

CRICKETER KRUNAL PANDYA **DETAINED AT MUMBAI AIRPORT**

Cricketer Krunal Pandya was on Thursday detained at the Mumbai International Airport by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) for allegedly being in possession of undisclosed gold and other valuables, DRI sources said. Krunal had returned shortly after 5 pm by a flight from UAE when he was stopped at the airport by DRI personnel, the sources said. Krunal was part of the Mumbai Indians team which won its record fifth IPL title on November 10, defeating Delhi Capitals in the final match in AMSUNG Dubai

RAM JANMABHOOMI TRUST HEAD **MAHANT NRITYA GOPAL DAS CRITICAL**

he condition of Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust president Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, admitted at the Medanta hospital here, continued to be critical on Thursday, a health bulletin issued by the hospital said. "His condition is critical but under

control. He has been kept under the supervision of critical care experts," the bulletin said. Das was admitted to the hospital for thromboembolism. On Monday, the seer was taken to the government-run Shriram Hospital in Avodhya after he complained of breathlessness, but doctors referred him to the Medanta hospital in Lucknow as his condition was "serious".

MAHAGATBANDHAN LOST BECAUSE **OF CONG, ADMITS TARIQ ANWAR**

cenior Congress leader Tariq Anwar on Thursday came out with the Ocandid admission that his party, on account of its dismal performance in the Bihar Assembly elections, emerged as the weak link preventing the Mahagatbandhan (Grand

Alliance) from forming its government in the state. He also expressed worry over entry of the AIMIM in Bihar. Anwar, an AICC general secretary, came out with a flurry of tweets calling for "urgent and deep introspection" over the debacle of the party, the second largest constituent of the opposition coalition, which contested as many as 70 seats but returned with a tally of just 19.

A-G GRANTS CONSENT FOR CONTEMP1 **PROCEEDINGS AGAINST KUNAL KAMRA**

Attorney General K K Venugopal Thursday granted consent for initiation of Acriminal contempt proceedings against stand-up comic artist Kunal Kamra for his tweets which allegedly criticised the Supreme Court, saying the tweets are in bad taste and it is time that people understand that attacking the apex court brazenly will attract punishment. Venugopal said today people believe that they can boldly and brazenly condemn

the Supreme Court of India and its judges by exercising their freedom of speech, but under the Constitution, the freedom of speech is subject to the law of contempt. "I have gone through each one of the tweets which you have annexed for consent to proceed by way of criminal contempt adainst Kunal Kamra," he said.



TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:
Ashwin & Krishna Paksha
Panchangam
Tithi : Trayodashi: 05:58 pm
Nakshatram: Chitra: 11:05 pm
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start
any important work)
Rahukalam: 10:36 am – 12:00 pm
Yamagandam: 02:48 pm – 04:12 pm
Varjyam: 08:58 am – 10:23 am,
12:00 am – 05:24 am
Gulika: 07:47 am - 09:12 am
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritakalam: 05:26 pm – 06:51 pm
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:37 am – 12:22 pm
VIJAYAWADA Weather 🏾 🍅
Forecast: Partly cloudy Temp: 31/22 Humidity: 72% Sunrise: 06.20 am Sunset: 05.40 pm
Current Weather Conditions Updated November 12, 2020 5:00 PM

Positive news: Chiru is Covid negative

PNS HYDERABAD

Actor-politician K Chiranjeevi on Thursday confirmed that he has tested oron

Telugu States borrow, fall deeper into the debt trap **SNV SUDHIR**

VIJAYAWADA

Reflecting the precarious financial situation of the two Telugu states, both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have borrowed Rs 31,250 crore and Rs 22,961 crore respectively from the market in the first six months of the current financial year, 2020-21.

a

Andhra Pradesh stands third — with only Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu ahead in the list — among the States when it comes to borrowing from the market to meet its expenses. Telangana stands sixth. With dwindling revenue

receipts due to the Covid triggered financial crisis, both the Telugu States have opted for borrowing to fund the expenditure. This is more true of Andhra Andhra Pradesh which has been implementing its ambitious welfare agenda

aggressively. Despite facing a massive financial crisis, mostly due to poor revenue receipts, the Andhra Pradesh government has been crediting amounts to

Rs 1,182 crore under SDF for the bank accounts of the ben-30 days, Rs 1,939 crore under



WMA for 29 days and Rs eficiaries of its various various welfare schemes without miss-1,520 crore as OD for 17 days ing any timeline as set by in September alone. Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan

Telangana availed Rs 1,240 crore under SDF for 30 days, Rs 1,576 crore under WMA for 30 days and Rs 698 crore as OD for 21 days during the same month.

As per the RBI's latest bulletin, Andhra Pradesh is next only to Maharashtra to avail such high amounts of financial accommodation generally availed by state governments under various facilities. Maharashtra availed Rs 6,240 crore under various heads.

lakh-crore at the end of March 2020, up from Rs 2,58,928 a year ago

AP's debt burden is Rs 3.02

 As per the Budget estimates, AP's debt burden is expected to go up up to Rs 3,48,998 crore in the current fiscal.

envisaged to dole out over under various welfare schemes

> Estimated revenue deficit 48,295 crore

Rs 18,434 crore, while the estimated fiscal deficit Rs

to boost the economy The measures, that also include additional fertiliser

Rs 75,000 crore in cash to people

The AP government

for manufacturing units, totalled Rs 2.65 lakhcrore, taking the cumulative stimulus packa-ge announced since the lock-

Centre widens stimulus ambit to boost economic recovery

FM unveils incentives for job creation, home sale deals small businesses down to almost Rs 30 lakh-

PNS NEW DELHI

subsidy and already announced production-

linked incentive scheme

crore, or 15 percent of the Finance Minister Nirmala Gross Domestic Product Sitharaman on Thursday (GDP) announced tax relief on select home sale deals, enhanced credit guarantee programme for small businesses and provided incentives for new job creation as the government widened stimulus measures

It also includes additional funding for real estate developers and contractors, a new employment

scheme and additional

and improvement in bank credit, to state that the econo-my was seeing "strong recovery" taking root. The Indian economy has recovered from its worst-ever

plan.

contraction of 24 per cent in the April-June quarter but will end up shrinking by close to 10 per cent in the fiscal year to March 2021. But she saw hope in the Reserve Bank of India predicting a strong likelihood of growth in the current quarter.

spending on the rural jobs

Sitharaman cited data,

including increase in tax collections for goods and services, rise in energy consumption



days after he was tested positive.

In a tweet on Thursday, Chiranjeevi said: "A group of doctors did three different tests and concluded that I am Covid-negative and that the earlier result was due to a faulty RT PCR kit."

After he was tested positive on Sunday, Chiranjeevi started off with basic medication, but he didn't display any symptoms.

As he had apprehensions over the test results, he got a CT scan for chest done at the Apollo Hospital, where doctors told him that there were no traces of the infection.



Jagan's 'Jungle Raj drove Salam family to suicide: Naidu

Reddy in launching these

approached the Reserve Bank

of India (RBI) to tap all sources

of revenues and have availed

Special Drawing Facility (SDF), Ways and Means

Advances (WMA) and

Overdraft (OD) facilities to the

tune of Rs 4,641 crore and Rs

3,514 crore respectively in

Andhra Pradesh has availed

Both the states have also

schemes.

September.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Describing the death of autorickshaw driver Abdul Salam and his family as 'murder' and not suicide, TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday held the YSRCP Government and the State Police Department solely responsible for the tragic turn of events that wiped out an entire family in Nandyal in Kurnool district.

Naidu said that the suicide a series of non-stop atrocities was merely the culmination of being committed against the

BCs, SCs, STs and Muslim Minorities under the Jaganmohan Reddy's 'Police

Raj'. "It was only after the Nandyal police terrorised and mentally fortured Abdul Salam that he lost all hope that he, his wife and his two children would be able to live in peace any longer. Their deaths seemed like an 'animal sacrifice' to the diabolical rule in AP," Naidu said.



Modi, Biden to speak

at 'mutually

convenient time'

TTD sanctity under threat: TDP

Varla Ramaiah wants Subba Reddy to resign over inappropriate email

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Stating that it was a matter of grave concern that the spiritual pre-eminence of the Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanams has come under serious threat because of the unholy practices of the YSRCP Government, TD Politburo Member Varla Ramaiah on Thursday demanded the resignation of the TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy.

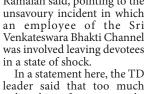


ately, considering the series of controversies that have threatened the sanctity of the Seven

Hills over the past 17 months," Ramaiah said, pointing to the unsavoury incident in which an empĺoyee of the Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel was involved leaving devotees in a state of shock.

political interference was tak-

"He should resign immediing place in TTD affairs ever since the YSRCP came to power.



PNS NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and United States President-elect Joe Biden will speak with each other in due course at a mutually convenient time, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday and asserted that India-US ties enjoy bipartisan support in America.



Thick fog draws tourists to Chintapalli

SUMIT ONKA VISAKHAPATNAM

A thick blanket of fog covered Chintapalli in Vizag Agency on Thursday as the temperature dropped to single digit -9 degree C - for the first time

this winter. The rainfall activity predicted over the next four to five days may further bring down

the mercury. After going viral on social networking platforms, pictures of the blanket of fog are now



drawing visitors to the hills of Lammasingi, Tajangi, and a few the Eastern Ghats. Youngsters other areas in and around from Vizag and other parts of Chintapalli of Vizag Agency to the region are flocking to experience the cool and foggy

weather conditions.

The Regional Agriculture Research Station (RARS) at Chintapalli in Vizag Agency records the temperature at Chintapalli.

Based on it, the temperature of surrounding areas Lammasingi and Tajangi are calculated by deducting 1 degree C to 2 degree C. The minimum temperatures are sliding day by day in the Agency



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Logistic cost for waterways to reduce further, predicts Minister

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Logistic cost for the waterways will be reduced further, stated Union Minister for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya during a programme on Thursday. The Minister unveiled the

plaque of the Union Shipping Ministry's new nomenclature as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (Pattan, Pot Parivahan aur Jalmarg Mantralaya).

Visakhapatnam Port Trust chairman, K. Rama Mohana Rao along with all Heads of Departments participated in the programme. Mandaviya said it is a mat-

ter of pride that with the Prime Minister's vision, the country is moving ahead with a holistic and long-term approach of multi-modal connectivity.

"With the changed name, the ministry is going to put extra focus on the development of waterways and coastal shipping. Around 1,400 kilometres of waterways have already been fully developed and additional 1,000 kilometres are being developed on priority for which DPR/ feasi-bility study has been complet-



mun

"We are also focussing for creation of a Port Grid, encompassing various small-

er ports like fisheries port, agriculture port and mineral port etc so that port development and port-led development takes place in the country," he said

On November 8, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced renaming of the Ministry of Shipping while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Ro-Pax ferry service

in Gujarat. 'Now, this ministry will be

31, 2021

Thursday.

been included.

repay the amount, she said.

duction-linked incentive pro-

crore for manufacturing units,

already approved by the gov-

ernment, as part of the 12 sup-

drug intermediaries and man-

com, textile and food products,

Sitharaman counted a pro-

known as Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. It is being expanded. In most of the developed economies, the shipping ministry is also responsible for ports and

waterways. In India, the shipping ministry has been doing a lot of work related to ports and waterways. Now, with more clarity in the name, more clarity will also come in the work," Modi had said.

The Ministry said that as soon as the Prime Minister announced the name it swung into action to complete all the related formalities.

All the formalities were completed within two working days and the official notification of the name change was published in the Gazette of Îndia on November 10, 2020, the ministry said in a statement. According to a notification

the Ministry.

Modi. Biden to speak at 'mutually convenient time' **Continued from Page 1**

The MEA's assertion comes days after Biden defeated incumbent President Donald Trump in a bitterlyfought election that attracted a record number of Americans to cast their votes.

MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said the Prime Minister had congratulated Biden through a tweet and had also appreciated the former American Vice-President's contribution to strengthening India-US relations.

Modi had also conveyed that he looks forward to working with him to take India-US relations to greater heights, Srivastava said at an online media briefing.

Asked when will the two leaders speak with each other, he said it will happen in "due course at a mutually convenient time".

On the future of ties under the incoming US administration, Srivastava said the foundation of India-US relations is very strong and this com-prehensive global strategic partnership between the two countries has bipartisan support in the United States.

"It has been seen that successive presidents and administrations have deepened the ties," he said.

The ties between India and the US have witnessed a major upswing in the last four years, particularly in areas of defence and security.

vijayawada 02



Maoist hideout in Odisha unearthed, arms, explosives seized

ammunition, he said.

"This has led to recovery and seizure of a large quanti-

ty of arms, ammunition,

explosive materials and other

articles stocked by the

Maoists," the SP said, adding

that these arms were intend-

ed to be used against innocent

civilians and security forces for

carrying out their subversive

The seized arms included

around 148 rounds of ammu-

nition, 14 grenades, two land

mines, 13 electronic detona-

tors and other articles, he

said. "This is a major jolt to the

subversive and anti- national

designs of Maoists in this

It is suspected that the

explosives belonged to Maoist cadres of Andhra-Odisha

Border Special Zonal Committee (AOBSZC),

In the wake of the recovery,

further combing and search

operations have been intensi-

fied in this area, he added.

area," the SP said.

Khilari said.

activities.

PNS MALKANGIRI

A Maoist hideout was unearthed and a huge quantity of explosives and arms dumped by the ultras seized during a special operation by security forces inside a forest in Odisha's Malkangiri district, a senior police officer said on Thursday. The hideout was busted

during a joint operation launched by Special Operation Group (SOG) and District Voluntary Force (DVF) of Odisha Police and Border Security Force (BSF) in Jodambo area of 'Swabhiman Anchal' recently, Malkangri Superintendent of Police Rishikesh D Khilari said.

Acting on specific information, an intensive search and area domination was con-ducted near Arapadar-Andrapalli villages in Swabhiman Anchal, earlier known as cut off area, resulting in uncovering of a major Maoist hideout and arms and

that the TTD Chairman should

'TTD sanctity under ...

Continued from Page 1 "The SVBC already suffered a severe setback following the glaring error made by its former chairman. Even before the people could forget about that, another indecent incident shook the prestige of the

channel and the TTD as a whole," Ramaiah said. He said

take moral responsibility for the ongoing untoward incidents and submit his resignation. "Subba Reddy has also failed to curb the rising political interference in the day to day affairs of the TTD administration, which has sullied the image of Tirumala temple altogether," Ramaiah said.

HC steps in to ban sale of crackers in Telangana

Centre widens stimulus ambit **Continued from Page 1**

Doubling down on the previously announced measures, she said Income Tax law will be relaxed to allow primary or first sale of housing units of up to Rs 2 crore at a price that can be 20 per cent below the stamp duty circle rate.

Currently, the law restricts differential between circle rate and agreement value at 10 per cent, and "the move will help reduce hardships faced by both home-buyers and the developers and help clear unsold inventory," she said.

"Under the new job creation scheme, the government will provide a subsidy equal to the contribution that an employee and the employer have to make towards the retirement fund (totalling 24 per cent of the wages) to establishments that hire new employees or re-hire those it fired during Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

After doctors concluded An additional outlay of Rs that the initial RT-PCR kit The Rs 3 lakh-crore 18,000 crore will be made Emergency Credit towards the affordable urban Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), housing programme, she said. under which small businesses To provide higher liquidity can get collateral-free loans, to contracts, the government

has been extended till March has decided to lower the earnest money deposit for pro-The same has also been

jects till December 31, 2021. extended to 26 stressed sectors Also, Rs 10,000 crore was identified by a high-level comprovided for rural employmittee as also the healthcare ment, Rs 3,000 crore to Exim sector. The companies will get Bank for extending lines of a one-year moratorium on credit, and Rs 10,200 crore additional budget outlay for loans and four more years to defence and infrastructure.

A Rs 900 crore grant was made to the Department of gramme worth Rs 1.46 lakh Biotechnology for Covid-19 vaccine research, she said, adding this did not include the cost of procuring and distribport measures unveiled on uting the vaccine which will be established later.

Sitharaman said the govern-In the past, Rs 51,355 crore of incentives has been providment will provide Rs 65,000 ed for mobile manufacturing, crore of additional subsidy on fertiliser to ensure the crop ufacturing of medical devices nutrient is available to farmers and now automobiles, teleduring the current season.

The measures are the govwhite goods, specialty steel and electronic products have ernment's latest efforts to boost the economy, which slipped into an unprecedented recession after gross domestic product probably declined for a secstraigh quarter in the

stimulus package, spread over five announcements over the past few months, includes Rs 12.71 lakh-crore of liquidity boosting measures by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The previous stimulus measures announced included free

issued by the Cabinet Secretariat, maritime shipping

and navigation, provision of

education and training for the

mercantile marine, lighthous-

es and lightships, administra-

tion of the ports, shipping and navigation — including car-

riage of passengers, and goods on inland and national water-

ways — will come under the

Ministry. The notification, signed by President Ram Nath Kovind, said the decision had been

taken by exercising the powers

conferred by clause (3) of

Article 77 of the Constitution

and by amending the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules,

Other subjects that will

come under the Ministry of

Ports, Shipping and Waterways

include shipbuilding and ship-

repair industry, ship-breaking,

fishing vessels industry, float-

ing craft industry among oth-

like the Port Trusts in Mumbai,

Kolkata and others, the Inland

Waterways Authority of India

and the Shipping Corporation of India will also come under

Various autonomous bodies

1961

food grains and cooking gas to the poor and cash support to some.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecast that the Indian economy will shrink by 10.3 per cent in the year to March

"Recovery (in economy) is happening," Sitharaman said, pointing to some high-frequency indicators.

"In the last 10-15 days, there have been quite a few steps and indicators which have shown the recovery is happening. The PMI rose to 58.9 in October. This is the strongest increase in output in close to nine years. This shows that it is not just pent up demand but a strong

pitch for recovery," she said. Further Sitharaman said

borrow, fall deeper ... Continued from Page 1

Pradesh and Telangana stood top in the order in the month

facilities from RBI. Remaining states in the country had availed meagre amounts under SDF, WMA and OD.

As per the data available, September

Telugu States

Maharashtra, Andhra of September to avail such

Andhra Pradesh had borrowed Rs 5,000 crore in July, Rs 5,250 crore in August and Rs 7,000 crore in September from the market while Telangana borrowed Rs 3,000 crore in July, Rs 3,000 crore in August and Rs 4,500 crore in

Andhra Pradesh remains a evenue deficit state since th bifurcation of state in June 2014, while Telangana remains revenue surplus.



faulty Chiranieev thanked his fans and wellwishers for the concern and love shown to him.

Positive news:

Chiru is Covid

Continued from Page 1

The Congress leader then

got himself tested at the hos-

pital and the report was neg-

ative. He went to Tenet

Diagnostics and got three

different tests done which all

Chiranjeevi even went to the

place where he tested positive

and the result there again

returned negative.

negative.

negative

returned

ended three months September.

The Rs 29.87 lakh-crore

total of 15 percent of GDP is what is being given here as stimulus till today.'

Jagan's 'Jungle Raj drove Salam family to ...

he added.

Continued from Page 1

Addressing a press conference here, the TDP chief said that the ruthless harassment in the form of foisting of false cases and oral threats drove the entire family to end their lives. Prior to his death, Abdul Salam told his mother-in-law how the police threatened to send him to jail once again and also warned of sending one policeman to visit his wife everyday after he was put behind the bars

"His mother-in-law herself clearly stated this. Abdul Salam was first implicated in a false

He came out of jail after 42 days and tried to earn his livelihood by driving an autorickshaw. Again, another false case was filed against him and Abdul Salam was called to the police station where he was terrorised," Naidu said.

robbery case and sent to jail.

The former chief minister described the Nandyal suicide as highly disturbing, saying that the psychological blackmail and torture tactics of the police led to the ghastly incident. This was reflective of the

officials," Naidu added. inefficient and insensitive rule of Jaganmohan Reddy, who has been discriminating and demanded the Government

oppressing all sections of peoorder a probe by the Central ple from the Opposition lead-Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to bring out the facts. ers to members of the public, 'The incident was very dis-

turbing, going by how the 'The Government and the police tried to suppress the entire family underwent men-Abdul Salam case as just a suital turmoil and even took the selfie video before ending cide. If his mother-in-law did not release the selfie video their life. Abdul Salam's wife taken before the suicide, this was a graduate and was workincident would not have come ing as a teacher in a private to light. It was only after the school. Their family was well TDP tweeted on the incident placed and had no reason to that the Government initiatcommit suicide. Complete ed action against the guilty loss of trust and confidence in the system pushed them to Terming it as murder of the commit the extreme step," Abdul Salam family, Naidu the TDP supremo said.

Thick fog draw tourists to Chintapalli

Continued from Page 1

Around 10 days ago, the minimum temperature at Chintapalli was around 15 degrees C and the temperatures have been sliding by the day for the past one week.

The weather condition seems to indicate that the mercury levels will further dip in December and the season's lowest temperature

may be recorded in the second week of December.

The tiny tribal hamlets Lammasingi and Tajangi and Yerravaram waterfalls under Chintapalli Mandal have emerged the most sought place for the youngsters during the winter as the two tribal villages have

unique features of chilling weather and thick cover of the fog till 10 am during the season.

INKESHAF AHMED

HYDERABAD

In line with the orders of certain High Courts and proactive moves of some of the States/UTs, the Telangana High Court has stepped in to ban the sale and bursting of firecrackers, though the state government did not give any indication of its thought on the matter till Thursday.

Mentioning that the country in general and Telangana State in particular are struggling to cope with the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, the Telangana High Court on Thursday directed the state government to immediately ban the sale and use of firecrackers by people and organizations across the state during the upcoming Diwali sea-

son

"Since the Government has not declared any ban on the use of fireworks so far, but considering the fact that the lives of people need to be protected, considering the fact thatuncontrolled and untrammeled use of fireworks may jeopardize the lives of many, this Court directs the State to immediately ban the sale and use of fireworks by people and by organizations,"a division bench of the High Court, comprising the Chief Justice of the State Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy, passed the orders, while dealing with a petition filed by citybased 57-year-old advocate P. Indra Prakash, a resident of Kukatpally.

The High Court also directed the state to forthwith clampdown and close the shops which are selling fireworks.



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Covid caseload in India climbs to 86,83,9161

PNS NEW DELHI

India saw a single-day increase of 47,905 infections taking the country's Covid-19 caseload to 86,83,916, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease have surged to 80,66,501, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

The coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,28,121 with 550 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The number of active cases remained below 5 lakh for the second consecutive day. There are 4,89,294 active cases of

coronavirus infection in the country as on date which comprises 5.63 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated. The total recoveries have surged to 80, 66,501 pushing the national recovery rate to 92.89 per cent, while Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at



1.48 per cent.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11 and crossed

80 lakh on October 29.

According to the ICMR, a cumula tive total of 12,19,62,509 samples have been tested up to November 11 with 11,93,358 samples being tested on Wednesday. The 550 new fatalities include 125

from Maharashtra, 85 from Delhi, 49 from West Bengal, 31 from Punjab, 29 from Kerala, 28 from Tamil Nadu, 25 each from Haryana and Chhattisgarh, 23 from Karnataka and 20 from Uttar Pradesh.

A total of 1,28,121 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 45,560 from Maharashtra followed by 11,453 from Karnataka, 11,415 from Tamil Nadu, 7,452 from West Bengal, 7,281 from Uttar Pradesh, 7,228 from Delhi, 6,828 from Andhra Pradesh, 4,389 from Punjab and 3,776 from Gujarat.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

new Covid cases PNS VIJAYAWADA between 200 and 300 fresh cases, with East Godavari

adding 290. The remaining eight districts in the state added less than 100 new cases each

Chittoor district

reported three and

fresh cases of Covid-19 in Andhra Pradesh, taking the infection count to Also, 1,777 🍓

AP reports 1,728

patients got cured while nine more succumbed during the period, the latest bulletin said.

Over 77,000 sample tests in 24

hours ending 9 am on

Thursday turned out 1,728

in AP at the rate of 1,67,425 per million population, turning out an overall positivity rate of 9.50 per cent. Five districts reported

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After 8,22,011 recoveries and 6,837 deaths, the number of active coronavirus cases stood at 20,857, it said.

8,49,705.

Krishna two fresh fatalities while four other districts saw one more death each,

the bulletin said. So far, 89,40,488 samples were tested for Covid-19



vijayawada 03

CAPSULE



Snapana Tirumanjanam performed

TIRUCHANOOR: The colourful Snapana Tirumanjanam was performed on the second day to Goddess Padmavathi Devi at Tiruchanoor on Thursday. On the day two of ongoing annual Brahmotsavams the special abhishekam with milk. curd. honey, coconut water, turmeric water, sandal water was performed to Goddess at Sri Krishna Mukha Mandapam. Shankhadhara, Chakradhara, Sahasradhara and Maha kumbhabhishekam were performed chanting hymns from Taittiriya Upanishad Purushasooktam and Sri Prasna Samhita. Goddess was adorned with special garlands made with sweetcorn, anjeer, apricot, roses, pineapple and tulsi during Snapana Tirumanjanam. JEO P Basant Kumar and deputy executive officer Jhansi Rani were also present on the occasion



Umbrellas presented to Goddess **Padmavathi**

TIRUCHANOOR: Three sacred umbrellas from Chennai reached Tiruchanoor on Thursday. These umbrellas were presented to Goddess on the occasion of annual Brahmotsavams by Hindu Dharmartha Samiti Organisation from Chennai led by its organising secretary RR He has handed of

Govt to set up CoEs in IT, media, hospitality sectors

APSSDC INKS MoUs

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The AP State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC), the Nodal agency of AP Skill Mission, signed an MoU with industry--academic partners – IBM India, Singapore Polytechnic International (SPI), India Development Tourism Corporation (ITDC) and LV Prasad Film & TV Academy

(LVPA)--on Thursday. The government has made it mandatory for existing and upcoming industries in the State to reserve 75 per cent of employment to locals through the Industries/Factories Bill-2019

In this regard, to increase the quality of the skill ecosystem and manpower supply in the State, Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has directed to establish Skill University and Skill Colleges one in each parliamentary constituency, one in each IIITs and one in JNTU in Pulivendula of Kadapa district.

Since then the APSSDC has been partnering with reputed industries, industry associations, technical institutions, universities and international agencies in the process of establishing Skill University and Skill Colleges that will impart industry driven finishing school skill courses to students from ITI, polytechnic and graduation.



The government has made it mandatory for existing and upcoming industries in the State to reserve 75 per cent of employment to locals through the Industries / Factories Bill-2019

On Thursday four MoUs training of the trainers' prowere signed by the APSSDC grammes, industrial exposure, MD and CÉO, Dr Arja guest lectures and execution of Srikanth, in the presence of high-end trainings in IT domain - Coding, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Skill Development and Training, Special Chief Secretary, G Anantha Ramu, the APSSDC Chairman, Blockchain, Data Science & Analytics, Cybersecurity, Quantum Computing, Big Data Challa Madhusudhan Reddy. The APSSDC will set up and operate the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the IT and Full Stack.

Singapore Polytechnic International (SPI) has part-nered with the APSSDC for Sector. As part of CoE, IBM shall include only bearing the enabling international level cost of giving access to the industry relevant software as industry led courses in the Advance Manufacturing, Food per academic initiative norms. The IBM India will assist in Innovation & Food Processing activities that include developand Entrepreneurship to be ing course and curriculum, offered in Skill Colleges

They will provide technical assistance and handholding support in establishing the industry specific labs, develop courses and curriculum, design and deliver the Training of Trainer programme, offer joint certification and accreditation for the proposed courses, design and develop a quality assurance framework for standardization of teaching and learning modules. LVPA has partnered with

APSSDC to set up and operate a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the media and entertainment sector in Visakhapatnam. They will design and develop courses and curriculum, design and deliver the Training of Trainer programme, offer courses in Basics of 2D animation, digital photography, basics of editing, basics of VFX and digital restoration, industrial exposure, guest lectures and also provide apprenticeship support under National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS). The ITDC has partnered

with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up and operate a Centre of Excellence in the hospitality sector, design courses & curriculum and offer courses in Hospitality trades, event management, front office operations, housekeeping, food & beverage operations and entrepreneurship programmes. They will also provide accreditation and certification support.

All eyes on CM's meet with Governor today

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy will meet Governor Biswa Bhshan Harichandan on Friday at the Raj Bhawan. While agenda of the meeting is not yet known, the Chief Minister's meeting the Governor had turned interesting at a time when issues like conducting of local body polls, his letter to the Chief Justice of India, recent joint suicide of a Muslim family in Nandyal had generated enough political heat in the State. According to sources at the Raj Bhawan, Jagan is expected to meet the Governor at 11 am on Friday.

It may be recalled that after one such meeting in the past, the

It may be recalled that after one such meeting in the past, the Governor had approved an ordinance issued by the government that had cut short the tenure of State Election Commissioner (SEC), which had snowballed into a controversy

Governor had approved an ordinance issued by the government that had cut short the tenure of State Election Commissioner (SEC), which had snowballed into a major political controversy. Later, with the court's intervention the ordinance was cancelled reinstating the existing SEC. The Governor had also

given his assent to two other controversial Bills in recent times, one related to the government's plan to have three capitals and another repealing the CRDA. Both the Acts were later challenged in the High Court. In this scenario Jagan's meeting with the Governor on Friday assumed significance.

Prepare report on CPS: CM

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has directed officials to prepare a comprehensive report on Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), including 52,000 Road Transportation Corporation (RTC) employees, in the list of CPS employees.

Officials told the Chief Minister that they have examined the reports of the Cabinet Sub-committee, Working Committee with the Secretaries of the Departments headed by the Chief Secretary and Thakkar Committee on Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS).

Officials said the State has 1,98,221 employees in the government, grant-in-aid, univer-sities and educational institutions under Contributory Pension Scheme, of whom

1,78,705 are directly government employees, while 3,295 are working under grant-in-aid and the remaining 16,221 are working in universities and educational institutions. Officials gave details of the expenditure to implement different types of pension systems to the employees.

During a review meeting held on contract employees, the Chief Minister said the previous government had released GOs and none of them were implemented. "We have implemented them besides Minimum Time Scale (MTS) for contract employees. As regularisation of contract employees is linked with legal issues, the Chief Minister directed officials to formulate guidelines to provide financial benefits to them without raising any problems?

Officials told to expedite works on Polavaram project

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a fiat to officials, Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has directed them to expedite the works on Polavaram and other irrigation projects. During a review meeting on irrigation projects here on Thursday, the Chief Minister said there should not be any delay in Polavaram, Veligonda and Owk tunnel-II works

Minister of the head regulator and other works of



through pipeline. Officials said that work on

jail, he

Ramanjaneyulu, Shahul and

Naveen, who were arrested

and lodged in the prison in a

After procuring a bail, the

four together and separately

burgled four houses and stole

five motorcycles in Markapuram, Kambam,

Ulavapadu and Kandukur

towns. They also broke into

two houses in Guntur dis-

trict, stole a car and three

motorcycles there. Another house was also burgled in

towns and villages at night,

stole motor vehicles when no

one was around and commit-

ted thefts in locked houses,"

said the official. The inter-state

gang was involved in nine

crimes in Prakasam, six in

Guntur and one in Nalgonda.

jewellery valued at Rs 6 lakh,

nine motorcycles worth Rs 8

lakh, a car worth Rs 2.5 lakh,

four cell phones worth Rs 40,000, an LED television

worth Rs 25,000 and two lap-

tops worth Rs 80,000, all of the

items amounting to Rs 18

"Movements of criminals

in Prakasam district are being

closely monitored and the

crime trends being monitored

by field level officers from

time to time, with the help of

technology. Criminals are

being caught and the stolen

habitual offenders to transform

Police seized 114 grams gold

They roamed various

the second tunnel of Pula Officials apprised the Chief Subbaiah Velugonda project would be completed by August and water would be from tunnels one and two. Regarding Owk tunnel-II the work on 137 metres fault zone would be completed by March. For kharif 20 k cusecs of water will be released. The work on tender for

Ongole

theft case.

Nalgonda.

lakh.

tunnel-III is getting ready, officials said. They have also shown the registered logo of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of Ravalaseema Drought Mitigation Project. Chitravati

2 die as truck overturns

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Two construction workers were killed and three others were injured in a road accident on Yarada Hill road on Wednesday night in Visakhapatnam. The accident took place when the driver of the Bolero truck in which they were travelling lost control over it.

According to sources, brake failure of the vehicle caused the accident as the driver could not control it and it hit the divider and overturned. The deceased were identified as Mohan (43) and Sekhar (47) Thatichetlanalem

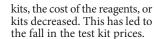
Govt slashes Covid test charge by 50%

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

In a crucial decision to ease the burden on those going for Covid-19 tests, the government on Thursday slashed the Covid-19 test charge to Rs 800 from Rs 1,600.

On Thursday, Principal Secretary to Government Anil Kumar Singhal issued order reducing the charge for Coronavirus testing conducted by the ICMR approved private laboratories.

Giving out the re



The government order stated that the charge, which was fixed at Rs 1,600 earlier for the samples forwarded by the government, will henceforth be Rs

Similarly, the Andhra Pradesh Medical and Health Department has also restricted the charge for those getting tested directly in the private laboratories from the existing Rs 1 900 to Rs 1 000 On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh where the daily cases touched 10.000 once is record ing below 2,000 cases. The government claims that the number of tests was not decreased though.



water to Visakhapatnam

the umbrellas to JEO P Basanth Kumar in front of Tiruchanoor temple. Temple deputy executive officer Jhansi Rani, AEO Subramanyam were also present.

The Chief Minister said that the approach, spill channel works should be completed by May and the coffer dam works should be completed before that. He also asked officials to focus on supplying drinking

Fhandikota reservoir works had also come up for discussion.

for Water Minister Resources Anil Kumar Yadav, Irrigation Secretary Adityanath Das and other officials participated in the meeting.

Gajuwaka area. Around 10 labourers were returning home in a truck after finishing their work on Yarada Hill, when the accident occurred. Malkapuram cops are investigating the case.

reduction in charge, the government said that the kits for the conduct of rapid Covid-19 tests are now abundantly available in the State and also reduction in the cost of both RNA extraction and RT-PCR

Inter-state thieves nabbed

PNS ONGOLE

Prakasam district police busted a gang of four inter-state thieves, one of whom was involved in 75 thefts, for a series of burglaries and vehicle thefts recently. Police arrested Chintala Sisindri, 24, from village, Chintalapalem Mannem Ramanjaneyulu, 23, Mota Naveen, 24, and Sheikh Shahul, 25, all three from Ongole town, and recovered stolen property worth Rs 18 lakh.

Puzzled by a series of thefts, Prakasam district Superintendent of Police (SP) Siddharth Kaushal held a crime review meeting to crackdown on the thieves.

He formed a special team under the supervision of Markapuram DSP and inspector to look out for people likely to commit such crimes. After thoroughly monitoring the prison monitoring system, police zeroed in some criminals, who have been released from Ongole jail for similar past crimes.

Following the preparation of a suspect list, police immediately formed three teams to trace for the thieves. Kaushal got a tip-off that some suspects are arriving in Prakasam district from Guntur district. Swiftly acting on this, police started vehicle searches in Markapuram town, Kunta junction and Y Palem junction.

"Near Markapuram -Kambham road, while inspecting vehicles at the Vemulakota bus shelter in Markapuram, the four accused were seen coming towards Markapuram in a car and turned back and start-





motorcycles









ed fleeing," said an official. However, police managed to chase and nab them around noon on Wednesday.

property is being recovered immediately," said Kaushal. He said criminals will be iden-On interrogation, police found that Sisindri was tified and strictly acted upon, involved in more than 75 thefts even as he called upon old and in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. When he was in and lead a normal life.

'CM committed to women's empowerment'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Rs 510 crore has been credited to bank accounts of 2.72 lakh beneficiaries under YSR Cheyutha second phase, covering those who couldn't make it in the first phase, disclosed Peddireddv Ministers Ramachandra Reddy and Botsa Satyanarayana.

Speaking on the occasion here on Thursday, Minister for Panchayat Raj Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has redefined welfare and empowerment of women with the implementation of various welfare schemes.

YSRCP brushes aside TDP remarks on Nandyal suicide

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The TDP was trying to politicise the Nandyal incident though the government has taken action against the accused, said YSRCP MLA Parthasarathy. Kolusu Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, the MLA criticised TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu for politicising the Nandyal issue and reiterated that Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy responded quickly and initiated arrests of the accused police personnel. The TDP functionary and advocate had moved a bail petition to set the

accused free, while the government has taken action against

the cops, he pointed out. Brushing aside the TDP remarks, he made it clear that the YSRCP leaders have neither filed a bail petition for the accused nor were involved in the incident. The government has given Rs 25 lakh ex gratia to the kin of Abdul Salam's family.

The demonic rule of which N Chandrababu Naidu has been speaking of was witnessed by people during his term in office as the previous government had miserably failed in taking action against the accused in attacks against years term, he said.

women officers, which were committed by TDP leaders, he said

"It is the nature of Naidu to speak in support of SC, ST, BC and Minorities while in Opposition, but abandon them while in the government. He failed to give a Cabinet berth to a Muslim until the end of his term although his son Lokesh and Naravana were inducted into his Cabinet," he reminded. Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy had spent about Rs 3,428 crore to the welfare of minorities in just 15 months, while Naidu had spent only Rs 2,661 crore in his five

Fake clips: YSRCP MLA lodges plaint

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP Tadikonda MLA Dr Vundavalli Sridevi lodged a complaint with police over circulation of fake audio and videos on social media against her and alleged the involvement of the TDP behind the malicious cam-

paign. Addressing a press meet here on Thursday, Sridevi said, "How can a channel play morphed films of a woman (her) without even verifying the authenticity of the same. Abstaining to even make an attempt to seek a response from me shows the intent".

Good response to Navy blood donation camp

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

As part of the Navy Week activities, a mega blood donation camp was conducted at Dockyard, Naval Visakhapatnam, on Thursday. The camp was inaugurated by Surgeon Rear Admiral CS Naidu, Command Medical Officer of Eastern Naval Command (ENC), and conducted in collaboration with the King George Hospital (KGH) Blood Bank and NTR Memorial Blood Bank adhering to all Covid precautions. There was an overwhelming volunteer response from both the Service and Defence

Civilian personnel and their families wherein 316 units of blood have been donated to the blood banks of Visakhapatnam. During the day-long blood donation camp, Vice- Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, reviewed the conduct of the

camp. Dr PV Sudhakar, principal, Andhra Medical College, Dr K Satyavara Prasad, Director VIMS, and Dr Jitender Sharma, CMD and CEO, AP Med Tech Zone, also graced the occasion. Dr Jitender Sharma also donated blood during the camp.



Service and Defence Civilian personnel donate blood as part of Navy Week activities in Visakhapatnam on Thursday



telangana 04

After Dubbak, all eyes on GHMC polls Uttam asks KCR to help

K VENKATESHWARLU HYDFRABAD

The victory in the bypoll to the Dubbak Assembly constituency has come as a shot in the arm for BJP and is a sure boost to its claim of being the viable alternative to the ruling TRS. This is the first defeat for TRS in any by-election since the formation of Telangana state in 2014. It comes almost two years after TRS retained power with a massive majority in the Assembly elections. By wresting the seat from TRS in KCR's home district Siddipet, the party has sent the alarm bells ringing in the ruling party camp.

The saffron party wants to continue the momentum in the upcoming GHMC elections too. However, the Dubbak result has shocked the ruling TRS. The TRS lost to the BJP by a little over 1,000 votes in the see-saw contest between BJP candidate M Raghunandan Rao and TRS rival Solipeta Sujatha. While the result of this by-poll will have no impact on TRS's dominance in the State Assembly, but winning the Dubbak seat was important for it to convey that it remains unchallenged in the state and



a loss will not only dent its aura but also give the Opponents, especially the BJP, hope of dethroning the party in the

near future. The Congress, which said that it will win big in Dubbak by-poll lost deposits and secured third place. All these three political parties-BJP, TRS and Congress are now gearing up for upcoming GHMC polls and want to show their mark

as an alliance party of the ruling TRS. Already, the ruling TRS and

the BJP have launched their GHMC elections campaign in their own style by criticising each other regarding Central help to the flood victims in Hyderabad. Congress launched its campaign by criticising both TRS

and BJP. However, both BJP and Congress criticised the ruling TRS party alleging that and settle the scores. However, along these three political parthe TRS government showed partiality in distributing the ties, AIMIM too will join flood relief funds. The parties GHMC elections bandwagon

By wresting the seat from TRS in Dubbak, BJP has sent the alarm bells ringing in the ruling party camp

alleged that the government distributed flood relief only to TRS activists.

The AIMIM is yet to jump into campaign. The AIMIM is confident that no party dares to break their bastion and hence they have not yet launched any campaign directly or indirectly. However, the BJP criticised the AIMIM alleging that it also distributed the flood relief funds to their activists.

On Thursday, the Chief Minister conducted a review meeting along with the Ministers, MPs, MLAs and MLCs on the ensuing GHMC and MLC elections. He directed them not to show any leniency in the upcoming elections as the party already faced a shocking debacle in Dubbak by-election. BJP already conducted a review meeting on GHMC and MLC elections a couple of weeks ago. Congress has been conducting continuous review meetings on these elections.

However, the fight in GHMC elections may be between the ruling TRS and the BJP as both will try to show their mark. The TRS is stating that it will win more than 100 divisions this time. However, the BJP is stating that it will register victory in 80 divi-sions. The tempers may rise with their strategies and counter strategies between TRS and BJP. Already, the saffron party is reaching out to the voters with 'Mana Hyderabad-Mana BJP" slogan and said that it will change the name of Hyderabad as 'Bhagyanagar' after coming to power in the

state On the other hand, the ruling TRS is going to show doors to the weak corporators by not giving tickets this time. According to political ana-lysts, the GHMC elections may not be that easy this time as BJP is in full swing. They said that the TRS also will not keep quiet and it will deploy its all strengths to grab the mayor post again.

farmers on war footing

Demands Rs. 2,500/acre for super fine varieties of paddy

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N Uttam Kumar Reddy demanded that the State Government take measures on war footing to help the farmers who lost their crops due to multiple factors including heavy rains, floods, pests and diseases. He also urged Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao to fulfill the promise of waiving off crop loans up to Rs 1 lakh in a single take. Addressing the Rhythu

Deeksha programme in Nalgonda, Uttam said that the Regulated Cropping system, forcibly imposed by CM, proved disastrous for thousands of farmers who cultivated superfine varieties of paddy, instead of regular varieties. He said that the cultivation of 'sanna rakala vadlu' not only involved higher investment compared to regular varieties, the overall yield was less than two-third of original quantity. Therefore, he said that the paddy farmers, on an average, Government purchase the 'sanna rakala vadlu' by paying at least Rs 2,500 per quintal. He lost over Rs. 10,000 per acre. He demanded that the State

TIGER ATTACK

PNS HYDERABAD



CM LIVING IN HIS OWN ILLUSIONARY WORLD

Hyderabad: Former Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir demanded that Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao come out of denial mode if he was serious about the welfare of farmers in Telangana. Addressing the Rythu Deeksha programme at Macha Reddy Chowrasta in Kamareddy district on Thursday, Shabbir Ali alleged that the TRS government was not even assessing the problems being faced by the farmers in Telangana State.

He said that the Chief Minister Xhas entered into a denial mode and is not even willing to listen that lakhs of farmers were in huge stress after losing their crops due to heavy rains, floods, pests and other factors. Citing an example, he said that when some tenant farmers in Shivnoor village of Narsingi mandal set ablaze their damaged crops, the Chief Minister ridiculed them and even claimed that they were not even farmers.

also demanded that the State Government purchase all other crops at the MSP.

MIM MLA booked for attacking Cong functionary PNS HYDERABAD

A case has been registered against an AIMIM legislator and others here for allegedly abusing and attacking a Congress functionary, police said on Thursday. A 38-yearold man, a local Congress leader, accused AIMIM legislator Jaffer Hussain Meraj, representing Nampally constituency, and some others of attacking him and causing injuries on his face and also threatening him with dire consequences. According to the complainant, he along with other party leaders and government employees were distributing the state government's financial assistance of Rs 10,000 each to the families affected by the recent rains and floods in Ahmed Nagar on November 11 when the MLA allegedly abused him. Later he along with some others beat him up,

Cong ridicules Kishan over 'phone tapping'

PNS HYDERABAD

AICC Spokesperson Dr Sravan Dasoju on Thursday ridiculed the Minister of state for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy's remarks on the phone tapping issue in Telangana. Despite being in the constitutional post, and having the competent authority to initiate an investigation on the Chief Minister of Telangana and the Police Department, how can Kishan Reddy talk like a normal citizen who wanted to complain with the Election Commission, he questioned.

The senior Congress party leader further asked the Union Minister to showcase his caliber by taking the necessary action against the miscreants who are violating the right to privacy of the citizens by invading into their private lives. "Being an empowered person, the Union Minister himself cries foul, imagine what would be the condition of a normal citizen in this coun-



try," Dr Sravan asked. plaint before the election com-"It is a known fact that the

mission," he added. phone tapping has been occurring in Telangana. And The AICC leader, Dr Sravan Dasoju said that he had it is being done as per the already complained about misusing public data in the state with the Chief Secretary instructions given by the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar of Telangana and also the Rao for a long time. Now the Union Home Ministry. Union Minister Kishan Reddy According to him, the Telangana Police and the IAS has himself realised this fact. So, why can't the Minister officer Javesh Ranjan have directly take action against the culprits and why is he still been violating the rights of talking about lodging a comindividual freedom and their

The Congress spokesperson, Dasoju Sravan alleged that the State government has been eavesdropping on opposition party leaders for a long time

privacy by misusing public data collected during the comprehensive survey. The state government itself is behaving like a peeping tom by resorting to the unaccepted activities such as tapping the phones in the state, he alleged. "Despite complaining about the issue a long time ago, there was no action taken against them"

Setback for Raghunandan in High Court

PNS HYDERABAD

The MLA-elect of BJP M. Raghunandan Rao approached the Telangana High Court and urged it to quash the FIR registered against him on Siddipet incident. The incident was related to recovery of huge cash from the houses of the relatives of Rao during the elec-tion campaign. The case came up for hearing before the Bench of Justice K Lakshman. He however, referred it to the Chief Justice bench for adjudication. He asked the High Court registrar to take steps to transfer the case to the Chief Justice's bench. He told the counsel for the petitioner that the criminal cases filed against public representatives would be dealt by the Chief Justice's

Forest Minister A Indrakaran Reddy has declared an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of Sidam Vignesh, a tribal youngster who was attacked and killed by a tiger near Digida village in Dahegaon mandal of Kumram Bheem Asifabad district. Terming the incident as unfortunate, the Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the family members.

Rs 5 lakh aid for kin

The Minister was speaking after inaugurating the District Forest Protection Complex, housing the Divisional Forest Officer at Medchal-Malkajgiri district built at a cost of Rs 65 lakh in a 3 acre plot on Thursday. The Minister reiterated the government's resolve to strengthen the forest department.

PNS HYDERABAD

Medchal-Malkajgiri district has "The department is deteralready become famous for its mined to improve green cover urban forests and snake rescue



Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao. The officers are also working hard to protect forest, forest land and wildlife," he said. He said that the government has embarked on a programme to provide urban forests on the outskirts of Hyderabad so that the urban population can enjoy the pleasant environment during their leisure time. He said

bench.

to Pragati Bhavan foiled

Farmers' bid to lay siege

PNS HYDERABAD

Farmers made a vain bid on Thursday to lay siege to the Pragati Bhavan demanding payment of Rs 2,500 as MSP for the paddy. Responding to a call given by the Rythu Aikya Vedika state committee, farmers from Karimnagar, Jagityal, Rajanna Sircilla districts arrived here to lay siege to the CM's official residence Pragati Bhavan. However, the police foiled their attempt and took them to Gosha Mahal police station.

Speaking at the Goshamahal Police Station, the representatives of farmers' bodies said that the farmers raised fine variety of paddy paying heed to government's advice. At the time of harvesting the paddy crop, heavy rains and floods have damaged the standing crops in the fields. As a result, the paddy became discoloured.

The paddy procurement centres are not coming forward to procure the damaged paddy. Therefore, the Aikya

Farmers demanded the state government to procure paddy

immediately by paying an MSP of Rs 2,500 per quintal

Vedika representatives demanded the government to procure paddy immediately by paying an MSP of Rs 2,500 per quintal of the paddy.

The farmers who have sustained crop loss due to natural calamities have been sustaining further losses unable to get the MSP for their produce. At the field level, the officials are not procuring paddy, maize, cotton and other crops. Therefore, the farmers want the government to procure all crops at the MSP. The farmers in order to bring their problems to the notice of the government set out for Pragati

Bhavan, the police have resisted them and took them into their custody, lament the farmers' representatives.

Newly-elected AIMIM legislators from Bihar call on Owaisi

PNS HYDERABAD

Five newly-elected legislators of the Bihar Assembly belonging to the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) called on party President Asaduddin Owaisi here on Thursday. Owaisi, who is also the Member of Parliament from Hyderabad, welcomed the MLAs at his residence by shaking hands and hugging them

AIMIM Bihar state unit President Akhtarul Iman, who was elected from Amour constituency, Muhammed Izhar (Kochadamam), Asfi Shahnawaz Alam (Jokihat), Sved Ruknuddin (Baisi) and Azhar Nayeemi (Bahadurgunj) arrived in the city late on Wednesday to meet Owaisi. The AIMIM put up an impressive show in the recent Bihar elections to win five out of 20

Assembly seats it contested. The Hyderabad-headquartered party, which polled 1.24 per cent (5,23,279) votes, was a constituent of the Grand



Democratic Secular Front, which contested all 243 seats and had projected Upendra Kushwaha as the chief ministerial candidate. However, except the AIMIM and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), which bagged one seat, other constituents of the Front drew a blank. Kushwaha-led Rashtriya

Lok Samta Party (RLSP), the Samajwadi Janata Dal Democratic and the Democratic Party (Socialist) were the other constituents of the Front. Owaisi, who had addressed over 60 rallies in

Bihar, termed as "historic" the results for his party but said the outcome for the alliance was not on the expected lines. He also said his party would analyse the results in other constituencies and will try to overcome the weaknesses. The AIMIM was eyeing the kingmaker's role but its hopes were dashed as the BJP-led NDA retained the power with simple majority.

The Congress, a constituent f the RJD -led the Mahagathbandhan (MGB) has blamed AIMIM for spoiling the chances of MGB.

Telangana BJP core committee member Gaddam Vivek Venkatswamy on Thursday said that he requested the Central government agencies to hold an inquiry into Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao family's illegal assets 60,000 crore to Rs 4 lakh crore

KCR's family assets

Vivek demands probe into

which have been acquired by 'looting' the people of Telangana. "In the last six over a span of six years. The result of the Dubbak by-election proves that the people of Telangana are not satisfied with the KCR 'Tughlaq' admin-istration. The verdict shows vears, KCR has been in power and he has looted thousands of crores in the name of Kaleswaram Project and Mission Bhagiratha. KCR is taking actions based on his that farmers, youth, dalits and weaker sections are against personal superstitious beliefs and not for the betterment of the KCR government," he claimed. "We can clearly conclude that this is a verdict the Telangana people," he against the KCR family rule," he said. He alleged that KCR

Speaking to the media, deceived the people, especial-ly by promising them 2BHK Vivek alleged that KCR has pushed state into debt trap. State's debt increased from Rs units in the state. "While in

other states millions of houses are being built for the people under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana scheme," he claimed. Former MP said that BJP's victory in Bihar and the by-elections to 59 seats across the country shows people are satisfied with Prime Minister Narendra Modi government. "During the recent Dubbak

by-elections, Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar held a press conference and dragged my name and my company, Visaka Industries, into a controversy with the intention of ruining my image by accusing me and BJP of buying votes. I have been working hard for the party and against this dictatorship rule since joining the BJP and that's why KCR wants to threaten me and my colleagues by filing false cases against them," he alleged.

VOTERS LIST

BJP demands SEC to rectify mistakes

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP state vice-presidents - - Chinthala Ramachandra Reddy and NVSS Prabhakar requested the SEC to rectify mistakes/irregularities in the GHMC Draft voters list and take necessary action by conducting an enquiry against such erring Officials found responsible. On Thursday, the BJP leaders submitted a memorandum in this regard.

In their memorandum, they

said that upon perusal of the draft voters list, it is observed that in each ward, thousands of votes are missing and when we verified the same, the voters of the BJP, where the BJP won or stood second during the year 2016 GHMC elections, were deleted. On further verification, it was also noticed that the MIM voters/muslim voters replaced in the BJP voters in those wards where the BJP last time won or stood second.

Owaisi's rise continues as AIMIM looks to expand base

alleged.

PNS HYDERABAD

Often described as the uncrowned "Sultan of Hyderabad", he maintains close rapport with the Chief Ministers of both the Telugu devised states, but his political strategies more often than not benefit the Bharatiya Janata Party. He is none other than Asaduddin Owaisi. His style of functioning can be best described as "Bahar dushman...andar dost". Asad, who claims himself to be the voice of Muslims, has always in the news, but more so after any Assembly election in the country.

The Hyderabad-based AIMIM figures in debates

across the nation, even on the media

social media, following the Earlier, the AIMIM con-Bihar election results. The tested elections held in UP and hype, and buzz surrounding Maharashtra, acting as per a strategy. It fielded its candithe party, is attributed to the political strategies being dates and opened its account Owaisi. The in Maharashtra. In the recent Hyderabad-based AIMIM ear-Bihar elections, AIMIM candidates won five seats. Deriving lier limited its activities to undivided AP alone, but over inspiration from this, the AIMIM chief revealed that he time, it has spread its wings to other states. Asaduddin Owaisi plans to contest the forthcoming Assembly elections in West has over the last decade or so Bengal, due next year. He is confident of winning some started moving his pawns deftly on the political chessboard in his characteristic style and seats in West Bengal too, made his party's presence felt despite the howls of protests by in other states too. Gradually, some quarters, and outright the AIMIM is capturing seats

criticism from others. While some hold their critin north Indian states. This has generated a lot of debate in icism and describe him as a

'vote-cutter', others are more vocal, and allege him to be a stooge of the BJP. The AIMIM is likely to affect the electoral prospects of the ruling Trinamool Congress in Muslim-majority areas. The criticism is that the objective of the AIMIM, which identifies the BJP as its main rival, is to benefit the BJP. If the AIMIM were to contest the West Bengal elections, it would bring sea change in the polit-ical scenario of the state, political analysts say.

West Bengal ranks No 2 in the country in terms of Muslim population and a split in the Muslim vote will benefit the BJP indirectly. The

TMC and many parties suspect that Asaduddin Owaisi has had a tacit understanding with the BJP to split the Muslim votes to help the national party win more seats in West Bengal. They cite the example of Bihar in this regard.

The entry of the AIMIM in the Bihar election fray led to split of Muslim votes spoiling the party of the RJD and Congress. The RJD and Congress could not win some of the sure shot seats because of the split of Muslim votes, they say. In Maharashtra and UP, the

AIMIM engineering a split in Muslim votes and benefited the BJP, either by design or inadvertently.





nation 05

NDA won by deceit, claims Tejashwi

PNS PATNA

RJD's Tejashwi Yadav was on Thursday elected the leader of the Grand Alliance legislature party and promptly hit out at the NDA, claiming it won the assembly elections through "deceit".

Addressing a press confer-ence, Yadav mocked Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, whose ID(U) has been relegated to the third position in terms of seat tally, and wondered whether the latter would "heed his conscience and give up his attach-ment to the chair". He was obviously referring

to Kumar resigning and snap-ping ties with the Grand Alliance before returning to the NDA fold in 2017 after

Tejashwi's name had cropped up in a money laundering case. Kumar had then said he was stepping down after heeding his conscience (atma ki awaaz). Yadav claimed the people's mandate was for a change but it was manipulated. "It was undoubtedly a mandate for change. The NDA won by dhan, bal and chhal (money, muscle power and deceit," he alleged. Asked whether the Mahagathbandhan would try to muster numbers to form its own government, he said, "We will go to the people who gave the mandate. If they express

Nitish may take oath as CM on Monday

Nas Bihar chief minister for a fourth successive term next week but the date has not been finalised yet, a close aide said on Thurday. However, speculation is rife in political circles that he will be sworn in on Monday, the day 'Bhaiyya Dooj' festival will be celebrated, as it is considered an auspicious day. He will visit the state party headquarters later Thursday to

such a wish we will act accordingly." Quoting election data, he claimed the NDA got only 12,270 votes more than the

meet the newly elected MLAs and other JD(U) functionaries Raj Bhavan sources said they have not received any communication about when the swearing-in ceremony will take place. Before he is sworn-in as the chief minister again, Nitish Kumar has to tender his resignation to the governor. The newly elected MLAs of the NDA are yet to meet formally and elect Kumar as their

Mahagathbandhan. their victory in 15 more seats than us? We believe that had

leader. However, with top BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, strongly endorsing Kumar as the chief minister, there are no doubts over a fourth straight term for him in the high office. Chief Electoral Officer H R Srinivas, meanwhile submitted the list of winning candidates in the assembly elections to Governor Phagu Chauhan at Raj Bhavan.

the counting of votes been fair, we would have returned "How can it convert into with a tally of more than 130 seats," said Yaday, whose coali'Cong responsible for defeat of Grand Alliance in Bihar polls'

P Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and BJP leader Anand Swaroop Shukla has taken a potshot at the Congress, holding it responsible for the defeat of the Grand Alliance in Bihar Assembly elections. He said the people of Bihar have given a befitting reply to those who wanted to revive "casteism corruption, 'jungle raj' and family politics" in the state. "Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi took 70 seats but his party could win only 19. The entire credit for the defeat of Tejashwi Yadav and the RJD

on senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh's remark that Nitish Kumar should leave the BJP and back RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, Shukla said some people are still living in a dreamland. Meanwhile, former national president of BJP Kisan Morcha and Ballia MP Virendra Singh Mast said the Bihar Assembly election results were as per the expectations. The results are the realisation of the slogan "Modi Hai To Mumkin Hai", he added.

goes to the Congress and Rahul

Gandhi," Shukla told reporters on

Wednesday night. To a question

tion has won 110 seats, 12 less moved by our commitment to than the magic figure of 122. one rank, one pension scheme. The NDA clinched 125 seats. We demand recounting of "In so many constituencies, postal ballots in all such conpostal ballots were counted in stituencies and the process be the end and not at the beginvideographed," Yadav asserted. The 31-year-old former deputy chief minister alleged ning of counting which is the norm. Moreover, there were seats where as many as 900 that errant polling officials postal ballots were invalidated," had acted like a "prakoshth" (cell) of the BJP, and replied in the affirmative when asked if legal remedy could be explored if the EC did not satisfactorily address the concerns

ESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



'More growth under Modi in border areas'

PNS DHORDO

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said infrastructure development in the country's border areas in last six years of the Narendra Modi government has been much more than in the previous 50 years.

Referring to air strikes and surgical strike by the defence forces, Shah said India is now give a befitting reply to enemies rather than the past practice of just issuing a diplomatic statement".

He was addressing people at the 'Simant Kshetra Vikasotsav-2020' at Dhordo village in Gujarat's Kutch district as part of the central government's Border Area Development Programme.

Sarpanchs (village heads) along with other elected representatives of Kutch, Banaskantha and Patan districts, which share land border with Pakistan, were present at the event. Shah said the central gov-

ernment under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to develop areas situated along the country's border.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (India's first Home minister) had stressed on stopping migration and providing water, electricity to the border villages. But, after his death, the Congress government did not implement it, Shah said. "But now, Modiji has taken up that task," he said

INDIA CORNER

Maha: 3 held for bid to lob drug-filled tennis balls in jail

hree persons were arrested while they were allegedly planning to lob tennis balls filled with marijuana in Kalamba jail in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district for an associate lodged there, an official said on Thursday. During patrolling on Wednesday, some police constables found three men



roaming around a wall of the Kalamba jail with three tennis balls in their hands. "Upon inquiring, they told the policemen that they were from Pune. The cops on duty got suspicious about their presence in the sensitive and prohibited area," the official from Juna Rajwada police station in Kolhapur said. The police seized three tennis balls with insulated adhesive tape over it from their possession, he said "On cutting open, marijuana was found inside the balls," the official said, adding that the three men were allegedly planning to lob the contraband-filled balls in the jail for one of their associates lodged there " he said

Money laundering case: Court rejects Kochhar's bail plea



Navy's fifth Scorpene class submarine Vagir launched

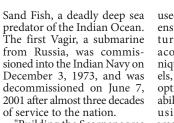
PNS MUMBAI

Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene class submarine Vagir, having superior stealth features like the advanced acoustic absorption technique, was launched on Thursday at the Mazagon Dock in south Mumbai.

Vijaya, wife of Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik, launched the submarine through video conferencing. The minister was the chief guest at the event and attended it via video link from Goa. Vagir is part of the six

Kalvari-class submarines being built in India. The submarines, designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS, are being built as part of Indian Navy's Project-75.

These submarines can undertake missions like antisurface warfare anti-submae warfare, intelligence gath



"Building the Scorpene was indeed a challenge for MDL, as the complexity of the simplest of tasks increased exponentially due to all work ving to be

used in the submarine has ensured superior stealth features such as advanced acoustic absorption techniques, low radiated noise levels, and hydro- dynamically optimised shape and also the ability to attack the enemy using precision guided weapons," the release said.

"The stealth of this potent platform is enhanced by the special attention to her characistic underw These stealth features give it an invulnerability, unmatched by most submarines," it said.



A vendor arranges firecrackers at a roadside shop for sale, ahead of the Diwali festival, in Amritsal



Actor Asif Basra found dead

We suspect this was done to offset the support we had received from a large number of servicemen who were

he RJD leader alleged.

bail plea of businessman Deepak Kochhar, husband of former ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar and an accused in money laundering case. Deepak Kochhar was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in September under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

in the ICICI Bank-Videocon money laundering case. The businessman, through his lawyer, applied for bail on merits as well as

on account of default, claiming the prosecution has failed to file a charge-sheet in the case within stipulated period. The special PMLA judge rejected his default bail plea, while the one filed on merits is posted for hearing on November 23, ED's lawyer Hiten Venegaokar said.

HC declines to quash FIR against Ekta Kapoor over web series

he Madhya Pradesh High Court bench here has dismissed a petition of TV producer Ekta Kapoor seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be guashed. However, the Indore bench, in its 65-page verdict delivered on Wednesday, observed that the provision of the IPC section dealing with hurting religious



feelings was not found to have been breached by the defendant. Five months ago, an FIR was registered against Kapoor following a complaint alleging that the web series, aired on her OTT platform ALTBalaji, not only spreads obscenity, but also hurts religious feelings. The TV produder-cum-filmmaker was booked under relevant sections of the Information Technology Act and the IPC.

BJP MLA draws flak for shoving party women councillors



Karnataka BJP MLA has landed in a row with a video Durportedly showing him pushing party women councillors to prevent them from contesting the posts of president and vice president of a Town Municipal Council, going viral. The state

Congress has shared the video on its Twitter handle. According to information received, the incident took place in Bagalkote district on November 9 when the MLA of Terdal constituency Siddu Savadi allegedly shoved BJP councillors Savitha Hurrakadli, Godavari and Chandni Naik. These women had aligned with the Congress after they were denied tickets by their party and decided to contest the posts of president and vice president of the Mahalingpur Town Municipal Council with the support of Congress members.

ering, mine laying, and area surveillance, an official said. Vagir is named after the

PNS MUMBAI

police officer.

arrest

adjourned till November 23

the hearing into the pre-

bail plea of Republic TV

done in the most congested of spaces," MDL said in a release. "The state-of-art technology

Arnab's pre-arrest bail plea adjourned

could not be heard on Thursday as the judge did A sessions court here has not preside.

The anticipatory bail plea of Goswami and his wife was simply adjourned till November 23," he said.

Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami and his wife in a "We did not seek any interim protection from case registered against them by Mumbai Police for arrest today as we are waiting for the detailed order of the Supreme Court (passed allegedly assaulting a woman on Wednesday granting bail Their lawyer Shyam Kalyankar said the plea to Goswami in another matter)," Kalyankar said.

'India entered recession due to PM's policies'

PNS NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday targeted the government over the state of the economy, claiming the country has entered into a recession for the first time in history due to the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "India has entered into recession for the first time in history. Mr Modi's actions have turned India's strength into its weakness," he said on Twitter.

PNS NEW DELHI, The Delhi High Court government to reserve 80 per

Thursday allowed the AAP cent of ICU beds for COVID-19 patients in 33 private hospitals, saying the situation in the national capital is fairly dynamic and cases of coronavirus are spiralling.

A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad allowed the appeal of Delhi government challenging a single judge's interim order staying the government's decision to reserve 80

per cent ICU beds. The high court vacated the stay order passed by the single judge and listed the matter for further hearing on November 26 before the single bench and till then the reservation of 80 per cent of ICU beds will continue.

The high court was hearing lakh.

The Delhi High Court said that the situation in the national capital is fairly dynamic and cases of coronavirus are spiralling

private complex here by the police and a team of forensic experts is on the spot, said

a plea by the Delhi govern-SSP Kangra Vimukt ment urging it to empower it Ranjan. The police is investigat to enforce reservation of 80 ing the case and further details per cent of ICU beds for are awaited, Ranjan added. It is COVID-19 patients in 33 pribeing reported that the actor had vate hospitals at least for 15 a property on lease for the past days in view of the rise in the five-six years in McLeodganj, number of cases. Delhi Upper Dharamshala, and used recorded its biggest single-day jump of 8,593 COVID-19 to visit the place regularly. In his over two decade-long career, Basra played supporting parts in cases on Wednesday that took many critically-acclaimed fea-tures like "Black Friday." its infection tally to over 4.59

Permission for religious events

PNS CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Thursday cancelled its order allowing social, political, religious and cultural events from November 16 permitting participation of a maximum of 100 people.

Citing festival season and people congregating in large numbers in public places throwing anti-COVID-19 norms like social distancing to the winds, the government said curbs shall continue as regards such programmes and it includes those related to entertainment and education. It has come to the government's notice that people gathered in large numbers in public places like markets, and they thronged bus terminals, "without paying attention to social distancing and wearing masks," an official release said here

Celebrating Diwali during Coronavirus times

PNS NEW DELHI

Many traditions have flown out of the window this year but this one stays steadfast - saying it with gifts in the festival of lights. And tweaking it too in keeping with the pandemic times to include mask sets, immunity boosting food hampers and even portable UV disinfection chambers.

The staples – the good old box of sweets, the acceptable dinner set, the trusted mixi or other home appliances and the gourmet food basket remain of course as people hold on tight to the ritual of exchanging gifts during Diwali to keep the festive spirit alive.

Some are stepping out in masks and face shields, armed with sanitiser and spraying everything and anything they come into contact with. And many are buying online as they celebrate the festival of



giving -- one gift at a time. Registering an uptick in the 'work-from-home' (WFH) era are utilitarian gifts such as bean bags, movable desks, ergonomic swivel chairs and even full-year subscriptions to streaming platforms like Netflix for all those evenings when you can't go out like you once did. Vandana Thappa, for

instance, bought an ergonomic chair and table as a Diwali gift for her brother suffering from a stiff neck and shoulder from hours of sitting hunched over his laptop on a bed.

"He is from the IT sector and is working from home since the lockdown in March. I was wondering what to give him this Diwali and my moth-

The staples – the good old box of sweets, the trusted mixi or other home appliances and the gourmet food basket – remain of course as people hold on tight to the ritual of exchanging gifts during Diwali

er suggested I buy him a good table and chair. It should reach him in a day or two, " said Thappa, a Delhi-based homemaker, who ordered the gifts online.

As COVID-19 continues its spread, the 'gift of health' is the growing trend.

So there are immunity based gifting options -- dry fruit boxes, turmeric tea and spice kits – as well as reusable masks, AC filters-cum-air purifiers and the 'CoronaOven', a portable UV purifiers the disinfection chamber to sani-

tise everyday belongings manufactured by nanotechnology start-up Log 9 Materials.

"This festive season, the best and most important gift you can give someone is the gift of health. We at Nirvana Being are giving you a chance to do just that and protect your loved ones from pollution and COVID-19 with special offers -- valid till November 15 -- on reusable masks and AC filters," said Jai Dhar Gupta, founder of Nirvana Being, a clean air solutions company.

PNS NEW DELHI

Actor Asif Basra, known for starring in movies such as "Jab We Met", "Once Upon a Time in Mumbaai" and "Kai Po Che!", died on Thursday here, the police said. He was 53. The actor was found hanging in a



facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/ PAPER WITH PASSION

Big brother watching

As OTT platforms and digital media come under the purview of the I&B Ministry, regulation should be an enabler, not a disabler



hoice is that precious, unclaimed space in the Chuman mind that allows us to decide our response to stimulus and helps us understand the value of freedom. It is the only agency we have to decide our own good and that defines and grows our sense of responsibility. When it is runaway and affects others destructively, mediation is required for the sake of balance. As former US President Ronald Reagan once said, "The Government exists to protect us from each other. Where the Government has gone beyond its limits is in deciding to protect us from ourselves." And the Narendra Modi Government's move to step into an area of per-

sonal freedom, namely the digital and OTT platforms --- which are paid services for customised consumption, and, therefore, not overarching in their reach as other mass media - has raised hackles. The Government has issued an order seeking to regulate online news portals and content providers such as Netflix by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B). News on social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, will also be subject to the Ministry's scrutiny as will audio-visual content. This refereeing is being seen as tantamount to censorship considering that both print and TV media, too, are not subjected to a direct watch by the Ministry but by regulatory bodies, the Press Council of India for print media and the News Broadcasters Standards Association (NBSA) for television media. Besides, there are enough existing laws and self-check mechanisms by the industry to ensure that no content crosses the line in such sensitive matters as child pornography or terrorism. The crackdown on "fake news" and incendiary material is also fairly stringent now. What is astounding about the move is that the Ministry itself had in principle agreed to consider the proposal of a self-regulatory model by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), a representative body of the OTT platforms. The Online Curated Content Providers or OCCPs had further proposed a Digital Curated Content Complaints Council as part of a two-tier structure. So the new move seems rather Orwellian. And no matter how much the Government may claim to be a well-meaning supervisor, we cannot discount an internecine attempt to police the democracy on the Internet, curb free speech, dilute the plurality of viewpoints, track criticism of Government policies and worse, in the culture space, prevent stories that speak of the multiplicity of a real India and not of the homogenous makeover that the "one country" propaganda demands. So this is about a war of perception. When it comes to print, it is far more trustworthy and thorough than the screaming matches that are disguised as "news" on TV channels, more partisan than fair. Is it because the self-regulation of the TV industry has failed that the Government decided to take the self-control proposals by online news publishers and video streaming services with a pinch of salt? Or is it because it is scared of the social media having gotten too deeply embedded in all aspects of our life and, therefore, becoming an influencer in itself? Facebook and Twitter are behemoths that are being used by both industry and political parties to harness numbers and disseminate their ideas. Would the Government ensure that it is not disproportionately represented?

Regulation should be an enabler, not a disabler. It should ensure that shows and even news published on online platforms meet an acceptable standard and aren't besmirched by fake and outrageous claims. Online news sites or websites disguised as online news purveyors often proclaim snake oil cures for all sorts of ailments, including COVID-19. Such misinformation can be deadly. Besides we have seen how rumour-mongering by such news providers can lead to actual physical harm. But that does not mean that discussions uncomfortable to the powers that be or content that is sexual in nature can be censored. That does not mean squeezing websites because they are anti-establishment or clipping shows that expose the hidden dystopia the Government doesn't want you to question. Its truth cannot be the only truth. As for entertainment-oriented OTT platforms, that thrive on a creative bandwidth of ideas, agitate us out of our comfort zones with thoughtprovoking shows and help us release our angst through satiric comedy, the Government move is a dampener. For now, it has more power to force streaming services to act on complaints even from the most wayward fringe. That could kill innovation and even make licensing mandatory. The Government must realise that people are not looking for Doordarshan on a service they pay for and, therefore, have a right to demand their kind of content. In fact, the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) had clarified that there was no need for regulation under the Cinematograph Act for prior licensing of content. It had also told the Delhi High Court that the IT Act and Indian Penal Code were sufficient to deal with complaints against streaming platforms. In fact, Section 69A of the IT Act allows the immediate takedown of controversial content and is quite punitive in nature. The I&B Ministry only has oversight powers and no statutory authority. That said, with broadcasters increasingly moving online as are traditional newspapers and magazines, and there being an overlap with the Telecom and IT Ministries, maybe it is time to consider a single unified Ministry that looks over all these issues. But that should just encourage resolution, not regulation.

opinion $\mathbf{06}$

A seat at the high table

India should now push for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council. As the largest democracy and contributor to peace-keeping forces, it deserves more



PRAFULL GORADIA

pejorative wisecrack on the United Nations is that it has become the "useless non-existent organisation." For example, in 1999, the then UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, suddenly flew to Delhi to "mediate" in the Kargil War only to be politely told by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government to mind his own business and be gone. It is reported that this international body employs some 1,00,000 employees. If the average cost of each is taken to be \$50,000, it means an expenditure of five thousand million dollars annually. The organisation's other expenses are separate.

The late American columnist, Charles Krauthammer, had dubbed the UN a "corrupt impostor, undeserving of any American support". Titled *A Table for Tyrants*, the former Czech President Vaclav Havel wrote an article in *The New York* Times saying that he felt scandalised when he saw the UN Human Rights Council filled with members like Sudan, Zimbabwe, China and Saudi Arabia, which had no human rights.

Yet, India continues to be an elephantine contributor to the UN peacekeeping contingents and has sent nearly 2,00,000 peacekeepers to 44 missions over the years. This is more than the national armed forces of most countries. Indian forces working for the UN have suffered more casualties than any other country's armed forces. Our policy-makers argue that this is being done not for any strategic gains but in the service of "global ideals" - like strengthening the world body and international peace and security. On the other hand, the UN did not even condemn China's unprovoked aggression against India in October 1962, leave alone do anything about it. The irony is that the dictatorial and communist China enjoys a permanent seat in the Security Council while India, the world's largest democracy, does



which has seen four wars and continuing *jihadi* infiltration and terror attacks, has been geopolitically laid to rest by India's uni-lateral abrogation of the controversial Article 370, and not because of the UN.

The world body has failed miserably in bringing a terrorist-endorsing country like Pakistan to heel or prevent its nuclear proliferation. It is India that has had to deal with Pakistan on its own. Apart from the importance of this international organisation, India's boundless naiveté in the

Nehruvian era cannot be denied. The only service the UN arguably performed was to provide a platform for radical communist elements and a whole generation of dictators and autocrats to portray themselves as leaders and statesmen. Most notable in this regard was India's Krishna Menon, whose vitriolic anti-Western rhetoric and firespitting speeches in the UN earned him the dubious sobriquet of a "spitting camel" - he was so dubbed by the Americans who hated Menon's patronising lecturing — but also more seriously earned India a lot of Western ill will.

The failures of the UN make an unusually long catalogue beginning with 1948. That year, the Soviet Union blocked Berlin. e only action that n

more intensively than seen anywhere, anytime since or before World War II. In 1956, the Anglo-French invasion of Egypt over the Suez Canal issue yet again proved the UN's incompetence. As it did again the same year when the Soviet Union invaded Hungary. In 1959, the world witnessed the annexation of Tibet by China. In 1968, the international body looked askance at the Prague spring when Soviet tanks rolled into Czechoslovakia. The idea of an international

concert of nations began in the post-Napoleonic period with the primary objective of avoiding war. At the start of World War I, the call for an international organisation to prevent future wars began to gain considerable public support, particularly in Britain and the US. Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson, a British political scientist, coined the term "League of Nations" in 1914 and drafted a scheme for its organisation. Together with Lord Bryce, he played a leading role in establishing a group of interna-tional pacifists known as the Bryce Group, later the League of Nations Union.

The forerunner of the League of Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was formed by peace activists William Randal Cremer and Frederic Passy in 1889 and is currently still in existence as a body with a focus on the various elected legislative bodies of the world. The IPU was founded with an international scope, with a third of the members of world parliaments serving as its members by 1914. It aimed to encourage Governments to solve disputes by peaceful means. powers honestly bent on peace

The concept of a peaceful community of nations had been proposed as far back as 1795. Immanuel Kant, German metaphysician and philosopher, whose comprehensive and systematic work on the theory of knowledge, ethics and aesthetics greatly influenced philosophy, outlined the idea of a league of nations to control conflict and promote peace between States in his work Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Šketch. He argued for the establishment of a peaceful world community, not in a sense of a global Government, but in the hope that each State would declare itself a free State that respects its citizens and welcomes foreign visitors as fel-

low rational beings, thus promoting a peaceful society worldwide. International cooperation to promote collective security originated in the Concert of Europe, which developed after the Napoleonic wars in the 19th century, in an attempt to maintain the status quo between the European States and avoid war. This period also saw the development of international law, with the first Geneva Convention establishing laws dealing with humanitarian relief during wartime. Then the international Hague Convention of 1899 and 1907 laid down governing would form a League of Peace." Such an idea should logically have emerged from Europe, whose long history is a record of almost unending wars. At the end of the Great War, the League of Nations came up in the hope of ending the era of war and healing the West with an age of peace. Yet again, this idea emerged from American President Woodrow Wilson.

However, the credibility of the League of Nations was weakened by the fact that the US never joined it and the Soviet Union joined rather late and was soon expelled after invading Finland. Germany withdrew from the League, as did Japan, Italy, Spain and others. The onset of World War II showed that the League had failed its primary purpose, which was to prevent any future world war. The League lasted for 26 years and the UN replaced it after the end of World War II, inheriting several agencies and organisations spawned by the League.

True, the League of Nations did not last long. Yet, credit must go to it for having spawned the International Court of Justice and the International Labour Organisation and other bodies. It is doubtful that the UN would leave behind anything memorable except for its performance of profli n time Ind

told the big powers to give it a

Superspreader spots

A Stanford University study identifies restaurants, gyms and hotels as risky and suggests targetted containment protocols



*F*ith the pandemic in its aggressive second phase, all countries are caught in a dilemma, forced V to choose between the need to keep their gasping economies open through the winter months or save lives by going under lockdown yet again. So a new study that says that the reopening of restaurants, gyms and hotels carries the highest danger of spreading the virus is not something that the world even wants to deal with right now. But this is what researchers at Stanford University and Northwestern University, using mobile phone data from 98 million people, have discovered. They modelled the risks of infection at different locations

between March and May in cities across the US to map the movement of people. The study looked at where they went, how long they stayed, how many others were present and then combined that information with data on the number of cases. That helped them map the virus spread and create infection models. These predicted that if restaurants in Chicago were reopened at full capacity, they would generate almost 6,00,000 new cases, three times as many as establishments in other categories. The researchers also found that about 10 per cent of the locations examined accounted for 85 per cent of predicted infections. Though Governments across the world have to deal with this unsavoury truth, there is a silver lining too. Given the fact that there is very little epidemiological data on how Corona protocols curb the spread of the virus, by collating this type of precise data, they can find vulnerable areas and take more localised preventive steps.

What the study has, in fact, shown is that hard lockdowns aren't necessary to curb the infection. As the study showed, capping occupancy at 20 per cent in locations in the Chicago metro area cut down predicted new infections by more than 80 per cent. And because the occupancy caps primarily impacted visitors during peak hours, the restaurants only lost 42 per cent of patrons overall, as against losing all of their business during a lockdown. Other countries, too, can create their own virus dashboards and roll out targetted policies to tackle the contagion. They can harness technology, such as mobile phones and fitness trackers, to scout potential virus hotspots. But much will depend on how people continue to observe Corona-appropriate behaviour. As Health Minister Harsh Vardhan aptly said, consider the mask and other protocols as a vaccine till we get one. The faster we imbibe this, the faster can

The UN also did not support India in its Bangladesh War waged solely to bring relief to East Bengalis, who were at the receiving end of Pakistan's genocidal crackdown. The UN passed a resolution making the State of Jammu and Kashmir an internationally disputed territory despite evidence that it was Pakistan that invaded Indian territory in October 1947. The dispute,

the city's surrender was the American airlift of all conceivable supplies in the spirit of Ich bin ein Berliner (I am a Berliner), the famous words of President Kennedy in 1961. In the Korean War (1950-53), the communist North had gone all out to take over the entire peninsula. Again, the UN could do nothing. It watched Vietnam being bombed

rules of war and the tlement of international dis-

permanent seat in the Security As historians William H Council with veto power. If the Council does, well and good, or Harbaugh and Ronald E Powaski point out, Theodore Roosevelt was the first American President to call for an international league. While accepting his Nobel Peace Prize, Roosevelt said: "It would be a masterstroke if those great

else, New Delhi should not be as committed to an organisation that costs it time, money and honour. (The writer is a well-known

columnist and an author. Views *expressed are personal)*

This is our third week inside the

bio-bubble and I must confess it

isn't easy but, of course, needed,

We are trying our best as a team

to be as fit as possible before

the tournament starts.

Footballer —Sunil Chhetri

If our (AAP) party comes The recent results of elections The creation of an absolutely to power in Bengaluru, in 11 States have sent out a secure facility for controlling our first and foremost clear message that the 135 priority is to set up such crore people of India are Mohalla Clinics across standing like a rock with the city. PM Narendra Modi **Union Home Minister** Delhi Deputy CM -Manish Sisodia -Amit Shah

EDIT ETTERS 0 T. ΗE OR

Congress in a tight spot

strategic nuclear forces.

among others, is nearing

completion. It will have a

very high safety margin

Russian President

-Vladimir Putin

Sir — The BJP's much-improved tally has enabled the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to retain power in Bihar even after Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav gave it a tough fight. The BJP's scorecard increased from 53 seats in the 2015 Assembly election to 74 seats in the 2020 Assembly election. However, it should not bask in the glory of an increased tally. Laxity in performance exacts its price in the next election and the party cannot bank upon the charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi only. Amid all this, the Congress party is facing an existential crisis. The party had 27 seats in the 2015 Assembly election and now has been reduced to 19.

Another reason for the BJP to celebrate is because of its performance in the byelections across 11 States, including Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Karnataka and Telangana. Here, too, the BJP was successful in wresting seats from the Congress. The latter now finds itself in a desperate position. It is even prepared to allow any regional party to run the Government with its support and

Expectations from Biden

ow Joe Biden's administration reshapes the US' role in world affairs will be something that will be followed with interest across the globe. The President-elect's pledge to restore the US on the world stage signals a major shift in its foreign policy. It will need a lot of imagination, tact and diplomacy to regain the world leadership that has slipped away under the Donald Trump administration.

If Biden's renegotiation and re-engagement with other Governments are to succeed, he has to first convince them that the US has no intention to dominate the world or play the global policeman. Reshaping foreign relations should not be motivated merely by furthering the US' self-interest, it has to be based on partnership and promotion of multilateralism in a multi-polar world. Biden should commit to the emergence of an equitable world order and seek global cooperation for

fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, rejoining

play second fiddle to it with a one **Green Diwali**

point-agenda of keeping the BJP Sir — The National Green The Congress is being seen as Tribunal banned the sale and use of firecrackers, which is a right an entitled party by the people. step as studies have shown that Unless it makes sincere efforts to refurbish its dented image, its high levels of air pollution can presence in the political map aggravate the health condition of would continue to be just sym-Corona patients. People across the country, especially Delhi, **KV** Seetharamaiah should respect the decision. It is time to observe a green Diwali. Hassan



the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, signed by Barack Obama, will reduce the scope of a conflict in the Middle East and advance the cause of world peace. It is hoped that the Biden administration will not let down the Palestinians in their struggle for a homeland on the territory which is rightfully theirs.

G David Milton Maruthancode

The concentration of suspended particulate matter in the air has a significant impact on a person's health. Bus drivers, twowheeler riders and auto-rickshaw drivers are among those who suffer most with chronic respiratory diseases. Airborne lead from leaded petrol is a major air pollutant and in high concentrations, it is known to impair liver and kidney functions. It is also

associated with reduced mental development of infants and children. Thus there is an urgent need to control the level of suspended particulate matter and bring it down to the WHO's prescribed limits

Abhishek Ramaswamy Mumba

Virat's decision

Sir — The sports calendar is full of cricket tournaments around the year and at various places. While it is the most popular sport in India by far and is played almost everywhere, cricket enthusiasts need to respect the balance players have to maintain between their professional and personal lives. And understand that Indian captain Virat Kohli is within his rights to seek some personal family time in between the Australia tour as he is expecting his first child. We should respect his decision and let Rohit Sharma prove his mettle as the Test captain in the remaining three Test matches of the series.

> **Bal Govind** Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



tackling global problems. His decision to rejoin the WHO will strengthen the

out of power.

bolic.





FIRSTCOLUMN A new political reality

The fresh binaries in the US and Bihar may achieve similar charters if they decide to continue with a similar cosmic resolve



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

he world has woken up to a new era of binaries, where seemingly distant stars have moved closer, occupying pole positions of significant strength. I am not pointing to any cosmic event but to the verdicts of the US and Bihar elections, where new dimensions of 21st century political reality have started to emerge. Let us see what it means for businesses, with regard to key policy manoeuvres. Cybersecurity, in an era of work from anywhere, should be the first stop for the new administration in the White House. It is expected that the Joe Biden administration will move towards a multilateral approach on tackling complex cybersecurity challenges. A link of commonality with the past may be to take an aggressive stance towards China's hyper technology-aided economic ambitions with a tech-colonisation background. The only divergence may be to move away from the company-by-company approach to a wider, sustainable, multilateral, partnership-based one to arrest China's disproportionate share in ICT supply chains.

That is where the Bihar election verdict becomes relevant. It had many firsts, including the absence of veterans of Bihar politics from the centrestage, at least till the last phases. This threw up a simple yet complex verdict, where many preconceived notions about the State and its citizens were trashed and the paradigm shifted. A bunch of young *netas* appealing for votes, for the first time, brought the issue of jobs to the forefront, for a State widely known for its caste-led voting patterns. That leaves the fourthterm incumbent Chief Minister with the clear-cut task of providing jobs to Bihar's youth, just emerging from the trauma of a forced reverse migration.

One of the easiest ways of creating thousands of jobs in a relatively short span of time is by persuading one of the bigger companies in the ICT domain to set up a manufacturing base. This requires a "cast in stone" assurance of freedom from future tyrannies of any "jungle raj" and a guarantee of return on investments sunk into the region. The Centre's push towards domestic manufacturing for ICT products via performance-linked incentives should get its well-deserved play in Bihar, like it is finding resonance in Uttar Pradesh. A diversified (globally and within the country) supply chain network addresses key concerns of sovereign cybersecurity and increases the self-sufficiency of a country in an era of technology.

The next big area is of immigration, where half the world, given a chance, wants to move to the US. The Biden administration is likely to abandon some of the stringent policies of the Donald Trump regime, including travel bans on certain categories of people based on their religious and regional identities or access to modern healthcare facilities. The more in demand non-immigrant visas could see some relaxations as could country caps for PhD graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The regime may again make it lucrative for trained-in-US, PhD degree holders fasttrack their permanent citizenship in the US.

Similarly, everyone knows the story of migrations from Bihar to the rest of the country, particularly to unfriendly, big cities. As witnessed recently, when a mass-scale misfortune threatens, they are often seen heading back to their towns and villages. This constant cycle of migrations creates a social churning and to some extent stigmatisation of Bihar as a region, which can be arrested by creating great livelihood opportunities. From day one, the Nitish Kumar regime has to deliver economic and holistic well-being. Creation of long-term economic opportunities, healthcare and edu-

analysis

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WE HAVE TO STOP BEING A COUNTRY OF FAGS.... WE HAVE TO FACE UP TO IT (CORONAVIRUS) AND FIGHT. I HATE THIS FAGGOT STUFF. -BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT **JAIR BOLSONARO**



BETWEEN 'GUNPOWDER' AND 'FAGS,' WE HAVE MORE THAN 1,60,000 DEAD IN BRAZIL. OUR SOLIDARITY IS WITH THE KIN OF COVID VICTIMS. —SPEAKER OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF CONGRESS **RODRIGO MAIA**

Divided States of America

Regardless of conflicting approaches, we must acknowledge that in all societies, political behaviour cannot be reduced to catch phrases such as racial/social divide



JYOTIRMAYA TRIPATHY

ike they do so often these days, pollsters and pundits got it wrong about a so-called massive victory for Joe Biden propelled by public anger against Trump's presidency that had split the US wide open. They had harped on the social and racial divide that Trump had engineered and had put all their cards on the table around this core issue, hoping that this divide would secure a comfortable win for Biden and heal the present divided States of America. What we heal the present divided States of America. What we got instead was an election that went down to the wire which Biden managed to scrape through. Even as Trump was breathing down his opponent's neck, the pollsters had a tough time convincing the peo-ple, and themselves, where they went wrong and why they failed to sense the public mood.

If Biden won some key States like Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, it was a sigh of relief rather than a vindication of poll pundits. To give the devil his due, Biden in his victory speech, said, "I pledge to be a president who does not see a of a blue States to be a President who does not see red or blue States, but United States. For all those of you who voted for President Trump, I understand the disappointment tonight... But now, let's give each other a chance... It's time to put away the harsh rhetoric, lower the temperature, see each other again, listen to each other again. And to make progress, we have to stop treating our opponents as our enemies. They are not our enemies. They are Americans." It is difficult to find fault with such clarity of thought that offers an insight

into the way he is planning to run the show. Though statesmanlike, Biden's speech must be seen in terms of realpolitik. On the face of it, he is making an effort to move away from a binary framework which many believe was mainstreamed by Trump. It is another story that Biden may not be radically different from Trump in terms of economic policies or international relations and in spite of his sage-like calmness vis-à-vis Trump's abrasive demeanour, his policies may not reflect that outward garb. The declaration of intent by Biden that his first garo. The declaration of intent by biden that his first job is to unify the country has been celebrated as a watershed development and a moment of awaken-ing of the great nation that is waking up to its Puritan ideals of being a city on the hill. But the reality is that the US will pursue a politics that favours its own interest rather than India's or China's. Even if we assume that Biden will indeed usher in world peace that has not been seen before, its reality can on ined in a time yet to be. Biden's speech was apparently a clarion call to "make America great again." What was lost in the cacophony of media analysis is that race ties are much more than the Black-White divide. Since the time of the founding fathers, the idea of frontier has dominated the US' imagination and the worst victims have been the native Americans who went on moving westward while vacating space for the Europeans. The history of slavery is as much a history of dispossession and violence as has been the history of the frontier. And unlike the visibility and general awareness of African-American history, it just does not exist outside books and certainly not in the popular debates, maybe because of the numerical weakness of native Americans. Similarly, the presence of Mexicans in the southern borders and later the influx of Hispanic migrants and Asians in the aftermath of the World War do not count as racial issues. Hamid Dabashi, an Iranian-American professor from Columbia, was clear that in spite of the intellectu-



"demonic" Trump is unredeemable whereas Biden can be pressurised to do good. This lesser-evil syndrome in English media is a lame excuse rather than a position of conviction. Converting a political choice into a moral one is dangerous to say the least because it sees things in black and white, creates saints out of challengers and demons out of the incumbent. Now the question remains if the media simply represented what they saw taking place or created a razor-sharp divide. If one believes in the constitutive power of language and images, then the media, too, created the divide, gave wind to it so that it could frame the debates along predictable lines.

Unfortunately, most of the media reduced race relations to Black-White problems and limited the enormity of their complexity to the period of Trump's presidency. What we got in the process is not gement with the founa substantive eng dation of the US as a nation with multiple layers of conflict and collaboration, but sound-bites and clichés that concentrated around Black-White relations, more or less the way Indian problems are framed around the Hindu-Muslim conflict. This vastness got squeezed into the period of 2016-2020 and cathected onto a symbol that is Trump. By reducing him to the be all and end all of everything that ails the US, most of the media peddled in sloganeering rather than explaining anything. What we got was a caricatured version of social reality where we have heroes and villains. In the process, the media absolved itself and society at large from taking any responsibility for simplifying things and immunised all possible future perpetrators with the understanding that all race-related problems will disappear with Trump's defeat. What is disturbing is the ease with which experts saw him as the root cause and refused to see the problem in the very American consciousness and its exception alism that pervades Biden's psyche as much.

"Trumpism" will continue to live on even after his loss. Their understanding is that 'if a demagogue has the skill and the cheek to build a dominant majority's latent insecurities into a victim complex, he can build an impregnable base." They go on to compare Trump's US with Narendra Modi's India, something which betrays ignorance of unique historical experiences of these two nations. What they ignore is their own position as knowledge producers create and perpetrate the language of exclusion. In the act of interpreting reality, many thought leaders end up producing it and cling on to that as if reality is a fiction of journalistic language. US TV anchor Van Jones broke down on live TV while covering Biden's victory. Another called Trump an "obese turtle on his back realising his time is over." Yes, Trump was a sore loser but such language perpetuates the divide and condition lectua debates around them. Now let us face the reality of race politics and the impact of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and to what extent the social divide actually played out during the election. It may surprise many that Trump actually improved his popularity among Black voters compared to 2016. Even though it stands at a meagre eight per cent, it is still two per cent higher than what he polled earlier. Even as this is nothing compared to what Biden got, it will continue to rile the Democrats and

to 50 per cent Latino votes. The BLM movement consolidated the Latinos around Trump as they predominantly identify themselves as White; also Mexican-American voters are usually conservative. Another aspect that we should not lose sight of is the fact that many Latinos fled from their countries to escape the so-called Marxist utopia run by Left-wing dictators. Among Cuban voters in Florida, Trump had more than 30 per cent lead. These nuances are rarely discussed in a mainstream media.

So far as issues are concerned, Pew Research said that Biden and Trump coalitions fundamentally differ over racial inequality following the killing of George Floyd, with more than 75 per cent Biden supporters agreeing that racial inequality would be a determining factor for their voting behaviour compared to 24 per cent of Trump's. In spite of Trump polarising

and vitiating the climate to an extent, we

should not forget that US voters are

cational facilities for the citizens could prevent migration out of Bihar and result in the creation of a new and sustainable loval voter base.

One of the key issues dominating Bihar election campaigns was the status of infrastructure in the State. This echoed widely in the aftermath of the recurring floods. The Central Government has widely been credited with creating world-class infrastructure in a relatively short span of time within the country. Now with the BJP as the dominant partner in the new Bihar Government, no kuccha road, bridge or piped water connection should be left unattended, so that the glorious days of the State can be revived.

Similarly, the new regime in the US has talked a great deal about infrastructure investments being the centrepiece as well as dominant sub-theme of activities such as workforce development. climate change, digital connectivity, on-shoring and so on, Earlier, it had promised a \$2 trillion infrastructure spend across multiple areas. What has caught the world's attention is the President-elect's promise of allocating sizeable investments towards building clean energy future-ready infrastructure. The world awaits a switch to a cleaner, healthier tomorrow and is looking for directions from the oldest democracy. It is often observed that binary star systems eventually create large magnetic fields, ultimately leaving the ecosystem energy-rich and charged. The new binaries in the US and Bihar may achieve similar charters if they decide to continue with similar cosmic resolve.

BLACK-WHITE RELATIONS, MORE OR LESS THE WAY INDIAN PROBLEMS ARE FRAMED AROUND THE HINDU-MUSLIM CONFLICT

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entrenched in their political beliefs and only outliers can be persuaded to vote otherwise. This becomes even more pronounced in a bi-party system in the US. This election was not as polarising as is made out to be. To put it in perspective, Trump won 58 per cent of the White vote in 2016 and 57 per cent this year. Derek Thompson in The Atlantic argued that this election may be a case of depolarisation and that demography is no longer going to be a path to majority for Democrats. He pundits alike as to why eight per cent Blacks voted for Trump in spite of BLM believed that it is polarisation of place reaching its crescendo just before the elecrather than race, as urban areas are getting tion. What we know so far is that the Black pro-Democrat whereas rural areas are support was due to Trump's performance turning Republican. Regardless of conflictvis-à-vis the economy and improved ing approaches, for the sake of intellectuemployment among African-Americans. al honesty, we must acknowledge that in all societies, political behaviour cannot be reduced to catch phrases such as racial/social divide. That would be intellectually naïve and analytically problem-

> (The writer is Professor, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Madras)

Another reality is that Democrats themals' fascination for Biden, he is not going to vote for selves believed that Black youth are predahim. He was convinced that Biden is as much a symtors Trump made significant gains among bol of misogyny as is Trump, one who also supported the Iraq invasion. He differed from other lead-Latino voters in important States like Texas ing intellectuals like Cornel West and Noam Chomsky, who preferred Biden. This is because and Florida. In Democratic strongholds, like Rio Grande Valley region, he got close Some commentators believe that (The writer is a policy analyst) Time for the BJP-JJP combine to introspect

The defeat of the ruling combine in Baroda seems to clearly suggest that farmers are not yet convinced about the farm laws being in their favour



AMITABH SHUKLA

he result of the bypoll for the Baroda Assembly seat in Haryana may not have any significance for the stability of the BJP-JJP (Jannayak Janta Party) coalition Government in the State, nor will it affect its strength in the Assembly. But it is expected to have a far-reaching impact on the politics of the State in the medium to long-term. Despite a spirited campaign by top leaders, BJP candidate and Olympic medallist Yogeshwar Dutt was routed by over 10,000 votes by the Congress nominee Indu Raj Narwal in a constituency dominated by Jats.

Political precedence and electoral behaviour of the past suggest that

candidates from the ruling party or coalition usually have an edge in the bypolls and they win two times out of three. Even in the bypolls in different States this time round, the ruling parties or coalitions in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Odisha had it easy and they won handsomely. But the Baroda bypoll proved to be different as the combined might of the BJP-JJP could not consolidate enough to get victory for Dutt, the Olympian who was defeated in the 2019

Assembly polls as well. Interestingly, the margin of defeat increased in his second electoral outing. He was routed by around 4,800 votes in 2019 by Congress candidate Shri Krishan Hooda. This time, the margin has doubled to over 10,600 votes. What could be a matter of concern for the ruling dispensation in Haryana is the fact that in 2019, the JJP and BJP fought against each other; this time around they fought in

an alliance but still lost by a bigger

The bypolls were held in the back-

ground of the farmers' agitation in Punjab and Haryana against the three farm Acts. The Congress has been hammering the point that the laws are against the interests of the farmers and the regime of Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been threatened by them. The BJP, on the other hand, has been repeatedly stressing that these Acts are for the benefit of the farming community and are set to increase rural prosperity by giving more money into the hands of the tillers.

Baroda is largely a rural constituency with the dominant Jats in a position to determine political outcomes. The defeat of the ruling BJP-JJP combine in Baroda seems to clearly suggest that farmers are not vet convinced that the farm laws are in their favour. They have rejected the arguments of the BJP-JJP leadership, forcing the alliance partners to have a rethink on the way forward. Of course, there is no election in

Haryana in the near future. The earliest one could be in May 2024 when neral elections are scheduled and the BJP-JJP combine could perhaps get



enough time to make a course correction. Alliance or not, the BJP will have to woo the farming community back into its fold. Particularly the Jats if it wants to be close to its spectacular performance in the next Lok Sabha polls. On the defensive now, BIP strategists are insisting that Baroda had always remained a Congress stronghold and the result should be seen in that context. They are also arguing

that the BJP got more votes than last time and "all is well" in the alliance and this was one "stray and local" political incident, which cannot have any impact on the politics of the State.

Clearly, the outcome has put the ruling coalition on the defensive and many in the JJP know that it was entirely owing to the mistrust over the farm laws that the alliance could not make any headway.

The Baroda seat fell vacant in April following the death of sitting MLA Hooda, who had won it three times in a row in the 2009, 2014 and 2019 Assembly polls. It is adjacent to the Garhi Sampla-Kiloi constituency, represented by Congress strongman and two-term Chief Minister of the State, Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Another question which would emerge at this point is the winning potential of the BJP-JJP combine and whether they will stick together in the

The alliance was formed after the BIP won 40 of the 90 Assembly seats in the 2019 polls and needed a postelection partner to give a stable Government in the State. Though the two parties formed the partnership, many in the JJP have been openly voicing concerns and have repeatedly raised the issue of the three Central

farm laws.

Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, who belongs to the JJP, has faced protests in several parts of the State for backing these laws. Being a grassroot politician, he is aware that there are strong apprehensions and resentment among the land-holding castes about the impact of the Acts. The Baroda result has undoubtedly made it clear that the JJP has not

and may not be able to transfer its votes to the BJP. In fact, many on the ground believe that whatever votes the BJP got was entirely from its vote bank. They say the JJP was defensive throughout the campaign and could not garner any support for the BJP candidate.

This was the only electoral test which the BJP-JJP alliance faced jointly after the 2019 tie-up and it failed miserably. It is more or less a marriage of convenience. For the BJP, it is a route to a stable Government and for the JJP it is a shot at being in power before going solo again in the next general elections. BJP poll managers have more or less realised now Editor, The Pioneer, Chandigarh)

that it would be futile to fight future elections jointly with the JJP.

The message of the Baroda bypoll also clear for the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), the parent party of the JJP, led by Om Prakash Chautala and his elder son Abhay Chautala. The people of Baroda and the State have made it clear that the JJP is the torchbearer of the legacy of former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal. The INLD will have to become a really serious Opposition with an accompanying strategy to replace the JJP.

If there is one person who has a place on the victory podium besides the winning candidate Narwal, it is the Leader of Opposition in the State, Bhupinder Singh Hooda. He not only managed to retain his family pocket borough but also harvested the anti-farm law feelings to his electoral advantage. At present, he has no challenger in the State Congress and this unchallenged reign is likely to continue till the next elections.

(The writer is Senior Resident



next elections.



Money 08

Govt working on measures to control price rise: Sitharaman

PNS NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said perishable goods are putting upward pressure on inflation and the government is working on both short and mediumterm measures for controlling price rise.

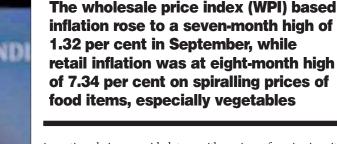
The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation rose to a seven-month high of 1.32 per cent in September, while retail inflation was at eight-month high of 7.34 per cent on spiralling prices of food items, especially vegetables.

peaking to reporters, Sitharaman said floods in certain districts have led to uptick in prices of perishable goods, and the government is taking steps for their better preserva-



tion, long shelf life and providdistricts got flooded...The goving weather proof storage, parernment is working on both short-term and medium-term ticularly for crops like onion and potato. steps. Import where necessary "Strictly, the perishable

for short duration and for goods are the one which went medium-term, enough investment is being attracted to and up...and its more because some



incentives being provided to create agri infrastructure," she said.

he Reserve Bank in a report on the state of economy on Wednesday had also flagged unrelenting pressure of inflation as a downside risk confronting the prospects of economic recovery. "The foremost is the unre-

lenting pressure of inflation,

with no signs of waning in spite of supply management measures...There is a grave risk of generalisation of price pressures, unanchoring of inflation expectations feeding into a loss of credibility in policy interventions and the eventual corrosion of the nascent growth impulses that

are making their appearance," RBI said

Rupee slumps 28 paise against US dollar

PNS MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 28 paise to close at 74.64 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as weak domestic equities weighed on investor sentiments.

The local unit opened at 74.44 against the greenback at the interbank forex market and finally settled at 74.64 against the greenback, down 28 paise over its last close.

During the session, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 74.38 and a low of 74.74 against the American currency. On Wednesday, the rupee

declined by 18 paise to close at 74.36 against the US dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.22 per cent to 92.83.

tries have sustained severe

output losses this year, but the

contraction in some economies

is sharper than in others. The

pace of improvement will be

asymmetric across countries,"

it said. The recovery path is

beset by uncertainty and will

remain highly dependent on the development and distribu-

MONEY MATTERS

Kia Motors launches contactless, paperless aftersales service

Kia Motors India on Thursday announced the launch of a complete contactless, paperless aftersales and personalised vehicle service for its customers, in view of safety concerns amid COVID-19. This initiative entails an 'Advanced Pick and Drop programme, ensuring



highest customer safety with a no contact pick-up and drop service and live vehicle tracking in a completely paperless process, the company said. Kia Motors India is also launching a new 'My Convenience' service initiative, which offers personalised vehicle maintenance to its customers. With both these initiatives, the company said it aims to redefine the aftersales experience by personalising and digitising the service process to facilitate an enhanced user experience.

Indian Motorcycle reveals '21 model line-up prices, commences bookings



merican niche bike maker Indian AMotorcycle on Thursday said it has commenced bookings for its 2021 model line-up in India. The new range, which includes new model iterations and nextlevel technology upgrades, is priced between Rs 15 67 lakh and Rs 43.96 lakh (ex-

showroom). Indian Motorcycle said in a statement. To pre-book these luxury machines, interested customers can pay a booking amount of Rs 2 lakh at the nearest company dealerships across the country, it added. The delivery of bikes will begin from January 2021 onwards. The Scout range is priced between Rs 15.67 lakh and Rs 16.20 lakh, while the Indian Vintage is tagged at Rs 25.81 lakh, the company said. Similarly, Indian Vintage Dark Horse starts at Rs 26.63 lakh, while the Indian Springfield is tagged at Rs 33.06

IBM, AMD ink joint development pact for security, AI offerings

ech giants IBM and AMD have announced a

multi-year joint development agreement to enhance and extend the security and Artificial Intelligence (AI) offerings of both the companies. The ioint development agreement will expand this vision by building upon



open-source software, open standards, and open system architectures to drive 'confidential computing' in hybrid cloud environments, a statement said. This will also support a broad range of accelerators across high-performance computing (HPC), and enterprise-critical capabilities such as virtualisation and encryption. it added. Confidential computing protects data while it is being processed. For many companies, securing highly sensitive data still remains a challenge: cybersecurity is currently the top barrier for adoption as well as the top criteria for selection of cloud providers.

HDFC to merge its health, general insurance

PNS NEW DELHI

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd on Thursday said insurance regulator Irdai has given the final nod for merger of HDFC ERGO Health Insurance with HDFC ERGO General Insurance.

In late September, the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai had okayed the scheme of amalgamation between HDFC ERGO Health Insurance (formerly Apollo Munich Health Insurance Co Ltd) and HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co Ltd (HDFC ERGO)

"In this connection, we wish to inform that the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) vide its letter dated November 11, 2020, has given its final approval for merger of HDFC ERGO Health

Triumph

Motorcycles

PNS NEW DELHI

introduces pre-

owned bike vertical

J HDFC

with and into HDFC ERGO," HDFC said in a regulatory fil-ing. The general and health insurance companies are the subsidiaries of country's largest mortgage lender HDFC Ltd. As per the scheme of amalgamation through a share swap deal, there will be dissolution of HDFC ERGO Health without winding

shares in HDFC ERGO.

Under this, share exchange ratio of 100:385 has been okayed by the board of the subsidiary companies which would mean allocation of 385 shares in HDFC ERGO Health for 100



PNS NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on

In its Global Macro Outlook 2021-22, Moody's also revised upwards India's GDP forecast for calendar year 2021 to 8.6 per cent growth from an earlier projection of 8.1 per cent expansion. The Indian economy had grown by 4.8 per cent

in 2019 For the calendar year 2020, it forecast a -8.9 per cent contraction, up from its an earlier projection of -9.6 per cent contraction. "India's economy had the biggest contraction, 24 per cent year-over-year in the second quarter (April-June), as a result of a long and strict nationwide lockdown," the ratCODYS

Moody's revises India '20 GDP forecast

wide lockdown, which was followed by local and statelevel restrictions to contain the spread of the pandemic. Restrictions have eased only slowly and in phases, and localised restrictions in con-

tainment zones remain. "As a result, the recovery has been patchy," it said.

steady decline in new and active cases coronavirus cases since September, if maintained,

gradual improvement in economic activity over the coming quarters," it said. "However, slow credit intermediation will hamper the pace of recovery because of an already weak-

Anti-dumping duty imposed on clear float glass

PNS NEW DELHI

dumping duty on clear float

"The anti-dumping duty imposed under this notifica-India has imposed anti- tion shall be effective for a period of five years (unless evoked superse amended earlier) ... and shall be paid in Indian currency," the department of revenue has said in a notification. While DGTR recommends the duty, the finance ministry takes the final call to impose the same. The duty imposed is in the range of USD 273 per tonne to USD 326 per tonne.

State-owned Emirates posts \$3.8 billion in half-year losses

PNS DUBAI



planes for two months as virusinduced lockdowns took hold world

ened financial sector. Moody's said the nascent global economic recovery is

cent in 2021 and 3.3 per cent in 2022. "We forecast a very gradual improvement in economic activity of other emerging market countries, namely

restrictions. of the virus continue to cause "We, therefore, forecast a disruption," it said. For the G-20 advanced economies, it forecast a 5.1 per cent contraction in 2020, followed by a growth of 4.2 per

Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, India, Indonesia, Turkey and South Africa," it said.

ing agency said. India had a 69-day nationshould enable further easing of in countries where new waves

under threat from rising COVID-19 cases in the US and Europe. "All of the G-20 coun-

tion of a vaccine, effective pandemic management, and government policy support. "Overall, sustained economic improvement is not possible

British premium motorcycle maker Triumph Motorcycles said it has launched a preowned bike vertical in India.

Under the Triumph Approved programme, the company will offer pre-owned bikes across its dealerships in the country, the motorcycle maker said in a statement. The pre-owned motorcycles will go through a thorough checklist to ensure they provide the new customer with a genuine Triumph experience, it added. "We continuously put efforts to come up with innovative and practical ideas to assist our customers. The program has been introduced basis our customers' demand for an official pre-owned motorcycle business," Triumph Motorcycles India Business Head Shoeb Farooq said. With this programme, the company aims to attract new customers and enable them to own their dream Triumph at an attractive price point, one-year warranty, and ensure required technical checks for a smoother experience, he added.

the Middle East's biggest carrier, reported Thursday it lost USD 3.8 billion in the first half of the year, its first net loss in over three decades after the pandemic wiped out air travel. The state-owned company said revenue for its Dubai-based airline, Emirates, had dropped 75 per cent to USD 3.2 billion from

even with this year's 52 per cent reduction in operating costs and rise in cargo traffic. The the same period a year ago, long-haul carrier parked its

per cent from pre-pandemic levels. Emirates flew just 1.5 million passengers between April and September. Last year, Emirates carried around 58 million, helping Dubai's airport maintain its claim of the world's busiest for

international travel.

restrictions were loosened, pas-

senger traffic was still down 95

automobiles and refrigeration industries, from Malaysia for five years with an aim to guard domestic industry from cheap imports.

The duty was imposed after a recommendation was made by the commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).

Lupin gets USFDA nod for generic immunosuppressant capsules



rug firm Lupin on Thursday said that in alliance with Concord Biotech, it has received approval from the US health regulator to market generic immunosuppressant Tacrolimus capsules used in the American market. In alliance with Concord Biotech, the company has

received approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to market Tacrolimus capsules USP, in the strengths of 0.5 mg, 1 mg, and 5 mg, Lupin said in a filing to the BSE. The product is a generic version of Astellas Pharma US, Inc's Prograf capsules in the same strengths, it added. According to IQVIA MAT September 2020 data, Tacrolimus capsules USP had an annual sales of about USD 303 million in the US, Lupin said. Shares of Lupin Ltd on Thursday fell 1.76 per cent to Rs 897.70 per scrip on the BSE.

Siemens quarterly profit rises

PNS FRANKFURT

German industrial equipment and technology maker Siemens AG recorded a 28% increase in net profit to 1.88 billion euros (\$2.21 billion) in the most recent quarter, boost-ed by a gain of 800 million euros from discontinued operations, the Munich-based company said on Thursday.

It gave an upbeat outlook

for 2021, saying the pandem-

effect" on the global economy.

The gain compared with profit of 1.47 billion euros in

the July-September quarter

It was the last set of earnings

at the 173-year-old company

under CEO Joe Kaeser, who is

turning over the top post in February to current deputy Roland Busch.

Since taking over in 2013,

Kaeser has led a restructuring

that included spinoffs of stakes

in the energy and medical

last year.

equipment businesses "The Siemens team delivered a strong finish to a remarkable ic "will not have a long-lasting

year," Kaeser said in a statement. The quarterly profit rounded off the company's full fiscal year, which saw an annual profit of 4.2 billion euros even as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the global economy. The annual figure declined from 5.7 billion euros in the previous fiscal year; the fiscal 2020 figure was held back by a loss of 100 million euros from discontinued operations compared with a gain of 500 million from such operations in 2019.

IREDA sanctions loans worth **Rs 12.6K cr in 2019-20**

PNS NEW DELHI

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) has sanctioned loans worth Rs 12,696 crore and has disbursed Rs 8,785 crore, supporting capacity addition of 5,673 MW during 2019-20, a Ministry of New & Renewable energy statement said.

At the 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of IREDA, the PSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy,

held on November 11, the annual accounts for the financial year 2019-20 were adopted. Addressing the directors and shareholders, Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA, highlighted the performance of FY 2019-20 and informed that gross income of the company increased to Rs 2,372.38 crore, registering a growth of 17.32 per cent.

IREDA has sanctioned loans of Rs 12,696 crore and disbursed Rs 8,785 crore

Centre seeks stakeholder tips for next foreign trade policy

PNS NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry on Thursday sought suggestions from stakeholders, including industry and trade associations, for the formulation of next FTP. The FTP provides guidelines for enhancing exports to push economic growth and create jobs. The Directorate General of

Foreign Trade (DGFT), in a trade notice, said a Google form has been created to collate, analyse and process the suggestions/ inputs.

Stakeholders are requested to send their comments only through this form rather than e-mail or paper based submissions within 15 days from November 12, it added. "The foreign trade policy (2015-

20) was extended for a year till March 31, 2021. In order to prepare a new five year FTP,

of trade and industry and all regional authorities of DGFT.

suggestions/inputs are invited the directorate said in a trade notice to export promotion councils, commodity boards, ations/organisations, members

from various stakeholders," trade/industry bodies/associ-

High prices of gold, silver may dent sales this Diwali

PNS NEW DELHI

Pre-Diwali Dhanteras sales of gold and silver kicked off on Thursday but overall business is likely to be a muted affair in view of sharp rise in prices and subdued demand due to the COVID-19 induced economic hardship, according to jewellers and industry experts.

Although the buying sentiment has improved after the COVID-19 curbs were relaxed, consumers are still wary of investing in precious metal at current high rates, they said.

Jewellers also said they are recycling old jewellery stock to meet the festive and wedding season demand.

Besides, a caution still prevails among people while coming out of their homes for shop-



ping amid rising COVID-19 most auspicious day in Hindu cases in key consuming marcalendar for buying items, ranging from precious metals like gold and silver to utensils, kets across the country, and consumers in view of the pandemic have made advanced is being celebrated for two booking through online jewdays on Thursday and Friday ellery platforms, they added. this year. Gold prices are ruling in the Dhanteras, considered the

Although the buying sentiment has improved after the COVID-19 curbs were relaxed, consumers are still wary of investing in precious metal at current high rates, Industry experts said

cent higher than Rs 38,096 per 10 gram prevailed on Dhanteras 2019.

Similarly, silver prices have shou up to over Rs 62,000 per kg. Speaking to PTI, World Gold Council (WGC) Managing Director (India) Somasundaram PR said, "The foot falls are better and people

range of Rs 51,000-53,000 per are interested. Sales are recov-10 grams, more than 35 per ering but it will not be as good as last year during the same period. The organised players will have better market share, bars and coins will do better."

Digital gold and other online platforms could find this period very conducive for increasing volumes and for broadening the consumer base, he said. Echoing similar

views, All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council Chairman Anantha Padmanaban said the market is recovering gradually and the consumer sentiment is positive. Jewellers are seeing increased growth in footfalls since morning but need to see whether the pent-up demand will translate into sales, he said, adding that the buying momentum is expected to pick up by evening across the country.

Gold and Malabar Diamonds Chairman Ahammed MP said the pre-Diwali Dhanteras has kicked off with a decent buying season amid pent-up customer demand, revival of the economy and positive consumer sentiment.

Javawada a series and a series of the pioneer series of the pionee the pioneer **CHILD-REARING Paternity leave on priority?**

Paternal leaves have long been a hot topic of discussion. But when celebrities set the trend, it gets people talking, writes SHIKHA DUGGAL as she talks to actor Ruslaan Mumtaz and dads on the issue





with wife Anushka Sharma as the cou-January. The BCCI has granted paternity leave to the Indian captain. He will return after the first test against Australia in Adelaide. Hence, gone are the days when it was only women who would be at

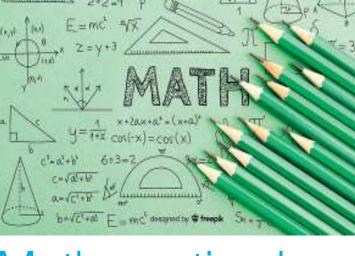
ed to be emotionally and physically available for both mother and child before and

When dads take paternity leave, the whole family bene-fits. Fraternities don't always offer paid parental leave to men and even when they do, some men don't feel they can justify taking it. But if we want fathers to be equal parents, they need an equal opportunity to parent in those early weeks and months. That's why we love to see high-profile fathers talking about paternity leave. Actor Ruslaan Mumtaaz is here to show the world how it's done — by playing this important role in raising his child and that can change attitudes everywhere. "Nurturing a child is not something that only my wife is entitled to do, majority of us men think that our duty begins when the child

begins interacting with us. No, it doesn't work like that at all. Giving a child due

attention and care is not the sole job of a mother who has brought him/her in this beautiful world. Luckily for us, Rayaan stepped into this serene world amid the lockdown and I was there for him 24×7. I bathed him, helped him expel gas by pat-ting his back, put him to sleep and also change his diapers. Hilariously, I was on a forced paternity leave for which I am extremely thankful l, as it has totally changed my perception towards parenting it helped me realise how important taking paternity leave is so why not apply this best spent time on your self growth as well," shares the actor of Balika Vadhu fame. Parenting is both the mother and father's responsibility. It is normal and

not deal with everything so important for a man to be an equal partner in parent-ing. It was in 1999 when Indian law legalised paterni-ty leave for male employees fathers have to step up their game and come to their rescue and that's exactly what Virat has done. Now, granti-ng paternity leaves in the corporate sectors depends ty leave for male employees but only few organisations follow it. Although it was only for 15 days for fathers as compared to 26 days for mothers because they are upon the company's diverse protocols. Family policies are always a hot topic in our corporate culture! Paid primary caregivers. But still, many men are reluctant to take paternity leaves. The paternity leaves does make a difference, parents can bond major reason could be the on a new level. Caregiving iust doesn't limit to feeding, toxic masculinity that perit also includes giving medomanlı ical attention, ensur insurances, filing work and abundant affection towards your newly born. So, don't think twice to take time off for your child." With the hope that paternity leaves give way to more gender equal relations, it will mark the role of a father as well, in child rearing because it's not just a mother's last resort.



Mathematics karo, aagey badho

nary woman who's heading for numbers by consistently entertaining audiences with her latest edu-tainment flick Shakuntala Devi, actress Vidya Balan is now asso-ciating with Cuemath, the math learning edtech platform as it's new brand ambassador. Set up in 2013 by visionary teacher and founder Manan Khurma, founder Manan Khurma, Cuemath is among the top ed-tech brands in India having imparted an impressive 25 mil-lion+ classes to more than 40,000 students across geographies so far and it continues to grow from strength to strength.

fter playing a whippy, warm and an extraordi-

Mathematics is a one-of-akind subject that makes a man methodical in life — it brings order to our life and prevents chaos. It's the cradle of all cre-ation without which, the world perhaps can't move. Everyone needs and uses basic math in their day-to-day lives and the lat-est commercial by Cuemath tackles math in a fun manner by laying out a situation where a child is able to order more pizza for less money due to the application of math he's been learning with Cuemath, resulting in hin making better decisions and maximizing fun. Excited about her association on becoming Cuemath's new face, Vidya Balan said, "I attended a Cuemath demo class while researching for my last film.

Imagine my surprise when 45 minutes into the demo, I learnt to visualise math concepts with simulations. I never thought I could SEE Math! I was further astonished when the teacher gave me an example saying two medi-um 8" pizzas have less pizza as compared to one large 12" pizza. WOW, I have been ordering pizzas the wrong way. It's the area of the pizza that matters and not the diameter! It's this Cuemath way of making math fun and taking the anxiety off it that appealed to me immensly. This is the future of learning."

Anyone can learn math with proper guidance and Cuemath is here to do this! It's born with a vision to help students learn math the right way and overcome difficulties they face due to traditional blackboard learning. CEO Manan Khurma says, "With our classes, we have steered clear of the traditional board teaching method. We help children learn Math organically by visualising concepts from different points of view, building their own mental models and algorithms, developing logical reasoning by finding multiple answers, and applying math in everyday thinking and problem

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> Friday November 13, 2020

home taking care of their child and depend on the men functioning as the bread earners. Though, we're to abide by the law of nature of a mother having to be available for her child 24×7, emotionally and physically as it's the mother who delivers the child, the father plays an equally important role too. A father is expect-

The perspective relegates that men should be focussing on their careers, however, Arshdeep Bhardwaj, who owns the renowned brand name Crivly in Hyderabad says, "Family dynamics are changing with time. While a baby brings joy, it also brings some drastic changes in your lives. Mommies can-

ceives child-rearing and

paternity leave as

solving." So, the more mathematical we are in our approach, the more successful we will be. Take this tool into your hands, log onto Cuemath and make your life simpler and easier.

From Darkness to Light: This festival, donate!

t is that magical time of the year when twinkling, glittering lights, are all over the place in the evenings, on the roads, malls, markets and homes. Light from earthen diyas, candles, sky lanterns, fairy lights not only illuminate the darkest corners of our homes, streets and thoroughfares, but also light up a ray of hope in our hearts and minds, dispelling fear and despair. After all, it is Deepawali, the festival of lights, which leads us from darkness to light. And yet, in this extraordinary year (defi-nitely not for the right reasons) Diwali is already being touted as a dampener hundreds of families which were affected by floods in some parts of the city are still reeling under its effect, with their homes and possessions damaged and them being dependent on relief for sustenance.

Goonj, an NGO that works mainly towards using surplus material, usually old (and in rare cases, new too) clothes for recycling and helping marginalised women, has been working in flood affected localities of Hyderabad, but has been struggling with shortages of relief material, some of it,

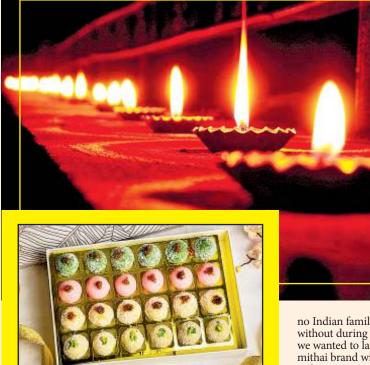
thanks to public perceptions. "Somehow, people, including corporate groups think that donating clothes

will help the flood-affected when actually the need is to tackle hunger and disease. Priority should be food grains and medicines, not clothes frankly," says Arpita, who works full-time at Goonj, Hyderabad.

But kudos to the NGO for turning around and recvcling scrap material into festive and colorful bags, baskets, durries (mats) and dupattas under its Green By Goonj campaign. This year, they have also turned to social media to spread the message and Goonj Diwali Live Store on Instagram is trending fairly well. So are the jholas/denim bags, masks, scrunchies sold by the Green by Goonj on Amazon this festive season.

Elsewhere, foodpreneurs and entrepreneurs, whose Diwali business plans, especially related to corporate gifting, have gone kaput this pandemic-struck year, are going ahead with new launches and innovations. "We are working on about 30 corporate gifting hampers from our brand The Good Box, which made premium-

end, luxury gift hampers for



Amrit Dugar. "We used to corporates, this year, with fewer goodies, compared to the hundreds did earlier," do about 3-4 pre-Diwali catering parties, but that's a shares Nimisha Dugar, cothing of the past now. But sweets, especially Indian owner at Morsel & Tisane, mithai is something, which along with her husband

no Indian family can do without during Diwali. So we wanted to launch a mithai brand with Indianness at its core on those lines," adds Nimisha.

And so, Barfi -Handcrafted Gourmet Mithai was launched by the Dugars just around Dussera. While the base maybe the ubiquitous motichoor laddoos or barfi, the flavouring

(natural extracts, no essences or preservatives or Dalda is the promise) could be a little more global, like raspberry, lavender and even a champagne or vodka or wait for this, a JagerBomb one! Or how about Persian Love Barfi or even a Lemon Raspberry Truffle one this season? The traditionalists can be happy with the totally Indian paan gulkand coconut laddu. And the luxury-obsessed will order in 24-karat gold leaf laddus or the matcha truffles and the White chocolate, pistachio and cranberry truffle.

Newbie restaurant in Filmnagar, Cravery which opened and then shut right before lockdown, reopening in August and wowing diners with its unique line of desserts, has also launched an avant garde array of

Diwali treats which are bound to create ripples, both for the taste and the smartness of their crafting. For example, the local delight Kaddu Halwa has been given a "tarty" makeover along with its more popular cousin Gajar Ka Halwa and presented as part of the festive delights are Calabash Cheese Tart and Gajorer Cheese Tart. The first being a "buttery kaddu halwa tart dressed with ras malai cream" and the second a "crumbly gajar halwa tart topped with swirls of ras malai cream". Even the Andhra sweet Pu-ran Poli

(polelu) is being turned around in a cookie version, the Ubbatti cookie, "puffy puran poli sandwich stuffed with creamy



lentils" Tempting much? And all of my privileged



SWATI SUCHARITA, Senior journalist

ndagi



what's brewing?

Amazon Prime Video green-lights *Mirzapur 3*

mazon Prime Video on Thursday announced they were renewing popular crime drama series Mirzapur for a

third season. The season two of the show, which became the most-watched show on the streamer in India within just seven days of its release, debuted last

month. The second season of Mirzapur not only recorded one of the highest completion rates but remarkably almost half of the viewers who completed the series, binge-watched the second season within just 48 hours of its launch,

setting a new bench-

mark, the streamer said in a release. The second season also saw a new set of actors such as Vijav Varma, Priyanshu Painyuli, and Isha Talwar being introduced.

The second season was watched in over 180 countries within seven days of its release on the service, the release said. Aparna Purohit, Head of India Originals, Amazon

Prime Video India said, the overwhelming response on the new season of Mirzapur is a testament to the streamer's commitment and efforts. "Over the last two years, viewers continued

ters. The love that they have showered on the show for this season has been unprecedented," Purohit said in a statement. Ritesh Sidhwani, Producer, Excel Entertainment, said, "Across two gripping seasons, Mirzapur has become a global sensation and we couldn't be happier associating with Amazon Prime Video to make this happen! The show's massive fandom and the viewers' magnitude of love towards the new season was seen through reactions on social media within days of its release,

and we are truly hum-

to engage with the immersive universe of

Mirzapur and its charac-

bled by the response." Akshay Kumar, Kiara Advani starrer Laxmii shatters records!

in biopic inger-actor Selena Gomez will play Silvia Vasquez-Lavado, the Peruvian

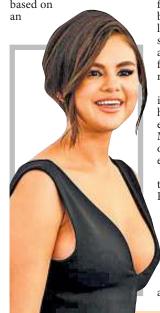
Selena Gomez set

to play mountaineer

Silvia Vasquez-Lavado

mountaineer and social entrepreneur in a biopic to be helmed by Mayans MC co-creator Elgin James.

According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, the film is titled *In the Shadow* of the Mountain and is based on



upcoming memoir of the same name by Vasquez-Lavado. Vasquez-Lavado who became the first Peruvian woman to summit Mount

Everest and the first openly gay woman to complete the Seven Summits, a challenge to climb the highest mountain on each continent. Her story has found

home in One Community. an impact-focused cofinance company which backed Michael B Jordan's legal drama *Mercy*, given she is a victim of childhood assault and neglect who found healing and power in

mountaineering. Vasquez-Lavado's work in survivor circles has been heralded, particularly her efforts to organise treks to Mt Everest's base camp for other women who have endured abuse. Gomez will also produce through her July Moon

Productions. Vasquez-Lavado and Lara Love Hardin of Idea Architects are on board to executive produce.

Oscar winner Donna Gigliotti and her Tempesta Films banner are producing.

ne of this year's movie with the biggest opener for an OTT platform. The most anticipated movies, Laxmii horror-comedy movie starring Akshay Kumar and Kiara that sees Akshay Kumar in a neverbefore-seen role of transgender piqued released has gone on to shatter records!

Bollywood

Advani that was

Within hours of its

broken all previous

records set by

any other

block-

buster to

become

the

Bollywood

release the movie has

the interest of millions of fans who logged in to catch the first day first show of the blockbuster

film and made it the most watched movie on the platform. Actor Akshav Kumar said, "I am overwhelmed and overoyed by he response that Laxmii received. It's heartening to know that audiences and fans



across the country logged on to watch the movie within hours of its release. Who doesn't love beating records whether it's at the box-office or opening night on streaming platforms. Nothing is comparable to this feeling of euphoria." Laxmii is the story of a man possessed by the ghost of a transgender. The family entertainer has been directed by Raghava Lawrence the film also stars Ayesha Raza Mishra, Sharad Kelkar, Tarun Arora, Ashwini Kalsekar, Manu Rishi Chadha Rajesh Sharma and others.

SANIA MIRZA set for digital debut as herself in fiction series The vouth of today is more

will make her digital debut with the series, MTV Nishedh Alone Together, and says the show aims to raise

awareness about tuberculosis (TB). Sania will play herself in the fic-

tion series. A digital spin-off of the TV show ``MTVNishedh, which premiered in year, the awareness

ennis ace Sania Mirza throw light on the importance of proper medica-tion, especially in the Covid-19 era.

TB continues to be one of the most chronic health issues in our country. With about half of the diagnosed cases under the age of 30,

there is an urgent need to tackle fallacies around it and drive a perception change," Sania said. ``MTVNishedh Alone

Together conveys that in a unique and impactful way.

aware, sensitive, and conscious about issues that plague our country. TB is a continuing menace, and its impact has only worsened through the pandemic. The fight to curb TB is more difficult now than ever and that's what prompted me to come on board. As someone who is in a place of influence, I hope my presence helps in some way to collectively fight the societal conventions and bring about a positive change," she added.

The show will explore the challenges of a young couple, Vicky and Megha (played by Syed Raza Ahmed and Priya Chauhan). Sania will be seen discussing the challenges young couples faced during the lockdown. The show also features

Akshav Nalwade and Ashwin Mushran. The five-episode series will launch on the social media handles of MTV India and MTV Nishedh in the last week of November.



Ianuary this 'self-shot-athome" series spotlights the need to raise around TB and

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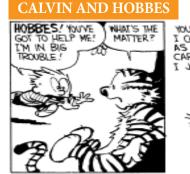
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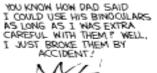






from







GARFIELD



NANCY







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MOVED BAND PRACTICE NEXT DOOR TO MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO HEAR EACH OTHER

GINGER MEGGS

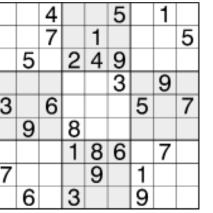








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2 People on horses 4 Fly this on a string





PUCOVSKI GETS CALL UP FOR INDIA TESTS

PTI MEI BOURNE

he prodigiously talented pair of Will Pucovski and Cameroon Green were among five uncapped players picked Thursday in a 17-member Australian Test squad for the bigticket four-match series against

India, starting December 17. The other uncapped Test play-ers in the Tim Paine-led side are fast bowler Sean Abbott leading to his tragic death — leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson and all-rounder Michael Neser.

All the players who are yet to wear the Baggy Green have been called on the back of extraordinary performances in the domestic circuit in recent times, Cricket Australia said.

Cricket Australia's national selector Trevor Hohns said the Shield performances augur well for the country's cricketing future.

Two of those many standout players were of course Cameron Green and Will Pucovski," Hohns said in a statement.

Each of these players, though, has represented Australia in other formats.

Up against a strong Indian line-up and seeking to regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy they lost for the first time in 2018-19, the fresh faces in the Australian Test squad will join the seasoned stars who dominated their most recent Test series' — against Pakistan and

Pooran retains

'In Kohli's absence, Aus will easily win Test series'



PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

Former England skipper Michael Vaughan feels Australia will "quite easily" win the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India as talismanic batsman Virat Kohli will not be there for the final three matches of the four-Test series. "No Virat Kohli for three Tests in Australia...The right decision part of.

going to be at the birth of his first child...but it means Australia will win the series quite easily IMO .. #JustSaying," Vaughan said in a tweet.

Kohli will, however, feature in three ODIs and as many T20Is which will be played before the first Test — a pink-ball fixture — of which the Indian skipper will be a

The other uncapped **Test players** in the Tim **Paine-led** side are fast **bowler Sean** Abbott leading to his tragic death leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson and all-rounder **Michael** Neser.

Ν Zealand at home. The performance took the team to the top of the world rankings before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The limited overs leg,

which will comprise three ODIs and as many T20Is, will be held prior to the Test series, starting November 27. World's number one pacer Pat Cummins was named Paine's

deputy in the Test team. The selectors also named a 19member Australia A squad, which

includes nine members from the Test team, for tour matches against India.

In recent times, past Australian greats have called for Pucovski's selection in the team following his fine run in domestic cricket the 22-year-old struck successive double centuries in his two Shield appearances.

His inclusion sets up a competition with fellow opener Joe Burns, who is feeling the heat after a disastrous start to the first-class summer.

In all likelihood, Pucovski will partner the seasoned David Warner at the top. "Their undeniable

sport 11

"Cameron has already won selection in the white-ball squad and continues that in joining the Test squad. He is a wonderful young talent who has great potential to become an allrounder of substance over time. His batting alone has demanded his place in the squad."

AAD

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Pucovski has been in stunning form in the opening rounds of the Shield games, amassing 495 runs at an unbelievable average of 247.50 in his two matches.

"His ability to show such patience is something which stands him in good stead for Test cricket and he is in rare company with two double centuries to start the summer.

"We very much look forward to Will developing further on the international stage," Hohns said.

Australia Test squad: Tim Paine (c), Sean Abbott, Joe Burns, Pat Cummins, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, James Pattinson, Will Pucovski, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, Matthew Wade, David Warner

demanded selection and we are very pleased to have these young men in the squad for what will be a tremendous Test Series against an extremely formidable opponent," Hohns said.

f o r m

Younis is Pak batting coach will 2022 T20 WC PTI 📕 KARACHI The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday extended batting coach Younis Khan's contract till 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia. The PCB said it had received

positive feedback about Younis' cole during tour of England, which paved way for is contract exten-

"I am delighted that Younis will now be with for, at least, the next two years as our batting coach. The feedback we received about Younis' impact in a short period of time in England was

excellent," Khan said.

Board Chief Executive Wasim

ment and knowledge are second to none, and I am confident that his appointment will benefit a number of talented batsmen."

When not on national duty, Younis will work at the High Performance Centre at Karachi, where he'll be joined by another Pakistan legend Mohammed Yousuf.

"The PCB will also be utilising Younis Khan's expertise and skills when he is not on national duty as he will help local batsmen hone their skills."

"This is part of the PCB's strategy to appoint highly-qualified and "His work ethics, commit- respected coaches across all major

debut.

centres of the country so that we can start producing cricketers who can represent Pakistan with distinction," Wasim added. He also led Pakistan to its maiden T20 World Cup triumph

in 2009.

"I am pleased to join the Pakistan cricket set-up on a longterm basis," Younis said on his part.

"I felt honoured when I was given the opportunity this summer and thoroughly enjoyed my time, and I now look forward to continuing the work with the same group of people on an important tour of New Zealand," Younis

BCCI committed to deliver safe 2021 T20 WC

PTI 📕 DUBAI

The BCCI is commit-ted towards hosting a safe and healthy ICC T20 World Cup next year and "will leave no stone unturned" in its endeavour, board secretary Jay Shah said as the countdown for the much-anticipated event began on Thursday.

The ICC T20 World Cup was scheduled in Australia in October-November this year but had to be postponed to 2022 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

India, however, will Last year, Gemechu improved her own be hosting the 2021 ediwomen's course record by 50 seconds when tion of th obal even For BCCI president as per schedule in

piece event is taken care

of," Shah was quoted as

The board secretary

saying in an ICC state-

promised that all the 15

visiting teams will get a

taste of India's warm

hospitality. "While we are deter-

mined to provide a rich

cricket-viewing experi-

ence, I would also like to

assure the ICC and

Member Boards that

India is known for its

warm hospitality and we

will make you feel at

ment.

home?

times, the BCCI will do everything possible to "innovate and adapt" itself in challenging con-

ditions. "In these times of pandemic, when there are severe restrictions, the BCCI believes in the policy of innovating and adapting, and I am confident that we will overcome every challenge."

The seventh edition of the men's T20 World Cup comes five years after the event was last held in India. It will also be the first global cricket event since the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Australia earlier this

place for NZ tour offer advice and discuss ideas **Belihu and Gemechu to defend ADHM titles** with his fellow players and the coaches and I think will offer

good leadership support to captain Jason Holder both on and off the field," he added. Chase has already landed in New Zealand while Pooran,

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI who was part of the recently-

Ethiopia's Andamlak Belihu and Tsehay EGemechu will return to defend their men's and women's titles respectively in the 16th concluded Indian Premier Chase replaced opener League, is expected to reach on edition of the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon on Kraigg Brathwaite, who was Thursday along with the other November 29.

ir will both be aiming The Ethion for an unprecedented third successive victo-



lolder's deputy in the series against England in July, while the 25-year-old Pooran, first named the West Indies vice-captain in 2019, retained

PTI ST. JOHN'S (ANTIGUA)

West Indies all-rounder Roston Chase has been

elevated to Test vice-captaincy

while wicketkeeper Nicholas Pooran will continue as deputy

in T20Is in the upcoming tour of New Zealand, starting

November 27.

his position. "Nicholas Pooran continues in the role of vice-captain of the T20I Team for the tour of New Zealand. He was first named vice-captain for this format for the series against Afghanistan in 2019," Cricket Windies' chief selector, Roger Harper, said.

Chase, 28, has so far played 35 Test matches, scoring five centuries and collecting three five-wicket hauls with his offspin bowling.

"Roston Chase has been appointed vice captain of the West Indies Test Team for this tour of New Zealand. He is an experienced player who is tactically aware and very purposeful in his approach to the game," Harper said.

"He is readily willing to wins on the board," he added.

players who competed at the tournament, including T20I skipper Kieron Pollard, Test captain Holder, Fabian Allen, Shimron Hetmyer, Keemo Paul and Oshane Thomas.

opportunity to learn and grow

in the game. I was vice- cap-

tain for the tour of Sri Lanka

earlier this year, so this is con-

tinuation of that work. It's

always good to share your

knowledge as we look to con-

tinue the winning mentality,"

strides in Test cricket since my

debut back in 2016 and I see

this new role as vice-captain as

an honour. It is just for me to

try and carry on and try to

achieve great things for West Indies," Chase said.

support to the captain, coach

and other players as we try to

plan strategy and put more

"It is all about offering

"I have been making

Pooran said.

ry in the prestigious IAAF Gold Label Road Race. "This has been a difficult year, for everyone around the world, not just profes-"I see this as another

sional athletes, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and I have been training alone much more than that I am normally used to. "But my fifth place at the World Athletics

Half Marathon Championships last month has assured me that I am in good shape and I am confident I can put up a good defence of my title," said Beliĥu. Éthiopia's Guye Adola will return to Delhi

for the first time since he set the course record of 59:06 in 2014.

An unprecedented 13 men in the ADHM 2020 elite field have run under the world class bench mark of one hour, and five of them have run faster than Belihu in their careers.

The fastest man in the field is Bahrain's 2018 World Athletics Half Marathon Championships Silver medallist Abraham Cheroben, who holds the Asian record for the distance with 58:40.

Two other men to watch out will be the Ethiopian pair of Amdework Walelegn, who was second in Delhi last year and also took

e ran a stunning personal best of 66 min She will have a host of outstandutes. ing rivals in this year's race, arguably the strongest women's field ever seen in the history of the ADHM with seven women having run under 67 minutes.

the Bronze medal at 2020 World Athletics

Half Marathon Championships, and 2017

and 2019 world 5000m champion Muktar Edris, who will be making his half marathon

Among them are two of her compatriots, Yalemzerf Yehualaw and Netsanet Gudeta.

The in-form Yehualaw finished second in the ADHM last year, just a second behind Gemechu.

She grabbed the third place at the World Athletics Half Marathon Championships last month with a personal best of 65:19. While Gudeta finished eighth in Poland but helped Ethiopia bag the team gold and was the 2018 world half marathon champion.

Both the men's and women's races have a first prize cheques of USD 27,000 with a total prize purse (combined men and women) of USD 233,270.

This year's ADHM will be held in a biosecure bubble with only an estimated 60 elite international and Indian runners in action. Non-elite runners of all abilities will have

a chance to participate virtually from any location, running at any time between November 25-29.

Sourav Ganguly, it will be a different challenge October-November. "The BCCI will leave no stone unturned in as an administrator, hav ensuring that the health ing played and captained in multiple events as a and safety of everyone concerned in this show-

player. "I have enjoyed being part of ICC events as a player and know from experience that nothing beats the buzzing atmosphere of a global cricket event with millions around the world watching every

game. "I now look forward to playing my part as an administrator as we prepare to host the presti-gious event," said Ganguly, confident that India would uphold its tradition of organising successful global events since the 1987 World

He also ensured that in these unprecedented Cup.

Finland stun World Champions France

AP FRANCE

 $F_{\rm ner}^{
m inland}$ stunned WC win-ner France 2-0 in a friendly as the hosts were punished for missing a number of chances.

First-half goals from winger Marcus Forss and striker Onni Valakari gave the Finns an unexpected win, which had looked even more unlikely after France carved open the visiting defence early on.

Forward Marcus Thuram, could have made a scoring debut at Stade de France Thuram almost scored with his first chance for France when he headed against the crossbar from close range in the 16th minute. Two minutes later, Thuram volleyed over another good opportunity from close range and tried his luck with a speculative curling shot a few minutes later.

With Thuram probing down the left and combining goalkeeper Steve Mandanda a step closer to becoming the



Finland's Onni Valakari, second right, is congratulated by teammates after scoring the team's second goal

France had a lot of the

Cristiano Ronaldo scored

once in Portugal's 7-0 rout of

Andorra in a friendly, moving

vet created little until the lat-

PORTUGAL WIN 7-0

ter stages.

well with striker Wissam Ben from the edge of the penalty Yedder, the French looked in area. total control only to concede twice in quick succession. possession in the second half

After midfielder Moussa Sissoko gave the ball away in the 28th, Forss charged into the penalty area and finished confidently with a driving shot. Three minutes later, the

Valakari curled a shot past

all-time top scorer for a scored in the 56th. national team.

Ronaldo reached 102 goals with Portugal to sit seven shy of the 109 scored by former İran striker Ali Daei, the only other male soccer player to surpass the 100-goal milestone for a national team. Ronaldo broke the century mark after scoring twice in Portugal's Nations League win over Sweden in October.

Ronaldo entered the match after halftime at the Stadium of Light in Lisbon. He made it 6-0 with a closerange header in the 85th minute after having squan-

dered a few good chances. He had replaced Pedro Neto, the 20-year-old Wolverhampton forward who was making his national team debut and opened the scoring for Portugal in the eighth minute. Paulinho, who was also making his Portugal debut, added to the lead in the 29th and Renato Sanches

GERMANY BEAT CZECH Lucas Waldschmidt's early

goal was enough for an inexperienced Germany team to beat the Czech Republic 1-0 in their friendly game.

Germany goalkeeper Kevin Trapp made a late save to deny Matej Vydra an equalizer for the visitors, who were without two players due to positive coronavirus tests. The game was played without fans to minimize the risk of infections

Germany coach Joachim Löw handed debuts to both PSV Eindhoven defender Philipp Max and Wolfsburg defender Ridle Baku.

SPAIN, DUTCH DRAW

Donny van de Beek put his Manchester United troubles behind him to score the equalizer as the Netherlands came from a goal down to friendly at the Johan Cruyff Arena.

Van de Beek has struggled to establish himself as a first-team player in Manchester but felt right at home back at the stadium

where he rose to prominence with Ajax as he drilled a low

ITALY WIN 4-0

Vincenzo Grifo scored his first two goals for Italy in a 4-0 win over Estonia in a friendly as the host won comfortably despite missing a number of players and its coach because of coronavirus infections.

Federico Bernardeschi draw 1-1 with Spain in a verted a penalty four minutes and Charles De Ketelaere.

from time. Italy was without

coronavirus

scored twice to help a

game

two best chances in the second half after Switzerland deservedly took the lead with an

early goal that rewarded its intense pressing. Ahead of upcoming Nations League matches against England and Denmark, Belgium coach Roberto Martinez played mostly his backups and handed debuts to youngsters Dodi Lukebakio, Hannes Delcroix

Gomez out for indefinite period

AP LONDON

iverpool's injury problems mounted with defender Joe Gomez leaving England duty with a knee injury sustained in training.

England manager Gareth Southgate said the severity of the injury was still unclear.

"What was upsetting was to see he was in a fair bit of pain," Gomez said.

> "No one was around him when the injury happened?

Liverpool already has center back Virgil van Dijk out for a lengthy spell with a knee injury, Fabinho sidelined with a thigh injury and right back Trent Alexander-Arnold out with a thigh problem.

England plays Ireland on 12 Thursday in a friendly ahead of Nations League games against Belgium and Iceland.

also scored in the first half, while Riccardo Orsolini con-

shot past Unai Simon in the 47th minute. It was a fourth match in charge without a win for Netherlands coach Frank de Boer, whose record is now a loss and three draws.

coach Roberto Mancini and several players because of the **BELGIUM WIN 2-1**

Striker Michy Batshuayi

makeshift Belgium side come from behind to beat Switzerland 2-1 in a friendly

The Crystal Palace forward showed clinical efficiency to convert Belgium's





Punarnavi Bhupalam spoke to NAGARAJ GOUD on landing Permanent Roommates remake, giving the role her own take and breaking the ice with co-star Udbhav Raghunandan among other things

FOUND ANU CHALLENGING **BUT MY THEATRE STINT AND PAVAN HELPED: PUNARNAVI**

and level-headed young woman who is soft inside but hard out-

side. She loves her boyfriend

Phani (played by Udbhav Raghunandan), with whom she is

unarnavi Bhupalam is a little nervous ahead of what will be her biggest solo release career-wise, Commit Mental. The fiveepisode web series, an official remake of Permanent Roommates, drops on aha from today. But she

admits to have given all she got to it. "My character Anu gave a lot of scope to exhibit a wide range of emotions. I gave my 100 percent to it," she tells us. It was through Tamada Media that she landed the project. "I have good connec-

tions with them and they approach me frequently whenever they find some-thing appropriate for me. It is how they first spoke about Permanent Roommates remake sometime back, asking me to audition for the lead role. I watched the show when it first

streamed in 2014, and I'm a big fan of it. I was in immediately after the audition," she recalls, adding that she never felt nervous about matching up to the standards set by Nidhi Singh. "I was pretty confident about my part before we went to the floors. I was sure that I would give it my own take as my body language is different to that of Tanya (Nidhi). It was a challenging role but then my theatre stint came in handy." Director Pavan Sadineni, who

brought to the table as a

for me to shoot after the lock-

down but Pavan's entry meant

that I and Udhav could focus solely on our work. He was very

clear with his vision and ensured that everything went smooth. If it

wasn't for him, the project would-n't have been ready for Diwali,"

She goes on, "The way he inter-acts with his actors helped me a

lot as it built a lot of confidence in

boasts off his credentials. For him what counted the most was the

screenplay and how effectively he

narrated the story. The project is a remake at the end of the day but

resources were, to an extent, lim-

resources are unlimited. He used

ited. Now, we are in 2020 and

me. He is not someone who

he owned it. The original streamed seven years ago when

all these to his advantage."

she rhapsodizes.

in a long-distance relationship of three years, immensely. So, when three years, immensely. So, when all of a sudden he lands in front of her door and pops up the mar-riage question, she gets a shock. It's a difficult piece of news for her to digest. She is practical about a lot of things and doesn't believe in rushing. Phani, on the other hand, is impulsive," she states stepped into the show at the eleventh hour as a director after original choice Kowshik Beemidi couldn't take it up due to health reasons, was another factor that helped her craft immensely. "The project looks like a new show altogether because of what Pavan states. The show hinges a lot on the chemistry between the lead pair showrunner-director. It was tough

and Punarnavi mentions that it took time for her to break the ice with Udbhav. "Back in March, when we participated in the test shoot, it wasn't easy. We were uncomfortable and it was awkward too as we barely knew each other. After Pavan joined us, it became easier. We went out, spoke about personal lives and got to know each other, which helped immensely for our roles. On shoot days whenever I didn't like anything he did, I'd tell him politely. It was vice-versa with him as well. Combined with Pavan, we became best of buddies," she notes fondly.

received thumbs-up from every-one and she states that it was the same dialogue she was asked to reel during the audition. "On actual shoot day, all it took for me to give a right take was two shots," she concludes with a grin.

Giving a peek into her role Anu, she shares that it is going to be the same as the original but at the same time different. "Anu is an

independent, strong

Her monologue in the trailer





tollywood

opular actress Avika Gor on Wednesday con-firmed that she is dating Milind Chandwani, who

smile.. Today I can proudly say that this idiot is making my heart smile.. I love you from the bottom of my heart. Thanks for completing me (sic)," she concluded her note on Instagram. Milind, too, confirmed

entered my life with the

intention of just making me

their relationship on his verified Instagram account on Wednesday. He wrote, "Life is really

unpredictable and you find the right people when you least expect them. This kind soul entered my life to helr



Kalyaan Dhev, Ann Sheetal team up for Ramana Teja's next

alvaan Dhey who has lookout for a mainstream actor

commenced the filming of Sridhar Seepana's untitled family entertainer sometime back, has now

green-lit Aswathama director Ramana Teja's second film. Ram Talluri's SRT Entertainments is producing it jointly with Subham Entertainments. It was launched in Hyderabad on Thursday, with Venu Udugula and Venky Kudumula gracing it as guests. Kalki fame Desharai Saitej has penned the film's story, while Mahati Swara Sagar is on board for music. Suresh Ragutu will be the director of cine-

matography. Speaking to *The Pioneer*, film's director Ramana said he loved the treatment of the story. "It is a love story which will

unfold like a suspense thriller," he stated. On his choice of Kalyaan, he said he was on the

who hasn't been explored much as an actor. "Kalyaan was that. He was a boy next door in Vijetha but when I saw some photo shoot stills of him with a beard during the lockdown, I felt I found my lead. I was travelling with writer Desharaj around that time with the story. It was an instant yes from Kalyaan after the narration."

Ramana is looking to take the Hyderabad-set film to floors from next month. "It will be shot in multiple schedules with proper safety measures in place. The idea is to wrap it up by February-end," he revealed.

While he is looking at theatre actors to fill the supporting actors' category, he did sign on his female lead. "Ann Sheetal (Malayalam Ishq fame) has been roped in as the leading lady. Her choice too, boiled down to the fact that she is fairly new. I want the story to be highlighted," he noted.

With Aswathama ending up as an average grosser, Ramana wants to strike it big with the untitled project. "I gave my 100 percent to my maiden film but you know it happens in the industry... This time around, I'm careful as I've learned from my mistakes and I don't want to repeat them again," -NGhe asserted.



Sudhakar's next in the backdrop of lockdown 1.0

ith *Nuvvu Thopuraa* dashing his hopes of finding his footing in Telugu cinema, actor Sudhakar Komakula is out to try his luck as a lead once again. He is introduc-ing *Nuvvu Thopura*'s story writer Ajju Mahakali as a director with the film tilled Beset Aiju who he a director with the film tilled Reset. Ajju, who has a diploma in filmmaking from Newyork Film Academy, said that Sudhakar agreed to do the film immediately after the narration. "It's a crime comedy thriller which

unfolds during lockdown 1.0. Sudhakar plays a unique role in it. His world opens up after the lockdown. The filming will begin from next month," the director said. Sukha Studios, Highlight Visuals and Kaaraboondhi Productions are joint ly producing it.

Sharing pictures with Milind from a Goa vacay, Avika wrote on Instagram, "La vie en rose. My prayers have been answered. I have found the love of my life! (Shiroo ke alava) This kind human is mine. And I'm his.. forever..We all deserve a partner that understands us, believes in us, inspires us, helps us grow & amp; truly cares for us. But, most of us feel that it's impossible to find such a partner. So, it feels like a dream, but it's real! So so so real! I pray for all of you .. I want u all to feel what I'm

to know each other well

before love blossomed

feeling today....(sic)." The actress added that marriage is not the cards in the near future. "My heart is so full and the feeling is precious. I thank God for giving me this experience that's going to be most important chapter of my life... Haha... Nahi nahi, not getting married or anything so soon... Lekin log kya kahenge waale thoughts toh ab jaa chuke hai.. isiliye is pyaar ke baare mein khule aam batana chahti thi.. I feel so blessed and I feel this emotion right now for someone who

me create a larger impact with the children that I worked with. She got so immersed in our work that I almost forgot that she was a well-known celebrity. She hosted our trainings at her house, taught our kids drama and dance, took care of them when we traveled for competitions, helped us raise more funds and so much more. Her kindness, humility and cheerful nature kept me in awe of her everyday. She stood with me when things got really hard and ensured that I never felt low."

Today, I'm happy to share that this beautiful soul is an integral part of my life. No no, not getting married yet, but yes, we are together. I love her. Oh wait, she's reading this as well. I love you, beautiful," he added.

Avika is right now shooting for an untitled Telugu project, which is the official remake of Marathi hit Happy Journey. A fantasy drama, it narrates story of a sister (played by Avika) who helps her brother (Naveen Chandra) to make the journey back to happiness after an unfortunate event shatters him inside.



ACHARYA **BACK ON SETS**

W^{ith} megastar Chiranjeevi quarantined at home after testing positive for COVID-19, Koratala Siva resumed the filming of Acharya in Hyderabad on Thursday — three days behind the original plan. The director is filming portions that don't involve Chiru as of now. In the socio-political entertainer, Chiru plays the role of an ex-naxalite who fights to protect nature's natural resources. Kajal Aggarwal has been cast opposite him, while Ram Charan will be playing a significant supporting role.

