National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) are the same arose from transmission of Northeastern reactions to the mainland due to greater visibility of protests in the North-east. After the first wave of protests in the North-east, major Indian cities witnessed a stir against the NPR and NRC exercise that are supposed to supplement CAA by separating the infiltrators from persecuted religious minorities. This inherently differentiating tenor of CAA made a nationwide resurgence of demands for a caste census and rejection of any test of citizenship. The dystopic Assam experience occupied much of the national imagination in calling for a boycott of NPR cum NRIC, especially when CAA makes it clearer for whom the bell will toll.

The fear and anxiety surrounding the new entries relating to father's birthplace and date of birth in the NPR format and dropping of all Muslim festivals from the list of holidays, as suggested in the NPR, create a bigger sense of discrimination. The sense of protection generated out of fear of being outnumbered in the North-east feeds this fear of discrimination at the national level and vice-versa. Although fear transmits easily, yet the cause and pur-

pose of anti-CAA protests also remain different between North-east and the rest of India. The question of defending the Constitution, an essential part of the pan-Indian discourse of resistance to CAA finds very little speck in the North-east where the it is more about protection from the non-indigenous and the illegals. The convergences and the divergences are both ingenious as they promise to set up new equations and alliances between social identities. The beauty of such disjointed resistance to the CAA is that it gives rise to a new form of federal relations. How the Government manages it will decide the future course of politics in India.

It is also worth noting the debates centering around some of the States opposing implementation of the CAA and their moves by filing cases against it in the Supreme Court. Interestingly enough, Arunachal Pradesh, being a State with ILP is exempted from CAA, yet it has decided to file a petition in the apex court opposing any procedure to grant citizenship to Chakma and Hajong refugees. It is also widely contended that the CAA might lead to exodus of tribal refugees from CAA-exempted tribal States of the North-east to Tripura and Assam, where they can apply for citizenship through CAA. The case of Bengali Hindu refugees in Bodoland Territorial Council of Assam is even more dismal, as they have to move out of areas falling under the council and resettle in a neighbouring district within Assam to become eligible to apply under CAA. While these anomalies continue, the lived reality of "illegal immigrants" continues to be difficult, as they try to survive through double-edged laws granting benefit and withholding them at the same time.

(The writer is Associate Professor at North Eastern Hill University, Shillong and a human rights activist)

# Let religion lead to peace, prosperity

Religious leaders and theologians from across the country should come together to review the different faiths from the perspective of pluralism and social justice



EDUARDO FALEIRO

it of the founders of the different religions was the same though rituals differ. All religions proclaim similar principles.

Mahatma Gandhi, who devoted a large part of his life to the study of religion and discussions with religious leaders of all faiths, affirmed that every scripture should be treated equally, that there is no justification for the claim of supremacy of any one religion and that we are all children of the same God. He said, "What is needed is a living friendly contact among the followers of the religions of the world and not a clash among them in the fruitless attempt on the part of each community to show the supremacy of its faith over the rest."

Swami Vivekananda asserted that all religions preach ethics, virtues and good character. Yet, all major religions, instead of uniting people often divide them due to the lack of understanding of the purpose of religion by their followers.

India has the largest number of religions and religious people in the world. In our country, we have millions of Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists. There are also Parsees and Jews. We have eight religions in India, the maximum number of religions and religious people anywhere in the world. Communal har-

mony is essential for peace and stability in the country.

Article 51A of the Constitution affirms that it is the fundamental duty of every citizen to promote harmony among the people of the nation transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities. Respect for religious diversity and interfaith dialogue are an essential and urgent need.

Some years ago, I decided to study the issues that affect inter-religious peace and harmony in the country. In this connection, I visited several States and held meetings with leaders and organisations of different religions. I spent the whole of September 2004 in the villages of Odisha, in the districts of Kandhamal and Mayurbanj, where Graham Staines and his two sons were killed some years earlier.

The purpose of my visit was to study and understand the open confrontation that has existed for long in that State between Christian and Hindu missionaries for conversion and re-conversion (*ghar vapsi*) respectively. I informed Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik of what I had observed in those areas and he promised to take necessary action. Mainline Christian theologians see both the Sangh Parivar's Hindutva ideology and Christian campaigns for evange-

lisation as having a fundamentalist attitude and an aggressive methodology to achieve their respective goals.

Proselytism is opposed on several grounds; it attacks other religious beliefs and practices and asserts that its own religion is the only way to *moksha* (salvation). It is often supported by financial resources and marketing techniques that make local religious activities seem shabby.

The Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (FABC) articulates its theological vision thus, "Asia is the womb of the great world religions. All great scriptural religions were born on Asian soil. The Church has to be in constant dialogue with the religions of Asia and to embark on this with great seriousness... There may be more truth about God and life than is made known to us through the Church. As such, Christians who take Jesus Christ's injunction seriously must search for this truth in the various religions of the world."

On the question of proselytism, the FABC says, "A phenomenon which continues to awaken the most resentment among the peoples of Asia is that of proselytism and conversion. In the minds of Asians, the Church's primary objective seems to be to convert as many people as she can so as to

increase her little flock. The Church's expansion is also seen as a Western extension. The increase in the number of Church movements engaged in aggressive evangelisation (understood in the very narrow sense of the word) is certainly a cause for concern for our brothers and sisters of other faiths. Perhaps, it might be good to be reminded of the golden rule which nearly all religions speak of: Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself."

The traditional way of teaching religion puts emphasis on theology and rituals ignoring the social dimension, namely the need for interaction and tolerance among the followers of different religions. Religious leaders and theologians from across the country should come together to review the different religions from the perspective of pluralism and social justice.

The following steps ought to be taken to ensure peace and harmony in India: Organised drives for conversion and reconversion should stop. They violate the Constitution. The Government should promote an agreement among the religious heads of all the major faiths in the country to stop proselytism. Given the positive mindset of theologians belonging to different religions, this is possible.

Combat all forms of expression which incite sectarian hatred and take action against dissemination of such material in the media.

Adequate training and awareness programmes about religion and religious harmony for young leaders at all levels and Government officials, particularly the police and other law enforcement agencies, judges, teachers and social workers must be held.

Introduce inter-religious education in schools as part of the curriculum so as to promote communal harmony.

Assure all victims of religious intolerance adequate support and speedy administrative and judicial remedies.

Provide effective access to all citizens, including religious minorities, to the decision-making process in society.

Counter social exclusion and marginalisation in particular by providing adequate access to all to education, health and employment. Pay special attention to development of vulnerable groups such as tribals and other weaker sections and those who suffer discrimination on different grounds.

With this we will ensure peace that fosters inclusive development.  
(The writer is a former Union Minister)

CAPSULE



**Kotak Mahindra Bank Q3 profit rises 24 pc to Rs 1,596 cr**

**NEW DELHI:** Kotak Mahindra Bank on Monday reported 24 per cent growth in standalone net profit to Rs 1,596 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2019. The private sector lender had posted a profit of Rs 1,291 crore in October-December period of the previous financial year. Total income rose to Rs 8,077.03 crore during the quarter under review from Rs 7,214.21 crore in the year-ago period, Kotak Mahindra Bank said in a statement. "Net Interest Income for the third quarter increased 17 per cent to Rs 3,430 crore from Rs 2,926 crore in the same period a year ago. Net Interest Margin for Q3FY20 was at 4.69 per cent, up from 4.31 per cent in Q3FY19," it said. On consolidated basis, the profit increased 27 per cent to Rs 2,349 crore as compared to Rs 1,844 crore in the same period a year ago.



**SIAM bullish about revival of automobile industry**

**NEW DELHI:** Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the apex body representing all major vehicle and vehicular engine manufacturers in the country, is bullish on the revival of the automobile industry in 2020, a senior official said on Monday. Since the penetration of automobiles in the country is low, many foreign players will look at this opportunity to enter India, he said here. "This is the worst downturn of the automobile industry in the last 20 years," SIAM deputy director Sugato Sen told reporters here. "We hope that the year 2020 will be the year of revival of the Indian automobile industry."



**TCS shares fall over 2 pc at close of trade after Q3 earnings**

**NEW DELHI:** Shares of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday fell over 2 per cent after the company reported a muted growth in consolidated net profit for the third quarter ended December 2019. The scrip declined 2.16 per cent to close at Rs 2,170.25 on the BSE. During the day, it fell 2.76 per cent to Rs 2,156.70. On the NSE, it went lower by 2 per cent to close at Rs 2,174. In traded volume terms, 2.14 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 58 lakh shares on the NSE during the day. The country's largest software services major, after market hours on Friday, reported a muted 0.2 per cent growth in consolidated net profit at Rs 8,118 crore for the third quarter ended December 2019.

**Sensex swings, ends 416 pts lower**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Retreating from its record peak, market benchmark Sensex closed 416 points lower on Monday, tracking an intense sell-off in index heavyweights Reliance Industries, Kotak Bank, HDFC Bank and TCS following their quarterly results.

After hitting a record intra-day high of 42,273.87, the 30-share BSE Sensex gave up all gains to settle 416.46 points, or 0.99 per cent, lower at 41,528.91.

Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty sank 127.80 points, or 1.03 per cent, to 12,224.55. It hit a record

**After hitting a record intra-day high of 42,273.87, the 30-share BSE Sensex gave up all gains to settle 416.46 points, or 0.99 per cent, lower at 41,528.91**

intra-day high of 12,430.50 in early session.

Kotak Mahindra Bank was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack, dropping 4.70 per cent, after the lender reported a rise in non-performing assets in Q3.

Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and TCS fell up to 3.08 per

cent after the companies reported their quarterly earnings over the weekend.

On the other hand, PowerGrid was the top gainer, rising 3.75 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, ITC, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank and L&T. According to traders, besides stock-specific action, domestic

investors were also seen booking profits at record peaks.

Bourses in Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul ended higher, while Hong Kong closed in the red.

European markets were trading on a negative note in their early sessions.

Brent crude oil futures rose 0.66 per cent to USD 65.28 per barrel on supply concerns after exports from Libya were blocked after a pipeline was shut down by armed forces and a strike at a key oil field in Iraq hit output.

The rupee depreciated 5 paise to 71.13 per US dollar (intra-day).



**'Halwa Ceremony' kickstarts printing Budget docs process**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur and senior officials of the finance ministry on Monday participated in the symbolic 'Halwa Ceremony' that marks the launch of formal printing of Budget 2020-21 documents.

The second Budget of the Modi 2.0 government will be presented on February 1.

Finance Secretary Rajeev Kumar, Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty, DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey, and Expenditure Secretary T V Somanathan too attended the customary pre-Budget event.

"To maintain the secrecy of Budget, there is a 'lock-in' of the officials involved in making the Budget. Budget Press, situated inside North Block, houses all officials in the period leading up to the presentation of the Union Budget," the finance ministry said in a statement.

These officers and staff will come in contact with their near and dear ones only after the Budget is presented in Parliament, it said.

Later, the finance minister



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman at the Halwa ceremony to mark the commencement of Budget printing process for Union Budget 2020-21, in New Delhi on Monday. The Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur and other dignitaries are also seen.

**As part of the ritual, 'halwa' is prepared in a big 'kadhai' (large frying pot) and served to the entire staff in the ministry**

took a round of the press and acquainted herself about the Budget printing process.

As part of the ritual, 'halwa' is prepared in a big 'kadhai' (large frying pot) and served to

the entire staff in the ministry.

The significance of the event is that after the sweet dish is served, a large number of officials and support staff, who are directly associated with the

Budget making and printing process, are required to stay in the ministry and remain cut off from their families till the presentation of the Budget in the Lok Sabha.

They are not even allowed to contact their near and dear ones through phone or any other form of communication, like e-mail.

Only very senior officials in the finance ministry are permitted to go home.

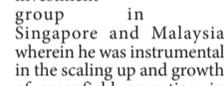
**Hindustan Coca-Cola appoints Melvin Tan as CFO**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages on Monday appointed Melvin Tan as its new chief financial officer, who will also be part of its senior leadership team reporting to chief executive Christina Ruggiero.

Tan, a graduate from the University of Sheffield in England, with an honours degree in accounting and financial management, joined the Coca-Cola system in 2010 after spending a decade with KPMG and Honeywell.

He was the financial controller of Coca-Cola's bottling investment group in Singapore and Malaysia wherein he was instrumental in the scaling up and growth of greenfield operation in Malaysia, implementation of various strategic restructuring initiatives and establishment of robust financial support and governance system to support the growth agenda of the business.



**CCI approves Reliance's divestment of Jio tower assets**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fair trade regulator CCI has approved divestment of Reliance Jio's telecom tower assets to Canada's Brookfield Infrastructure Partners LP and other investors.

The other investors include British Columbia Investment Management Corporation, GIC Infra Holdings Pte Ltd's subsidiaries Anahera Investment Pte Ltd and Valkyrie Investment Pte Ltd.

In a tweet on Monday, the regulator said it "approves subscription of the units of Tower Infrastructure Trust by BIF JV Jarvis India Pte, British Columbia Investment Management and GIC Investors."

The proposed transaction involves the acquisition of indirect control of Reliance Jio Infratel Pvt Ltd (RJITL) by Jarvis, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) noted in a combination notice filed with it.

Tower Infrastructure Trust, an InvIT, currently holds 51 per cent of the outstanding equity share capital of RJITL. Current Sponsor of the InvIT is Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings Ltd (RIIHL).

The deal, as per the notice, is subject to receipt of requisite approvals from markets regulator Sebi. Jarvis would execute the "deed of accession" to the trust deed and be designated as one of the sponsors to the InvIT in addition to RIIHL.

Besides, Jarvis would subscribe to the majority of the units to be issued by the InvIT. "Jarvis, subscribing to the

**Tower Infrastructure Trust, an InvIT, currently holds 51 per cent of the outstanding equity share capital of RJITL. Current Sponsor of the InvIT is Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings Ltd (RIIHL).**

units of the InvIT, subject to receipt of necessary approvals from SEBI, will discuss and mutually agree with the Parties on suitable mechanism, in accordance with the provisions of SEBI InvIT Regulations, for change of the current investment manager to an entity nominated and controlled by Jarvis," the notice said.

The parties are Jarvis, British Columbia Investment, GIC investors, InvIT, and RJITL.

From the proceeds of the issuance of units, the InvIT proposes to acquire the remaining 49 per cent of the outstanding equity share capital in RJITL.

Additionally, GIC Investors and British Columbia Investment propose to acquire a minority interest in the InvIT by either directly subscribing to units of the InvIT, or by indirectly acquiring an interest in the InvIT through acquisition of shares in BIF IV India Holdings.

**Organic food industry needs incentives to boost growth: Kesarwala**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Organic food start-up Kesarwala on Monday sought incentives from the government in the forthcoming Budget for the fast growing sector to push the industry growth.

"The industry needs adequate infrastructure in terms of number of testing and certifying labs in the country. This will help in cutting the cost as currently these things are expensive," Founders of Kesarwala Divaker Bhalla and Yousuf Khan said.

They said that starting from the farmers to the industry, the sector needs support from the government.

"To replenish farm land for the purpose of growing organic produce, which are completely chemical free, a farmer has to wait for at least five years as he or she can not use that land before that for organic farming. Leaving the land for five year is a long period. If government can announce



some kind of subsidies to those farmers, it will provide a big help to them," Khan said.

He also said increasing awareness about the benefits of consuming organic produce too is important for the growth of the sector.

Bhalla said although people are gradually shifting towards organic foods, more steps needs to be taken in this direction in all big and small cities.

"We can take cue from countries such as the US and Europe to take forward this sector," he added.

Further, Khan said that skill development is another area, which needs to be focussed.

**HDFC Bank shares fall nearly 2 pc**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of HDFC Bank on Monday declined nearly 2 per cent after the company's non-performing assets (NPAs) rose in the third quarter ended December 31.

The scrip fell 1.80 per cent to close at Rs 1,254.90 on the BSE. The company's stock plunged 1.96 per cent to Rs 1,252.80 during the day.

On the NSE, it dipped 1.62 per cent to close at Rs 1,257.35.

Private lender HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 32.8 per



cent growth in net profit to Rs 7,416.5 crore for the third quarter ended December 31 driven by interest and non-interest income.

The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 5,585.9 crore in the October-December quarter of the last financial year.

During the quarter, gross

non-performing assets (NPAs) rose to 1.42 per cent of the total advances, compared with 1.38 per cent at the end of the third quarter of 2018-19.

Net NPAs of the bank too increased to 0.48 per cent of the assets in October-December 2019, against 0.42 per cent a year ago.

As a result, the bank's provisions (other than tax) and contingencies increased to Rs 3,043.56 crore against Rs 2,211.53 crore reported in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

**I-T searches premises of Lalit hotels promoter**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department has launched searches at multiple locations of the Bharat Hotels group, its associates and a leading automobile dealer firm in connection with a tax evasion probe, officials said on Monday.

They said about 8 premises linked to Bharat Hotels CMD Jyotsna Suri and some

of her associates as well as Jayant Nanda, promoter of Cargo Motors, one of the largest dealers of Tata motors in the country, are being searched in and around the national capital.

The searches, they said, were launched late on Sunday and are related to a tax evasion probe

being conducted by the department.

Transactions of these groups, under the scanner of the department, are related, official sources said.

The Bharat Hotels group owns the chain of Lalit hotels in the country. It runs over a dozen such luxu-

ry facilities at present.

Jyotsna Suri has been associated with the Bharat Hotels group since 1989 and took over as the Chairperson and Managing Director (CMD) in 2006, after the death of her husband and hotelier Lalit Suri.

The businesswoman has also been the chairman of industry body FICCI in the past.



**India ranks low at 76th place on global Social Mobility Index**

PNS ■ DAVOS

India has been ranked very low at 76th place out of 82 countries on a new Social Mobility Index compiled by the World Economic Forum, while Denmark has topped the charts.

The report, released ahead of the 50th Annual Meeting of the WEF, also lists India among the five countries that stand to gain the most from a better social mobility score that seeks to measure parameters necessary for creating societies where every person has the same opportunity to fulfil his potential in life irrespective of socio-economic background.

Increasing social mobility, a key driver of income inequality, by 10 per cent would benefit social cohesion and boost the world's economies by nearly 5 per cent by 2030, the WEF said.



But, few economies have the right conditions to foster social mobility.

Measuring countries across five key dimensions distributed over 10 pillars - health; education (access, quality and

equity); technology; work (opportunities, wages, conditions); and protections and institutions (social protection and inclusive institutions) - shows that fair wages, social protection and lifelong learning

**Increasing social mobility, a key driver of income inequality, by 10 per cent would benefit social cohesion and boost the world's economies by nearly 5 per cent by 2030, the WEF said.**

are the biggest drags on social mobility globally.

In the case of India, it ranks 76th out of 82 economies. It ranks 41st in lifelong learning and 53rd in working conditions. The Areas of improvement for India include social protection (76th) and fair wage distribution (79th).

The inaugural Social Mobility Report showed that across the Global Social Mobility Index, only a handful of nations across the 82 countries covered have put in place the right conditions to foster social mobility.

The top five are all Scandinavian, while the five economies with the most to gain from boosting social mobility are China, the United States, India, Japan and Germany.

"Creating societies where every person has the same opportunity to fulfil their potential in life irrespective of socioeconomic background would not only bring huge societal benefits in the form of reduced inequalities and healthier, more fulfilled lives, it would also boost economic growth by hundreds of billions of dollars a

year," the WEF said.

"The social and economic consequences of inequality are profound and far-reaching: a growing sense of unfairness, precarity, perceived loss of identity and dignity, weakening social fabric, eroding trust in institutions, disenchantment with political processes, and an erosion of the social contract. The response by business and government must include a concerted effort to create new pathways to socioeconomic mobility, ensuring everyone has fair opportunities for success," said Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the WEF.

The most socially mobile societies in the world, accord-

ing to the report's Global Social Mobility Index, are all European.

The Nordic nations hold the top five spots, led by Denmark in the first place (scoring 85 points), followed by Norway, Finland and Sweden (all above 83 points) and Iceland (82 points). Rounding out the top 10 are the Netherlands (6th), Switzerland (7th), Austria (8th), Belgium (9th) and Luxembourg (10th).

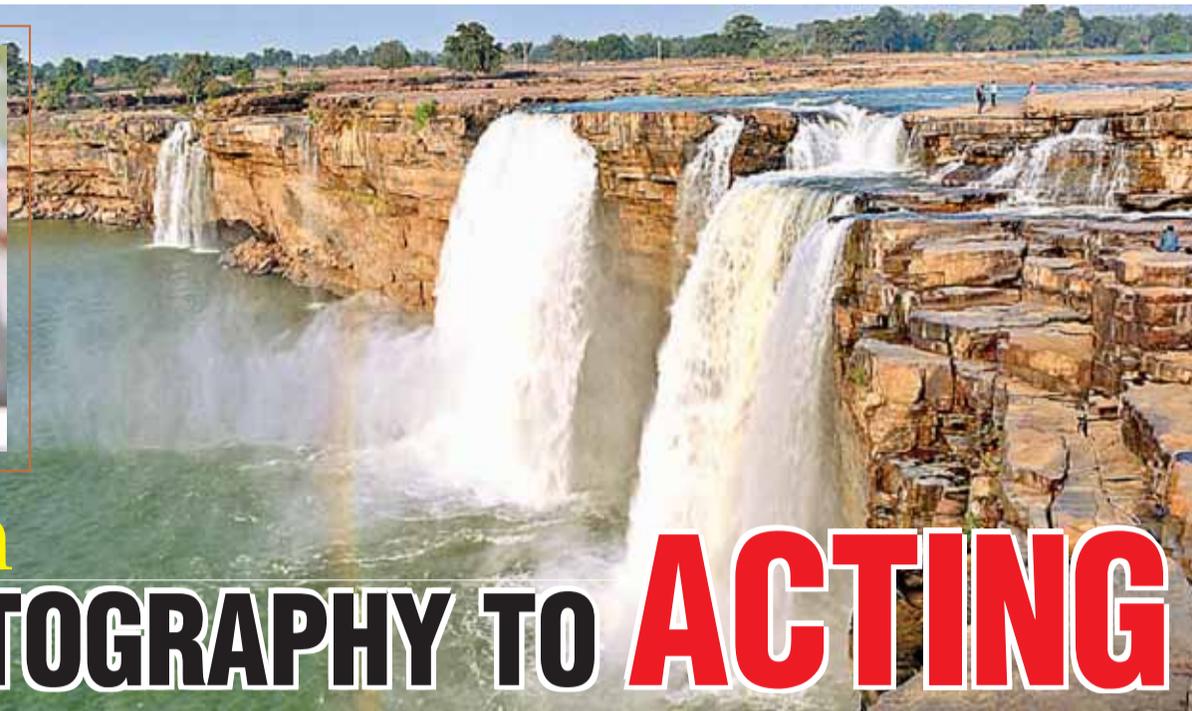
Among the G7 economies, Germany is the most socially mobile, ranking 11th with 78 points, followed by France in 12th position. Canada comes next (14th), followed by Japan (15th), the United Kingdom (21st), the United States (27th) and Italy (34th).





Medak-based photographer Sunny Palle has won various awards in photography and made his debut into movies recently. Speaking to V SATEESH REDDY, Sunny speaks about his photography journey, acting career, awards and more

## From PHOTOGRAPHY TO ACTING



**A** picture is worth a thousand words. Medak-based photographer-turned-actor Sunny Palle aka Srikanth is making his mark in both professions. He bagged the award for the best cameraman for the 48-hour film festival organised recently by the Department of Language and Culture, Government of Telangana. For his efforts in photography, Hong Kong Nature Photographic Society invited him for the fellowship. He also made his debut in films recently with the movie *Dorasani*.

Speaking to *The Pioneer*, Sunny says, "I was interested in acting since my childhood and used to act in various street plays during my schooling. Later, one of my friends opened a photo studio where I started learning about the camera. The art of photography excited me for its ability to capture beautiful moments. To know more about photography, I attended various photography workshops in Hyderabad. That is how my journey into photography started."

In 2014, Sunny won the national-level best photographer award in the Sigma National Level Photography

contest. Sunny shares, "I received the award in 2014 for a photograph that I captured in a tribal hamlet. I showcased the lifestyle of tribals in my photos. The award inspired me to travel other beautiful places in India."

Presently, Sunny is studying photography at the Sri Venkateshwara College of Fine Arts in Hyderabad. He won the best cameraman award at a short film festival that was held organised by Department of Language and Culture, Government of Telangana recently to encourage youth in filmmaking. About the contest, Sunny says, "Our topics for the contest included love, childhood memories and so on. We chose love. I worked as a cameraman for the short film *The Love* directed by my friend Bandari Harikrishna. Out of 200 entries, I was chosen as the best cameraman."

Sunny recently visited Bastar in Chhattisgarh along with his friends for a research work on the Kakatiya dynasty. During the research, Sunny captured the beauty of Chitratkote Falls and Teerathgarh Falls. He says, "The waterfalls are located in the Bastar district on the Indravati river. It is the widest



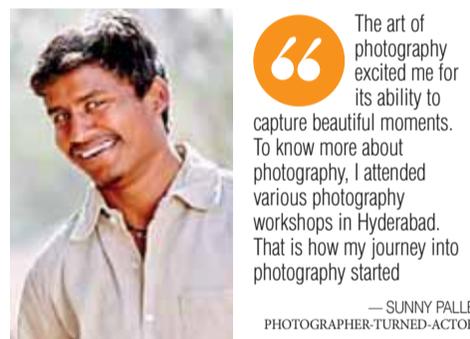
waterfall in India. Every monsoon season, when the Indravati floods, the waterfall spreads for about 300 meters wide and it is a visual delight for tourists."

Sunny said that places like Kerala are more clean and green compared to us since people feel it is each one's responsibility to keep the place clean. He informed that his photos were also displayed in World Street Photography Club Gallery, USA.

Recently, he debuted in

movies with *Dorasani*. He shares, "I played Anand Deverakonda's friend in the movie. After the movie released, I got more offers and I will share the details soon. I want to focus on films with different roles. I don't have any dream role and I give my best to any role I get."

On a concluding note, Sunny said that hard work is the secret of success for budding photographers and it is always important to observe nature while capturing images.



The art of photography excited me for its ability to capture beautiful moments. To know more about photography, I attended various photography workshops in Hyderabad. That is how my journey into photography started

— SUNNY PALLE  
 PHOTOGRAPHER-TURNED-ACTOR

## A cultural revolution in EXPRESSION

**SIDDHESH SUMAN** writes about the growing trend of hip hop in the city. He finds out how hip hop has integrated itself into the mainstream cultural expression

there has been a rise in the youth practicing the hip hop culture. Be it dance, rap or street art, the influence is visible.

Harsha Maheshwari aka Komet is a Hyderabad-based dancer and the director of Happy Hours Dance Place. She is known for the workshops she conducts in which she invites artistes from across the country to Hyderabad where they teach budding artistes through workshops like 'Camp Celebrate' and also organises dance battles such as 'Cypher Hours'.

Talking to *The Pioneer* about this growing culture of hip hop, she said, "Initially, it was the dance studios who started promoting the hip hop scene in the city where all youngsters, teachers came together and started making hip hop crews. It started with 'Blame it on the Boogie' organised by the Proximity Crew." "I have been a part of this scene for almost seven years now and it is super hard to get people into hip hop in a city where classical dancing has been given the highest platform. In the South, the government encourages classical music and dance performances by providing them with funds. Here, parents too do not encourage their chil-

A lot of artists came to Hyderabad from different cities and countries to teach here and that's when the popularity of this culture caught speed and it hasn't stopped since. Now Hyderabad is being recognised nationally and internationally with city folks representing Hyderabad on both national and international platforms

HARSHA MAHESHWARI  
 DANCER AND THE DIRECTOR OF HAPPY HOURS  
 DANCE PLACE



dren to learn western styles and prefer the traditional classical dance forms," she added.

"But people started attending workshops and a lot of artists came to

Hyderabad from different cities and countries to teach here and that's when the popularity of this culture caught speed and it hasn't stopped since. Dance battles were a platform



where artistes could share and learn from one another. And now Hyderabad is being recognised nationally and internationally with Hyderabad folks representing the city on both national and international platforms. That's because we have a lot of people coming from different cities to judge, to teach and artists from our city are going there to judge and teach. This exchange is how the word spreads and of course, social media is a very powerful platform pumping people over here

to put up their work," she said, stressing on the fact that people now know about the Hyderabad scene and that out of the five best Hip Hop jams in India, two of them belong to Hyderabad.

Like any other dance form even hip hop is associated with music. Rapper and DJ Aishan Vali explains how rapping is associated with hip hop. "The five major elements of hip hop are dance, DJing, rap, graffiti and beatboxing. The Mumbai scene of hip hop picked up

initially, thanks to rappers like Divine and Naezy. Anybody can take up rapping. You don't need to have a background in music. You just have to be yourself and original," he said, adding, "Hip hop is a culture that gives youth a platform to speak up and make themselves heard. This is a very inclusive culture anybody can be a part of it. It is very accessible and easy to get into and that is why I think rapping and hip hop is going to only grow in the future."

There are various locations in the city where aspiring artistes meet and discuss hip hop. Happy Hours dance place at Begumpet and HY dance studio at Madhapur are among many such places where artists meet, discuss and jam together. Some Hyderabad-based artists — Swapnil Kumar, Jerome Xavier, Smriti Agarwal, Anil Bhargava from Proximity Crew and Varun Dhopeshwarkar aka Dope V — are creating ripples in the hip pop scene in the country.

## PARTY

### EXOTIC FLORA

Ohryu Rekha Reddy, master at the Ohara School of Ikebana, recently launched an exhibition on Ikebana in Hyderabad. The exhibition was intended towards familiarising the Indian audience with the aesthetic of Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. People at the exhibition were left awestruck at the display of the Japanese art form. The exhibition was held at Dhi Artspace, Anand Bagh.



● Bhargavi



● Dolly



● Rekha Reddy



● Pallavi



● Uttara



● Anita

● Manisha

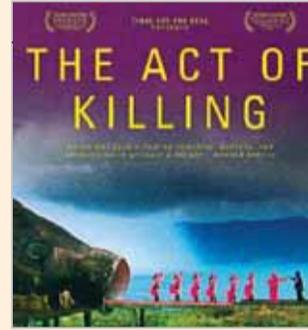
## CITY GUIDE

### COMEDY



**OH HELLO!**  
● Crowd favourite Rahul Dua starts his country tour again, this time travelling solo with his brand new stand up special 'Oh Hello!' He will be touring multiple venues in the city till January 25.

**THE ACT OF KILLING**  
● Cinephiles Film Club is screening a film The Act of Killing on January 29 at Lamakaan from 7.30 pm. Filmmakers expose horrifying mass executions of accused communists in Indonesia and those who are celebrated in their country for perpetrating the crime.



**BEYOND THOUGHT**  
● In a world full of constant change, we are always aware of what's going on and what we think about it. Cinephiles Film Club is presenting a documentary titled Beyond Thought on January 22 at 7 pm at Lamakaan.



**GET YOUR EVENT LISTED:** To get your events listed, send your details along with a poster and contact number to [pioneer.features@gmail.com](mailto:pioneer.features@gmail.com)



**DRAUPADI - A DANCE DRAMA**  
● Draupadi is a dance drama in Kuchipudi format, with Sravya Manasa playing the lead role as Draupadi. It deals with the less familiar phases of Draupadi's life along with her inclination towards Karna. The play shall be held at Phoenix Arena on February 1 at 7 pm.



**SPLENDOR OF MASTERS**  
● Banyan Tree's Splendor of Masters aims at showcasing a bouquet of maestros from the world of Indian music in combinations that are not only rare but also aesthetic and enriching. Every year this festival has received an overwhelming response from music lovers in various cities. The event will be organised at Shipikala Vedita on January 25 at 6 pm.



**SPEAK UP**  
● "SPEAK UP" is an intensive weekend workshop on effective Communication and Public Speaking skills. With theatre-based exercises, group activities and stage time, this program helps you break out with confidence and discover your own voice. The focus here is on verbal, non-verbal and written communication. The workshop will be conducted on January 25 from 11am to 5pm.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



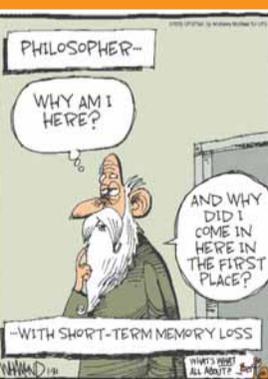
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



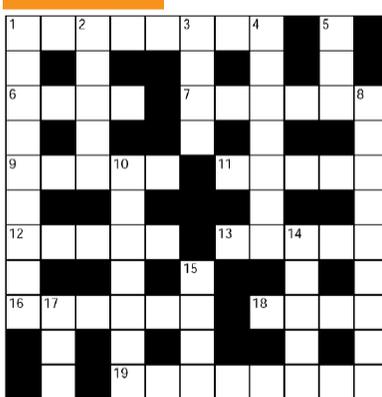
### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



### CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**  
1 Squashes completely  
6 A red gemstone  
7 Make tea in this  
9 Words by which people or places are known  
11 A striped animal  
12 Donates  
13 Defeats  
16 A red fruit for sandwiches  
18 A song performed by one  
19 Sick or injured people are cared for in this place

**DOWN**  
1 Two weeks  
2 A book for photographers  
3 Has a meal

4 A breed of cat with blue eyes and pale fur  
5 Animals are on show here  
8 This looks like a mushroom but might be poisonous  
10 A hair near your eye  
14 Approximately  
15 Things to play with  
17 This bird hunts at night

**SOLUTION**

W	F	B	S	C
H	E	L	I	C
O	P	T	E	R
O	I	L	E	D
S	W	I	T	Z
C	B	R	I	L
O	R	G	A	N
T	R	E	C	A
C	H	O	P	S
H	W	T	D	E

### SUDOKU

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

**Yesterday's solution**

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

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

# My wish of an industry hit with dad has been realised:

# BUNNY

Allu Arjun was speaking at the success celebrations of *Ala Vaikunthapuramlo* in Visakhapatnam over the weekend, reports **NAGARAJ GOUD**

With his Sankranti release, *Ala Vaikunthapuramlo* chugging on with immense steam at the box-office, leading man Allu Arjun is chuffed to bits. The film has minted a share of Rs 118 crore in the first week, surpassing the figures of *Sarileru Neekevvaru* and establishing non-Baahubali records in many places. Admittedly, the actor is grateful for director Trivikram, with whom he has joined forces for the third time. "My dad has produced industry hits with Chiranjeevi garu, Rajinikanth garu, Charan garu, Ghajini with Aamir Khan was an industry hit as well. I've been carrying a feeling that I haven't been a part of an industry

hit with him but *Ala Vaikunthapuramlo* changed that. I don't think I would've had the same fulfillment with other producers. On behalf of entire Allu family, I extend my wholehearted thanks to Trivikram," a gleeful Bunny pointed out. He was speaking at the success celebrations of the film in Visakhapatnam over the weekend.

He added this is the first time that his performance in a film was lauded by one and all. "Earlier, I used to receive individual craft compliments like I've danced well, excelled in action and acted comedy but this is the first time that I've unanimously got calls in praise of my performance. Trivikram garu deserves credit for it," he noted.

Recalling his association with the city of destiny, he informed that his first three films were shot at Vizag and that the place and its people have been a part of his success. "Revenue-wise, the area has become my fortress," he noted. He reiterated they had their own doubts whether audience will flock in big numbers to watch *Ala Vaikunthapuramlo*, especially with the advent of digital medium. "But Telugu audiences across the world have proved once again that they will always be ready to lap up a good film."



## Tarak and Trivikram's fun ride

With *Aravinda Sametha Veera Raghava*, Trivikram proved that he can pull off a serious drama without his trademark humour in abundance. The film was his intentional attempt to try something different after a disaster like *Agnyaathavaasi*. While he came back to the family-drama genre and played it safe with his subsequent film *Ala Vaikunthapuramlo*, *Aravinda Sametha...* gave him the confidence to tell stories without entertainment thrown into the mix. "I was sure that regular commercial elements

which include songs, humour and comedy tracks shouldn't cross my mind as I began to write *Aravinda Sametha...* and I succeeded. Overcoming my fear was my biggest take away from that film," Trivikram had told us early this month.

Which is why, for his next with Jr NTR, a joint production venture between Haarika & Hassine Creations and NTR Arts, he is trying an out-and-out comedy entertainer, something that will be different to his Sankranti blockbuster. "The film will hardly boast of any action. Even if distributors pressure him as the stakes will be

too big for a film of his with Tarak and that mass audience would love to see a mainstream star indulge in a fight or two, he wants to conceive action sequences realistically. It's been a long time since both he and Tarak individually have done a full-fledged comedy film and they want to enjoy the process of making this film. He has told the actor the story and his character graph. He will begin working on the story extensively from next month, with the film set to go in front of the cameras in summer. It will most likely be a Sankranti release," said a source.



## Ravi Teja hints at a sequel to **DISCO RAJA**

More than a year after his last release, *Ambar Akbar Anthony*, hit the screens; Ravi Teja is back with *Disco Raja*, a scientific-thriller set in the 80s. It marks him teaming up with Vi Anand for the first time. Speaking at the pre-release event, the actor said he had a great time shooting for the film, which opens this Friday, and hoped that audiences too will have a great time watching it.

"I've grown up watching films of late '70s and early '80s and I've got a character on the lines of those old films in *Disco Raja*. Which is why, I've enjoyed the part and immersed myself more. If everything goes well, there will be a sequel or prequel to the film," he said.

Anand on his part said that after *Tiger* released, Ravi Teja was the first person from the industry to have rung him and sang praises about his direction. "He didn't even know who was I to begin with, yet he had a word of encouragement for me. It meant a lot to me. He had good words to say after *Ekkadiki Pothavu Chinnavada* and *Okka Kshanam* as well. *Disco Raja* took shape because of him," Anand said.

He added that every director should work with Ravi Teja at least once before they go on to make films with other actors. "It's been a great learning experience working with him. I've learnt life lessons as well from him," he informed.

A science fiction action film, *Disco Raja* also features Payal Rajput, Nabha Natesh, Tanya Hope, Vennela Kishore, Satya, and Ajay while Bobby Simha will be playing the role of the main antagonist. S.S Thaman is composing the music.



## Ronit Roy, Ali join Puri's next with Deverakonda

Vijay Deverakonda's next with Puri Jagannadh was launched in

production venture between Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Puri Jagannadh and Charmme Kaur. While *Fighter*

was in contention to be the film's title, a little birdie tells us that Karan has advised Puri to come up with an alternate powerful title. "If the director cracks one, its good, else *Fighter* will be retained," said the source.

Ananya Panday is the frontrunner to romance Deverakonda in the film although the makers didn't divulge her name in the official press release.



## Vidhi Vilasam launched



The Pioneer was the first to inform you that Shivathmika Rajasekhar

has signed a film, *Vidhi Vilasam*, opposite Adith Arun (on December 18, 2019). To this end, the latest is that the film, which marks the directorial debut of G. Durga Naresh who assisted Dasaradh earlier, was officially launched in Hyderabad on Monday. As Harish Shankar switched on the camera, director Praveen Sattaru sounded the clapperboard for the first shot. Dasaradh directed the honorary first shot.

Speaking later, Shivathmika said that she hopped on board after finding the story to be interesting.

"I'm excited to begin

shooting for the film. Adith is a friend of mine and I'm happy to be acting with him," she said.

The director said Adith has been a dear friend to him and that he is happy to be directing him.

"Shivathmika has a performance-oriented role. The title is drawing great response," he said.

To go to floors next month, the film, produced by Shiva Dinesh Rahul Ayyar under SKS Creations, features Kota Sreenivas Rao, Indrāja, Jayaprakash, Posani Krishna Murali, Ajay, Satya and Thagubothu Ramesh in supporting roles. Sekhar Chandra is the music director.

## Thaman's music for Mahesh's film

Hot off the phenomenal success of *Ala Vaikuntha-puramlo*, SS Thaman is the prime contender to compose music for Superstar Mahesh Babu's next with Vamshi Paidipally. While everybody expected Paidipally to repeat Devi Sri Prasad again for the film, pressure from Mahesh's fans forced him to approach Thaman. It is said that the composer has evinced his interest straightaway. With the film set to start in summer, he believes he can complete the projects in hand and start afresh for Mahesh film. The

composer has previously belted out hit albums like *Dookudu*, *Businessman* and *Aagadu* for Mahesh.

A major part of the untitled film, which sees Mahesh in the role of a gangster, will be shot in Visakhapatnam. Dil Raju is attached to produce it.

**WHILE EVERYBODY EXPECTED PAIDIPALLY TO REPEAT DEVI SRI PRASAD, PRESSURE FROM MAHESH'S FANS FORCED HIM TO APPROACH THAMAN**



# Virat confident of good show in NZ

Citing recent result Indian skipper says his team will try to put Black Caps under pressure from start

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A series win against a strong Australia and the performance in New Zealand last year gives India a lot of confidence ahead of a fresh tour beginning on January 24, said skipper Virat Kohli whose team will be aiming to put the Black Caps under pressure from the word go.

India will be playing five T20s, three ODIs and two Tests in New Zealand. They had beaten the hosts 4-1 in ODIs before losing the T20 series 1-2.

"We are taking a lot of confidence from our performance (in NZ) last year. We were very positive in how we played, very sure of what we wanted to do. The thing about playing away is if you're able to put the home team under pressure, you can enjoy your cricket," Kohli said.

"You have to win at home, there's that sort of feeling (for hosts). So if you bring out your A game, you can really put them under pressure. That's what we did last year, squeezed them in the middle overs, picked up wickets, spinners were outstanding. Looking forward to take that same intensity into the series."

Ahead of the New Zealand tour, Kohli said it became even more important to win the home series against Australia here on Sunday. The team leaves for New Zealand on Monday night.

"We spoke of that at the huddle, that this is the last game we're playing in the series and if we win, you go on a tour on a happy note. If you lose, it can go under the radar, you can brush it aside as 'oh it's just one loss'."

"But when you win and win under pressure, the last two games were tough wins, it boosts your confidence which we're carrying forward," he said.

On the limited overs leg of the New Zealand tour, Kohli picked out the areas of improvement.

"Again, we want to bat well when



Virat Kohli bats during the third one-day international cricket match between India and Australia

we bat first and in case we're defending a low total, we should be able to do that as well. We can't afford to ease into the series after two games, because then it keeps getting tougher and tougher, so we'll look to make a mark in the first game that we play," he said.

The skipper loves playing against Australia as it brings the best out of him. He explained why he relishes the Australian challenge.

"Last year (at home) after 2-0 up, we thought we're definitely going to win one of the three at home, but they showed us that they understand these conditions very well now (to win 3-2), having played here a lot in the IPL and so many tours over the years," Kohli said.

"So, although they had a stronger side (with Steve Smith and David Warner back) than last time, we thought if we play good enough, we can beat this team. The only thing we needed to be wary of was our body language and intent because that's Australia's strongest point."

"All the teams in the world are skilled but these guys play with the intent of making things happen every over you play against them. So you can't take your foot off the pedal at all, that's what we've done in the last two games. The partnerships that I mentioned today, even the singles were taken with intent," said Kohli.

India raced to victory in the series-deciding third ODI against Australia, courtesy fine knocks from Kohli himself and Rohit Sharma. They both could not stay till the end but the finishing touches were provided by Shreyas Iyer, who remained unbeaten on 44.

And the skipper was all praise for Iyer.

"I don't think he's (Iyer) going to have any issues anymore because he really went after their best bowlers and got the results. It took pressure off of me as well not having to take risks and the other guy striking at 140-145. I think it was really smart how we went about it" Kohli added.

# Kohli, Rohit consolidate top batting positions

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli and his deputy Rohit Sharma consolidated their top two positions in the batting chart, while pace ace Jasprit Bumrah continued to lead among bowlers in the ICC ODI Rankings issued on Monday.

Following their stellar performances against Australia in the just-concluded series, which India won 2-1, Kohli (No.1) and Rohit (No.2) have strengthened their positions.

With 183 runs under his belt against Australia, Kohli was the player-of-the-series while Rohit was a close second, garnering 171 runs in the rubber, including a match-winning 119 in the deciding ODI in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Kohli (886 points) and Rohit (868 points) have gained two and three ratings points, respectively to occupy the top two positions in the batting rankings.

Left-handed opener Shikhar Dhawan has also gained seven slots to reach 15th position with 170 runs in two innings, missing a chance to bat in Bengaluru after injuring his shoulder while field-

ing. K L Rahul, who opened in his place in the final ODI, has gained 21 slots to reach 50th position with an aggregate of 146 runs.

Bumrah, who returned from injury in the Australia series, is atop the bowlers chart with 764 points, ahead of New Zealand left-arm pacer Trent Boult and Afghanistan's Muejib Ur Rahman. South Africa's Kagiso Rabada and Australian Pat Cummins complete the top five.

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has moved up two slots to be 27th among bowlers after finishing with four wickets in the series.

He also scored 45 runs in two innings and has gained four places in the all-rounders' list to be ranked 10th.

Australian Steve Smith, who topped the series with an aggregate of 229 runs including a knock of 131 in the final ODI, has been rewarded with a four-place jump to 23rd position.

David Warner, a formerly top-ranked batsman in the format, has also moved up one place to sixth while captain Aaron Finch has moved up one place into 10th. Wicketkeeper Alex Carey is in 31st position after gaining two slots.

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa's five wickets in the series saw him advance 20 places to reach 37th position, while Kane Richardson has moved from 77th to 65th.



# Kohli greatest ODI player of all-time: Finch

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Australian captain Aaron Finch has rated his Indian counterpart Virat Kohli as "probably" the greatest ODI player of all-time, while picking Rohit Sharma in the top-five.

Rohit (119) scored his 29th ODI hundred and Kohli made 89 off 91 balls as they shared a match-winning stand of 137 in the decisive third game against Australia here on Sunday.

For Finch, what stood out was that India overhauled the 287-run target with ease despite opener Shikhar Dhawan not coming out to bat due to a shoulder injury.

"They've got Virat who is probably the greatest ODI player of all-time, and Rohit would probably be in the top five batters of all-time. They're exceptional, and the thing with the Indian side at the moment is their experienced players are getting the job done in the big games," Finch said.

"Rohit's 100, especially without Shikhar there tonight, for them to shuffle and their two most dominant players to still get majority of the runs is a sign of a really settled and real-

ly quality top-order," said Finch. Australia could not get the final flourish they were looking for, mustering only 63 runs in the last 10 overs at the loss of five wickets, far too many in Finch's view.

"In the last two games we have had the bowlers batting for the majority of the last few overs. Which we saw in Rajkot the damage that KL (Rahul) could do in the back end because he was a settled batter. I think that's an area we just missed a couple of tricks. "Just not having an in batter being in and having faced 20 or 30 balls to get us deeper and get us to the back end," Finch said.

He also praised India's death over bowling at the same time.

"But credit to India, their death bowling in the last few games was exceptional. (Mohammed) Shami was nailing his yorkers. (Navdeep) Saini in the last two games and (Jasprit) Bumrah. In both games they were exceptional. You can look at where we could have improved but also you've got to give some credit to India," said Finch.



# Eng celebrate innings win over SA

MOST RUNS IN A SINGLE OVER IN TESTS				
Runs	Batsman	Bowler	Venue	Season
28	Brian Lara (West India)	Robin Peterson	Johannesburg	2003-04
28	George Bailey (Australia)	James Anderson	Perth	2013-14
28	Keshav Maharaj (S.Africa)	Joe Root	Port Elizabeth	2019-20
27	Shahid Afridi (Pakistan)	Harbhajan Singh	Lahore	2005-06

FAISEL FEATURES



England team celebrate taking the wicket of Rassie van der Dussen

AFP ■ PORT ELIZABETH

England completed a comprehensive win by an innings and 53 runs on the fifth day of the third Test against South Africa at St George's Park on Monday, taking an unbeatable 2-1 lead in the four-match series.

England were held up by a last wicket stand of 99 between Keshav Maharaj (71) and Dane Paterson (39 not out) and it needed a direct-hit run-out by Sam Curran from mid-on to clinch the result shortly before lunch. South Africa were bowled out for 237.

The partnership

between Maharaj and Paterson was easily South Africa's best of the match and showed up an otherwise poor batting performance by the hosts.

South Africa added 135 runs in losing their last four wickets, which seemed unlikely when Vernon Philander chipped a catch to midwicket off Stuart Broad three balls into the day.

Mark Wood and Dom Bess also took wickets but England captain Joe Root could not add to his four wickets taken on Sunday, conceding 56 runs in 10 overs on Monday to finish with four for 87.

## TRIUMPH

Maharaj hit Root for three fours and two sixes in an over which ended with four byes, costing 28 in total.

Despite the late face-saving flourish for the hosts, it was a result which was a triumph for England's youth policy, while the way South Africa were outplayed was a devastating blow for captain Faf du Plessis and new coach Mark Boucher.

Even before Monday's last rites there was speculation about Du Plessis' future. He has expressed his desire to lead South Africa in the T20 World Cup in Australia in October and November, by which time he will be 36.

It seems possible that the fourth Test in Johannesburg from Friday could be his last home series in charge.

It was South Africa's seventh defeat in their last eight Tests, the only exception being their win in the first Test against England when it seemed that radical changes in the team management might have heralded a new dawn.

# Tiripano strikes early to give Zimbabwe edge

AFP ■ HARARE



AFP ■ HARARE

Donald Tiripano struck early to remove Oshada Fernando and complete an excellent second day of the first Test for Zimbabwe against Sri Lanka in Harare.

The 31-year-old seamer had earlier made a handy 44 not out batting at number eight as Zimbabwe advanced from their overnight 189 for two to 358 all out.

Left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya, playing in his sixth Test, was the stand-out bowler with five for 114.

When bad light stopped play for the day, Sri Lanka had reached 42 for the loss of Fernando who had his off stump flattened by Tiripano's very first delivery.

The day began with Zimbabwe Craig Ervine well set on 55 and looking for his third Test century.

The 34-year-old progressed comfortably to 85 until pace

bowler Suranga Lakmal nipped one through his defence shortly before lunch.

It was the third wicket to fall during the morning as Lakmal also produced a full inswinger to have Brendan Taylor leg before for 21 and Zimbabwe captain Sean Williams edged left-arm spinner Embuldeniya to Niroshan Dickwella behind the stumps.

The left-arm spinner removed Regis Chakabva shortly after lunch but Sikandar Raza and Tiripano then both settled in.

Raza fell for a flighty 41, stumped by Dickwella as he charged at Embuldeniya, who also bowled Jarvis.

Ndlovu was brilliantly snapped up at short-leg by Kusal Mendis off Lahiru Kumara. Lakmal dismissed last man Victor Nyauchi just after the delayed break to finish with three for 53, leaving Tiripano undefeated on 44.

# Simmons blasts 10 sixes as WI rout Ireland

AFP ■ BASSETTERRE (SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS)

Opening batsman Lendl Simmons blasted 10 sixes in an undefeated 91 as West Indies routed Ireland by nine wickets in the third and final Twenty20 International at Warner Park here on Sunday.

Simmons, the nephew of West Indies coach Phil Simmons, also hit five boundaries in his 40-ball blitz. It was his highest score in the format and came just five days before his 35th birthday.

Chasing a modest 139 to win, Simmons won the match in style with a six over midwicket off spinner Simi Singh whose three overs cost 41 runs.

Fellow opener Evin Lewis made 46 with four boundaries and three sixes as West Indies raced to victory with 54 balls remaining.

The three-match series ended 1-1 after Ireland edged a first-game thriller by four runs in Grenada before Saturday's match at Warner Park was abandoned due to rain. Earlier, veteran all-rounders Kieron Pollard and Dwayne Bravo shared six wickets as West Indies restricted Ireland to 138 all out. Captain Pollard, who produced the best bowling spell by a West Indian in T20 internationals (4-25) in Saturday's abandoned game, claimed 3-17.

Bravo finished with 3-19 to become the West Indies' leading all-time wicket-taker in the format with 57 victims in his 69th game. That beat the previous best of 54 by leg-spinner Samuel Badree.

Put into bat, Ireland raced to 50-0 off just 3.3 overs with openers Kevin O'Brien (top scoring with 36) and Paul Stirling again getting their team off to a storming start. However, Pollard dismissed O'Brien after the Irishman hit his runs off only 18 balls with Bravo then accounting for Stirling (11).

# Ishant's injury adds to Delhi woes as Vidarbha take complete control

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's miserable season just got worse as premier speedster Ishant Sharma twisted his ankle after another woeful outing with the bat against defending champions Vidarbha in a Ranji Trophy group A encounter on Monday.

On a helpful track, former India U-19 seamer Aditya Thakare's career-best 7 for 55 restricted Delhi to 163 in reply to visitors' first innings score of 179.

By the time, play was called off due to bad light, Vidarbha were 35 for no loss as the track got easier for batting.

Vidarbha now have an overall lead of 51 but more importantly, the pitch has eased out. With a bowler short and the wily artist Wasim Jaffer longing for an easy second innings pitch, Delhi at the moment is knocking down the barrel.

And it didn't help Delhi's cause



**On a helpful track, former India U-19 seamer Aditya Thakare's career-best 7 for 55 restricted Delhi to 163 in reply to visitors' first innings score of 179**

bowling was tripped again. IPL specialist Nitish Rana became Thakare's fifth victim of the innings giving a catch to skipper Fazal.

Only keeper Anuj Rawat (37 off 101 balls) showed some stomach for fight adding 36 for the ninth wicket

with Simarjeet Singh (23) even as Umesh Yadav (2/45) removed all-rounder Lalit Yadav (7) and Kumar Bidhuri (19).

## YADAV'S DOUBLE TON FLOORS MUMBAI

Mumbai : Batsman-wicketkeeper Upendra Yadav's maiden double ton propelled Uttar Pradesh to a mammoth 625/8 declared on the second day of their Elite Group B Ranji Trophy game against Mumbai on Monday.

Twenty-three-year-old Yadav was the cynosure of all eyes at Wankhede Stadium as he took a listless Mumbai attack to the cleaners first in the company of Saurabh Kumar (44 off 47 balls; 8x4) and then with skipper Ankit Rajpoot (32 off 63 balls; 5x4) and Yash Dayal (41 not out).

Yadav (203 not out off 239 balls) conjured 72 runs for the seventh wicket with Saurabh to take the game away from Mumbai, and then

forged a 119-run eight-wicket stand with Rajpoot, as Uttar Pradesh took complete control.

Adding to Mumbai's woes, Yadav and Dayal put up an unbroken 131-run stand for the ninth wicket.

Yadav, who registered the highest score by a number 7 batsman against Mumbai, smashed 27 fours and one six in his 239 balls unbeaten knock.

## TIWARY TRIPLE TON TO PUT BENGAL ON TOP

Kalyani (WB) : Senior batsman Manoj Tiwary cracked his maiden first class triple century to put Bengal in the driver's seat against Hyderabad in their Ranji Trophy Group A clash here on Monday.

The 34-year-old, who has played 12 ODIs and 3 T20 Internationals, was at his sublime best, smashing 30 fours and five sixes, en route to his unbeaten 303 from 414 balls at a strike rate of 73.19. His marathon

knock lasted 10 hours and 30 minutes.

His final 50 came off just 37 balls as he got to the landmark in the fourth ball of the final session of the second day, gliding part-timer Buddhi Rahul through covers boundary. Bengal immediately declared their first innings at 635 for seven.

Tiwary, who last played for India in 2015, also became the only second batsman from Bengal to hit a triple ton — after Devang Gandhi's 323 versus Assam at Guwahati in 1998-99 season. His previous best was 267 as Bengal skipper against Madhya Pradesh in a drawn encounter in Kolkata in 2011-12 season.

After Tiwary's sensational innings, it was time for Bengal pace duo of Akash Deep (3/46) and Mukesh Kumar (2/29) to wreak havoc as they reduced Hyderabad to 83 for five in the final session. Hyderabad still trail Bengal by 552 runs with two days left.