Follow us on: @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/dailypioneer

ANALYSIS 7
FERTILISER DBT AN ILLUSION

MONEY 8
IT SPENDING TO GROW 6% IN 2021 TO $ 81.9 BN

PAGE 12
DFSDF
SDF

RNI No. TELENG/2018/76469
Established 1864
Published From
HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW
BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA
*LATE CITY VOL. 3 ISSUE 38
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

HYDERABAD, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

SREE VISHNU TURNS TRUCK DRIVER FOR GAALI SAMPATH
Page 11

SERUM TO DISTRIBUTE '90% EFFECTIVE' OXFORD VAX IN INDIA

Britain's AstraZeneca said on Monday its vaccine for the novel coronavirus could be around 90% effective without any serious side effects, giving the world another important tool to halt the COVID-19 pandemic. The combined analysis from both dosing regimens resulted in an average efficacy of 70%. The vaccine developed by Oxford University was 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 when it was administered as a half dose followed by a full dose at least one month apart, according to data from the late-stage trials in Britain and Brazil. No serious safety events related to the vaccine have been confirmed and it was well tolerated across both dosing regimens, it said.

MUMBAI EVENT MANAGER RAPED AT DELHI 5-STAR HOTEL, TWO HELD

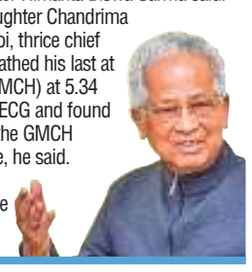
The Delhi police have arrested two owners of a dhaba for allegedly raping a Mumbai-based event manager at a five-star hotel in the national capital. The two men were held on Saturday, November 21, according to the police. The two arrested, Micky Mehta, 57, and Navin Dwar, 46, are residents of Delhi, though their restaurant is located near Sonipat, Haryana. The 27-year-old woman has told the police that she met her Facebook friend Mr Mehta and his associate Mr Dwar on November 18 and 19. On their way back from Connaught Place to the hotel located in the Aerocity locality near the Delhi airport, on November 19, Mr Dwar began to misbehave with her, she alleged.

NETANYAHU HELD SECRET TALKS IN SAUDI WITH POMPEO, PRINCE

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held secret talks in Saudi Arabia Sunday with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, media said, in the first reported trip by an Israeli premier to the kingdom. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who was in Israel last week, was also at the reported talks, a diplomatic correspondent at Israeli public broadcaster Kan said on Monday. The broad-caster cited unnamed Israeli officials as saying that Netanyahu and the head of the Mossad spy agency Yossi Cohen "flew yesterday to Saudi Arabia, and met Pompeo and MBS in the city of Neom", referring to Prince Mohammed's initials.

FORMER ASSAM CM TARUN GOGOI DIES FROM POST-COVID COMPLICATIONS

Veteran Congress leader and a three-term former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi died here on Monday while undergoing treatment for post-COVID-19 complications, state Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. He was 84 and is survived by wife Dolly, daughter Chandrima and son Gaurav, a Lok Sabha member. Gogoi, thrice chief minister of the state from 2001 to 2016, breathed his last at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) at 5.34 pm, Sarma said. The doctors conducted an ECG and found that his heart has stopped, following which the GMCH superintendent confirmed that he is no more, he said. Kovind said Gogoi's passing away marked the end of an era and his long tenure in office was a period of epochal change in the state.



Momentum of economic reforms will continue: FM

8

KTR's aides were given a free hand to encroach: Revanth

4

Modi has ensured democracy has reached every inch of India

2

TRS stands for TS-bPASS, BJP for 'curfew-pass': KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS chief and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Monday asked residents of the city to choose whether they want "TS-bPASS Hyderabad" or "Curfew-pass Hyderabad", while casting their votes in the ensuing GHMC elections on December 1.

Cautioning people that if communal forces like the BJP win GHMC polls, Hyderabad will see the return of communal clashes and curfews that were a frequent occurrence prior to the formation of Telangana state.

"Hyderabad will collapse, real estate will be hit and land prices will crash if communal forces rule the city," the Chief Minister said, releasing the manifesto at Telangana Bhavan, the party headquarters here.

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao releases the TRS manifesto for the GHMC elections in the presence of the party senior leaders in Hyderabad on Monday.

KCR said the TRS government has the rare distinction of introducing unique and progressive policies such as TS-iPASS, TS-bPASS and the one-of-its-kind Dharani portal for land management. "People from all over the country have settled in the city, and are a happy lot. The city has a rich culture and a great history. The TRS, which has already taken up several initiatives to make it a truly global city, will strive to keep the momentum going through various schemes and initiatives," KCR said.

2

TRS cancels KCR's public meeting

Hyderabad: The proposed TRS public meeting at LB Stadium to be addressed by party supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao on November 29, the last day of campaigning, is learnt to have been cancelled. Sources said KCR asked party leaders to cancel the public meeting keeping in view the threat of 'second wave of coronavirus' warned of by health experts.
KCR had earlier planned to end the TRS campaign by addressing a public meeting at LB Stadium in line with the strategy he had adopted during 2016 GHMC polls.

2

TRS poll punch: Free drinking water in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Going all out to woo the electorate in the ensuing Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections, the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) has come out with irresistible promises to the people in its election manifesto.

Releasing the manifesto at a press conference at the party head office the Telangana Bhavan here on Monday, TRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao announced that households in Hyderabad consuming less than 20,000 litres of drinking water every month wouldn't have to pay their water bills with effect from December.

The TRS chief said the decision would provide huge relief to the poor and middle-class citizens of the GHMC and also prevent wastage of water.

"In the subsequent phases, it will be extended to other municipalities and municipal corporations in the state," he said.

KCR also annou-nced free power supply to salons, laundries and dhobi ghats, not only in Hyderabad, but across the State with effect from December.

He also promised that all dhobhi ghats that were damaged during the recent rains would be rebuilt at state cost.

KCR also announced waiver of Motor Vehicle Tax amounting to Rs 267 crore for the two quarters of the current year payable by 3,37,611 vehicle owners, all over the state, including GHMC, applicable from April to September.

Another promise made in the manifesto is the waiver of minimum electricity charges for high-tension and low-tension categories of industries, cinema theatres and commercial firms for a period of six months, as they suffered heavily during the lockdown period across the state from April to September.

Movie halls in TS to reopen with 50% seats

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State government on Monday permitted with immediate effect the reopening of cinemas, theatres and multiplexes with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity in areas outside containment zones duly following Covid norms.

Show timings are to be staggered to ensure that intervals of different screenings do not occur simultaneously.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, citing the Ministry of Home Affairs orders, said the management of cinemas, theatres and multiplexes should ensure that all persons including the audience, staff, vendors etc., use masks at all times; ensure hand sanitizers at entry and exit points and common areas.

The orders also mandated following physical distancing and crowd management measures; sanitisation of entire premises particularly common areas after every screening; and that temperature setting of all air conditioning devices be set in the range of 24-30 degree Celsius.

2

33 Maoist militia members surrender in TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A total of 33 militia members of the banned CPI (Maoist) on Monday surrendered before police in Bhadradri Kothagudem district, police said.

The 33 militia members and the village committee members of the CPI (Maoist) from Battinapalli and Kishtarampadu villages of Cherla mandal gave themselves up in the presence of police and CRPF, they said.

They had been working for the Maoist party for the past two years and some among them were allegedly involved in road blasting, planting of landmines and burning of construction equipment vehicles used in road construction work.

2

It's all in the family for Tejaswi Surya

BJP's youth mascot talks about family and friends, TRS and AIMIM; ruffles a lot of feathers in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP MP and the party's youth wing president Tejaswi Surya on Monday hit out at the ruling TRS in Telangana, alleging that the party leadership indulged in promoting family rule, ignoring the people.

He also lambasted the AIMIM, describing its president Asaduddin Owaisi as the new 'avatar' of Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

"Government is not working for the common people of Telangana....government is working only for one family of Telangana," he said.

In BJP, an ordinary worker like him can become a national leader, he said.

2

BJP youth wing president Tejaswi Surya launches the 'Change Hyderabad' campaign in Hyderabad on Monday

Vijayashanti to join BJP, confirms Aruna

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP leaders on Monday claimed that TPCC Campaign Committee chairperson Vijayashanthi would join their party on Tuesday. Confirming this, BJP national vice-president DK Aruna said that the actress-turned-politician would be joining the party in the presence of a senior leader.

Aruna went on to claim that several Congress leaders were ready to join BJP. She added that TPCC chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy was spreading misinformation against her to save his post.

It may be recalled that a post on social media went viral on Monday stating that Uttam succeeded in convincing

2

Azad conspiring to break Congress: Bishnoi

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Congress leader Kuldeep Bishnoi on Monday threw his weight behind the party's top leadership and launched a blistering attack against senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, accusing him of hatching a conspiracy with rivals to break the party.

The Adampur MLA appealed to Congress leaders and workers not to pay attention to opportunist leaders like Azad, whom he charged with betraying the Gandhi family.

I want to tell Azad sahib that we will not let the conspiracy he is hatching with the rival parties to break the Congress succeed, Bishnoi said in a video message on his Twitter handle.

On Sunday, Azad had said there is a huge disconnect between people and Congress leaders and "five-star culture" has crept into the party. He had called for an overhaul of the party structure by conducting elections from block to state level.

Bishnoi, the younger son of former Haryana chief minister Bhajan Lal, said, I heard the statement of Ghulam Nabi Azad and felt surprised, pained and very angry that such a senior person was giving irresponsible statement that too on a public platform. It needs to be strongly condemned.

Azad says elections should be held from bottom to top level but he must answer me when he was being appointed as the Jammu and Kashmir youth wing president and the All-India youth president, at that time why he did not talk of elections, he said launching a no-holds-barred attack against the veteran leader.

What is your history? In entire life, you have won only three polls. Are you giving advice to the Congress Party. Are you talking against the Gandhi family which nominated you to the Rajya Sabha on five occasions, Bishnoi said.

What is your history, two times Lok Sabha and one-time Vidhan Sabha. I have won more elections than you. I have won six elections, two Lok Sabha and four Vidhan Sabha, and I am still a sitting legislator, said Bishnoi.

TRS- BJP social media dialogue reaches a new low

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Social media posts pertaining to the ensuing GHMC elections on Monday stooped to a new low, with hashtag turning a very abusive and vulgar Telugu word being used.

It all started with BJP Yuva Morcha president and MP from Bengaluru South Tejasvi Surya's visit to the city to launch the 'Change Hyderabad' campaign.

Netizens took objection to Tejasvi calling Hyderabad 'Baghyanagar" and soon enough, #D****yTejasviSurya started trending on Twitter.

A Ravichandra who used the hashtag said, "We don't want our lives to be stuck between temple and masjid".

Another said that a hatemonger doesn't have a place in Telangana. A Vamshi Krishna said, "An average Hyderabadi is not so political. Soon people started coming up with statements like "We will ban Haleem, We will ban Biryani, We will change name of Hyderabad , You are leaving us no other option but to say #D****yTejasviSurya" (sic).

Soon several netizens took objection to this trend and used #ItIsHyderabadNotBhagyanagar hashtag. However, BJP social media followers accused TRS of creating such a trend.

BJP followers soon started #swagatamTejasviSurya.

Sumiran Komarraju, a BJP follower, said, "Hyderabad is a city which welcomes everyone with open heart and makes them feel this city is for all. TRS has started a bile, below the belt attack. This is mindset of TRS leaders & workers. This is precisely why we need to #ChangeHyderabad" (sic).

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Ashwin & Krishna Paksha
Panchangam
Tithi : Dashami: 02:41 am (Next Day)
Nakshatram: Purva Bhadrapada: 03:32 pm
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 02:49 pm – 04:12 pm
Yamagandam: 09:16 am – 10:39 am
Varjyam: 02:15 am – 04:02 am
Gulika: 12:02 pm - 01:26 pm
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritakalam: 06:43 am – 08:28 am
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:40 am – 12:25 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy
Temp: 29/16
Humidity: 42%
Sunrise: 06.26am
Sunset: 05.39pm
Current Weather Conditions
Updated November 23, 2020 5:00 PM

Modi has ensured democracy has reached every inch of India

Prime Minister Narandra Modi reposes immense confidence in the primary level of democracy.

He trusts the fact that democracy will be healthier and fruits of development reach the last layer of society if decentralisation reaches village level.

In fact, local body elections are of paramount importance for any political party to give meaning to its development programmes while consolidating its strength at the grassroots-level.

At the same time, these elections are instrumental in parties proving their stand that they are answerable.

The Balwant Rai Committee submitted a comprehensive report in 1957, in which it made crystal clear that it's necessary to make the people a crucial part of policy decisions and of governance if all the socioeconomic schemes were to reach the beneficiaries. The Committee also indicated that local bodies would be properly empowered if required funds are given, along with allocation of power. But when Congress was at the helm of affairs, the process of decentralisation of power was completely destroyed.

It became a regular practice for the Congress governments to procrastinate elections for 10 to 15, according to their whims and fancies.

Though Constitutional amendments 73 and 74 provide a platform to grant sanctity to organise elections to local bodies under PV Narasimha Rao, yet those on the echelons of the party were not inclined towards decentralisation of power due to many reasons.

Modi reiterated vociferously on several occasions that decentralisation of power is the key to good governance. Ever since he came to power, the share of funds distributed to local bodies has been increasing exponentially. Modi brought out an effective change by abolishing the Planning Commission.

To ease doing business, he formulated a strategy to function in combination with the states. After abolishment of the License Permit Raj, states were comforted with key roles in economic progress. Whatever the scheme that the Union Government envisages, Modi ensured that states implement it successfully.

Only State Government officials are visible to the people at the field level. In case local bodies elections take place within the stipulated time with due participation of the people, local bodies get a larger share of funds. The 15th Finance Commission granted Rs 90,000 crore to the local bodies, of which Rs 60,750 crore favour the rural local bodies and the remaining Rs 29,250 crore to the urban local bodies.

In view of an increase in the number of people reaching cities, the need of the hour is to improve the infrastructural facilities. The goal of enriching urban development will be attained only when mayors get empowered. States are also expected to tread on the same path.

In Kashmir, despite some political parties rejecting the elections and in the face of violence, 74 percent of voters cast their vote. Now, elections for district development committees are about to take place. Despite the pandemic, basing on the prevailing conditions in the states, the dates of elections are being fixed.

Unfortunately, decentralisation of power has become a dream for the people of Andhra Pradesh.

When Chandrababu Naidu was the Chief Minister in the undivided AP, the local body elections were held only once, as they were in the YSR regime.

Only at the instance of the High Court did Kiran Kumar Reddy was forced to conduct the elections in 2013. Even after bifurcation, power at the primary level did not reach the people of AP in the last six years.

It's intriguing why Jaganmohan Reddy is obstructing the elections at a time when the poll panel is inclined to conduct them. Decentralisation of power will surely benefit the people, especially when the poll panel and the State Government are in absolute agreement.

Unfortunately, this is the reason elections in AP are not visible on the horizon.

The unhealthy differences between the two are denying the people of their right gifted by the Constitution. Personal grudges and nefarious caste equations are proving to be a detriment to the very existence of democracy.

In Telangana, the sight of the Chief Minister emerging from the cage of his farmhouse and conducting the GHMC elections is a strange one indeed.

The victory of BJP in recent elections of Dubbaka sent shockwaves and now tremors in the TRS are evident.

This is very much evident by the fact that the ruling party suddenly announced the elections without even giving ample time to file nominations.

The same Chief Minister who did not care to meet and console the people when the calamities like floods surrounded them right now shows all the signs of anxiety to announce Rs 10,000 to each affected household.

All his promises listed in the TRS manifesto like free power and water stand as testimony to the fear drawn from the victory of the BJP in Dubbaka.

People of Telangana are not ready to believe KCR once again.

Only State Government officials are visible to the people at the field level. In case local bodies elections take place within the stipulated time with due participation of the people, local bodies get a larger share of funds. The 15th Finance Commission granted Rs 90,000 crore to the local bodies, of which Rs 60,750 crore favour the rural local bodies and the remaining Rs 29,250 crore to the urban local bodies

Y SATYA KUMAR
BJP National Secretary

TRULY SPEAKING

More young adults in TS, AP hit the labour market post lockdown

SNV SUDHIR
VIJAYAWADA

The Covid induced situation had radically altered the dynamics of employment opportunities, education and income levels across every strata of the society, especially of those belonging to marginalised sections.

An analysis based on a survey done on a group of young adults in both the Telugu states, all from lower-income groups, revealed post-lockdown, most people went back to work and new young workers entered the labour market, possibly as a result of the reduced education opportunities, particularly in rural areas where e-learning is less accessible.

It may be worth mentioning here that a Telangana girl studying at LSR College in Delhi committed suicide as her father could not afford to fund her education in the post-Covid situation.

As per the study report by international research project 'Young Lives India' that was released on Monday, the increase of employment post-lockdown is relatively higher in rural areas and among the poorest households, possibly to compensate for income losses suffered.

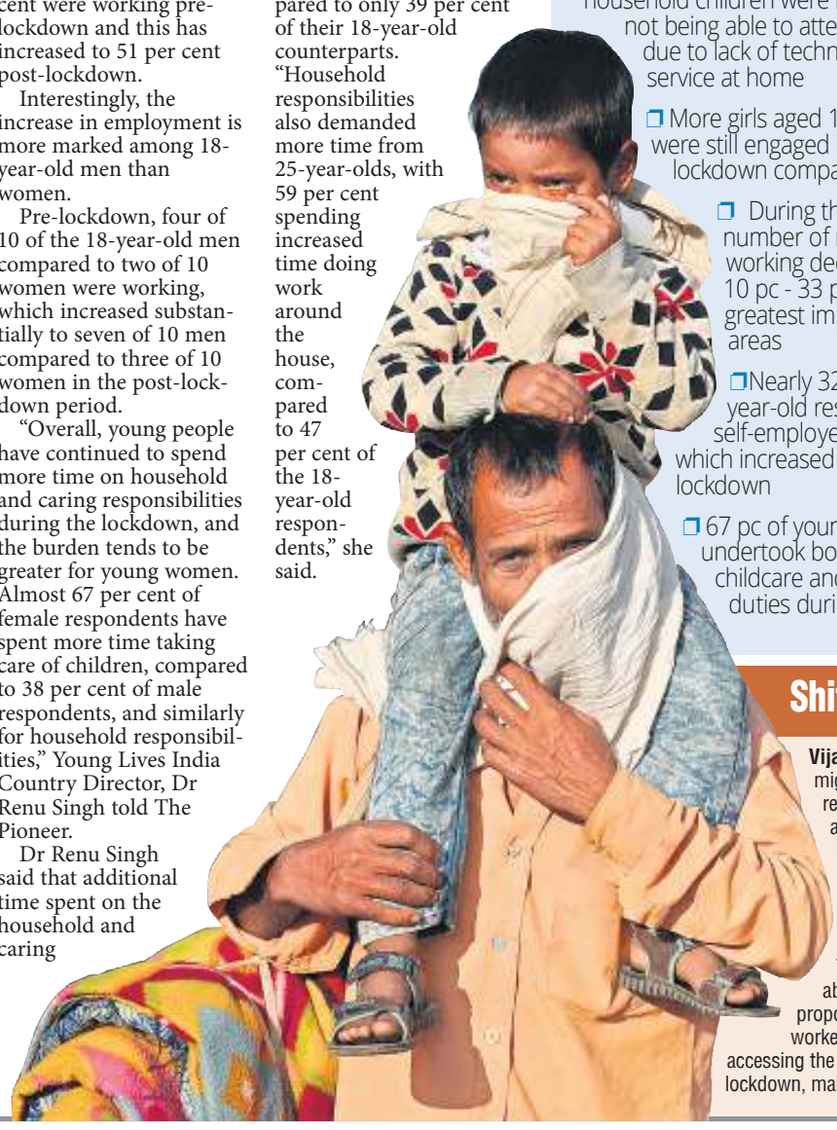
This finding is consistent with the post-lockdown increase in agricultural employment. Notably, while the post-lockdown proportion of 25-year-olds working went exactly back to the pre-lockdown level which is 63 per cent, more 18-year-old respondents entered the labour market post-lockdown. While about 32 per cent were working pre-lockdown and this has increased to 51 per cent post-lockdown.

Interestingly, the increase in employment is more marked among 18-year-old men than women.

Pre-lockdown, four of 10 of the 18-year-old men compared to two of 10 women were working, which increased substantially to seven of 10 men compared to three of 10 women in the post-lockdown period.

"Overall, young people have continued to spend more time on household and caring responsibilities during the lockdown, and the burden tends to be greater for young women. Almost 67 per cent of female respondents have spent more time taking care of children, compared to 38 per cent of male respondents, and similarly for household responsibilities," Young Lives India Country Director, Dr Renu Singh told The Pioneer.

Dr Renu Singh said that additional time spent on the household and caring responsibilities increase with age. Of the 25-year-old respondents, 75 per cent agreed they were spending more time taking care of children, compared to only 39 per cent of their 18-year-old counterparts. "Household responsibilities also demanded more time from 25-year-olds, with 59 per cent spending increased time doing work around the house, compared to 47 per cent of the 18-year-old respondents," she said.



Study highlights:

- While the majority of the 18-year olds were planning to continue education in this academic session, the poorest and SC household children were most affected by not being able to attend virtual classes due to lack of technology and internet service at home
- More girls aged 18 years (72pc) were still engaged in education, post lockdown compared to boys(62pc)
- During the lockdown, the number of respondents working decreased by nearly 10 pc - 33 pc, with the greatest impact felt in urban areas
- Nearly 32 pc of the 25-year-old respondents were self-employed pre-pandemic, which increased to 40 pc, post-lockdown
- 67 pc of young women undertook both increased childcare and household duties during the lockdown

Study methodology:

- Young Lives report investigated the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the well-being, household wealth and income, labour and education trajectories of Young Lives participants in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, tracked since 2001 and now aged 18 and 25
- The results are based on a preliminary version of the data collected during the second call of the Young Lives phone survey
- The second call of the Young Lives phone survey took place between Aug 11 and Oct 15 and reached a total of 2,754 young people
- 1,868 Younger Cohort respondents aged 18, and 886 Older Cohort respondents aged 25 were reached
- The first call in the Young Lives phone survey took place between June 10 and July 15 and reached a total of 2,750 young people (1,863 of Younger Cohort respondents aged 18, and 887 Older Cohort respondents aged 25 years old)

Shift towards agriculture, self-employment

Vijayawada Notably, while migration for work-related reasons was fairly low about 6 per cent, the lockdown caused an increase in self-employment and a shift towards agriculture from other economic sectors. The agriculture sector absorbed a considerable proportion of the new young workers both women and men accessing the labour market post-lockdown, mainly as self-employed and possibly in low paid and easily accessible occupations.

Nearly 32 per cent of the 25-year-old respondents and 46 per cent of the 18-year-old respondents were self-employed pre-pandemic, which increased to 40 per cent and 61 per cent, respectively, post-lockdown.

Similarly, the proportion of 25 year olds and 18 year olds working in agriculture increased by 11 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively, when the lockdown ceased compared to 28 per cent to 39 per cent for 25 year olds and 47 per cent to 64 per cent for 18 year olds pre-lockdown.

Movie halls in TS to reopen with 50% seats

Continued from page 1

The order also said the relative humidity should be in the range of 40-70 percent and that re-circulation of air should be avoided and intake of fresh air should be as much as possible.

Though the Centre allowed States to reopen theatres as part of Unlock guidelines in September, the permission to reopen theatres were not granted in Telangana and the exhibitors of Andhra Pradesh were waiting for the announcement from the Government as theatres should reopen in both the Telugu states at the same time.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Monday announced that his Government granted permission to reopen the theatres and the GO would be issued immediately.

He said that the officials would discuss this with the industry bigwigs and take the final call about the date of reopening of theatres.

The Chief Minister also granted a free hand to Tollywood to take a call on the reopening of theatres along with the percentage of seating occupancy in the state. This makes it clear that the theatres across Telugu states would reopen in December.

Vijayashanti to join BJP, confirms Aruna

Continued from page 1

Aruna to rejoin the Congress. According to BJP leaders who wished to remain anonymous, Vijayashanti would be joining the BJP in the presence of its national president JP Nadda and other senior leaders in Delhi on Tuesday. Later, she will have a discussion with several party senior leaders. After joining the BJP, Vijayashanti will campaign for the party in GHMC elections.

If indeed she does join the BJP, it would be sort of a homecoming for the actress-turned-politician who started her political career in BJP in 2000.

33 Maoist militia members surrender...

Continued from page 1

With the constant effort of police and their desire to live a better life and to join the mainstream they decided to surrender, Bhadradri Kothagudem District Superintendent of Police Sunil Dutt said.

The SP appealed to all Maoist party members and their leaders to surrender with their weapons and join the mainstream of society in the interest of the general public and development.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES

GOLD
₹ 51,380 (10 gm)
₹ 40
SILVER
₹ 66,700 (1kg)

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin	₹162
Without Skin	₹185
Broiler at Farm	₹111

EGG RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD	445
VIJAYAWADA	445
VISAKHAPATNAM	435
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹4.45

TRS stands for TS-bPASS...

Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister, describing the State capital as a bouquet of different flowers, said Hyderabad had emerged as a top cosmopolitan city in the country.

"This is probably the only city in the country which can boast of having a Gujarati Galli, a Parsi Gutta, a Sindhi Colony and an Arab colony, which reflects the cosmopolitan and secular fabric of the city," he said.

KCR said the TRS government over the last six years has ensured strict law and order in the city due to which the city remains peaceful and people are leading a happy life without any fear. "Better law and order in the city has resulted in huge investments into Hyderabad. All the top global companies have invested in Hyderabad and many more mega investments from across the globe and also from across India are in the pipeline. This led to robust economic growth and creation of jobs. All this will vanish if communal forces rule the city and create law and order problems, communal riots, curfews etc.," the Chief Minister said.

Reiterating that nothing can be done without the support of the TRS government, even if other parties win Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMc) polls, KCR said, "People should know that the TRS government will be in power for the next three years. If TRS wins GHMC polls, there will be better coordination between state government and GHMC. More funds could be sanctioned and more development works can be taken up. What other parties will do even if they win GHMC polls. They need to approach the TRS government for funds."

TRS cancels KCR's public meeting

Continued from page 1

KCR who stayed away from GHMC poll campaigning in 2016 ended the party's poll campaign by addressing a huge public meeting at Parade Grounds, Secunderabad.

In the same manner, KCR is staying away from GHMC campaigning this time and handed over the entire campaigning responsibility to his son KTR, who is conducting road shows in over 100 wards.

KCR had planned to end the TRS campaign on the last day by addressing a public meeting in LB Stadium this time. Accordingly, the party has applied for permission to conduct the meeting at LB Stadium with the TS Sports Authority and the police department.

It's all in the family...

Continued from page 1

.Taking a jab at the TRS, he said democracy's definition has changed in Telangana. "...What is going on in Telangana and Hyderabad? Government and party, of the family, by the family, for the family," he said.

Surya, who was speaking after launching the 'Change Hyderabad' campaign of BJP for the December 1 civic polls in Hyderabad, alleged that the TRS, as also the AIMIM , have made political parties into private companies.

Saying that Atal Behari Vajpayee was the first Prime Minister to initiate political discourse on urban development, he said it was Narendra Modi, after Vajpayee, who launched 100 smart cities programme and the Amrut mission, giving importance to improvement of cities.

The BJP Yuva Morcha activists should ask Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao as to what happened to the funds allocated to Hyderabad by the NDA government under the smart cities programme.

The funds allocated by the NDA government "went straight into the pockets of the contractors who are supporters of KCR", he alleged.

The cities across the country where BJP is in power have witnessed rapid development, Surya said.

The municipal elections in Hyderabad is nationally important because a vote for (Asaduddin) Owaisi in Hyderabad would make him stronger in Bihar, UP, Maharashtra and others, the BJP leader claimed.

"And what does Owaisi mean? Who is Owaisi? Owaisi is Mohammed Ali Jinnah's new avatar," he said.

Every single vote for BJP is a vote for Bharat and Hindutva and will make the country much stronger, he said.

SECOND WAVE

CM sends SMS to people about virus

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Inboxes of Citizens on Monday received a message from Chief Minister asking them to take precautions for Covid-19 in view of Second wave being reported in other states. Bulk messages were sent to all the citizens appealing to follow Covid-19 norms.

The message reads, "An Appeal, Coronavirus second wave is reported in some states. Please: (1) Wear masks (2) Maintain physical distance (3) Avoid gatherings (4) Wash hands with soap (5) If in doubt, get tested free in your PHC (6) If positive, get COVID treatment kit free, take medicine and follow doctor's advice".

The message ends with statement "Your health is our concern". It was sent from a BSNL Andhra Pradesh bulk sender. Meanwhile CM urged people to follow personal protection measures.

SADASIVPET MUNICIPALITY
DIST. SANGAREDDY - T.S.
Tender Notice No. EE/462/SSPT/e-proc/2020-21 Dt: 23-11-2020
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Abstract of works: 4 Nos. works [new] Under SFC (or) PP. Funds: Rs. 44.51 Lakhs. Starting date / time for submission of bids online: 25-11-2020 up to 11.00 a.m. Closing date / time for submission of bids online: 02-12-2020 up to 11.30 a.m. Opening of Bids: 02-12-2020 at 11.45 a.m. Contact Details The Municipal Commissioner, Sadasivpet Municipality Cell.No.9849935018 email: mc.sadasivpet@yahoo.com
Further details can be seen @ "e" procurement market place @ www.tendertelangana.gov.in.
Downloading of works starts from 25-11-2020, 11.00 A.M onwards.
Sd/- Commissioner
Sadasivpet Municipality
R.O.No: 1157-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and published by B Krishna Prasad for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., Phone: 040-23322341, Hyderabad Office: F-502, Diamond Block, Lumbini Rockdale, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500 082. Telangana. Printed at Sree Seshasai Enterprises, Plot No.19, IDA Balanagar , Hyderbad-500037, Medchal -Malkajgiri District, Telangana. Chief Editor: Chandan Mitra. Resident Editor: B Krishna Prasad, AIR SURCHARGE of Rs 2.00.

Old City residents roll up sleeves to clear garbage

NAMRATA SRIVASTAVA
HYDERABAD

Many areas of the Old City are plagued by garbage woes. Unhygienic garbage bins and street-side dumpyards are a common sight in almost all the wards of Old City.

Pointing out the same, several citizens have taken to Twitter to complaint about how the politicians have neglected the area and have paid no attention towards the sanitisation of Old City even during the peak of the pandemic.

Resonating the same Jaideep Singh, a resident of Gosha Mahal shares, "We have heaps of garbage lying in the bins that GHMC has installed. The workers used to come every week, but that is also not enough. In a week's time, the bins are overflowing and the area stinks. Now, however, the workers come whenever they wish to. On certain days it's difficult to even cross the area as the stench is unbearable."

While this has been happening for years, citizens also complain that even after the floods the sanitisation was scarce. Nizam, a resident of Dablipura says, "After the floods, when the water came down, there was a lot of filth on the road. But, no one came to clean. The GHMC workers cleaned main roads, but what about the by-lanes? We couldn't live like that, so we cleaned the area. Even during regular days, only when some leader calls the workers come to clean. They don't pay any heed to citizens." Nizam adds that the resident associations are carefully listening to all the candidates and then take a call about the polls. "We don't want to go for NOTA. But this time we want a corporator who will actually work."

70 tolas of gold ornaments lifted from workshop

PNS HYDERABAD

About 70 tolas of gold including ornaments were stolen from a jewellery-making workshop under Matwada police station limits in Warangal city.

Though the incident happened on Friday, the owner of the workshop, Dipankar Chakraborthy, lodged a complaint with the police.

Inspector Ganesh said that Dipankar hired two goldsmiths to make the jewellery and sell the same to local jewellery shops. "But the workers left the place without informing him. Since the workshop was not open for two days. Dipankar broke open the shutters of the workshop, and to his shock, the gold and gold ornaments were missing," he said.

"Following this, Dipankar tried to locate the workers with the help of their relatives, but to no avail," the Inspector said, addiing that the police suspect the goldsmiths may have decamped with the gold. "Two special teams have been formed to nab the accused," he added.

CITY LIGHTS

KTR hails TITA for serving interests of youth, techies

Minister KT Rama Rao hailed the TITA for serving the interests of IT employees, youth and students. The Minister handed over the certificate in AI training imparted by University of Texas at Dallas, to Sharada who lost her job due to Covid-triggered lockdown. The training was imparted by TITA at free of cost. The Minister said Sharada will bag more better opportunities in future with their training she received. Sharada, hailing from Borabanda, was in the news recently when she lost job at an IT firm due to lockdown. In order to help her family she took up her family business of selling vegetables. The plight of young software engineer moved TITA President Sundeep who reached out to Sharada and enrolled her in their training in AI jointly imparted by TITA and UTD for free and also gifted her a laptop in order to pursue the training.

MANUU opens admission to distance-mode programmes

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) is offering admissions into undergraduate and post-graduate distance programmes, including B.Ed. The courses are recognised by the Distance Education Bureau (UGC) and the NCTE, the university said in a release on Monday. The e-prospectus and online application forms are available on manuu.edu.in/dde and the form is to be submitted online with a registration fee of Rs 1,000 for B.Ed (DM) and Rs 300 for other programmes. The last date for submission is November 25. For further details, contact student support services unit helpline numbers 040-23008463, 23120600 or visit the university website.

IDA opposes Centre's move

National and State bodies of the Indian Dental Association (IDA) have opposed the move by the Centre allowing Post Graduate Ayurveda students to take up certain dental procedures. In a recent gazette notification, the Centre has said a PG scholar of Shalya and Shalakya, which are taught in Ayurveda stream, will receive practical training to independently perform Chaldanta-Danta Nirharan (tooth extraction) and Krumidanta-Lekhan and Puranshastrakarma (teeth root canal treatment), which fall under the broad category of DantaRog (dental diseases). Demanding the immediate withdrawal of the notification, the IDA said mixing of systems would defeat the whole purpose of various curriculum, evidence generation, professional training, and exclusivity.

SPLENDID SUNSET!

A view of Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge in the backdrop of the setting sun presents a picturesque sight

State's virus recovery rate improves to 95%

PNS HYDERABAD

With consistent higher numbers of recoveries, Telangana's Covid recovery rate improved to 95.20 per cent, health officials said on Monday.

The state saw 1,015 recoveries during the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 2,51,468. The recovery rate is better than national average of 93 per cent.

The state logged 602 new Covid cases during the last 24 hours, pushing the state's tally to 2,64,128. The daily count of cases dropped due to weekly fall in the number of tests.

Three more persons succumbed to the virus taking the death toll to 1,433. The fatality rate remains at 0.54 per cent against the national average of 1.5 per cent. According to director of public health and family welfare, 44.96 per cent of the deaths were due to Covid while remaining 55.04 were on account of comorbidities.

Of the fresh positive cases, Greater Hyderabad accounted for 129 cases. Rangareddy reported the second highest number at 62 followed by Medchal (60), Karimnagar (51) and Warangal (27).

According to the daily media bulletin released by the office of the director of public health and family welfare, the total number of active cases stands at 11,227 of which 8,942 are in home or institutional isolation.

Unidentified man stabbed to death in secluded place

PNS HYDERABAD

The body of an unidentified man was found in a secluded place at Jawaharnagar on the city outskirts in the wee hours of Monday.

According to the police, the person, is suspected to have been killed during a drunken brawl as he was stabbed with sharp objects. Passers-by noticed the body and informed the Jawaharnagar police who shifted the body to the Gandhi Hospital for autopsy. Police officials said it was suspected that the person had come to the spot along with a few other people to consume liquor. He might have been killed following an argument, they said.

2 conmen from Jharkhand held

PNS HYDERABAD

The Cybercrime wing of the Hyderabad City Police arrested two persons from Dhanbad in Jharkhand who were allegedly assisting inter-state fraudsters in cheating the public.

Manoj Kumar Mandal and Mohd Kalam Khan were allegedly providing their bank accounts on a commission basis to cyber fraudsters who conned the public into transferring money into their accounts. After withdrawing the money, the conmen paid Manoj and Kalam a percentage of the 'earning' as commission, the police said.

3 mobile snatchers held

PNS HYDERABAD

Three persons including two juveniles were apprehended by the Asifnagar police for allegedly snatching a mobile phone from a person at Mehdipatnam 10 days ago. The police recovered the handset from them.

The arrested persons were identified as Najeeb Khan, 22, of Natrajnagar in Asifnagar and two juveniles.

Two including Nigerian held for duping people

PNS HYDERABAD

Two persons, including a 32-year-old Nigerian, were arrested for cheating a person here of over Rs 29.74 lakh by promising to send foreign funds for charity work, police said on Monday.

The duo, along with the prime accused who is absconding, contacted the victim in October informing that a foreigner wished to donate US dollars amounting to Rs 4 crore for charity, police said.

The accused discussed with the victim about spiritual matters during their conversation and gained the victims trust. Later, one of the accused posing as an executive of a Foreign Remittance Department called up the person asking to pay money citing various charges towards transferring the foreign funds.

Accordingly, the victim deposited over Rs 29.74 lakh. Then, the fraudsters switched off their mobile phones following which the victim lodged a complaint with the police.

The Nigerian assaulted one sub- inspector and a constable while trying to escape but was caught along with another accused, police said.

Native language and culture are mutually enriching: Guv

PNS HYDERABAD

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Monday said native language and culture are mutually enriching. She stated that culture and the native languages are interlinked and reflect and benefit the other.

The Governor was delivering the valedictory address on the topic of 'Language resources and cultural richness' as part of the online conference on 'Path to Progress: National Education Policy-2020,' organised by the Samskrita Bharati.

Dr Tamilisai termed the language as the instrument of culture and added that a language is not about the words, it is about the culture, tradition and a way of life for the speakers of that language.

"Language expands our thinking horizons. Language largely contributes for the growth and character of the speakers and in the process also gets enriched by its use," she said.

She said that it had contributed for the enrichment of many languages and is found to be suitable for the computer language too.

The Governor pointed out that it was important to protect, patronise and promote Sanskrit language as it offers the access to treasure of our epics and heritage and the Vedas. The Governor appreciated the efforts of the Samskrita Bharati in promoting the Sanskrit language with an objective to train the people speak fluently in Sanskrit.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

REVENUE (LAND ACQUISITION) DEPARTMENT

FORM-VII

(See Sub-rule (1) of rule -25 And Section-19 (1) of the Act-30/2013)

Spl.Dy. Collector (LA), IPT & Rlys,
Khammam Rc. No. A/74/2020 Dated: 10-11-2020
District Collector,
Khammam Procg. No: G1/944/2020, Dated: 19-11-2020
District Gazette No: A3/55/2020 Dated: 19-11-2020

Whereas it appears to the District Collector, Khammam District that a total of Acres 52.28 of Guntas of patta land and Govt Land is required in the Thattelapadu village of Thirumalayapalem mandal, Khamma District for public purpose, namely acquisition of land for purpose fo Seeta Rama Project Palair Link Canal.

Therefore declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more of less 52.28 1/2 Gts patta land of standard measurment under acquisition for the above said project in the village limits of Thattelapadu, Thirumalayapalem Mandal of Khammam District whose detailed description is as following.

SCHEDULE-1

Village: Thattelapadu Mandal: Thirumalayapalem District: Khammam

Sl No	Sy.No	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area Under Acquisition (in acres)	Name and Address of Person Interested	Boundaries E	W	N	S	Trees	Structures
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				8	9
1	321	Patta	Dry	1.12	Pusuluri Lakshmi W/o Veeraiah (P&C)	321/AA1/1	206/AA	321/A-4	321/AA1/1	No	Well 1, Pvc Pipes 20
2	321	Patta	Dry	1.26	Dontedi Ramya W/o Sampath (P&C)	321/A4	206/A	321/A-1/1	321/A3/1	Neem 1	Pvc Pipes 25
3	321	Patta	Dry	1.30	Dontedi Rajesh S/o Chalamaiah (P&C)	321	321/A-4	321/A-1	321/A5	Neem 7	Well 1, Side Bore 4, Pvc Pipes 30
4	321	Patta	Dry	0.37	Chamakuri Venkanna S/o Saidhulu (P&C)	321/A-1/1	206/A	321/A2	321/A-1/1	Toddy 16 Neem 1	Well 1, Pvc Pipes 20
5	321	Patta	Dry	0.27	Aleti Ramadasu S/o Rangaiah (P&C)	322/A2	205	A2	322/A2	No	Well 1, Pvc Pipes 20
6	321	Patta	Dry	0.30	Aleti Ramadasu S/o Rangaiah (P&C)	322/A2	205	A2	322/A2	No	No
7	321	Patta	Dry	0.15	Chamkuri Venkanna S/o Saidhulu (P&C)	321/A-1/1	206/A	321/A2	321/A-1/1	No	No
8	321	Patta	Dry	1.15	Dontedi Rajesh S/o Chalamaiah (P&C)	321	321/A-4	321/A-1	321/A-5	No	No
9	321	Patta	Dry	0.14	Dontedi Chalamaiah S/o Veeraiah (P&C)	322/A2	321/A3/1	322/A2	321/A-1/1	No	Pvc Pipes 15
10	322	Patta	Dry	0.31	Chamakuri Pramela W/o Ambarish (P&C)	322/A1	321/A2	321/A2	322/AA	Toddy 1, Neem 2	No
11	322	Patta	Dry	1.25	Gokenapalli Nageswarrao S/o Veeresam (P&C)	321	322/A2	322/A2/2	322/A2	Neem 3, Toddy 1	Well 01, Pipes 20
12	322	Patta	Dry	1.06	Dontedi Chalamaiah S/o Veeraiah (P&C); Dontedi Rajesh S/o Chalamaiah (P&C)	321/A	321/A3/1	322/A2	321/A5	No	No
13	382	Patta	Dry	0.34	Dontedi Sweedan S/o Nageswarao (P&C)	382/AA	Donka	386/AA/2	382/A	Neem 2, Toddy 1	Well 1
14	382	Patta	Dry	2.12	Kusu Ananda Rao S/o Kameswar Rao (P&C)	386/A/1/2	Donka	386/AA/3	386/A2/1	No	Pvc Pipes 25
15	386	Patta	Dry	2.15	Kusu Lakshmi W/o Ramananda m (P&C)	386/A3	Donka	386/A1/2	386/A/1/1	No	Pvc Pipes 15
16	386	Patta	Dry	0.07	Kusu Nageswarao S/o Ammaiah (P&C)	386/AA2	Donka	386/A2	382/A	No	No
17	386	Patta	Dry	1.17	Kusu Prabhakar Rao S/o Ammaiah (P&C)	386/AA2	Donka	386/A2	382/AA/2	Neem 2, Toddy 1	No
18	386	Patta	Dry	1.39	Kusu Nageswarao S/o Ammaiah (P&C)	386/AA2	Donka	386/A2	382/A	Neem 4, Thumma 1	Pipes 40
19	395	Patta	Dry	1.10	Garlapati Venkaiah S/o Appaiah (P&C)	395/A/1/2	Donka	395/A/1/2	382/AA/3	No	No
20	395	Patta	Dry	0.14	Garlapati Bhuchaiah S/o Appaiah (P&C)	395/A	Donka	395/AA	395/A2/4	No	No
21	395	Patta	Dry	1.05	Garlapati Savitramma W/o Bhuchaiah (P&C); Garlapati Venkaiah S/o Appaiah (C)	395/A1/2	Donka	395/A2/A	395/A	No	No
22	395	Patta	Dry	0.13	Garlapati Kotaiah S/o Appaiah (P&C)	395/A/1/2	Donka	395/A	395/A1/2	No	No
23	395	Patta	Dry	0.13	Garlapati Bhuchaiah S/o Appaiah (P&C)	395/A	Donka	395/AA/A	395/A2/4	No	No
24	395	Patta	Dry	0.27	Garlapati Savitramma W/o Bhuchaiah (P&C)	395/A1/2	Donka	395/A2/4	395/A	No	No
25	395	Patta	Dry	0.16	Garlapati Venkaiaha S/o Appaiah (P&C); Garlapati Kotaiah S/o Appaiah (C)	395/A/1/2	Donka	395/A1/2	395/AA/3	No	No
26	395	Patta	Dry	0.13	Garlapati Venkaiaha S/o Appaiah (P&C)	395/A1/2	Donka	395/A/1/2	395/AA/3	No	No
27	395	Patta	Dry	1.35	Garlpati Sathanarana S/o Papapiah (P&C)	395/AA2/1/1	Donka	395/A1/1/2	395/A1/2	Teak 2, Neem 8, Tamarind 1	Well 1, Pvc pipes 30
28	395	Patta	Dry	1.29	Ethukuri Leelavathi W/o Lakshmaiah (P&C)	395/A-1	395/A-3	395/A1/2	395/A1/2	Toddy 1, Neem 1	Well 1, Bore 1, Pvc pipes 8
29	395	Patta	Dry	0.26	Garlapati Sujatha W/o Lakshmaiahi (P&C)	395/A-1	395/AA2/1/1	395/AA/1/2	395/A1/2	Neem 2	Well 1, Pvc pipes 15
30	392	Patta	Dry	1.00	Ethukuri leelavathi W/o Laxmaiah (P) Garlapati Sujatha (P) Garlapati Babu (P) Garlapati Savitramma (P) Garlapati Bhuchaiah (P) Garlapati Kotaiah (p) Garlapati Venkaiah (P) Garlapati Satyanarayana (P) Garlapati Damayanthi (P) Kusu Anil Kumar S/o Narasimha Rao ©	Donka	192/A/1	192/AA/2	202/E2	Tamarind 1, Teak 1, Neem 2	Well 1, Pvc pipes 20
31	398	Patta	Dry	1.00	Ethukuri Leelavathi W/o Laxmaiah (P) Garlapati Sujatha (P) Garlapati Babu (P) Garlapati Savitramma (P) Garlapati Buchaiah (P) Garlapati Kotaiah (P) Garlapati Venkaiah (P) Garlapati Satyanarayana (P) Garlapati Damayanthi (P) Vempati Naresh S/o Sreenu ©	Donka	202/E2	202	203/A1/1	No	No
32	396	Patta	Dry	0.16	Vunnam Paramesvarao (P) Vunnam Prabhakar Rao (P) Shaik Hussain(P) Shaik Lal mohammad (P) Alasyam Swetha W/o Ram Prasad ©	396/AA	Donka	397/AA/2/2/1	396/AA	Neem 2	No
33	396	Patta	Dry	1.06	Vunnam Probakar Rao S/o Paramaiah (P&C)	396/AA	Donka	397/AA/2/2/1	396/A2/1	Neem 2	No
34	396	Patta	Dry	0.38	SK. Lal Mohammad S/o Sai Baba(P&C); Sk. Hussain S/o Sai Baba(P&C)	396/A2/1	Donka	396/AA	396/AA	No	No
35	396	Patta	Dry	1.12	Vunnam Probakar Rao S/o Paramaiah (P&C)	396/AA	Donka	397/AA/2/2/1	396/A2/1	No	No
36	397	Patta	Dry	0.35	Kusu Sathish S/o Maisoor (P&C)	397/A4	Donka	396/A3	397/AA/2/2/1	No	No
37	397	Patta	Dry	0.34	Alasyam Swetha W/o Ram Prasad (P&C)	397/A2/2/1	Donka	397/AA	396/AA	No	No
38	398	Patta	Dry	1.13	Dondeti Vijaya Lakshmi W/o Ramaiah (P&C)	402/2	Donka	401	398/A2	No	No
39	398	Patta	Dry	0.34	Dondeti Chalamaiah S/o Veeraiah(P&C)	398/AA2/2	398/A3	398/AA/3/2	398/AA/2/1	Neem 1	Pvc Pipes 35
40	398	Patta	Dry	0.15	Dondeti Prabhakar Rao S/o Veeraiah (P&C)	398/AA2	Donka	398/A/1	398/A3	No	Pvc Pipes 20
41	398	Patta	Dry	1.39	Dondeti Sweedan S/o Nageswar Rao(P&C)	398/A	Donka	398/A2	398/A/1	No	Pvc Pipes 30
42	398	Patta	Dry	1.02	Dondeti Prabahakar Rao S/o Veeraiah (P&C)	398/AA2	Donka	398/A1	398/A3	No	No
43	398	Patta	Dry	0.14	Dondeti Chalamaiah S/o Veeraiah (P&C)	398/AA2/2	398/A3	398/AA/3/2	398/AA/2/1	No	No
44	398	Patta	Dry	0.38 1/2	Dondeti Vijaya Lakshmi W/o Ramaiah(P&C)	402/2	Donka	401	398/A2	No	No
45	399	Patta	Dry	0.36	Dondeti Vijaya Lakshmi W/o Ramaiah (P&C)	404/A	Donka	403/AA	399/A2	Toddy 3	Pvc Pipes 20
46	399	Patta	Dry	0.10	Dondeti Prabhakar Rao S/o Veeraiah (P&C)	399/A	Donka	399/A	398/A3	No	No
47	400	Patta	Dry	0.18	Somaraboyina Guruvaiah S/o Venkaiah (P) Kamboina Rama Chandraiah ©; Somaraboyina Guruvaiah S/o Venkaiah (P) Kamboina Yashodamma W/o Rama chandrayya©; Somaraboyina Guruvaiah S/o Venkaiah (P) Kamboina Maisoor S/o Rama chandrayya©	402/2	401	402/1	404/A2	No	No
48	401	Patta	Dry	2.07	Kamboina Rama Chandraiah ©; Kamboina Yashodamma W/o Rama chandraiah (P&C); Kamboina Maisoor S/o Rama Chandraiah©	402/2	Donka	401	399/A	Neem 11 Thumma 03	Well 01
49	402	Patta	Dry	0.35	Kamboina Uppalamma W/o Sreenivas Rao (P&C); Kamboina Venkata Narayana S/o Lingaiah (C)	402/1	402/2	Donka	402/1	No	No
50	402	Patta	Dry	1.02	Kamboina Rama chandraiah S/o Maisoor (C); Kamboina Yashodamma W/o Rama Chandraiah (C); Kamboina Maisoor S/o Rama Chandraiah (P&C)	404/A	401	402/1	404/A2	No	No
51	402	Patta	Dry	0.16	Somaraboina Guruvaiah S/o Venkaiah (P&C)	402/A/1	401	402/1	404/A2	No	No
52	403	Patta	Dry	0.37	Kamboina Rama Chandraiah (C); Kamboina Yashodamma W/o Ramachandraiah (C) Kamboina Maisoor S/o Ramachandraiah (P&C)	404/A	401	Donka	404/2/1	No	No
53	404	Patta	Dry	0.02 1/2	Kamboyina Venkata Narayana S/o Lingaiah (P&C)	404/A/1	399/A/1	402/2	405	No	1 Bore, Pvc Pipe 20
54	404	Patta	Dry	0.10	Kamboyina Uppalamma W/o Srinivasa Rao (P&C)	402/2	399/A	404/A2	404/AA	No	1 Bore, Pvc Pipe 20
55	404	Patta	Dry	0.20	Pujala Narasimha Rao S/o Narasimha Rao (P&C)	404/A/1	399/A/1	403/AA	402/2	No	No
56	404	Patta	Dry	0.00 1/2	Kamboyina Venkatanarayana (P) Kamboyina Uppalamma (P) Pujala Narasimha Rao (P) Kamboyina Sravan Kumar S/o Ramesh (C)	405/A2	399/A/1	404/AA	405/AA	No	No
Total Extent in Acrs. Gts				52.28 1/2							

This declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested and due enquiry as provided U/s 15 of the Act No-30/2013. The complete land of (04) families have been acquired to an extent of Acrs 6.27 gts for the purpose of this project and the all the (04) families i.e land losers are eligible for receive the benefits under the provisions of R&R package.

Thattelapadu village of Tirumalayapalem Mandal of Khammam District an extent of 6.27 Acrs.____gts.

Mines of coal, iron-sore, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or ay particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not need.

A plan of the lad may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & Special Deputy Collector (LA), IPT & Railways, Khammam on any working day. A summary of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Scheme is appended.

LAO/Special Deputy Collector (LA), IPT & Railways, Khammam — Additional Collector, Khammam — District Collector, Khammam

DIPR R.O. No: 874/LA/PP/Advt/Pub/2020-21

the pioneer
HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 24, 2020

KTR says NDA means 'No Data Available'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday came down heavily on BJP-led NDA government at Center. "NDA means no Data Available. Show one person who got benefitted from Rs 20lakh crore package (Atma Nirbar) announced by Central Government?".

Pointing to the charge-sheet released by BJP, KTR said that an FIR should be filed against the center for not releasing funds even after Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao sought Rs1,300 crore as immediate relief. Addressing the Telangana Builders Federation (TBF) annual meeting, KTR raked up the Amaravati issue. He said, "Let alone Hyderabad, what has BJP given to Andhra Pradesh and Amaravati? Only mud and water were given to Amaravati by the Center." He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi didn't announce any package for construction of Amaravati capital while laying the foundation stone.

IT Minister KT Rama Rao addressing the Telangana Builders Federation annual meeting in the city on Monday

Taking a dig at BJP's assurance to give Rs 25,000 as flood relief, KTR said, "Get money from Center and give Rs 25,000 relief. We will clap hands, light candles and dance, we won't stop you."

He said that BJP has nothing to offer apart from spewing venom. Taking a dig at BJP's assurance to give Rs 25,000 as flood relief, KTR said, "Get money from Center and give Rs 25,000 relief. We will clap hands, light candles and dance, we won't stop you."

KTR said that he will give Rs 10 lakh if they show a pothole free road in BJP ruled states. Hitting out at Union Minister Prakash Javedkar for his comments on Hyderabad roads, KTR said, "Javedkar commented that the roads in Hyderabad are full of potholes. I would give Rs 1 lakh if there is no road with potholes. Show me a road without potholes in any of the cities in the BJP ruled states. I will give him Rs 10 lakh from my pocket"

He said, "Its bankrupt policies starting from demonetisation has led to the GDP growth falling to a historic low by 31 per cent, much lower than even Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. How much of black money has been unearthed after removal of Rs1,000 and Rs 500 notes? We have had Rs2000 notes within no time".

TS going places under TRS rule, says Harish

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Finance Minister T Harish Rao on Monday called upon the voters of Bharathi Nagar division of the GHMC to elect sitting corporator and TRS candidate Sindu Adharsh Reddy to ensure that the area witnesses rapid development since the State is under the TRS governance. Addressing an election meeting in Saibaba Nagar on Monday, Harish said local bodies would witness rapid development only if a ruling party candidate was elected.

Stating that elected representatives of the TRS were committed to public service and were with people even during the lockdown, guiding the official machinery, the Minister said Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan had also praised the efforts of the State government during the lockdown. He said another Union Minister, however, was making contradicting statements against the TRS government with the sole objective of luring voters. He said people would teach a fitting lesson to such people who were propagating false information. MLC V Bhupal Reddy and others were present. Meanwhile, Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy, Andole MLA Chanti Kranthi Kiran and others also campaigned in the Bharathi Nagar division.

Kavitha: Choose your words carefully Tejasvi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Addressing election campaign at Gandhi Nagar, MLC Kavitha on Monday slammed Tejaswi Surya for his remarks on Hyderabad and said the young leader should be more responsible while making the comments. Hyderabad is now a destination for global gaints like Amazon, Google, said Kavitha.

"Hyderabad has changed alot, yes in terms of infrastructure, road connectivity, power supply and drinking water," she further added. "Today Amazon is investing Rs 20,000 crore in the city. Don't you know why do giants prefer Hyderabad? It is because of the efficient leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao and Minister KT Rao," she said.

"The gentleman from Bengaluru should understand that Hyderabad is a city which respects the culture and lifestyle of everyone. We Hyderabadies care only and only about development. She challenged the BJP leaders to reveal what have they done for Hyderabad and how much flood relief have they provided to the city of Hyderabad," she said.

After withdrawal of papers, 1,122 candidates in fray

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The ruling TRS has successfully fielded its candidates in all 150 divisions for the GHMC elections. However, the national parties-BJP and Congress fielded its candidates in 149 and 146 divisions respectively. TDP fielded its candidates in 106 divisions. A total of 1,122 candidates are in the fray after withdrawals of nominations. The BJP failed to field its candidate from Nawab Saheb Kunta (47) division and Congress failed to field its candidates from Talabchanchalam (34), Barkas (42), Golconda (67), Tolichowki(68) divisions.

CANVASSING PLOYS

During elections, candidates of different political parties indulge all sorts of tricks to appease voters. While the opposition party candidates are yet to get into the campaign mode, the leaders of the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi have gone far ahead in their canvassing ploys.

Nothing new in TRS manifesto, says Oppn

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP has termed the TRS manifesto for the GHMC elections as a repeat of the one released before the 2016 elections to the corporation, albeit a few new promises. Addressing the media at the BJP State headquarters here, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy said the TRS, despite the mandate it received in the past election, had failed to fulfil the promises it made to develop Hyderabad into a world-class city.

"The TRS has released the same manifesto without even changing the cover page and the photo of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao. Inside, they had repeated the same-old promises such as 2 BHK houses, development of nala network, drinking water for all, metro and MMTS," he said. The Minister charged the State government with obstructing the construction of the Metro rail after assuming power in 2014 which had cost the construction company huge loss. "The State has also not released its share of the MMTS project cost causing inordinate delay in its completion, but the issue of MMTS was repeated in the manifesto," he said.

"The Chief Minister says he would soon set foot in New Delhi to stitch an alternative to the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

What kind of direction is he going to give the nation?" he asked. "The Chief Minister talks about war against the Centre. War is waged only against enemy nations," Kishan Reddy said.

The TRS has released the same manifesto without even changing the cover page and the photo of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, said Kishan Reddy

Vote Congress for all-round development of Hyd: Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday made it clear that most of the development of Hyderabad was achieved during the previous Congress regimes. Addressing the public meeting in Bouddha Nagar division, as part of his campaign in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections, he said that voters should give their votes in large number to the Congress candidates so that party wins the GHMC poll.

Along with Uttam Kumar Reddy, TPCC Treasurer Gudur Narayana Reddy, TPCC general secretary Adaam Santosh, former corporator Adaam Uma Devi, TPCC spokesperson M Sunitha Rao, and Congress candidate Prabha have participated in the campaign. Uttam appealed to the voters to give their votes to party candidate Prabha in Bouddha Nagar division in large number so that she wins.

Uttam said that major development works like construction of Outer Ring Road, International Air Port, PVNR Express Highway and Metro Rail were taken up during the Congress governments. He said that the projects for supply of drinking water from Krishna and Godavari rivers have been implemented by the Congress governments. He said that due to the proactive role of the previous Congress governments Hyderabad has emerged as hub of Pharmacy industry in the world and destination of IT industry. He said that during the regimes of Congress big public sector industries like BHEL, DRDL, HAL and HMT were established in Hyderabad. He said that the Information Technology Invest Region (ITIR) was sanctioned to Hyderabad when Congress was ruling the country. The TPCC president made it clear that the TRS and BJP governments have done nothing to the state in the past six years. He said that due to negligence of TRS and BJP, the state has lost prestigious ITIR project. The Central government led by Narendra Modi has cancelled the project and BJP and TRS remained mute spectators.

Uttam said that major development works like construction of ORR, Airport, PVNR Express Highway and Metro Rail were taken up during Congress regime

He said that the ITIR project was envisaged to get an investment of Rs 2.5 lakh crores and has a potential to provide direct and indirect jobs to about 50 lakh. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the Congress wants all round development of Hyderabad and state and wants that people of all religions and sections live harmoniously.

The TPCC president criticised that while Corona pandemic was spreading in the state and in city, while people were got afraid of it, the Chief Minister stayed in his farmhouse, ignoring his responsibility. He said that the Chief Minister did not care to consider the demand for including treatment to Corona in Arogya Sri Scheme. Criticising the Bharatiya Janata Party, he said that the Saffron party has been trying to incite communal riots in Hyderabad. The BJP and MIM have been using religion to get political mileage.

He said that nothing has happened in the past 1,000 days in implementing the 100 Days Plan. He criticised that the TRS failed to keep at least one promise it has made from 2014 elections.

KTR's aides were given a free hand to encroach: Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alleging that TRS working president and Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao's followers and colleagues have been encroaching lakes and parks in Hyderabad City, TPCC working president and Malkajgiri MP A Revanth Reddy alleged that more encroachments took place in Hyderabad in the last six years than it took place in hundred years.

"The encroachments could have been stopped if CCTV cameras were installed at tanks, government lands instead of installing them for the sake of petty thieves. Minister Ch Malla Reddy constructed Medical Colleges by encroaching lakes. KTR's followers are indulging in land encroachments. All mafias including sand, land, wine and mine are in the hands of TRS party," he alleged. "Online gambling came into existence after the closure of clubs. Son-in-law of one of the Ministers is running online gambling," he alleged. Participating in the 'Meet the Press' organised by the Press Club of Hyderabad on Monday, Revanth alleged that the TRS government closed 4,000 schools after the formation of Telangana state. "The TRS government failed to construct a single university after the formation of Telangana. The TRS government is the reason for 10 lakh people becoming homeless due to recent floods," he claimed. Alleging that 'Pragathi Nivedika' is full of lies, Revanth questioned KTR to reveal what is the link between Metro Rail and TRS government. He asked KTR to reveal why it had removed its 2016 GHMC elections' manifesto from the website.

Transport workers welcome tax waiver

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The transport workers are finally happy that the state government has paid attention to their woes and have come up with a solution to ease their financial burden.

While announcing their GHMC Manifesto, CM K Chandrashekar Rao, announced that the six months road tax of Max Cabs in the state will be waived off. Talking about the announcement, an overjoyed, Nagesh Kumar, shares, "The Max Cabs have to pay Rs 4,600 every quater. I couldn't pay the tax as there was no business since the lockdown. But this is a brilliant news. The waiver for six months would mean that I can save Rs 9,600 now. That a huge sum considering I didn't have enough money to feed my family as well." The transport workers have been protesting for the waiver since a long time now. SeverL drivers in the city were finding it extremely difficult to the pending taxes, given the financially lean period during the pandemic. The Chairman of Telangana State Taxi and Driver JAC, says, "We are very happy. I have seen a smile on drivers' face after so long now. While this has been achieved I sincerely hope that the government will also pay attention to our other demands such as forming a welfare board for the drivers and extension of moratorium period till December 31."

'Equal ad space' for all parties, orders SEC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

State Election Commission on Monday instructed GHMC Commissioner to provide equal opportunity for all political parties for advertising on Metro Pillars, bus shelters and toilets. As per the instruction, "GHMC Commissioner (is instructed) to direct all the advertising private agencies having leasing rights over bus shelters, toilets and Metro pillars in GHMC limits to provide equal opportunities to all political parties and contesting candidates, whenever they approach the agency for lease of Advertisement spaces during GHMC election period".

This comes a day after Congress party led by Uttam Kumar Reddy complained to SEC seeking removal of advertisements by TRS party. They stated that no advertisements of political parties have should be displayed on government or semi-government properties during elections. However, a clarification was issued that in both bus shelters and metro, there is no violation as per concession agreement.

About Metro pillars, the SEC said "As per the Concession Agreement, the advertisement rights on the Metro pillars and other structures of the Metro Rail System belong to the private sector Concessionaire M/s L & T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited during the Concession Period of 35 years. All the structures and other parts of the Metro Rail System revert to the State Government only at the end of the Concession Period, or if the Concession is terminated due to any reason".

Likewise, the Bus shelters in GHMC limits along with amenities such as toilets are constructed by private agencies engaged through tender process on Design, Finance, Build, Maintain and Transfer (D.B.M.T) basis under Public Private Partnership Mode with advertisement rights for a certain period.

Stating that the process has been in vogue since 2008, "the agencies will build the bus shelters and toilets with own expenditure, pay to GHMC annual license fee and recoup the investment made through advertisements on the bus shelters and at the same time the bus shelters and toilets are maintained by the agency in accordance with the provisions of the concession agreement".

Instructed GHMC to provide equal opportunity for all parties for advertising on Metro Pillars, bus shelters and toilets

Fadnavis downplays his teaming up with Ajit Pawar to form govt

PNS ■ AURANGABAD

Exactly a year after Maharashtra politics was left stunned with the coming together of Devendra Fadnavis as chief minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar as his deputy to form a short-lived 80-hour government in the state, the senior BJP leader on Monday said the "incident need not be remembered".

Fadnavis, talking to reporters in Aurangabad, went on to add that if the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government falls, the oath ceremony of the dispensation that would replace it would not take place at dawn as was the case a year ago.

Last year, amid hectic parleys between the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress to form a non-BJP government in the state after the October polls threw up a hung Assembly, Fadnavis and Pawar were sworn in at dawn in a ceremony at Raj Bhavan.

"If the present government in the state collapses, the oath ceremony will not take place at dawn. But such incidents need not be remembered," the former CM said.

Speaking on other issues, Fadnavis said projects like the water grid and city water pipeline aimed at developing Marathwada were in coma under the MVA regime.

The MVA government is working for specific regions and constituencies, and proposals announced by ministers are set aside by the chief minister or deputy chief minister, Fadnavis alleged.

Replying to a query on the MLC polls, Fadnavis said the BJP would fare well despite the Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena coming together.

MP to Fadnavis: Wrest back PoK before talking of Karachi

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Monday said Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) should be wrested back before one can talk of Karachi being part of India. Raut was responding to remarks by BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, who said his party believes Karachi will be a part of India one day. The remarks by Fadnavis, former Maharashtra chief minister, came days after a Shiv Sena worker asked owners of Karachi Sweets outlet in Mumbai to rename it and justified the demand by calling Pakistan a country of terrorists. Raut had then said the demand for changing the name is not the official stance of Shiv Sena. Raut told reporters on Monday that the Shiv Sena will welcome Karachi becoming a part of India, adding India should wrest back PoK first.Asked about the Sena worker's demand to rename Karachi Sweets shop, Fadnavis said, "We are the people who believe in akhand bharat (integrated India) and we believe Karachi too will be part of India one day. To a query on the remarks by Fadnavis, Raut said his party will welcome if Karachi becomes part of India. "But first bring PoK in India, then we will go to Karachi," the Sena MP added. Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik said his party will welcome if the BJP wants the merger of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to form a single country.

NIA grills ex-Cong mayor Sampath Raj in Bengaluru violence case

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The National Investigation Agency sleuths on Monday interrogated former Congress Mayor R Sampath Raj in the central prison here in connection with violence that rocked parts of the city in August. NIA sources said a three-member team of the investigation agency questioned Raj in the Parappana Agrahara central prison where he has been lodged after his recent arrest by the Central Crime Branch Police, which is simultaneously probing the violence case. They said the agency obtained court permission to question the Congress corporator for two days to ascertain his role in the attack on two police stations. The CCB police arrested Raj on charges of hatching the conspiracy for the violence on August 11 night. About 3,000 to 4,000 vandals set on fire the houses of Pulakesh Nagar Congress MLA R Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy and his sister over a social media post by Murthy's nephew. They also torched the Devara Jeevanahalli and Kadugondanahalli police stations.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Revenue (LA) Department

FORM - VII
DECLARATION

(Under Section 19(1) and Rule 25 Sub Rule (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013.
(Central Act 30/2013))

District Collector Siddipet File No. G1/1340/2020 Date : 19-11-2020
Revenue Divisional Officer,
Husnabad File No. : C/557/2020 Date : 16-11-2020
Gazette No. : 583/2020 Date : 19-11-2020

As per the directions of Goverment of Telangana District Collector, Siddipet, the notification is issued as per the Section 19(1) of the right to fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation Act 2013 for requirement of Land admeasuring area **Ac.7.11** Guntas in Gundaram Village,Bejjanki Mandal of Siddipet District for the Public purpose i.e. for the Construction of Kaleswaram Project, Package No 10 Canal (MDC7-3L, MDC7-2L, MDC7-1L).

Therefore the Declaration is issued for beginning of the following land acquisition works and land details for admeasuring **Ac. 7.11** Guntas in Gundaram Village, Bejjanki Mandal of Siddipet District.

SCHEDULE

Village : Gundaram Mandal : Bejjanki District : Siddipet

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area to be acquired	Name & Address of Land Pattedar /Enjoyer / Interested Person	Boundaries East	West	North	South	[illegible]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	627	Patta	Dry	0.06	Gajarla Manavva W/o Venkata Mallaiah	36	622	626	629	Nil
					Gajarla Srinu S/o Venkatamallaiah (E)					Nil
					Gajarla Rameshkumar					Nil
					Gajarla Laxmi					Nil
					Gajarla Satyanarayana					Nil
					Gajarla Mallaiah					Nil
					Gajarla Balaiah					Nil
					Gajarla Ramachandram					Nil
					Gajarla Durgaiah					Nil
					Gajarla Anjaneyulu					Nil
				0.06	Gajarla Naresh S/o Prabhakar (E)					Nil
2	37	Patta	Dry	0.06	Gajarla Ramesh Kumar,S/o Balaiah	38	626	625	627	Nil
				0.06	Gajarla Anjaneyulu S/o Rattaiah					Nil
				0.05	Gajarla Balaiah S/o Seetaramulu					Nil
3	626	Patta	Dry	0.00 10	Gajarla Balaiah S/o Seetharamulu	37	625	625	627	Nil
4	625	Patta	Dry	0.31	Erupula Balakishan S/o Rajaiah	37	622	-	626	Pipeline [illegible]
5	41	Patta	Dry	0.04	Erupula Anith S/o Balakishan	45	625	42	40	Nil
6	43	Patta	Dry	0.03	Kolupula Anjaiah S/o Bojjanki	55	41	-	44	Nil
7	50	Patta	Dry	0.20	Chiranji Rangaiah S/o Ramaiah (E)	76	49	51	21	Nil
					Chiranji Naveenkumar S/o Ramaiah					Nil
					Chiranji Sattaiah S/o Ramaiah					Nil
					Chiranji Rajesham S/o Ramaiah					Nil
8	51	Patta	Dry	0.06	Kompelli Meenaiah S/o Rajaiah	75	49	52	50	Nil
9	67	Patta	Dry	0.03	Baddu Raju S/o Narsaiah	-	61	-	70	Nil
10	68	Patta	Dry	0.14	Nampalli Vaikuntam S/o Ambaiah (E)	-	69	67	71	Nil
					Nampally Amarendra chary S/o Vaikuntam					Nil
					Nampally Srinivas S/o Vaikuntam					Nil
					Nampally Swathi W/o Narayana					Nil
11	71	Patta	Dry		Nampalli Amarendra Chary S/o Vaikuntam	-	70	68	72	Nil
				0.04	Nampally Vaikuntam S/o Ambaiah (E)					Nil
					Nampally Srinivas S/o Vaikuntam					Nil
					Nampally Swathi W/o Narayana					Nil
				0.10 50	Ganga Narayana S/o Rajaiah					Neem 1
12	72	Patta	Dry		Ganga Narsaiah S/o Chandraiah	81	53	71	81	Nil
				0.08	Ganga Anitha W/o Mohan (E)					Nil
				0.17	Ganga Tirupathi S/o Narsaiah					Nil
				0.05	Ganga Balaiah S/o Chandraiah					Nil
13	75	Patta	Dry	0.11	Ganga Bhagavan S/o Pochaiah	81	51	74	76	Pipeline [illegible]
14	76	Patta	Dry	0.0 850	Parakala Madhu S/o Laxminarsaiah	79	51	75	77	Neem 2
				0.10 1/2	Paturi Sureshreddy S/o Manikyareddy					Neem 1
				0.10	Edulakanti Narsimha Reddy S/o Mallareddy					Neem 1
15	81	Patta	Dry	0.09	Mohammad Lal Mohammed, S/o Mahebub	82	73	72	79	Pipeline
				0.13	Mohammad Hameed Bee W/o Madar					Nil
16	606	Patta	Dry	0.10	Elakanti Venkata Narasavva, W/o Ram Reddy	609	592	605	607	Nil
				0.13	Gurrala Ramulu S/o Rajaiah					Neem 1
				0.01	Gurrala Rajaiah S/o Rajaiah					Nil
17	605	Patta	Dry	0.08	Bontala Narsaiah S/o Ashaiah	610	604	612	606	Nil
				0.08	Kommidi Chinna Mallaiah S/o Narsaiah					Nil
18	604	Patta	Dry	0.04 50	Elugameti Vajavva W/o Chandraiah	612	595	603	592	Nil
				0.06 50	Elugameti Laxmi W/o Venkataiah					Pipeline
19	603	Patta	Dry	0.08	Gajarla Malleshom S/o Rattaiah	614	600	601	604	Neem 1
				0.06 50	Gajarla Sampath Kumar S/o Balaiah					Nil
				0.07 50	Chanda Narsaiah S/o Mallaiah					Neem
				0.03	Mankali Babu S/o Durgaiah					Nil
				0.03	Mankali Parsaramulu S/o Durgaiah					Nil
	Total Extent			7.11						

As no objections are received under section 15 (of Act 30/2013), the declaration is issued.

For constructing the package No.10 canal (MDC7-8R) of the Kaleshwaram Project, land procurement under jurisdiction of Gundaram Village, Bejjanki Mandal of Siddipet District is Very limited and due to construction of said project the water supply will increase in the remaining land holdings, improving the livelihoods and the said land procurement will not be affected the livelihood and residences of the other households, so,the rehabilitation and resettlement is not applicable.

Mines of Coal, Iron-Stone or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction of the project for the land is being acquired, are not needed.

A plan of the land for above mentioned for acquisition may be inspected in the office of Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Husnabad, office hours on any working day.

Sd/- Tahsildar, Bejjanki Mandal

Sd/- Land Acquisition officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Husnabad

Sd/- Addl.Collector, Siddipet District

Sd/- District Collector, Siddipet

DIPR No.881/LA/PP-Advt/Agency/2020-21

'Seat-sharing talks after TN poll date is fixed'

PNS ■ COIMBATORE

Seat-sharing talks for the 2021 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections would be held after announcing the poll date, state BJP president L Murugan said Monday.

Replying to a question on reports of the BJP demanding 50 seats from the ruling AIADMK, Murugan said a statement on the continuation of the alliance was just made two days ago.

The number of seats to be contested would be decided upon after discussions with all the alliance partners, he said.

Murugan, along with Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan, attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the new BJP office here at a cost of Rs 1.5 crore.

The two leaders were on their way to attend 'Vel Yatra'in Palani this evening.

With regard to the yatra, Murugan said it would culminate in Tiruchendur on December 5 instead of December 7. BJP national president J P Nadda is expected to participate in the event.

When referred to the remarks by TNCC president K S Alagiri that Congress would also join if the yatra was taken with an idol of Lord Muruga, he said Murugan and 'vel' cannot be separated; without Muruga there is no vel and without vel there is no Muruga. However, he hastened to add that the vel is to finish 'asuras' (demons) and also the anti-Hindu and anti-nationals."

Delhi HC: Treat as representation PIL for paid menstrual leave

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Monday asked the Centre and the AAP government to treat as a representation a PIL seeking grant of paid leave to women employees during menstruation.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan asked the central and Delhi governments to take a decision on the representation in accordance with the law, rules, regulations and policy applicable to such matters as soon as possible and practicable.

The bench disposed of the Delhi Labour Union plea that women be provided special casual or paid leave as menstruation is intrinsically related to human dignity and by not providing separate toilet facilities or breaks to maintain hygiene it also sought facilities for periodic rests, separate and clean toilets and provision of sanitary napkins to women employees during their menstruation period.

MIM Bihar MLA insists 'Bharat' be replaced with 'Hindustan'

PNS ■ PATNA

A controversy erupted on the floor of the Bihar Assembly on Monday when a legislator from AIMIM insisted that the draft for the oath in Urdu should have "Bharat", as it is in the Constitution, instead of the seemingly eclectic "Hindustan".

The demand was made by Akhtarul Iman, state president of Asaduddin Owaisis AIMIM no sooner than he rose to take oath in Urdu. It left the pro-tem Speaker Jitan Ram Manjhi visibly bewildered who pointed out that as per convention those who take oath in Urdu said "Hindustan".

The demand was made by Akhtarul Iman, state president of Asaduddin Owaisis AIMIM no sooner than he rose to take oath in Urdu

The chair, however, permitted him to use the word Bharat. Iman whose party champions the cause of minorities while wearing its patriotism on he sleeves, was stormed by journalists who wanted to know why he had an objection to "Hindustan" which is used by people of the country in common parlance. The MLA replied "I had raised no objections. I had simply made a point that whenever we read the Preamble of the Constitution, in whichever language, it mentions the word Bharat. In the light of this fact I felt that since we are taking oath in the name of the Constitution, it would be proper if use the same term for the name of our country".

He asserted that he had "no problems with the word Hindustan", having grown up reciting Iqbals famous poem "Saare jahaan se achcha, Hindustan hamaara" and appreciated "personal choice" exercised by leaders like Congress MLA Shakil Ahmed Khan who prefered to take oath in Sanskrit.

He also dismissed suggestions that his stand would "hurt Urdu-speaking population" who have been opposed to Sanskritisation holding it to be an assertion of Hindu majoritarianism.

However, the ruling NDA reacted with predictable distaste to the development, which helped All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) hog some more limelight after having caused a splash in the assembly elections in which it won five seats and is said to have affected the outcome in a number of others.

More trouble for suspended IAS officer

PNS ■ KOCHI

A special court for PMLA cases here on Monday granted permission to the Customs to arrest suspended IAS officer M Sivasankar, who is currently in judicial custody, in connection with the Kerala gold smuggling case.

The court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) allowed the prayer by the Customs, which claimed it has got direct incriminating material against Sivasankar over his 'involvement' in the sensational smuggling of gold using diplomatic channel.

Sivasankar, former principal secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, is presently lodged in a jail here after being arrested by the Enforcement Directorate probing the money trail in the gold smuggling case.

"The Customs, during the course of investigation has now been able to get direct incriminating material against Sivasankar of his involvement and being concerned in smuggling of gold illegally which is an offence under the Customs Act, 1962.

"It has, therefore, become necessary to subject him to custodial interrogation after arresting him. This is highly necessary for the smooth progress of the investigation," The Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate said in its petition.

The Customs said it has arrested around 15 people, including prime accused Swapna Suresh, Sarith PS and Sandeep Nair, in connection with the seizure of 30 kg smuggled gold illicitly imported as diplomatic baggage of UAE consulate in Thiruvananthapuram on July 5. The agency said it has now come to light that Sivasankar, who has been arrayed as fifth accused in the case registered by the ED, is also involved in the issue.

"However, the Customs is yet to determine the actual involvement. So he is now a suspected accused", the Customs said in the petition.

The move by the Customs came days after Sivasankar moved the Kerala High Court seeking bail in the ED case after the Special Court for PMLA cases here rejected his application for regular bail on November 17.

Declining bail, special court Judge Kauser Edappagath had noted the investigation was at a crucial stage and the ED may require further time to collect all the materials, particularly related to the alleged nexus of the petitioner with the crime.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), the ED and the Customs are conducting separate investigations into the racket that was busted with the seizure of gold on July 5.

Comedian Bharti Singh, husband get bail

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A Mumbai court on Monday granted bail to comedian Bharti Singh and her husband Harsh Limbachiya, who were arrested after seizure of drugs from their house in suburban Mumbai.

The magistrate's court granted bail to the couple on a bond of Rs 15,000 each.

Bharti Singh, who has appeared in a number of comedy and reality shows on TV, was arrested on Saturday night by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), while her husband was taken into custody on Sunday morning following seizure of ganja (cannabis) from their house in suburban Andheri.

They were produced on Sunday before the magistrate's court which remanded them in judicial custody till December 4.

Kangana moves HC to quash Mumbai Police's FIR against her

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Actress Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel filed a petition in the Bombay High Court on Monday, seeking to quash an FIR registered against them by Mumbai Police for allegedly "trying to create hatred and communal tension" through their posts on social media.

The FIR, under sedition charges, was registered pursuant to orders passed by the Bandra magistrate's court directing the police to carry out an inquiry against Ranaut and her sister following a complaint lodged against them.

"Kangana and Rangoli have filed a petition in the Bombay High Court for quashing of the FIR and the magistrate's order," their advocate Rizwan Siddiquee told PTI.

He said the petition has also sought the court to stay the summons issued against the duo asking them to appear before the police for questioning, and also a direction to the police to not take any coercive steps against them.

The Mumbai Police last week summoned Ranaut and her sister for the third time to record their statements on November 23 and 24.

The police have filed the FIR against Ranaut and her sister under IPC sections 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race), 295-A (deliberate acts hurting religious sentiments) and 124-A (sedition), 34 (common intention).

Punjab, Haryana CMs liable for pollution: Atishi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

AAP MLA and chairperson of Environment Committee of Delhi Assembly Atishi on Monday met with newly-appointed panel for Air Quality Management and urged it to hold chief ministers of Punjab and Haryana liable for causing pollution in the national capital.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Atishi said two main issues were raised with the commission.

"We have asked them to direct Haryana and Punjab governments to implement as soon as possible the solution by the Pusa institute and the Delhi government in dealing with the stubble burning issue. Earlier it used to be said that there is no solution to the issue of stubble burning but now a solution has come so it should be implemented," she said.

According to scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, the "Pusa bio-decomposer"solution can turn crop residue into manure in 15 to 20 days and therefore, can prevent stubble burning.

Secondly, Atishi said she told the commission that just giving direction is not enough but it is the responsibility of Haryana and Punjab to stop stubble burning and if they don't do it, strict action must be taken against them.

"The commission can file FIR and imprison anyone for up to 5 years for causing pollution in Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region) so we have asked it to hold the CMs of Haryana and Punjab liable and accountable and take strict action against them," she added. Atishi said the commission has given assurance that it will look into the matter.

"It has also told us that it will be holding a meeting with Pusa institute. We will be closely watching what steps the commission adopts now and we hope that when Centre has made such a powerful commission then it will take strict and fast action in the matter," she added. Delhi's air quality deteriorated on Monday morning but remained in the 'poor' category, while 14 of its 38 monitoring stations recorded 'very poor' air quality, government agencies said.

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 24, 2020

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Good enough?

The AstraZeneca vaccine has been clinically tested to have an average efficacy of 70 per cent. We still need containment drills

With India clearly in the midst of a third wave — some might even call it a tsunami of new Coronavirus cases — we should not be surprised. Even a cursory glance of what happened during the 1918-1919 Spanish influenza pandemic should have warned us to be prepared for winter, because even a century ago, there was a massive increase in cases in winter when the cold compromises lungs thanks to congestion and any influenza virus can be devastating. With the Delhi and Gujarat governments in a state of panic, it is almost certain that cases will begin to increase across the country whether the authorities admit to them or not. But there is some positive news with British pharmaceutical firm AstraZeneca, which has jointly developed a vaccine with University of Oxford to combat the Coronavirus, coming out with its trial results. That is because the Serum Institute of India (SII) has been a partner to this research as well and has promised that it will produce hundreds of millions of doses of this vaccine for Indians. Yet, the results have only indicated an average of 70 per cent efficacy with two full doses taken a month apart and up to 90 per cent when an initial half dose is combined with a full dose taken after one month. Promisingly, the vaccine doesn't need super-cold storage like the ones developed by Pfizer and Moderna, requiring only refrigeration. It also appears that as many as five other promising vaccine candidates might make it to the markets by early 2021.

However, as we have maintained, the development of a vaccine is not equal to its deployment. Also, if as the trials have indicated, with at least one-and-a-half doses required for maximum efficacy, India will need a whopping two billion doses. Even if costs are kept in check, this is looking at a time frame that might take well over three-four years to inoculate a substantial number of Indians in order to gain a decent amount of protection. At the same time, because efficacy is not the same as effectiveness, even with 90 per cent efficacy, the Coronavirus will continue to pop up, tens of thousands will continue to get infected and many more will die before the Wuhan pandemic truly settles down. Till then, preparedness and preventable behaviour are the only containment devices against an unexpected surge and given India's population density, we better reconcile ourselves to the fact that our crests will be a constant for some time. Maharashtra, which has been the worst-affected State in the country, fighting the longest battle and is now threatened with a new front, has finally released its new screening SOPs that make a RT-PCR test report mandatory for visitors who are travelling to the State from hotspots. All entry points to the State will have testing and screening centres for those not carrying such a report. This is the first time that international travel protocols are being followed domestically and perhaps would be adopted by other States, too, to keep the numbers down. It is a shame indeed that the Supreme Court has had to pull up State Governments on laxity and seek a status report on preparedness. The court also had to get into the nitty gritties of ensuring dignified treatment of the dead and vetting hospital conditions to treat the sick. A fatigue has undoubtedly set in, socially, psychologically and physically. Doctors are the worst affected, some of whom need to be relieved with younger colleagues now being drafted in to ease frontline pressure. Anticipation is the best defence now. The pandemic has forced Governments to invest in public health like never before but now investments in vaccine manufacturing and deployment will be the challenge. These are positive developments but let us not pretend that the news of a vaccine is a silver bullet that will magically cure the world.

Putin's *nyet* to Biden

Russia yet to acknowledge US President-elect given his past stance on sanctions. Can arms control break the ice?

When all world leaders are already confabulating with President-elect Joe Biden, Russian President Vladimir Putin is not ready to acknowledge the US' chosen leader just yet. In fact, given his history with US President Donald Trump, his latest diplomatic stance portends what the latter might be up to. One that's serious enough for Putin to acknowledge. Although the electoral certification process technically is still on, Biden has emerged the clear winner from the State-by-State vote tallies. And the Electoral College is expected to formally confirm the results on December 14. Trump may exhaust all legal options and challenge counts but the margins are by now too large to change the outcome in his favour. But he sure is making the transition difficult, determined to make Biden's job difficult and most importantly, fairly decided about weighing his rival down with his flamboyance and show him as a weak leader, who doesn't deserve to be in a chair that demands his kind of robustness. Putin's words on State TV would seem like they were scripted by Trump himself as he said he would work with "anyone who has the confidence of the American people. But that confidence can only be given to a candidate whose victory has been recognised by the opposing party, or after the results are confirmed in a legitimate, legal way." The contrast is sharper as in 2016, Putin had wasted no time in congratulating Trump for winning the election. Of course, Clinton had conceded the day after the vote and the Russian involvement in influencing the election in Trump's favour is not quite a secret. So beyond the personal equation, Putin's continued deference to Trump as a world leader seemed less than diplomatic, considering the impact it could have on US-Russia relations and global geopolitics. Putin, of course, claimed that his latest stance wouldn't impact mutual relations much as they were "already ruined." The Trump Administration has already withdrawn from the Open Skies Treaty and the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. Thanks to the US, Russia is already under international sanctions for actions, including its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 (one where Biden had a key role to play), interference in the US election in 2016 and reported involvement in a nerve agent attack in the UK in 2018. So unless Putin is humouring Trump in the run-up to 2024, which the latter is seemingly keen to contest, and investing for the future, little else makes sense. Besides, Trump's "America first" policy and withdrawal from global arenas of conflict had helped Russia somewhat regain its heft and self-worth in Europe in the power vacuum thus caused, all the way up to Turkey. With Biden's renewed commitment to world bodies, particularly NATO, Russia's clout could be considerably diminished. In fact, it could be blindsided again.

The Kremlin has historically not been comfortable with the Democrats and finds Biden an impediment, given his tough stance on Putin. As Vice-President, Biden had stridently pushed for sanctions against Russia in response to the 2014 Ukrainian crisis. With no signs of conflict resolution on that count, Putin now expects tougher counter-measures against him. Besides, given Biden's stance that morality must play a role in US foreign policy, Russia fears sharper US condemnation of its rights issues and what the US considers "subversive" activities in the neighbourhood. This brand of US exceptionalism is antithetical to Russia's newly extended sphere of influence. All through his campaign, Biden did mention Russia's meddling in US elections as also its alleged endorsement of Taliban attacks on US troops in Afghanistan. So rightfully, Putin does expect a hitback and is probably raising his stakes to deflect the US. Of course, Biden and his team are pragmatic and a balanced lot and would not want to precipitate a crisis, working on areas of mutual interest. The renewal of arms control could be a starting point. Biden has already said that he wants extension of existing or new treaties on reducing US-Russian nuclear arms. That works with the Russians, too.

Educating a global citizen

Character-building just cannot be envisioned in isolation unless linked to culture. The NEP respects Gandhi's vision of young Indians

J.S. **RAJPUT**

Policies are formulated on the strong foundation of the outcomes of incisive analysis of past experiences coupled with futuristic vision that could respond to emerging issues, concerns and aspirations. Gandhi*ji* consistently articulated the India of his dreams and his concerns about the impediments ahead. These are evident in the seven social sins he published in the *Young India* of October 22,1925. These are: politics without principles, wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity and worship without sacrifice.

No policy, the one on education included, can ignore the contemporary severity of these sins. It could also be witnessed in the seven tensions identified in the report to UNESCO of the International Commission on Education for the 21st century— also known as the Delores Commission Report. These are the tensions between global and local, universal and individual, tradition and modernity, long-term and short term considerations, the need for competition and concern for opportunity, extraordinary expansion of knowledge and the human being's capacity to assimilate, and finally, the conflict between the spiritual and the material. One could, in the present context, reformulate them but it would be perilous to neglect any of these. The "sins" are taking stronger roots while the "tensions" are disturbing human habitation and systems that are already under severe strains and pressures as consequences of declining moral, ethical and humanistic considerations.

An incisive scrutiny of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) would indicate the extent to which both the sins and tensions need to be responded to, as is essential to prepare human beings imbued with character, commitment and concern. It acknowledges the guiding light it derived from the "rich heritage of ancient and eternal Indian knowledge and thought." The pursuit of knowledge, wisdom and truth is considered the highest goal of human life. The NEP mentions, "The aim of education in ancient India was not just the acquisition of knowledge as preparation for life in this world, or life beyond schooling, but for the complete realisation and liberation of the Soul. World class institutions in India, such as Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila and Vallabhi, set the highest standards of multi-disciplinary teaching and research and hosted scholars and students from across backgrounds and countries." The ancient Indian system of education valued the pursuit of knowledge with the sole objective of utilising it for the welfare of humanity: "Let all be happy, let all be healthy; let all see good around and let none suffer pain of any kind." Could there be a better comprehension of the essential unity of human beings as one family? And in a family, differences and diversities are accepted and respected. This is what the NEP has imbibed in word and spirit. It recalls how the products of ancient Indian education system strived tirelessly to make seminal contributions in diverse fields of knowledge, including mathematics, astronomy, metallurgy, surgery, health, architecture, engineering, ship building, navigation, yoga, fine arts and so much more. Every Indian student – inheritor of this great legacy – must be made familiar with it and accept the responsibility to enhance it further through excellence in his chosen area of activity and expertise. Each one of them is an inheritor of the legacy of luminaries like Charak, Susruta, Aryabhata, Bhaskaracharya, Brahmagupta, Nagarjuna, Gautama, Maitreyi, Gargi and Thiruvalluvur.

Once the NEP 2020 is implemented appropriately, no Indian shall remain "delinked from India." Every learner would be exposed to modern knowledge that would be given to him/her in institutions following the most modern pedagogy, and with due emphasis on critical thinking, creativity and innovations. It would aim at developing a student's full human potential. Higher education, the NEP-2020 acknowledges, must aim to develop good, thoughtful, well rounded and creative individuals. Obviously, the school education would take note of these aspects in the most sensitive years. Recommendations on multi-disciplinary universities, robust autonomy, revamping of curriculum and pedagogy, reforms in governance of higher education Institutions (HEIs), creation of National Research Foundation (NRF) and National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) would be positive additions to the quality and contemporary relevance of the future model of Indian education.

India could finally turn into an international education hub and certainly attract attention of the corresponding international institutions. The proposed changes in structure, flexibility, autonomy, pedagogy, multi-dimensionality, assessment procedures, including transfer of credit systems, would remove several agonising technicalities. The availability of internationally relevant curricula in the history, heritage and culture of India, as also modern subject areas, could attract a sizeable number of foreign students, helping us achieve the goal of "internationalisation at home." Some well-thought out suggestions like opening of foreign campuses by established Indian institutions and permitting top international universities to operate in India would effectively put Indian education firmly on the international podium, with dignity, credibility and expectations. Shared courses with reputed international institutions could pave the way for a much-needed morale boosting and encourage our young to compete with and excel among foreign students. One has to be cautious about certain aspects though. Global credibility and recognition would require certain minimum levels of infrastructure and facilities which, sadly enough, are still missing in a large number of education institutions across the board. The NEP 2020 assures availability of all of these: "Every classroom shall have access to the latest educational technology that enables better learning experiences." There can be no compromise on the professionally acceptable teacher-taught ratio. This raises several related requirements. Quality just cannot be raised by engaging guest teachers, teachers on lecture-based payments, para teachers and keeping more than a million posts of school teachers vacant for decades together! In HEIs, the quality of products, research and innovations would be greatly impeded if there are 40-60 per cent vacant academic positions. The NEP 2020 boldly acknowledges this concern and articulates: "The teacher must be at the centre of the fundamental reforms in the education system. The new education policy must help re-establish teachers, at all levels, as the most respected and essential members of our society, because they truly shape our next generation of citizens. It must do everything to empower teachers and help them do their job as effectively as possible." Expressing serious concern on the quality of teacher education, the recommendation is to replace by 2030 all of the present one-year school teacher preparation programmes by four-year integrated teacher education programmes. It may be worthwhile to recall that the four-year integrated teacher preparation programmes began in the four institutions of the NCERT in 1964-64, and the products were indeed far ahead of others in their professional performance in schools and teacher education institutions. Unfortunately, the module was not replicated.

In higher education, the policy acknowledges the "criticality, quality and engagement" of the faculty. It also accepts that "faculty motivation" remains far lower than the desired level. Several steps have been listed to attract "the best, motivated, and capable faculty in the HEIs." The right-teacher-student ratio, access to education technology, freedom to design their own curricular and pedagogical approaches, incentives like appropriate rewards, promotions, recognition and movement into institutional leadership are included in the list.

In his book of 1932, *Remakers of Mankind,* Carl Washburne writes that when asked, "What is your goal in education when India obtains self-rule?", Gandhi answered, "Character-building. I would try to develop courage, strength, virtue, the ability to forget oneself in working towards great aims. This is more important than literacy; academic learning is only a means to this great end." Character formation was the strength of the traditional Indian system of knowledge quest that included creation, generation, utilisation and transfer of knowledge to generations ahead. With all the experiences gained globally in varying contexts and approaches, it is now accepted globally that education in every country must be rooted to culture and committed to progress. Character-building just cannot be envisioned in isolation unless linked to culture. No culture would flourish in isolation and our youth can become global citizens only when they are made well aware and conversant with their own culture before being introduced to others. India painfully suffered as the transplanted system deliberately kept young "educated" Indians away from getting familiar with the nuances of their own culture; they were systematically indoctrinated in the "superiority of the Western culture." This was very comprehensively articulated by Gandhi*ji* in the *Young India* of September 1,1921, "It is my firm opinion that no culture has a treasure so rich as ours. We have not known it, we have been made even to depreciate its value. We have almost ceased to live it." Let us hope that the proposed educational reforms would prepare young people with credentials, and they would be looking after the masses. Education must lead to human dignity for one and all.

(The author works in education and social cohesion)

SOUNDBITE

Virat Kohli will be missed. But like I say, in adversity comes opportunity. There are a lot of young guys on the side and it's an opportunity for them.

Head coach, Team India
—Ravi Shastri

You just cannot create the right atmospherics in a virtual concert. There is no intimacy, no immediate feedback and no interaction with the audience.

Singer
—Pankaj Udhas

I hope we'll leave in history an example of how to deal with a global health threat and an economic crisis by applying the principle of universal brotherhood.

Mexican President
—Andres Obrador

I've got to learn next year to get off my devices. You scroll through social media for your news and it's just bad anyway, which just brings you anxiety and puts you in depression.

Singer
—Shaggy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Will Cong ever act?

Sir — The Congress Party has suffered a debacle in the just-concluded Bihar elections due to its political blunders and poor organisation. It has also suffered defeat in the byelections in different States.

Because of the worrisome state the party is in all over the country, senior leaders like Kapil Sibal and P Chidambaram have lashed out against the present leadership of the Congress. They have echoed the words of those members of the grand old party who wrote a dissent letter in August. The Congress Party has become weak because of the trust deficit, loss of public appeal, identity politics and political polarisation. There is a crisis of leadership due to the lack of vision and idealism. Brainstorming by senior leaders and dissenters in a democratic spirit of accommodation will help overhaul the party. A graceful and dignified change of leadership can also help open a new and meaningful chapter in its history.

This, in turn, will help build a strong Opposition, which is essential for the growth of a healthy and vital democracy in the country. Any nation that does not have a strong Opposition to keep the ruling Government in check is in trouble and can become totalitarian.

Krishan Malhotra
Ambala Cantt

No room for divisive politics in TN

The announcement about the continuity of the AIADMK-BJP alliance in Tamil Nadu has finally laid all speculation to rest. The reception given to Union Home Minister Amit Shah by the party's top leadership has confirmed that the AIADMK Government is tied to the NDA Government's apron strings. This is partly attributed to the fear of Central agencies being unleashed upon its leaders. Interestingly, the number of AIADMK cadres out to greet Shah was more than the BJP's men. Significantly, the "Go back Amit Shah" hashtag that was trending showed the strong anti-BJP sentiment that is prevailing in the State as it is inhospitable terrain for divisive politics, especially on religious grounds.

With the sealing of the AIADMK-BJP pact for the Assembly election, the prospect of any significant political realignment or formation of a third front, making it a triangular contest has now receded. At the same time, the moves by late Jayalalithaa's companion, Sasikala, who will be out of jail by January 27, superstar Rajinikanth and MK Alagiri will be watched with interest.

In the present political situation, the ideological incompatibility between a Dravidian party and a Hindutva-oriented party could get starker. This would be to the disadvantage of both the parties as the election nears. Obviously the State unit of the BJP has made the restrictions on idol immersion during the Vinayaka

Chaturthi an issue. It has invoked the traditional Tamil deity Lord Murugan and undertaken the Vetrivel Yatra (why bring Muruga Peruman from the shrine to the street?) despite the denial of permission because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As an ally, the AIADMK supported the BJP on the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act and the three farm Acts. True, the BJP holds sway over much of the country but it has only a negligible presence in Tamil Nadu. In its eagerness to gain a toehold and build a base in the State by piggybacking on the AIADMK, the BJP could bargain for seats disproportionate to its strength. Overall, the DMK looks the firm favourite to occupy Fort St George.

G.David Milton
Maruthancode

Help others in need

Sir — We are being buffeted by yet another wave of the pandemic. As feared by health experts, the cold, the pollution and the cavalier attitude of the milling masses roaming around in overcrowded markets without masks during the festive season have led to this surge. Many States are again thinking of going into a lockdown. This will be nothing short of a disaster for our country as the economy, which has been ailing for quite some time now, cannot take yet another hit.

Amid all this, we cannot ignore the plight of the poor who have been forced out of even daily wage and minimum wage jobs. Also, street vendors have been struggling. With the unlocking of the country, their lives were just about getting back on track again as people had begun spending.

Now, if there is another lockdown, the wheels of the economy will stop moving again and the poor will be left to starve and fend for themselves in a nation that does not have unemployment benefits or social security. Till we get a Universal Basic Income in India, we as citizens of the country, should find it in our hearts to help the underprivileged. We need to stop being so self-centred and reach out and help those in distress.

Ashmit Aaron
Noida

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Shape the future at cyber speed

Being prepared to weather any storm is possible with the right digital strategy and continuous, concerted effort

ALOK **OHRIE**

The need for businesses to digitally transform themselves is something that has been discussed for years. However, as we saw in the 2018 Digital Transformation Index that serves as a benchmark for computerisation technology adoption among organisations, many enterprises' digital transformation programmes did not keep up with the advancements in computing power and the influx of emerging technologies. Coupled with the imperative to adapt to today's unprecedented business disruption, the need to digitally transform has never been more urgent and challenging.

It is encouraging to see that many enterprises are rising to the occasion. In the 2020 Digital Transformation Index, it was found that 95 per cent of respondents in India have successfully accelerated at least some of their transformation programmes this year. This shows immense progress in computerisation. However, there is still a lot of work to be done. As it is, continuous digital transformation is not easy, with 97 per cent of Indian businesses facing entrenched barriers to cyber networked business processes as they navigate their future.

By committing to continual transformation — even amid uncertainty such as the kind the world is facing right now — businesses can help to shape their ideal future. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated that organisations can be nimble and transform quickly. A third have already extended their business domain; however, what companies do next will be telling. Ongoing transformation is vital, and there is plenty of room for advancement.

As of now, just 12 per cent of Indian firms surveyed are defined as "Digital Leaders", meaning these are companies with digital transformation ingrained in the DNA of their business, end-to-end. And even though they are leaders in cyber networked business processes, they recognise that change requires continuous effort — with more "Digital Leaders" accelerating their transformation programmes this year compared to "Digital Laggards", meaning those that don't even have a computerisation plan or their investments in such technology are few and far between. Here is some inspiration from more mature digital businesses as they consider how to implement an ongoing advancement plan for their firm:

Data privacy and cybersecurity: These are constant and evolving concerns that should not be overlooked. Mature digital businesses recognise more often than others that data privacy and cybersecurity warrant proper consideration. In fact, 47 per cent Indian businesses are of the opinion that data privacy and cybersecurity are the major barriers in their digital transformation journey.

Budget and resources: Financial constraints — both budget pressures and lack of economic growth — have not slowed down transformation for the more mature digital businesses. They position Information Technology investments as strategic drivers for innovation instead of thinking of them as a cost. However, a whopping 32 per cent Indian respondents said that lack of budget and resources is a barrier to digital progress in their organisation.

Data is the lifeblood of a company: As we move towards a Zettabyte era, the ability to extract insights from data will become a major stumbling block if it is left unresolved. There is hope that the recent disruption will ignite a new wave of data-first, data-anywhere businesses. We found that 94 per cent of Indian organisations agree that extracting valuable insights from data will be more important for their business than ever before as one of the great benefits of this is the ability to track metrics and analyse them. Using these insights allows firms to optimise their strategies and processes for better results. In businesses, two things matter more than most — costs and revenue. It's possible to make massive changes to both by integrating data-based insights into the company culture. However, working towards this change sooner rather than later is imperative.

Overall, businesses should be applauded for adapting so quickly to the extreme and sudden onset of disruption from recent events. Some companies were poised to respond better than others, based on where they were on their digital journey. However, being prepared to weather any storm is possible with the right digital strategy and continuous, concerted effort.

In this hyper-connected data decade, every business needs to be a cyber business to survive and thrive. With digital disruptors snapping at the heels of many sectors, success will come to the organisations that ensure their workforce is skilled in the best practices of the digital age. Moreover, this change must be woven into the DNA of the firm and championed by its leadership to have a maximum impact. With a strong ally by your side, businesses of varying sizes, industries and digital maturities can find ways to adapt to new routines and push the frontiers of what's possible.

(*The writer is president and MD, Dell Technologies, India*)

POINT**COUNTER**POINT

WITH THE AMENDMENT TO THE POLICE ACT, THE KERALA GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO SILENCE THE VOICE OF THOSE WHO CRITICISE IT.
—LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN THE ASSEMBLY
RAMESH CHENNITHALA

MANY HAVE VOICED CONCERN OVER THE ACT'S AMENDMENT. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT TO IMPLEMENT IT.
—KERALA CHIEF MINISTER
PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Fertiliser DBT an illusion

Despite tall claims made by the UPA and the NDA dispensations since 2012, a gradual transition to direct cash or benefit transfer of subsidy to the farmers has not been done

UTTAM **GUPTA**

The additional provision of ₹65,000 crore towards fertiliser subsidy (over and above the ₹71,000 crore allocated in the Budget for 2020-21), that was announced by the Finance Minister under "Stimulus- III" on November 12, will help in clearing all pending dues to the industry. This has led the latter to believe that this is a precursor to a gradual transition to direct cash or benefit transfer (DBT) of subsidy to the farmers. This is illusory, as despite tall claims made by the UPA and the NDA dispensations since 2012, this has not been done. The dominant stumbling blocks are a threat to the viability of high cost units in the public sector, including revival projects *viz* Sindri, Gorakhpur, Barauni and so on. Plus there is the risk of inviting the farmers' wrath if subsidy does not reach them in time. Bureaucratic red tape is a third major factor. Till these are addressed, DBT to farmers won't see the light of the day.

In the Budget for 2012-13, the then UPA Government had announced tracking the movement of fertilisers from retailers to farmers, and linking part of the subsidy payment to manufacturers for sale to farmers by retailers. In the mid-year economic analysis of 2012-13, the Finance Ministry came out with a blueprint on modalities for implementing the Budget announcement. Pilot projects in 10 districts spread over nine States were to be launched, which were to be followed by DBT in these districts from April 1, 2013. Concurrently, the Government planned to track fertilisers movement in the whole country. A pan-India launch was contemplated from April 2014.

Even as the Department of Fertilisers developed the technology platform called e-Fertiliser Monitoring System (e-FMS) to execute the blueprint, the DBT remained on paper. Meanwhile, the NDA Government under Narendra Modi recognised that there was rampant misuse of subsidy. According to the *Economic Survey 2015-16*, as much as 24 per cent of the subsidy was spent on inefficient producers, 41 per cent was diverted to non-agricultural uses, including smuggling to neighbouring countries, and 24 per cent was consumed by larger, presumably richer farmers. That left a tiny 11 per cent for small and marginal farmers, who alone, according to Modi, should have been the sole beneficiaries of the subsidy. The survey advocated DBT using the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) platform. In the Budget for 2016-17, the then Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, made an announcement to this effect followed by the launch of pilot projects for linking subsidy payments to producers with the sale of fertilisers to farmers by retailers in 18 districts spread over 12 States. In March 2018, the scheme was launched across the country.

Under it, the Government has made disbursal of 100 per cent of the subsidy to producers conditional upon actual sales to farmers and these getting registered on point-of-sale (PoS) machines at the dealer's shop (prior to this, they were getting 95 per cent of subsidy on receipt of material at a district's railhead point or approved godown and the balance five per cent on confirmation of sales to farmers by States). But this is not DBT as subsidy continues to be routed through manufacturers. Now, just because the Government has cleared all subsidy dues to manufacturers, it gives no clue that this will happen soon. In fact, there are major roadblocks on the way — some explicit and others not so. To understand these, let us look at how the extant system works. The Centre controls the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of urea at a low level, unrelated to the cost of production and distribution, which is higher. It reimburses the manufacturers for the shortfall as subsidy on a "unit-specific" basis under the New Pricing Scheme (NPS). The current MRP of urea is ridiculously low at ₹5,360 per tonne even as the cost can vary from about ₹15,000 per tonne to ₹25,000 per tonne. Even as all units (31) sell urea at the same price, each one of them gets paid on the basis of its own production cost. Thus, an efficient unit producing at, say ₹15,000 per tonne, gets a subsidy of ₹9,640 per tonne whereas another producing at ₹25,000 per tonne, gets a subsidy of ₹19,640 per tonne.

> THE SUBSIDY MAY BE COMPUTED ON A PER HECTARE BASIS AND GIVEN ANNUALLY AS MOOTED BY THE COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURE COSTS AND PRICES. IN ITS RABI REPORT FOR THE 2021-22 MARKETING YEAR, IT HAS PROPOSED A SUBSIDY OF ₹5,000 PER YEAR TO BE GIVEN IN TWO TRANCHES OF ₹2,500 EACH IN THE KHARIF AND RABI SEASONS. THIS SHOULD BE GIVEN ONLY TO THE SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS OR THOSE WITH LAND HOLDINGS OF LESS THAN TWO HECTARES

In the case of P and K fertilisers, the Government gives "uniform" subsidy on per nutrient basis to all manufacturers under the Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme. For arriving at the MRP, they are expected to deduct the subsidy amount from the cost. For instance, if a unit produces DAP (dia-ammonium phosphate) at a cost of say ₹34,000 per tonne and subsidy is ₹10,000 per tonne, then it will have to fix the MRP at ₹24,000 per tonne.

Now, if instead of routing through the manufacturers, the subsidy is to be given directly to farmers, the transition in case of P and K fertilisers may not face much of a hurdle. The subsidy of ₹10,000 per tonne or ₹500 per bag (50 kg) of DAP can be credited to a farmers' account even as the manufacturer will sell at the market-based price, say ₹34,000 per tonne or ₹1,700 per bag, this being the cost of the most efficient producer (this could also be an average of all units depending on how market dynamics evolve). However, the farmer will have to spend ₹500 per bag extra at the time of purchase, though he will get back this amount from the Government as subsidy later.

In the urea segment, however, the transition will be tough for manufacturers as well as farmers. For producers, since each one of them will have to sell at the market-based price, all those whose production cost is higher than that of the most efficient producer or the industry average, will either have to perform or wind up. As for the farmer, he will have to spend, at the time of purchase, at least thrice (based on the market price of ₹15,000 per tonne or ₹750 per bag) of what he is spending now.

The Government has fears on both counts. On the production front, there are several public sector plants, which fall in the high cost zone and hence risk being chopped under the DBT. Even the revival projects, like Sindri, Gorakhpur and Barauni, on completion (2021) will have a production cost of over ₹30,000 per tonne. Hence it won't be viable under the new regime. As for farmers, it risks inviting their wrath if subsidy money does not reach them in time, which is inevitable if the budgetary allocation is inadequate.

There are other roadblocks which are not so explicit. Under the present system of urea being available at a throwaway price of ₹5,360 per tonne, a mere one-fourth of the cost, dubious operators make a quick buck by diverting it to chemical industries or smuggling it to neighbouring countries. This won't be possible without the tacit consent of those in the hot seat. Further, urea imports are canalised through State agencies like the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC), State Trading Corporation (STC) and there is a lot to gain for decision-makers. Clearly, there are vested interests in continuing with the *status quo*.

Unless the above roadblocks are cleared, the transition to DBT will be next to impossible. But this is doable provided Modi sheds his plan of linking development of eastern India with the revival of Sindri, Gorakhpur, Barauni (alternatively, their production cost needs to be cut drastically); pledges to fully fund subsidy requirement (if it can be done for 2020-21, why not every year then); ruthlessly applies his dictum of "*naa khaoonga, naa khane doonga* (neither will I take bribe nor will I let anyone else take it)"; and does away with bureaucratic red tape by removing all controls, including on urea import. The subsidy may be computed on a per hectare basis and given annually as mooted by the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). In its Rabi report for the 2021-22 marketing year, it has proposed a subsidy of ₹5,000 per year to be given in two tranches of ₹2,500 each in the Kharif and Rabi seasons. This should be given only to the small and marginal farmers, i.e. those with land holdings of less than two hectares. Further, a cultivator must not be denied subsidy merely because s/he does not own the land tilled by her/him.

The Government should garner data on all 140 million farm households and put it on a web portal. This is an absolute must to ensure that no one is left out. At present, there is a void as even under PM Kisan, just about 80 million farmers are receiving the eligible amount of ₹6,000. Under a business as usual scenario, leaving out 60 million from subsidy payments could be catastrophic.

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

BJP yet to consolidate Hindu votes down South

Success has been eluding the saffron party so far as its penetration has been restricted to Karnataka. It has failed in TN, Puducherry and Kerala

KALYANI **SHANKAR**

After the big win in the Bihar Assembly elections this month, the BJP is now focussing on the South, where Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry are going to the polls early next year. Elections are scheduled for West Bengal and Assam, too. Will the BJP achieve its goal of gaining a foothold in the South? Success has been eluding the saffron party so far, as its penetration has been restricted to Karnataka. It has failed in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala because of historic, religious, social and ideological reasons.

In Tamil Nadu, the BJP firmed up its poll alliance with the ruling AIADMK during the weekend. Eyebrows were raised at this early pact when the State's Deputy Chief Minister and party coordinator O Panneerselvam announced it at a function attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Though the late AIADMK chief J Jayalalithaa had a good equation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she did not go for a tie-up with the BJP in the 2016 polls. After her demise, in 2019, the UPA made it in 37 of the 40 seats won. The BJP went with the AIADMK.

The BJP now wants to make a mark in the South, riding piggyback on the AIADMK. The Congress is in alliance with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) while smaller parties like actor Vijayakanth's Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), S Ramadoss' Paattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), Thirumavalavan's Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and others choose the DMK or AIADMK coalition according to the situation.

The BJP has strengthened its Tamil Nadu unit by appointing Murugan, a lawyer, as its chief and has also activated its workers. There has been a recruitment spree in the State since 2014. It has brought to its fold celebrities, bureaucrats and politicians from other parties. Recently, the actor-turned-politician and Congress spokesperson Khushbu's joining of the party was a significant event. So the big question is why was the BJP unable to make inroads in Tamil Nadu till now?

First of all, the saffron party had no tall leaders to match the iconic Dravidian leaders like M Karunanidhi, J Jayalalithaa and MG Ramachandran. It is likely to be Modi versus DMK chief MK Stalin now. Second, the BJP is perceived to be a North Indian Brahminical party and the word Brahmin is anathema to Dravidian parties. Third, Tamil Nadu saw a huge anti-Hindi agitation in the 60s. The Dravidian parties are against any imposition of Hindi and the Modi Government is in favour of it. Fourth, influenced by the anti-Brahmin movement of the 50s and the 60s, many caste-based parties like the Vanniyars (dominant in north-west parts of Tamil Nadu, Thevars (dominant in southern part of the State in the Madurai belt) and Gounders (in the Kongu belt in the west), have sprung up in the last three decades, resulting in the splintering of votes. Fifth, the BJP's stand on conversions to Christianity and its hostility to Islam and other religions has no takers in the South. The BJP's polarising tactics won't work in the South. Sixth, new parties have sprung up with two untested superstars — Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth — on the horizon.

The DMK has been making poll preparations for some months now and MK Stalin has already announced an alliance with the Congress. In the 2019 Lok Sabha, the Congress-DMK combination swept the polls. The State has been alternating between the DMK and the AIADMK and now it is the turn of the DMK. It was only in 2016 that the AIADMK got a second term.

The neighbouring Puducherry often reflects Tamil Nadu's politics. In any case, it is a small Union Territory and has just one seat in the Lok Sabha. Currently, the Congress is ruling in the State.

Kerala is a different story. The Left-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) alternate in power. It is the UDF's turn now. The BJP has not been able to penetrate much in the State despite the groundwork done by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Further, the Kerala electorate consists of a sizeable number of Christians and Muslims and they remain non-BJP voters.

In 2019, the LDF posted a landslide victory, winning 19 of the 20 seats while the UDF won just one seat and the BJP got zero seats. The RSS tried to mobilise support on the contentious Sabarimala issue but the counter-mobilisation presented an effective alternative control.

With more literate voters, Kerala alternates between the Communists or anti-Communists. The BJP is seeing slow growth in the State because of it. While the minority communities in the State have successfully ensured the protection of their respective cultures, the Hindu community has relentlessly ceded its own cultural space. The BJP is taking advantage of it, but it is taking time to translate into votes.

Also, the BJP is facing factionalism in Kerala. The RSS has cautioned the central leadership that the friction in the State unit could impact the performance in the polls.

Kerala won kudos in containing the COVID-19 pandemic. A few months ago it looked as if the LDF could return to power but that came to a screeching halt in July after the Chief Minister's Office was found to be allegedly involved in a gold smuggling scam. Several protests broke out across Kerala after the smuggling of 30 kg gold worth ₹14.82 crore through diplomatic channels came to light on July 5. The case is currently being probed by the ED, the National Investigation Agency and the Customs Department. Another nail in the coffin was the recent promulgation of The Kerala Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. Vide this Ordinance, a new Section 118A was introduced in the Kerala Police Act, 2011. This was widely viewed as a brazen assault on freedom of speech.

Though the Chief Minister insisted that "no action would be taken against the media or critics who stay within the limits of the Constitution" and in the end decided not to implement the amended Act, the damage has been done to the Government's reputation and credibility in a fiercely independent State.

Now, it remains to be seen whether the BJP can consolidate its Hindu votes in the South.

(*The writer is a senior journalist*)

FOREIGN EYE

THE TIME TO THINK IS NOW

Plans for mass immunisation against COVID-19 are developing fast. The last year has exacerbated anti-vaccination emotions, and they will not disappear when lockdowns end. Restoring confidence in immunisation may require the much more fundamental rethink that many hoped this pandemic might produce: A reappraisal of who and what is valued, and how we should be living and relating to each other.

(*The Guardian* editorial)

Momentum of economic reforms will continue: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday assured the industry that momentum of economic reforms will continue to make India a hotspot of global investment.

India has turned the crisis created by pandemic into an opportunity to push the economic reforms, which remained pending for decades, she said while addressing the National MNC's Conference 2020 organised by the industry chamber CII.

"Even at the time (of) COVID pandemic, the Prime Minister has not lost an opportunity to take deep reforms, to undertake those kinds of reforms which have not seen the light of the day over the decades.

"The momentum for reform shall continue. Several more active reform-related steps are being taken up," Nirmala Sitharaman said.

The financial sector is being professionalised and the government will continue with disinvestment agenda, Sitharaman added.

Markets march higher on Corona vaccine progress

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Index heavyweight Reliance Industries climbed 2.72 per cent, accounting for most of the Sensex's gains, after the Competition Commission on Friday evening said it has approved the conglomerate's proposed acquisition of Future Group's retail assets

Equity benchmarks made a winning start to the week on Monday as positive results from another COVID-19 vaccine candidate bolstered investor confidence globally.

A recovering rupee and unabated foreign fund inflows added to the momentum, traders said.

After touching a record intra-day high of 44,271.15, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 194.90 points or 0.44 per cent higher at 44,077.15.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 67.40 points or 0.52 per cent to close at 12,926.45.

ONGC was the top performer on the Sensex chart, surging 6.84 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries, HCL Tech and TCS.

Index heavyweight Reliance Industries climbed 2.72 per cent, accounting for most of the Sensex's gains, after the Competition Commission on Friday evening said it has approved the conglomerate's proposed acquisition of Future Group's retail assets.

On the other hand, HDFC, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, SBI and M&M were among the main laggards, slumping up to 3.55 per cent.

Global equities were on the upswing after Oxford University and AstraZeneca announced that their COVID-19 vaccine candidate was found to be around 90 per cent effective in preventing the disease.

This is the third major vaccine trial to have reported encouraging results, after Moderna and Pfizer came out with positive Phase 3 data.

"While global cues remained favourable, a sharp rebound in IT, pharma, metals and Reliance Industries led domestic equities to register further gains. However, profit booking was witnessed in select heavyweight financials after recommendation of IWG (Internal Working Group) of RBI did not favour them much, which led financials to end in red today.

"Additionally, as expected strong buying in mid-cap and small-cap stocks remained visible in the backdrop of improving earnings outlook scenario. Nifty is poised to cross psychological 13,000 mark shortly. We believe improved prospects of strong corporate earnings should continue to attract foreign participation in Indian equities, which bodes well for markets," said Binod Modi, Head at Reliance Securities.

MONEY MATTERS

Suzuki India expands BSVI product portfolio with V-Strom 650XT launch

Suzuki Motorcycle India on Monday expanded its BSVI product portfolio with the launch of V-Strom 650XT ABS (anti-lock braking system) with BSVI engine, priced at Rs 8.84 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). Displayed for the first time at the Auto Expo in Greater Noida earlier this year, the roll out of the V-Strom 650XT ABS has become the first BS6 compliant big bike from the company's portfolio, SMIPL said in a release. "V-Strom has made its own following in India. The ultimate adventure tourer has proved its mettle in the highway touring capabilities while exploring different terrains. This is our first BS6 compliant big bike and we are confident that this cleaner and greener motorcycle will continue to win people's hearts with its performance and maneuverability as it hit the Indian roads," said Koichiro Hirao, MD, Suzuki.

CIL to set up 3 GW solar power projects of Rs 5,650 crore

State-owned Coal India on Monday said it plans to set up 14 rooftop and ground-mounted solar power projects of 3,000 MW capacity by 2023-24 which will entail an investment of Rs 5,650 crore. CIL is mandated by the coal ministry to become a net zero carbon company. Solar power initiative is a part of CIL's diversification plans, the PSU said in a filing to BSE. The likely investment would be around Rs 5,650 crore, it said. While Rs 3,650 crore is planned to be invested through CIL's capex, till 2023-24, the rest would be met through joint venture models that the company intends to pursue for this initiative. Synergising their efforts, CIL and NLC India Ltd have floated a joint venture entity 'Coal Lignite Urja Vikas Private Ltd' to develop 1,000 MW solar power projects. CIL has also tied up a JV with NTPC and an MoU with Solar Energy Corporation of India for solar projects of 1,000 MW each, the progress of which is being worked out individually.

WEF to host online Davos Agenda meet in January

The World Economic Forum will host a five-day online summit in January 2021, during which heads of state and government will deliver special addresses and engage in dialogue with business leaders at the start of a "crucial year to rebuild trust". Named 'Davos Agenda', the online meeting would take place around the same time -- from January 25-29 -- during which the WEF has been holding its Annual Meeting every year in the Swiss ski resort town. While the WEF's Davos 2020 summit was the last major global event that took place before almost the entire world got locked down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the next annual meeting has been shifted to May 2021 and is scheduled to be held in Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland.

Reliance Industries, Future Group stocks rally on strong demand

Shares of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) closed nearly 3 per cent higher on Monday after the Competition Commission approved the company's proposed acquisition of retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing businesses of Future Group. Future Group stocks were also in heavy demand, rising up to 10 per cent. RIL shares rose 2.72 per cent to close at Rs 1,950.80 on the BSE. During the day, it gained 3.72 per cent to Rs 1,970. On the NSE, it jumped 2.93 per cent to close at Rs 1,955.20. The company's market valuation rose by Rs 34,892.12 crore to Rs 13,19,138.30 crore on the BSE. In terms of volume, 5.99 lakh shares were traded on the BSE, while over 2 crore shares were traded on the NSE during the day. Besides, Future Retail zoomed 9.95 per cent to Rs 79 -- its upper circuit limit, Future Lifestyle Fashions gained 9.99 per cent to Rs 90.30 and Future Enterprises Ltd shares rose 4.92 per cent to its highest trading permissible limit for the day at Rs 10.45 on the BSE.

Proposal to allow corporate houses to set up banks a 'bombshell'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The RBI working group's proposal to allow corporate houses to set up banks is a "bombshell" and at this juncture, it is more important to stick to the tried and tested limits on involvement of business houses in the banking sector, according to an article jointly written by former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan and ex-Deputy Governor Viral Acharya.

They also said that the proposal is "best left on the shelf".

"The history of... connected lending is invariably disastrous – how can the bank make good loans when it is owned by the borrower? Even an independent committed regulator, with all the information in the world, finds it difficult to be in every nook and corner of the financial system to stop poor lending," the article said.

Biological E and GVK BIO announce R&D partnership

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

GVK BIO, a leading global Contract Research and Development Organisation, and BE Pharmaceuticals Inc, a rapidly growing pharmaceutical company that develops, manufactures and markets complex and critical injectable products, announced a strategic collaboration in drug product development.

As part of the partnership, GVK BIO will develop certain set of injectable products for BE Inc. Development work will include Pre-Formulation studies, Formulation Development, Analytical Method Development and Technology Transfer to a BE facility.

Pulse Plus Pharmacy becomes the first e-pharmacy start-up to turn profitable

PNS ■ COIMBATORE

India – Business Wire India Pulse Plus Pvt Ltd, part of the Pasumai Pharmacy Group based in Coimbatore has organically scaled its digital medicine delivery platform to 10,000+ fulfilled orders in a month, post-pandemic. Launched just in June 2019, their Android app enjoys the highest rating among other medicine delivery platforms and has been the fastest-growing bootstrapped start-up to achieve this feat. The company partners with over 17 shipment partners to deliver the medicines nationwide to over 16,000 pin codes & generates the digital orders through its web platform & app.

Pulse has been profitable with the digital venture at the gross/net levels from its initial days of operation due to the hybrid omnichannel approach employed by the company. Leveraging the existing retail footprint to process the digital orders has helped them optimize the cost of order processing & eliminated the need to burn while controlling the quality.

About this, Mr Vishnu Prasath, Co-founder said, "We're growing fast organically and are on our path to reach 1,000 orders a day within the next twelve months. We're profitable both at the gross & net levels as a business. As more new customers start using our platform, we'll naturally become the most preferred choice for the customers across South India where we offer the best delivery TAT's. We expect to also grow inorganically with our B2B partnerships as we recently launched our API through which anyone can launch and sell medicines in a white-labeled way."

With five solid decades of experience in pharmacy retail, Pasumai Pharmacy group has set its foot in the digital medicine delivery space & is on its way to compete with other major players.

Rupee settles 5 paise higher at 74.11 against $

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 5 paise to settle at 74.11 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday tracking positive domestic equities and weak American currency.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit traded in a narrow range as rising COVID-19 cases offset positive sentiments surrounding the progress on the vaccine front.

The rupee opened at 74.12 against the US dollar and touched a high of 74.04 and a low of 74.22 in day trade.

On Friday, the local unit had settled at 74.16 against the greenback.

"Rupee traded in a range after opening strong on back of weak dollar index. The tight range of 74.00-74.45 remains, on back of awaited stimulus deals from the US. Crude prices scaling high give some support to USD-INR as it keeps holding 74.00," said Jateen Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst (Commodity & Currency) at LKP Securities.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.23 per cent to 92.17.

S&P 'sceptical' of allowing corporate ownership in banks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Monday expressed scepticism over allowing corporate ownership in banks given India's weak corporate governance amid large corporate defaults over the past few years.

It also said that the RBI will face challenges in supervising non-financial sector entities at a time when the health of financial sector is weak.

Last week, a RBI panel had proposed that large corporates may be permitted to promote banks, as well as raising the cap on promoters' stake in private sector banks to 26 per cent, from15 per cent at present. "We are, however, sceptical of allowing corporate ownership in banks given India's weak corporate governance amid large corporate defaults over the past few years," S&P said. The RBI will face challenges in supervising nonfinancial sector entities and supervisory resources could be further strained at a time when the health of India's financial sector is weak, it added.

The RBI has recommended that corporates should be allowed to control banks after amendments to the Banking Act, 1949 to prevent connected lending between the banks and other financial and non-financial group entities.

India, Sweden to discuss ways to strengthen collaboration

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Sweden will on Friday discuss ways to deepen bilateral ties covering various sectors, including innovation, India Unlimited, the joint body of Embassy of India in Sweden and Sweden-India Business Council, said on Monday.

The discussion will be part of 'India Sweden Innovation Day 2020' themed at "The New Normal" -- an event that will be jointly organised by India Unlimited in association with Embassy of India in Sweden, Sweden India Business Council and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on November 27, 2020.

The one-day virtual event will focus on the role of public-private partnerships in the new normal, re-engineering the India Sweden growth again, India Unlimited said in a statement.

"The event also aims to deepen the collaboration between the governments of Sweden and India in the field of innovation through a strategic innovation partnership and is based on a mutual commitment to drive prosperity and address global challenges such as sustainable development, health-tech etc," it said.

IT spending to grow 6% in 2021 to $ 81.9 bn

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IT spending in India is projected to rise 6 per cent to USD 81.9 billion in 2021 compared to this year on the back of growth across segments like enterprise software and IT services, research firm Gartner said on Monday.

IT spending in 2020 is expected to total USD 79.3 billion, down 8.4 per cent from 2019.

"The COVID-19 pandemic stalled many digital transformation projects for Indian enterprises, mainly because of the market uncertainties and reduced cash flows," Gartner research vice president Arup Roy said.

He added that organizations that were digitally sound in a pre-pandemic world could contain the impact on their businesses.

"The pandemic situation was a wake-up call for many organizations to relook and revive their IT strategies and increase their spending on IT in 2021," he said.

In 2020, the devices and data centre systems segments experienced the steepest declines, and spending is estimated to have dropped 26 per cent and 1.2 per cent, respectively.

Spending on enterprise software, IT services and communication services is estimated to have continued to grow at 7 per cent, 3.7 per cent, and 4.9 per cent, respectively, in 2020 over the previous year.

In 2021, Gartner said IT spending growth will return as CIOs (Chief Information Officers) start positioning IT as not just a growth enabler, but a 'survival necessary' strategy.

While all segments will experience an increase in spending, the enterprise software segment will achieve the highest growth of 13.6 per cent, followed by data center systems at 8.3 per cent, it added.

"The 'Digital India' mission will turn a new leaf in 2021 as enterprises across all sectors start spending more on IT. The pandemic provided an opportunity for Indian CIOs to test long-pending projects such as remote working, which delivered on-promise for many enterprises and helped them stay afloat in the most testing times," Roy said.

The success of these digital innovations has brought back the focus on investments in IT, he added.

Roy said the pandemic situation forced organizations to switch to work- from-home.

"Those organisations that were heavily reliant on office based, desk-tied work had to switch to remote work set up – enabled either through using desktops or laptops facilitated at home. Now, it also means that one has to also port your infrastructure and applications so that it facilitates web-based access and/or hosted applications that can be accessed using internet on the web/application/mobile platforms," he added.

It is not just restricted to one's work specific applications but also transcends to collaboration platforms because the whole element of in-person interactivity now needs to be enabled on the virtual platform using digital collaboration solutions, he said.

"Of course, not to forget the security, governance and policy administration that needs to be tweaked to facilitate and safe and secure delivery from remote set up," Roy futher added.

In 2021, the focus of IT spending will be in becoming a true digital business. CIOs in India will direct their IT spending budgets towards accelerating digitisation efforts. Spending is expected to increase on technologies including advanced analytical solutions, access management, encryption software, desktop as a service, cloud, and hyper automation enabling systems.

SEA: Edible oil imports pegged at 12.5 m tonne

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's edible oil imports are estimated to remain range-bound at 12.5-13.5 million tonne in 2020-21 oil year due to sluggish hotel consumption in the wake of COVID-19 and a possible rise in domestic production, according to trade body SEA.

The country's edible oil imports declined 13 per cent to 13.52 million tonne in the 2019-20 oil year (November-October), it said.

"We are pegging imports to remain range-bound between 12.5 to 13.5 million tonnes in 2020-21," Mumbai-based Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) President Atul Chaturvedi said in a statement.

Edible oil imports may be restricted because of hopes of higher domestic oilseed production and expectation of 1-1.5 million tonne higher edible oil output.

Poor demand due to lower out of home consumption in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic will have a bearing on imports this year.

"India is a price-sensitive market and high prices may affect consumption negatively," he said.

SEA mentioned that oilseeds farmers, particularly mustard growers, are planting in more areas - responding positively to the high price signal. "We should not be surprised if Oilseed production goes up big time."

The cumulative effect of all these factors would ensure that Indian edible oil imports may remain restricted, it added.

In the 2019-20 oil year, SEA said, crude edible oil comprised 97 per cent of the total imports, as domestic refining capacity utilisation improves significantly.

As refined oils were kept under restricted import category, its shipments were restricted to only 4.21 lakh tonne in 2019-20 as compared to 27.31 lakh tonne in the previous year.

Sensex ends 195 pts higher; Nifty tops 12,900

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex jumped 195 points on Monday, tracking gains in index-heavyweights Reliance Industries, Infosys and TCS amid largely positive cues from global markets and sustained foreign fund inflows.

After touching a record intra-day high of 44,271.15, the 30-share BSE index ended 194.90 points or 0.44 per cent higher at 44,077.15.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 67.40 points or 0.52 per cent to close at 12,926.45.

ONGC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging around 7 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, HCL Tech and TCS.

the pioneer
Hyderabad

Follow us on
@TheDailyPioneer
facebook.com/dailypioneer

Tuesday
November 24, 2020

ARRIVAL OF VFX IN THE TELLY WORLD

Serials today have sure moved on from just melodrama, which has only helped in the growth of its audience. Visual effects on the small screen have attracted a wider audience, thanks to the innumerable possibilities of things that can be shown in the reel world. Actors from the most watched fantasy shows on Hindi and Telugu television talk to *The Pioneer*'s SHIKHA DUGGAL about this transition, why people are loving this, and more

Aakash Talwar

"Fantasy serials with over-the-top VFX is the genre of moment. To create such moments it's equally liberating and difficult and to change the basic rules of nature, i.e. serpents exists, magic is real, fantasy characters can come to earth, etc. It shows how VFX is shaping a reality of its own!

Who knew a time would come when A-listers will be seen offering prayers to Lord Shiva in an old temple and the amulet turns into a five-headed snake that reveals some astonishing facts about her lineage as the main plotline of a daily soap! There are many such serials like *Nagabhairavi, Naagin, Yehh Jaadu Hai Ginn Ka, Pyar ki ek Kahani, Sasural Simar Ka,* etc. The monopoly of both Hindi and Telugu television has taken a newshape altogether with a completely distinct concept and advancement of VFXs. Viewers are always longing for fresh content and are done with the same old stuff. This led to the trend of plotlines based on supernatural thrillers replacing the staunch traditionalist.

Serials have come a long way, today there is attractive content and a unique theme and it's purely for entertainment basis. The technique of using VFXs isn't a cakewalk, for an authentic creation where the stratum of audiences don't find it illogical, it becomes an art in itself. The most amateur viewers can also easily distinguish between what's real and what's not. For instance, the mythological show Nagabhairavi is using its VFX that's a notch higher only to outdo its competitors, be it from the same language or across diverse soap operas being telecasted in different languages. Pawan Sai from the same show shares with us how a fantasy serial comes with so many expectations — "The supposed role for a serial like *Nagabhairavi,* which is currently making all the noise in the Telugu television market, revolves around magic and prophecies. The kind of budget that has been invested in making this first class mystical serial is equal to the finances of a small screen movie. We aren't leaving philosophy behind, we are exploring that as well, but with the help of metaphors and VFX of course. Use of VFX is letting you escape the reality of the world and pushing you into the realms of innumerable possibilities in the reel world. I suggest for the logical strata of audiences to keep their brains aside for a while and relish this only for entertainment purposes. If this is successful in Telugu television today, it won't be difficult anymore for script writers to sell such stories across as there are worries surrounding costs and selling the intricacy to a casual audience. To my television colleagues in the Telugu entertainment fraternity, we are no less than a cinematic experience and cheers to a new beginning in the telly world with advancements of VFX."

Have you ever suspected that the stories told by television serials will run for the TRP race only because of immortal beings, an interesting facet that we are witnessing. With serials like Naagin having back to back seasons, it's quite evident today that watchers do find a pique interest in supernatural beings who are running the kingdom from a parallel, godly dimension. Basically, the concept of finite fictional series has just got mass approval with the success of Ekta Kapoor's fifth season of Naagin successfully running on air! Aakash Talwar, one of the characters who is a part of the beaming star cast of *Naagin 5*, highlights how there are plethora of stories and a lot of unrealistic fantasies to offer for them as talent attraction, that it lays down a rich ground for VFX artists to nail the coffin! "Fantasy serials with over-the-top VFX is the genre of moment. To create such moments it's equally liberating and difficult and to change the basic rules of nature, i.e. serpents exists, magic is real, fantasy characters can come to earth, etc. It shows how VFX is shaping a reality of its own! Now again, it's equally important that while reshaping, it should make sense to show consistency and above all so that the viewers can relate which I think the team behind Naagin is doing a fantastic job at. My character is very simplistic in the soap opera yet it feels amazing to be a part of an unreal world on television. The reason Naagin is so popular is because it shows serpents in visible motion having a human greed for *nagmani*, ambition and family ties in a way that audience can empathise with," Aakash Talwar shares about his serial that airs on Colours everyday.

Does a change in the trend of genres in soap operas are indicative of a change in audience perspective? Do give a thought.

THE TECHNIQUE OF USING VFXS ISN'T A CAKEWALK, FOR AN AUTHENTIC CREATION WHERE THE STRATUM OF AUDIENCES DON'T FIND IT ILLOGICAL, IT BECOMES AN ART IN ITSELF.

A musical TREAT

The Hindi version of the film Trolls World Tour features singer Neeti Mohan lending her voice to the lead character. She shares that translation is more than just words, it's about maintaining their intent, style, tone and context.
By *PNS*

While the year has trolled each one of us in style, saving the best for the last, the animated musical comedy *Trolls World Tour* takes over the theatres. The film features singer Neeti Mohan lending her voice to the lead character — Poppy. With Anna Kendrick regaling the audience in the English version of the film, Neeti blows us all away with three songs in the Hindi version of it: *Koi Geet Gao, Iss Pal Ko Jio* and *Trolls Toh Karenge Fun*. Excerpts:

What fascinated you to say yes to the film?

Singing for animated films, for characters which are trying to tell a story and spread positivity fascinates me the most, especially when it's musical character. That was the main reason why I said yes to the project.

How was your dubbing experience? Was it challenging to translate songs and dialogues to another language?

Of course, yes! It was definitely challenging. When you are trying to translate something from English to Hindi or any other language for that matter, you don't want to lose out on the poetry or the real essence of it. That's why we wanted to make sure that it sounds amazing and the meaning stays the same. We did our best to not lose the meaning of the lyrics in translation. Translation is more than just the words, it's about context, tone and aim. It's the process of adapting a particular text from one language to another, while maintaining its intent, style, tone and context. A good translation will evoke the same emotions in the target language as it does in the source language. We have to make sure that our tone is suiting the character, the energy level is jumpy, so we have to match that as well. And if the character is in a romantic state, then we have to match that kind of vibe too. These are some of the challenges we usually face. However, I feel the challenges were fun because I love to deliver the vocals as per the visual requirements.

You sang three songs for the film, each quite different from each other. How did you strike a balance between them and the genres?

Yes, I sang three different songs, one of which was the title track, all the them quite different from each other. But I have always loved singing in various genres. This wasn't the first time that I did it. I have done it before, so it comes naturally to me. I believe that if you feel the lyrics and the melody, you can easily mould in any genre.

You said that your character Poppy sends across the message that every girl is a queen and a 'go-getter.' Could you give us a deep insight into the character?

Yes, Poppy sends across the message that every girl is a queen. Poppy is a free-spirited soul who is a 'go-getter'. The character inspires its audience to a great extent, which is why getting the chance to be 'Poppy Mohan' was one of the best things of all time if you ask me. With music being such an integral part of the narrative, a film like this ranks among my most-favorite. I feel that poppy is someone who wants to change the world and is very positive about it. She is an icon of music. She wants to tell every child and every girl that you can make it happen. She conveys a message that you are not alone. I feel like I am myself so much similar to Poppy.

How do you think music tours will see a change now that the pandemic and social distancing norms are here to stay...

Yes, pandemic has changed the face of live concerts, weddings and parties or any gatherings. It is going to be here for a while unless and until we find the cure. That's going to take a lot of time, so yes, we have resorted to virtual concerts as of now. I haven't performed a live gig in front of the audience as of now but I have been doing Insta Lives and some virtual gigs... I think because of social media, it's quite helpful to stay in touch with fans, connect to a larger audience who can watch your work online. Social media is a great way for individuals and communities to stay connected even while physically separated. For now, it's safe that way.

'Torbaaz holds a special place in my heart'

By the looks of it, Rahul Dev will be essaying the character of a Talibani leader, the main antagonist in the upcoming movie *Torbaaz* opposite Sanjay Dutt! Rahul shares a special bond with friend Sanjay Dutt as they go back to the time of late Mukul Anand's *Dus*, which was supposed to be Rahul's debut film. Rahul is known to have played some menacing and memorable characters on screen. Fans are definitely looking forward to watching him in yet another classic.

"Working with baba is always special. Can't believe we met on set two decades ago. I wish him the very best of health and happiness always, he's a real fighter. The film has some great visuals! My director Girish Mullick has done really well and was well supported by our producer Rahul Mittra from Waves. The film holds a special place in my heart for many reasons which I will be revealing later on. It was a memorable experience on the sets of *Torbaaz* and I am sure the audience will love this labor of love from us," tells Rahul. Now we do know what magic can be created with these two power houses on screen, don't we! Hence l, can't wait to watch it on OTT!

RAHUL DEV SAYS, WORKING WITH BABA IS ALWAYS SPECIAL. CAN'T BELIEVE WE MET ON SET TWO DECADES AGO. I WISH HIM THE VERY BEST OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS ALWAYS, HE'S A REAL FIGHTER.

the pioneer
Hyderabad | Tuesday November 24 2020

Mrunal Thakur: Few filmmakers envision women characters with equal footing

Actress Mrunal Thakur feels that very few filmmakers give equal footing to women characters in their movies.

According to her, Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra is one of those filmmakers who treats female characters in their films well.

"There are very few filmmakers who envision a story that gives its women characters an equal footing. In the best of Rakeysh's works, one can see how beautifully he layers his women. Be it Soha Ali Khan's Sonia in *Rang De Basanti* or the female characters in *Delhi 6* or *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*, his women are memorable," said Mrunal.

She will be seen in Mehra's next film *Toofan* alongside Farhan Akhtar.

"In *Toofan* my character is an anchor to the narrative despite not being the driving force of the plot. It was a beautiful experience working with Farhan and Rakeysh. They subconsciously help you push yourself to explore things you haven't tried. The little nuances they bring to their work teaches you so much," she said.

"I have learnt so much from *Toofan*, most importantly (the fact) that women in new-age narratives aren't ornamental. They have a solid ground to stand on and the male actors like Farhan facilitate that," said Mrunal.

About Mehra, she felt he is a filmmaker who tells "stories of interest and his characters are well fleshed out and nuanced, who stay in your heart even after the film is long over."

Anushka to complete back-to-back shoots in next two weeks

Actor Anushka Sharma, now pregnant with her first child, remains active as ever. The actor shot for an ad film in Mumbai. The first pictures show her glowing in a cream midi dress. She shared a picture of herself from the shoot and simply wrote 'hey'. In the picture, the actor is seated on a comfortable sofa. Another picture of hers walking has also found its way to the internet, her baby bump clearly visible. Earlier, she had shared a picture of herself, getting her makeup done. Also on Sunday, pictures of her getting out of her vanity van in a teal dress but with a face mask firmly in place was all over the internet. The recent pictures showed her looking radiant with post pregnancy glow. If anything, she looked really fit. Anushka will complete back-to-back shoots in the next two weeks before going in for the break for her delivery, scheduled for January next year. Subsequently, she will get back to work by May 2021.

Rajkummar Rao's success makes Hansal Mehta feel like a 'happy parent'

National Award-winning filmmaker Hansal Mehta is all praise for actor Rajkummar Rao, with whom he has often collaborated. Mehta says the success of the actor makes him feel like a happy parent.

Rajkummar made his acting debut in 2010 *Love Sex Aur Dhokha*. But it was through Mehta's film *Shahid* in 2013 that he gained recognition. The actor again collaborated with the filmmaker with projects such as *City Lights*, *Aligarh*, *Bose: Dead/Alive*, *Omerta* and the recent digitally released film *Chhalaang*.

Talking about Rajkummar's evolution as an actor, Mehta told *IANS*: "The beauty is Rajkummar has never lost his humility and generosity that he always had as an actor. He has remained that same person. What has changed is that Rajkummar has become really popular." The quinquagenarian reminisced about how he and the actor would walk freely on the street and shoot "guerilla style" on the roads in the past. "Now that is not possible. I think the success has brought with it some limitations. But his success makes me happy. I feel like a happy parent," Mehta added.

Sanjana Sanghi is Aditya Roy Kapur's leading lady

Sanjana Sanghi has been finalised as the leading lady opposite Aditya Roy Kapur in *Om The Battle Within*.

Sanjana had made her debut opposite Sushant Singh Rajput in *Dil Bechara*, which turned out to be the actor's last film after his death on June 14.

Directed by Kapil Verma, *Om The Battle Within* is produced by Zee Studios, Ahmed Khan and Shaira Khan. The film will be shot in India and abroad, with shooting expected to end by March next year. Ahmed Khan says, "In her debut film, Sanjana handled her role with great maturity and in OM, the character what she plays is of a young girl who handles great responsibilities and she is perfectly suited for it."

Talking about her new film, Sanjana said, "Getting to delve into the action genre so early on, is something I view as an absolute honour and have immense gratitude for to my producers, Ahmed Khan, Zee Studios and my director Kapil for the potential they have seen in me being able to pull of such a unique part in our film. After exploring many scripts and possibilities for a while, Om felt just right since it was the spectrum jump I was looking for in terms of throwing myself into an entirely unchartered territory of a big commercial actioner being executed in a never-seen-before way that is going to present me with new and exciting challenges."

She added, "My character Kavya is a girl I know each of us young girls in India aspires to be. She is confident, extremely hard working and sharp, empathetic, brave and a crucial tenet of our film. She's nothing like we've ever seen before on celluloid. I'm so excited to bring her to life, and I know I'm going to learn so much from her I'm doing tons of action in the film, and various kinds of training and prep for the same is ongoing. It's testing and pushing me both physically and mentally, but is so thrilling! Getting to work with Adi is the best part of it all, he's working so hard for the film and is going to shine."

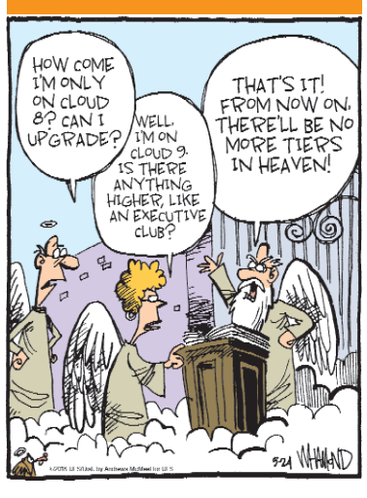
FUN

ARCHIE

CALVIN AND HOBBES

GARFIELD

REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP

NANCY

GINGER MEGGS

SUDOKU

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

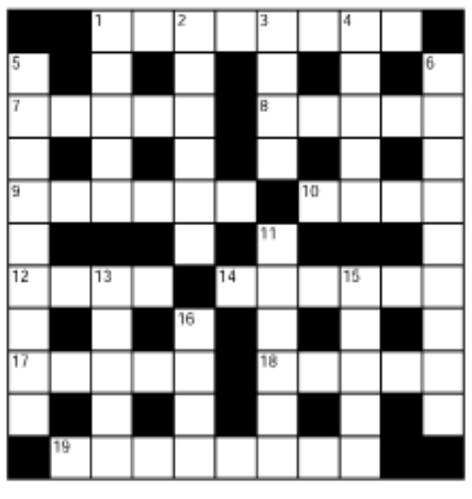
Yesterday's solution

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

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.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Altering
7 To cook something in an oven
8 Last
9 Failed to remember
10 Injured by a bullet
12 Stink
14 An award for a successful university student
17 One of the planets
18 Lift up
19 Tree limbs

DOWN

1 Sit on this
2 The writer of a book
3 Birthday present
4 Follows eighth
5 Favoured, liked better
6 Squashed
11 Look very carefully for something
13 Mistake
15 Straps controlling a horse
16 Part of the face

SOLUTION

the pioneer
Hyderabad | Tuesday November 24 2020

LYRICIST SHREEMANI TIES THE KNOT

Noted Telugu lyricist Shreemani is the latest member from the Telugu Film Industry to enter the wedlock. The lyricist tied the knot with his longtime girlfriend Fara and announced the same on his social media on Monday.

It was raining weddings in Tollywood during the lockdown with popular figures like Rana Daggubati, Nikhil Siddharth and Nithiin tying the knot with their girl friends. In the month of October, Kajal Aggarwal also got married to her boyfriend Gautam Kitchlu.

Shreemani has waited for a decade to get the acceptance of his love from the parents. Shreemani took to his microblogging page to thank the god and said, "We were waiting for this moment for the past ten years. Finally dream came true Thank to the God and our parents For understanding our hearts."

Shreemani is popular for penning the lyrics for super hit audio albums including *Geetha Govindam — Vachindamma Vachindamma* , *F2: Fun and Frustration — Entho Fun, Attarintiki Daaredi-Entho Fun, Julayi-Chakkani Bike Undhi*, etc.

SREE VISHNU TURNS TRUCK DRIVER FOR *GAALI SAMPATH*

The actor, who will be seen as a thief in Raja Raja Chora, has now turned a truck driver for *Gaali Sampath*. The role, however, will not define the film. Rather, it's his bond with father, finds NAGARAJ GOUD

The filming of Sree Vishnu and Rajendra Prasad-starrer *Gaali Sampath* has kicked off in Araku mid last week. To be shot in Araku till the end of next month, the film will see the *Mental Madhilo* actor in the role of a truck driver. While the recently released motion poster dropped enough hints about the role, a little digging told us that film's writer and joint producer S Krishna designed an interesting characterisation for Vishnu — something which he hasn't attempted so far. "His part will be seen as a well-educated man but sure of not landing a good job, he starts a driving school, while simultaneously driving a truck. His father (role played by Rajendra Prasad) will be seen as a deaf and mute guy. It is their story that makes the film," reveals a source close to the production house.

Speaking at the *muhurat* recently, Anil Ravipudi said that his friend Sai has come up with an extraordinary story, prompting him to write its screenplay and extend his creative services as well. "It will make people laugh and at the same time take them on an emotional journey. Rajendra Prasad has essayed many memorable roles in his storied career and this will be another feather in his cap. Vishnu too has an extraordinary role. The beautiful journey between him and his father dots the story," said Ravipudi, who is presenting the film.

An Achu Rajamani musical, *Gaali Sampath*, directed by Annish Krishna, marks the Telugu debut of Mathura girl Lovely Singh. She is making her Tamil debut with Vishal-starrer *Thuppari-vaalan 2*.

Manchu Vishnu's *Dhee* sequel titled *D&D*

Actor Vishnu Manchu will next be seen in *Dhee* sequel and this news have been doing the rounds for sometime. The latest we hear is that the film got its title. Manchu Vishnu and Sreenu Vaitla's combination is back after 13 years and we can't wait to see them weave magic on screen.

The sequel of the film has been titled *D & D*, with the tagline *Double Dose*. The title *D & D* was announced officially today on the occasion of Vishnu's birthday.

The title's design had handcuffs, which is being much talked about on social media. The tagline *Double Dose* does show that the makers assure double the dose of action and comedy than the first film in *Dhee* franchise.

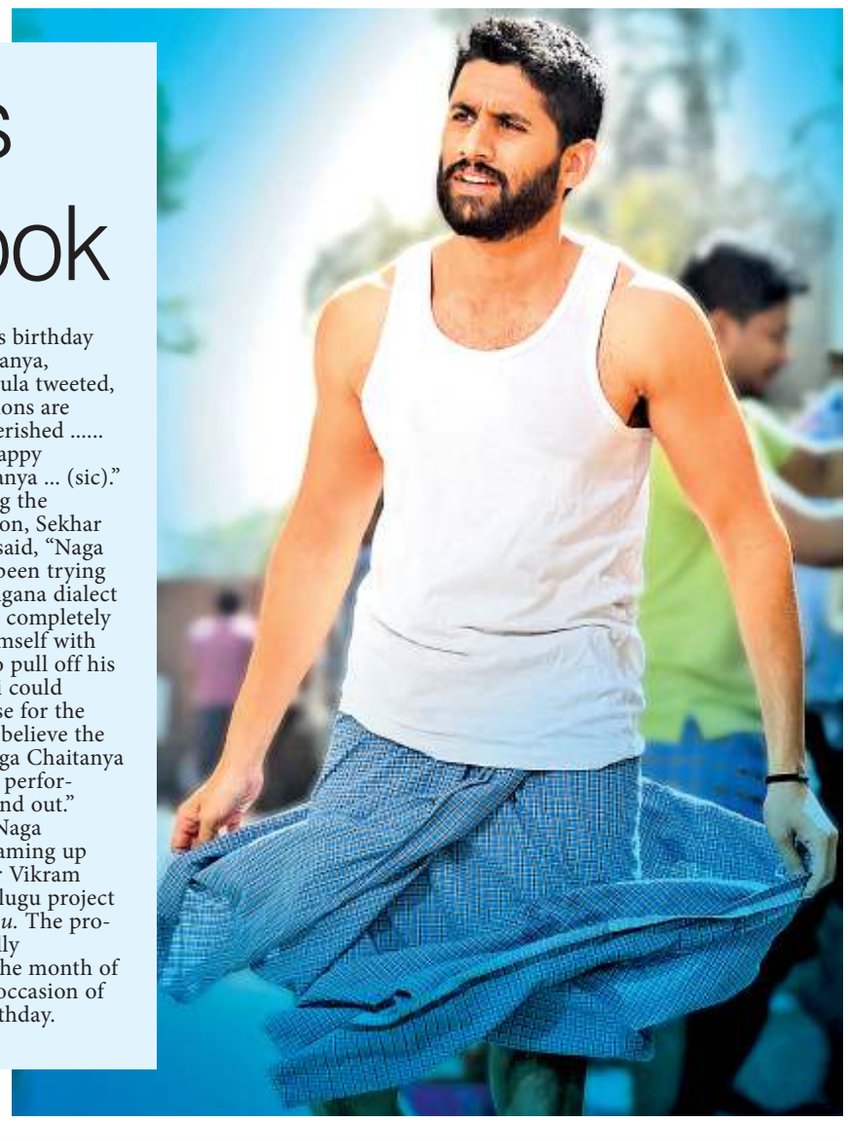
Actor Vishnu Manchu himself will be producing the film on 24 Frames Factory, while Avaram Bhakta Manchu presents it. Sreenu Vaitla's favorite writer Gopi Mohan who was part of the director's several blockbusters including *Dhee* is working as script writer along with another popular writer Kishore Gopu. Mahati Swara Sagar scores music while Mohana Krishna handles the cinematography. India's number one action choreographer Peter Hein is being roped in, as the film will be high on action, just like the first. MR Varma is the editor and Chinna will supervise the art department.

Details of the actress who will be paired opposite Manchu Vishnu and others are to be revealed soon.

Unreal Engine comes to Telugu cinema

Taudience has always welcomed and encouraged new genres, actors and ideas. Capatilising on this, K R Media Entertainments and Vedic Entertainments' Madhuri Rao and Santosh Gubba are jointly prouding their Production No 1, with actor Karthik Rachapudi as the lead, and Kigor as the director. For the first time in Telugu cinema, a new technology called Unreal Engine is to be used in the film. The film will have music by Acchu Rajamani too. Full details of the film, which will start shooting soon, is to be announced by the team shortly!

Chay slays the lungi look



Actor Naga Chaitanya celebrated his birthday yesterday. On his birthday, wife Samantha Akkineni took to Twitter to share a new poster from his upcoming film *Love Story*. Sharing the new poster of *Love Story*, Samantha wrote, "Always living life on your own terms Naga Chaitanya. Wishing you only happiness always and forever." In the poster, Naga Chaitanya is seen walking wearing a lungi and a baniyan.

Directed by Sekhar Kammula, the film marks the maiden collaboration of Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi. However, Sekhar Kammula and Sai Pallavi join the hands for the second time after *Fidaa*. Rajiv Kanakala, Eeswari Rao, Devayana will be seen in key roles in the film.

Extending his birthday wishes to Chaitanya, Shekhar Kammula tweeted, "Some associations are meant to be cherished ..... Thank you .. Happy Birthday Chaitanya ... (sic)."

Earlier during the media interaction, Sekhar Kammula had said, "Naga Chaitanya has been trying to master Telangana dialect for his part. He completely surrendered himself with great interest to pull off his part. Sai Pallavi could spring a surprise for the movie lovers. I believe the lead pair — Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi' performances will stand out."

Meanwhile, Naga Chaitanya is teaming up with filmmaker Vikram Kumar for a Telugu project titled *Thank You*. The project was officially announced in the month of August on the occasion of Nagarjuna's birthday.

Time to dethrone KCR: Vijayashanti

RAJESH JAIN NIDARKAR
■ HYDERABAD

Firebrand politician and popular yesteryear South Indian actress Vijayashanti minced no words in criticising TRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao. Terming the pink party chief as 'betrayer', Vijayashanti said that her aim was to dethrone KCR from Chief Minister position. In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, Vijayashanti revealed that she will soon launch another Telangana movement.

"This is not the Telangana that the poor and middle class people had dreamt of. The hope of economic, social and political growth of the region was actually dashed with the creation of a separate state. The TRS, in the last six years, had failed to ensure all-round development," she claimed and reiterated that she would fight for the uplift of the poor and the downtrodden of the society.

Claiming that she had lost her assets during the Statehood movement, Vijayashanti said she would not be afraid if she dies for the cause of Telangana. Vijayashanti categorically made it clear that she would fight to uphold the rights of the people of Telangana. "KCR's dictatorial attitude could no longer be tolerated as he had repressed all the leaders, who dared to oppose his decisions," she alleged.

Vijayasanti said that the people of Telangana had begun to see through the lies of KCR and the time has come to dethrone him from the Chief Minister position. "Right now, the people have got deluded of KCR and TRS," she alleged and went on to add that the BJP's victory in the Dubbak by-election was a clear indication of it.

Vijayasanti said she would expose KCR's politics of conspiracy and pledged that she would soon launch a movement to awaken the consciousness of the people of the state and demolish the political future of KCR's family. Vijayasanti said that she had chosen a national-level platform only to launch another Telangana movement and would soon reveal the details of the movement to the public. She was hopeful that people would come forward in large numbers in her fight against the TRS government.

Vijayasanti said that she had chosen a national-level platform only to launch another Telangana movement and would soon reveal the details to the public

Vijayasanti alleged that KCR had conspired with the Congress while the Telangana Bill was tabled in the Parliament and duped the people by telling lies about his party merging with the Grand Old Party.

Vijayashanti exuded confidence that the people of Telangana would come forward in large numbers in her fight against the TRS govt

"KCR, in fact, had deceived the people of the state with his lies," she alleged. Vijayasanti claimed that she had been carrying forward the Telangana argument through the BJP even before KCR took up the cause and also cited the example of her launching the 'Thalli Telangana' party to serve the cause of Telangana.

It may be recalled that Vijayashanti started her political career with BJP. She had worked as Mahila Morcha national secretary. Later, she quit BJP and launched Thalli Telangana party and later merged it with TRS. She got elected as MP in 2009 elections. However, she quit the TRS in 2014 after differences with the leadership. Her last stint was with the Congress Party.

KTR juggernaut rolls on

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday launched a scathing attack on the BJP party. Addressing large gatherings at roadshows in LB Nagar, KTR rubbished Union Minister Amit Shah's claims of giving Telangana one lakh crore.

"Since 2014, Telangana's contribution to the Centre in the form of taxes was Rs 2,72,926 crore. Whereas, the Centre has released Telangana just Rs 1,40,329 crore. Telangana has given money to the Centre and not vice versa," he said. Roads of Gujarat, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh were being laid with the tax paid by Telangana people, said KTR.

TRS working president stated that KCR had written a letter to the Prime Minister for assistance from the Center to the tune of Rs 1,350 crore. "Weeks are passing, but we still haven't received a response from the Centre on this," KTR said. However, the Prime Minister responded to Karnataka Chief Minister within four days when they asked for financial assistance. In 2017, the Prime Minister did an aerial survey of Gujarat during floods and released financial assistance immediately," he pointed out.

"A financial assistance of Rs 10,000 was given to 6.5 lakh families who were affected by the heavy rains. All of this assistance was provided even before rains subsided. Without seeing one's political and social background, we have assisted," said KTR. KTR stated that KCR always thinks for the welfare of the poor. In the manifesto that was released today, KCR has promised there will be no tap water bill if the monthly consumption of water is below 20,000 liters.

He also said that earlier it used to take 20 minutes time at LB Nagar cross roads while going to Vijayawada, now the situation is different with new flyovers and underpasses. KTR said that it was the TRS leaders who stood by the people during the COVID and Hyderabad floods while the BJP and Congress leaders were busy in Dubakka asking for votes. He stated that the BJP leaders were encouraging triple driving and giving false assurances that GHMC will pay the challans. KTR appealed to the people to support the TRS party and vote for their corporators in the upcoming GHMC elections.

ELECTION CODE VIOLATION

KCR's pic displayed on Cable bridge

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A complaint was registered with the State Election Commission for violating various provisions of Model Code of Conduct as Durgam Cheruvu Cable bridge displayed the pictures of CM K Chandrashekar Rao and KT Rama Rao. An advocate, Amber Agarwal filed representation with Secretary Ashok Kumar stating, "TRS is abusing its power to influence voters in the upcoming GHMC elections. The cable bridge has back to back digital screens which prominently display colour images of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao at equal intervals". He pointed that this is violation of MCC clause7 of part1 and clause11 of part VIII for elections to GHMC. He pointed that this advertisement will cause undue influence among the voters. Incidentally, the picture of Durgam Cheruvu cable bridge with CM's face was posted by TRS follower Jagan Patimeedi. The BJP followers and lawyers who took the cognisance of the posting complained to SEC.

Bandi dares KCR to campaign in Old City

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday alleged that TRS is the reason for the backwardness of Hyderabad city. While participating in an election campaign, Bandi Sanajy said,

"The TRS government did nothing to the Hyderabad city in the last six years and it failed to fulfil the assurances it given during elections." He alleged that several intermediate students committed suicides due to negligent attitude of the TRS government. "It is painful on part of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao as he failed to console the flood-hit people in Hyderabad," he said. Bandi exuded confidence that Dubbak result will repeat in Hyderabad. He questioned the Chief Minister to reveal whether the latter have guts to participate in the election campaign in Old City in case there is no alliance with MIM. He alleged that KCR is trying to transform Old City as Pakistan. The BJP will change the appearance of Hyderabad if given a chance, he said. Bandi said that the BJP will chase away betrayers of the nation from Old City.

He made it clear that their 'Adda' from now onwards is Charminar Bhagya Lakshmi temple only.

Manifesto a 'bundle of lies': Cong

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Monday ridiculed the TRS manifesto for GHMC elections, released by KCR, and described it as a bundle of lies. Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Shabbir Ali said that Chief Minister

K Chandrashekahr Rao has a long history of making false promises during elections. He said that the TRS government never fulfilled the electoral promises it has been making since 2014. He said that the list of unfulfilled promises made by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao is too long and people should not trust him or the TRS government.

Citing examples, Shabbir Ali said that the TRS government had promised developing Hyderabad like Dallas and Old City like Istanbul. Now it is promising that Musi River would be developed like the Thames river in London. Similarly, he said that the TRS had promised shifting of Chanchalguda Jail and Hyderabad Race Course from Malakpet.

Free water scheme to be a game-changer for TRS?

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

The waiver of water bills to citizens including those living in apartments, using water up to 20,000 litres a month from December is possibly a game changer for TRS.

This free sop will cover nearly 97 per cent of the population and is possibly a master stroke in covering a large city like Hyderabad. This scheme has been termed as 'lifeline water subsidy scheme' in Delhi, which gives first 20,000 litres for free.

There are 10 lakh water connections for households in GHMC. Despite the Telangana government launching OTS scheme to clear water bill, the response was not as expected. Providing free water is going to benefit poor, middle class, as it reduces financial burden on them. With this scheme, even those who have unauthorised connections started receiving water supply and the usage increased in Delhi with many taking functional meters.

As per the Delhi Jal Board, the benefit is only for customers who have functional meters. As per Delhi government, the scheme also led to an increase in water conservation as consumers reduced consumption to avail benefit of the scheme and also led to increase in number of functional water meters.

There are 10 lakh water connections in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits. Providing free water is going to benefit poor, middle class, as it reduces financial burden on them

After the first 20,000 litres, there will be an increase in the rates. It has categorically brought political benefit to the AAP government in two elections. This is not the first time that the TRS government is copying the AAP scheme.

The TRS has already implemented Basti Dawakhanas, an adoption of Mohalla Clinics started by AAP in their previous tenure. In this GHMC elections, TRS is pitching the Basti Dawakhanas initiative at a large scale especially the way they were used during Covid induced lockdown. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao said that he spoke to Arvind about the free water scheme and termed it as beneficial in all sectors.

Glory of Musi river to be restored

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With River Godavari water reaching Konda pochamma, all efforts are being made to get the water to Hyderabad and synchronise with the Musi and transform it into a clean and pristine river. The idea is to divert Godavari water to Osmansagar from Kondapochamma and eventually fresh water will be pumped into Musi.

Apart from cleansing the Musi by pumping Godavari waters, plans are being made to make it a new tourist destination by introducing cruise rides from Bapughat to Nagole.

All these works will be executed with a cost of over Rs.5000 crore. The Musi River Front Development Corporation will oversee the project.