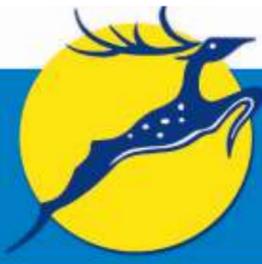


**ANALYSIS 7**  
THE LINES ARE  
BLURRED

**MONEY 8**  
'ANTIVIRALS, HYPERLOOPS AMONG 20  
MARKETS TO TRANSFORM ECONOMIES'

**SPORTS 12**  
RCB TOTALLY  
OUTGUN KKR

HYDERABAD, THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



# the pioneer



PAWAN KALYAN  
ANNOUNCES RS 1CR  
FOR TSCMRF

Page 11

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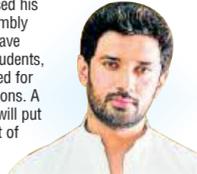
## CABINET APPROVES BONUS FOR CENTRAL EMPLOYEES, 30 L TO BENEFIT

Around 30 lakh government employees will receive a bonus for 2019-2020, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said today after a cabinet meeting. At the meeting, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approval was given for Productivity Linked Bonus or PLB for the year 2019-2020. This will benefit 16.97 lakh non-gazetted employees of commercial establishments like Railways, Posts, Defence, EPFO, ESIC. Non-PLB or ad-hoc bonus is given to Non-Gazetted Central Government employees, from which 13.70 lakh employees will benefit, the government said.



## KOTA-LIKE COACHING CITY, GRAND SITA TEMPLE: CHIRAG PASWAN'S PROMISES

Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Chirag Paswan has promised to set up a 'coaching city' similar to Rajasthan's Kota, Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar and Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, if voted to power, so that students from Bihar do not have to migrate to cities in other states to prepare for competitive exams. He released his party's manifesto for the upcoming assembly election in Bihar. The coaching city will have accommodation facilities and library for students, the LJP said, adding seats will be reserved for students from economically weaker sections. A grand Sita temple, which the party says will put Bihar on the world map, is also in the list of promises.



## FORMER GOVERNOR ESL NARASIMHAN DONATES RS.25,000 FOR CMRF

Former Governor ESL Narasimhan has expressed his concern over the present situation in Hyderabad due to heavy rains and floods. He praised the relief and rehabilitation works taken up by the Telangana State government for the sake of flood victims. Narasimhan announced Rs.25,000 donation to Chief Minister Relief Fund (CMRF) from his personal savings for the sake of relief works. The Chief Minister's Office posted a tweet in this regard on Wednesday. It may be recalled that Narasimhan has been leading a simple life along with his wife at his hometown Chennai, after stepping down from his position. Tamilisai Soundararajan replaced ESL Narasimhan as Governor and she took charge on September 9, 2019.



## NAYANI IS NO MORE

Former Home Minister of Telangana, Nayini Narasimha Reddy passed away at a private hospital in Hyderabad on Wednesday midnight. He was 86. Nayini was born on 12 May 1944 in Devarkonda of Nalgonda district. Educated upto HSC Nayini actively participated in in 1969 Telangana Agitation and has been with KCR through out the agitation. From being the first labor union leader in VST industries, Nayini became the first home minister of Telangana.



Independent directors a 'puzzle', says Sebi chief

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# 101 TS tanks breached, all 185 in city overflowing

NAVEENA GHANATE  
HYDERABAD

As many as 101 tanks, including three in Hyderabad, have breached due to the heavy rains, followed by floods, in Telangana. In all, 53 tanks in the city suffered minor damage over the past 10 days. Of the 45,000 tanks in the state, 101 have breached. Almost all of the 185 tanks in Hyderabad are overflowing.



With heavy rains and inflows, Gandipet Lake is brimming with water.

- 700 mm rainfall just in October
- 15 teams of engineers to take stock of the situation, suggest preventive measures
- Rs 50 crore estimate sent to the Centre from the Irrigation Department

completed within 12 hours. There are rumours of other breaches, which are all false". Rajat said that on the directions of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, 15 techni-



Principal Secretary Irrigation Rajat Kumar

wherever repairs and strengthening were needed, corrective measures would be taken, apart from preventive steps.

To avoid financial hurdles, the Zonal Commissioners of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) had been empowered now to sanction works up to Rs 2 crore. "Previously they could sanction works not exceeding Rs 20 lakh, but following discussions with Minister K T Rama Rao, GHMC officials can now sanction upto Rs 2 crore". The team will coordinate with other departments to alert and shift people residing in low-lying areas. The situation was now manageable and normalcy restored soon, he added.

cal teams had been deployed to inspect all the overflowing 185 tanks and submit a report on the precautionary measures to be taken in view of the possibility of the city receiving more rains and experiencing further flooding. The technical teams will inspect all tanks and,



Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao consoles Narasimha Reddy's son-in-law Srinivas Reddy. Rajya Sabha MP J Santosh Kumar and TRS state general secretary Shrawan Reddy accompanied him

## KCR gets emotional on seeing critical Nayini

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, who visited ailing Nayini Narasimha Reddy in the hospital on Wednesday, became visibly emotional on seeing the condition of his long-time associate, who has been with the Telangana Rashtra Samiti since its inception. Nayini was admitted to Apollo Hospital about a week ago, after he developed post-Covid complications.



BJP-JD(U) alliance 'superhit' like Sachin-Sehwag in cricket: Rajnath

5

## Crime rate in Telangana low compared to other states: HM

PNS HYDERABAD

Crime rate in Telangana is very low in comparison to other states of the country, Telangana Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali claimed on Wednesday.

Addressing the Police Commemoration Day parade here, Mahmood Ali said since the formation of Telangana state (in June 2014) no communal incidents have taken place in Hyderabad city, adding it is the result of continuous efforts of police and utilisation of modern technology in maintaining law and order. Integrating science and technology in policing, friend-



ly policing and other initiatives helped prevent violent incidents in the state, he said.

Over 3.5 lakh CCTV cameras have been installed in Hyderabad city and it occupies the top position in the country in installation of such cameras, the minister claimed.

## Students will be issued fresh certificates

PNS HYDERABAD

The State Government has directed the Education Department and Universities to issue fresh duplicate certificates, free of cost, as and when students apply either online or offline.

The government issued an order to this effect on Wednesday, following representations from several students that their certificates were either lost or damaged due to the unprecedented rains and consequent flooding of their houses.

# Netas flood inundated areas, undo Covid-19 containment



Ministers Sabita Indira Reddy and Ch Malla Reddy distributing Rs 10,000 each to flood-hit victims, violation social distancing norms

PNS HYDERABAD

The city, which has had enough of water in the past 10 days, is now seeing a flood of politicians, who are virtually competing with one another to reach out to people in the affected areas and thereby touching a raw nerve since the health authorities have just got a breather in containment of Covid-19 pandemic.

With neither netas nor the public minding Covid-19 -- the former by not taking precautionary measures and the latter by being too steeped in flood-related troubles to think about other issues -- it is feared that things may be back to square one, if such

things continue. Amid the pandemic, relief measures are somewhat undoing the progress achieved by the state in containing Covid-19. For instance, the Reserve Bank of India has hinted that currency notes could be carriers of bacteria and viruses, including coronavirus, for as long as 28 days.

Still, at every cash distribution area, one can see violation of all Covid-19 norms -- no social distancing, no masks and no gloves. Although the Health Department has warned people to follow norms for festivals, nothing seems to be applicable for politicians.

## 5-member inter-ministerial central team to visit TS to assess flood damage

NEW DELHI: A five-member inter-ministerial team of the central government will visit Telangana for two days beginning Thursday for an on-the-spot assessment of the damages caused by the recent heavy rains and floods, officials said. Incessant rains last week caused flooding in Hyderabad and parts of Telangana leaving three people dead. The central government has constituted a five-member inter-ministerial central team for an on-the-spot assessment of the damages caused by the recent rains and consequential floods in Telangana.

a home ministry official said. The team will visit the state for two days beginning Thursday and will submit a report on its return, the official said. A joint secretary of the Union Home Ministry will lead the team. Hyderabad and some parts of Telangana had witnessed one of the worst deluges in recent times following unprecedented downpour in over a century last week. In Hyderabad, rains led to lakes and other water bodies overflowing with the water inundating several low-lying areas, including parts of the city and its outskirts.



Aryan civilisation led to the World civilisation

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## ED attaches 27 properties in bank loan fraud case

PNS HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate has attached 27 immovable properties located at Hyderabad and Vijayawada worth around Rs 11.05 crore belonging to Nimmagadda Ramakrishna, Nimmagadda Venugopal,

VVVK Viswanath and their family members in a bank loan fraud case.

The market value of the properties seized is estimated to be around Rs 33.39 crore. The assets were attached under

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The probe revealed that siphoned off amount of Rs 1.72 crore was allegedly diverted in the production of a Telugu movie "Aakasame Haddu".

## Landslide at Indrakeeladri before Jagan visit

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Boulders came crashing down the Indrakeeladri hill in Vijayawada in a landslide on Wednesday causing minor injuries to three people, police said.

A possible tragedy was averted as the ghat road leading to the historic Kanakadurga temple was closed for pilgrims in view of the official visit of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy in the afternoon.

Police said the landslide happened about an hour before the Chief Minister's arrival. A temporary tin shed erect-



Aftermath of the landslide at Kanaka Durga temple in Andhra Pradesh's Vijayawada

ed on the hill for the ongoing Dasara Navaratri festival crashed under the impact of the landslide and three persons in the vicinity suffered injuries as stone pebbles fell on them,

police said. The incident happened close to the Media Point on the hill temple.

On the auspicious Moola Nakshatram day, when the Goddess is decorated as Saraswati Devi during the Dasara festival, the Chief Minister was supposed to present silk clothes to the deity on behalf of the state government.

Police sources said he was supposed to take the ghat road to reach the temple around 4 pm and the landslide happened about an hour before his arrival.

## Shanti puja performed at Musi

PNS HYDERABAD

TRS public representatives from the city performed 'Shanti puja' along the Musi river on the advice of priests. Deputy Chief Minister Mahamood Ali, Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav and Mayor Bonthu Rammohan were among those who participated in the ritual of offering riverine prayers on Wednesday. Mayor Bonthu Rammohan, along with his wife Bonthu Sridevi Yadav, offered prayers to Goddess Ganga at Purnanapool Kaman on Wednesday.



Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Mayor Bonthu Ram Mohan and his wife Bonthu Sridevi perform Shanti Puja at Musi river

### TODAY

#### ALMANAC

**Month & Paksham:**  
Ashwin & Shukla Paksha  
Panchangam  
**Tithi:** Shashthi: 07:39 am  
**Nakshatram:** Pune Ashadha: 12:58 am  
(Next Day)  
**Time to Avoid:** (Bad time to start any important work)  
**Rahukalam:** 01:26 pm - 02:53 pm  
**Yamagandam:** 06:14 am - 07:41 am  
**Varjyam:** 10:43 am - 12:18 pm  
**Gulika:** 09:07 am - 10:33 am  
**Good Time:** (to start any important work)  
**Amritakalam:** 08:13 pm - 09:48 pm  
**Abhijit Muhurtham:** 11:37 am - 12:23 pm

#### HYDERABAD WEATHER

**Forecast:** Scattered thunderstorms  
**Temp:** 29/21  
**Humidity:** 73%  
**Sunrise:** 06:11 am  
**Sunset:** 05:49 pm  
Current Weather Conditions  
Updated October 21, 2020 5:00 PM

# Aryan civilisation led to the World civilisation

In Valmiki Ramayana, as translated by 'Andhra Valmiki' Vavilikolanu Subbaravu alias Vasudasa, it is mentioned that Emperor Sagara, on coming to know of the misdeeds of his son Asamanja excommunicated and exiled him.

It is believed that Asamanja headed towards Egypt, took control and ruled it. In support of this argument, there are a couple of pages in the Indo-Egyptian History book penned by B Das.

Every Hindu believed in the superiority of the Aryan civilisation till the impact of the West on the East. Great sages and savants of the East left no dates of events chronicled in these epics and shastras. Even two to three centuries ago, English and other European traders and travellers could not conceive the thought of human civilisation dating back ages ago. Naturally, they questioned the authenticity of epics like Ramayana, Mahabharata and also the Puranas. With the spread of Western culture, Indians themselves began to doubt the authenticity of these epics and a school of thought emerged that followed the Westerner's mentality whereby Greek and Roman civilisations were given precedence over the Aryan civilisation. However, scholars like Max Weber and Max Muller recognised the antiquity of the Rig Veda and ancient civilisation of the Hindus.

Egyptologists, mostly Europeans and Americans, who tried to interpret the pictographic and hieroglyphic writings found in the tombs and pyramids of sovereigns of Egypt, traced an ancient civilisation to the Hellenic and Roman civilisation (Aryan) and supposed it to be the father of the world civilisation. Other scholars and philosophers worked independently to trace the origin of all civilised languages to the Aryan tongue -- the Sanskrit of the Vedas. Laurence Austin Waddell proved conclusively that the ancient Egyptian language was radically Aryan in origin.

The key to the Sumerian civilisation (earliest known civilisation in the historical region of Mesopotamia) and to Sumerian hieroglyphs was found at Mohenjo-Daro by

**Egyptologists, mostly Europeans and Americans, who tried to interpret the pictographic and hieroglyphic writings found in the tombs and pyramids of sovereigns of Egypt, traced an ancient civilisation to the Hellenic and Roman civilisation (Aryan) and supposed it to be the father of the world civilisation**



**VANAM JWALA NARASIMHA RAO**  
CHIEF PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER OF CHIEF MINISTER OF TELANGANA

Indian archaeologists in same style of tablets, potteries, seals as were found at Babylon. Research shows that the Aryans founded their Empire in Babylonia that embraced the West and Sind (India) on the East. These Sumerians or Aryans conquered Egypt and founded the Egyptian Empire under Pharaoh Menes or Asamanja. It is mentioned in the Puranas that Sagar's son crossed the sea to found the Egyptian empire and Asamanja became the first Pharaoh of Egypt. The most wonderful result of all these researches is the linking of the dynasties in Aryan Puranas, Sumerian symbols and Egyptian symbols.

One can find identities of countries mentioned in Mahabharata. Waddell's book 'Egyptian: Civilisation its Sumerian Origin', names such as Kur (Suria or Syria) the land of Kurus, Misor (Gupta (Egypt), Maruts of Asia Minor (the land of Maruts or Amorities) and lastly Kuru-Panch (Kuru-Panchala-Syria being known as the land of Kuru Panchala) will rouse curiosity to locate the ancestral empire of the Aryans as depicted in the Mahabharata and the Puranas.

Phoenicians were the Panch (Panchala) of the Vedas. Aryans spread their

civilisation on the Mediterranean coasts and even carried it to the British shores on the West and helped spread it not only to Malay Peninsula, Chins, Korea and Japan but crossed the Pacific Ocean. The alphabets and writings of all old civilisations and all old countries - Egypt, Babylonia, Asia Minor, China, Japan, Korea and even ancient America - were derived from the Aryan alphabet.

The older Egyptologists wanted to prove Egyptian civilisation originated around 4000 BC and that would lead us to conclude that the Aryan civilisation is much older. Waddell and European antiquarians are eager to prove that the Sumerian-Aryan civilisation dates only back to 3000 BC. They base it on the arguments that the dynasties of kings of all ancient civilisations are the same as the dynasties mentioned in the Mahabharata. They calculate from circumstantial evidence in Egyptian records of pictographs that Asamanja ruled Egypt about 2704 BC-2641 BC.

Astronomy plays a great part in the interpretation of age of the Aryan civilisation. If European scholars now concede the authenticity of the genealogy of the kings of India as chronicled in Mahabharata and as verified from pictographs in tablets, and seals of three different civilizations -- the Sumerian, the Assyrian and Egyptian -- they must have to forget their preconceived notions about date of origin and re-study Hindu Shastras in the light of science and astronomy to fix the dates of these kings and to trace the period of the dawn human civilization: the Aryan civilisation.

(Source: Andhra Valmiki Ramayana, Bala Kanda Mandaram by Vavilikolanu Subbaravu Elias Vasudasa)

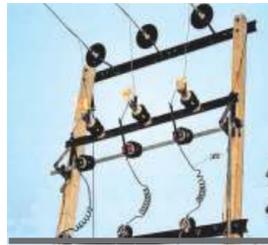
# 25% 11KV FEEDERS HIT BY FLOODS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

More than 25 per cent 11kv feeders were affected due to heavy rains and floods. Heavy rains across the state over the past two weeks, especially across Hyderabad, have damaged several power transformers and HTLT lines, disrupting power supply in many places.

As per TSSPDCL, 754 of 2,927 11kv feeders were affected and rectified. Fifteen of 286 33/11 KV sub stations were impacted due to rains. About 1,215 Distribution Transformers in the GHMC area, which has seen a major flood, were impacted.

While TSSPDCL could rec-



**According to TSSPDCL, 754 of 2,927 11kv feeders were affected and rectified. 15 of 286 33/11 KV sub stations were also impacted**

tify 1,170 DTRs, the remaining 45 couldn't be rectified due to heavy water logging. Out of these 45 DTRs, 20 DTRs are related to apartments while the remaining are of colonies. Of the 8.73 lakh poles in GHMC

area, 1,296 were affected due to rains. While 32 poles are yet to be rectified, 1,264 are now operational.

Prabhakar Rao, Chairman & Managing Director, TS Genco & TS Transco, held a

meeting of senior officials to review the restoration of power supply on a war footing. He said that power supply has become a big challenge as many buildings are still inundated. While urging people to co-operate, Prabhakar Rao said that Restoration of power supply is being taken up on a war footing basis apart from creating additional helpines.

Prabhakar Rao appealed to people not touch the damp power poles, hanging electric wires, and immediately inform the relevant electrical authorities. He said that despite the heavy rains restoration works are going quickly and the fol-

lowing nodal officers have been specially appointed to oversee that the works are done swiftly. People can contact TSSPDCL Area Nodal Officer at 9440813856, TSNPDCL Area Nodal Officer at 9440811210 and TSTRANSCO State Nodal Officer at 9491398550. Special control has already been set up for power supply complaints in the respective areas and Prabhakar Rao said that in addition to the existing call center number 1912, people can contact the following numbers - TSSPDCL at 7382072104, 7382072106, 7382071574 and TSNPDCL at 9440811244, 9440811245.

# 350 teams to ensure distribution of financial aid

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As per the directions of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy, Chief Secretary, Somesh Kumar on Wednesday directed the officials to prepare a systematic plan to expedite the distribution of financial assistance to the flood-affected households in Hyderabad. The Chief Secretary held a review meeting with officials at BRKR Bhavan on disbursement of financial assistance to the flood affected victims.

The Chief Secretary directed the officials to constitute 300 teams in GHMC and 50 teams in neighbouring municipalities to distribute financial assistance at the doorsteps of the households without any delay. He also directed to set up a Control room in GHMC and in the office of CDMA to monitor distribution.

He asked officials to prepare route-plans, identify affected



Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar at a review meeting on Wednesday

localities and mobilize required manpower from the districts, as required. He directed that ten teams should be constituted for each circle comprising three members to disburse the amount. He also advised that route-officers should be appointed in each circle for arranging required cash to the teams. The SLBC convenor has been requested to ensure adequate cash in high denominations even holidays to ensure uninterrupted distrib-

ution. Arvind Kumar, Principal Secretary, K Rama Krishna Rao, Principal Secretary Finance, Rahul Bojja, Secretary SC Development, Lokesh Kumar, Commissioner, GHMC, Satyanarayana, CDMA, Ronald Rose, Special Secretary Finance, Swetha Mohanty, Hyderabad Collector, Amoy Kumar, Rangareddy Collector and other officials attended the meeting.

# ED attaches 27 properties...

Continued from Page 1

According to the anti-money laundering probe agency, loans were taken on the pretext of pisciculture, but instead the money was diverted to the main accused who in turn used it to introduce share capital in M/s Venus Aqua Foods Limited (VAFL) with help the company to borrow more.

The ED took up investigation based on an FIR filed by CBI, BS & FC, Bengaluru, against Nimmagadda Ramakrishna, Managing Director of M/s Venus Aqua Foods Limited and other Directors of the company for defrauding Union Bank of India (erstwhile Andhra Bank), Guvada branch to the tune of Rs 36.97 crore.

ED in a statement said the investigation revealed that Venus Aqua Foods Limited had availed Rs 19.44 crore fish

tank loans from Union Bank of India by furnishing forged and fabricated documents including fake lease documents for 470 acres of fish farms. The loan funds were diverted and not repaid causing a loss of Rs 36.97 crore.

Investigation further revealed that the accused also availed fish tank loans in the name of 54 individuals including themselves, their family members, their friends or relatives or associates and their family members to the tune of Rs 22.64 crore," the ED said.

Part of the loan funds were also used to acquire immovable properties in the names of Nimmagadda Ramakrishna, Nimmagadda Venugopal, VVVK Viswanath, their family members and associates to disguise their origin and were projecting them as untainted properties added ED in statement.

# Students will be issued fresh certificates

Continued from Page 1

Special Chief Secretary to Government, Education, Chitra Ramachandran stated in an order: "Due to the unprecedented rains and floods resulting in inundation of houses a number of representations have been received that hundreds of students have either lost their certificates or they are damaged. Students and parents are worried about this." She added, "The Government has carefully examined the matter and hereby orders all the authorities namely Commissioner School

Education, Intermediate Education, Collegiate Education, Technical Education and Registrars of Universities to issue fresh/duplicate certificates as and when the students apply either online or offline. All the students who require a copy of their lost certificate can apply to the concerned authority duly giving their details of name, type of exam, hall ticket number and year of exam. Applications can be made online or offline. The authorities are advised to issue these certificates on application free of cost."

# Landslide at Indrakeeladri before Jagan...

Continued from Page 1

As the temple has an alternative entrance, it was used for the Chief Minister's visit. Jagan arrived late following the incident and completed the formalities. He then inspected the spot where the boulders fell and directed the officials to take immediate steps for the safety of the pilgrims. He also asked them to implement the temple master plan and directed that required funds be released immediately.

# HYDERABAD BULLION RATES

<b>GOLD</b>	₹ 51,330 (10 gm)
	₹ 410 ↓
<b>SILVER</b>	₹ 62,000 (1kg)
	₹ 1500 ↑

# CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin	₹209
Without Skin	₹238
Broiler at Farm	₹144

# EGG RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD	490
VIJAYAWADA	529
VISAKHAPATNAM	522
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.90

# Crime rate in Telangana low...

Continued from Page 1

Top priority has been given for safety of women and children and in this regard, the Women Safety Wing of Telangana Police has taken up initiatives like SHE TEAMS, Bharosa Centre, Operation Smile, and organised CybHer and other programmes, he said.

For the past six years peo-

ple of all religions have been celebrating festivals in a peaceful manner because of public cooperation and police efforts, the minister said.

Telangana Director General of Police M Mahendra Reddy said with the government's support towards effective policing, the crime rate has come down tremendously in the state. Senior police officials were present.

# KCR gets emotional on...

Continued from Page 1

Doctors have been treating him on ventilator support and providing dialysis treatment. KCR enquired about the health condition of Narasimha

Reddy from senior doctors and urged them to provide Nayini the best treatment available. He also consoled Nayini's family members, who broke into tears over the condition of the former minister.

# 101 TS tanks breached, all 185 in city overflowing...

Continued from Page 1

Rajat said the state in its letter to the Center, had given an estimate of Rs 50 crore for irrigation-related damages.

He said, "About Rs 10 crore was required to complete temporary repairs to these tanks as per initial estimates. Another Rs 40 crore was needed to carry out permanent repairs and restoration works". Considering that almost all tanks in the city were overflowing, Rajat said that they were no longer self-feeding and appealed people to not go out.

Although, on an average, 800 mm rainfall is received through out the year, in just October 700 mm was received, of which 300 mm was on October 13. Rajat said, "When 35 per cent of rainfall

occurs in one day, the load on tanks will increase". Irrigation officials have been instructed to reduce the weir of tanks and release water to avoid breaches. Meanwhile, the state will also study measures taken by Chennai and Mumbai for prevention of floods for possible replication in Hyderabad.

**Officials put on alert**

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy has asked the official machinery to be on high alert to ensure that tanks and lakes in Hyderabad city do not breach due to heavy rains and flash floods. He wanted at least 15 special teams to be formed to examine the tanks in the city from time to time and take measures to prevent any untoward incident. The CM spoke to Principal Secretary

Water Resources Rajat Kumar in this regard. CM said, "Besides the floodwater in the city, water from the tanks in surrounding areas also entered the city. The tanks in city have water to their capacity and there are still floodwater inflows coming into them. There is every likelihood of these tanks getting breached, causing more damage. Hence, at least 15 special teams with Water Resources Department officials and staff should be formed. They should examine each and every tank and lake in the city". He urged the authorities to identify tanks that may breach and take precautionary measures. "Whenever tanks are breached, repair them. Alert people in the low-lying areas and those living in vulnerable places. Shift people from these areas to safer places,"

# In their attempt to give "assurance" to citizens, politicians are going a step ahead and even touching them

Helping Hand Foundation, said, "At the moment distress and anxiety are so high among people that none of them is concerned about Covid-19. There is water, muck, sludge and people are in the process of leaving their houses; so much of damage, they don't have proper food. The levels of anxiety and suffering are so high that Covid is not on anybody's mind".

Only at relief centres, suspected carriers of the virus are being tested and many of the results are turning out to be positive. There is no protocol or safety in any of the inundated areas. Sai Teja of Feed the

Needy said, "In slums, people are not following Covid-19 norms. When we ask, they say we will either die of these flood or Covid-19. Most of the people are worried about the loss they have incurred. They tell us: How does it matter which way they have to face death. Even when politicians are giving money, it is looking like a photo opportunity more than concern for health. We are distributing masks as part of the grocery kits, to ensure at least the thought to wear a mask crosses their mind".

An official in the Health Department, on condition of anonymity, said, "Nearly 70 per cent of the cases are asymptomatic; so, it is important to avoid gathering at one place for any reason. At relief camps, we are providing masks, sanitisers and doing health screening. The localities in Hyderabad, which are inundated, will be sanitised using sodium hypochlorite solution."

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# GHMC polls to revolve around setting up Basthi Dawakhanas

NAMRATA SRIVASTAVA  
HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections this year are going to revolve around medical and health related issues. Keeping in view the ongoing pandemic and the recent downpour in the city, most candidates standing this year campaign around construction of well-equipped Basthi Dawakhanas in all the localities so that people do not have to rely on NIMS, Gandhi, Osmania or other government medical establishments.

Sohail Uddin, who is standing in the GHMC election from Moosarambagh, shares that a medical health facility with all necessary equipments and medicines can help the



people a lot. He says, "I believe that education and health related issues are going to take the center stage in the elections this

year. Moosarambagh is a low-lying area and people there really struggled during the rains. Also, to get tested for

Covid, they had to travel a lot as well. So, my primary aim would be to construct a Basthi Dawakhana, where people can get tested for any ailment easily and can receive the basic first aid before being shifted to a bigger hospital."

Adding to the same, S Chandrashekar Reddy, who is contesting from Chaintanyapuri, shares, "There are two slum areas in Chaintanyapuri - Municipal Colony and Indiranagar Colony. While the slums have Basthi Dawakhanas, the other areas like New Indiranagar Colony can do with a similar set up. So, that will be one of the issues I will be voicing this issue during campaign. And once I win, I will work on this on priority." Not just the can-

didates, the citizens are also interested in a cheaper, well-equipped medical centre near their homes.

Sasidhar Vuppala, a social activist, who has been very vocal about this issue even in the past, shares, "We have been listening to the Basthi Dawakhana programme from the last year. I live in Kukatpalli, and there is no establishment here at all. The situation today is such that even when people can afford to live in apartments, they might not be able to afford the expensive medical treatment. I really hope the new contractors take up this issue and start working on it on priority. As this project will not only ensure that everyone gets cheaper medical facility, but will also generate jobs."

# After a decade, Osman Sagar brimming with flood waters

NAVEENA GHANATE  
HYDERABAD

The Osman Sagar, popularly known as Gandipet, which was built to protect the city in the wake of the 1908 Musi flood, is now brimming. Officials have issued notice that the gates are likely to be opened anytime soon and citizens have been alerted about possible flooding.

Heavy inflows into the Osman Sagar from the upper reaches have been recorded. The Full Reservoir Level of the reservoir is 1,790 feet and the water level reached 1786.86 on Wednesday.

HMWSSB officials have finalized arrangements for the lifting of the gates once the water level reaches 1789 ft to safeguard the dam. Currently the inflows are at 833 cusecs into Gandipet. The capacity of the reservoir is 3.90 TMC, while currently there is 3.192 TMC. Earlier the gates were lifted in 2010. Heavy rains in



Chevella, Shankarpalli, Shabad and Vikarabad have contributed significantly to the heavy inflows into Gandipet.

The water board has alerted people in the lower Musi catchment areas as the Osman Sagar gates are about to be lifted. The Bandlaguda Municipal Corporation has asked people living closer to Musi river to evacuate their premises as Gandipet's water level has increased and the gates could be opened anytime. Although

the gates are planned to be opened in the morning hours, officials point that, given the rising inflows, there is uncertainty over the time of opening of the gates as rains are continuing at Vikarabad and Tandur along the reservoir.

This being so, water is already being released from two of the gates of Himayat Sagar, where the water level is at 1763 ft at 1,300 cusecs inflows and 1,372 cusecs outflows.

## CITY LIGHTS

### KVBR conferred Construction World Person of Year award

L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited (LTMHRL) is delighted to inform that KVBR Reddy, MD & CEO, L&TMRHL has been conferred with 'Construction World Person of the Year 2020 - Private Sector', by Construction World Global Awards over an event held virtually. The award is presented to professionals who have made considerable achievements in their careers and businesses, and through their efforts have propelled the industry forward. On receiving the award KVBR Reddy, MD & CEO, L&TMRHL stated, "I humbly thank Construction World and the juries for conferring me this prestigious award."



### MCR HRD Institute and TSCHE organise webinar on NEP 2020

Dr MCR HRD Institute and Telangana State Council for Higher Education jointly organised a webinar on "Reimagining Education-National Education Policy 2020 & Beyond". Over 300 educationists, from different parts of the country, attended the event. DG of the Institute and Special Chief Secretary BP Acharya in his opening remarks, said that while the literacy rate and educational achievements of people have been registering impressive growth in terms of quantity, the need of the hour is to successfully address the issues relating to improving quality of education. Former Secretary of School Education Anil Swarup said that the NEP is a progressive document. He stated that the focus of the Policy, which is mainly on giving a big boost to quality of education in general and that of school teachers in particular, will result in multiple beneficial outcomes for different stakeholders.



### Hyd University announces its first batch of nine PhD scholars

University of Hyderabad (UoH) on Wednesday announced the selection of its first set of nine PhD scholars for fellowship under the lateral entry channel of the prestigious Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme. The PhD students have selected Research Fellows in the school of Chemistry, life Sciences and Physics, the University said. The National Coordination Committee of the PMRF scheme made the selection of the students. Under PMRF scheme, each fellow will receive a starting monthly fellowship of Rs 70,000, which may increase to a maximum monthly fellowship of Rs 80,000 towards the end of PhD, provided the performance during the initial years of PhD is satisfactory. Apart from this, each fellow would be eligible for a research grant of Rs 2 Lakh per year. Out of 13 fellowships offered by the University under PMRF Scheme through the lateral entry channel in the current cycle- PMRF May 2020, 9 fellowships have been selected and it was now announced. The remaining 4 lateral entry channel fellowships will be carried forward for the succeeding cycle.



### Cyb police provide IT jobs to kin of 14 martyred cops

The Cyberabad Police provided jobs in the Information Technology sector to 14 family members of police personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty this year. Speaking on the occasion of Police Day, Cyberabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar said while safeguarding the borders of the country was the duty of the soldiers, it was the responsibility of the police force to take care of internal issues. This year, so far, 264 police personnel had lost their lives in various incidents across the country. "It is our duty to remember the service and sacrifice of police personnel. The police have been first responders to any emergency situation including the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent Hyderabad rains," Sajjanar said, adding that the Cyberabad police and the Society for Cyberabad Security Council had provided jobs to 14 family members of police personnel who lost their lives recently. "Some more names are under scrutiny and we are hoping they too get placement in IT companies," the Commissioner said.



# HRF demands judicial inquiry into former tahsildar's suicide

PNS HYDERABAD

Human Rights Forum (HRF), Telangana demanded judicial enquiry into the alleged suicide of former Keesara tahsildar Nagaraju. The forum suspecting foul play in the death of Nagaraju formed a fact finding committee.

The committee met the family members of Nagaraju, other concerned authorities and enquired about the situation.

During their enquiry with the people close to Nagaraju, the committee found that he was confident of getting bail and not at all depressed.

"We have several suspicions like in the high security prison



like Chanchalguda where there are more than three prisoners in a cell is it possible to commit suicide without being noticed?" questioned V Balaraju, Secretary of Human

Rights Forum, Hyderabad.

It is learnt that there are three more prisoners in the same cell with Nagaraju when he allegedly committed suicide.

Further, the forum opined that there are no ligature marks on Nagaraju. Usually if a person commits suicide ligature marks can be clearly visible.

HRF coordination member Telangana S Jeevan Kumar demanded for judicial enquiry with competent authority into the alleged death of Nagaraju.

It is to be noted that few days ago Nagaraj's wife E Swapna approached State Human Rights Commission for justice for alleged foul play in the death of her husband.

# After series of protests, JNTU finally pays heed to desperate teachers

PNS HYDERABAD

After many protests and approaches, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University finally heard the plea of desperate teachers who haven't been paid for long.

After being approached by the Teachers' Associations, the University plans on warning the institutes that haven't adhered to GO 45 issued during the Covid pandemic.

JNTUH registrar Manzoor Hussain shares, "This is very inappropriate. I have always been of the opinion that the teaching faculty makes the college great. The University was not aware of the severity of the issue. However, now we plan on writing a letter to colleges brought to our notice. We will warn them about their illegal actions."

The registrar however adds that de-affiliation of these colleges won't be a possibility. "I don't think we can de-affiliate them now that students are already studying in these colleges. Also, we request the government to look into these matters. Having said that, the University will certainly put pressure on these colleges to pay the salaries before the new batch join the academic year."

The members of TSCEA are still not happy with the University. They share, "Fees are being collected from students and yet the salaries are not paid on time. It's not the matter of salaries not being paid, but several people also lost their lives. We want the University to make sure that not only the salaries are paid but the dismissed faculty should be reinstated immediately."

# Fraudster cheats man of Rs 1 crore, nabbed

PNS HYDERABAD

A fraudster who cheated a customer to a tune of Rs1.7 crore under the guise supplying gold at low price was arrested by Hyderabad Central Crime Station Police on Wednesday.

The accused identified as Kota Rakesh cheated Koteswara Rao Guptha, a resident of Ameerpur. Based on the complaint from Guptha, a police booked a case and investigated it.

After a year of manhunt, police arrested Rakesh at Bashettyhalli village, Dibburahalli Mandal, Chikballapur District, Karnataka State and brought him under transit warrant and sent him to judicial custody on Wednesday.

"During interrogation accused disclosed that he used to lure innocent public in the name of gold business, assure them to supply the gold for low market price. After gaining the trust he will collect the huge amounts from the customers on pretext of providing the gold in a low market price and escape," said Sub-Inspector K Laxminarayana.

# Telangana at forefront of education: Minister

PNS HYDERABAD

Minister of MA&UD, Industries and IT&C of Telangana, KT Rama Rao lauded Tummala Snikitha, who bagged the third rank in NEET.

Snikitha, along with her parents, cardiologist Dr Sadananda Reddy and gynecologist Dr Lakshmi met KTR on Wednesday, at Pragati Bhavan along with State Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Rural Fresh Water Supply Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao.

The Minister said that Telangana has been at the forefront of education in Telangana since the emergence of the state. He further added that the educational opportunities in our state have improved with the encourage-

ment from the Chief Minister K Chandrasekar Rao. "The youth of Telangana are showing their talent in many courses like engineering, medical, commerce, business and even UPSC. Warangal is the second largest educational center in the state after Hyderabad, and has been producing several brilliant students in various fields." Errabelli Dayakar Rao also congratulated Snikitha and her parents.

# Eight arrested for murder of history-sheeter

PNS HYDERABAD

The Pahadishareef police on Wednesday arrested eight-member gang in connection with the murder of a history-sheeter, occurred 10 days ago in Balapur. Ali was allegedly murdered on suspicion that he had turned into a police tipper, police said.

The victim was identified as Syed Waheed Ali and the victims were identified as Shaik Ismail, the main conspirator, Syed Zaheeruddin, Syed Abid, Mohammad, Khaja Shahbaaz, Mohammad Shabab, Mohammad Omer, and Mohammad Ameer.

According to the police, Syed Waheed Ali met Shaik Ismail three years ago while they were lodged in prison and friendship developed between them. "Shaik Ismail grew suspicious that Syed Waheed Ali was passing information to the police about his criminal activities. Subsequently, Shaik Ismail planned to eliminate Syed Waheed Ali and roped in his associates to implement his plan," said police. As per their plan, along with the other suspects, he picked up Ali from his house and after making him drunk, took him to a secluded place where they stabbed him to death.

# Over 3k vehicles damaged due to deluge

PNS HYDERABAD

The torrential rains, which led to overflowing of several water bodies submerged colonies in parts of the city. Apart from having their homes flooded and sewage water causing damage to furniture, affected victims also have lost their properties: a staggering 3000 plus vehicles have been damaged.

Raising the issue of cab and taxi drivers facing much loss after the torrential rain Pawan Kalyan has written a letter to the Telangana government asking them to extend extra financial help to the transport workers.

He wrote, "Around 4.5 lakh people are getting livelihood as taxi drivers across Telangana. The IT and other allied sectors which are centralised mostly in Hyderabad city are badly affected by Coronavirus and now the floods." He added, "The demand of the



drivers is that even the online cab services shall reduce their commissions until the normalcy is restored. The Telangana government should concentrate on these issues. I appeal to the Telangana government to take necessary steps to support the taxi service sector, which is the life line for Lakhs of families." The actor even tweeted about the issue, which garnered much interest.

Sharing the plight of drivers after flood, Chairman Telangana State Taxi and Drivers JAC Shaik Salauddin, shares, "Some of the most affected areas in the Old City are Hafeez Baba Nagar, Al Jubail, Omer Colony, Falaknuma, Chaderghat and Balapur, where people witnessed their vehicles being washed away in floods. I can

assure that over 3000 vehicles were damaged severely in the rains. None of them could save their cars or bikes."

"The vehicle's windshield, doors, seats and entire body is in a pretty bad condition. The cab drivers often buy cars on loans or on finance, which is why the damage is even financially more devastating. To witness one's car submerged in water, especially if one is paying monthly installments, would be a very painful sight. Fixing vehicles which are damaged in such floods is usually very difficult. Cars which are flooded or washed away in water are seldom repaired. Mostly, such cars will be sold in scrap, as it costs a lot of money and takes a long time to repair such machines as well. We request the government to give each driver Rs 50,000 at least to help them get back on road," Shaik Salauddin added.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA							
REVENUE (LAND ACQUISITION) DEPARTMENT							
FORM-VII							
DECLARATION							
Collector/Joint Collector/Special Collector/Land Acquisition/Special Deputy Collector/Land Acquisition/				Date:03-10-2020			
G1/881/2018				Date:28-09-2020			
No: D/3984/2017				Date:28-09-2020			
Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 and under Section 19 (1) of the Central Act No.30 of 2013 Read with Sub Rule (1) of the Rule 25 of the state government rules-2014(Land Acquisition)							
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana(District Collector, Nalgonda that a total of Acres 9.15 Guntas of land is required in the Yellareddygudem Village Narketpally Mandal of Nalgonda District for public purpose, namely for Udayaswaram Lift Irrigation Project of AMR/SLBC Project for excavation of irrigation canals.							
Therefore the declaration has been issued as the land mentioned in the schedule below is required for the above said public purpose.							
SCHEDULE							
Village: Yellareddygudem	Mandal: Narketpally	District: Nalgonda					
Sl. No.	Area (Guntas)	Type of Land	Area (Guntas)	Name & Address of person interested and Father	No. of Trees (Shadeless)	Remarks	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	770	Patna	Kuski	0.27	Cheera Srikant S/o Sudharshan	---	
2	771	Patna	Kuski	0.02	Cheera Srikant S/o Sudharshan (Occupier) Mhasevaram Vengesalet W/o Gopal (Pattabaru)	---	
3	776	Patna	Kuski	1.09 <sup>15</sup>	Cheera Srikant S/o Sudharshan (Occupier) Jangli Mallesh S/o Malaya (Pattabaru)	Mango Trees	
4	776	Patna	Kuski	0.06 <sup>15</sup>	Maheshwaram Ramulu S/o Rangaswamy (Occupier) Jangli Sattayya S/o Malaya (Pattabaru)	---	
5	776	Patna	Kuski	0.02 <sup>15</sup>	Road	---	
6	783	Patna	Kuski	0.38	Cheera Siva D/o Sudharshan	---	
7	784	Patna	Kuski	0.02 <sup>14</sup>	Gorji Venkanna W/o Malleswar	---	
8	781	Patna	Kuski	0.16 <sup>14</sup>	Cheera Srikant S/o Sudharshan (Occupier) Patanala Ramadharaya S/o Pichayya (Pattabaru)	---	
9	780	Patna	Kuski	0.22	Malyala Mangamma W/o Sattayya	---	
10	780	Patna	Kuski	0.11	Malyala Sadhule S/o Pichayya	---	
11	759	Patna	Kuski	0.09	Malyala Janakamma W/o Sainathu	---	
12	758	Patna	Kuski	0.19 <sup>14</sup>	Kandhuru Jambharan Reddy, Mohan Reddy S/o Chirappi Reddy	---	
13	758	Patna	Kuski	0.08	Kandhuru Anitha W/o Satyanarayana Reddy	---	
14	757	Patna	Kuski	0.08	Kandhuru Satyanarayana Reddy S/o (Occupier) Kandhuru Mohan Reddy (Kandhuru Jambharan Reddy (Pattabaru)	---	
15	757	Patna	Kuski	0.12	Kandhuru Jambharan Reddy, Mohan Reddy S/o Chirappi Reddy	---	
16	726	Patna	Kuski	0.13 <sup>12</sup>	Kandhuru Jambharan Reddy, Mohan Reddy S/o Chirappi Reddy	---	
17	737	Patna	Kurmi	0.07 <sup>12</sup>	Siga Srinu S/o Krishnayya	---	
18	737	Patna	Kuski	0.05	Siga Manali S/o Sattayya	---	
19	737	Patna	Kuski	0.12	Siga Srinu S/o Krishnayya	---	
20	737	Patna	Kuski	0.12 <sup>12</sup>	Meruga Sattayya S/o Marayya	---	
21	726	Patna	Kuski	0.08	Meruga Laxmamma S/o Pichayya	---	
22	726	Patna	Kuski	0.16	Meruga Sattayya S/o Marayya	---	
23	736	Patna	Kuski	0.02 <sup>12</sup>	Bobbili Narayana S/o Ramalingayya (Occupier) Bobbili Chandrayya S/o Ramalingayya (Pattabaru)	---	
24	726	Patna	Kurmi	0.04 <sup>12</sup>	Bobbili Chandrayya S/o Ramalingayya	---	
25	736	Patna	Kuski	0.06 <sup>12</sup>	Gasthi Dikshakar Reddy S/o Sarjaya Reddy	---	
26	736	Patna	Kuski	0.19 <sup>12</sup>	Meka Dasarath Reddy S/o Gopal Reddy	---	
27	730	Patna	Kuski	0.38	Dheega Mathani W/o Kishore Kumar	---	
TOTAL				9.15			
Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act 30/2013) to acquire land as no objections have been filed by concerned land owners to the draft notification under section 19 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.							
None is adversely affected by the land acquisition nor were they rendered displaced persons by the project. Hence there was no need to issue R and R award separately under the Section 31 of the Central Act 30/2013.							
Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.							
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer and Revenue Divisional Officer, Nalgonda during working hours or any working day.							
Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Nalgonda				District Collector, Nalgonda			
DIPR R.O. No: 724/LA/PP/Adv/Pub/2020-21							

# Oppn misleading people: Harish

PNS ■ DUBBAK

Finance Minister T Harish Rao dared BJP president Bandi Sanjay to prove his allegation that beedi workers are being paid a reduced pension of Rs 1,600 with evidence or quit and offered to step down as Minister and MLA post if Bandi Sanjay were to prove his allegations. The Minister was addressing a women's rally in the town on Wednesday in support of TRS candidate.

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, who was born in Chintamadaka and did his schooling in Dubbak, has love for the constituency, but who else will love to develop the constituency, Harish Rao questioned. In Modi's own state of Gujarat, Rs 500 is being paid as social welfare pension, while KCR gives Rs 2,000 as pension to various categories of beneficiaries per month, he compared and said that the people would not believe the lies being spread by Congress and BJP. He objected to Bandi's statement that the Centre is funding the welfare and development schemes of the state government and denied it as totally false.



Finance Minister T Harish Rao addressing the gathering in Dubbak on Wednesday

He appealed to the people whether the BJP government has been giving free power to agriculture sector or giving pensions to beedi workers or extending input subsidy scheme under Rythu Bandhu to benefit farmers or implementing the schemes like Kalyana Lakshmi in any of its rural states. He observed that the BJP has no issue to campaign against the TRS. On

what basis the BJP would seek votes from people of Dubbak constituency, he wondered. Will the BJP seek votes promising to fix metres to the water consumed by farmers? Will it seek votes for jeopardising the interests of the maize farmers by allowing import of maize by the country? Harish sought to know who will benefit from allowing import of the maize by the country? He said that the

people of Dubbak seek welfare and development of the constituency and told the electorate that the people would get duped if they give their vote to the Congress or the BJP. He said that Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy, whose death forced by-election in Dubbak, served the people of the constituency till he breathed his last. Dubbak TRS candidate Sujata said that K Chandrasekhar Rao, blessed

**Minister Harish Rao asked why the BJP ruled govts including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state Gujarat is not giving Rs 2,000 pensions?**

her as his daughter and asked her to contest the by-election to serve the people. Sujata said that she would follow the footsteps of Ramalinga Reddy and fulfil his ideals. Earlier, women of the constituency took out a huge rally in support of Sujata. The rally commenced at Dubbak RTC bus depot and made its way via Ambedkar Circle in the town and culminated in a meeting at TelanganaTalli Statue. MP KottaPrabhakar Reddy, MLA Padma DevenderReddy, former minister SunitaLakshma Reddy, several TRS leaders and others took part in the meeting.

# Manickam tries to bring peace to T-Cong factions

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress Affairs in-charge Manickam Tagore is making all efforts to end factions in the state Congress. Tagore came to the state with prior information about the state leaders. He made it clear to the leaders and cadre to stop criticising each other on social media platforms. He also directed the leaders to work unitedly.

He exuded confidence that the party will win 2023 elections if the leaders work hard. He described the party leaders as cricket team and himself as the manager. "The team will have different kinds of players, however, the team will win only if it plays as a team," he said indirectly hinting the party leaders that 'individualism' will not help the party.

Without naming the leader, Manickam Tagore asked of the person concerned not to make their followers raise slogans in support of them and directed them to raise slogans saying 'Jai Congress' and 'Jai Sonia Gandhi'. He asked the leaders to leave the meeting, who were not invited. He also sought explanation from the party leaders who skipped the meetings.

On the other hand,



**Telangana Congress Affairs in-charge Manickam Tagore exuded confidence that Congress party will win 2023 Assembly polls if the leaders work hard**

Manickam Tagore is also utilising the Dubbak by-elections to nullify the factions within the party leaders with his firm strategies. He assigned all the leaders-- from TPCC Chief to mandal level leaders to participate in election campaign by allotting mandals, villages and booths. Tagore also gave targets to the leaders to ensure the victory of the party candidate. Surprisingly, the party leaders are working in their allotted places similar to 'never before ever after' manner as the election is not that easy to win as the ruling TRS party and BJP are striving hard to win the election.

He also asked the party leaders to work hard by thinking that every leader is a party candidate. He stressed on the

fact that party is important than leaders. One of the party leaders told to The Pioneer that Manickam Tagore had conducted review meetings similar to head master.

"I don't know what will be the result in Dubbak. However, the atmosphere in the party has changed. It's a good sign for the Telangana Congress as Maickam Tagore is trying to treat the root cause," he said on condition of anonymity. It's common in Telangana Congress that the leaders try to expose others using party platforms leading to factions and infighting. However, this attitude among the leaders might change with Manickam Tagore's style of working, another leader opined.

# More facilities at Basar temple soon: Minister

PNS ■ PNS/NIRMAL

Minister for Forest Allola Indrakaran Reddy on Wednesday said that steps were being taken for developing the famous Sri Gnana Saraswathi Devasthanam-Basar. The Minister along with his wife performed special prayers at the temple of goddess of learning on Wednesday.

Indrakaran stated that an action plan was chalked out for creating basic amenities and to improve existing facilities for the convenience of devotees belonging to several parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. He informed that Rs 50 crore was earmarked for developing the shrine.



# Hyd floods a national calamity: Cong

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday said that the State Government should increase the amount for flood relief from Rs 500 crore to Rs 5,000 crore. Uttam, in a statement informed that the TPCC Core Committee, which met at Pragapur in Gajwel constituency on Tuesday night, held detailed discussions on various issues including the flood situation in Telangana, agriculture and Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme.

The meeting was attended by AICC Incharge Manickam Tagore, CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and other senior leaders. After having detailed discussions, the Core Committee passed several unanimous resolutions.

"A number of issues such as huge misery and loss of life, property and agricultural crops and the inadequate response of



**Congress Core committee meet discussed number of issues such as huge misery and loss of life, property and agricultural crops and others**

state and central governments were discussed. The Core Committee unanimously passed resolutions on various issues," Uttam said. It was decided to write to the Prime Minister and demand that the present situation in Telangana state be declared as a national calamity. The Congress party condemned the incompetent and inefficient handling of the excess rains cum flood situation in Hyderabad and other parts of the state by TRS government. It also condemned the negligent attitude of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao is not touring the flood affected areas of Hyderabad city or

the extensive crop damage areas in rural Telangana and describes the situation akin to "Nero fiddles while Rome burns".

The party demanded the state government to immediately take up enumeration of crop damage due to rains/floods. "For all farmers where extensive crop damage has occurred, an amount of Rs 20,000 per acre should be given immediately. Cotton, paddy and maize crops damaged due to rains should be purchased with relaxed conditions and higher moisture content be accepted. Due to the heavy rains, whatever the crop

left that damaged crop to be purchased by government agencies by relaxing the quality norms such as shading of colour, moisturize percentage and damaged cotton," it said.

The Congress condemned the negligent and unscientific approach of the TRS government which has led to the collapse of the Kalwakurthy lift irrigation scheme in Mahbubnagar district.

# SPLASHING SLOGANS



Spreading awareness on wearing masks, youngsters along with the officials concerned painted the walls in Shamshabad Municipality.



# As inflows rise, 18 gates of NSP lifted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The inflows into Nagarjuna Sagar Project from upper reaches is put at 3.42 lakh cusecs forcing authorities to lift 18 crest gates of the project to discharge downstream. As the water level reached the maximum level in the project, the officials are discharging the flood water in its entirety.

The water level in the project reached 310.55 TMC as against the FRL of 312 TMC. Water stored in the project is measured at 590 feet. Meanwhile, the MET office predicted rains in the state for three or four days. If the rains were to continue, the flood level in the Nagarjuna Sagar Project is likely to increase further.

# 'Karimnagar police role model for TS'

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

BC Welfare Minister Gangula Kamalakar on Wednesday opined that it was impossible to think about the society without police. Peaceful atmosphere prevailed in the society only because of relentless service by the police of all cadres, he said.

As part of police flag-day (police martyrs commemoration day), a commemoration parade was held in commissionerate headquarters here on Wednesday, wherein Kamalakar participated as chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, Minister said people were able to lead peaceful lives only because of the police discharging their duties with a great responsibility by sacrificing their freedom.

# BJP to rope in Smriti Irani for campaign?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP is planning to rope in Union Minister for Women and Child development Smriti Irani for campaign in Dubbak. According to sources, the party leaders have approached the Union Minister in this regard. However, she is yet to respond. According to rumours making rounds in political circles, Jana Sena president Pawan Kalyan may participate in Dubbak by-poll campaign in support of BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao. Clarifying on the issue, BJP sources said there are no such plans as of now.

"There may not be big impact with Pawan Kalyan because it is a by-election. Though Pawan Kalyan has great fan following among



youth, by-poll equations will be different when compared with normal elections," BJP sources said. Another argument is that it is not the right time for PK to enter Telangana politics, as the by-election was by-election was necessitated by the death of Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy. Political analysts opine that Dubbak by election may not be good platform for PK. It will do more harm than good.

# 'Govt creating obstacles in campaign'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday strongly condemned the undemocratic, unethical an illegal methods being allegedly used by the ruling TRS government to create obstacles to its party MLA contestant M.Raghunandan Rao in the Dubbaka bypoll campaign.

BJP will lodge a complaint with Telangana State Election Commission (SEC) and it will also explore all legal options against the government, party Telangana Unit Chief Spokesperson K Krishna Saagar Rao said in a release here. The low-level tactics being used by the TRS exploiting police and administrative machinery is exposing fear of their defeat in the election, he alleged.

# Kishan talks tough on encroachments

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy on Wednesday claimed that Telangana Ministers had been making unwarranted criticism against the Centre. Referring to their criticism that the Centre had not yet extended any help to the state for flood relief efforts, Kishan pointed out to media persons that the money belonged to people in the first place.

The Centre had suggested to the state government to initially spend money for the sake of flood victims from the State Disaster Fund and that this amount would be reimbursed later. There was no question of giving funds before assessing the losses.

Kishan alleged that the state government officials never cared about encroachments along the Musi river. He suggested that the Telangana government should remove these encroachments immediately. He attributed the flood situation to encroachments on tanks and nalas. One could understand the extent of encroachments by looking at satellite pictures of the situation before and after 2014 (after TRS came to power). The encroachments that had taken place during the erstwhile Congress regime continued even under the TRS government regime, he said.

Stating that the flood canals and drainage systems were in a bad state, Kishan Reddy alleged that the KCR government was not removing even the silt in flood canals.

# Telangana's Coronavirus recovery rate crosses 90%

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a remarkable development, Telangana's Covid-19 recovery rate has crossed 90 per cent as the state continued to see more recoveries than new infections. Health officials on Wednesday said 1,811 people recovered during 24 last hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 2,04,388. The state's recovery rate climbed to 90.38 per cent as against the national average of 88.8 per cent.

The state reported 1,579 new cases, taking the cumulative tally to 2,26,124. Of this only 20,449 cases are active. Out of the total active cases, 17,071 are in home or institutional isolation. Five more

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people succumbed to the infection during the last 24 hours, ending 8 p.m. on Tuesday. The fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 1,287. The fatality rate dropped to 0.56 per cent against the national average of 1.5 per cent.

Officials said the percentage of deaths due to Covid-19 was 44.96 while the remaining 55.04 had co-morbidities.

Greater Hyderabad and districts continue to show declining trends in the number of new cases. According to the media bulletin issued by the office of the director of public health, Greater Hyderabad reported 256 new cases. Medchal Malkajgiri t recorded second highest number of cases at 135 followed by Khammam (106).

# 'Horse power' to fore in rescue of flood victims

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Horses turned out to be saviours helping a group of good samaritans in taking relief materials, including food and rescuing marooned people in narrow streets and by-lanes, where boats could not venture during recent floods in the city.

Members of the Hyderabad Horse Riding School banded together and lent a helping hand to the personnel of Army, NDRF and police in reaching out to residents, whose houses were inundated following incessant rains last week. The horseriders waded through chest-deep water, navigating obstructions such as electric poles, trees, to deliver essentials like milk and medicines to people.

Our horses came in handy at places where boats were unable to reach in view of electricity



poles, parked vehicles, trees, and others, Md Abdul Wahab, President of Hyderabad Horse



Horse riders waded through chest-deep water, navigating obstructions such as electric poles, trees to deliver essentials like milk and medicines to people

Riding School (HHRS) said on Wednesday. Relief activities were carried out at Nadeem colony, Virasat nagar, Balreddy nagar and others in Tolichowki for four days starting October 15.

The team deployed around 15 equines besides relief workers on the ground to carry out

rescue and relief work, Wahab said. The relief work involved a big team and required a lot of planning. Our team rescued citizens who were reluctant to move out of their homes, by convincing them, he added.

The horse riding school, established a decade ago, is run with a service motive and has

**The team deployed around 15 equines besides relief workers on the ground to carry out rescue and relief work, said Md Abdul Wahab, President of HHRS**

also taken up Swachh Bharat work earlier. The heavy rains have left 70 people dead in the state in the last one week and caused damage to properties with the state government pegging losses at over Rs 5,000 crore as per preliminary estimates.

INDIA CORNER

Gold trader attacked, robbed of valuables worth lakhs

Two unidentified men attacked a gold trader and robbed him of valuables worth Rs 37 lakh in Jetpur town of Rajkot district on Wednesday, police said. Chiman Vekaria was attacked by two robbers, who allegedly threw chilli powder on his face and snatched a bag containing 700 gm of gold worth Rs 35 lakh and Rs 2 lakh cash, sub-inspector P B Vaghela of Jetpur police station said. The attack took place when the victim, a trader from neighbouring Dhoraji town, was passing through a narrow lane connecting Nana Chowk and Soni Baazar, the official said. When the Vekaria fought back, the robbers attacked him with a knife and injured his leg before escaping the scene, he said. The victim is undergoing treatment at a hospital and further probe is underway, the official added.



Insurance claims related to Covid treatment rise in Sept

The number of insurance claims related to treatment for COVID-19 rose to 40 per cent of the total health insurance claims in September, according to an analysis. Based on its analysis of industry data, insurance aggregator Policybazaar.com said "most people filing the claim for COVID-19 treatment are senior citizens of age group 60 years and more, followed by people in the age bracket of 41-45 years". In September, the insurance aggregator said COVID-19-related claims accounted for 40 per cent of the total health insurance claims. It has been steadily increasing from 8 per cent in May. In July and August, it stood at 23 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively. Overall, coronavirus cases have been on the rise, especially in few states. The recovery rate is also high. During the April-September period, COVID-19 claims accounted for 26 per cent of the overall health claims pie while the non-COVID-19 claims stood at 74 per cent.

Senior BJP leader Eknath Khadse to join NCP: Minister

Disgruntled Maharashtra BJP leader Eknath Khadse will join the NCP on Friday, state minister Jayant Patil said on Wednesday, ending speculations about the senior saffron party leader jumping the ship. Khadse was sulking since he was made to resign as minister in 2016 in the then Devendra Fadnavis-led BJP government over corruption allegations. Speaking to reporters here, Patil, who is the state NCP chief, said with the joining of a seasoned leader like Khadse, who is a former minister and ex-leader of opposition in the state Assembly, the Sharad Pawar-led party will be strengthened, particularly in the Khandesh region. Khadse, who is believed to have strained ties with Fadnavis, comes from Jalgaon district of the Khandesh region. Once seen as No.2 in the then Fadnavis cabinet, Khadse resigned as revenue minister in 2016 over land grab allegations, and since then he has been largely sidelined in the saffron party. Patil claimed "a lot of people" want to join the NCP, but said there is no need to hold bypolls amid the COVID-19 crisis. "Eknathrao Khadse saheb, who worked hard along with (late) Gopinath Munde saheb to expand and strengthen the BJP in Maharashtra for several years, told me some time back that he has quit his party," Patil said.



'Doubt whether HC order will be enforced in letter & spirit'

West Bengal Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Wednesday expressed doubt if the Calcutta High Court order making all community puja pandals as no-entry zone will be enforced in letter and spirit by the state administration. He said the state government had "failed to give a convincing roadmap during the hearing at the high court about ways to contain group transmission of COVID-19 virus if puja revellers hit the streets. Chowdhury, who is also the leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha described the Mamata Banerjee government as an "inept, inefficient regime". "The CM herself has confirmed community transmission already started in West Bengal and COVID-19 cases are on the rise in the state. Keeping that situation in mind the state has failed to convince the hon'ble high court that it will be able to check that graph if crowds are allowed on puja days," the West Bengal Congress president said. "I have doubt if the administration will succeed in enforcing the order of the high court barring entry of visitors into the pandals. There are thousands of pujas across the state, small and big," he said. Chowdhury alleged the CM has taken hasty decisions "which had only caused confusion in people's mind". The senior Congress leader further said decisions like providing Rs 50,000 as a grant to every puja committee has been taken keeping an eye on vote bank politics while many people are dying every day due to lack of proper healthcare facilities.



BJP-JD(U) alliance 'superhit' like Sachin-Sehwag in cricket: Rajnath

PNS ■ KAHALGAON (BIHAR)

Calling the BJP-JD(U) partnership as "superhit" as the opening pair of Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag in cricket, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said one can debate on the quantum of development done by the alliance government in Bihar, but no one can point a finger at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on corruption.



Attacking the opposition RJD, Singh said the people had witnessed its 15-year tenure and can see the difference between its "misrule" and the good governance of the Nitish Kumar-led alliance government.

Addressing a rally here in Bhagalpur district ahead of the Assembly polls beginning October 28, Singh said, "The

alliance of the BJP and the JD(U) is as superhit as the opening pair of Sachin and Sehwag of Indian cricket team."

He said the alliance government has provided basic facilities of electricity, road and water, which Bihar lacked for decades. "People have seen the

15-year rule of 'lalten' (RJD's poll symbol lantern) and they have also seen the development of Bihar during the BJP-JD(U) alliance government. The performance of these two governments cannot be compared. The state transformed under the NDA government," Singh

Attacking the opposition RJD, Singh said people had witnessed its 15-year tenure and can see the difference between its "misrule" and the good governance of the Nitish Kumar-led alliance govt

said. Praising Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his deputy and BJP leader Sushil Modi, Singh said there are no charges of corruption against them.

"I am not making this claim that Nitish Kumar has done everything for Bihar. It could be debated whether he has done enough work or less work or more was required to be done, but there can be no debate on their integrity," Singh said.

Singh said no one can point

a finger at Kumar on the issue of corruption.

Taking potshots at the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Singh, speaking in local Bhojpuri language, said 'lalten' has cracked and its oil has leaked and nothing will work now.

He also spoke at length about various welfare schemes of the Modi government such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.

Over 3K held for flouting Covid norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Kolkata Police has arrested over 3,000 people in the last 10 days for flouting COVID-19 protocol and not wearing masks, a senior officer said on Wednesday.

Besides, intensifying vigil in and around the city, Kolkata Police between October 11 to 20 has arrested at least 3,418 people for not wearing face masks to check the spread of coronavirus, the officer said.

"... We are trying to raise the awareness level of the people about wearing masks during this ongoing pandemic. But some people have taken this thing very casually and violating the norms. And now with the Durga Puja around and with doctors cautioning we have enhanced the vigil and started being strict with

such violators," the senior Kolkata Police officer said.

The maximum number of 734 arrests were made on October 18, while on Tuesday there were 495 arrests.

Apart from the Naka checkings, police were arresting people from places in and around the market and shopping malls which have been witnessing people gathering in large numbers for Durga Puja shopping.

"We are keeping a tight vigil on areas like New Market, Gariahat, Lake Market and areas which have markets and shopping malls and arresting people for not wearing masks," the officer said, adding that the drive will continue.

West Bengal has reported 3,29,057 COVID-19 cases and 6,180 deaths from the viral disease so far.

Priyanka slams govt over farm bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday attacked the BJP-led government at the Centre over the new farm laws and alleged that farmers in Uttar Pradesh were forced to sell paddy at a rate lower than the minimum support price.

Taking to Twitter, she also posted a video of a farmer alleging corruption in crop procurement at the Mohammadi Khiri mandi.

"The BJP government is holding a government Khat Sammelan over the bills which are against the interest of the farmers, but is not listening to the pain of the farmers," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

"In almost all the places in UP, farmers are forced to sell their paddy crops at Rs 1,000 to 1,100 per quintal, about Rs 800 less than the Rs 1,868 per quintal MSP," she said.



This is when there is a guarantee for MSP, think what will happen when this guarantee is not there, she added.

Her attack on the government comes a day after the Punjab Assembly adopted a resolution rejecting the Centre's new farm laws and passed four bills that it said will counter the contentious legislation enacted by Parliament. The three farm bills -- the

Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 -- were passed by Parliament recently. Subsequently, President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the bills.

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The Congress, many other opposition parties and several farmers organisations have been protesting against these legislations, claiming that these will harm the interests of farmers and benefit corporates, a claim denied by the government.

The Centre has asserted that these new laws will be beneficial for farmers and will increase their income.

Opposition leaders condemn Stan Swamy's arrest, urge people to break silence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders on Wednesday expressed solidarity with activist Stan Swamy, who has been booked under the UAPA, and demanded that the stringent law be repealed.

They also urged the public to break their silence on the government's efforts to "chip away the rights of the people".

The NIA arrested 83-year-old Swamy on October 8 in the Bhima Koregaon case. Activists and political leaders have been condemning Swamy's arrest, saying that despite him being a patient of Parkinson's disease and suffering from other health problems, he is now in jail.

Speaking at a press conference organised by People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUC), Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren claimed that the government was trying to silence the voices of marginalised communities.

In a video message, he alleged that under the present government, the unity, integrity and democratic structures were under attack.



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"The NDA government sitting in the centre today - it is silencing the voices of those speaking for the adivasis, Dalits and other marginalised groups, the non-BJP ruled states are being harassed, the various constitutional mechanisms of

today when someone like Stan Swamy was arrested. He is someone who has been working in Jharkhand for years, in the remote faraway villages, wandering in the jungles, just so that the adivasis, Dalits and minority populations here could be reached. This is extremely disappointing. Stan Swamy is also suffering from many diseases," Soren said.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury as well as the DMK's Kanimozhi urged civil society groups and the public to break their silence over the "government's attacks on the rights of the people".

"Today we have to make a decision as political parties, as the whole society whether to accept what is happening in silence or say this is enough and fight them together. If we accept this, then in a few years we will not see a democratic India that we know. Every law that this government has passed has chipped away the rights of the people. It's time to break the silence," Kanimozhi said in the video conference.

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The DMK on Wednesday said it is ready to join forces with the AIADMK government and protest for getting the 7.5 per cent quota in medical admissions for state-run school students, a day after the ruling dispensation sought early clearance by the Governor for a bill envisaging the reservation. Chief Minister K Palaniswami should come forward and announce a protest on the matter after consulting the opposition parties, DMK president M K Stalin said in a tweet.

In this matter, "DMK is ready to protest/talk together with the AIADMK government. @CMOTamilnadu should come forward to announce protest (demonstration) by talking with parties," the leader of the opposition in the state assembly said. Stalin also wrote to Governor Banwarilal Purohit seeking his immediate approval to the bill, passed by the assembly on September 15 for providing the horizon-

'Ready to protest alongside AIADMK'

PNS ■ CHENNAI

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tal reservation to students of government schools who clear the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

"I urge you to immediately give assent to the bill and help fulfillment of the dream of government school students to an extent to pursue medicine as their profession," he said in the letter, a copy of which he shared with his tweet.

'Thorough measures needed to deal with radicalisation in J&K'

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha advocated comprehensive measures on Wednesday to deal with radicalisation of youngsters in the Union Territory, saying terror elements from thousands of miles away are trying to infiltrate a large section of the society with the help of rabid propaganda.

Addressing policemen on the occasion of the Police Commemoration Day at Zewan on the city outskirts, Sinha hailed the Jammu and Kashmir Police for maintaining law and order and dealing

with terrorism in the Union Territory. "Indoctrination is not limited to an individual taking up a gun after brainwashing by terror outfits, but with the help of rabid online and offline propaganda, terror elements sitting thousands of miles away are trying to infiltrate a large section of the society," the LG said in his address.

He said as a part of comprehensive counter-radicalisation measures, there must be a well-coordinated, community-supported platform to publicise and propagate the sensible voices against terrorist ideology. "Our strategy on counter-radicalisation and de-radicalisation must be inclusive and

should involve community elders to promote the message of peace, prosperity and harmony," Sinha said.

He called for a regular change in strategy to deal with terror-funding from across the border. "To deal with terror-funding, there is a need to change our strategy regularly so that we tackle it with a comprehensive response," the LG said. He said cyber-patrolling and round-the-clock monitoring of malicious content on the dark web is another challenge, but asserted that the police and other security forces are capable of formulating an effective mechanism to deal with it.

In poll battle for Bihar, a war of songs erupts

PNS ■ PATNA

Amid the hustle and bustle of the Bihar assembly elections, the BJP on Wednesday got its Delhi MP and Bhojpuri singer Manoj Tiwari to reprise one of his chartbusters, appealing to voters to retain their trust in the states ruling dispensation.

Suna ho Bihar ke bhैया, launched by the party as its new election song, is a straight lift off jiya ho Bihar ke lala the foot-tapping number from Manoj Bajpayee-starrer Gangs of Wasseypur, which had acquired a cult status upon its release a decade ago.

Incidentally, the composer of the original song, Sneha Khanwalkar, had been roped in by the campaign team of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in the 2015 assembly polls when she



came out with the catchy phir se Nitish Kumar ho.

The JD(U) chief had then comfortably returned to power belying naysayers who were skeptical about his coalition with arch rival Lalu Prasad's RJD finding resonance with the voters.

Back in the NDA, Kumar is now the coalitions chief ministerial candidate, and in the new song Tiwari, who has

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retained the tune as well as the background score of the original number, reminds the voters that he wants them to support the JD(U) chief even as the larger than life persona of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his benevolence towards Bihar seems to be the central theme of the parody.

In the song that lasts nearly eight minutes, Tiwari dwells at length on the progress made by the state under the NDA rule

badi mushkil se (against various odds). He goes on to add that if someone says in spite of so many accomplishments Bihar mein ka ba (what does Bihar have to offer) then the person needs to get eyeglasses checked.

For the politically aware people of Bihar the insinuation is hard to miss.

Neha Singh Rathore, a bespectacled 20 something from Kaimur district, to which

Tiwari also belongs, has become an internet sensation with her rap song Bihar mein kaa ba where she takes a grim, sardonic view of her home state. She says a lot remains to be done despite a decade-and-a-half of sushasan (good governance).

Manoj Bajpayee's rap number Mumbai mein kaa baa, released recently to much acclaim, had inspired Rathore, who keeps a low profile and reaches out to viewers and listeners through songs which she self-records on her smart phone and uploads on social media.

A self-styled cultural activist who wants to pull Bhojpuri music out of the slush of sleaze, Rathore likes to make a political point without caring much for party affiliations.

## Crowdpuller Tejashwi

RJD leader Lalu Prasad's son has committed himself to the race rather late in the day. He may dent but can't demolish Nitish



One would have expected the pandemic to dull the campaign for the Bihar elections but Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav is certainly stealing the thunder in optics. The surging crowds at his rallies, in total violation of social distancing norms, the high decibel cheers and his promise of providing 10 lakh jobs show the despondency of the State's migrant workers, who are looking for a sliver of hope, if not the promised land. They say visuals shape perception, and though Bihar's wisened voter has seldom been swayed by spectacles and transferred votes, Tejashwi's appeal is certainly giving some anxious

moments to the Janata Dal (United) supremo and incumbent Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. But with popular sentiment favouring the BJP with which JD(U) is in a combine, can Tejashwi churn the political waters if not turn the tide? Perhaps, he has immersed himself rather late in the day but will this legitimise his claim to being the torchbearer of his father, Lalu Prasad Yadav, and his social justice movement? For now, Tejashwi, who has often been criticised for running away to Delhi at the slightest challenge and being arrogant, is seriously investing himself as a chief ministerial aspirant. And over the last six months, he has been grounded in his State, worked the grassroots and built a people connect. Most importantly, he has decided to step out of Lalu's shadow and recast the political dialogue to his specifications. He knows full well that he cannot fill his father's big shoes just yet and that RJD would still get the traditional caste-based loyalty and minority votes based on Lalu's goodwill. After all, the Yadav-Muslim combined votebase still makes for 30 per cent of the State population. So he wants to carve out a broader constituency for himself that is more contextual than historic and is keen to make the most of a time when the political stock of Bihar's one-time deliverer Nitish is at an all-time low. So instead of harping on the RJD's core plank of caste, he has made unemployment of the State's youth the pivot of his campaign, as economics is the only issue that matters in pandemic-hit times. This helps him on two counts. First, it helps him reel in the youth, who form about 24 per cent of the electorate and who, like the migrant workers, are thoroughly disenchanted with the way Nitish handled their return during the lockdown. They even idolised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for rehabilitating them in transit, a fact that the BJP is likely to encash for itself. Second, though the RJD is seen as a scam-tainted party, a new generation hardly remembers the details and Tejashwi is hoping to contemporise the party's appeal among the young. In fact, his catchy slogans, like "Nayi Soch Naya Bihar" or "Abki Bar Yuva Sarkar," are in tune with his effort to recast himself as a development-oriented leader who can fill in where Nitish failed. Besides, he has also given tickets to some upper caste leaders but has been astute enough to not upset the backward castes and Dalits, considering that Nitish has systematically chipped away at the RJD's base over the years by creating sub-categories like the Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs) and Mahadalits. Tejashwi, is, therefore, trying to broaden the party's base to make up for this slide and wants to personify the Bihar that doesn't want Nitish. It is this that makes him engaging in what was thought to be a colourless election.

The question is if the reliability and people connect can work on the ground mathematically. Of course, this time both Lalu and Tejashwi have been careful about seat allocation to allies, preferring to keep the lion's share for the party. They have learnt the hard way, drawing a blank in the Lok Sabha elections last year after contesting only 19 seats on their own and apportioning the rest among allies, who couldn't ensure vote transfers to either the RJD or the Congress. So the party is contesting 144 Assembly seats, leaving 70 for the Congress and 29 for the three Left parties. On its own, its vote-catching potential goes up but right now with Nitish splitting its pie, what with Dalit leader Jitan Ram Manjhi and other splinters migrating to the JD(U), floating outfits or becoming Independents, the RJD still needs its old allies lest they, too, desert and split the anti-vote. Besides, RJD won 80 seats in the 2015 Assembly election together with Nitish and the JD(U) votebase. That's gone now. So RJD cannot risk disadvantage itself further. Besides, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) now has a broad caste arc with the support of dominant groups like the Kurmis, Koeris/Kushwahs and Mahadalits, who account for 60 per cent of Bihar's population. Tejashwi is banking on the Left parties for transplanting "caste" with "class" and hoping to make a breakthrough among the poor and underprivileged. By and large, the Left parties have limited but committed voters and can matter in the RJD-led alliance. Besides, Tejashwi visited flood-hit refugees at their homes and toured the really backward pockets of the State. And though politically and ideologically divergent, he backed rival claimant and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan for pointing out Nitish's flaws, cleverly not antagonising himself among the Paswans, a dominant section of Dalits. Nitish needed a credible challenger much earlier for people to reconsider, a space quietly picked up by the BJP with its post-Ayodhya swell and the Modi aura. A fortnight of roaring success doesn't translate to votes. Will Tejashwi remain a talking point or indeed become a turning point?

## Keep Durga in our hearts

The PM is right, if India is to avoid a devastating second wave, our behaviour during the festive season will matter



In Kolkata and the rest of West Bengal, as well as in Bengali communities across the length and breadth of India, the coming of the festive season meant going to a Puja pandal, paying obeisance to the Mother and her children on their annual visit before indulging in food and mingling with friends and family. And not just in Bengal, where the arrival of Ma Durga meant a time of feasting and spending on new clothes and household goods, but across the country, across communities, these months meant exchanging gifts, sweets and what not. It was a time for togetherness, where children travelled back to be with their families and the

usual news stories of these times over the past few years were the exorbitant airfares across the country. However, in these Coronavirus-infected months, whether in Kolkata or in Delhi's Chittaranjan Park area, the limited and scaled down pandals have become no-go areas. But while the pandemic has dampened enthusiasm in many sensible people, who are relying on digital feeds to address their spiritual quest, others are incorrigible. Festival romantics, for whom the joys of pandal-hopping cannot be denied, have compelled the Calcutta High Court to modify its ban on entering pandals, now allowing small groups inside. How on earth will this be monitored? While this can possibly be managed in cities like Kolkata, Howrah, Asansol and Siliguri, how will the rush be controlled in the hundreds of small towns that dot the South Bengal countryside, all of which have their own Puja pandals and where people invariably use India's densest suburban rail system to work in the city of Kolkata? The potential for a regional healthcare disaster is tremendous and one presumes that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech was to ensure that things do not get out of hand. In Delhi, puja organisers have been careful and no large pandals have been set up. The few pujas that are happening are taking place purely for religious purposes in temples.

One hopes that the citizens of India pay heed to the PM's request and understand that God will not be angry if we do not go and pay obeisance in person. This is a horrible aspect of today's reality and there will be an economic price as well, but if we are to stay safe and healthy during the winter, we do not have a choice.

# Welfarism and growth

We have to get past the obsessive compulsion to look at monthly outcomes and instead adopt a medium-to-long-term approach for a sustainable recovery



BINDU DALMIA

The Indian economy has been stress-tested many times before but never been dented as savagely as this time around. But 2020 will be remembered as the year that eroded a decade's worth of progress, the *annus horribilis* that bought humanity to its knees. Governments and businesses across the world are undergoing rapid recalibrations in order to adjust to the world of extreme volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA). So, when the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) states that "the world economy is not coming back to 2019 levels until 2022", it is a comforting statement of fact that economic contraction is a universal phenomenon and not a stand-alone, India-centric affliction.

So, how is the Government catalysing towards a sustainable growth momentum? The task has not been easy for a country with limited financial resources to secure lives and livelihoods of 130 crore people, who account for 18 per cent of the world's population. Given the constraints, the Narendra Modi-led Government has pursued a path of re-booting and rebuilding the economy by wrestling four pillars parallelly. First, by addressing interim and short-term solutions for sustaining livelihoods. Second, by identifying and spending on post-COVID sectors of growth that will lead to sustainable and a long-term recovery. Third, by using its mandate to push ahead with powerful reform agenda, passing in quick succession long-pending reforms in labour, agriculture and education. India is poised for a stronger and more robust comeback as compared to partial or cyclical rebounds. Fourth, in order to maintain a steady growth momentum, the Government has pursued balancing social sector spending with infrastructure spending. The Centre recognises the importance of infrastructure as the foremost engine of growth and the need to scale up outlays to at least eight per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on "next-generation infrastructure", for which an allocation of ₹111 trillion investment has been set aside from 2020 to 25.

Can the Government do more by way of welfarist measures, given the anticipated shortfalls in revenue? The World Bank, usually the paragon of caution, has this time



around advised emerging nations like India to set aside fiscal prudence and take on further debt, as "you first worry about fighting the war, then you figure out how to pay for it."

Interim solutions lie in first addressing livelihood issues by further extending the timelines of direct income support for the rural poor, as also offering urban migrants a similar package. The Centre has spent around two per cent of GDP on welfarist schemes like direct cash transfers for income support, free grains for the rural poor, increased spendings on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNRGA) and so on. As the crisis is far from over and the duration of the pandemic is uncertain, it is doubtful the Government will prematurely withdraw welfarist spending.

By lowering interest rates, providing credit guarantees for MSMEs, allowing for loan moratoriums and one-time restructuring of loans, the Government has deployed a sizeable fiscal package of around seven per cent of GDP towards increasing liquidity. This is much required to address the supply side needs of the industry, though funding has not adequately percolated down to SMEs, who are most severely impacted by the downturn.

While globally, Central Banks have continued with massive doses of Quantitative Easing (QE), there is room for more in

emerging markets like India as the effect of rate cuts and liquidity keeps waning due to the weak transmission. However, the policy of easing credit flows is not insulated from the downside risks of defaults that could impact the health of the already fragile banking sector. Because it is a given that the impact on the financial sector isn't usually immediately visible, so the true impact of defaults on loans will reflect only in the following quarters.

The phenomenon of "revenge" or "rebound" spending during the festive months is at best a temporary surge. As we enter the festive season, there is already an average uptick by 34 per cent to 40 per cent in sector-specific surges in the major propellers of growth like retail, consumer durables, automobiles and residential housing. However, socio-economic variables have contributed to worsening VUCA levels in the services sector, which contributes 54 per cent to the GDP but has seen irrecoverable demand-destruction.

Travel, tourism, shopping, hospitality, aviation, entertainment, leisure and fashion come under the discretionary-spend service sector, which is expected to see an improvement during the festive months. Viewed through the lens of behavioural science, the phenomenon of "revenge buying, or spending on indulgences" happens after a prolonged period of suppression

on lifestyle pleasures that creates the much needed "feel-good factor." Levels of discretionary spending are a vital marker of economic health, as people only spend on lifestyle expenses once they have disposable funds left after paying for taxes, housing, savings and other essential needs.

To gauge the downward or upward trends in these sectors, predictive insights can be gained from the data of the Google Community Mobility Report that uses anonymised data provided by Google Maps. The global Google Mobility Index trends show that travel and mobility levels had fallen to 44.7 per cent in April and risen to 82 per cent by mid-September. Here again, mobility and commuting will vary with the spread or decrease in regional COVID-loads.

The aviation and hospitality industries have been among the 26 most stressed sectors and recovery is not expected before 18 to 24 months. The tourism industry contributes nine per cent to the GDP, generates substantial revenues and accounted for 87 million jobs in 2019.

The festival season is expected to give a big boost to these closely aligned sectors and will hopefully fuel the wheels of the economy till the end of 2020. Optimism thereafter rests on the advent of the vaccine by early 2021. However, with the onset of winter and the negligence of maintaining distancing proto-

cols at festive gatherings, there is a risk of further waves of viral outbreaks. This in turn will deepen the negative impact on future earnings and impact consumer spending in the following quarter of 2020 to 21.

Ultimately, the volume of consumer spending is not being dictated by need-based buying, but by what I term as the "Index of Fear-Intensity." The quantum of "Fear-Intensity" in consumers wanes and rises in response to the local COVID-load, intermittent lockdowns and the visibility of each individual's anticipated earnings over the next six months, which are now dictating behavioural patterns of consumers.

Which sectors can ride the economy towards sustainable recovery? There is empirical evidence that increased spending in infrastructure during downturns has never failed to have trickle-down effects in rebooting the economy and creating millions of jobs. As most emerging nations are constrained for resources, the Indian Government would be looking to tap into concessionary finance facilities being extended by international development finance institutions. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank and IMF are fast-tracking generous assistance to member countries facing a COVID-crisis, with global interest rates being at historic lows.

Assessing sectoral bounce backs in recovery for the July to September quarter, it has been largely driven by agriculture, while IT, healthcare, fintech, educational technology, telecom and e-commerce sectors will remain the prime engines of post-COVID growth, as they come under the category of the new "Touchless and Homebody Economy."

Stock markets, long seen as a proxy for the real economy, are now being driven by ultra-lax monetary policies in the developed world. But stock market buoyancy in no way mirrors the actual economic pain at ground levels, even as the Sensex consolidates around the 40,000 mark.

However, unlike measuring the stock market performance on a quarterly basis, corporates and the Government will have to get past the obsessive compulsion to look at monthly outcomes, and instead adopt a medium-to-long-term approach for a sustainable recovery, while remaining resilient enough to calibrate policies to the VUCA factors.

(The writer is author, columnist and Chairperson of the National Committee for Financial Inclusion at the Niti Aayog)

## SOUNDBITE

Is the mic ready? I wonder who did that to our mic? I don't believe it was Joe (Biden). You know who it was? Crooked Hillary (Clinton). It must've been.



US President — Donald Trump

I have come back with great memories, a fabulous racing experience and valuable exposure to the sport.



Go Karting racer — Aashi Hanspal

Your generation can be the one that creates a new normal in America. One that's fairer, where the system treats everybody equally and gives everybody opportunity.



Former US President — Barack Obama

Social media content must be regularly monitored to prevent its misuse by the enemies. Militancy sponsored by the neighbour is being effectively dealt with by our police.



J&K Lt Governor — Manoj Sinha

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Malabar naval exercise

Sir — As a big strategic move, India has invited Australia to the annual Malabar naval exercises after a gap of 13 years. This proves the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) — which includes the US and Japan as the other two members — as being something more than a mere talking shop. This will be the Quad's first full military-level engagement and a step closer for the eventual formalisation of the grouping. New Delhi, overcoming its previous hesitation to invite Canberra, changed tack after China's growing belligerence and the ongoing border standoff in eastern Ladakh. With China flexing its muscle across the region, the need for a counterbalancing strategic-security platform was sorely felt. Beijing, that had compared the grouping to sea foam in 2018, now sees this move as a serious concern.

The Quad, through regular naval coordination, can now actualise the idea of a free and open Indo-Pacific region. An effective navy with advanced operational logistics gives India the ability to exploit China's Malacca dilemma and disrupt energy supplies to the latter,

### Lack of adherence to Corona guidelines

On October 20, during his seventh address to the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an earnest appeal to the citizens to not be careless during the pandemic, especially as the festive season is approaching. As we continue to live with the virus, "even a small negligence" on our behalf can dampen the festive spirit. He even announced that the Government is making all possible efforts to ensure that a vaccine, whenever it is launched, reaches every Indian. However, on the other hand, COVID protocols are being brazenly violated by political parties in Bihar and other State election rallies. One such incident was when Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister, Sushil Kumar Modi, addressed an election rally at Ramgarh in Kaimur district with an estimated 20,000 people gathered to listen to him. Throwing caution to the wind, the participants clustered together, ignoring social distancing, and most did not even wear a mask.

The Election Commission's guidelines for holding a physical rally mandate social distancing of at least



two metres and all attendees wearing masks. However, in the race to woo the electorate, the political leaders have forgotten that the pandemic is not over yet. So while the PM's address was informative, the Centre needs to practise what it preaches or else Bihar elections could turn into a mass virus-spreading event.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee  
Faridabad

### Hollow promises?

Sir — Campaigning for the Assembly elections in 243 constituencies of Bihar is heating up. And at one such rally, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav promised 10 lakh Government jobs if he comes to power. In response, the Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar asked Yadav

from where does he plan to get the money for the salaries? This isn't the first time. Rather the campaigning period is usually full of such tall promises that are forgotten once the polling is over. However, it is an absolute fact that the State needs comprehensive changes in numerous sectors: Employment, economy, education, healthcare, stringent measures to save flood-affected

areas and so on. The present CM, in spite of being in alliance with the BJP, which is in power at the Centre, has failed to deal with these issues and things have only changed for the worse. There needs to be a complete overhaul of the Government and people are aware of it. However, with so many players in the ring, only time will tell who comes out on the top.

N Kalam  
Maharashtra

### China over Taiwan

Sir — Beijing is enraged as India considers formal trade negotiations with Taiwan. China's territorial and economic imperialism has forced its neighbours to look for alternatives and a way to counter the dragon.

So, even though New Delhi has been reluctant to seek trade talks with Taiwan earlier, such a step would reduce our dependence on China for supplies and further the goal of seeking greater investments in technology.

KV Seetharamiah  
Hassan

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## FIRST COLUMN

## A sad epoch in human history

Having planned Operation Gulmarg, Pakistan unleashed its tribal militia on Jammu and Kashmir on October 22, 1947



RAGHVENDRA SINGH

Today is a black day in history and India is observing it as such, to protest against Pakistan's role in instigating violence and terror in the Valley. Having planned Operation Gulmarg, Pakistan unleashed its tribal militia on Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) on October 22, 1947. Overruling Muzaffarabad, Domel and Uri, the tribal *lashkars*, led by Pakistan Army personnel, reached Baramulla on October 26 and wreaked havoc. A November 10 despatch by Robert Trumbull of *The New York Times* relates vividly the death and destruction that was unleashed upon the town by the marauders. It had been stripped of its wealth and dignity before the tribesmen fled in the face of advancing Indian troops, who had rushed to the rescue of the hapless residents. Survivors of those events estimated that 3,000 of their fellow townsmen, including four Europeans and a retired British Army officer, Colonel Dykes, and his pregnant wife, were slain. When the raiders rushed into town on October 26, one party of Mahsud tribesmen scaled the walls of the Saint Joseph's Franciscan Convent compound and stormed the convent hospital and the church. Twenty-four hours later, when the Indian Army entered Baramulla, only 1,000 were left of the population of about 14,000.

Max Despot, an *Associated Press* photographer, described on November 2 that he saw more than 20 villages in flames while flying over a section of Kashmir Valley, extending within 20 miles of Srinagar. The villages had been set on fire by the invaders, who were scouring the Valley and moving in the direction of Srinagar.

Sydney Smith of *Daily Express* of London was in the Baramulla Hospital during those ten days and filed a first hand report of the attack on the convent. "The tribal *lashkars* had come shooting their way down from the hills on both sides of the town. They climbed over the hospital walls from all sides. The first group burst into a ward firing at the patients. A 20-year-old Indian nurse, Philomena, tried to protect a Muslim patient whose baby had just been born. She was shot dead first and the new mother was next. Mother Superior Aldetrude rushed into the ward, and as she knelt over Philomena, she was attacked and robbed. When the Assistant Mother, Teresalina, saw a tribesman point a rifle at Mother Aldetrude, she jumped in front of her and a bullet went through Teresalina's heart. At that moment, Colonel Dykes raced from his room to get the Mother Superior out of danger, shouting at the tribesman as he ran. But the Mother Superior was shot and Colonel Dykes collapsed beside her, with a bullet in his stomach. His wife ran from her husband's room to help the Colonel, but she too, was shot. While this went on, Gee Boretto, an Anglo-Indian, was killed in the garden in front of nine nuns. Then the nuns themselves were lined up before a firing squad. We did not find Mrs Dykes until the following day. She had been thrown down a well. Reports had come that the chief of another Evangelical Mission, Major Ronald Davis, a Welshman, and one of his two English women assistants, had been shot dead. The other assistant was said to have been taken to the hills," says Smith in his report.

Abdul Rahman of Baramulla, too, recorded his observations and said that the raiders looted the Hindus to begin with, burnt the houses of the Sikhs and killed them. "As a result of this arson and loot, the Sikhs and the Hindus fled Baramulla, leaving their houses burning, and most of their women were raped and kidnapped. The raiders did not touch the Muslims to begin with — perhaps they wanted to win their sympathy. After a few days when they found that they were about to be forced out of the Valley, they turned on everybody. They started wholesale loot, arson and rape. They killed whoever came in their way. The raiders also took all the valuable ornaments of silver and gold, shawls and so on when they left," he recalled.

According to the Wazir-i-Wazarat of Baramulla, Chaudury Faizullah, the tribal *lashkars* entered in groups of 30-40 men. Over 5,000 of them were concentrated in Baramulla at one time. They were mostly tribesmen with a few Punjabi Muslims, all well-armed and led by Pirs, Pakistan Army and Frontier Constabulary officers. The local Muslim Conference men joined the raiders and acted as guides. From the day the raiders entered the town, they started killing non-Muslims and looting and burning houses, irrespective of religion and raping women. They broke into houses in groups of 10-12, robbed them and carried away valuables, clothes and food. About 280 lorries were used to ferry this loot. The Pakistani raiders left on the night of November 7 when the Indian Army re-captured it. The *Times of London* reported on November 11 that residents seemed delighted to welcome the Indian troops. The Press despatch also bore testimony to the fact that the convent and hospital were not destroyed by the Indian aerial attacks as alleged by Pakistan wireless statements.

(The writer is Secretary, Ministry of Culture)

THIS (KAPIL'S) SHOW IS FULL OF DOUBLE MEANING WORDS, IN WHICH THE MEN WEAR WOMEN'S CLOTHES, DO CHEAP THINGS AND PEOPLE LAUGH.

—ACTOR  
MUKESH KHANNA

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT



IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE PEOPLE SMILE. I HAVE CHOSEN HAPPINESS AND PREFER TO FOCUS ON MY WORK AND CONTINUE TO KEEP DOING THAT IN FUTURE.  
—ACTOR AND COMEDIAN  
KAPIL SHARMA

## The lines are blurred

The judgment in the Rhea Chakraborty case has virtually laid down a new norm with regard to police jurisdictions, one which may be misused by complainants



AMIT JAISWAL

One issue which has captured the imagination of India and occupied most of the space in the country's electronic and print news media in recent times, especially some television channels, is the untimely death by suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR). The young man, who was originally from Bihar, was found dead in his home in Bandra, Mumbai on June 14, where he had hung himself.

Going by the set procedures in such cases and given that this was a high-profile one involving a celebrity's death, the Mumbai Police went about its work diligently. It recorded the statements of 56 people, including the immediate family members, relatives, live-in partner, friends and staff of the deceased actor. At that point of the investigation, none of them alleged any foul play. Their statements, too, did not suggest a cognisable offence. Consequently, the Mumbai Police registered the matter as an accidental death and proceeded in terms of Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). However, after about 40 days, on July 25, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered at the Rajiv Nagar police station in Patna, Bihar, at the instance of the actor's father, KK Singh, levelling allegations of breach of trust, misappropriation of property of his deceased son and abetment to suicide against his live-in partner Rhea Chakraborty and her family members.

A police team from Patna went to Mumbai to carry out the investigation. However, the Mumbai Police raised the issue of jurisdiction and there was a lot of acrimony over the issue. Finally, on the recommendation of the Bihar Government, the Central Government directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to carry out the probe in the matter. Meanwhile Rhea Chakraborty approached the Supreme Court under Section 406 of the CrPC for the transfer of the FIR from the jurisdiction of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate III, Patna Sadar, to the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bandra, Mumbai.

Now, the settled legal position is that the FIR has to be registered at the police station, which has jurisdiction over the area where the offence or any part of it is alleged to have been committed. *Prima facie* the Patna Police had no jurisdiction to register an FIR in the matter. Even if the complaint filed with the Bihar Police disclosed commission of some cognisable offence, the established procedure would be to register a "zero FIR" and transfer it to the police station empowered to do so. The Section which becomes relevant in this matter is Section 181(4) of the CrPC. It reads, "Any offence of criminal misappropriation or of criminal breach of trust may be inquired into or tried by a court within whose local jurisdiction the offence was committed. Or any part of the property, which is the subject of the offence, was received or retained, or was required to be returned or accounted for, by the accused person."

The Supreme Court, in its judgment, upheld the validity of registering the FIR in Patna, mainly on the ground that the allegations also related to criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of money, which were to be eventually accounted for in Patna (where the complainant resides) and that could *prima facie* indicate the

THE APEX COURT HEAVILY RELIED UPON THE WORDS 'ACCOUNTED FOR' IN THE SECTION TO UPHOLD THE VALIDITY OF THE FIR. IT DID CITE A FEW JUDGMENTS TO SUBSTANTIATE ITS REASONING. IT CAN SAFELY BE SAID THAT IN NONE OF THE CITED JUDGMENTS, THE WORDS 'ACCOUNTED FOR' HAVE BEEN USED OR APPLIED BY THE COURTS. THEY DID NOT IMPLY THAT ONLY BECAUSE THE ACCUSED WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ACCOUNTABLE TO LEGAL HEIRS OF THE DECEASED, THE FIR COULD BE LODGED WHEREVER THE LEGAL HEIRS OF THE DECEASED RESIDE



lawful jurisdiction of the Patna Police.

The apex court heavily relied upon the words "accounted for" in the Section to uphold the validity of the FIR. It did cite a few judgments to substantiate its reasoning. Though it is not possible to discuss every single judgment here, it can safely be said that in none of the cited judgments, the words "accounted for" have been used or applied by the courts. They did not imply that only because the accused would eventually be accountable to legal heirs of the deceased, the FIR could be lodged wherever the legal heirs of the deceased reside, even though no part of the offence has ever taken place within the jurisdiction of that police station.

For argument's sake, let us take a hypothetical case of a businessman, who commits suicide in Mumbai due to alleged financial wrongdoing on the part of his business associate or agent or even a creditor. Now, let us say that one son of the deceased businessman resides in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and another in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. By virtue of this judgment, the police forces of these two places would have the jurisdiction to register an FIR and investigate the matter only because the money was eventually to be accounted for to the satisfaction of the legal heirs in these two cities. Thus, they would have the option to choose the place/State which best suited their interests. An FIR sets criminal law into motion and, therefore, a probe by the police will follow. A police team from Lucknow or Ahmedabad, as the case may be, will have to travel all the way to Mumbai for

the investigation, collecting evidence and recording the statements of witnesses. Will any meaningful probe be possible in this manner? Will it not create a situation of political slugs and inter-State wrangling with regard to investigations by the police force of one State into a crime committed within the territorial jurisdiction of another State? Will every such case then be assigned to the CBI or some other Central agency?

Another aspect which needs to be noticed is that as per Supreme Court Rules notified on May 11, a single judge is competent to hear certain bail matters and transfer applications. The relevant apex court rule reads, "Provided that the following categories of matters may be heard and disposed of finally by a judge sitting singly nominated by the Chief Justice: Special leave petitions arising out of grant, dismissal or rejection of Bail Application or Anticipatory Bail Application in the matters filed against the order passed under Section 437, Section 438 or Section 439 of the CrPC 1973 (two of 1974) involving the offences punishable with sentence up to seven years imprisonment; applications for transfer of cases under Section 406 of the CrPC 1973 (two of 1974); application of an urgent nature for transfer of cases under Section 25 of the CrPC 1908 (five of 1908)."

Now Rhea Chakraborty filed a petition under Section 406 of the CrPC for transfer of investigation in the FIR registered at Patna, Bihar to Mumbai, which was dismissed by the single judge on the ground that Section 406 of the

CrPC does not grant the apex court any such power. Once the petition for transfer itself had been declined, there was no occasion to further decide the jurisdiction of the Patna Police to register an FIR, as it was neither a consequential matter, nor was the decision of transfer petition dependent on the adjudication of validity of the FIR. On the perusal of the Rules reproduced above, there was no occasion for the single judge to adjudicate upon these issues. In effect, the judgment says that in cases where a person commits suicide or is murdered and there are allegations of breach of trust or misappropriation of property, then the FIR can be registered by the legal heirs of the deceased at any police station in India, wherever they reside. The investigation then will have to be carried out by the officer in-charge of that police station, though no part of the offence has ever taken place within its jurisdiction.

The judgment in the Rhea Chakraborty case has virtually laid down a new jurisprudence with regard to police jurisdictions. It has blurred lines and has serious implications on the criminal justice system so far as the initiation of criminal proceedings is concerned. This will only result in confusion and is susceptible to misuse by complainants. The court has given an open-ended and wide interpretation to the words "accounted for" in Section 181(4) of the CrPC. This is bound to give birth to myriad and complicated issues in the near future.

(The writer is an advocate in the Punjab and Haryana High Court)

## New strategies for the new normal

This outbreak serves as a reminder for retailers to be more proactive in planning and resilient in their response to future disruptions



SWAPNIL SONI

KOSHIA JOSHI

The Indian retail industry is a highly competitive, \$800 billion market with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12 per cent. Out of that, the share of online retail is \$32.7 billion with a CAGR of 31 per cent. Smartphone penetration, brand consciousness, demographics and policy support are the factors transforming and pushing this industry towards omnichannel retailing.

Omnichannel retailing is a fully-integrated approach to commerce, providing shoppers a unified experience across all channels or touchpoints, including online and offline. It offers consistent merchandise and seamless interaction between online and offline channels, thus combining the benefits

of both. However, the pandemic and subsequent national and local lockdowns have greatly impacted both supply and demand. The supply side was hit by administrative restrictions and limited resources while demand, too, remained subdued due to job-losses, salary cuts and restrictive spending. In such a situation, an agile response is needed for swift operations, customer satisfaction and surviving in the post-Corona era.

**Evolving consumer behaviour:** Though retail has undergone many significant disruptions in the past, perhaps none has shifted consumer behaviour as rapidly as this contagion has. The changes are happening due to factors like challenges in personal situations, preferences towards local products, precautionary measures against the virus and rising digital awareness — a by-product of promotion of contactless transaction.

Even in the unlock stage, consumers are hesitating to visit stores and while exercising social distancing measures, many uninitiated customers are moving towards online retailing. For example, many senior citizens are opting for online grocery shopping as a

precautionary measure. Use of services like contactless digital payments, social commerce and virtual consultation are also seeing a rise.

Many of these behavioural changes will continue even after the pandemic is over. McKinsey and Company cited this as "consumer behaviour shift." For example, people will get used to the comfort of home delivery, ease of digital payments, varieties offered by online markets and so on. Retailers need to draw insights from these changes and rebuild the consumer confidence as the new normal continues.

**Financial skills:** Revenue is sharply dropping for many categories. Even though store profit has gone down, retailers need to pay rents, salaries and so on. Hence, at this point it is necessary for them to optimise cost and curtail the offerings to profitable items. In the long-term, as demand picks up, it would be prudent to invest in omnichannel fulfillment as means to financial resilience.

**Accept the new normal:** Social distancing, safety and hygiene procedures will be here for a while. The best way to go forward is to accept the new normal and the complexity it will

bring to decision-making.

**Consumer connect:** Now more than ever, it is must for retailers to connect and communicate. Consumers will definitely like to know what a business is doing to ensure their safety, for delivery as well as in stores. Despite the pandemic, customers will need timely deliveries of their order. So, in case of item shortages or delayed fulfillment, it is necessary to explain the cause and convey the commitment.

**Extra activity:** First and foremost, retailers need to adapt to safety regulations, sanitisation procedures and regulatory directives at the country, State and municipal level in various phases of the unlocking. They need more dynamic inventory and logistics planning to meet the fluctuations both in demand and supply, plus a connect with employees regarding their health and financial well-being. This will prevent attrition and business continuity.

**Infrastructure:** The Indian online retail infrastructure is in an intermediate stage. The pandemic just exposed the flaws and inefficiency which were already there. Retailers should review the location of warehouses, delivery centres and their distributors to com-

pute the risk of supply chain disruptions. The partnership with local grocery stores will help retailers to ensure timely contactless last mile delivery even during a crisis. Retailers also need to re-imagine in-store experience, considering customers' safety and efficient operation with reduced staff while complying with social distancing norms.

**Technology skills:** Technology allows retailers to have relevant information and visibility throughout the supply chains, resulting in timely communication with all the stakeholders. Businesses will need secured, informative and intuitive shopping apps, which can balance for the lack of store visits. Also, Artificial Intelligence will continue to make a big impact in this sector to predict real-time consumer demand, optimise inventory and manage backorders, thus ensuring operational agility.

Also, Smart Mirrors and Augmented Reality can help build a store-like environment in the virtual world, ensuring safety. This way, retailers and associated stakeholders need to ramp up technological skills and infrastructure as they enter a post-pandem-

ic era. As of today, India is among the top countries with the highest number of COVID cases and there is no end to the contagion in sight. Even the countries, where the outbreak seemed to be in control initially, are experiencing a second wave. This has caused supply and demand disruption and jolted the market ecosystem.

Hence, it is certain that retailers, that are an integral part of the demand-driven economy, need to be financially prudent, fast in their response to the new dynamics and ready to collaborate through the value chain to thrive during this crisis and subsequent periods. As with many sectors, it is likely that retail will see a regime shift and consolidation. Smaller and financially-struggling businesses might face difficulty in surviving this crisis. At the same time, retailers with a unique value proposition will come out stronger. This outbreak serves as a reminder for retailers to be more proactive in planning and resilient in their response to unprecedented disruptions in future.

(The writers are Senior Research Scholars at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.)



FOREIGN EYE



WORK, EDUCATION REVOLUTION AHEAD

Because the pace of technological change, digitisation and globalisation just keeps accelerating, the world is being knit together more tightly than ever — sure, the globalisation of goods and people has been slowed by the pandemic and politics, but the globalisation of services has soared — and the half-life of skills is steadily shrinking, meaning that whatever skill you possess today is being made obsolete faster and faster. (The NYT editorial)

# 'Antivirals, hyperloops among 20 markets to transform economies'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The World Economic Forum on Wednesday released a list of 20 markets of tomorrow that will transform economies in an inclusive and sustainable way, and named India among the countries that present solid technological systems for such a transformation.

However, several countries, including India, will need development in the social and institutional fabric to deliver these markets, the Geneva-based organisation said in a white paper released at its 'Jobs Reset Summit 2020', which is being held online.

These 20 'markets of tomorrow' include broad-spectrum antivirals, spaceflights, skills capital, water rights and quality credits, genes and DNA sequences, precision medicines and orphan drugs, EdTech (education technology) and reskilling services, artificial intelligence, satellite services, greenhouse gas allowances, reforestation services, and hydrogen. Besides, electric vehicles, plastics recycling, care, data, digital financial services, hyperloop-based transport services, new antibiotics, and



unemployment insurance have also been included in this list.

The WEF said some of these new markets will rely particularly on advances in technology, while others will require radically new social and institutional set-ups. Some markets will emerge from a combination of both the elements.

These markets can help societies protect and empower people, advance knowledge and understanding, and protect the environment, among other benefits. The WEF said countries with advanced technological capabilities, strong social capital and future-oriented institutions are more likely to create a broader range of new markets needed for economic

transformation.

"As the world grapples with the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an increasing demand to shape a new economy that addresses broader societal and environmental challenges while generating economic growth," it said. To achieve this, the world needs to set an ambitious agenda of technological and socio-institutional innovations to pilot new markets that can help solve these challenges, the WEF added. It added that India, Spain and Japan are just below the bar in terms of socio-institutional innovation, while the economy of Taiwan, China, is just above.

## Half of working adults worried about jobs, says global survey

NEW DELHI: More than half of the working adults globally are concerned about losing their job in the next 12 months, including 57 per cent in India, but more than two-thirds are hopeful that their employers will help them retrain for new employment opportunities, a global survey showed on Wednesday.

The survey, released at the World Economic Forum's 'Jobs Reset Summit' being held online, also showed wide variations between countries, while an average of three in four workers in Russia feared job losses, it was just one in four in Germany.

In India, nearly 57 per cent of respondents said they are 'concerned' about their jobs -- over 25 per cent are 'very concerned' and 31 per cent are 'somewhat concerned'.

Globally, 54 per cent concerned about job losses in the next 12 months, the WEF-Ipsos global survey of more than 12,000 working adults in 27 countries showed.

The prevalence of job-loss concern was highest at 75 per cent in Russia, followed by 73 per cent in Spain and 71 per cent in Malaysia. Germany scored the best with 26 per cent, while it was 30 per cent in Sweden, and 36 per cent in the Netherlands and the US.

However, 67 per cent of workers worldwide said they can learn skills needed for the jobs of the future through their current employer. Nearly nine in 10 workers in Spain think they can gain essential new skills on the job, whereas fewer than half in Japan, Sweden and Russia.

Across the 27 countries, perceived ability to learn and develop those skills on the job was found to be the most widespread in Spain (86 per cent), Peru (84 per cent), and Mexico (83 per cent) and the least common in Japan (45 per cent), Sweden (46 per cent), and Russia (48 per cent). India also scored very high at 80 per cent.

## Independent directors a 'puzzle', says Sebi chief

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Describing independent directors as a "puzzle", Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi on Wednesday urged such directors resigning from boards of companies to flag corporate governance concerns if they have any.

Independent directors have an important role to perform as they are a voice of the minority shareholders and added that in the last two-three years, Sebi has seen a rise in the number of resignations of such people.

"If any such resignation is on account of governance concern, considering the role of, and expectations from, independent directors, I urge the resigning independent directors to come forward and state the same clearly to the public at large," Tyagi said at an event organised by industry grouping CII.

He also said that the directors are mandated to give reasons for their resignations within seven days and go beyond "cryptic" writing to detail out an exact reason for their move.

Tyagi admitted that the independent directors are a "puzzle" which the Sebi is trying to deal with as it attempts



**Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi admitted that the independent directors are a "puzzle" which the Sebi is trying to deal with as it attempts to strengthen the overall systems**

to strengthen the overall systems.

India Inc has faced frauds over the last few years and regulators have been making efforts to strengthen the corporate governance standards.

"...the whole thing that they (independent directors) are the voice of the minority shareholders, to what extent should they be accountable and responsible, how they fit in into the board structure, which type of people should be taken are among the issues Sebi is grappling with, Tyagi said.

According to him, industry groupings like CII, which is at present headed by banker Uday Kotak who had drafted the code on corporate governance, will play an important role.

The industry bodies have to self-regulate, introspect more and set higher standards on corporate governance, Tyagi said. Investors, including institutional and retail, also have an important role to play and need to participate in the voting processes more actively, he added.

Similarly, auditors, credit rating agencies, debenture trustees and proxy advisors also have an important role to play in upping the overall standards and helping usher reforms, he noted.

Further, Tyagi said that reforms should not be limited to a radical change alone and stressed that small, incremental changes also constitute reforms.

## Sensex rises 163 points, Nifty 40

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Extending its gains for the fourth session, equity benchmark Sensex ended 163 points higher on Wednesday, led by index majors HDFC twins and ICICI Bank.

After gyrating 825.54 points in a highly volatile session, the 30-share BSE index ended 162.94 points or 0.40 per cent higher at 40,707.31.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 40.85 points or 0.34 per cent to finish at 11,937.65.

PowerGrid was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging over 4 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, Tata Steel, NTPC, HDFC Bank, UltraTech Cement and Kotak Bank.



On the other hand, TCS, Nestle India, Reliance Industries and HCL Tech were among the laggards.

"Domestic indices managed to close in the green, but not without its share of hiccups over rumours on waiver of interest on loans," said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

Banks and metals provided support even as several stocks saw profit booking during afternoon trade, he added.

## PNC Infratech lowest bidder for Rs 1,001 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Infrastructure company PNC Infratech on Wednesday said it has emerged as the lowest bidder for a Rs 1,001 crore project in Andhra Pradesh.

The company has been declared the LI (lowest) bidder in an EPC Project for "Upgradation of Canal System from Pothreddypadu Head Regulator and BCR Complex from foreshore of Srisaillam Reservoir and improvements to existing SRBC/GNSS Canal up to berm level from Banakacherla Complex to Gorukallu Balancing Reservoir...with the Water Resources Department, Andhra Pradesh," PNC Infratech said in a statement.

## IEX sees 13.2 pc growth in electricity sales in Q2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) on Wednesday said it has recorded a 13.2 per cent rise in electricity sales to 16,486 million units (MU) in the September quarter, as power demand accelerated and returned to pre-COVID levels.

The second quarter witnessed a sharp recovery in industrial activities and electricity consumption, owing to easing of the lockdown restrictions across the country, an IEX statement said.

"The electricity volumes on the exchange witnessed an increase of 13.2 per cent Y-o-Y (year-on-year) in Q2FY21 (July-September 2020) and stood at 16,486 MU as compared to 14,560 MU in



Q2FY20 (July-September 2019)," it added.

The second quarter initially saw a slump in manufacturing due to re-lockdowns in a few states, however, the industrial activity picked up momentum in August and September, it said.

With the rise in economic

and industrial activities, the power demand also accelerated and returned to the pre-COVID levels, IEX said.

The country witnessed a 2 per cent y-o-y growth in national peak demand and 4.6 per cent increase in energy consumption in September 2020.

## Fitch affirms Kerala rating at 'BB' with stable outlook

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Rating agency Fitch on Wednesday affirmed its rating for Kerala at 'BB' with a stable outlook.

The BB rating is for the long-term foreign currency and local currency issuer default ratings of the state, the agency said in a statement.

"The BB rating affirmation with stable outlook" is based on a 'mid-range' assessment of the state's risk profile and a moderate 'bbb' debt-sus-

tainability assessment, Fitch said, adding that Kerala is a 'type A' government as it can incur structural deficits.

The agency has assessed the state's revenue robustness as 'stronger' and the standalone credit profile in 'BB' category, reflecting a combination of the mid-range risk profile.

The state's gross regional product (GRP) rose 11.4 per cent in FY19 at current prices to Rs 7.8 lakh crore, which is compound annual growth

rate (CAGR) of 10.4 per cent in the immediate past four years (FY15-FY19).

"We estimate FY20 GRP at Rs 8.7 lakh crore. Kerala's total revenue increased at a four-year (FY15-FY19) CAGR of 12.5 per cent, faster than its GRP," it said.

The state has stable revenue sources, as its tax and non-tax revenue accounted for 67 per cent of operating revenue in FY19, higher than the all-state average of 55 per cent.

## Bajaj Finance Q2 net profit falls 36%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL) on Wednesday reported a 36 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit at Rs 965 crore for the second quarter of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The non-banking finance company had posted a net profit of Rs 1,506 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago.

Its total consolidated income grew 3 per cent to Rs

6,523 crore during the July-September period of 2020-21 as against Rs 6,323 crore in the same quarter a year earlier, BFL said in a regulatory filing.

Net interest income was up 4 per cent at Rs 4,165 crore as against Rs 4,000 crore.

The Pune-headquartered company said new loans booked during the second quarter of this fiscal dropped 44 per cent to 36.2 lakh as against 64.7 lakh in the corresponding period a year ago.

## Women taking to Data Science

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Gender positive workplace policies are attracting more women to the Data Science space, as a significant percentage of women believe that there are more opportunities for them in the AI and Analytics field now than five years ago, says a survey.

According to a survey by ed-tech company Great Learning, while 54 per cent women said there are more opportunities for them in AI than five years ago, 27 per cent believe that equal growth and pay for the same level of experience and education will encourage more women. The top five factors cited for this rise in opportunity include positive workplace policies, greater participation of women in the hiring process, favourable recruitment policies, lesser bias towards women and presence of more role-models for women than before, the survey added.

## Cathay Pacific to cut 8,500 jobs

PNS ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong airline Cathay Pacific Airways said Wednesday it would cut 8,500 jobs and shut a regional airline as it grapples with the plunge in air travel due to the pandemic.

About 5,300 employees based in Hong Kong and another 600 elsewhere will likely lose their jobs, and 2,600 unfilled positions will be cut. The cuts are about 24 per cent of the company's workforce, Cathay Pacific said in a statement. "The global pandemic continues to have a devastating impact on aviation and the hard truth is we must fundamentally restructure the group to survive," Cathay Pacific CEO Augustus Tang said in a statement. The company said it will also shut down Cathay Dragon, its regional airline unit, with operations ceasing from Wednesday. It will seek regulatory approval for most of the routes to be operated by Cathay Pacific and its budget airlines subsidiary HK Express.

## UK govt borrowing rises to record due to Covid

PNS ■ LONDON

The UK government's borrowing rose to the highest level on record in the first half of the financial year as tax revenue fell and authorities spent billions of pounds to prop up

an economy ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Office for National Statistics said Wednesday that the government borrowed a net 36.1 billion pounds (USD 47.1 billion) in September, pushing the total for the first six months of the

year to 208.5 billion pounds. That's the highest figure since records began in 1993.

Tax revenue dropped 11.6 per cent from a year earlier in the six months through September. At the same time, support for individuals and businesses to get

through the pandemic contributed to a 34 per cent increase in day-to-day spending.

Public sector net debt now stands at 103.5 per cent of the U.K.'s annual economic output, the highest level since 1960, the ONS said.

## Integrated terminal building at Pune airport by Mar '22

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The new integrated terminal building being constructed at Pune airport with an investment of Rs 475 crore to handle 2,300 passengers during the peak hours is expected to be completed by March 2022, AAI said on Wednesday.

A multi-level car park (ground plus three storeyed +2 basement floors) is also under construction at a cost of Rs 120 crore as part of the airport revamp plan, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) said in a release.

AAI has undertaken the construction work for the new integrated terminal building at



Pune Airport in order to cater to the continuous surge in passenger traffic and ease congestion at the airport.

More than 40 per cent of the work is completed and the new building, which is spread

in over 5 lakh sq ft area, is likely to be completed by March, 2022, AAI said.

The swanky new terminal building will be able to process 2,300 passengers (1,700 domestic and 600 interna-

AAI has undertaken the construction work for the new integrated terminal building in order to cater to the continuous surge in passenger traffic and ease congestion

tional) during peak hours, it said, adding that it will be equipped with five boarding bridges, 34 check-in counters and in-line baggage handling

system. Besides, 32,000 sq ft space has been provisioned for food and beverages and retail outlets inside the airport, the release said.

The project also includes construction of a service yard of 3,800 sq metre, a 10-lakh litre capacity underground tank, 1,130 kilo litres per day capacity sewage treatment plant, among others, it said.

With a parking capacity of 1,024 cars, the facility will be connected to the departure area of the existing building with a sky bridge with provision of escalators and an elevator at the building side for dropping/going up.

## MONEY MATTERS

### DB Corp Q2 net profit falls 62 pc to Rs 28.52 crore

Media group DB Corp on Wednesday reported a 62.26 per cent fall in consolidated net profit at Rs 28.52 crore in the second quarter ended on September 30, 2020, on account of lower revenue from operations. The company had reported a net profit of Rs 75.57 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago. Revenue from operations during the quarter under review was down 34.82 per cent at Rs 346.36 crore as against Rs 531.39 crore in second quarter of 2019-20, DB Corp said in a regulatory filing. The company publishes newspapers such as Dainik Bhaskar, Divya Bhaskar, Divya Marathi and Saurashtra Samachar. Meanwhile, in a separate filing, DB Corp informed the BSE that its board approved the appointment of Santosh Desai as an additional director with effect from October 21, 2020 to hold the office as a non-executive independent director for a term of three years subject to the approval by the shareholders.



### BDR Pharma launches generic cancer drug in India

BDR Pharmaceuticals on Wednesday said it has launched the generic version of Lenvatinib drug for the treatment of various types of cancers in India. The generic version of the drug has been launched under the brand name 'Bdfoie' in the country. The capsules are used for the treatment of differentiated thyroid cancer, advanced liver cancer and advanced kidney cancer, BDR Pharma said in a statement. The results of clinical trials showed encouraging results with safety and efficacy on patients with aggressive tumours, it added. The drug is priced at Rs 1,620 (4 mg) and Rs 2,970 (10 mg) for a pack of 10 capsules, the statement said. "By launching cost-effective therapy options we want to mitigate the challenges faced by Indian patients in seeking access to treatment and finding a timely cure for life threatening diseases," BDR Pharmaceuticals CMD Dharmesh Shah said.



### DLF pre-leases 7.7 lakh sq ft office space in Chennai

Realty major DLF's rental arm has given on lease 7.7 lakh sq ft office space to Standard Chartered GBS in an upcoming commercial tower in Chennai to be constructed at a cost of around Rs 450 crore, a senior company official said on Wednesday. DLF Cyber City Developers Ltd (DCCDL), which is a joint venture between DLF and Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC, has leased the space in its commercial project "DLF Downtown" at Taramani in Chennai being developed with a total investment of Rs 5,000 crore. "We have signed an anchor leasing deal with Standard Chartered GBS for our upcoming office building at DLF Downtown," DLF's Managing Director (Rental Business) Sriram Khattar told PTI. Khattar said this is one of the largest office space leasing deals in recent times. "We will be developing a built-to-suit office building of 10 lakh sq ft leasable area in this project. We have pre-leased 7.7 lakh sq ft space to Standard Chartered GBS as an anchor tenant."



### Skoda Auto Volkswagen India exports over 25k cars

Skoda Auto Volkswagen India on Wednesday said it has exported over 25,000 cars in the current year so far and achieved the milestone of shipping out 5,00,00th domestically produced car, despite the challenging demand scenario globally. The 5,00,00th milestone car is a left hand-drive Vento sedan, which is part of a batch of 982 cars being shipped out to Mexico from Mumbai port, Skoda Auto Volkswagen India Private Ltd (SAWVPL) said in a release. The European car major started exports of its vehicles from India in 2010 with 65 units of the India-built Volkswagen Vento for the South Africa market. Since then, the company has continued to grow incrementally to build the 'Made in India' presence to 61 countries across South America, Central America, Africa and others.



Imagine finding friends in people you never met? Imagine thousands of them helping pay for a crucial surgery without even knowing who you are, but doing it all in the name of humanity?

That's exactly what happened with Yona and his 10-year-old daughter Blessy. They talk to *The Pioneer's* RACHEL DAMMALA on how a community of people that cared for them, regardless of age, gender, and language

## LENDING A HELPING HAND



I thank everybody that shelled out every penny to make me see another day in my life. When I grow up to be a doctor, I'll treat the poor free of cost so they won't have to go through all that my father did to save me

BLESSY

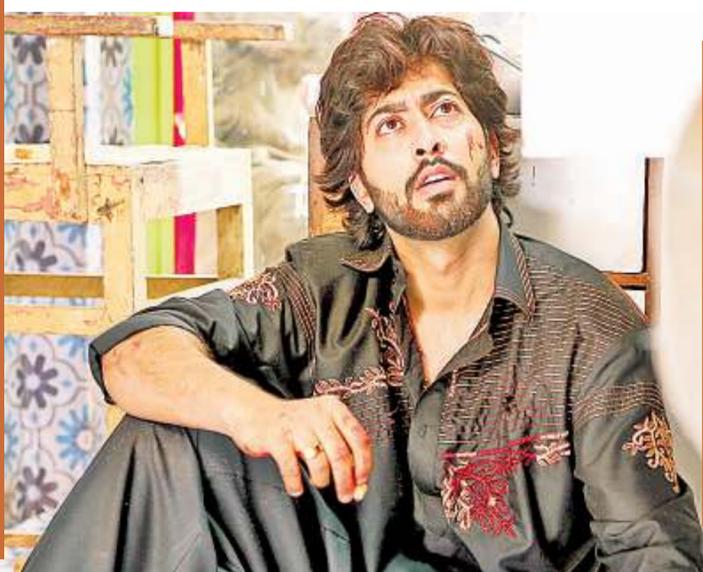


## Applauses for Ankur Bhatia soaring high

Ankur Bhatia is playing the main antagonist in the series *Crackdown*, which has an ensemble cast. Clearly standing out as Tariq who is the head of the Pakistani army, he is as menacing as it can get and is a sight to behold with his portrayal of the character. Praises are pouring in from every nook and corner, with audiences loving the series. He worked in Sarabjit, Haseena Parker, and Aarya earlier and his graph as an actor has only been going up and he knows no limits now.

"It was a fantastic time shooting for *Crackdown*. We finished it just in the nick of time. I would like to thank Apoorva Lakhia sir for this wonderful opportunity. I hope I have been able to do pure justice to it. We wanted it to be a menacing character as well as a memorable one, seems we have managed to do just that. Acting is something that makes me feel alive and gives me a kick. It's my only passion as I quit a Wallstreet job for this. I am lucky to have been getting some great opportunities. We as a team put in our best from *Crackdown* and I think the results are very convincing," shares Ankur.

Fans are asking for Season 2 and it will be sometime before we hear about that. It's been some solid performances and we have clear standouts in them. Ankur definitely completes both.



**CLEARLY STANDING OUT AS TARIQ WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE PAKISTANI ARMY, HE IS AS MENACING AS IT CAN GET AND IS A SIGHT TO BEHOLD WITH HIS PORTRAYAL OF THE CHARACTER IN CRACKDOWN**

We often wonder "what can my contribution alone do?" The miraculous story of a 10-year-old girl who was able to beat a fatal disease will make you rethink how valuable every single contribution as a community is.

All of a decade old, Blessy, a happy-go-lucky girl was diagnosed with Wilson's Disease, which could potentially take her life if not operated upon. An immediate liver transplant was the only road to her recovery. Her father, Yona, an auto-driver couldn't afford the 26-lakh rupee surgery. But when somebody told him about seeking help from strangers could help to an extent, he didn't believe it at first. He decided to give it a try and see the result if for us to see. Thousands of people,

across different states, languages, and religions came forward as one strong community to stand by Blessy as she battled the disease.

It all started when Blessy began losing weight all of a sudden and fell sick. A health check-up revealed she had jaundice, and months later, when medication didn't work, a proper scan showed it was Wilson's disease.

"Soon, she was at end-stage liver damage and only an immediate liver transplant could help save our daughter. The treatment would cost us 26 lakhs, and I, an auto driver, could never be able to earn so much," Yona, Blessy's father tells us. That's when kind doctors like Dr Latha Prasad, Dr Dharmesh Kapur, Prashant Bachchan, Yona's pastor came to the family's rescue. While Dr Latha did all that she could do to treat the girl without charging a

penny aside from the bed cost, Dr Dharmesh led the surgery and Prashant Bachchan advised the family to go for crowdfunding via Milaap. "While we weren't so sure of receiving much, we thought we'd give a try. And that's how thousands of strangers blessed Blessy and our lives by giving their hard-earned money to afford the treatment. Today, her smile devoid of that pain, gives us joy like nothing else," shares the father.

There also were people who told Yona that he, who ran around hospitals and for money for more than a year, should let his daughter (eldest among three children) go since nobody could promise the operation, even if done, could help save Blessy's life. He shares, "They meant it in good stead, but I couldn't ever give up without trying till the last minute and

I'm glad I did, because it was this very struggle that melted people's hearts to come forward and help. I thought to myself, even if God intended to take my child, I will do all I can to keep her with us as long as I can, but God was gracious and sent this huge community of people who never knew me to help our daughter."

Today, the 6th grader smiles as a mark of complete recovery from the transplant that a community of completely unknown people has helped her afford. Blessy, not surprisingly, hopes to be a doctor when she grows up. "I thank everybody that shelled out every penny to make me see another day in my life. When I grow up to be a doctor, I'll treat the poor free of cost so they won't have to go through all that my father did to save me," she smiles.



## Through the looking glass

Hyderabad has officially gone virtual! In response to the pandemic, the event industry is shifting towards innovations in the form of a new socially distanced reality changing the way we interact rapidly. In the wake of this, Hyderabad's Goethe-Zentrum presents the first-of-its-kind virtual photo exhibition featuring works of 10 renowned artists based in Hyderabad on the emotions of unity, harmony, and non-violence.

Wondering who these amazing photographers are and what do they do? SHIKHA DUGGAL writes about them

**Amita Talwar**  
Amita Talwar is a Hyderabad-based artist, photographer, documentary filmmaker, and social entrepreneur, who runs Art for Causes, which focus on providing education and introducing different art forms and creative inputs to children from economically underprivileged backgrounds. Her photographs, paintings are primarily utilised to generate funds for NGOs.

**S. Harpal Singh**

S. Harpal Singh is born and brought up in the Adilabad district in northern Telangana, which is known for its amazing range of biodiversity. He has also been the former Senior Assistant Editor with a national English daily, based out of his home district. For the last 17 years, he has travelled across the district as a part of his work and began clicking pictures in the rural areas.

**Namrata Rupani**

"Photography can change lives. It's all about your perspective," says Dr Namrata Rupani who discovered photography as her passion while being a full-time dentist. She started 'Capture Life', a photo service company offering wedding and portrait photography services. She started conducting photography workshops which are now incredibly popular! She has shot multitudes of commercial projects for over 7 years now, which includes weddings, portraits, infrastructure, food, etc. The joy of her pictures made her expand into the fine art print business to make fine art prints, provide design and print solutions for various clients across India. She is also internationally recognised as the Fearless Photographer and has been named in the "Most Luxurious Wedding Photographer" by Wedding Vows magazine.

**Samar Jodha**

Samar is a photographer and filmmaker who uses his practice to highlight the voices of the marginalised. He is keenly invested in YOUTH, a group that he believes has the power to lead and enable social impact. Samar owns Red Balloon, an organisation that has emanated from his long-held vision of using art to positively set a discourse in society. With this, he has given his vision a platform by creating a collaborative ecosystem that is critical, a large-scale mobilisation, and impactful. With art and design at its core, he builds partnerships with children of all ages and backgrounds, raises awareness on critical issues, and enables individual leadership towards a change.

**Saurabh Chatterjee**

Saurabh is the Founder and Chief Educator at SIA Photography. His dream is to see India and to make every camera-owner a great photographer. He has written over 200 travel articles for various magazines and newspapers. His works have been published in several national and international publications including the National Geographic Traveller, Lonely Planet, Timeout Explorer (UK), The Times (London, UK).

**Serish Naniseti**  
Serish Naniseti is the author of Golconda Bagnagar Hyderabad, which is a narrative chronicle of the city during the Qutb Shahi era. A journalist with a national English daily in Hyderabad, he has extensively researched, written, and photographed the city. He is busy climbing hills, forts, or tramping through graveyards to get us some of his beautiful clicks.

**Sourav Nandi**

Sourav Nandi is a blooming artist from Bengal. He was born and brought up in Birbhum district near Shantiniketan. Photography is his passion, he has participated in a number of group shows in Kolkata and across India. Some of his works have been selected in international exhibitions too!

**Vijay S. Jodha**

Vijay S. Jodha is a Gurgaon-based writer, filmmaker, and self-trained photographer. He has produced five books and his projects have been showcased in galleries, museums, and festivals worldwide. His films have been broadcasted on 75 channels in 195 countries including on BBC, CNN, and Discovery. His projects have received over 70 honours in 24 countries.

**Swarat Ghosh**

Swarat Ghosh is an Indian photographer based in Hyderabad. His photography has been published in several national and international magazines, including The Washington Post, Burn Magazine, National Geographic Traveller, and International Street Photographer. Furthermore, he was nominated for the Joop Swart Masterclass organized by World Press Photo. During that same year, he won awards under the "Series" categories of two major street photography festivals - the London Street Photography Festival and Brussels's Street Photography Festival and many more such accolades to his name.

**Sreesailam Pasupula**

After completing his Master Craftsman Diploma in Professional Photography and Digital imaging from Mumbai, Sreesailam Pasupula undertook extensive traveling in India since to pursue his personal projects and experience the diverse cultures of the nation. He thus specialised in different genres of photography. He has received more than 25 International Awards at HPA-China, PX3-France, IPA-USA, B&W Spider-USA, The Colour Awards-USA, Alliance Francis-Paris, etc. He was also the Grand Prize winner at the Lonely Planet International Contest in 2010 and received the Xposure International Travel Photography Scholarship Award at Sharjah UAE in 2016.

Photographs can capture a moment in time that is gone forever or capture a moment in history for future generations. They can also change behaviour and stimulate understanding between people so don't let anything hold you back, surf Goethe-Zentrum across social media, and have a look at these amazing pieces of exhibits with a message lingering behind!



● Neeru Mohan



● Mamta Trivedi



● Hansapriya



● Sapna



● Sirisha



● Radhika Desai



● Vidya Vanka



● Anisha Achuthan



● Vandana Singh

## VIRTUAL BEAUTY PAGEANT

In a first-of-its-kind event, Grand Finale of Mrs India Telangana and Mrs India Andhra Pradesh 2020, organised by Mrs Mamta Trivedi, was live streamed where Mrs Hansapriya and Dr Bindu Madhavi Paruchuri were adjudged winners respectively. Mrs Neha Jha won the Telangana title in the Classic (40 to 60 years) category while Mrs Bandaru Komala Krishna won the classic title in Andhra Pradesh.

## PARTY



● Srikanth and Chandraprakash

## NEW GUINNESS RECORD

A new Guinness World Record for the most number of diamonds in a ring was achieved by Hyderabad's very own Kotti Srikanth, owner of The Diamond Store by Chandubhai (Hallmark Jewellers). Consisting of a total of 7,801 natural diamonds, 'The Divine - 7801 Brahma Vajra Kamalam', was unveiled at their store.

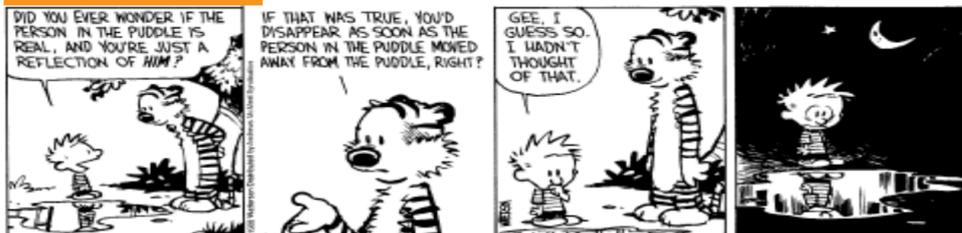
Photos by SV Chary

## FUN

### ARCHIE



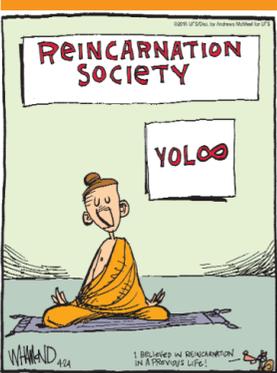
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### NANCY



### SUDOKU

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

#### Yesterday's solution

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

#### Rules

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

#### ACROSS

- A maker of horseshoes
- Wanders
- Office tables
- He wrote the play "Romeo and Juliet"
- Gets closer to
- Go by bike
- Somewhere to go out for a meal
- Manufacturer
- The other side in a war
- Something left after a fire
- As well
- Male deer
- Be concerned
- Metal containers for drink, food

#### DOWN

- This bites a dog
- Divisions in a play
- Second-hand
- Comes first in a race
- Spoke very quietly
- People in jail



### GINGER MEGGS

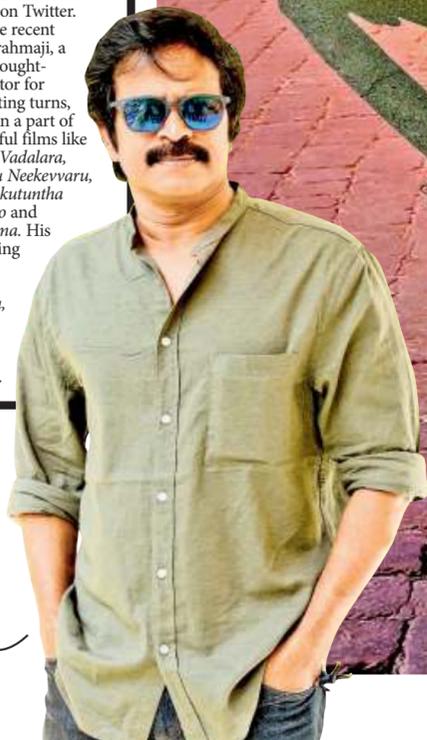


Brahmaji's post lands him in trouble

When prominent actor Brahmaji tweeted that he was "planning to buy a motorboat... suggestions please..." in the wake of relentless rains in Hyderabad, little did he know that his wit would land him in huge trouble. He was subjected to immense trolling, with many netizens finding his tweet in poor taste, especially with the rain fury causing great damage in low-lying areas.

The actor, who usually displays his funny side on Twitter as well, was also a victim of the floods, as his apartment cellar in the city was filled with rain water. His plan of parking his car after work at a nearby apartment proved futile and it is in this regard, he uploaded the motorboat post. But the brutal backlash left him with no option but to deactivate his Twitter account. He commands a sizable following on Twitter.

In the recent past, Brahmaji, a much sought-after actor for supporting turns, has been a part of successful films like *Mathu Vadalara*, *Sarileru Neekevaru*, *Ala Vaikutuntha puramlo* and *Bheeshma*. His upcoming films include *Uppena*, *Alludu Adhurs* and *Pushpa*.



# A classic look for Prabhas in RADHE SHYAM

Unveiling a brand new still and announcing the character name of Prabhas from *Radhe Shyam*, production house UV Creations is gearing up to make the actor's birthday special for his fans



A couple of days before superstar Prabhas rings in his 41st birthday, the makers of his next, *Radhe Shyam*, have unveiled a new still of his from the film, bringing smiles on the faces of the legions of his fans.

Dressed in a classic dark purple sweatshirt with dark brown trousers and a blue pocketed blazer, Prabhas strikes a cool pose while resting on top of a vintage green luxury car. Italian vintage architecture dots the background.

Unveiling his look, lead actress Pooja Hedge, who plays Prerana, in the film, posted, "The BIG moment has arrived!! Here's introducing #Prabhas as #Vikramaditya in the latest poster of #RadheShyam!"

Production house UV Creations is also planning to reveal a motion poster of the film to mark Prabhas' birthday on Friday. Presently, the film is progressing in Italy, where director Radha

Krishna Kumar is filming scenes on the lead pair and other supporting actors. The unit is expected to return to Hyderabad towards the month-end.

A romantic drama set in Europe, *Radhe Shyam* is being shot in Telugu and Hindi simultaneously, while it will be dubbed into Tamil and Malayalam. It will also mark veteran actor and Prabhas' uncle UV Krishnam Raju's daughter Praseeda making her debut as a producer. She is jointly producing it along with UV Creations' Vamsi and Pramod. She is representing her dad's banner Gopi Krishna Movies, the production house of which is presenting the film.

The likes of Bhagyashree, Sachin Khedekar, Murli Sharma, Kunal Roy Kapur, Sathyam, Priyadarshi, Sasha Chettri, Beena Benarji and Riddhi Kumar are playing supporting roles in the film, which according to a little birdie, is being planned for an April-end big screen debut.

## Pawan Kalyan announces Rs 1cr for TSCMRF

Late on Tuesday night, superstar and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan announced a contribution of Rs 1 crore to the Telangana government to aid the people who have been affected due to ceaseless rains in Hyderabad. His donation comes in the wake of fellow actors like Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna, Mahesh Babu, Jr NTR, Prabhas, Ram, Vijay Deverakonda and directors like Trivikram, Harish Shankar and Anil Ravipudi contributing handsomely to Telangana CM Relief Fund.

In a video statement, Pawan said that on one hand while the world economy has crashed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, India has recorded the highest amount of rainfall in centuries.

"Telangana, especially, has witnessed incessant rains

in the past one week, leading to property damage and loss of livelihood. I blame it on improper town planning in the last few decades. Irrespective of the present circumstances, the Telangana government has understood the trouble that people are facing on the ground and are doing their bit financially. I'm announcing Rs 1 crore for the government to continue helping the people," the actor noted.

Filmmaker Shankar of *Jayam Manadera* and *Jai Bolo* Telangana fame too announced a sum of Rs 10 lakh as his contribution to CMRF.



## Happy to come out victorious from this battle: SD

Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt on Wednesday announced that he has come out "victorious" from his cancer battle and thanked fans and well-wishers for their unwavering support in this journey.

The 61-year-old actor shared the news in a statement on Twitter on the occasion of his children's birthday, Shaahran and Iqra who turned 10 today.

"The last few weeks were very difficult time for my family and me. But like they say, God gives the hardest battles to his strongest soldiers. And today, on the occasion of my kids' birthday, I am happy to come out victorious from this battle and be able to give them the best gift I can. The health and well being of our family," Sanjay Dutt said.

The news comes days after a family source told PTI that the actor had responded "very well" to the medical treatment for cancer.

In August, Sanjay Dutt had announced that he would be taking a break from his professional commitments to focus on medical treatment, amid speculation that he was battling lung cancer.

The actor, in his statement, further thanked friends and family for being his source of strength.



## F2 gets national recognition

Winning the box-office aside, *F2-Fun and Frustration*, starring Victory Venkatesh and Varun Tej, has now bagged two prestigious awards at the Indian Panorama for 2019 from the Telugu category. According to The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, the film has been named as the Best Film for Telugu category while Anil Ravipudi bagged Indian Panorama Regulations Special Jury award as the Best Director.

Expressing his happiness over the acknowledgment, Ravipudi extended his thanks to his leading lights and crew for the support they've extended during the making. "My thanks to the team of SVC, Raju garu and Sirish garu for making this laugh riot of a film to happen," he added. He is gearing up to the sequel, *F3*, with the same cast up next. It will commence from next year.



## Karthi blessed with a baby boy

Its celebration time in the family of Sivakumar as his younger son Karthi, a Tamil-Telugu actor, was blessed with a baby boy on Tuesday evening.

Updating the happy news to his followers on his social media pages, Karthi thanked the doctors and nurses who helped his wife Ranjani deliver a healthy child. "Dear friends and family, we are blessed with a boy baby. We can't thank enough our doctors and nurses who took us through this life changing experience. Need all your blessings for the little one. Thank you god (sic)," his post read.

The actor's big brother Suriya too expressed his joy, welcoming a new member to their family. He wrote, "We are blessed! Thank you yet again Dr Nirmala Jayashankar and team."

The newborn is Karthi's second child, as he already has a daughter Umayaal who was born in 2013. Karthi had tied the knot with Ranjani on 3rd July, 2011.

On the professional front, Karthi will be next seen in *Sultan*, which is presently in post-production. He is also playing a prominent part in mentor Mani Ratnam's *Ponniyin Selvan*, whose shoot is on pause mode due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## Aranya books Sankranti date

The makers of *Aranya* on Wednesday confirmed that the film, spearheaded by Rana Daggubati and Vishnu Vishal, will be hitting the screens during Sankranti next year. The film, after witnessing multiple production delays, was slotted for an April big screen rollout earlier this year before the pandemic forced the makers to defer it indefinitely. Amid rumours that production house Eros Motion Pictures was toying with the idea of a direct-to-web release, the Sankranti release announcement dispelled such notions.

"As we fight together against the deadly pandemic, we must look to our forests for inspiration — The lungs of our planet that have long battled a growing pandemic of deforestation & industrialisation! This Sankranti 2021, let's save them with #Aranya at a theatre near you," read a statement from the production house.

Peppered with a lot of action, the film tells the story of a mahout (played by Rana) who fights for the jungle, the animals, and against society. The issue of deforestation and a wall which is being made in the middle of the jungle which breaks nature and the elephant corridor is highlighted in particular. Directed by Prabhu Solomon, the lavishly-mounted *Aranya* has been shot in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu simultaneously.

Interestingly, *Aranya*, at the Telugu box-office, has to face some stiff competition from *Rang De* and *Alludu Adhurs*, both films of which booked their dates for Sankranti some-time back.





I keep my mindset quite positive. Just look to score runs, and don't think pitch is doing this or that. I play with courage. I am not afraid to get out

Deshpande is a confident lad and does his homework pretty well. He has been hit by Chris Gayle, who is a world-class batsman and it's a great learning experience for him

To have Maxi in form is a great thing and it has eased his nerves as well. He has played a lot of cricket for a long time and he knew what he needed to do

This wasn't a season we expected or our fans wanted, but we gave it our best. Sometimes, despite giving our best, the results don't show

## RR, SRH lock horns in must-win game

PTI ■ DUBAI

The inexperienced young guns of both Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad would like to put their hands up in testing times when both teams square off in a must-win game on Thursday.

Whether it is Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad of Sunrisers or Kartik Tyagi, Riyan Parag of the Royals, the youngsters from both sides will be feeling the pressure of doing something out of the box in case their illustrious seniors fail in that pursuit.

The Sunrisers are currently tottering at the second last place in the eight-team table with just six points from nine games while Royals are a notch ahead with eight points after their comprehensive win over CSK in the previous game.

SRH can't afford to slip up even one bit since another loss would rule them out of the Play-offs race. The Royals would hope to continue with the winning momentum and hope that their foreign recruits continue to perform like they did against CSK.

They got their campaign back on track after two heavy defeats and would also have the edge over SRH, which lost to KKR in the Super Over in their previous game.

Losing Super Over contests often push teams back as KXIP found out after their opening loss to Delhi Capitals. One more loss would make it extremely difficult for the Royals to stay alive.

While Jofra Archer continues to be the backbone of Royals' bowling attack, the wrist-spinning duo of Shreyas Gopal and Rahul Tewatia were terrific in the middle overs against CSK and skipper Smith would be hoping for an encore from his bowlers on Thursday.

In batting, Jos Buttler

MATCHES	12
RAJASTHAN ROYALS	06
SUNRISERS HYDERABAD	06

Stats: Faisal Features

looked in ominous form against CSK, forcing Smith to play the second fiddle but RR would need more consistent partnerships upfront.

"I have been doing ok, not quite scored as many runs as I would've liked to and help the team win matches," Buttler said on the eve of the match.

The opener is happy that Royals as a team has found some momentum going their way.

"We have started to play better in the last few matches. We probably should have won the last three but have only managed to win one of those, so we now have four matches remaining, all of which are must-win for us. We will need to win all our games to give us a chance of making the playoffs," Buttler said, while admitting there is a gap between top and bottom four.

"There's obviously a bit of a gap between the top 4 and us and we know the equation for us, so we move on to the next game with a hope to do well and hopefully win against the Sunrisers."

All-rounder Ben Stokes is yet to fire and Robin Uthappa had been their weakest link so far, which might prompt Smith to give a go to someone like Punjab dasher Manan Vohra.

The other aspect that hurt them is Sanju Samson's form which like every other year has gone from good to bad and now worse.

SRH, on the other hand, would still be smarting from the Super Over loss to KKR.

David Warner and Co would definitely be hurt by that loss but they need to come out of that shock quickly and re-strategise if they want to keep themselves afloat in the T20 event. The team heavily relies on its batting unit, mainly on the top four comprising Jonny Bairstow, Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson.



## RCB TOTALLY OUTGUN KKR



Mohammed Siraj celebrates with RCB skipper Virat Kohli and other teammates after taking his third wicket IPL20

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Royal Challengers Bangalore cruised to a facile eight-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders on Wednesday at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium. Mohammed Siraj led the way with figures of 2/8 as RCB strangled KKR to 84/8 in their 20 overs. They chased down the target with a whopping 39 balls to spare.

The win takes RCB level on points with the top-placed Delhi Capitals at 14, from 10 matches. They remain second only on the basis of their inferior net run rate.

RCB openers Aaron Finch and Devdutt Padikkal started the farcical chase with an opening stand of 46 runs. They played through the powerplay before Finch fell to Lockie Ferguson. Padikkal then departed after a mix-up with new batsman Gurkeerat Mann Singh landed both batsmen at the same end of the pitch.

Captain Virat Kohli then took his place with Gurkeerat

and saw the team home with an unbeaten stand of 40 runs.

Earlier, pacer Mohammed Siraj and Yuzvendra Chahal wreaked havoc in a stunning display of swing and spin bowl-

ing as KKR could just manage a paltry 84 for eight.

Siraj (4-2-8-3) ran through the KKR top order to trigger a stunning batting collapse and became the first bowler in the

## We want to finish on top: AB

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Experiencing one of their finest IPL seasons, Royals Challengers Bangalore's batting maestro AB de Villiers says his team wants to top the points table on its way to the play-offs of the ongoing edition.

After their game against Kolkata Knight Riders, the RCB were placed at the second spot on the points table with 14 points from ten matches.

Going into their last four group

matches, the RCB recorded seven wins and three defeats.

"There is definitely a mental edge that a team takes in finishing at the top, having been the most consistent team over 14 matches against the best teams in the IPL."

"So, we will definitely be focusing on that. We know that we will have to take it one hurdle at a time though," the South African said in a video message uploaded by his franchise on its Twitter handle.

The supremely gifted cricketer has played some fine knocks for RCB this

history of IPL to bowl two maiden overs while Chahal (2/15) stymied their revival hopes.

It is KKR's second-lowest total after their 67 all-out against Mumbai Indians in 2008.

Playing without Windies star players Sunil Narine and Andre Russell, KKR struggled to get going after electing to bat and it was all over for them after skipper Eoin Morgan was dismissed by Washington Sundar for 30.

It was a masterstroke from skipper Virat Kohli to include Siraj in place of spinner Shahbaz Ahmed keeping in mind a fresh strip.

Siraj began with a double wicket maiden over in which he dismissed opener Rahul Tripathi (1) and Nitish Rana (0) off successive deliveries.

He followed it up with another wicket-maiden over, getting rid of Tom Banton (10) in the process. His figures read an astonishing 2-1-0-3 at that time.

seasons, a couple of them single-handedly helping the team to victory.

"... With it, we can also send a message to the other teams that we are here to finish at the top of the table and to not just qualify for the play-offs. I really think we have the ability to do that," the star batsman said.

De Villiers has been in ominous form and single-handedly won RCB the game against Rajasthan Royals with an unbeaten 55 from 22 balls in their 178-run chase last Saturday. He had also smashed a 33-ball 73 in the first-leg game against Kolkata night Riders.

## 'This season Shami has lot more clarity about his role'

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ever-reliable Mohammed Shami has bowled with a lot more "clarity of mind" in the ongoing IPL, which has helped him deliver near-perfect performances this season, feels Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul.

Shami, a world-class Test bowler, has been in his elements, taking 16 wickets for KXIP in 10 matches so far and played a big role in the last three games that the team has won.

"Look we all know that what Shami can do on a given day. He has been doing that for many years now. I think this year, there is a lot more clarity and he has put his hand up as a senior bowler," Rahul said on Tuesday after KXIP beat Delhi Capitals by five wickets to keep their campaign for Play-offs on track.

The KXIP skipper believes



Mohammad Shami & Mayank Agarwal IPL20

that when seniors perform, juniors take inspiration and that's what is happening thanks to Shami's efforts.

"It is important that internationals across teams put their hands up. That makes the team lot better and youngsters can feed off that," he said.

"You start winning a lot of games and it's great to see Shami doing really well and touchwood the ball is coming out of his hand as perfectly as ever. Hopefully he can get more wickets for the team and keep bowling the way he is bowling," Rahul added.

Glenn Maxwell also raised hopes of being back to form with a 24-ball 32, something that augurs well for the team, feels the skip-

"Well, it's important for the team and individual as well...It's important that the team backs its match-winners. We know what Maxwell can do. When he comes good, he gives a lot of solidity to the team. He balances it out and is a great team-man," Rahul said.

KXIP has now beaten all top three teams — Royal Challengers Bangalore, Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals — in their last three games.

"It feels really good. We are at that stage of the tournament where we need to beat every team that we face. It's important that we take one game at a time and if we keep trusting ourselves, it doesn't matter who you are playing against," said Rahul.

## Defeat wake up call for us: Iyer

PTI ■ DUBAI

It's a wake up call, said Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer as he urged his team's batsmen, with the exception of an in-form Shikhar Dhawan, to take "more responsibility" following a surprise IPL loss to Kings XI Punjab.

"This is like a wake-up call for us. Going forward we are going to face tough situations and tougher teams. We have played amazing cricket in the past but we have to leave that in the past," Iyer said at the post-match conference.

"We have to come out all guns blazing, play with freedom and take more responsibility. We need one match to qualify and keeping that in mind, we will take one match at a time," he added.

Against KXIP, Dhawan alone scored 106 while the quintet comprising Iyer, Prithvi Shaw, Marcus Stoinis, Rishabh Pant and Shimron Hetmyer contributed 54 runs collectively.



"I am really happy for Shikhar Dhawan for the way he is going. He is creating an amazing platform for us as batsmen. We should be knowing our roles pretty well," the DC skipper said.

However, he feels that his batsmen are in a good frame of mind and the defeat was a one off setback.

"Other than that, I feel all the batsmen are in really good frame of mind and few matches can go wrong here and there as fatigue creeps in. Keeping that aside we need to focus on our strengths," he said.

## India could quarantine & train in Sydney to start Oz tour

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Sydney and Canberra are emerging as potential venues to host India's limited-over series against Australia during the upcoming tour starting next month.

The Indian team was initially supposed to land in Brisbane but apparently Queensland state health authorities won't allow the visitors to train during the mandatory 14-day quarantine period.

According to a report in ESPNcricinfo, Sydney could emerge as Indian contingent's port of entry and the city may allow them to train during their quarantine.

It is learnt that the SCG could be hosting four of the six white ball games (three T20s and three ODIs) while Canberra's Manuka Oval hosting two games.

New South Wales state's sports minister Stuart Ayres confirmed that they have received a request from Cricket Australia to allow the Indian as



well as the Australian team to undergo its mandatory quarantine as well as training.

"Cricket Australia has approached the New South Wales Government about quarantining the Indian cricket team and returning Australian cricketers in Sydney," Ayres was quoted as saying by the cricket website.

"That proposal is currently being assessed by NSW authorities including health and police. Fixtures for the Indian tour will be determined by Cricket Australia and won't impact our assessment of the quarantine proposal."

If CA and the NSW state Government are able to reach an agreement, a revised plan would then be submitted by Cricket Australia to the BCCI for approval.

AFP ■ PARIS

Marcus Rashford once again sank Paris Saint-Germain after netting the decisive goal in a 2-1 Champions League win in the French capital on Tuesday, while Barcelona sent a message with a thumping 5-1 victory over Ferencvaros.

Rashford, who scored the winning spot-kick when United knocked PSG out in 2019, drilled home a low shot three minutes from the end which won a thrilling Group H contest at a near-empty Parc des Princes.

United had taken the lead in the 23rd minute when Bruno Fernandes slotted home from the spot at the second attempt, but Anthony Martial inexplicably headed Neymar's corner into his own net 10 minutes after the break.

The rest of the match was an end-to-end affair with both sides opting to go for the win rather than hold on for the draw, and Rashford took the points after twice being denied by Keylor Navas earlier in the match.

The win sets United up nicely for next week's home clash with RB Leipzig, who are

## Late drama in Paris again

### Rashford nets late winner as Man United beat PSG, Messi scores in Barca stroll

top of the group after beating Istanbul Basaksehir 2-0 in Germany.

**KOEMAN'S WINNING START**  
Ronald Koeman got his first Champions League campaign as Barcelona coach off to a winning start with a confident win over Ferencvaros that gives them control of Group G, top but level on three points with Juventus.

Ferencvaros, the first Hungarian team to make the group stage in 11 years, started brightly and even had the ball in the net via Tokmac Nguen only for the powerful 12th-minute strike to be ruled out for offside.

Messi won and converted the penalty to give the Catalans a 27th-minute lead and the match was as good as done when Ansu Fati clipped home Frenkie de Jong's sumptuous pass just before the break.

Philippe Coutinho lashed



Marcus Rashford celebrates after scoring Man Utd's second goal AP

home the third before Ihor Kharatin pulled one back from the penalty spot after Gerard Pique was sent off for pulling back Nguen as he charged towards goal.

Pedri and Ousmane Dembele finished the scoring for the 10-man hosts as they prepare for the weekend's Clasico with Real Madrid. Juventus looked comfortable in their 2-0 win at Dynamo Kiev in what was the Andrea Pirlo's first ever Champions League match in the dugout, with Alvaro Morata scoring twice to take the points for the Italians.

**IMMOBILE DOWNS EVE**  
It was a good night for Italy as Ciro Immobile got revenge on his old club Dortmund by scoring in Lazio's 3-1 win over the Bundesliga club in Rome, their first Champions League match in 13 years.

Immobile managed just three goals in 24 Bundesliga games for Dortmund in 2014/15, but last season's European Golden Shoe

winner outshone Dortmund's star forward Erling Braut Haaland by netting the opening goal for the hosts after just six minutes.

Lazio went two ahead midway through the first half thanks to Marwin Hitz deflected Luis Alberto's whipped corner into his own goal.

Haaland pulled one back with a thumping finish but Immobile laid on an easy finish for Akpa-Akpro to hand Lazio a big win.

Simone Inzaghi's men are level on three points with Club Brugge in Group F following their dramatic 2-1 win at Zenit Saint Petersburg earned thanks to Charles De Ketelaere 93rd minute winner.

Chelsea are still waiting for a £220 million spending spree to pay off they began their campaign with an uninspiring 0-0 Group E draw with Sevilla at Stamford Bridge.

All four sides in the group are on a single point after Rennes drew 1-1 with Krasnodar.

## DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



Kings XI Punjab co-owner Preity Zinta poses for photo with Arshdeep Singh, Glenn Maxwell and Ravi Bisnoi after win against Delhi Capitals on Tuesday @realpreityzinta

Aakash Chopra @cricketakash

Pant is in Solapur. Who's keeping for #DelhiCapitals in Dubai then? 🤔



Cricketer-turned-commentator Aakash Chopra took to Twitter to share a picture of the IPL virtual fan-wall wherein a person from Solapur watching the match between DC-KXIP looked like Rishabh Pant @cricketakash

**BRAVO OUT OF IPL WITH GROIN INJURY**  
CSK all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has been ruled out of the ongoing IPL with a groin injury, dealing a massive blow to the already struggling side which has very slim chances of advancing to the play-offs. "Dwayne Bravo is ruled out of the IPL due to a groin injury," CSK CEO Kashi Viswanathan told PTI. The 37-year-old Bravo played six games and scored only seven runs in two innings. However, he got six wickets in as many games with an economy of 8.57. "It's sad news, it's sad to be leaving my team CSK. To all our CSK fans, I want you all to keep encouraging the team, keep supporting, all the true die-hard CSK fans," Bravo said in a video message.

**HOLDER SAD THAT BLM NOT PART OF IPL**  
West Indies captain Jason Holder has expressed his disappointment over none of the IPL teams taking a knee in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, which, he feels, has gone unnoticed in the world's most glamorous cricket league. Holder, who is member of SRH, made the statement while receiving the prestigious Peter Smith Award on behalf of the West Indies cricket team in a virtual ceremony. "To be honest, I haven't had one conversation up here around it (BLM). Sometimes it seems it has gone unnoticed, which is a sad thing," Holder said in his address posted on Cricket West Indies website.

POINTS TABLE						
	P	W	L	NRR	PTS	
1	DC	10	7	3	+0.774	14
2	RCB	10	7	3	+0.182	14
3	MI	9	6	3	+1.201	12
4	KKR	10	5	5	-0.828	10
5	KXIP	10	4	6	-0.177	8
6	RR	10	4	6	-0.591	8
7	SRH	9	3	6	+0.008	6
8	CSK	10	3	7	-0.463	6