

ANALYSIS 7

**GOVT MUST BRIDGE THE GAP
IN UNDER-INSURED INDIA**

MONEY 8

**ADITYA MITTAL NAMED AS
CEO OF ARCELORMITTAL**

SPORTS 12

**KENIN FAILS TO
DEFEND AUS CROWN**

HYDERABAD, FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer



**KAJAL WOULD
'WAKE UP PETRIFIED'
AFTER SHOOTING
LIVE TELECAST**

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**INDIVIDUALS, CORPORATES TO BE FINED FOR
USING CRYPTOCURRENCIES: DRAFT LAW**

Indian companies and individuals are unlikely to be allowed to pull a Tesla and stash excess cash in cryptocurrencies that have been on an eye-popping surge if a new bill proposed by the government is cleared by parliament. A draft bill expected to be introduced in this session of parliament proposes a complete ban on all private cryptocurrencies - decentralised digital money that is prized for being untraceable and a buoyant valuation, sources said. The bill will also lay the groundwork for an official digital currency - which are different because they can be regulated by a country's central bank - and its ties to the Reserve Bank of India or RBI.



**UTTARAKHAND TUNNEL RESCUE WORK
HALTED AS RIVER SURGES AGAIN**

Rescue operation at a tunnel in Uttarakhand's Tapovan - where more than 30 people are thought to be trapped for more than three days - has been temporarily halted as several rivers in the area have surged again days after Sunday's flash-floods. Orders have been given to vacate the areas downstream, officials have said. More than 200 people went missing after flash floods in Chamoli district on Sunday, believed to be brought on by a glacier burst at Nanda Devi. Two power plants and five bridges were washed away in the torrent of water that surged downstream on Alakananda and Dhaultiganga rivers towards mid-morning.



**ROW AFTER MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR
REFUSED STATE PLANE, WAITS 2 HOURS**

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari reportedly had to wait for over two hours at the Mumbai airport this morning to take a flight to Uttarakhand as he could not use the state government aircraft. The Governor took a commercial flight to Dehradun because permission for the special aircraft did not come until the last minute, say reports. Reports suggest the Governor was to take a flight at 10 am to Uttarakhand, his home state. "Accordingly, a state government plane was booked earlier. But, the permission did not come till the last moment," news agency quoted a source as saying.



**UK KENT COVID VARIANT WILL LIKELY
'SWEEP THE WORLD': TOP SCIENTIST**

The coronavirus variant first found in the British region of Kent is a concern because it could undermine the protection given by vaccines against developing COVID-19, the head of the UK's genetic surveillance programme said. She also said the variant was dominant in the country and was likely to sweep the world, in all probability. The coronavirus has killed 2.35 million people and turned normal life upside down for billions, but a few new worrying variants out of thousands have raised fears that vaccines will need to be tweaked and people may require booster shots.



CAA will be implemented after vaccination: Shah

PNS ■ THAKURNAGAR (WB)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday said the process of granting Indian citizenship to refugees under the CAA, including to the Matua community of West Bengal, will begin once the process of COVID vaccination has ended.

Accusing the opposition parties of misleading the minorities about the Citizenship (amendment) Act, he said, its implementation will not impact the citizenship status of Indian minorities.

Shah said the Modi government had in 2018 promised it will bring in a new citizenship law and kept it when the BJP was voted to power in 2019.

He said, after the country was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, its implementation had to be kept in abeyance.

"Mamata didi said we made a false promise. She started opposing the CAA and saying she will never allow it. The BJP always fulfils the promises it makes. We have brought this law and refugees will get citizenship."



"Mamata didi said we made a false promise. She started opposing the CAA and saying she will never allow it. The BJP always fulfils the promises it makes. We have brought this law and refugees will get citizenship."

— AMIT SHAH
Union Home Minister

"As soon as the COVID vaccination process ends the process of granting citizenship under CAA will begin. All of you will be respected citizens of this country," he said, addressing a rally here in the bastion of the Matua community. Matuas, originally from East Pakistan, are weaker section Hindus who migrated to India during the Partition and after the creation of Bangladesh.

Many of them have been accorded Indian citizenship but a sizeable section of the

population has not got it. The Matua community, with an estimated population of three million in the state, can tilt the scales in favour of a political party in at least four Lok seats and more than 30

Each house in the village has on average two or three employed persons. In fact, 95 percent of the villagers are educated. Only five percent of the population of the hamlet is unlettered

assembly seats in Nadia, and 2 North and 24 South

IT dept raids on liquor co leads to Rs 870-cr black money

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department has detected undisclosed income of over Rs 870 crore after it raided a "major" Bengaluru-based liquor manufacturing group, the CBDT said on Thursday.

The searches were carried out on February 9 at 26 locations across the country.

"In all, the search and seizure action has resulted in the detection of total undisclosed income of Rs 878.82 crore," a statement issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said.

"This group has a huge land bank which is being developed into residential and commercial properties with a builder based in Bengaluru," it said.

"The searches have resulted in detecting incriminating evidences relating to conceal-

TRS wins Greater Hyderabad Mayor, Deputy Mayor posts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The ruling TRS in Telangana on Thursday bagged the Mayor and Deputy Mayor posts in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) with the support of ex-officio members and the AIMIM.

Vijayalaxmi R Gadwal and Mothe Srilatha, both belonging to TRS, were elected the Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively, by show of hands, during a special meeting of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

The TRS did not get a majority on its own and secured only 56 wards in the 150-member GHMC in the civic elections held in December last.

The BJP contested the Mayor and Deputy Mayor election though it lacked the numbers, but the TRS nominees won as the ex-officio members and the AIMIM backed them.

Though BJP won 48 wards in the election, its strength came down to 47 following the death of one of its victorious candidates.



The saffron party had said it decided to contest for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor posts, despite lacking the numbers, in the spirit of democracy and to oppose the "opportunistic" attempt of TRS to win the poll through a "backhand deal" with AIMIM.

Though the keenly-fought GHMC elections were held in December, the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor was conducted on Thursday as the

term of the previous body came to an end only on February 10.

The proceedings of the special meeting began on Thursday with the newly-elected Corporators taking the oath of office. While the TRS and BJP won 56 and 48 wards respectively in the GHMC polls, the AIMIM bagged 44 wards.

China to move troops to 'Finger 8'

5



70% road accident victims are motorists, pedestrians

3



Sensex jumps 222 points to fresh closing high

8

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksaham: Paush & Krishna Paksha

Panchangam: Prathipada: 12:29 am (Next Day)

Nakshatram: Dhanishtha: 02:23 pm

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

Rahukalam: 11:04 am - 12:30 pm

Yamaganadam: 03:21 pm - 04:47 pm

Variyam: 09:49 pm - 11:28 pm

Gulika: 08:13 am - 09:39 am

Good Time: (to start any important work)

Amritkalam: NIL

Abhijit Muhurtam: 12:07 pm - 12:53 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny

Temp: 31/16

Humidity: 40%

Sunrise: 06:44 am

Sunset: 06:16 pm

Current Weather Conditions

Updated February 11, 2021 5:00 PM

Centre's talk on ITIR is incorrect: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

"The statement given by Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT Sanjay Dhotre on Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) - Hyderabad in the Lok Sabha on 10th February 2021 is factually incorrect," Telangana Minister for IT & Industries KT Rama Rao said here on Thursday.

The TS IT Minister was responding to the reply made in the Lok Sabha on ITIR-Hyderabad in response to a

question posed by Member of Parliament Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

KTR said that, in spite of TS submitting all necessary information as well as DPR and despite several reminders over the last six years, the Union Minister chose to mislead the House by issuing the following statement: "The Government of Telangana was asked to submit the required information to the concerned Ministries with intimation to MeitY. No information was furnished by the Government of Telangana."



KTR said that it was very unfair on the part of the NDA government and the Telangana BJP leaders to blame the

Telangana government, despite repeated requests made to the Union Government by the state administration on the subject.

The first such letter was written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao as soon as the State of Telangana was formed in June 2014. Another detailed memorandum was submitted on the ITIR project to the Union Government by KTR in September 2014.

Pharmacy student kidnapped, rescued in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A pharmacy student, who was allegedly kidnapped by an auto-rickshaw driver and others while returning home from her college near here, has been rescued, police said on Thursday.

The student, with head injuries, was found at an isolated place near some bushes in Yamnampet area on the city outskirts on Wednesday evening in a semi-unconscious condition, an hour after she was abducted, they said. She has been hospitalised

and the doctors treating her said her condition was stable.

Police said they were verifying if she was sexually assaulted though as of now as per her statement she is not saying that.

Police said she boarded an auto while returning home on Wednesday evening, but after other passengers got down, the driver asked her to get into an auto but as that vehicle with other men took a different route she called her parents over the phone, who alerted police.

GOOF-UP BY KHAMMAM DOCTORS

98 cops get Covishield instead of Covaxin!

D BHASKAR RAO ■ KHAMMAM

In what is claimed to be a 'mistake' on the part of Khammam district medical officers, a total of 98 policemen were given Covishield (the local name for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine developed in the UK) instead of Covaxin (locally made by Bharat Biotech) on January 9th.

The grave mistake surfaced when all those who were vaccinated on the 9th started receiving messages on their

phone containing information about Covishield. Among the 98 policemen who got the wrong vaccine are constables as well as senior officers.

Concerns have been raised about how doctors could give the job so carelessly. Medical experts say a vaccine, when given in doses, should be of a single type. There is scope for problems, including fatal reactions, if the vaccine type is changed, by mistake or otherwise, after the first dose. Questions are being raised over whether the blunder was limited

Concerns have been raised about how doctors could give the job so carelessly. Medical experts say a vaccine, when given in doses, should be of a single type.

ed to this incident. There are apprehensions in medical circles that such 'mistakes' may have happened in some other

hospitals as well. Covaxin is supposed to have been administered across Khammam district since January 9. Policemen are part of those who received the vaccine, including the 98 police personnel who received Covishield. Upon learning about goof-up, the policemen who got the wrong vaccine rushed to the district hospital and approached doctors. These policemen will be given another dose of the same vaccine after 28 days.

26,121 Indian websites hacked in '20: Dhotre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 26,100 Indian websites were hacked during 2020, compared to 24,768 websites attacked in the previous year, Parliament was informed on Thursday.

As per the information reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total number of 17,560; 24,768 and 26,121 Indian websites were hacked during the year 2018, 2019 and 2020, respec-

tively, Minister of State for Communications and IT Sanjay Dhotre said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

"There have been attempts from time to time to launch cyber attacks on Indian cyberspace," he added.

Dhotre said it has been observed that attackers are compromising computer systems located in different parts of the world and use masquerading techniques and hidden servers to hide the identity of actual systems from which



the attacks are being launched. "According to the logs analysed and made available to CERT-In, the Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of the comput-

ers from where the attacks appear to be originated belong to various countries including Algeria, Brazil, China, France, Indonesia, Netherlands, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Serbia, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, USA, Vietnam etc," the minister said.

Dhotre noted that CERT-In devises response measures in coordination with its counterpart agencies in foreign countries for resolution of incidents involving systems outside the country.

Vikarabad man killed in road mishap in USA

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A man hailing from Vikarabad in Telangana was killed in a road accident on the New Mexico Highway in the United States of America on Wednesday. The victim identified as Nikhil, 35, son of Vinod Kumar and Himajyoti, hails from Gangaram village of Vikarabad and works for TCS in the US.



Telangana's Manasa Varanasi crowned Miss India World '20

Tale of 'backward' village where almost all residents are employed

PNS ■ ADILABAD

Sanju is a vigilance officer. Damodar is employed as a scientist. G Anil Kumar is working as an agricultural scientist. Prabhakar worked as an assistant lecturer and had recently retired from his service. All these people have two things in common - they all come from a village where persons belonging to BC and SC communities live and they all have or had jobs.

Welcome to the Rajura hamlet under the limits of Jumda village panchayat, in Adilabad district, which has assumed the distinction of being a village

Each house in the village has on average two or three employed persons. In fact, 95 percent of the villagers are educated. Only five percent of the population of the hamlet is unlettered

where majority of the people living there are employed either by the state government or by the Central government. The profile of the employees ranges from an ordinary attendant to a top scientist.

The population of the village is 300 and it has 200 voters.

There are two wards in the village. The village, as has been mentioned before, is home to SCs and BCs. The Rajura hamlet is located just two km away from Kubheer, the mandal headquarters.

Each house in the village has on average two or three

employed persons. In fact, 95 percent of the villagers are educated. Only five percent of the population of the hamlet is unlettered. Out of the total population of the village while eight percent belongs to the BC communities, the rest belongs to SC communities. There are seven doctors, six teachers, three Army personnel, two panchayat secretaries, two SIs, two scientists and a vigilance officer. The rest of them are either attendants, Anganwadi and ASHA workers, lecturers or are holding other jobs. The village, however, is also known for its agricultural produces. Chikkala Vilas, who works

as Excise SI and is posted in Mancherial, said that he derived inspiration from residents of the village, who were all employed and he worked hard to become an Excise SI.

Agricultural scientist G Anil Kumar from the hamlet said that he worked hard to come to the current position. He used to walk daily two kilometres to attend high school.

There was no road connectivity to the village, he said. He recalled how he used a mud road and crossed two streams to reach the high school. He said that he worked hard to become an agricultural scientist.



State plans to build check dams at cost of Rs 1,200 cr: Puvvada

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The state government has plans to build check dams at a cost of Rs 1,200 crore across the State for effective utilisation of water resources, Transport Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar said on Thursday.

Addressing a public meeting after laying the foundation stone for a check dam across Munneru river at Prakash Nagar here, he said the check dam would be built at a cost of Rs 7.45 crore.

During the monsoon, lakhs of cusecs of water flow into Krishna river from its tributary Munneru. To check the runoff and store water for Khammam citizen's use, it was planned to build the check dam at Prakash Nagar. The check dam would also help in recharging groundwater in the areas near

the river and to store around half tmc of water, the Minister said, adding that the check dam was first designed at a height of three metres but engineers were directed to redesign it at a height of six metres to meet future needs.

There are also plans to develop a park with a walking track by constructing a flood bank (Karakatta) on either side of Munneru river to turn it into a tourist spot. The karakatta would also serve as a flood control system during heavy rains, he added.

As of now, there was no shortage of drinking water in Khammam city. Around 120 million litres drinking water was being supplied every day and about 70,000 households in the city were equipped with Mission Bhagiratha tap connections, Ajay Kumar

explained.

He said that the State government was giving priority to Khammam development. Hundreds of crores of rupees have been spent on widening roads, laying new roads, developing junctions, central lighting, parks and other works. Irrigation Department Chief Engineer Shankar Naik informed that the check dam on Munneru would be capable of storing 5.46 million cusecs of water. It helps to increase groundwater level in areas up to five kilometres distance from the river bed.

Ajay Kumar later inspected Lakaram suspension bridge works at Lakaram Tank Bund. ZP Chairman L Kamalraj, SUDA Chairman Bachu Vijay Kumar, Mayor G Papalal, his deputy B Murali Prasad and others were present.

Telangana's Manasa Varanasi crowned prestigious Miss India-World '20

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Manasa Varanasi, an engineer from Telangana, on Wednesday night emerged as the winner of VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020.

While Haryana's Manika Sheokand was declared VLCC Femina Miss Grand India 2020, Uttar Pradesh's Manya Singh was crowned VLCC Femina Miss India 2020 - runner-up.

The jury panel comprised actors Neha Dhupia, Chitran-gada Singh, Pulkit

Samrat and renowned designer duo Falguni and Shane Peacock.

The opening round of the pageant was led by Miss World Asia 2019 Suman Rao. Miss Grand India 2019, Shivani J Jadhav crowned Manika Sheokand the Miss Grand India 2020. And Miss India United Continents 2019, Shreya Shanker crowned Uttar Pradesh's Manya Singh Miss India 2020 runner-up.

The finale of the Miss India pageant 2021 was a

star-studded affair, with a performance by Vaani Kapoor and Aparshakti Khurrana acted as a host for the grand night.

The Miss India jury panel comprised of actors such as Neha Dhupia, Chitrangada Singh, Pulkit Samrat and renowned designer duo Falguni and Shane Peacock.

The opening round of the pageant was led by Miss World Asia 2019 Suman Rao. The grand finale will be telecast on February 28 on Colors TV channel.

CAA will be implemented after vaccination: Shah

Continued from Page 1

"Mamata Didi is misleading the people on the CAA. But let me tell you that she won't be a position to oppose as she will not be the chief minister after April-May. We will implement the CAA, it is a law that has been passed by Parliament," he said.

"As the Home Minister of this country, I want to assure the minorities of India that none of you will lose citizenship. The CAA is about granting citizenship to refugees, it is not about taking away anyone's citizenship," he said.

Accusing the erstwhile Congress and the Left Front governments of West Bengal of never bothering about granting citizenship to the refugees, Shah said they betrayed them much in the same way as the TMC did. Shah also attacked the Mamata Banerjee government

over Bangladeshi infiltration, and asserted only a BJP government can stop it.

Courting the Matua community, Shah said if voted to power, the BJP government will propose renaming the Thakurnagar railway station 'Shri Dham Thakurnagar' after Sri Sri Harichand Thakur, their socio-religious guru.

After coming to power in West Bengal, the BJP government will introduce 'Chief Minister Sharnathi Kalyan Yojana' for the welfare of the refugee population.

Reacting to Shah's assertion about implementing the CAA, Mamata Banerjee said she should mind his language and declared she will never allow it to be enforced in West Bengal.

"The home minister of the country should be careful about his utterances. We will never allow CAA, NRC or NPR in Bengal."

'Strive to enhance the image and...

Continued from Page 1

KCR asked them to properly utilise the opportunity of serving as a public representative given to them by people and earn a good name.

"These are the times where even if you are good, charges are levelled against you. If you give even a small chance, you will get a bad name. Hence, act with caution," the Chief Minister told them.

"Those who are in power should act with patience, maintain composure, and be simple. There should not be any change in the attire, language or behaviour. If you indulge in unnecessary and irrelevant talk, there is no gain but you may land yourself in trouble. Hence, speak carefully. Don't discriminate against people who come to you on the basis of their caste or religion. Comfort them and take care of them. Give them due respect. Listen to them patiently. Help them as much as possible. Don't tell lies. Make a committed effort to solve their problems," KCR advised them. "Listen to Goret Venkanna's song, 'Galli

Chinnadi Garibolla Katha Peddadi (street is narrow, but the problem of the poor is big). I have listened to it more than a hundred times. There are difficulties, problems of people living in bastis in the song. Understand them. Mayors and corporators should visit bastis. Understand the plight of people there. Come to the rescue of the poor. This should be your main aim and objective," the Chief Minister told them.

"There are several advantages to Hyderabad city. It has a wonderful future. This is a true global city. There are many who came from other states and are residing here. In the city we have a Sindhi Colony. We have a Gujarati Galli. There is Parsi Gutta. We have Bengalis, Malayalees, Maharashtrians, Marwaris, and Kayasthas. We have a population of people from various regions, religions and cultures. They all take pride in being Hyderabadis. Hyderabad is like mini India. This is the city, which loves everyone. The future of this great city lies on the newly elected corporators and Mayors," he said.

CS-led panel to take call on unfinished AP capital buildings

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In an important development, the state government on Thursday evening constituted a high-level committee headed by Chief Secretary Adityanath Das that will decide the fate of unfinished buildings that were taken up by the previous TDP government in the core capital area of Amaravati.

With present Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy proposing three capitals - Vizag as executive capital, Amaravati as

Only the Assembly buildings and accommodation for elected representatives will be required in Amaravati area.

Legislative and Kurnool as judicial capital - all the important office buildings, including the state Secretariat will move to Vizag.

Only the Assembly buildings and accommodation for elect-

ed representatives will be required in Amaravati area.

As the Naidu government had envisaged many iconic buildings and some of the buildings planned to accommodate HoDs and AIS officers are under construction, the present dispensation constituted a nine-member high level committee to decide the way forward.

After scrapping the CRDA Act, the YSRCP government brought in Amaravati Metropolitan Region

Vikarabad man...

Continued from Page 1

The incident occurred ten days ago, while he was on his way to Texas from California. Nikhil was hit by another vehicle, which was travelling in the wrong direction.

Nikhil, who was critically injured, was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday. Nikhil's body will reach Vikarabad on Thursday morning, family members said.

Pharmacy student kidnapped...

Continued from Page 1

Police traced her location near the bushes using phone call details where those in the van and the auto driver had taken her but they fled on seeing police personnel and she was rescued, a police official said, adding, she had injuries on her

head. "We will take action as per law. A total of 12 teams have been formed as part of investigation," the official said.

Meanwhile, a group of local residents staged a road block demanding immediate arrest of the perpetrators and raised slogans 'we want justice'.

IT dept raids on liquor co leads to Rs 870-cr black money

Continued from Page 1

The group companies have "fraudulently" claimed expenses amounting to Rs 86 crore.

"In respect of their liquor business, unaccounted sales amounting to Rs 74 crore have been detected from one of their liquor manufacturing

plants based in Kerala. The group companies have also claimed bogus expenses of Rs 17 crore in their business entities," it said.

The directors of the group have incurred unexplained expenditure of Rs 9 crore attracting the provisions of Section 69C (when expenditure is deemed to be the

income of the assessee, no allowance of the same can be claimed as business expenditure) of the Income-tax Act, it claimed.

"There are large number of investments made in benami properties in the names of their employees and associates for several years," the statement said.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES	
GOLD	
₹ 48,600 (10 gm)	↓
₹ 210	
SILVER	
₹ 72,900 (1kg)	↓
₹ 1500	
CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹128
Without Skin	₹145
Broiler at Farm	₹88
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	405
VISAKHAPATNAM	395
VIJAYAWADA	410
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.05

Eating healthy meals now in vogue

K RAMYA SREE ■ HYDERABAD

While online Yoga, Zumba and Pilates kept most people in India going through the pandemic induced lockdown and remote working lifestyle, there is another fitness habit, which has gained prominence. Swiggy's recently launched Health Hub, shows that eating healthy meals is now in vogue in the country especially with new year resolutions.

Health Hub, a first-of-its-kind dedicated healthy food discovery destination on the Swiggy app that offers over 90,000 healthy dishes tells an interesting story about how Indians preferred to eat healthy in January 2021. Curated and



verified by certified nutritionists, Health Hub is currently live in Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru with plans to expand to other major cities through the year.

According to the study, healthy food orders saw a 20

per cent jump between December 2020 and January 2021, clearly indicating a resolve to start the year on a healthy note. While most binged-on Biryani and Pizza's on New Year's Eve, Swiggy witnessed a rise in healthy

meals and even healthy desserts being ordered on the first day of 2021. Dishes such as Millet Khichdi, Multigrain Masala Dosa, Mexican Burrito Bowl, Caesar Salad, Corn Sandwich, along with Belgian Bites and Sugarfree Ice Cream made for the maximum orders.

While Bengaluru crowned as the city with the maximum orders for healthy food in the country. A look at city-wise preferences for health meals shows that Hyderabad ordered the most Barbeque Grilled Salads, Protein Guacamole Bowls and healthy breakfasts. Mumbaikars went for Burrito Bowls, Caesar Salads, Homestyle North Indian Khichdis and combos.

98 cops get Covishield...

Continued from Page 1

According to Khammam District Medical Officer, all these police personnel will be carefully monitored till they take their next dose.

We will correct the mistake: DMHO Khammam District Medical Officer Dr Malathi said: "We have identified the mistake and will see to it that there is no health problem for those who have been vaccinated". She conceded that only Covaxin was administered throughout the district. The indent in the records would be changed, she said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

"e" procurement Notice No: 4477/TS/DE/DB/SEW/2020-21 Dt: 10.02.2021

1. Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for (B) Road safety work and 2 Junction improvement works in Warangal Urban District in (R&B) Circle Warangal. Tenderers can download the tender schedules from e-market place i.e. www.appraisal.telangana.gov.in from 12.02.2021 from 4:00 PM onwards.

2. The last date and time of receipt of tenders for the above works is on or before 19.02.2021 up to 3:30 PM.

3. Further details can be seen at e-procurement market place i.e. <https://tender.telangana.gov.in/>

DPR R.O.No: 1614-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Sd/- Superintending Engineer (R&B), Regional Office, Warangal

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
6-1-90, Corporate Office, Mint Compound, Hyderabad - 500 003

Tender Short Notice

Tender Notice No. 11/2020-21 of GOM/Projects/SC/Chil/Corps/Office/Hyd., Dt: 09.02.2021

1. Tenders are invited by the tender agency for the following works: 1. Tender Specification No. 19/2020-21 - Providing of House Keeping and maintenance Services to Corporate Office of SSPDCL, located at West Compound, Hyderabad for the period from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022. 2. Tender Specification No. 20/2020-21 - Providing of House Keeping & Maintenance for the Industrial, CPFL, CGP, Rural & Greater Hyderabad, Director Quarters Block, Utravaddi, Hyderabad for the period 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022. For further detailed specifications and other terms and conditions please visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Phone No. 0443913854, Fax No. 23431056.

DPR R.O.No: 1401-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Sd/- Chief General Manager / Projects TSSPDC

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

"e" PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

1. On line tenders are invited under e-procurement platform in Khammam District under DMFT, respectively in (R&B) Department vide ENOC: NIT NO.1718/ENOC/R&B/MUEE/PG/001/2021 Dt: 10-02-2021 for (i) Road works for (i) call in Khammam District under DMFT funds.

2. Tenderers can download the tender schedules from e-market place i.e. www.appraisal.telangana.gov.in

3. Further details can be seen at e-procurement market place i.e. www.appraisal.telangana.gov.in

The last date and time of receipt of tenders is on or before 23-02-2021 up to 3:30 PM

Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief (R&B) State Roads & CRN

RD No: 1009-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

70% road accident victims are motorists, pedestrians

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As many as 70 per cent of road accident victims are motorists and pedestrians, with many of the cases being related to not following lane discipline by motorcyclists.

According to SM Vijay Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (traffic), Cyberabad, "Bikers do not wear high quality helmets. Few of them ride rashly in heavy traffic and ride very close to heavy vehicles. They also enter the highway without proper observation," he stated during a road safety virtual meet that was jointly organised by the Society for Cyberabad Security Council and Cyberabad Police.

To counter the increase in numbers of accidents in the city, Vijay Kumar stated, "The Cyberabad Traffic Police has set up seven check posts with dedicated teams working round the clock, whose work will be not to allow any two-wheeler to ride without wearing proper helmets by both the rider and the pillion rider."



With the help of CCTV footage, the police are taking action on riders taking part in midnight races, by booking cases against them and confiscating their license.

The Cyberabad Traffic Police is also coordinating with the GHMC for the safety of the pedestrians by setting up multiple constructions of foot

paths, foot over bridges, road cross markings, sign boards, etc. About 14 new foot over bridges and 31 exclusive pedestrian road crossings are under process.

The traffic police are in the forefront of leveraging digital technology. The best example is contactless and cashless e-challans and Telangana is the

first state in the country to initiate this.

The Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) project which is being implemented by L&T has many analytics and AI based projects. It is a digital platform that helps the police minimize the manual efforts and bring down the violations.

Ten jailed for drunk driving in Cyberabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

There have been spate of drunk driving accidents in the posh Cyberabad limits of Hyderabad city of late.

In view of increasing road accidents, due to reckless driving by drunk drivers, massive checkings have been started in Cyberabad area.

As many as 10 persons were jailed for drunk driving apart from imposition of penalty by Cyberabad Traffic Police on Thursday. The driving licenses of all the persons indulged in DD are being sent to the concerned RTOs for suspension. As many as 56 cases were booked in Shamsabad traffic police and 25 cases were disposed in Shadnagar traffic police station.

Four persons are imprisoned for three days, three persons are imposed for six days, one person is imprisoned for 15 days, one person is imprisoned for 20 days and one person is imprisoned for four days by the court.

Cyberabad traffic police has urged to exhibit self-discipline and responsibility while driving on roads.

Sharpshooters to cull wild boars free of cost in T'gana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Forest Department has identified 30 rifle shooters for culling of wild pigs in Telangana. This list has been circulated to all the officials of Agriculture, Forests, Horticulture, and Panchayat Raj Departments of the States.

Some of the members from the panel of shooters met the forest officials in Aranya Bhavan and voiced their concern over the issue of demand

of money for culling of wild pigs. In a written letter addressed to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana they have reiterated that they were ready to take up the culling of wild pigs free of cost and if possible, within 48 hours and when requested by the Gram Panchayat Sarpanch. The shooters informed the forest officials that they were not party to the decision wherein certain shooter has requested money for culling of wild pigs in farmer's fields. They also informed that they will bear the cost of ammunition, travel to the site of culling, by themselves and



do not except any remuneration from the government.

They reiterated that they were willing to take up the culling operation as voluntary service to the farmers in Telangana State as per the provisions of the government order and based on the proceedings issued by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana and towards this they handed over signed letter as well.

It may be remembered here that a member of the panel of 30 sharpshooters selected for culling wild boars in Telangana has urged the State government to pay Rs 600 for each

wild boar that they bring down towards ammunition cost and other expenses.

Pervaram Santaji, the sharpshooter who is in Sangareddy district to carry out culling operation at Potulboguda village in Vatpally Mandal, told that each bullet costs them Rs 200. "Since we need to travel from Hyderabad to villages to carry out the culling operations, we request the government to pay Rs 200 towards bullet cost, and Rs 400 towards other incidental expenditure including travel expenses. We are not seeking remuneration, but we need to bear the expenses from our pocket," he said.

Secure India is real tribute to 1971 war heroes: Guv

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Thursday paid rich tributes to the martyrs of 1971 war on the occasion of 50th year celebrations and commemoration of our country's decisive victory over Pakistan.

Participating as the chief guest at the Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations organised by the Telangana and Andhra Sub-Area military unit at Parade Grounds, here, she said that our war heroes showed the bravery, valour, courage and sacrifice of highest form during the 1971 war.

The Governor stated that it was our duty not to let go their sacrifices in vain and continue to build a strong, secure, and prosperous India as a real tribute to the 1971 war heroes.

"India is marching towards self-reliance in defence sector by developing its own fighter aircraft and missiles and our scientists are making India self-reliant in defence sector," she said.



SWARNIM VIJAY VARSH

As part of 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' celebrations commemorating 50 years of the 1971 Indo-Pak war triumph, the HQ Telangana & Andhra Sub Area organised an event to display tanks, aircraft and guns at Veerula Sainik Smarak Parade Ground on Thursday. The Telangana and Andhra chapter of this event is of 10 days. The 'Victory Mashaal' was accorded a grand reception at the War Memorial, Artillery Centre, Hyderabad. During its last mile run, the Mashaal was carried by outstanding sportspersons being Arijuna/Dronacharya Awardees, NCC cadets and schoolchildren.

— SV Chary



Will marry off lovers on V Day, says Bajrang Dal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Valentine's Day which is better known as the day of international love, attracts a lot of organisations who find different ways and means to harass the young couples celebrating their love on different locations.

On the eve of Valentine's Day, Bajrang Dal has warned the youth to stay away from celebrating Valentine's Day in any form. Just like every year, this year also moral policing will take place on February 14, where youth will be facing harassments on celebrating the occasion. Bajrang Dal activists do not believe in celebrating Valentine's Day, rather according to them it is against the Indian culture.

This is not the first time that such warnings have been given to the youngsters, even last year the activists of this organisation assaulted and misbehaved with the youth on celebrating Valentine's Day.

In the past, the Bajrang Dal activists caught many couples from public places on the V-day and attacked them.

As part of its yearly demand, the Bajrang Dal's state unit on Wednesday demanded the state government to put a ban on the upcoming Valentine's Day celebrations on February 14 of this month. The activists from the group released a poster on the issue in the city.

Addressing media persons on the occasion, staff convener of Bajrang Dal, Subash Chander, said that they would organise the burning of Valentine's Day greeting cards on February 12.

He said that they would instead organise an 'Amar Jawan Diwas' programme on the same day to pay tributes to the martyrs of the country. "We will also hold a rally on evening of the Valentine's Day at Necklace Road to create awareness among the residents of the city," Subash added.

He also warned that they would also hold programmes of performing forceful marriages to lovers if they were spotted with them on Valentine's Day. "Lovers' day is also banned in Rome city," Chander claimed.

CITY LIGHTS GHAC holds workshop to boost agri exports from state by cargo

In order to identify and discuss opportunities Telangana has in agri exports through air cargo, GMR Hyd Air Cargo (GHAC), a division of GMR Air Cargo and Aerospace Engineering, organised a workshop on 'Boosting Agri Exports from Telangana by Air Cargo' on Thursday. Telangana government has been actively taking various initiatives to encourage export of agriculture and horticulture products with demand in the international market. It is also exploring the demand for irradiation facilities for export of mangoes.

There are also plans to establish an Agri Export Processing Unit near Shamsabad. Dr B Janardhan Reddy, Agriculture Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government, CEO-GMR Hyderabad International Airports Pradeep Panicker, Saurabh Kumar, CEO-GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo and senior officials from Telangana customs, airlines and exporters, freight forwarders and other stakeholders participated in the discussion and shared their views to realise the vision of the Telangana government, and outline a strategy that would facilitate growth of agri exports from the state by air cargo.

IIT Hyd based startup PURE EV set to launch electric bike soon

IIT Hyderabad (IIT-H) incubated startup PURE EV is all set to launch its first electric motorcycle - ETRYST 350. This flagship product has been completely designed, developed and manufactured in India and represents a major leap in the Indian electric vehicles sector. The company will deploy 50 demo vehicles by end of March 2021 across India to make them available for test drives at specific outlets. ETRYST 350 is scheduled to hit the roads on August 15 this year at a price that would be economical in comparison with conventional motorcycles in Indian markets with similar pickup and power. PURE EV will first launch the product in the metropolitan cities of Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune, which have the highest sales numbers, after which it will expand to more outlets by the end of 2021. ETRYST 350 has been designed and developed at PURE EV's technical and manufacturing centre in Hyderabad. It boasts a top speed of 85 KMPH, delivering on par ride experience with most Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) motorbikes. A single full charge will provide a range of 120 KM, till the battery has to be charged again. The vehicle is powered by a 3.5 KWH patented battery, developed by PURE EV.

Telangana reports 146 new Coronavirus cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana added 146 fresh cases of Covid until Wednesday taking the Coronavirus caseload to 2,96,134 so far.

The state did not suffer any fresh Covid death in the last 24 hours and the total death toll remained 1,613 as on date.

The state's case fatality rate was 0.5r per cent as against the countrywide mortality rate of 1.4 per cent, according to a state health department bulletin on Thursday.

A total of 118 people have recovered from Coronavirus

statewide in a span of 24 hours pushing the overall recoveries thus far to 2,92,696 constituting a recovery rate of 98.83 per cent while the National average was 97.2 per cent.

The number of active cases in the state presently stand at 1,825 including 765 individuals in home or institutional isolation, the bulletin said.

During the last 24 hours, 29055 swab samples have been tested in the state to detect the contagious virus and out of which the reports of 640 swab samples are pending.



Two killed as DCM hits car on outskirts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two persons were killed in a road accident at Pedda Amberpet at Hayathnagar early on Thursday.

According to the police, a DCM vehicle going towards the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport road rammed another DCM that was in front of it. The second DCM crashed into a Toyota Innova resulting in the death of a person Kasinadula, the driver of the Innova, on the spot and another person Chowdhary who was travelling in the first DCM.

The incident happened around 2.30 am on the NH 65 near Nalgonda Dharmakanta near Peda Amberpet.

On information, the police reached the spot and with help of cranes, removed the vehicles and pulled out the bodies, which were then shifted to the OGH mortuary.

Skeletal remains of missing man found in furniture shop after a yr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

More than a year after a man went missing, his skeletal remains were found in a shop owned by a man who allegedly murdered him over an extramarital affair.

The shocking incident came to light on Wednesday in Borabanda area of Hyderabad when the furniture store located in a cellar was broken open by the management committee of a local temple as the shopkeeper had not paid rent for a year.

Palash Paul, who was running the store since 2017 in the property owned by the temple committee, had kept the shop closed since January last year.

When the temple committee members broke open the store to reoccupy the property, a foul smell emanated from a wooden box. They were shocked to find a highly decomposed body in it. They immediately



alerted police. On a complaint by temple committee chairman Yadaiah, a case of murder was registered at SR Nagar police station. Inspector K. Saidulu said they arrested Paul and began interrogation.

The victim was identified as Kamal Maity, who was known to Palash Paul. Both hailed from West Bengal. Paul allegedly had extramarital rela-

tions with Maity's wife. As Paul found him to be a hurdle in continuing the affair, he allegedly murdered him. As he could not dispose the body, he stuffed it into a box in his shop and locked it.

The victim's wife had lodged a complaint with Jubilee Hills police station on January 11, 2020 that her husband is missing.

TMREIS students continue to show their sports skills

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As part of the vigorous effort of Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) for bringing all out development in students to made them excel in the field of Education and Sports, it is ensuring that students of Sports Academy who are from economically weaker sections get a good diet and training.

It is also to ensure fitness and endurance among students.

Mohsin Qureshi of TMR Junior College bagged bronze medal at the on-going 36th National Junior Athletics Championship held in Guwahati in shot-put.

Mohsin Qureshi, the son of a meat seller said, "I am very happy as I made glory at National level. Due to Covid pandemic, I had to face tough time, but I never looked back. I did not stop my practice and have struggled hard every day and today that dedication and hard work has paid off."

Mohsin Qureshi joined



TMREIS in the year 2016. Earlier, in the year 2018 he bagged gold medal in 4th Students Olympic Association

International Athletic Games at Colombo, Sri Lanka. He also secured Silver Medal in 5th Inter Society Sports League 2020. He was groomed under Dronacharya Awardee N Ramesh at TMREIS Sports Academy.

Master Mohsin Qureshi will be further groomed to represent India to participate more in National and International Championships.

Minister for Minority Welfare Koppula Eshwar, president of TMREIS AK Khan and Secretary to Government,

Minorities Welfare Ahmed Nadeem Master Mohsin Qureshi for his achievement.

B Shafiullah, Secretary TMREIS expressed his best wishes Master Mohsin Qureshi and urged him to earn good name for TMREIS and for Telangana State and to become role model for other TMR students to follow his footsteps.

The achievement of Mohsin Qureshi is one more chapter in the success stories of Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
7th Floor, Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Amberpet, Hyderabad
Public Notification U/s. 15(3) of HMDA Act, 2008
(Government Memo. No. 14618/PJ.1/2020, Dt. 24.12.2020)
In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008 (Act No. 6 of 2008), it is proposed to make the following draft variation to the land use envisaged in the notified Master Plan HMDA approved vide G.O.Ms.No.287/MA dt. 03.04.2008.
The site in Sq.No. 601 & 602 of Nalgonda (V), Badangal (M), Rang Reddy Dist. measuring to an extent of 27638.35 Sq.mts, or Ac. 6-33 Gts, which is presently earmarked for Work Center use zone in the notified Master Plan HMDA approved vide G.O.Ms.No.287/MA dt. 03.04.2008 is now proposed to be designated as Residential use zone.
The details of the above are available in website <http://gmhda.telanganagov.in> and <http://tmda.gov.in/>.
Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections/suggestions in writing addressed to the A.C. & M.O. or Principal Secretary, H.M.S.U.D Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice.
RO No: 1464/PRCL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2020-21
Self-For Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA

GHMC MAYOR POLLS

TRS struck secret deal with MIM: BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Tacit understanding between the TRS and the MIM came to the fore yet again with the latter support to the TRS in the GHMC Mayor and Deputy Mayor elections held on Thursday, alleged BJP State unit chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

He reminded that his statement during the GHMC polls has proved correct. He opined that the TRS would have won a few seats in case the TRS and the MIM contested GHMC elections without understanding.

The TRS steering certainly would be in the hands of the MIM in the GHMC, he opined alleging that both the parties were indulged in campaign shamelessly during the GHMC elections that they are separate.

He opined that both the parties would have allied openly if they wanted to do ethical politics. Both the parties are hatching a



BJP leader Vijayashanthi



BJP MP D Arvind



BJP MLA Raja Singh

conspiracy to loot the Bhayanagar, he criticised stating that the BJP will protect its corporators. Sanjay made it clear that they will pull the TRS and MIM to the streets if they indulged in corruption and encroachment of lands in GHMC limits. He said that the people of the State would not tolerate the TRS' cheap politics anymore and ready to give a shock treatment whenever they get an opportunity. BJP

MLA Raja Singh alleged the TRS deceived the people telling lies and took the support of the MIM for the Mayor election.

Why the MIM, which stated that it will field its candidates for the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor elections, backtracked, and supported the TRS now, he questioned?

Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind alleged that the secret agreement between KCR and

MIM's chief Asaduddin Owaisi came to light with the Mayor's election. Exuding confidence over the victory of the BJP in graduate MLC elections and Nagarjunasagar bypoll, Arvind alleged that KCR is an anthill of corruption.

Vijayashanthi said that what she predicted happened in the Mayor and Deputy Mayor elections. She alleged that the TRS and the MIM is Siamese and

■ The TRS steering would be in the hands of the MIM in the GHMC, alleged BJP State unit chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar

■ BJP MLA Raja Singh said the TRS deceived the people by telling lies and took the support of the MIM for the Mayor election

■ The secret agreement between KCR and MIM's chief Asaduddin Owaisi came to light with the Mayor election, lamented Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind

■ Vijayashanthi said that the TRS and the MIM are Siamese and they proved it in GHMC Mayor polls

they proved it in GHMC Mayor polls.

ELECTION OF GADWALA VIJAYALAXMI AS MAYOR

Is KCR wooing Munnuru Kapu leaders to check Sanjay?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The selection of Gadwala Vijayalaxmi as the new Mayor of GHMC surprised the TRS leaders and newly-elected corporators as once again Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has given a chance to a corporator from Munnuru Kapu community though there are many corporators elected from the Reddy community.

Many expected that the Mayor's post will be given to a Reddy candidate. Several corporators from the Reddy community (like Sindhu Adarsh Reddy, Manne Kavitha Reddy, P Vijaya Reddy, Mothe Srilatha Reddy and others) approached the Chief Minister and TRS working president and IT Minister KT Rama Rao.

However, party Chief KCR picked TRS secretary general K Keshava Rao's (Munnuru Kapu) daughter and Banjara Hills corporator Gadwala Vijayalaxmi, though she married a Reddy.

It is learnt that KTR, too, battled for the candidature of a corporator from the Reddy community for Mayor post, however, KCR has given a big surprise to the party leaders and opponent parties, too, by giving a chance to Vijayalaxmi.

Many assumed that the Chief Minister may not give a chance to Munnuru Kapu corporator as former GHMC Mayor Bonthu Rammoan was from the same community. Even party leaders stated that the TRS working president didn't look happy on Thursday on the



Gadwala Vijayalaxmi



Bandi Sanjay

■ Many expected that the Mayor post will be given to a Reddy candidate. Several corporators from the Reddy community (like Sindhu Adarsh Reddy, Manne Kavitha Reddy, P Vijaya Reddy, Mothe Srilatha Reddy and others) approached the Chief Minister and TRS working president and IT Minister KT Rama Rao

■ However, party Chief KCR picked TRS secretary general K Keshava Rao's (Munnuru Kapu) daughter and Banjara Hills corporator Gadwala Vijayalaxmi, though she married a Reddy

day the Mayor election was held.

The discussion is going on in the state that the selection of corporator from Munnuru Kapu community by the TRS happened only keeping BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar in view. Bandi Sanjay Kumar is from the Munnuru Kapu community and became a headache for the TRS after becoming Telangana BJP chief. Even Bandi Sanjay Kumar defeated TRS candidate Boinpally Vinod Kumar, who is from the Velama community, in MP elections from Karimnagar, which is the bastion of the Velamas.

One of the TRS leaders stated that selection of Vijayalaxmi will help the TRS to give an

impression that even the TRS is also giving top priority to Munnuru Kapus and BCs assuming that many Munnuru Kapus are inclining towards the BJP after Bandi Sanjay was appointed the Telangana BJP chief.

Munnuru Kapus are in large numbers in Telangana State and are active in politics and they will give a tough competition to any community if they unite like the Velama community. As of now, Munnuru Kapus are not united. However, Munnuru Kapus will become a strong political force if they are united, he opined. The Chief Minister succeeded in attracting the Reddy community by giving their leaders top priority in the party, he reminded.

CAPSULE

'Make arrangements for Vasantha Panchami'

PNS ■ NIRMAL

Collector Musharraf Ali Faruqi asked the authorities concerned on Thursday to make the required arrangements for Vasantha Panchami festivities at the ancient Sri Jnana Saraswathi Devasthanam of Basar from February 14 to 16. Addressing a review meeting with officials of the temple and other departments here, Faruqi instructed the executive officer of the temple Vinod and others to make elaborate arrangements for the devotees and ensure smooth conduct of the festivities with strict implementation of Covid-19 pandemic guidelines. He told the authorities to create drinking water, lighting and medical facilities at the shrine.

Govt to construct hotel at Madikonda IT Park

PNS ■ WARANGAL RURAL

Stressing on the need for a three-star hotel near Madikonda IT Park under Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) limits, Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Errabelli Dayakar Rao has directed the officials concerned to identify 10 acres of land for the hotel. He also directed the officials to complete the land acquisition process for construction of Inner Ring Road (IRR) and Outer Ring Road (ORR) at the earliest and complete the works within the deadline without compromising on quality. Addressing officials at a review meeting on the development of Warangal city at his camp office in Hanamakonda on Thursday, Dayakar Rao directed the officials to undertake flood relief works worth Rs 100 crore by completing the tendering process. The bio-mining works at the dumping yard at Madikonda (Rampur) at a cost of Rs 36 crore should also be started, he said.

'Mayor needs to rise above politics'

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

The GHMC Mayor post has lost its sheen for the past several years. Whatever the reasons might be, but the leaders and other people are expecting more from the newly elected Mayor to bring back the lost glory to the post.

In the past particularly during direct elections, the Mayor has great importance as the person sitting in the seat is considered as the first citizen of Hyderabad, however, it had lost its sheen after indirect elections. Everybody used to accord top priority in terms of protocol and development of the city. However, the Mayor's position has become a political position losing its honour year after year where the Hyderabad city is spreading leaps and bounds.

Speaking to The Pioneer, AICC official spokesperson Dasoju Sravan said that the Mayor should work like the first citizen of Hyderabad and not like a puppet in the hands of the government. BJP senior leader N Indrasena Reddy said that the then Congress government had started reducing the powers of Mayor and it reached now to its peak. The new Mayor has to work with proper plans regarding policies and budget, he said.

Mass Communication and Journalism head Prof Stevenson, said: "The new Mayor should work towards transforming the city into a global city. As the first citizen of Hyderabad, she should rise above partisan politics and address the concerns of the lowest denominators. She should be above the corruption and ensure speedy redressal of people's grievances."



Dasoju Sravan



N Indrasena Reddy

1150 gram in dak sevaks to be recruited

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Circle of the postal department on Thursday issued a notification to recruit 1150 gram in dak sevaks on an ad hoc basis.

The gram in dak sevaks will work in the rural areas where there is no access to post-offices.

Those who are appointed branch post master are entitled to receive Rs 14,500 if they work for five hours and Rs 12,000 per month if they work for only four hours a day. The salary of assistant branch post master/gram in dak sevaks is at Rs 12,000 if they work for five hours a day and will receive at Rs 10,000 a month if they work for four hours.

Minister enquires about 'Jaipur foot' in Rajasthan

PNS ■ JAGTIAL

Chief Minister K Chandra sekhar Rai is according priority to the safety and welfare of physically challenged, said Minister for Scheduled Castes Development, Minority and Physically Challenged Welfare Koppula Eshwar.

The minister on Thursday visited the Bhagwan Mahaveer Vikalang Sahayata Samithi in

Jaipur. Inspired by the teachings of Lord Mahavira, the non-profit organisation was founded in 1975, which provides free prosthetic limbs to the physically challenged. The minister and a team of officials examined the manufacture and performance of prostheses. The minister met the managers and enquired about the organisation's aspirations and ongoing service. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao is taking necessary steps for enhancing the self-respect of the physically challenged, their security and welfare.

"We are providing a pension of Rs 3,016 per month like nowhere else in the country. We are providing tricycles, wheelchairs, laptops, hearing aids and 4G smart-phones worth Rs 90,000 free of cost to physically challenged," the minister stated.



Minority and Physically Challenged Welfare Koppula Eshwar interacting with an official at the Bhagwan Mahaveer Vikalang Sahayata Samithi on Thursday where 'Jaipur foot' being made

People's welfare is govt's priority, says Challa

PNS ■ WARANGAL RURAL

The TRS will protect every activist, who works for the strengthening of the party, asserted Parkal MLA Challa Dharma Reddy. The TRS was emerged as the undisputed party in the State under the leadership of party president and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Former Telangana State Agros chairman Lingampally Kishan Rao and Telangana State TRS

party secretary Mettu Srinivas were present at the party meeting here on Thursday.

The Chief Minister is moving ahead with the aim of public welfare as the main agenda. The people of the State are living happily under his rule. The government is credited with delivering the fruits directly to the beneficiaries, he said. He alleged that the Opposition was indulging in mud-slinging for their political gain.

CONSTRUCTION OF POLAVARAM SPILLWAY PILLARS

MEIL reaches yet another milestone

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Polavaram project, the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh, has reached yet another milestone with the completion of spillway pillars construction on Thursday.

With this, the dream of the people will be realised soon. The government was keen on completing the project in the stipulated time. Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy and the ministers are reviewing the progress of the project regularly and directing the authorities concerned to complete the works at a brisk pace.

The Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) is working on three shifts to complete the pro-

■ Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy and the ministers are reviewing the progress of the project regularly and directing the authorities concerned to complete the works at a brisk pace

ject. The spillway, which is useful to release the floodwaters, requires the construction of 52-metre-high pillars. The construction of 'Fish Ladder' in the second block of the spillway delayed the construction of the second pillar due to a delay in approvals for its designs.

With the approval of all the designs recently, the MEIL has completed the construction of all the pillars to a slab level of an average height of 52 metres.

Bridge slab works on spillway pillars are nearing completion.

Satish Babu Angara, General Manager, MEIL, said, "We are happy to announce the completion of 52 pillars construction work. We also construct the second pillar to a height of 52 metres as soon as the design required for the installation of the fish ladder was approved. This completes the construction of 52 pillars on the Polavaram project spillway. The project was delayed due to heavy rains, floods and COVID-19. In these challenging conditions also, we can complete the works as per the schedule. We are confident of reaching the goal."

The MEIL has begun the Polavaram

project concrete works on November 21, 2019. The spillway bridge slab length is 1,128 metres, and 1,095 metres have already been completed. Out of 192 girders to be placed on the spillway pillars, the MEIL already installed 188 girders on the pillars. Only four girders are to be placed on the pillars.

The Megha Engineering has completed the spillway works less than four months of record time. The spillway bridge slab concreting works were launched on September 9, 2020. In July 2020, it began installing girders on spillway pillars. In all, 45 slabs have been completed on the spillway bridge and the remaining three slabs are ready to be completed in a short time.

MLAs pay obeisance to Durga Bhavani at Edupayala Jatara

PNS ■ MEDAK

Devotees offered prayers to Goddess Vanadurga Bhavani to mark the Maghama Amavasya at the famous Edupayala shrine on the banks of the River Manjira. Medak MLA Padma Devender Reddy and Narsapur MLA Madan Reddy performed pujas and rituals on the occasion on Thursday.

Earlier, temple priests welcomed the MLAs with temple honours. Temple executive officer Sara Srinivas felicitated the MLAs with shawls. Speaking on the occasion, Padma Devender Reddy said that everything will be fine if one takes a holy dip in the river on Magha Amavasya Parva.

It is believed that taking a holy dip in Yedupayala, a tributary of Manjira, on Magha Amavasya is sacred. Vanadurga Mata temple is being developed with special care. In addition to building a



A large number of devotees throng Edupayala Jatara in Medak on Thursday



Devotees taking a holy dip in the Edupayala, the tributary of the River Manjira



Medak MLA Padma Devender Reddy offers silk robes to Goddess Bhavani

convention centre, construction of CC roads is underway. She recalled that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had recently sanctioned Rs 12.31 crore for the construction of CC road from

Potam Shetty Palli to Edupayala. The road will be completed ahead of Maha Shivaratri Jatara for the convenience of devotees.

The Medak MLA said that she would take the lead in the

development of the temple in coordination with MLA Madan Reddy.

Devotees from across the Medak district, including Hyderabad, neighbouring States of Maharashtra and

Karnataka, came in large numbers to pay obeisance to Goddess Bhavani. Police beefed up security to prevent any untoward incident on the temple premises and in surrounding areas.

IMPLEMENTATION OF DOLE

Warangal YC chief warns of laying siege to Assembly

PNS ■ WARANGAL RURAL

Warangal Rural District Youth Congress president Koyada Srinivas warned of laying siege to the Assembly if Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao did not implement the unemployment dole immediately.

The Chief Minister had failed to implement the promises he had made in the election manifesto, he said. He reminded that he had promised to render justice to the youth by providing jobs to them, but left the youth in the lurch by not issuing recruitment notifications. Further more, he demanded that the Central government repeal



Warangal Rural District Youth Congress president Koyada Srinivas addressing a meeting in Warangal on Thursday

the new farm laws, as they will not benefit the farmers.

Youth Congress leader Gundala Kranti, general secretary Anil Yadav, Raj Kumar, Madhava Reddy, SC Cell mandal president and others were present.

DISENGAGEMENT PROCESS IN EASTERN LADAKH

China to move troops to 'Finger 8'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Under the India-China agreement on the disengagement process in eastern Ladakh, the Chinese army will pull back its troops to east of Finger 8 areas in the northern bank of Pangong lake, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament on Thursday, in what is seen as a significant step to dial down tensions in the key face-off site.

Reciprocally, the defence minister said, Indian troops will be based at their permanent location at Dhan Singh Thapa post near Finger 3 areas.

Singh's statement clearly implied that the areas between the Indian position in Finger 3 and Finger 8 will effectively become a no patrolling zone till a resolution on future deployment is reached, defence experts said.

The Chinese military built several bunkers and other structures in the areas between Finger 4 and 8 and had blocked all Indian patrols beyond Finger 4, triggering strong reaction from the Indian Army.

In the nine rounds of military talks, India was specifically insisting on withdrawal of Chinese troops from Finger 4 to Finger 8 on the North bank of Pangong Lake. The mountain spurs in the area are referred to as Fingers.

Dr Laxman Behera, associ-



ate professor at the National Security Centre in Jawaharalal Nehru University described as significant the announcement that Chinese army will pull back troops to Finger 8 areas.

"It is a significant development. I think it will be a major step in taking forward the overall disengagement process though it came very late," Behera told PTI.

In his address in Rajya Sabha, the defence minister said similar action would be taken in the South bank of the Pangong lake areas by both sides.

Around five months ago, Indian troops occupied a number of strategic heights in the Mukhpari, Rechin La and

Magar hill areas around the southern bank of the Pangong lake after the Chinese military attempted to intimidate them in the area.

"A similar action would be taken in the South bank area by both sides. These are mutual and reciprocal steps and any structures that had been built by both sides since April 2020 in both North and South bank areas will be removed and the landforms will be restored," the defence minister said.

He said it was also agreed to have a temporary moratorium on military activities by both sides in the North bank of Pangong lake including patrolling to the traditional areas.

The Chinese military built several bunkers and other structures in the areas between Finger 4 and 8 and had blocked all Indian patrols beyond Finger 4, triggering strong reaction from the Indian Army.

"Patrolling will be resumed only when both sides reach an agreement in diplomatic and military talks that would be held subsequently. The implementation of this agreement started yesterday in the North and South Bank of the Pangong Lake," he said.

Singh said it was also agreed to hold the next meeting of Senior Commanders of the two armies within 48 hours after complete disengagement in Pangong lake areas to resolve any remaining issues.

In addition, the Chinese side had mobilised a large number of troops and armaments along the LAC as well as in the depth areas. Our armed forces too had made adequate and effective counter deployments in these areas to ensure that India's security interests were fully protected.

In his address, Singh also presented a genesis of the standoff and said the Chinese side had mobilised a large number of troops and armaments along the LAC as well as

in the depth areas, adding Indian armed forces too had made adequate and effective counter deployments to ensure that India's security interests were fully protected.

"I am proud to say that our armed Forces have responded to the challenges posed by the unilateral Chinese action and have shown valour and courage on both South and North bank of Pangong Tso," he said.

"Many strategically important points were identified and our troops positioned themselves at those hill tops and at locations which were very important from our point of view. It is because of this great bravery of our Armed Forces in the face of harsh adverse climatic conditions that we maintained the edge," Singh said.

He said the Armed Forces proved yet again that territorial integrity of India remains safe in their hands and their grit and determination to safeguard our borders is unwavering.

Modi's 'Vikas' vs Mamata's 'Vinash' in WB polls: Shah

PNS ■ COOCHBEHAR

Branding West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee a "failed administrator", Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday said the upcoming assembly elections in the state will be a contest between Narendra Modi's "development model" and her "destruction model".

He said the BJP's 'Parivartan Yatra' is not for changing a chief minister, MLA or minister but ending infiltration and transforming West Bengal's condition.

Addressing a rally in this North Bengal town, he said the yatra is also aimed at ending corruption patronised by "Bua-Bhatija" combine. The BJP has been accusing Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek, the Lok Sabha MP from Diamond Harbour, of "institutionalising corruption".

He also spoke about the killing of BJP workers and warned that the perpetrators will be thrown behind bars.

Claiming that Mamata Banerjee will not be the Chief Minister after May (by when the assembly elections will get over), Shah said she too would start chanting "Jai Shri Ram" by then.



Claiming that Mamata Banerjee will not be the CM after May (by when the polls will get over), Shah said she too would start chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' by then

"This 'Parivartan Yatra' is not for changing a CM, MLA or a minister. It is for ending infiltration, it is for ending violence and building 'Sonar Bangla', it's for the transformation of Bengal. You vote the BJP to power in Bengal. Leave alone illegal immigrants, not even a bird from across the border will be allowed to enter the state," Shah said addressing a rally before flagging off the fourth of the five 'Parivartan Yatras' planned by the BJP ahead of the assembly polls.

Shah claimed large-scale infiltration into Coochbehar district, which shares border with Bangladesh, has caused significant changes in its demography.

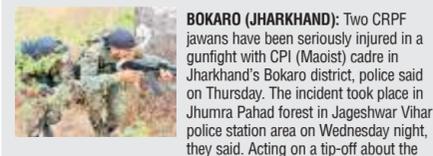
The upcoming assembly polls, he said, will be a fight between the "Vikas (development) model of the Narendra Modi government and Mamata Banerjee's Vinash (destruction) model".

He asserted the BJP will bag more than 200 of the state's 294 seats. "Mamata didi will lose election even only on the issue of infiltration," he said.

Referring to the January 23 incident, when Banerjee declined to speak at an official event attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to observe Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birthday after 'Jai Shri Ram' chants greeted her, Shah said her stand was aimed at appeasing a particular community.

INDIA CORNER

2 CRPF jawans hurt in gun-battle with Maoists in Jharkhand



BOKARO (JHARKHAND): Two CRPF jawans have been seriously injured in a gunfight with CPI (Maoist) cadre in Jharkhand's Bokaro district, police said on Thursday. The incident took place in Jhumra Pahad forest in Jageshwar Vihar police station area on Wednesday night, they said. Acting on a tip-off about the presence of a Maoist camp, a joint team of Jharkhand Police and CRPF launched a combing operation in the area, a police officer said. A force of around 50 Maoists opened fire on the security personnel upon spotting them, sparking off a gun-battle during which CRPF sepoy Satyendra Singh and Vishnu Singh received serious injuries, he said.

3 cops attacked by drunken youths harassing minor girls: SP

SHAHJAHANPUR: Three policemen were injured in Kalan town near here when a group of inebriated youths allegedly harassing two minor girls attacked them as the cops intervened into the matter, an official said on Thursday. Shahjahanpur Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sanjiv Bajpai identified the injured policemen as sub-inspectors Pankaj Chaudhary and Govind Singh and Constable Amit Dubey of Kalan Township police station. Bajpai said the policemen had rushed to a Devi Jagran venue under their police station area on a complaint by the girls' parents that the rowdy youths had beaten them up over their objection to the harassment of their minor daughters. As the police team reached the site and sought to apprehend the drunken youths, they attacked the police team as well with lathis, injuring all its three members, the SP said.

Left activists clash with police in Kolkata

KOLKATA: Left activists clashed with police in central Kolkata's Esplanade area on Thursday afternoon as they tried to break barricades on their way to state secretariat Nabanna, demanding jobs. The march started in College Street but was stopped by police on SN Banerjee Road in the Esplanade area. As the left activists tried to head further by breaking the heavy metal barricades, police charged water cannon. Amid slogans against the Mamata Banerjee government, the Left-wing youths and students tried to climb up the barricades, following which police began a baton-charge and also fired tear-gas shells. Left leaders claimed that several activists were injured in the police action.

U'khand Guv faces ire of trapped tourists' kin

PNS ■ TAPOVAN

Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya had to face the ire of the families of those trapped inside a tunnel at Tapovan, when she visited the site to take stock of the rescue work.

The families waiting for over four days to be reunited with their closed ones broke down before the Governor, seeking her intervention to expedite the rescue operations at the tunnel, where 25-35 people are trapped since the Sunday avalanche in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. Maurya asked them to be patient as relentless efforts were on to rescue those trapped inside the tunnel.

No peace if there's no status quo ante at LAC, says Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said there will be no peace and tranquillity if there is no status quo ante at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

He also asked why the government is insulting the sacrifices of Indian soldiers.

"No status quo ante = No peace and tranquillity. Why is Government of India (GOI) insulting the sacrifice of our jawans and letting go of our territory?" he wrote on Twitter.

The former Congress chief's remarks came soon after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made a statement in the Rajya Sabha, saying India and China



have reached an agreement on disengagement in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh that mandates both sides to cease forward deployment of troops in a "phased, coordinated and verifiable" manner. Sharing details of the pact to defuse the tense military face-off in eastern Ladakh that severely strained the ties between the two Asian giants, Singh also assured the Upper House of Parliament that the country has not conceded anything in the sustained talks with China. India will not allow even an inch of its territory to be taken by anyone, he said.

The defence minister said the implementation of the pact will "substantially restore" the situation to the one that existed prior to the standoff which erupted on May 5 last year, adding that the two sides have agreed that they should achieve complete disengagement at the "earliest" and abide fully by the bilateral agreements and protocols.

Dense fog reported in eastern UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Isolated places in eastern Uttar Pradesh reported dense to very dense fog on Thursday and day temperatures rose in some divisions across the state, the Meteorological department office here said.

While the day temperatures rose appreciably in Prayagraj and Moradabad divisions, there was no large change in the remaining divisions, it said.

It was appreciably above normal in Agra, Moradabad and Meerut divisions, above normal in Jhansi division, below normal in Gorakhpur division, and normal in the rest.

Priyanka takes holy dip in Sangam on 'Mauni Amavasya'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday took a holy dip at the Sangam in Allahabad on Mauni Amavasya and performed a puja.

The Congress leader, who arrived here in the morning, reached the Sangam, a confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati river, for taking the holy dip and participation in the puja, Congress media convener Lalan Kumar said.

Priyanka was accompanied by her daughter and Congress MLA Aradhana Misra, party sources said.

While returning from the Sangam, she was seen assisting a boatman in rowing. The Congress leader also

visited the Anand Bhawan where she interacted with children from an orphanage, holding a girl in her lap.

She also offered flowers at the place where mortal remains of her great grandfather and India's first prime minister Pt Jawaharlal Nehru were kept before being immersed in the Sangam.

The Anand Bhawan had been the Nehru family's residence in the past but it has now been converted into a museum, showcasing India's Independence movement.

Priyanka Gandhi, who was in Saharanpur on Wednesday to address a farmers' rally, has lately been making efforts to revive the party's support base in Uttar Pradesh before the assembly elections next year.

'India in forefront of global efforts to forge decisive response to Covid'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday said India has been in the forefront in the global efforts to forge a decisive and coordinated response to COVID-19 to ensure collective health and economic well-being.

Addressing an event, he said under the government of India's vaccine maitri initiative, highly affordable vaccines made in India have already reached several countries, re-enforcing its reputation as the "pharmacy of the world".

The president accepted credentials from Ambassador/High Commissioner from the Republic of El Salvador, Panama, Tunisia, the United



Kingdom and the Argentine Republic in a virtual ceremony, according to a statement issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Kovind conveyed his good wishes to the envoys on their appointment.

He said India enjoys warm and friendly relations with all these five countries and these ties were deeply rooted in a common vision of peace and prosperity.

Kovind also thanked their governments for supporting

India's candidature for the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for the term 2021-22, the statement said.

"President Kovind said India has been at the forefront in the global efforts to forge a decisive and coordinated response to the COVID-19 to ensure our collective health and economic well-being," it said.

In their comments, the envoys underlined the strong partnership that their countries have with India and conveyed the commitment of their leaderships to strengthen relations with India.

The envoys also lauded India's efforts in providing COVID-19 vaccines to the international community, the statement said.

UP: Woman's body found by roadside

PNS ■ BULANDSHAHR

A 35-year-old woman was found dead by the roadside near Bagrai Khurd village here on Thursday in a suspected case of murder, police said. Yashoda, a native of Pyana Kalan village of the district, was living in Kailashpuri area under Khurja Dehat police station limits, they added. Senior SP Santosh Kumar Singh said the woman went to her friend's house on Wednesday. At the place, the friend's brother was also present and Yashoda was last seen going out with him for some work. A probe is underway and the man is absconding with a search underway to catch hold of him in the case, the SSP added.

Koo crosses 3 m, popularity surges amid Twitter row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Koo has in the last few weeks seen a massive surge in user base as Union Ministers and government departments have endorsed the homegrown microblogging platform amid a spat with Twitter.

From information technology ministry using Koo to broadcast its stand on Twitter not fully complying with its order to take down inflammatory content to ministers, including Piyush Goyal, urging people to switch platform, these developments have led to a surge in the user-base of the Indian rival.

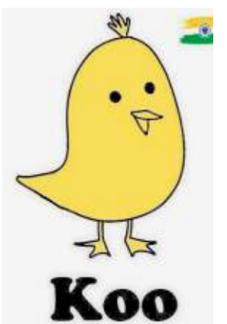
Koo, which has startling similarities with Twitter, now has over three million users. Downloads of Koo app surged 10-fold this week. Koo has a yellow bird as its logo in contrast to the blue bird of Twitter.

"We had two million users with about 1.5 million active users. Now, we have now crossed 3 million-mark," Koo co-founder Mayank Bidawatka told PTI.

Twitter has 17.5 million users and is ardently used by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Cabinet ministers to communicate with the public.

Interestingly, Koo co-founder Aprameya Radhakrishna took to Twitter to highlight the rising popularity of the platform and tweeted, "Our systems are facing more load than ever. Thank you for placing your trust in us. Our team is working on overdrive to fix it".

Koo, founded by Aprameya Radhakrishna and Mayank Bidawatka, was launched last year to allow users to express themselves and engage on the platform in Indian languages. It



supports multiple languages including Hindi, Telugu and Bengali, among others. Radhakrishna had founded online cab booking service TaxiForSure that was later sold to Ola. Last week, Koo -- which is backed by former Infosys

executive TV Mohandas Pai -- had raised USD 4.1 million in series A funding from Accel, Kalaari Capital, Blume Ventures and Dream Incubator, and 3one4 Capital. It was also one of the winners of the Aatmanirbhar Innovation Challenge introduced by the government last year.

The company is also strongly positioning the app as part of India's self-reliant journey, as it rides on the growing sentiments for indigenous products and services.

"Koo is an India registered company with Indian founders. Raised earlier capital 2.5 years ago. Latest funds for Bombinate Technologies is led by a truly Indian investor 3one4 capital. Shunwei (single digit shareholder) which had invested in our Vokal journey will be exiting fully," Radhakrishna tweet-

ed. The duo had launched online vernacular question and answer platform Vokal in 2017.

That said, Koo's platform has a similar look and feel to Twitter, including the user interface. When it comes to the logo, Koo has a yellow bird as its mascot while Twitter has blue-coloured 'Larry' (inspired by popular basketball player, Larry Bird) representing the brand. A significant strength for Koo, however, is allowing users to post content in multiple Indian languages.

While ministers and government departments have been leveraging social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook, there have been calls for homegrown platforms to emerge in this space, and apps like Koo could be likely beneficiaries.

BFC issues notification to filmmakers

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has called upon filmmakers to display the title, casting and credits of a film in the language of the movie that has been applied for certification. This is a welcome step, especially in case of Hindi and regional language films other than those in south Indian languages, where credits are often presented in English, neglecting the spoken language of the movie.

"It is to bring to your notice that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued a Notification for amending Rule 22 of the Cinematograph (Certification

Rules 1983 that the title, castings and credits shall be displayed in the language of the dialogues in the film, and the same may be displayed in any other language if so desired by the Applicant," said CBFC Chief Executive Officer Ravinder Bhakar in a release, dated February 8. According to the notification, the applicant (filmmakers/producers) can additionally display the same in any other language, if they desire so.

The CBFC is a statutory film-certification body in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India. It is tasked with "regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952."



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A Koo-Koo here & there

In the ongoing spat between Twitter and the Indian Government, can an alternative emerge?

As Twitter and its management, both global and local, confront the Indian Government, the American social network has taken a bizarre stand. It refuses to comply with the order in toto, arguing that it is against the law of the land, though it partially acceded to it. Twitter, in a blog post, said it has not blocked accounts consisting of "news media entities, journalists, activists and politicians" as doing so "would violate their fundamental right to free expression". However, it reportedly blocked Rajya Sabha MP and Samajwadi Party leader Chaudhary Sukhran Singh Yadav's account, in what is among the most high-profile blockings by the platform in the country so far. The microblogging site earlier partially complied with the Government's order to curb the spread of alleged misinformation and inflammatory content around the farmers' protest. The orders could well be illegal, but that is for the courts rather than the Twitter management to decide. Standing up to the Government in a country that is vital for your success is something that should be done with extreme trepidation, but Twitter executives apparently believe that they are fighting the good fight. It is just that they could and should have done it the proper way by moving the court but, well, lawyers are a lot more expensive than blog posts. Even Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that global social media platforms, including Twitter, were "welcome to work, earn money in

India but they should follow the law and the Constitution".

And this set off a strange phenomenon, with several Ministries and Government-linked personalities migrating to 'Koo', a new platform, as talk, ironically on Twitter itself, of a potential ban or some penal action against its management does the rounds. The world is full of technology companies that tried to replicate the success of another; after all, copy-cat innovation is usually a surefire bet. Well, at least it used to be. Nowadays, a phenomenon known as the "network effect" kicks in, that is a large number of users on a platform attracts even more users. For example, even after the recent privacy brouhaha surrounding WhatsApp, which made several people install messaging apps Signal and Telegram, WhatsApp's usage did not really take a hit. Convincing an entire user base to shift bag and baggage onto another platform is nigh impossible. Even after the ban on TikTok, no single app has yet been able to replace it. And there is the example of Mastodon, another platform that experienced a popularity surge as Facebook and Twitter got occupied by Trump-supporting QAnon conspiracy theorists. Those of a particular political bent in India celebrated it and a newspaper magazine even put it on its cover. Today, Mastodon is just another attempt at an alternative. This is not to put Koo down, one indeed wishes it success. But even prominent users of the platform have been complaining of its back-end technology. Now, what happens to Twitter in India is a completely different story.

PICTALK



Fishermen in Taunggyi protest against the military coup in Myanmar

Indian calculus in Myanmar

With the recent *coup d'état* in the neighbouring country, Indian security calculus does not get unduly upset, moral posturing aside



BHOPINDER SINGH

Seen from the prism of values and sovereign moralities, the tripping of democracy by the Junta in Myanmar should concern India. Seen from the prism of realism, realpolitik and practical leverages, the change of governance in Myanmar really doesn't matter. While this realisation may be morally untenable, lessons from history would remind India that it has suffered more than gained whenever it defined bilateral relations on the basis of "moral" position, viz formalising ties with Israel as late as in 1992. A more nuanced approach of retaining "moral" positions is practised by democracies like the US, who have no qualms in allying with autocratic Sheikdoms in the Middle East, whilst still posturing for democratic reforms therein — basically, fronting "national interest" over enthusiasm for democracy or liberality in other regimes.

Whereas such overt romance with ideological concerns led India to publicly support the supposedly pro-democracy moorings of Aung San Suu Kyi for decades, much to the consternation of Myanmar's Junta who faced no such conundrum in dealing with China, alternatively. Importantly, even though the Junta had perennial suspicion of China meddling in its ethnic-based insurgencies such as the United Wa State Army (as opposed to harbouring any such concern towards India) — the "moral" intransigence expressed by India and, conversely, the ease of doing business with China ensured the relative comfort of dealing with Beijing for the Junta. The vanity and inefficacy of India's misplaced "morality" in foreign policy was obvious when Suu Kyi barely reciprocated India's unstinted support to her, during her days in the Opposition, as she was coldly practical and transactional in persisting with the China tilt as it served her interests better *vis-à-vis* India, "morality" be damned.

The "opening up" of the economy in the early 1990s had a spillover impact beyond the realm of economics as it ushered in a governance culture of much-needed pragmatism and "self-



interest", which expanded into Indian diplomatese. In 2004, Junta strongman Gen Than Shwe visited India and signed an assurance that "Myanmar would not permit its territory to be used by any hostile element for harming Indian interests". Even from a deeply hyphenated Indo-Chinese perspective of one-upmanship, Than Shwe had expressed categorical support to India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. The murmurs of Chinese "influence" notwithstanding, the Junta was conversant with the Chinese tact of keeping the kettle boiling along its restive borders with Myanmar to have a constant leverage in Naypyidaw. India perceptibly harboured no such expansionist instincts. Soon the Junta denied oxygen to multiple India-facing insurgent groups along the 1600-km Indo-Myanmar border, a crucial step that aided the quelling of various North-eastern insurgencies. Than Shwe returned to India in 2010, reconfirming the "balance" achieved in Indian diplomacy to handle its own interests along with ideological posturing seamlessly.

In 2011, Than Shwe passed on the Junta's leadership to his protégé Gen Min Aung Hlaing, who navigated the delicate



THE VANITY AND INEFFICACY OF INDIA'S MISPLACED "MORALITY" IN FOREIGN POLICY WAS OBVIOUS WHEN SUU KYI BARELY RECIPROCATED INDIA'S UNSTINTED SUPPORT TO HER, DURING HER DAYS IN THE OPPOSITION, AS SHE WAS COLDLY PRACTICAL AND TRANSACTIONAL.

transition to democracy while still holding key levers. Aung Hlaing visited India in 2017 and confabulated extensively with its security establishment. By now, Indians had realised the parallel and irreplaceable heft of the Myanmar Generals, concurrently with its civilian Government. Since then, India upped its military sales, investments and engagements with Myanmar. Last year, India gave it a prized Kilo-class submarine that had been refitted, the first ever supply of such a platform from India to any country. The Myanmar Military (Tatmadaw) acknowledged and reciprocated India's overtures, in the full knowledge of its larger intent to checkmate China from making deeper inroads. Thereafter, a rare combined visit by the Indian Army chief and the Foreign Secretary to Myanmar was suggestive of the deliberate outreach, irrespective of the brewing turf wars between the Myanmar Generals and the civilian Government. Now the Tatmadaw has shed all pretences of running a parallel show and ended the diarchy.

Beyond the hoopla surrounding the 2015 surgical strike against insurgent groups based in Myanmar, the clear understanding with the Junta had resulted in similar strikes in 1995

and 2006, and a formal agreement facilitating cross-border access had been signed in 2010. Myanmar is keen to focus its military attention and redeploy troops on its anti-insurgency operations in the Northern and Eastern borders with China, which hosts most of the anti-Myanmar groups. However, China's stakes and investments in Myanmar remain unmatched and, unlike India, it does not shy away from taking an amoral position in favour of Naypyidaw, such as boycotting talks on the Rohingya issue in the Security Council. Yet, despite China's continued beneficence, Myanmar remains sceptical of Beijing's game. India had come a long way in understanding the region's fragility and in the merits of retaining the equation with forces like the Junta. Additionally, the Indian Army chief has tenured personally in Myanmar as India's Defence Attaché and therefore would be well versed with the local dynamics and stakeholders. With the recent *coup d'état* in Myanmar, Indian security calculus does not get unduly upset, moral posturing aside.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HATS OFF TO MODI, AZAD

Sir— This refers to the editorial "True Spirit" (February 11). The camaraderie between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad is a complete rarity in the era of polarised polity. When mudslinging and verbal abuse have become the order of the day in both Houses of Parliament, the display of emotions and respect by both the leaders is really in the spirit of goodwill.

This reminds us of the trust between Atal Bihari Vajpayee and PV Narasimha Rao. In 1994, Rao requested Vajpayee, a member of the Opposition at that time, to lead the Indian delegation at a crucial UN meeting in Geneva, where Vajpayee was instrumental in India not getting placed under economic sanctions by the United Nations. We don't have such trust now between the ruling party leaders and Opposition leaders.

We all wish to see more such bonhomie and partnership among our leaders in future. The other leaders of Parliament and State Assemblies should take a leaf out of the above incident and change their behaviour against political parties and opponents; after all it is their behaviour which is going to last longer and not the power or position. The members of the Houses must utilise all important sessions for useful debates to find out amicable solutions to pressing problems like the farm Acts, Chinese aggression along the borders and so on.

V Nagendra Kumar | Hyderabad

DEVELOP GOA IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER

Sir— The Central Government seems to be too generous towards the coastal State of Goa. It may be because Goa has fought the pandemic in the right way. Union Fisheries Minister Giriraj Singh, during his visit to Goa on Sunday, had announced the investment of ₹400 crore to make the coastal State a fisheries hub. But the poor fishermen are doubtful whether they will be able to reap its benefits. Further, Goa, which is in its diamond jubilee year of liberation from Portuguese rule, got an unexpected bonan-

India should remain alert



It's good news that the Indian and Chinese frontline troops at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) have started synchronised and organised disengagement at the South and the North banks of Pangong Tso. With this, the nearly 10-month-old stalemate between the Chinese and Indian Forces at the LAC is expected to end. However, it is only the first step in the long

process of disengagement and de-escalation but it will restart the stalled process in the most protracted military standoffs between the nations in decades that has resulted in the death of several soldiers on both sides. The standoff only created tension at the borders and was a cause of concern for the Governments and the local people.

Both Indian and Chinese sides should further engage in talks to ensure that such clashes or standoffs are avoided in future. However, history stands testimony to the fact that China has always backstabbed India and broken bilateral commitments.

Indian troops should remain alert against any Chinese misadventure. However, if everything goes well it will be a success story for the Indian troops. The disengagement came after the US pressured China. America continues to support direct dialogue and a peaceful resolution of the border disputes between India and China.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

za from the Union Budget with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announcing a grant of ₹300 crore for the celebrations.

The ambitious plans to boost fish production in the State are no doubt welcome. But considering the scientific methods involved, it is equally important that these grandiose plans do not alienate the traditional fishermen and jeopardise their livelihoods.

However, for a protest-ridden State that Goa has turned into, it is also necessary that people realise that a region cannot remain bereft of development for long periods. Moreover, considering the eco-sensitive nature of the region, it is pertinent to have the Government envisage plans for sustainable development in Goa.

Pachu Menon | Goa

MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING

Sir— India has fought Novel Coronavirus very bravely. The people have followed the Government guidelines regarding COVID-19 and are still following the rules of wear-

ing masks, sanitising hands and so on. However, with the opening of economy, social distancing has gone for a toss. Those travelling by buses and other means of public transport are now careless and not maintaining "Do gaj ki doori". This is very dangerous as COVID-19 has not been defeated yet.

In many nations, it is returning in the form of new strains against which the available vaccines are ineffective. It's not hard to imagine what will happen if even one such strain of the deadly virus starts to spread fast among our population. The Indian economy and the health of public will go spiralling down as never before. Further, food delivery guys wear masks and hand gloves but these are dirty and unhygienic. Merely wearing a mask and glove is not sufficient, we must keep them clean also.

Neha Singh | Guwahati

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Deendayal Upadhyaya used to say that only a strong nation can contribute to the world. This is the basic concept of an "Atmanirbhar" (self-reliant) India today.



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

It's important for the central bank to maintain a "patiently accommodative monetary policy stance" to boost the labour market recovery amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

US Federal Reserve Chair —Jerome Powell

I am not very marketable in the sense that I can't run a movie on my shoulders. If film doesn't work but if you are appreciated as an actor, you keep getting work.

Actor —Mahie Gill

I thank CM Sonowal and Himanta Biswa Sarma Sir for my appointment as DSP with Assam Police. The decision is a huge motivation for me.

Sprinter —Hima Das

Mamata Didi gets angry if someone chants "Jai Shri Ram" in Bengal. If slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" are not raised in India, will they be raised in Pakistan?

Union Home Minister —Amit Shah

Global cop

Biden talks tough to Myanmar's military regime and China, hinting the US is firmly back in the saddle

Within a few days of taking office, US President Joe Biden is trying to set things right with the world, if any of his actions in the last few days is anything to go by. Biden has issued an executive order targeting Myanmar's military regime with sanctions following a coup that ousted the democratically-elected Government led by Aung San Suu Kyi. "I again call on the Burmese military to immediately release democratic political leaders and activists including Aung San Suu Kyi and also Win Myint, the President," Biden said. His order will keep the Generals from accessing \$1 billion in assets held in the US and specific targets of the sanctions will be identified later this week. Biden made it clear that the sanctions are aimed at military leaders who directed the coup, their business interests as well as close family members and that the US would impose additional measures along with its global allies if it came to that. Thankfully, the sanctions for now will not affect the aid for healthcare programmes and civil society groups, which will spare increased hardship to the beleaguered citizens.



Similarly, Biden made it clear to China and the world that the US was firmly back in the seat as the global leader, a position that it had by and large relinquished during the Donald Trump regime which, in turn, had Beijing aspiring for the slot. Biden made it clear to President Xi Jinping that Big Brother would henceforth take a tough line on human rights abuses in Hong Kong and Xinjiang, coercion of Taiwan and assertive actions in the region. Though Xi put up resistance by telling Biden that China's policies were related to its sovereignty and that confrontation between the two powers would be "a disaster", he did call for the two sides to re-establish the mechanism to avoid misjudgments. This was a sane line for Beijing to take because the world, which is reeling under the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, can hardly afford disruption of peace at a time when all nations need to be working together for the good of humankind. Plus, with neighbouring India taking on the mantle of the facilitator of global good in the midst of the contagion, China, which has been blamed for unleashing the virus upon the world, can hardly be seen as being disruptionist. However, the fact remains that the US will always put its own interests first, and no one should ever forget that.



FIRST COLUMN

A FUTURE-READY RAILWAYS AHEAD

Hopefully with fresh availability of funds and easing off of the contagion, projects will be completed soon



RAM ACHARYA

The Union Budget seems to have opened the floodgates of funds for the Railways which will enable it to complete 57 pending projects. Towards this end, the highest-ever capital expenditure plan of ₹2,15,058 crore, comprising of ₹1,07,100 crore as budgetary support and the remaining from internal and extra budgetary resources, was announced by the Finance Ministry. Out of this, ₹40,932 crore has been allocated for new lines, a jump of over 56 per cent over last year; ₹5,263 crore is for traffic facilities, which is a 156 per cent jump over last year; ₹26,116 crore is for doubling and ₹7,122 crore is earmarked for new Road Over Bridge and Road Under Bridges (ROBs/RUBs). ROBs/RUBs will see many level crossings, that are a source of avoidable accidents, being eliminated. Not only will this improve the Railways' safety record, they are vital for the convenience of the public and necessary in cities and other built-up areas where railway lines run through.



This Budget will also ensure that the infrastructure of the Railways is "future ready" i.e fully geared up to accept and efficiently run private sector trains — if and when they become a reality — in addition to its own network of over 22,000 passenger and freight trains. All these 57 projects, at various stages of execution, are expected to be commissioned over the next 26 months, starting with the new, 32-km-long Hansdih-Godda line, the 29-km-long Omalur-Mettur Dam patch doubling and the two-km-long Netravati-Mangalore section, all of which are to be commissioned this month.

Among the major gauge conversion projects is the 170-km-long Ahmedabad-Botad one, which will be converted from narrow gauge to broad. Initially estimated to cost ₹567 crore, it has been in the pipeline for a long time and is expected to be completed in March this year. Similarly, the 104-km-long Dhasa-Jetalsar gauge conversion is expected to be completed by May. The much-delayed 169-km-long Mansi-Saharsa gauge conversion, completed by March next year will bring these neglected areas finally into the mainstream by connecting them to the vast all-India broad gauge system.

While 306 km of the New Rewari-New Madar section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor was inaugurated by the Prime Minister last month, the 127-km-long New Rewari-Dadri and 308-km-long Palanpur-Makarapura sections are proposed to be commissioned by March next year, bringing export-import cargo between the northern hinterland and the ports on the west coast, that much closer.

Electrification of the rail network has been Railway Minister Piyush Goyal's main directive to the top brass and towards that avowed objective another significant step will be taken through completion of the Ayodhya-Varanasi, Palanpur-Kandla Port-Mundra Port-Bhuj and Hospet-Hubli-Vasco electrification projects. All will be commissioned by March next year.

As usual, land acquisition has been one of the main causes for delay in projects, added to which there has been the general slowdown in all construction and field work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hopefully with fresh availability of funds and a easing off of the contagion, stalled projects will be completed as scheduled, making Indian Railways "future ready" to run the additional private trains safely and punctually.

(The writer is former member, Railway Board. The views expressed are personal.)

Govt must bridge the gap in under-insured India



SUBHASH C PANDEY

When bare necessities are difficult to afford for many, buying insurance can't be expected to be part of the people's expense planning. The Govt must pay the bulk of the premium

The three announcements regarding insurance in the Union Budget have majorly contributed to the post-Budget share market rally. First is the Government's plan to allow up to 74 per cent foreign equity in insurance companies against the existing 49 per cent. Second is privatisation of one public sector general insurance company and the third pertains to the planned Initial Public Offering (IPO) of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). Insurance is risk management involving a group of individuals who give away a part of their earnings against a guaranteed return of a lump sum financial support in case of any personal crisis. The success of such a scheme depends on how many in the group are at high risk of actually facing the crisis. The bigger the group is, the more dispersed the risk is and more successful the scheme.

During 2018-19, the Indian insurance industry covered 120.75 crore lives under personal accident insurance. Of it, 94.71 crore were covered under Government-sponsored schemes like the 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana', 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana' and the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation's (IRCTC's) travel insurance plan. In addition, 2.07 crore health insurance policies were issued covering 47.20 crore individuals with 75 per cent of them covered under Government-sponsored schemes. In 2017, a whopping 32.8 crore life insurance policies were in force so almost 75 per cent of the Indian population has life insurance cover.

The performance and potential of the insurance sector is assessed using twin indicators of 'Insurance Penetration' that is a percentage of the insurance premium to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 'Insurance Density' that is defined as the ratio of insurance premium to population. In India, Insurance Penetration has steadily increased to 3.76 per cent in 2019 from 2.71 per cent in 2001. In contrast, Insurance Penetration in Malaysia, Thailand and China was 4.72, 4.99 and 4.30 per cent, respectively in 2019. As of 2019, life insurance penetration in India was 2.82 per cent, while non-life insurance penetration was only 0.94 per cent whereas globally insurance penetration was 3.35 per cent for life and 3.88 per cent for the non-life segment.

India is ranked 10th in life insurance and 15th in non-life insurance among the 88 countries for which data was compiled by Swiss Re. However, India's share in the global insurance market was only 1.92 per cent during 2018. Global direct premiums surpassed the \$5 trillion mark for the first time ever in 2018, reaching \$5,193 billion (which is 6.1 per cent of the global GDP). Life insurance penetration in the country is 3.6 per cent of the GDP, way below the global average of 7.13 per cent and, in the case of general insurance, it is even worse at 0.94 per cent of the GDP, as against the world average of 2.88 per cent. This is not surprising because the average per capita income is low and as many as 82 crore people hold ration cards for getting subsidised food grain. Many more have been claimed to be added to this list. Obviously, when bare necessities are difficult to afford for a huge section of the population, buying insurance can't be expected to be part of the people's expense planning in India. Of course, if the Government pays bulk of the premium, this segment of the population can be covered. This is indeed being done through schemes like the 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' and 'Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana'.



LIFE INSURANCE PENETRATION IN THE COUNTRY IS 3.6 PER CENT OF THE GDP, WAY BELOW THE GLOBAL AVERAGE OF 7.13 PER CENT AND, IN CASE OF GENERAL INSURANCE, IT IS EVEN WORSE AT 0.94 PER CENT OF THE GDP, AS AGAINST WORLD AVERAGE OF 2.88 PER CENT. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING BECAUSE THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA INCOME IS LOW AND AS MANY AS 82 CRORE PEOPLE HOLD RATION CARDS FOR GETTING FOOD SUBSIDISED RATES

The writer is former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The views expressed are personal.



At the end of March 2019, there were 70 insurance firms including 24 life insurers, 27 general insurers, seven standalone health insurers and 12 re-insurers including foreign reinsurers branches and Lloyds India, eight in public and 62 in private sector. Investments made by the insurance industry stood at ₹38,47,474 crore of which the share of life insurers was 91.83 per cent and the share of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) was 76.40 per cent. As financial literacy spreads and digital technology reduces the on-boarding cost of new customers of insurance products, it should be possible to spread the insurance network far and wide. Despite the dominance of the public sector, insurance penetration is low and, therefore, there is a need to bring more competition, more efficiency and more technology.

Insurance is a capital-intensive business and requires long-term investment from promoters to ensure compliance with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's solvency requirements (a prescribed asset-liability test). Indian insurers need additional capital and technical know-how from foreign partners to scale up and offer more sophisticated and innovative products. That is the justification for allowing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Indian insurance companies. The FDI cap on insurance companies was raised from 26 per cent to 49 per cent in March 2016. In 2015, the Government permitted Indian insurance firms to have up to

49 per cent foreign investment provided they remained "Indian-owned and controlled" and even in the latest Budget proposal, foreign ownership and control of Indian insurers will be permitted with some safeguards. For instance, a majority of the Board of directors and key management persons of the insurance company must comprise of Indian residents and 50 per cent of the Board must comprise of independent directors. Further, to ensure that sufficient capital is retained in the books, foreign-owned insurers will be required to hold a specified percentage of the profits as 'general reserves'.

As on March 31, 2019, the total FDI was ₹13,810 crore, that was ₹8,328 crore short of the permissible FDI limit. Private sector insurers who attracted this FDI have mobilised insurance savings and invested more than ₹9 lakh crore with Central and State Governments and Indian companies. They have not been allowed to take this money out of India; a major concern the opponents of FDI in insurance have always had.

Several insurers have been restricted from expanding as the 49 per cent foreign investment cap prevented foreign shareholder from infusing capital due to the inability of cash-strapped Indian Joint Ventures (JV) partners to bring additional capital. The Reserve Bank of India is also seeking to cap banks' investment in insurance companies to 30 per cent to isolate them from risks emanating from non-core businesses. That also restricts the availability of capital for

insurance firms. As far as the IPO of LIC is concerned, it has little to do with insurance penetration and lack of capital among private insurers.

The LIC has an excellent record of service with claim its settlement ratio being 97.79 per cent. On an equity of ₹100 crore, the LIC earned a profit of ₹2688 crore and paid dividends of ₹2661 crore in 2018-19. It had outstanding investments of ₹27,60,658 crore against which of course are the liabilities to policyholders. So policyholders' funds versus shareholders' funds are intricately and uncertainly mixed up. It is a very precious company whose market value once listed can at present be only a matter of guesstimate. Some commentators have put the value in the range of over ₹10 lakh crore. The Government has appointed actuarial firm Milliman Advisors for ascertaining the embedded value of the LIC. The Government's shareholding is likely to go down from 100 per cent to 90 per cent and that can give about ₹1,00,000 crore by a conservative estimate, a handsome premium, and also a chance to retail investors to participate in LIC's growth story. It is a win-win for the Government and the capital market.

The Government is likely to reserve 10 per cent shares in the IPO for LIC policyholders. It would be desirable to reserve a large quota for policyholders, retail investors and individual taxpayers. It will also boost LIC's business and valuation as more policies are bought to qualify for IPO participation.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

'JAI SHRI RAM' IS NOT A POLITICAL SLOGAN. IF MAMATA BANERJEE IS A CITIZEN OF INDIA AND A HINDU, WHAT IS HER PROBLEM IN CHANTING IT?

—BJP LEADER
AGNIMITRA PAUL



MAMATA BANERJEE WAS HECKLED AT THE EVENT. WHY WAS PRIME MINISTER MODI SILENT WHEN A WOMAN WAS BEING HECKLED?

—TMC MP
NUSRAT JAHAN

Art and leadership are natural allies in the business world

As art is a medium that relies on communication to deliver a message, indulging in it can facilitate collaboration to solve challenges in the workplace

Albert Einstein famously said, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." This holds true even today, given the highly dynamic business environment. As markets, competition and technology have evolved, there has been a heightened need for a transition from the traditional managerial mode of running a business to a leadership-driven role. Leaders are seen as trendsetters and influencers with their bold moves, inspired visions, enthusiasm, imagination and creativity. These traits to a large extent can be credited to art where, like an artist, business leaders leverage their unique personalities, abilities and skills to devise creative solutions to problems.

As one of the finest ways of experiencing, decoding and characterising life's experiences, art and leadership have for



GUNJAN SHRIVASTAVA

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long intermingled for persistence and growth. Since time immemorial, art has powered human thinking by providing inventive and stimulating ideas in the business world. Across industries, the finest business leaders are known to be practical dreamers with a persuasive point of view and clearly defined ideas and purposes. These qualities can also be attributed to successful artists. The other common threads that bind art and leadership are those of intricacy, diversity and abstractness, which can be used as examples, motivation and inspiration to drive solutions within the business realm.

Art, business and creativity: Within the corporate world it is no secret that businesses have typically been dominated by the analytical, logical, and organised left side of the brain. Up until now, many leaders haven't fully explored their

free-spirited right side of the brain that focuses on intuition, imagination and creativity. Through art, which uses both sides of the brain, leaders are now able to think in an abstract manner and come up with creative solutions.

Indulging in art as a means of self-expression can go a long way in sparking creative energies, providing inspiration and developing a leader's personality to drive business results. While logical planning and its application will only be able to drive business to a certain point, keeping pace with an evolving business requires imagination and creativity which are the strengths of a good artist and leader.

Benefits of art for business leaders: Artists are known to be pioneers of invention and experimental by nature, making them innate leaders. Innovation in particular is based on



thought and imagination, which when fused together have the potential to produce remarkable results and concepts. That said, innovation is not usually an easily exposed concept, rather, it is one which comes to the limelight in tandem with creativity. Art has the ability to refresh these aesthetic concepts in a person's mind and push a leader to innovate and drive new ideas and possibilities as solutions to business

challenges. Through their works, artists earn and enjoy a reputation for being risk-takers, known for using unorthodox techniques and styles. They are also known for being open to different perspectives in their works, making them natural leaders. These qualities, when incorporated in the corporate world will allow leaders to embrace new ideas and take risks. Across organisations, it is common for them to tend to adopt a conservative approach as they grow. Art has the power to help leaders eliminate the fear of failure or being judged and encourages them to take creative risks and rise with the scale of a business.

Artists are natural observers and pay close attention to detail. They have a knack for understanding concepts beyond a superficial level and making connections that others don't. Business leaders

who include art in their lives, can incorporate the same attributes in their professional dealings as well. Such traits will go a long way in enabling them to observe even the minutest of details and read between the lines, to deliver optimum results within their areas of operations.

Being able to relay a new narrative through their work is a skill that artists have mastered over time and is a vital quality among leaders. Artists know that branding is how you are perceived and every leader should work to develop this tool. No matter how good a product or service might be, it is the experience that counts. Leaders have the power to shape this experience by pushing a strong narrative and building a story around the product. Just as artists are able to tell compelling stories through their works, similarly, a good leader is able to devel-

op the art of storytelling to entice audiences and ultimately grow the business.

One of the biggest challenges any business leader faces is that of infusing passion, congenial energies and stimulating change among his teams to work towards achieving their common goals. The role of art here is to bond and engage with them and assist them to connect with their passions.

As art is a medium that relies on communication to deliver a message, indulging in it can be a great form of expression and it can facilitate collaboration to solve challenges in the workplace.

As Pablo Picasso once said, "Inspiration exists, it has to find you working." These words, when engraved in the mind and heart of a leader, can go a long way in creating a corporate culture driven by passion and the desire to do better at all times.

Sensex jumps 222 points to fresh closing high

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex surged 222 points to end at its new closing record on Thursday, propelled by gains in index major Reliance Industries amid positive global cues.

After trading on a choppy note, the 30-share BSE index settled 222.13 points or 0.43 per cent higher at 51,531.52.

In similar movement, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 66.80 points or 0.44 per cent to its all-time high of 15,173.30. Reliance Industries was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying over 4 per cent, followed by Sun Pharma, PowerGrid, Bajaj Finance, Nestle India and HCL Tech.

On the other hand, Titan, L&T, ONGC, HDFC Bank and

ITC were among the laggards.

Domestic equities traded in a range bound manner, while benchmark indices managed to record modest gains towards the end of the session mainly supported by sharp up-move in Reliance Industries, said Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities.

"Market looks to be fatigued at current levels after seeing sharp rally post the announcement of union budget," he noted.

Most sectoral indices traded sideways and a pullback was seen in PSU Banks. Notably, volatility index softened sharply.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended with gains. Stock exchanges in Europe



were also largely trading on a positive note in mid-session deals. Meanwhile, the global oil

benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.67 per cent lower at USD 61.06 per barrel.

Aditya Mittal named as CEO of ArcelorMittal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Global steel giant Arcelor Mittal on Thursday announced the appointment of Aditya Mittal as its chief executive officer (CEO).

Aditya Mittal, son of steel baron Lakshmi N Mittal, is the chief financial officer (CFO) of the company, and will succeed his father in the new role.

The Luxembourg-based steel maker said Lakshmi Mittal, who is currently chairman and CEO, will become the company's executive chairman and Aditya Mittal will become the CEO. "The board of directors of ArcelorMittal today (Thursday) announces Aditya Mittal, currently president, CFO and CEO of ArcelorMittal Europe, will become chief executive officer of the company. "Lakshmi N Mittal, who founded the company in 1976 and is currently chairman and CEO, will become executive chairman," the company said. In this position, Lakshmi



Mittal will continue to lead the board of directors and work together with the CEO and management team, it said.

The company added that Genuino Christino will now become its CFO. Christino joined the company in 2003 and has held the position of head of finance since 2016.

On his appointment as CEO, Aditya Mittal said it is an honour for him to be the CEO of the world's largest steel making company. His father, he said, built ArcelorMittal from a greenfield rolling mill in Indonesia to become the

world's leading steel company today. Aditya Mittal further said, "The world is transforming at a rapid pace and this change brings challenges but also many opportunities for ArcelorMittal. The biggest challenge, but also the biggest opportunity, will be to demonstrate that steel can de-carbonise and indeed is the perfect material for a circular economy."

Lakshmi Mittal said the board unanimously agrees that Aditya Mittal is the natural and right choice to be the company's CEO. He has an unrivalled knowledge of the business and a keen sense of how the company must continue to transform to remain the world's leading steel company. Bruno Lafont, lead independent non-executive director, said, "Aditya Mittal is without a doubt the right candidate to be the next chief executive officer of ArcelorMittal. His knowledge and experience of the company is second to none."

MRF reports 2-fold increase in net profit to Rs 521 cr in Q3

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tyre major MRF on Thursday reported over two-fold rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 520.54 crore for the third quarter ended December 2020.

The company had reported a net profit of Rs 241.32 crore for the October-December period in 2019.

Revenue from operations increased to Rs 4,641.6 crore in the third quarter, from Rs 4,075.75 crore in the year-ago period, MRF Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

The company's board, which met on Thursday, also approved raising of up to Rs 1,000 crore by way of issuance of non-convertible debentures on private placement basis in one or more tranches. The tyre maker has authorised its finance committee to determine the detailed terms and conditions of the issue.

Impact enterprises see fall in 2020 investments amid virus

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Indian impact enterprises, which have a positive effect on society, received USD 2.6 billion in equity investments from dedicated investors in 2020, down 25 per cent as compared to the previous year, a report said on Thursday.

The India Impact Investors Council, which came out with the data, said deal activity continued despite the global health pandemic and its accompanying effects on the business and economic environment.

The impact investors continued to pledge their support to solve critical social and environmental challenges through investments in scalable, tech-based, innovative social enterprises, the report said.

There were 243 equity infusions and 13 exits by investors during the year, which was marred by the pandemic since March.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, Indian impact enterprises have proved to be resilient: we see continued interest from investors in investing in a variety of innovative tech-led



impact ideas," the council's chief executive Ramraj Pai said.

The overall investments were down 25 per cent, there was a 16 per cent jump in seed-stage investment volume, the statement said, adding that the early-stage play is the highest in agriculture, livelihoods and healthcare sector.

The education sector proved to be a winner in 2020, with USD 660 million invested across 47 deals; it said that the investment volumes were up 65 per cent and the transactions were up by 20 per cent.

Online test prep and K10 segments led the way with the highest investor interest.

Despite the pandemic, there was a 70 per cent fall in the volume of healthcare investments, it said, adding that investors are actively investing in early-stage healthcare enterprises focused on telemedicine, AI-based solutions, cloud-enabled diagnostic tests.

There was degrowth in the late-stage deals on financial inclusion, mainly because of doubts over customers' credit-worthiness impacted by the pandemic, it said.

CIL reports 21% decline in Q3 net profit at Rs 3K cr

PNS ■ KOLKATA

State-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) on Thursday reported a 21 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit at Rs 3,084 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2020 due to higher contractual expenses. It was Rs 3,921.81 crore in the same period a year ago, the company said. Net profit for the period after Other Comprehensive Income (OCI) stood at Rs 2,773 crore, it added.

Net sales were at Rs 21,708 crore, marginally higher than Rs 21,566 crore registered in the same quarter of the previous fiscal. The miner earned Rs 20,670 crore from sales of raw coal of which e-auction realisation was Rs 3,995 crore.

Total realisation from washed coal Rs 774 crore, CIL said. Contractual expenses were higher at Rs 4,351 crore during the quarter under review against Rs 3,676 crore in the corresponding quarter of FY'20. Non-operating income was at Rs 648 crore, down from 1,411 crore due to lower treasury income.

MONEY MATTERS

Happiest Minds Q3 profit up 97 per cent to Rs 42 crore

IT firm Happiest Minds Technologies has reported a 97.1 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 42.15 crore for December quarter 2020-21. The company, which got listed on BSE and NSE in September last year, had

posted a net profit of Rs 21.38 crore in the year-ago period. Total income was at Rs 201.29 crore in the quarter under review, up 14.6 per cent from Rs 175.57 crore in the year-ago period, the company said in a late-night regulatory filing on Wednesday. On a sequential basis, net profit grew 23.7 per cent from Rs 34.08 crore, while revenue was higher by 7.1 per cent from Rs 187.91 crore in September quarter 2020-21. Managing Director and CFO Venkatraman Narayanan said the company delivered another successful quarter showing good growth in revenue and profits. "We continue to maintain and improve on key capital return ratios which are key to increasing our shareholder and stakeholder value," he said.

Rupee slips 3 paise to 72.87 against US dollar

The Indian rupee ended 3 paise lower at 72.87 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday amid a firm trend in the domestic equity markets. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 72.81 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 72.65 and a low of 72.87.

It finally ended at 72.87 against the American currency, registering a fall of 3 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee had finished at 72.84. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, inched up 0.02 per cent to 90.38. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 222.13 points or 0.43 per cent higher at 51,531.52, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 66.80 points or 0.44 per cent to 15,173.30. Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,786.97 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

MG launches Hector with CVT transmission at Rs 16.51 lakh

MG Motor India on Thursday said it has launched its SUV Hector with eight-speed CVT automatic transmission option with price starting at Rs 16.51 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). With the introduction of the continuously variable transmission (CVT) automatic transmission, the company now offers four diverse options as a part of its Hector 2021 petrol engine line-up. The petrol Hector is now available with manual, hybrid manual, CVT and dual-clutch transmission (DCT) options. The CVT automatic transmission is available with both the Hector 2021 five-seater and Hector Plus six-seater. "The introduction of Hector 2021 CVT automatic transmission furthers our steadfast commitment to providing a wide range of choices to our customers. The CVT has always been a popular transmission with buyers looking for a comfortable and relaxed drive," MG Motor India Chief Commercial Officer Gaurav Gupta said.



India Quotient launches fourth fund at USD 80 mn

India Quotient

Early-stage venture capital firm India Quotient on Thursday announced the launch of its fourth fund of USD 80 million (about Rs 582 crore) for the Indian startup ecosystem. With a total corpus of approximately USD 80

million from global and domestic allocations, India Quotient is looking to support 35-40 game-changing ideas that will create whole new sectors, a statement said. "The fund will be focused on supporting paper-stage startups who are striving to make a difference in the SaaS, social media, D2C, edtech and fintech spaces," it added. India Quotient has already funded close to 70 startups over the last eight years.

BharatPe raises \$108 mn in funding

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fintech major BharatPe on Thursday said it has raised USD 108 million (over Rs 786 crore) in funding, led by existing investor Coatue Management, at a valuation of USD 900 million (over Rs 6,551 crore). The company has raised USD 90 million in primary fund raise and also ensured secondary exit for its angel investors and employees for a total amount of USD 18 million, a statement said.

The series D round also saw participation from all seven existing institutional investors - Coatue Management, Ribbit Capital, Insight Partners, Steadview Capital, Benext, Amplo and Sequoia Capital, it added. With this round, the company has raised a total of USD 268 million in equity and debt till date, the statement.

We, at BharatPe, do not celebrate fund raises - it is akin to procuring raw material. We are super excited though to have returned Rs 125 crore of capital to angels and all ESOP



holders, earning them one of the highest returns on investment. The team is committed to make money for all stakeholders - investors, lenders, borrowers, employees and banks," BharatPe co-founder and Chief Executive Officer Ashneer Grover said.

With the balance sheet well-capitalised (more than USD 200 million in bank), BharatPe can deliver USD 30 billion TPV and build a loan book of USD 700 million with small merchants by March 2023, he added. "2020 has been an unprecedented year for all. However, we at BharatPe have grown exponentially - our payments business has grown 5x and our lending business has grown 10x in the last 12 months."



Gold gains marginally; silver jumps Rs 454

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold in the national capital gained marginally by Rs 36 to Rs 47,509 per 10 gram on Thursday in line with firm global prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 47,473 per 10 gram. Silver also jumped Rs 454 to Rs 69,030 per kg, from Rs 68,576 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was trading with gains at USD 1,844 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 27.18 per ounce.

Fleet electrification will be key to decarbonise road transport

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fleet electrification will make the biggest and fastest contribution to the decarbonisation of road transport and offer significant upside for the fastest movers, according to a study by consultancy firm EY and Eurelectric.

In India, with new regulations progressively more stringent, automobile manufacturers will need to execute strategies to span the entire spectrum from conventional diesel and petrol powertrains to electric/new gen mobility fuel to deliver low or zero-emission vehicles.

As per the study -- Accelerating fleet electrification in Europe: When does reinventing the wheel make perfect sense? -- by EY and Eurelectric, globally evolution in transport is at an inflection point, promising huge environmental benefits.

Eurelectric represents interests of the European electric industry. "Regulatory pressure has increased for road vehicles,



with new carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions standards for automakers coming into effect across Europe. Meanwhile, COVID-19 economic recovery packages largely focus on carbon-neutral and renewable energy solutions that together have favoured the shift to eMobility," the study said.

In the 11 months to November 2020, a landmark one million vehicle sales in Europe were either pure electric or hybrid models - accounting for one in every 10 passenger cars sold, it said adding, "this is a significant

turning point in moving toward achieving 30 per cent-40 per cent electric vehicle (EV) sales volume by 2030, putting Europe's carbon-reduction targets within reach".

As far as India is concerned, EY India Partner and Leader, Automotive sector Vinay Raghunath said, "With new regulations becoming progressively more stringent, automobile OEMs need to execute strategies to span the entire spectrum from conventional diesel and petrol powertrains to electric/ new gen mobility fuel".

Higher vehicle prices may push sales volume down

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Higher vehicle prices and a modest supply disruption due to the shortage of semiconductors are expected to push auto sales volume down on a sequential basis, after improvement in the December 2020 quarter, according to a report.

This is notwithstanding the expectation that resilient demand after the November festive season last year will support higher volume in the March 2021 quarter from a low base last year and result in a stronger operating performance than expectations, Fitch Ratings said in its report said on Thursday.

It said the overall sales volume in the March 2021 is likely to be somewhat lower than that in the October-December

period. This will negatively affect fixed cost absorption despite automakers' cost-saving initiatives, and result in lower operating margins, the agency added.

The March 2021 quarter volumes are expected to be higher from a year earlier, as the start of lockdowns caused wholesale volume to decline 51 per cent for passenger vehicles (PVs), 88 per cent for commercial vehicles (CVs) and 40 per cent for two-wheelers in March 2020, according to the report.

High commodity prices and lower sales volume will pressure Indian automakers' margins after an improvement in the December quarter of the ongoing financial year, it said.

Significantly, most of the automakers in the country have revised upward their vehi-



cle prices from January, owing to increase in commodity prices and various other input costs.

Material costs typically amount to more than 60 per cent of automakers' revenues. Prices of key raw materials,

including steel and copper, increased in double digits after the second quarter FY21. However, the impact on automakers' profitability was limited in third quarter of FY21, as their stronger bargaining power with suppliers facil-

itated a lag of three-four months in passing on higher costs, Fitch said.

Stating that the price hikes announced by automakers in January will not fully offset higher costs, it said sustained high commodity prices imply the cost impact will be more visible in the March 2021 quarter.

"We believe this will result in moderately lower gross margins," the ratings agency said.

The price hikes will add to the higher cost of ownership, especially amid increasing retail fuel prices after the June quarter, which may delay the recovery in PV sales volume, Fitch said.

The global semiconductor shortage is likely to affect the production of many Indian automakers over the next sev-

eral months. However, the overall impact on car production is likely to be limited to single-digit declines, said the report.

It added that the dominant Japanese and South Korean carmakers, which together account for more than 65 per cent of production volume, have reported no significant disruptions so far.

According to Fitch, most Indian automakers reported improved operating margins in the December 2020 quarter on the back of higher volume, which helped to offset the increase in material costs. The domestic PV wholesale volume during the quarter increased 14 per cent y-o-y and 23 per cent from the previous quarter, Fitch said, citing SIAM data.



The film *Zombie Reddy* has been making all the noise for the right reasons. The film has reached levels its makers never imagined, making everyone sit up and take notice. Actress Daksha Nagarkar of the film talks to *The Pioneer's* SHIKHA DUGGAL about the film, the response, her role, and more..

Daksha Nagarkar on cloud nine

In the horror subgenre, we now have zombie movies and Tollywood has positively scaled its film content level by introducing this new kind laced with a pinch of humour in it. The box office hit that *Zombie Reddy* has become, Daksha Nagarkar, one of the lead actresses in the film has taken it a notch higher and the performer is content with how her recent release panned out. "The film is set in Rayalaseema, known for its vengeful scenes shot there. This movie is a fun-take! I am playing the character of one of the three key friends in the plot, who is a gamer. I am a total game-addict in it! Everyone was given one prop each in the movie which signified their character, mine was a firearm. All of this made me feel like I am in an

actual video-game doing some crazy action stunts," shares the actress. We are morbidly curious individuals, aren't we? Curious to know the USP of the movie according to Daksha, she explains to us, "The very first trivial point that attracts viewers to watch *Zombie Reddy* is the introduction of fantasy creatures like zombies in the Telugu industry. Secondly, the way Prashanth Varma put it all together in a very indigenous way, because zombies have always been a thing of only Hollywood films, is commendable. This film must be lauded for the local blend that was given so that none of the Telugues feel out of place. And who wouldn't want to be a part of such a film!" Fans of the horror genre who are more into apocalyptic movies found *Zombie Reddy* to be a great attempt! It took Daksha a

lot of uphill struggle to play a pivotal role as an action-entertainer heroine with firearms in her hand. She did her research and homework, and the outcome is for you all to see in the way the 'dhakad' girl was projected on-screen. She was so conscious about her disposition in the motion picture that she didn't want her action personality to come across as violent or awful but a physically powerful woman rocking the scenes! Sharing her excitement about the blockbuster reviews the movie has received, she expresses, "The response has surpassed my expectations, and it's a runaway success in the city! The posters are everywhere; ratings by the critics are so fine. And, like we know and have seen: whenever a new trend begins, everyone follows. Now, for the zombie movie genre in the Telugu indus-

try, we have set a trend and I am immensely excited to see who follows this next. Let us always test our potential with something new coming our way! In addition to this, post the pandemic, I have witnessed a marvellous transformation in my acting skills and so I consider this a bonus. We were slightly scared at the beginning as we were the first ones to begin shooting, but we have no complaints now."



Teen's compassion results in smart invention

SHREYA SRIKONDA

Given encouragement and the right tools, every young child can do amazing things. And so has Safiya Begum, a ninth-grader at the Sitaphalmandi Government School, created 'Smart Gloves', an invention that went on to win a state award and be selected for the National Inspire Fest. The smart gloves were designed with truck drivers in mind. Truck drivers, while driving, cannot respond to unexpected health complications in the heat of the moment. In many instances, accidents where truck drivers had heart attacks, a drop in pulse rates, and other such sudden problems caused

many accidents and deaths. Safiya's smart gloves aim to address this problem with sensors embedded in them. These sensors can read the wearer's pulse rates and can detect when the numbers drop below what is healthy. "The gloves have heart rate sensors that can alert the driver about his condition. When the driver's health worsens, the gloves light up so he can apply the brakes and take necessary care." The project was put together during lockdown for the science fair, which was jointly organised by the Central Department of Science and Technology and the National Innovation Foundation. Twelve projects from Hyderabad went to the Science Fair, of which Smart Gloves

was adjudged the best project at the state level. Safiya says that she was inspired to approach her science teacher Padmaja with this idea because of her personal experience. "One of my relatives was a truck driver, and he met with an accident while driving. This made me want to do something and I approached my teacher who helped me create the gloves." All the required materials were purchased in Koti, says the girl who aims to be a police officer when she grows up. The science teacher, Padmaja, says that the school and headmaster were very supportive. "The children are very talented. With just a little more support and encouragement, there can be more progress."

Almonds to the rescue

Did you know that the humble almond can help you keep COVID at bay? Sceptic? Hear us out. Almonds are known to contain the immunity-supporting nutrient zinc, which plays an important role in growth, development, and the maintenance of immune function! Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, as people around the world, and India in particular, adjust to the new concept of normal, several people continue to work from home and children attend virtual classes. A sudden shift has been noticed in the family routine including a mix of erratic meals, higher screen time, lack of physical activity, anxiety, stress, and an overreliance on snacking due to easy access and boredom.

Addressing these issues through a session titled 'The importance of ensuring family health and nutri-

tion amidst a pandemic' by Almond Board of California, Celebrity Fitness Expert and Trainer, Kiran Dembla, and Sheela Krishnaswamy, Nutrition and Wellness Consultant, focused on three areas of health — proper nutrition and dietary habits, the need to incorporate regular exercise, and the importance of self-care during these challenging times. Kiran Dembla said that she relies on almonds because they're a rich source of zinc, an immunity supporting nutrient. She ensured to keep almonds in the house at all times and got every family member to eat a handful every day. It's as simple as that! Apart from exercising, ensure to focus on consuming balanced and nutrient-rich diets including a handful of almonds, as they contain several nutrients like vitamin E, magnesium, protein, riboflavin, zinc, etc. which, in the long run, will aid in overall health and well-being.



Some people use the term "male menopause" to refer to hormonal changes that men experience as they get older. Men experience symptoms resulting from a decrease in the male hormone called "testosterone".

This condition is referred to as andropause. It affects up to 30 per cent of men in their 50s and becomes more prevalent with age, says Dr Chandrika Kulkarni, Consultant Obstetrician Gynaecologist and fertility specialist, Cloudnine Group of Hospitals. "Unlike menopause in women, when hormone production stops completely, testosterone decline in men is a slower process. The testes, unlike the ovaries, do not run out of the substance it needs to make testosterone. However, subtle changes in the function of the testes may occur as early as age 45 to 50 and more dramatically after the age of 70 in some men," the doctor tells a news agency.

Male menopause differs from female menopause in several ways. Not all men experience andropause, and also it doesn't involve a complete shutdown of the reproductive organs. Sexual complications may arise as a result of lowered hormone levels. Male menopause can cause physical, sexual, and psychological problems. The symptoms typically worsen as one gets older, she warns.

Watch out for the Symptoms

The doctor points out: "The symptom most associated with hypogonadism (low level of

'Male menopause' explained



hormones) is low libido. Other manifestations of hypogonadism include: erectile dysfunction, decreased muscle mass and strength, increased body fat, decreased bone mineral density and osteoporosis, and depressed mood. Osteoporosis

is twice more common in hypogonadal (low level of hormones) men as compared to eugonadal (normal level of hormones) men (6 vs 2.8 per cent)."

How is Andropause diagnosed, and what is its

treatment?

Dr Kulkarni answers: It is recommended to test older men for low testosterone levels only if they have signs or symptoms. If an initial test shows low testosterone, the test should be repeated to confirm the results.

The initial treatment for symptoms of male menopause is making healthier lifestyle choices.

- ❖ Healthy diet
- ❖ Regular exercise
- ❖ Adequate sleep
- ❖ Reducing stress levels

After adopting these habits, men who are experiencing symptoms of male menopause may see a dramatic change in their overall health. It's normal to experience a decline in testosterone levels as one gets older. For many men, the symptoms are manageable even without treatment. If the symptoms are cause hardship, consultation with the specialist is advised.

They can provide recommendations to help manage or treat symptoms. Hormone replacement therapy is another treatment option. However, testosterone replacement therapy has its own potential risks and side effects. Replacing testosterone may worsen prostate cancer and increase the risk of heart disease.

Dil Raju to bring together the combination of Shankar and Charan

The leading producer got the nod of Shankar to direct Ram Charan for a big-budget pan-India project. He was spotted in Chennai multiple times earlier this week to finalise the project, finds NAGARAJ GOUD



source, leading producer Dil Raju is keen on making a pan-India project with Charan. While rumours of Gautam Tinnanuri in the race to direct Charan are doing the rounds thick and fast, our source says it's far from true. "Yes, Gautam did meet Charan casually a couple of times last year but they didn't discuss a story. Right now, the director is occupied with the post-production of Hindi Jersey in Hyderabad. Only after he completes it will he move on to the scripting of his next, which might take time. So the question of Gautam directing Charan immediately doesn't arise. Also, the director is someone who pens the script first and later decides who fits it. He is committed to make a film for NV Prasad though. The fact that Prasad is close to Charan meant that rumours swirled around," the source says.



While his peers like Jr NTR, Prabhas and Allu Arjun have lined up multiple projects after they finish their existing respective commitments, Ram Charan has finally shifted attention to his next. With RRR and Acharya in the last leg of filming, the actor is looking ahead. According to a

The source goes on to mention that Dil Raju is discussing the pan-India project with none other than Shankar. "The producer was spotted in Chennai earlier this week. He

shares a good professional bond with Shankar and it shouldn't be a surprise if both of them do come together. Plus, Raju is keen on producing a big-budget film like some

of the contemporary Telugu producers. He was attached to produce Indian 2 to begin with, but backed out in the last minute due to reasons guard-

ed. Now though, he is looking forward to seeing Shankar directing Charan," the source adds.



Damodar Prasad upset with Ammu Abhirami



With his lead actress Ammu Abhirami failing to attend a promotional event of Father-Chitti-Umaa-Karthik (FCUK) on Wednesday, producer KL Damodar Prasad is peeved. The otherwise soft-spoken producer posted a video message in which he clearly expressed his displeasure on Abhirami skipping a media interaction. Stating that the video is not meant to hurt anyone, he said, "A day before she was

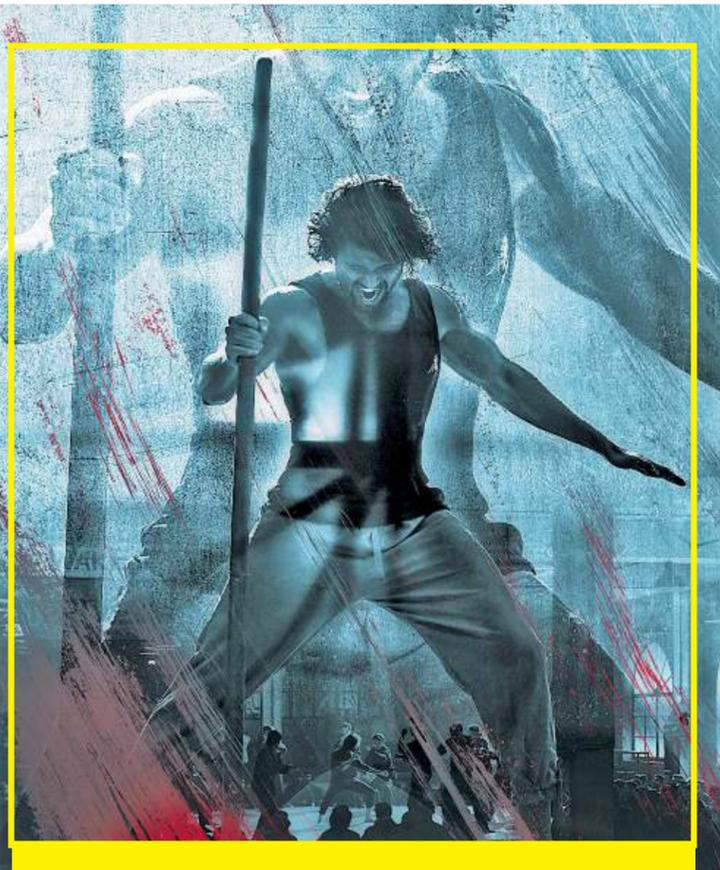
to speak to the media and promote the film, she dropped a text which left me upset. She told me, 'Due to the free release of the film' songs, some thumbnails, which were poor in taste, started doing the rounds. I didn't like them'. She further added that she was mentally hurt due to it, even developing fever. Resultantly she said she won't be attending the press meet. While she did extend her apology, the film's promotions took a hit". Prasad said while he can understand Ammu's feelings, he wanted to know what happens to the promotions and later the film? "Nobody seems to be thinking of the product. More than the individuals, the product is important. If it goes into the market and people like it, careers can be made and business can be run," he pointed out. FCUK, a romantic comedy which revolves around the roles played by Jagapathi Babu, Ram Karthik, Ammu Abhirami and Sahasritha, opens in cinemas today. Vidyasagar Raju has directed it.



Kajal would 'wake up petrified' after shooting Live Telecast

Actress Kajal Aggarwal claims she did not sleep while filming the horror series Live Telecast, because she would be scared and would often wake up petrified. Venkat Prabhu's series narrates the story of a TV crew that gets trapped in a haunted house. "I think the venue where we were shooting was perfect for this series. We shot in an extremely isolated house — which is Venkat sir's friend's house — on the top of a hill and there was nothing around us," Kajal said. "For the series, it worked really well but I haven't slept

throughout the shoot. I was so scared after pack-up and I would wake up petrified. It was a very frightening experience for me otherwise but I was totally in the character. I felt it on the set, off the set, I was living it," she claimed. The show, which also features Vaibhav Reddy, Kayal Anandhi, Priyanka, Selva, Daniel Annie Pope, and Subbu Panchu Arunachalam, releases on February 12 on Disney+ Hotstar VIP and Premium.



Liger for Ganesh Chaturthi

Filmmaker Puri Jagannadh's next, Liger, headlined by Vijay Deverakonda and Ananya Pandey, will be gracing the theatres on September 9. Announcing the date on Thursday, filmmaker Karan Johar, who is presenting the film via his Dharma Productions along with Apoorva Mehta, wrote, "All set to pack a punch around the globe! #Liger is releasing in theatres on 9th September worldwide in five languages — Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. #Liger9thSept #SaalaCrossbreed." He also shared a poster where Deverakonda, dressed in a black vest and grey joggers, holds a rod, carrying a fierce look.

Deverakonda, who will be seen as a martial arts exponent in the film, wrote, "The Date is set. India — we are coming! September 9, 2021." The project marks the first collaboration between the actor and Puri, who is best known for films such as Pokiri, Desamudhuru and iSmart Shankar. An emotional action-drama, close to 40 percent of Liger's shoot was wrapped up last year before the pandemic forced the unit to take a break. The likes of Ramya Krishna, Ronit Roy, Ali, Vishu Reddy and Getup Sreenu are playing supporting roles in the film, a Mani Sharma musical. Puri and Charmee Kaur are also the production partners on the film.



Godse rolls on

The filming of Satyadev's next, Godse, with Gopi Ganesh kicked off at Aluminum Factory, Hyderabad on Thursday.

Produced by C Kalyan under CK Screens, Malayalam beauty Aishwarya Lekshmi is making her Telugu debut with the project, a social drama

with commercial bells and whistles. Speaking at a presser, Gopi said he took a gap after Bluff Master because he wanted to be ready with

ACCORDING TO FILM'S PRODUCER C KALYAN, THE FILM IS SET IN THE BACKDROP OF EDUCATION SYSTEM AND HE IS HOPEFUL THAT IT WILL MAKE PARENTS THINK

a story which will take Satyadev's performance to the next level. "I had a 10-minute idea and when I shared it with Satya, his immediate reaction was that it should be our next film. Later, I gave a three-hour narration to C Kalyan. He gave his inputs and also cleared his doubts. The educated youth have a voice inside them but due to cer-

tain circumstances, they don't let it out. In the film though, Satya plays a guy who speaks," the director said. Expressing his happiness on collaborating with Gopi for the second time, Satya said, "On Gopi's sets, you can work stress-free. We just have to do what he tells us and he presents the film like a beautiful cake in the end." C Kalyan said the film story revolves around education, expressing confidence that it will make the parents think. He added that it is his 80th film as a producer, hopeful that he will breach the 100 mark pretty soon. Godse, with Sunil Kashyap's music, will be shot in a non-stop schedule with a break of two weeks in between. Kalyan said he is looking at a June/July release.

SINGLES

ASSAM GOVT APPOINTS HIMA DAS AS DSP

NEW DELHI: Star sprinter Hima Das, who is currently looking to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics, has been appointed as a Deputy Superintendent of Police by the Assam Government. Hima thanked Assam Chief Minister and former Union Sports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal for the job, saying it will motivate her. "I thank our Hon'ble Chief Minister @sarbanandsowal sir @himahtabiswa sir for my appointment as Deputy SP with @assampolice. The decision is a huge motivation for me. I look forward to be of service to my state and my nation. Jai Hind!" Hima said in a tweet.

NATARAJAN RELEASED FROM HAZARE SQUAD

CHENNAI: India's newest pace sensation T Natarajan has been released from the Tamil Nadu squad for the Vijay Hazare Trophy as the BCCI wants him to stay fresh for the limited-overs series against England next month, a top TNCA official said on Thursday. "The BCCI and the Indian team management wanted Natarajan to be fresh for the white ball leg of the series against England. Keeping the Indian team's interests in mind we said yes," Tamil Nadu Cricket Association secretary R S Ramasamy told PTI.

MORI SET TO RESIGN OVER SEXIST REMARKS

TOKYO: Tokyo Olympics chief Yoshiro Mori is to resign after he sparked outrage in Japan and abroad with his claims that women speak too much in meetings, reports said on Thursday. Multiple major Japanese media outlets, citing anonymous sources, said Mori told officials of his wish to step down and intends to announce his resignation at a meeting of Games organisers on Friday.

UNADKAT TO LEAD SAURASHTRA

RAJKOT: Experienced left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat will lead the Saurashtra team in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, beginning February 20. The Saurashtra Cricket Association announced a 20-member squad on Thursday. Saurashtra are placed in Elite Group E, along with Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Bengal, Chandigarh and Services and will be playing their matches in Kolkata.

2021 SUPER LEAGUE KHO KHO FROM FEB 12-15

NEW DELHI: The Kho Kho Federation of India's 2021 Super League tournament will be held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi from February 12 to 15. A total of 138 players have been divided into 10 teams (eight for men and two for women) and the tournament will be held under new playing rules framed by Ultimate Kho Kho.

NEYMAR WALKS OFF DURING PSG WIN

PARIS: Neymar walked off the pitch without waiting to be substituted after being on the receiving end of a series of fouls during Paris Saint-Germain's 1-0 French Cup win at second-tier Caen on Wednesday, with coach Mauricio Pochettino saying he had "pain in his thigh". The Brazil attacker, captaining PSG with Marquinhos and Presnel Kimpembe absent, was fouled twice in the space of three minutes. He was visibly upset after the second foul and continued to complain before walking down the tunnel to the dressing room in the 57th minute. Agencies

KENIN FAILS TO DEFEND AUS CROWN

2020 champ crash out in 2nd round with straight sets defeat; Barty, Nadal secure easy win

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Sofia Kenin's emotional Australian Open defence ended in a second-round defeat on Thursday but top seed Ashleigh Barty overcame a blip to reach the last 16.

The highly-strung Kenin has struggled to handle expectations in her first Grand Slam title defence and admitted to having a few fears during a tense opening-round win on Tuesday.

The fourth seed shed more on Margaret Court Arena on Thursday after her 6-3, 6-2 defeat in 64 minutes to the Estonian world number 65, becoming the highest-ranked player to go out of the tournament.

"I felt like I wasn't there, my head wasn't there," a teary-eyed Kenin admitted later.

A strong-serving Kanepi proved a bad match-up for Kenin, who had 22 unforced errors and offered little resistance as her title defence ended with a whimper.

Kanepi, however, has been in strong form, finishing runner-up in the warm-up Gippsland Trophy followed by a straight-sets victory over Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova in the Open's first round.

The 35-year-old plays 28th seed Donna Vekic of Croatia next.

Meanwhile world No 1 Barty cast friendship aside with a straight-sets victory over compatriot Daria Gavrilova, but appeared to lose focus serving for the match before closing out for a 6-1, 7-6 (9/7) win against her Fed Cup teammate.

Ukrainian fifth seed Elina Svitolina scored an efficient 6-4, 6-3 win over 16-year-old Coco Gauff. Sixth seed Karolina Pliskova had few alarms in beating American Danielle Collins, a semi-finalist at Melbourne Park two years ago, 7-5, 6-2.

Swiss 12th seed Belinda Bencic was pushed harder by veteran Russian Svetlana



Sofia Kenin leaves the court following her second round loss to Kaia Kanepi during at Australian Open in Melbourne on Thursday AP

Kutznetsova before coming through 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 in 2hr 39min.

TSITSIPAS PREVAILS IN EPIC

World No 6 Stefanos Tsitsipas was pushed to a marathon five sets by wildcard Thanasi Kokkinakis before making the third round while Andrey Rublev extended his unbeaten start to the year.

Later, birthday boy Daniil Medvedev added another win to

his red-hot streak as the Russian fourth seed demolished Roberto Carballes Baena to ease into the third round and second seed Rafael Nadal wrapped up proceedings on the show courts with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 win over Michael Mmoh.

Medvedev, who turned 25 on Thursday, powered past the Spaniard 6-2, 7-5, 6-1 on John Cain Arena for his 16th straight win dating back to November.

The popular Greek star

dropped only four games in his first-round match, but faced a far sterner challenge from the 267th-ranked Australian. He finally came through 6-7 (5/7), 6-1, 6-1, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4.

Kokkinakis, who has been plagued by injury and illness during his career, fought hard. With the home crowd becoming ever more vociferous in their support, he gave as good as he got in a close first set, with both players trading blows in long rallies

and big serves. The Australian saved two set points at 4-5 and took it to a tiebreaker, where he prevailed on the back of a Tsitsipas double fault. But the Greek's superior firepower and fitness came to the fore in the second set and by the third Kokkinakis appeared to be running out of steam, unable to match Tsitsipas' consistency.

He found a second wind, though, in the fourth set and after saving a match point at 4-5 took it to a fifth, buoyed by the energy of the crowd. However, Tsitsipas' unrelenting return on serve wore him down and he got a decisive break in fifth game as Kokkinakis tired.

The 22-year-old next plays Swede Mikael Ymer, who beat promising Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz. Seventh seed Rublev has been in impressive form and battled past Brazilian left-hander Thiago Monteiro 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) in workman-like fashion.

He will next play veteran Spaniard Feliciano Lopez. The 39-year-old was taken five sets in his record-extending 75th consecutive Grand Slam before beating Italy's Lorenzo Sonego 5-7, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4. No one has made more consecutive Grand Slam appearances than Lopez, who is playing his record-extending 75th in a row, having not missed one since the French Open in 2002.

Elsewhere, world number 192 Mackenzie McDonald beat Borna Coric 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 to hand the Croatian 22nd seed the biggest upset of his career.

Italians Fabio Fognini and Salvatore Caruso had to be separated by an official during a furious argument after their five-set classic. Fognini, the 16th seed, prevailed 4-6, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (14/12) in nearly four hours after a fierce battle on John Cain Arena.

Divij, Ankita out in doubles

Melbourne: India's Divij Sharan and Ankita Raina crashed out of the Australian Open men's and women's doubles events respectively, after suffering straight set defeats in the opening round here on Thursday.

Ankita, the third Indian woman tennis player to secure a place in the main draw of a Grand Slam event, and her partner Mihaela Buzarnescu of Romania lost 3-6, 0-6 in just one hour and 17 minutes at the hands of Australian wild card pair of Olivia Gadecki and Belinda Woolcock.

India's challenge also ended in the men's doubles competi-

tion after Divij and his Slovakian partner Igor Zelenay lost 1-6, 4-6 against the German combination of Yannick Hanfmann Kevin Krawietz in the first round match that lasted one hour and four minutes.

The veteran Rohan Bopanna, who lost his opening men's doubles match on Wednesday, still has a chance to make amends as he will partner China's Yingying Duan in the mixed doubles and will be up against the pair of American Bethanie Mattek-Sands and United Kingdom's Jamie Murray in the first round. AFP

Fresh Chepauk track may start offering turn earlier: Foakes

PTI ■ CHENNAI

England wicketkeeper Ben Foakes, who is set to don the big gloves in the second Test against India, feels the fresh Chepauk track will keep low and might start offering turn earlier compared to the series opener at the same venue.

England won the first Test by 227 runs but it wasn't until the fourth day when the red-soil Chepauk pitch started offering sharp turn. However, with India down 0-1 in the four-match series, the hosts would like to play to their strengths in the upcoming matches.

Asked how did the pitch look, Foakes said on Thursday: "It's different to the last one. It's a different soil and darker soil. I think it might be quite low and slow. But I haven't had a lot of experience with wickets but that would be my guess."

The 27-year-old, who has played five Tests and has been an understudy to Jos Buttler, spoke to reporters during a virtual interaction.

To a query if the pitch



would offer turn earlier than usual, he replied: "I found it quite tricky to read the wicket. I found in India obviously that's (turners) an avenue they would like to go down.

"The last wicket probably played pretty well for about two and half-three days, may be slightly longer. I guess there is a potential that it would spin earlier (on this track). I wouldn't like to look too far ahead with that and just look to see what's given on the day and try and play accordingly," said the man, who played the last of his five Tests, in 2019.

Buttler, Bairstow back for T20Is

London: Senior wicketkeeper-batsmen Jos Buttler and Jonny Bairstow were on Thursday named in a 16-member England squad for the five T20Is against India, scheduled in Ahmedabad between March 12 to 20.

Buttler has gone back home after the opening Test, which the visitors won by 227 runs, while Bairstow has been rested for the first two five-day games of the

four-match series as part of England's rotational policy.

Also coming back is all-rounder, Sam Curran, who was rested for the Test series. Veteran pacers James Anderson and Stuart Broad no longer play white-ball games but Jofra Archer will be available for the five-match series, which means he might be rested at some point during the ongoing Test rubber.

The squad also has latest T20 dasher Dawid Malan, who could be a hot pick at the February 18 IPL auction.

Squad: Eoin Morgan (c), Jonny Bairstow, Sam Billings, Jos Buttler, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Chris Jordan, Adil Rashid, Reece Topley, Mark Wood. PTI

Barca hopes in big trouble

Sevilla beat Catalans in first leg of Copa del Rey semis



AFP ■ SEVILLE

Barcelona's hopes of winning the Copa del Rey this season were left hanging by a thread on Wednesday after Sevilla won the first leg of their semi-final 2-0.

Jules Kounde furthered his growing reputation as one of the world's most exciting central defenders by scoring a stunning

goal at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan before Ivan Rakitic came back to haunt his former club by adding a second later on.

The 22-year-old Koude dribbled past three Barca defenders and shot into the corner while Rakitic's strike turned a setback for Ronald Koeman's side into what now looks like a formidable challenge to make the final.

The winner will meet either Athletic Bilbao or Levante, who play the first leg of their semi on Thursday, in the final.

"The result is a bit unfair, the reward feels too much for them," said Koeman. "The return will be complicated at 2-0 but we have had chances and we have to keep going. At home, this team is capable of anything."

Koeman had described the cup as Barcelona's "shortest route" to a trophy this term and the sight of Koude ghosting through his defence hardly inspires confidence ahead of next week's meeting with Paris Saint-Germain.

Barca face PSG at Camp Nou in the first leg of the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday.

Yet all is not lost in the cup. Although Koeman fielded his best available XI, after resting players against Real Betis in La Liga last weekend, he will also hope to have injured defenders available again for the return game at Camp Nou on March 3.



Atalanta knock out holders Napoli

Bergamo: Italy's Matteo Pessina scored twice as Atalanta beat holders Napoli 3-1 on aggregate on Wednesday to book a place in the Italian Cup final.

Pessina's efforts, both set up by Duvan Zapata, were enough to secure Atalanta a second final in three seasons, after the goalless first leg, where they will face Juventus.

On Tuesday, Juve's goalless draw with Inter Milan took them to the May 19 final in Rome after winning the first leg 2-1.

"It's a great satisfaction. We dedicate it to the fans," Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini said.

"We will think about the final later. For us it's already a great success. Now we have many important games, we will host Real Madrid. That will be an event for Bergamo," he added ahead of hosting the Spanish giants in the Champions League last 16 on February 24. AFP

Karthikeyan hopes to complete 'unfinished business'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 12 years after he crashed out following a freak accident, a more determined and experienced Narain Karthikeyan is back to complete an "unfinished business" in the Le Mans Series endurance racing.

India's first Formula One driver, Karthikeyan, dislocated his shoulder in June 2009, forcing him out of the 24 Hours of Le Mans, which is considered one of the world's toughest races.

The 44-year-old is now back, forming an all Indian team comprising former F2 and European Le Mans Series racer Arjun Maini and 2020 IMSA Prototype Challenge champion Naveen Rao.

"Yeah, absolutely, I'm here to complete an unfinished business. Le Mans is one of the greatest races in the world and I want to go back and get the job done and not only drive there but be competitive," Karthikeyan said during a



virtual media conference on Thursday.

The trio will represent Racing Team India which will make its debut in the Asian Le Mans Series in Dubai this weekend in a bid to secure an invitation to the coveted 24 Hours of Le Mans, to be held in France on June 12-13.

Racing Team India's Dubai debut will make it the first outfit with an all-Indian driver line-up to compete in international endurance rac-

ing. "It's such a great thing to hold an Indian licence. All three Indian drivers competing for top honours in LMP2 would be awesome."

The trio will compete in the top class LMP2 category over two, four-hour-long races at the Dubai Autodrome.

The two runnings of the four hours of Dubai will take place on Saturday and Sunday respectively before moving to Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina cir-

cuit for another round of two, four-hour races on February 19 and 20.

The distance covered in this one single race is equivalent to 18 Formula 1 races, making it the most extreme test of the man and his machine in the world of motorsport.

"It's like the whole Formula One race, the championship in 24 hours," Karthikeyan said.

"It's all about endurance, preserving the car, and trying to get a great setup on the car and work as a team.

"The pit stops need to be right, the driver changes, the challenges are so many driving at night and you know nearly, 400 kilometres per hour every lap, lap after lap.

"Going through traffic. It's a very unique challenge and it's that's why it's one of the, it is the toughest race in the world without a doubt. We're all experienced but nothing prepares you for Le Mans," Karthikeyan concluded.

Everton top Spurs in 9-goal thriller

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Everton upped the pressure on Jose Mourinho with a thrilling 5-4 victory over Tottenham after extra-time to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals, as Manchester City eased into the last eight by beating Swansea on Wednesday.

Spurs face a daunting trip to City in the Premier League on Saturday and defeat after a draining 120 minutes was the last thing Mourinho wanted.

Spurs have now lost four of their last five games and one of three chances to end the club's 13-year wait to win a trophy in cup competitions is now gone.

Mourinho's men made a bright start at Goodison Park as Davinson Sanchez headed them into the lead after just three minutes.

However, the defensive errors that have cost Tottenham dear in recent months were in evidence as Everton struck three times in seven minutes just before half-time through



Dominic Calvert-Lewin, Richarlison and Gyfl Sigurdsson's penalty.

Erik Lamela reduced Spurs' deficit in first-half stoppage time before another rare goal for Sanchez made it 3-3.

Richarlison then smashed home from a narrow angle to restore Everton's lead.

Mourinho had left Harry Kane on the bench from the start to ease his return from an

ankle injury. But the England captain ended up playing for over an hour and met Son Heung-min's cross at the back post with bullet header seven minutes from time to send the game into extra-time.

Bernard's brilliant finish from Sigurdsson's scooped pass proved a fitting winner to a pulsating tie to keep alive the Toffees' chances of a first trophy since 1995.

CITY'S RECORD-BREAKING RUN
The defending from both sides will encourage City, who also face Everton in the Premier League next Wednesday, after they broke the English football record for consecutive wins by a top-flight club.

Kyle Walker, Raheem Sterling and Gabriel Jesus were on target for City, who extended their winning run in all competitions to 15 games with a 3-1 success over Swansea.

Victory was also Pep Guardiola's 200th in 268 games as City boss, with his side still on course for a historic quadruple of trophies.

Leicester were made to wait until the 94th minute to book their place in the last eight with a 1-0 win over Brighton thanks to Kelechi Iheanacho's header.

Sheffield United also just needed a solitary goal to see off Bristol City 1-0 thanks to Billy Sharp's penalty after Alfie Mawson was sent off for handling David McGoldrick's goal-bound shot.