FISHERMEN IN DANGER

STRING' INDIA TAKE ON GUTSY...



BHUBANESWAR RANCHI **DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA** *LATE CITY VOL. 4 ISSUE 46 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable NAGA SHAURYA'S LAKSHYA COMING ON DEC 10 Page 11

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HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW

BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

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PUTIN TESTS EXPERIMENTAL NASAL VAX AGAINST COVID AFTER BOOSTER SHOT

ussian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday he has taken Ran experimental nasal vaccine against the coronavirus, three days after he received his booster shot, as Russia faces its worst surge of infections and deaths since the pandemic began. Putin was vaccinated with Sputnik V, Russia's domestically developed Covid-19 vaccine, in the spring. On Sunday, he said he received a booster short of Sputnik Light, the one-dose version of the jab, and said he wanted to take part in testing the nasal version of Sputnik V. The nasal vaccine is yet to be tested on members of the public and is currently being studied off-label mostly.

US TO RELEASE 50 MN BARRELS OF OIL FROM RESERVES, INDIA 5 MILLION

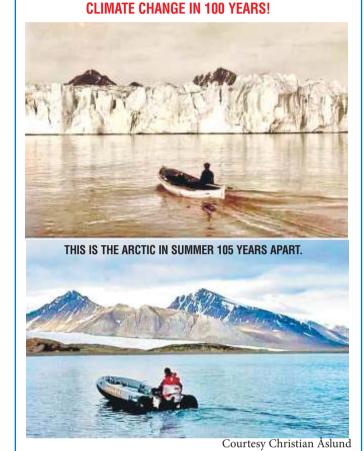
Chortly after US President Joe Biden on Tuesday ordered a Srecord 50 million barrels of oil released from America's strategic reserve, India on Wednesday said it would release 5 million barrels from its strategic reserves to bring down gasoline and other costs. The British government too confirmed it will release up to 1.5 million barrels from its stockpile. China, Japan and South Korea are also participating in what U.S. officials said is the biggest coordinated release from global strategic reserves. The U.S. action is focused on helping Americans cope with higher fuel and other prices ahead of Thanksgiving and winter holiday travel.

GOA GOVERNMENT REFUSES PERMISSION FOR SUNBURN EVENT

he Goa government on Wednesday said it will not grant permission to organise the 15th edition of the Sunburn EDM festival, slated to be held in December. "The state government has refused the permission to host the Sunburn festival in Goa. I have already signed the file refusing the permission," Chief Minister Pramod Sawant told reporters after chairing a state cabinet meeting refusing to elaborate. The 15th edition of the Sunburn Festival was slated for December this year at Vagator with the organisers announcing that only fully vaccinated participants will

RAJ MINISTER SAYS ROADS SHOULD BE LIKE 'KATRINA KAIF'S CHEEKS'

ays after being inducted as a minister in Rajasthan, Rajendra Singh Gudha has shot his mouth off comparing roads to the cheeks of actors Hema Malini and Katrina Kaif. The remark was allegedly made by the Minister of State for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development. In the purported video of the event, Gudha is heard saying in local dialect that roads should be like the cheeks of Hema Malini, adding she had become too old. The Minister made the comparison after he was told about the bad condition of roads in the district. He went on to say roads should be like Katrina Kaif's cheeks. 'Katrina Kaif Ka Gaalan Jaayan ki Sadak Banni Chayej,' he says.



CM wraps up Delhi visit without meeting Modi

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao returned home on Wednesday after winding up his four-day visit to the national capital. The Chief Minister, who left for

Delhi on Sunday evening, had been staying at 23 Tughlaq Road in Delhi and during his stay there, he had not personally met anyone regarding paddy procurement.

However, during the course of

these four days, members of his Cabinet and officials had met Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Union Civil Supplies Minister Piyush

In his address to the Maha Dharna, KCR had said that if needed, he would meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and take up the paddy procurement issue

Interestingly, Modi had met



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday, giving rise to the speculations that KCR was unable to get an appointment with the Prime Minister.

However, well placed sources said that KCR did not even seek an appointment with the Prime Minister. This version was more or less corroborated by the criticism of Opposition parties who lashed out at KCR for not asking for

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister's wife K Shoba, who was also in Delhi, took second opinion from AIIMS doctors regarding long Covid issues. According to sources, the doctors were against usage of steroids. Also, KCR enquired about the Council elections and then spoke to the TRS candidates on the phone, congratulating Shambipur Raju and Patnam Mahender Reddy for being elected unopposed. Meanwhile, a release from the Chief Minister's Office said that discussions between the State and Union government will continue on November 26 as there was no headway.

There was no categorical assurance from the Centre on the quantity of paddy that it would procure from Telangana this season, even as the NDA government made it clear that it would not purchase parboiled rice, the release said.

Kavitha among 3 elected to Council unopposed

PNS HYDERABAD

TRS sitting MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha was on Wednesday declared elected to the Telangana State Legislative Council unopposed from the Local Authorities Constituency after the nomination papers filed by the only other aspirant - Kotagiri Srinivas - were rejected on a technicality.

Likewise, sitting MLCs Shambipur Raju and Patnam Mahender Reddy were also elected unopposed from Rangareddy district Local Bodies quota. An official announcement confirming the election of the three MLCs will be made on

The Congress and BJP had failed to field their candidates, thus paving the way for Kavitha to be re-elected to the Council for the second time from the same constituency.

According to sources, the elec-

tion officials rejected Srinivas' nomination as two signatories alleged that he had forged their signatures and lodged a complaint with the Nizamabad district collector. Scrutiny of the nominations was held on Wednesday. November 26 is the last day for withdrawal of nominations.

The Nizamabad district TRS leaders celebrated Kavitha's election in a big way.

Meanwhile, there were allegations that TRS activists tore the nomination papers of a woman MPTC on Tuesday thereby obstructing her from filling her no-

mination papers. The incident led to some tense moments at the Rangareddy collectorate.

Also, the papers of one Chandrasekhar were rejected and the reason given was that it did not have the signature of the person who seconded the nomination.

People consider BJP as the only alternative to TRS, claims Sanjay

K. VENKATESHWARLU

The people of Telangana are supporting the BJP as they believe it BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar said Wednesday

He claimed that corruption was rampant in Telangana and that the people were fed up with the "corrupt, dictatorial" rule of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and family.

He called upon BJP activists to take up with TRS leaders the implementation of KCR's assurances.

Participating in the training programme for trainers at the BJP office here, Sanjay said that there were several instances in the history of the nation and undivided AP of the people teaching "undemocratic leaders" a lesson.

He said that the BJP has a history of fighting corruption and the family rule of former PM Indira Gandhi and her Emergency. After Indira Gandhi's death, corruption became rampant in Rajiv Gandhi's tenure, Saniav said.

He said that not even a single corruption allegation has come

TODAY

Month & Paksham:

Kartik & Krishna Paksha

Tithi: Shashthi 28:41

Varjyam: Nil

important work)

Nakshatram: Pushya 18:49

Time to Avoid: Time to Avoid

(Bad time to start any important work)

Rahukalam: 1:26 pm - 2:49 pm

Yamagandam: 6:30 am - 7:53 am

Gulika: 9:16 am - 10:39 am

Amritakalam: 11:48 am - 1:33 pm

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:40 am - 12:25 pm

Good Time: (to start any



against the BJP under the leadernip of Narendra Modi. Sanjay alleged that corruption

continued during the rule of the Congress and the TDP in undivided Andhra Pradesh. The people were fed up with the rule of Marri Chenna Reddy, Anjaiah, Kotla Vijayabhasker Reddy and their corrupt reign resulted in the arrival of the TDP under the leadership of NTR. The people considered the TDP as an alternative to the Congress then, he said.

The people gave a shock to the TDP as they were unable to bear the rule of the NTR family, he said, alleging that the TDP lost in 2004 due to N. Chandrababu Naidu's

and 1999 due to the cooperation of former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. ruption was more under KCR in

The TDP came to power in 1994

Telangana than during the rule of the Congress and the TDP in United AP. "The people are angry with the KCR's family's corruption and dictatorship," Sanjay claimed. He said the public response to

the Praja Sangrama Yatra indicates that the people consider BJP as the alternative to the TRS.

The people think that the State would develop and the poor will get justice if BJP is given an opportu-Śanjay said that the BJP is the party that has the largest number

of members across the globe. He said that leaders are not important to the BJP. Only ideals and policies are important to it, he added. Sanjay said that there are many

BJP leaders who are working hard for the party and have stayed away from their families as Naxals have threatened them.

Union Cabinet approves Bill to repeal three farm laws

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on repeal the three farm laws, which triggered protests at Delhi borders by thousands of farmers, and will be tabled in Parliament during the upcoming winter session for passage.

On November 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the nation had announced the withdrawal of the three farm laws, saying the government could not convince protesting farmers about the benefits of the agriculture sector reforms. He had also urged them to end the protest and return home.

The Cabinet has approved the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021 to rollback the three laws passed by Parliament in September last year, with an objective to bring reforms in the agriculture sector, especially marketing of farm produce.

MLC ELECTIONS

TRS wary of cross-voting, fears rebel trouble

SNCN ACHARYULU

Relief was evident on the faces of many TRS leaders on Wednesday after it became clear that sitting MLC K Kavitha was elected unanfrom Nizamahad Authorities Constituency even as her party candidates continued to be wary of cross voting that could potentially spell disaster for them.

The nomination of independent candidate Srinivas was rejected by the Returning Officer due to technical reasons. This is a setback to the Congress and the BJP that planned on supporting Srinivas, who has been fighting for the



rights of MPTCs.

It's not just the Congress and BJP that the TRS candidates are wary of; they are also facing a problem in the form of independent candi-

dates who may cause cross-voting. The possibility of cross-voting impacting the results is highest in Medak, Karimnagar and Khammam districts, and comparatively lower in other districts where independent candidates have

While the BJP has decided to stay away from the Council polls, the Congress is contesting in two districts. The elections are being held for 12 seats in nine districts and only the ruling TRS is contesting for all the 12 seats. Apart from independent candidates, the TRS is facing rebel candidates also in some places.

TSRTC chief not to take salary

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Tra-Corporation nsport Chairman Bajireddy Govardhan on Wednesday said that he would not accept salary and allowances from the Corporation. In a statement on Wednesday, Bajireddy said that his constituency allowances were sufficient for him. He said that he took this decision as the TSRTC is facing losses and he did not want to be a burden on the Corporation. With this, Bajireddy will

enable the TSRTC to save Rs 1.26 crore during his three-year

HMDA for

rail track

linking ORR

Centre approves Affordable Rental

PNS HYDERABAD

The Union Government has approved proposals under Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) - Model 2 in Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

Housing scheme in TS

A total of 19,535 units have been approved for urban migrants / poor, involving Technology Innovation Grant of Rs 39.11

This was informed in the 56th meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) that was held under the chairmanship of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra.

Mishra directed the States to ensure proper implementation

of ARHCs by utilising vacant JnNURM houses. He also encouraged the stakeholders to come up with more proposals under Model 2 of ARHCs.

BJP corporators booked for vandalism

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad police on Wednesday filed cases against BJP corporators for vandalising the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (ĠHMC) head office on Tuesday. Police said the cases were regis-

police station on Tuesday, cases

tered on the complaint lodged by GHMC officials. While 10 corporators were booked at Saifabad



against 22 others were registered on

against BJP workers involved will be taken after scanning the CCTV Earlier, Municipal Administra tion Minister KT Rama Rao

A police official said action

requested Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar to take strict action against BJP's corporators and workers who vandalised the GHMC office.

whole virus vaccine administered in a two-dose regimen, 28 days

Covaxin 50% effective, safe: Lancet study ICMR), Pune, is an inactivated

Two doses of Covaxin are 50 percent effective against symptomatic Covid-19, according to the first real-world assessment of India's published in The Lancet Infectious

recently published in The Lancet showed that two doses of Covaxin, also known as BBV152, had 77.8

percent efficacy against symptomatic disease and present no serious safety concerns.

The latest study assessed 2,714 hospital workers at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, from April 15 May 15, who were symptomatic and underwent RT-PCR test for

Covaxin, developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the National



Institute of Virology, Indian Council of Medical Research (NIV-



19 vaccines earlier this month.

In January this year, Covaxin was

approved for emergency use in

India for people aged 18 and above. The World Health Organization

(WHO) added the vaccine to its list

of approved emergency use Covid-









HYDERABAD Weather Forecast: Thunderstorm

Temp: 30 Humidity: 78% Sunrise: 6:25 am **Sunset:** 05:39 pm Updated NOVEMBER 24, 2021 5:00 PM

NAVAL LEAK CASE

CBI files charge sheet against two commanders

PNS NEW DELHI

The CBI has filed a charge sheet against two Navy Commanders Jagdeesh and Abhishek Shaw in connection with the alleged leak age of confidential information related to INS Sindhuratna-MRLC project, officials said.

In the fresh charge sheet, the agency has also named Commander Ajit Pandey and retired Naval officer commodore Randeep Singh for alleged "leakage of information related to advance payment related to INS Sindhuratna-MRLC project", offi-

against Commander Jagdeesh and Commander Shaw on November 20, they said.

cials said on Wednesday. The CBI filed its charge sheet

indigenous coronavirus vaccine Diseases journal The results of an interim study

Covid-19 detection.



Vizag leads Hyd, Vja follows in NITI Aayog's Urban SDG index

PNS HYDERABAD

Visakhapatnam is ahead of Hyderabad in Niti Aayog's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Urban index, ranked 18 with a composite score of 68.14.

Hyderabad has been ranked 22 in with a composite score of 66.9 while Vijayawada was ranked 30 with a score of

Urban areas have been classified on their composite score as aspirant: 0–49, Performer: 50-64, Front-Runner: 65-99

and Achiever: 100. The SDG index ranks 56 urban areas according to their progress in meeting SDGs

hunger, good health and well being, quality education and gender equality, among oth-

The SDG Urban Index and Dashboard ranks 56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators across 46 targets of the SDG framework. Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam performed well in Affordable and Clean Energy, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions indexes. Hyderabad and Vijayawada however performed badly in Decent Work and Economic Growth and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. Visakhapatnam performed badly in Reducing Inequality Economic Growth indexes.

Of the 56 urban areas ranked in the index, 44 are with a population of above one million, 12 are State capitals with a population of less than a million. For each SDG, the urban areas are ranked on a scale of 0-100. A score of 100 implies that the urban area has achieved the targets set for 2030; a score of 0 implies that it is the farthest from achieving the targets among the selected urban areas.

The data on these indicators have been sourced from offi-Overall or composite urban cial data sources such as NFHS, NCRB, U-DISE, data area scores are then generated from the goal-wise scores portals of various ministries, and other government data to measure aggregate perfor-

engines of growth. The SDĞ

Urban index and dashboard,

a product of innovative part-

nership between NITI Aavog

and GIZ, will go a long way in instituting a robust SDG mon-

itoring system in our cities,

and is a milestone step in our

SDG localisation journey," Dr.

Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman,

NITI Aayog said during the launch of SDG Urban Index

and Dashboard 2021-22

Man booked for impersonating Kukatpally MLA

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Kukatpally Police booked a case following a complaint from Kukatpally MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao, that an unidentified person created a social media account in his name.

According to T Narsing Rao, Inspector of Police, Kukatpally, an unknown person had created a Facebook account using the MLA's name and began texting the public. The fraudster then asked the persons who responded to his messages to send him money citing various reasons. Based on the MLA's complaint, the police registered a case and have launched an investigation.

Director of Kura Motors accused of 'forging' sign

Director of Kura Motors Pvt Ltd and Saboo Cars Pvt Ltd Prashant Saboo, 47, was arrested on Wednesday at Karkhana in Secunderabad in connection with a forgery case regarding a loan of Rs 40 lakh.

Prashant is the Working Director of Kura Motors Pvt Limited and Veerendar Reddy is the Non-Executive Director of the same company.

Prashant Saboo had taken a loan of Rs 40 lakh to purchase two cars from Sundaram Finance Limited in July 2021.

Veerendar Reddy was shown as guarantor and his sign was also here in the papers. As EMI payments were

pending, Sundaram Finance Limited representatives contacted Veerendar Reddy after failing to collect payment from Prashant Saboo. Veerendar Reddy was shocked as he had not signed any loan documents as guarantor.

Immediately he complained against Prashant Saboo on November 16. He explained that he was not aware of the loans and that he was never

on the issue. He clarified that he had never signed any loan documents as guarantor.

The police found that the signature of Veerendar Reddy was forged by Prashant Saboo. After confirming it, they arrested Prashant Saboo on Wednesday.

Cases were registered against the representatives of Sundaram Finance Limited for not checking documents

and signatures properly.

The police produced Prashant Saboo before the Magistrate on Wednesday.

TSRTC chief not to take salary

Continued from page 1

The amount will increase if his tenure is extended. But this will depend on the outcome of the 2023 elections. Bajireddy is sacrificing his salary of nearly Rs 3.5

lakh (2.5 lakh salary + 1 lakh allowances) per month. Reacting to the decision, TSRTC MD VC Sajjanar, officers, supervisors and

employees described it as a

historic one. TSRTC Staff Workers Federation (STF) Publicity Secretary P. Ravinder Reddy expressed happiness over Bajireddy's decision. He said that it will definitely help the

An RTC driver said the MD is striving hard for the

TSRTC's development and the welfare of employees. The Chairman's decision will definitely help the RTC to cut losses, he said.

Welcoming the decision of Bajireddy, TPCC spokesperson B. Ayodya Reddy said that other corporation chairmen, advisors and others, who were drawing two salaries, must emulate the TSRTC Chairman. He asked Bajireddy to put in more effort for the development of the TSRTC.

It may be recalled that Bajireddy faced a lot of crit-icism when the TSRTC purchased a KIA car costing Rs 37 lakh although there are several cars in the RTC

Two killed as lorry hits bike

PNS HYDERABAD

Two students were killed in a mishap Vanasthalipuram when a speeding tipper lorry rammed into their bike from the rear.

According to the police, the deceased were identified as Vishal Narani, 20, and Rohit Kancharwal, also aged 20. "They were heading towards Sagar Road on Wednesday afternoon when a speeding tipper lorry, driven in a rash and negligent manner, crashed into their bike, killing them on the spot," police said, adding that the driver of the vehicle was detained and booked under section 304-A (death by negligence) of the IPC. The bod ies were shifted for post-

TSRTC earned record Rs 14.7cr on Monday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Meanwhile, the TSRTC said that it has earned record revenue on Monday.

According to the TSRTC, the Corporation on Monday earned Rs 14.07 crore with 77.06 percent Occupancy Ratio (OR). This was the highest revenue of a single day after increasing the bus fares last year.

The RTC has set a target of earning Rs 12.89 crore; however, it has earned Rs 14.07 crore. In fact, the revenue earned by the Corporation on the corresponding date in 20202 was about 50 percent at Rs 7.85 crore.

Tikait to attend

PNS HYDERABAD

MSP for all crops.

on November 28.

Maha Panchayat

at Dharna Chowk

Farmers have decided to

organise a Kisan Maha

Panchayat at the Indira Park

Dharna Chowk here on

Thursday demanding that

the Centre should abolish the

new farm laws and announce

leader Rakesh Tikait will

Bharathiya Kisan Union

Deekshas will be staged on

November 26 across

Telangana extending support

to farmers. They will also

organise a Kisan Maha

Panchayat in Maharashtra

The Corporation earned

10 regions. The record revenue comes on the back of talk that the TRS government may announce an increase in power tariffs and bus fares.

crossing the target revenue in

The RTC has been facing a lot of troubles due to the loans it has taken from banks.

The government had increased bus fares after the first Covid-19 wave. However, the government has decided to increase bus fares once again as the RTC is not in a position to bear the increasing losses caused by the sharp increase in the

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Three persons were killed

in a road accident on the

ORR at Keesara on Wedn-

esday. The accident caused

a major traffic jam on the

ORR that was cleared after

a crane removed the man-

gled remains of the dam-

Sumanth Reddy, 20, G

Pavan Kumar, 21 and

Shanker Reddy, 38, were

travelling in a car from

Khammam to Alwal.

The deceased persons,

Union Cabinet approves Bill...

mance of the urban area.

Continued from page 1

The three laws to be repealed are: Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act; and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act.

The Cabinet has completed the formalities to repeal the three farm laws, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told

reporters. "In the upcoming session of Parliament, it will be our priority to take back these three laws," he said.

The winter session will begin on November 29, and conclude on December 23.

the car, realised that the br-

akes were not working and

attempted to pull into the

left lane of the ORR in a bid

However, due to the

speed in which the car was

moving, he did not notice

the parked lorry and rammed into it. Both

Sumanth and Shanker died

on the spot, while Pavan

was retrieved from the

mangled vehicle by the

patrol police and shifted to

hospital, where he suc-

to slow down the vehicle.

Three killed as

car rams lorry

According to the police, cumbed to his injuries.

Two held for rape, murder of woman

PNS HYDERABAD

The Abdullapurmet Police on Wednesday arrested two persons who sexually assaulted and murdered a woman at Taramathipet on Tuesday. Police officials recovered the gold and silver ornaments that the culprits had stolen from the victim after killing

The arrested persons have been identified as D Suresh, 30 and B Srikanth, 23, both residents of Taramathipet in Abdullapurmet.

Based on suspicion, the police detained the duo. The

victim was known to the killers, who were from the same locality. When the duo reached the victim's house, the victim's husband was at the gate. They then took him to a bar and got him drunk. However, their constant badgering for him to consume more alcohol made him more suspicious and he left them on the pretext of attending nature's call. The accused then went to the victim's house, sexually assaulted her in turns and murdered her. The two were apprehended and remanded to judicial

TRS wary of cross-voting, fears rebel...

Continued from page 1

In Karimnagar, former Mayor and TRS rebel Sardar Ravindar Singh filed his nomination as an Independent candidate. For the two seats here, the TRS has given tickets to sitting MLC Bhanuprasad and L Ramana who joined the party recently. The former Mayor says that the main reason he is contesting as a rebel candidate is because the party leadership is giving importance to those who joined the TRS recently instead of those who have struggled and strove hard since ention to build it

It is candidates like this who the TRS is most wary of; if there is any cross-voting one of the TRS candidates may face

Elsewhere in Khammam and Medak, Congress candidates filed their nomination papers. In Medak Congress MLA and TPCC working president T Jagga Reddy's wife Nirmala is contesting. In Khammam, Congress candidate Rayala Nageswara Rao is contesting. Naturally the BJP will work against TRS in these elections even though it is not contesting.

This may help Congress

Khammam. Congress and BJP will support Independent candidates in Nizamabad, Karimnagar and other places.

For the 12 MLC seats, as many as 94 candidates have filled their nomination papers, including 12 TRS and two Congress candidates. Friday, November 26 is the last day for withdrawal of nominations and the TRS is trying to convince rebel and independent candidates to withdraw from the fray in favour of official candidates.

It is expected that a clear picture would emerge by Friday evening on the chances of the other candidate

Centre approves... on their own vacant land.

Continued from page 1

ARHCs, a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri AWAS Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), provide affordable rental accommodation to urban migrants/poor in urban areas close to their workplace. The ARHC scheme is being implemented through two models. Under Model 1, existing government funded vacant houses are converted into ARHCs through Public Private Partnership or by Public Agencies and under model 2. construction, operation and maintenance of ARHCs will be

Beneficiaries for ARHCs are urban migrants / poor from EWS/ LIG categories. As per MoHUA, these complexes will

mortem examination.

ensure a dignified living environment for urban migrants/poor close to their workplaces at affordable rates. This will unlock existing vacant housing stock and make them available in urban space.

It will propel new investment opportunities and promote entrepreneurship in the rental housing sector by encouraging Private/Public Entities to efficiently utilize their vacant land

BJP corporators booked for...

Continued from page 1

"Some thugs & hooligans of BJP in Hyderabad have vandalised the GHMC office yesterday. I strongly condemn this atrocious behaviour (sic)," tweeted KTR.

"Guess it's too much to ask Godse Bhakts to behave in a Gandhian manner," he wrote. He requested Hyderabad Police Commissioner to take strictest action on the vandals

as per law. The BJP corporators and activists on Tuesday barged into Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi's chamber at GHMC head office and staged a sit-in protest demanding a council

meeting and release of funds. They broke flower pots, damaged furniture, spray-

saffron 'kanduva' to the mayor's chair. However, the mayor was not at her office when the incident happened.

The TRS corporators on

Wednesday cleaned GHMC head office premises with milk and condemned the vandalism by BJP corporators and workers. They submitted a memorandum to the Mayor, urging her to disqualify the corporators involved in dam-

aging the public property.

The TRS leaders alleged that the BJP corporators tried to tarnish the image of Hyderabad. They said the action of the saffron party is highly condemnable and claimed that the government is working sincerely to develop Hyderabad as a world-class city.

BJP for Tuesday's incidents. She wondered if BJP leaders were teaching goondaism to their cadres. She said if BJP corporators had any issue, they can bring the same to her notice but vandalism will not be allowed. Minister T. Srinivas Yadav

said for the first time in 30 years he saw elected public representatives resorting to this kind of activity.

He also criticised state BJP

chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar for supporting the action of his party corporators.

Sanjay stated that the BJP corporators were justified over concerns that the GHMC standing council meeting was not held and that the council was chosen unilaterally.

alternative to...

People consider

BJP as the only

The party is now in a position to come to power due to them, he said. He said that the BJP will not tolerate corrupt, family governments and hence people consider the BJP as the alternative in TS.

Continued from page 1

BJP activists will have to go to the people and examine whether the assurances given to youth, women and

farmers by the TRS Government have been implemented.

He alleged that MIM supports the party in power. The MIM supported the Congress and the TDP when they were in power and now it is supporting the TRS,"

Due to the policies of MIM, development has bypassed Old City of Hyderabad and the people there have realised it, he said. Sanjay made it clear that the B JP is not against any religion but it will not

compromise on fighting traitors. He said the BIP is the only party that thinks about the welfare of Hindus.

He said that all party decisions are subject to BJP's core ideology and that the party is enabling its workers to know about the nation's problems through training classes. Sanjay said the BJP will certainly win the next elections if the trained activists worked effectively.

NAVAL LEAK CASE

CBI files charge sheet against two commanders...

Continued from page 1

They said while two charge sheets had already been filed against six people earlier, the probe against Navy officer Commander Jagdish, who was arrested on September 21, and Commander Abhishek Shaw was still on.

Several accused, including retired officers commodore Randeep Singh and commander SJ Singh, serving officer Commander Ajit Pandey, Commander Jagdish and the executive director of Hyderabad-based Allen Reinforced Plastics Ltd have already been granted default bail in the matter, they said.

The defence counsels had successfully managed to

point out that the CBI admitted the Officials Secrets Act (OSA) probe was on but failed to mention it in the charge sheet which made the charge sheet against the accused incomplete, making them eligible for default bail. An accused becomes eli-

gible for default bail if the investigating agency does not file a charge sheet with-in the stipulated period of 60 days or 90 days depend-ing on the charges pressed. Defence counsels had

argued, citing a Delhi High Court judgment, that limitation for filing charge sheet under the OSA is 60 days, not 90 days, as wrongly mentioned by the CBI.

The special court agreed with the points raised by the

defence counsels and gave bail to the accused, terming the CBI charge sheet incomplete in terms of the

The agency has asked the Defence Ministry to file a complaint under the OSA against the accused. The CBI will press charges under the OSA in supplementary charge sheets if the ministry files a complaint.

The agency September 2 had carried out searches at 19 locations in the country after getting inputs that commander SJ Singh (retired) was allegedly sharing confidential information about Mine Laying Saddles used by submarines with commodore Randeep Singh for pecuniary benefits.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG Dressed/With Skin ₹210 Without Skin ₹230 ₹113 Broiler at Farm RATES ₹/100

VISAKHAPATNAM 402

HYDERABAD

VIJAYAWADA

RETAIL PRICE

426

463

₹4.26

Covaxin 50% effective, safe: Lancet ...

Continued from page 1

The latest study was conducted during India's second Covid-19 surge and in healthcare workers who were

primarily offered Covaxin. "Our study offers a more complete picture of how BBV152 (Covaxin) performs in the field and should be

considered in the context of Covid-19 surge conditions in India, combined with the possible immune evasive potential of the Delta variant," said Manish Soneja, Additional Professor of Medicine at AIIMS New Delhi.

Researchers evaluated the effectiveness of the vaccine against symptomatic RT-PCR confirmed SARS-CoV-

2 infection. Of the 2,714 employees in the study population, 1,617 people tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, and 1,097 tested negative.

matched to negative RT-

Positive cases were

PCR tests (controls). The odds of vaccination with Covaxin were compared between cases and

controls and adjusted for occupational exposure to The effectiveness of two Covid-19, previous SARS-CoV-2 infection, and infection dates. The study found that the

vaccine effectiveness against

symptomatic Covid-19 after two doses of Covaxin with the second dose administered 14 or more days before undergoing RT-PCR testing was 50 per cent.

vaccine doses remained stable over the seven-week follow-up peri researchers said. period,

Telangana records 156 fresh Covid cases, one death

today.

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana on Wednesday reported 156 new Covid-19 cases, pushing the tally to 6,75,001, while the toll rose to

3,985 with one more fatality. The GHMC accounted for the most number of cases with 55, followed by Ranga Reddy (14) and Warangal

government bulletin said, providing details as of 5.30 PM

It said 155 people recovered from the infectious disease on Wednesday, taking the cumulative number till date to 6,67,483.

The number of active cases was 3,533, the bulletin said.

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Free dialysis services for HIV/

AIDS, hepatitis patients soon

■ Services under EHS at 43 centres for govt employees

dialysis services through var-

ious centres in the State. Harish

Rao directed the officials to

provide free dialysis services at

43 government dialysis centres

under EHS to State govern-

ment employees as well as

DME Ramesh Reddy to iden-

tify the dialysis centres where

The Minister also directed

retired employees.

HMDA for rail track linking ORR

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) is planning to request the railways through the State government of Telangana to lay an outer railway track surrounding the Outer Ring Road (ORR) linking 19 inter-changes and railway stations located near the ORR to meet the city's future public transport needs.

Since the railways has already acquired land for the purpose, the HMDA wants to request the railways regarding this through the State govern-ment. HMDA officials are confident that the outer ring railway will materialise in four to five years.

In fact, the railways has acquired 158 kilometers-long and 25 metres-wide land all around the ORR. The land between the ORR and the inner service road is the most

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Human

Rights Commission (TSHRC)

would organise a series of

awareness programmes on

human rights at law colleges

Aimed at creating awareness on human rights among

law students, the programmes would be held from November

26 to December 10 (International Human Rights

Day), TSHRC secretary C

Vidyadhar Bhatt told reporters

on Wednesday.

here from November 26.

TSHRC to hold awareness

programmes from Nov 26



suited for laying the double

The outer ring railway line would be laid linking all the railway lines in four directions but close to the ORR.

The Ghatkesar railway station is very close to the Vijayawada highway, while

TSHRC chairperson Justice

G Chandraiah, members of

the Commission and others

would take part in the pro-

held on 'Right to Education as

a Human Right', 'Right to

Health as a Human Right', 'Right to Food as a Human

Right', 'Women Rights are Human Rights', 'Minority

Rights are Human Rights' and

'Access to Justice for All', pro-

fessor G Vinod Kumar, Dean,

Osmania University (Faculty

of Law) said.

The programmes would be

grammes, Bhatt said.

changes on ORR. As many as 33 radial roads are being used to reach the core city from here. Development of the ring railway will help to link the 19 interchanges and existing railway stations. Moreover, it would also ease

pressure on Secunderabad, Kachiguda and Nampalli railway stations. These stations are not enough to meet future demand even after expanding the railway stations.

Establishing railway terminals near the ORR will ease the pressure on the existing rail-

way stations in the city.

It was proposed to build satellite railway terminals at two places close to the ORR. The works at the Charlapalli terminal are progressing. The Telangana Government has urged the Railways to build another terminal at Kolluru and Edula Nagulapalli.

Moreover, it is proposed to

Modal Transport System (MMTS) services in the area surrounding the ORR to meet public transport needs.

Since city areas are expanding around ORR. The development in the outskirts would be more rapid once the ring railway project is executed.

Industries are fast coming up from Tellapur to Kolluru, Sankarpalli, Mokila, Kondakal Bhanuru regions. and Residential areas are also coming up. Projects like e-city, electronic cluster, IT and the aerospace hub are coming up at Adibhatla, Maheshwaram and surrounding Shamshabad. areas in

There is scope for expanding the city up to Yadadri on the Warangal highway. Therefore, officials are proposing the outer railway ring line to ensure speedy public transport from all directions to the city.

ACB court orders takeover of DA from kin of dead accused

PNS HYDERABAD

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) court has ordered to takeover disproportionate assets (DA) worth Rs 2.89 crore from the family of a deceased accused person.

Kandlakoya and Goudavelli

stations near Medchal is close

to the Mumbai highway,

Kolluru and Edulanagupalli

stations are close to the

Mumbai highway and the

Shamshabad railway station is

close to the Bangaluru high-

accused. Venkateswara Rao, who used to work in Pay and Accounts Office (PAO) as an accounts officer, had died.

The properties are now with his family. The court after completing proceedings the properties from the fami-

The case was registered in 2006, and the judgment was delivered on Wednesday. The ACB had raided the

properties of Venkateswara Rao and had filed the case. While proceedings were on, the accused died of ill health. After that, the properties came under the control of his wife K Shyamala and sons K Madhav and KV Seshagiri.

ACB Principal Judge

ered the order to take over the properties worth Rs 2,89,39,681 from the family members of the accused.

If an accused dies, the case will be decided in absentia and the properties involved will be seized as per law. The legal heirs can appeal under Section 457 of CrPC.

If the court declares that the property should be taken over by the government it will be taken over. This is the first case of this type in Telangana.

most patients are under pres-Chandrasekhar Reddy, The Telangana government sure and to make proposals on Managing Director, TSMSIDC, is spending Rs 100 crore per how many new dialysis etc. participated in the event year to cater to about 10,000 machines are required in these held at Aarogyasri Trust Care patients who are receiving 233 grams gold worth Rs 11.5L seized at RGIA

PNS HYDERABAD

PNS HYDERABAD

The State government is mak-

ing arrangements to provide

free dialysis services for AIDS

and hepatitis patients suffering

from kidney disease. To facil-

itate this, two exclusive kidney

centres will be set up in

Hyderabad and Warangal each.

Minister T Harish Rao on

Wednesday directed officials to

ensure that five beds each for

AIDS patients and hepatitis

patients are set up in these cen-

tres. He instructed the officials

to set up dialysis centres at

both the places and see to the

services starting at the earliest.

The Minister said the centres

were set up by Chief Minister

K Chandrasekhar Rao in view

of the fact that dialysis is

expensive and a huge financial

Finance, Medical and Health

In the third such seizure in the last three days, the Hyderabad Customs officials detained a passenger at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad, arriving from Sharjah, for smuggling 233.4 grams of gold, valued at Rs 11.56 lakh

on Wednesday.
Officials said that the passenger arrived at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport via Sharjah by flight 6E-1406 on Wednesday morning. "The yellow metal was concealed inside two wrist watches. We have detained the passenger for questioning and further investigation is ongoing," officials said.





Gachi-baoli revived

Urban Development Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar on Wednesday inaugurated the revived stepwell in

Gachibowli. The revival was done under the aegis of the Rainwater Project. While restoring the Gachibowli stepwell, even the lime inside the well was tested before taking up structural alterations. Ready mix with similar lime concentration was used while restoring, officials said.

Arvind Kumar, appreciating the people behind the project,

including Chirec School, called for more such participation by schools as part of their corporate social responsibility.

Based on the number of

patients, officials would identi-

y areas where new dialysis cen-

tres are required and submit

proposals on how many new

centres are needed in those

areas. SAM Rizvi, Secretary

Department of Medical and

Health, Preeti Meena, Director,

Drug Control, DME Ramesh

Reddy, Dr Gangadhar, OSD,

"Restored "Gachibowli" stepwell (Gachi- lime mortar, bowli- well) Thanks @Chirec School, @rainwater_info, @KalpanaRamesh8 for bringing it back to life (from being nearly extinct being covered in debris just 6 months back) Requesting more schools & #CSR participation," (sic) he

tweeted. Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao too appreciated the initiative.

Cops arrest 3 persons with 3 kg of ganja PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Excise Enforcement team of Hyderabad apprehended three persons and seized 3.5 kilograms of ganja from them on Wednesday.

The arrested persons have been identified as Shaik Azam, 34, Mohammed Khader, 38 and Mohammed Samad, 32.

"Being regular consumers of ganja, the three contacted Sukanath Khara, a supplier from Odisha, as the drug was not available in Dhoolpet. On October 28, Khara supplied 6 kgs of Ganja at Rs 10,000 per kg and on November 14, another 6 kilograms. The three sold the same for Rs 500 per 10 grams to customers at Falaknuma , Aliyabad and other areas" said N Anjireddy, Excise Superintendent, Enforcement, Hyderabad.

The three were arrested during a route watch near Falaknuma and were handed over to the SHO, Charminar for necessary action.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

T-Hub has shortlisted 11 star-

tups for the third edition of its

funding programme 'T-Angel'.

Making this announcement on Wednesday, T-Hub said that through this programme,

it aims to connect potential

startups with interested angel

investors in the region. The

selected startups will be provid-

ed with workshops to get them

investment ready and enable



Organization's 'Go Blue' campaign, to spread awareness about antimicrobial resistance. Among those that were lit up are Charminar, Mozzam Jahi Market, Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge, University of Hyderabad and others. The 'Go Blue' campaign is part of the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), observed from 18-24 November every year.

and innovators. The pro-

gramme essentially provides a

framework for a current state

assessment of the entity; helps

identify and build a strong

value proposition for the start-

up and accelerates their growth

journey through access to

funding resources, mentors.

The programme is designed for

entities looking to grow rapid-

the batch are Weedeo,

Some of the startups from

Job scam: 4 persons held **PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Special Operation Teams of LB Nagar, along with the Hayathnagar Police, on Wednesday apprehended four persons for running a fake job racket by duping aspirants with a promise of providing employment in the government.

The officials seized Rs 5.70 lakh net cash, 24 fake appointment orders, 53 duplicate rubber stamps, laptop, printer and mobiles from them.

The accused persons identified as M Varakumar, 36, Y Pramod Kumar, 32, V Dinakar Reddy, 50, and V Prakash, 50, who cheated the gullible unemployed youth under the guise of providing jobs in government sectors and collected huge amounts from them by furnishing fake and forged appointment order copies, said the Police Commissioner of Rachakonda, Mahesh Bhagwat.

Varakumar and Pramod Kumar are close friends and have done real estate business in the past. The duo along with

Dinakar Reddy have a past criminal history and Prakash is a rubber stamp maker. As they were arrested and lodged at the Central Prison at Cherlapally during the same period, they got acquainted and subsequently planned to work together by cheating

Accordingly, post their release, they prepared fake appointment orders mentioning some G.O. numbers and for 17 round seals, 31 designated rubber stamps and five signature stamps of different offices and authorities of the

people.

governments Panchayati Raj, Judiciary, TS Transco, TS Genco, Health, Irrigation, Metro & Railways etc made," explained the commissioner.

So far, the gang has furnished 24 fake and forged appointment orders. They were running the scam for the last two years and collected Rs 21.75 lakh from the victims.

As per the instructions of the Commissioner of Police Rachakonda, the men were apprehended from a private hotel near Ramoji Film City, Abdullapurmet.

One arrested, 5 victims rescued from illegal spa

PNS HYDERABAD

The Malkajgiri Special Operations Team (SOT) officials, along with the Kushaiguda Police, conducted a decoy operation at a spa centre, which was indulging in obscene activities under the guise of a massage parlour and nabbed an organiser while

also rescuing five victims. The raid was conducted at Glowish Beauty Care at AS Rao Nagar and M Mahesh, 24, the organiser was nabbed for making the victims indulge in illegal sexual activities. Police officials seized cash, mobile phones, condom packets and a register book from the place.

"The organiser, Mahesh, a resident of Kapra, has good contacts with human trafficking organisers and procures young women on contract basis for a period of three to six months with a false promise of providing jobs in spa centers with good salaries. However, when the women reach Hyderabad, they are forced into illegal sexual activities. During the interrogation, Mahesh stated that he was running the place for the past few months by procuring women from various parts of the country by

potential angel investor net-works and HNIs to discover

These startups have been

shortlisted from 68 applications

from across the country. They

are part of the cohort from var-

ious sectors including Real

Estate, SaaS, eCommerce, and

EV healthcare, education, auto-

mobiles, logistics, environmen-

tal services, security, and

With a mix of investment

Internet of Things (IoT).

high potential entities.

contacting his sources," officials said. The arrested were handed over to Kushaiguda Police.

Man gets 20 years' RI for raping minor

11 startups selected for third edition of 'T-Angel'

learning, mentorship, and eval-uation for 90 days, these star-

tups will be able to know their

investors better and connect

with other startups, advisors,

partners and the well-net-

In a communique, Srinivas Rao Mahankali (MSR), CEO,

T-Hub said "The T-Angel

Programme is an extraordinary

opportunity for us to meet and

work with some of India's

most talented entrepreneurs

worked T-Hub ecosystem.

PNS HYDERABAD

The Bharosa and Fast Track Special Court has sentenced an accused in a POCSO case to rigorous imprisonment for 20 years.

The convict, Shamsheer Khan, 33, made friendship with the minor girl from his apartment and sexually abused her repeatedly. Police say that he abused her sexually in a lodge by taking her to Vijayawada in November, 2019.

During the trial, public prosecutor Yadagiri argued for the prosecution.

DAVE BENNETT SILVERY HYDERABAD With the Covid pandemic

pushing more consumers to shop digitally, the number of cyber crimes being reported over the holiday shopping season, have also seen a drastic jump over the last two years. As consumers and merchants gear for the upcoming Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales over the weekend, police are asking

online. Though not as big as India's Diwali and Dussehra sales, the weekend sales nevertheless rake in huge numbers of consumer footfall online, due to

shoppers to be more cautious

while browsing for deals

the steep drop in prices across all categories. The increase in the number of online shoppers is a boon for opportunistic cyber criminals who use various methods to dupe their victims and steal their hard

PropertyAdviser.in, Feemonk,

Ucchvas Technologies, Ginzer

Technologies, TriDE Mobility, Gravton, Roligt Foods Pvt.

Ltd, Huemn, PayNet Systems

and Swap Dietetics Private

given an opportunity to speak with up to three investors

active in their space as well as

extended support for two

months via community mem-

bership of T-Hub.

The startups will also be

Limited.

earned money. One of the most common and effective ways fraudsters use to con victims is with the use of mirror websites. The technically advanced fraudster develops a website that looks similar to the original website and has everything the same as the original one. For example, the fraudster may create a website that looks the same as Amazon.co.in but has the address as amzn.co.in or amazonofficial.co.in, etc, to make it seem genuine or go

unnoticed. Sometimes, text messages are sent with offers and a hyperlink to the fake website. The unsuspecting customer goes on about with his/her purchase routine unbothered as the website is an exact replica of the original. Until the delivery of the products will never come through, the customer is unaware that he/she is conned. Such websites also offer huge discounts on the products, luring customers in every way possible, said Cyber

Crime officials. Adding a twist to an old modus operandi, fraudsters send texts regarding festive shopping offers, followed by links to download an application to avail the offers. Unsuspecting customers who

Digital shoppers, be wary this Thanksgiving! click on the link, have a remote access application like team viewer downloaded on their phone, through which the fraudster gains access to confidential information of victims. While the number of cases where consumers lookup the customer care number of a

merchant on google and then are duped by fraudsters on the other end have reduced,

police officials have warned the public and asked them to be more cautious.

While the police are con- 🁔 tinuously conducting

grammes educating people about various cyber frauds and how to avoid being a victim of it, the steady number of complaints from victims indi-

> hastily pounce on such lucrative deals. However, the accommodating lic to report the fraud

greed that

fuels con-

sumers who

police ask the pubimmediately to ensure that at least a part of the lost amount is recov-

Telangana

Don't play gimmicks on farmers | Pranahita Pushkaram to be glorious

Congress supporters stage dharna to protest against paddy politics

PNS JAYASHANKAR **BHUPALAPALLY**

Mandhani MLA D Sridhar Babu on Wednesday breathed fire on the state government and central governments for not procuring paddy in spite of farmers waiting at the procurement centers for over a month and accused them of staging histrionics.

The ruling parties have been staging histrionics even as the farmers waiting at the paddy procurement centers for more than a month. The paddy has been germinating due to unseasonal rains, he said condemning the gimmicks being played by the farmers. In response to a call given by the AICC and TPCC, the Congress activists took out rallies in the Jayashankar-Bhupalapally district and submitted memoranda to the revenue authorities highlighting their

Taking part in the protest programme held at Kataram, MLA Sridhar Babu along with Congress activists took out a rally and submitted a memorandum to the Tahsildar. Later addressing media, he alleged that the TRS and BJP govern-



ments have been subjecting farmers to anxiety. He demanded the revenue authorities prevent the rice millers from exercising undue authority over the farmers at the rice

The TRS government has been siding with the rice millers fully and accused the rice millers of cheating the farmers in weighing of paddy. The government has been supporting the rice millers who cheat to the tune of 5 to 10 kg

per bag. The government did not bother to pay attention to the farmers' woes. The farmers are at the mercy of rice mills to sell their paddy, he said adding that no such incident took place earlier. Therefore, without any restrictions the government should procure the germinated paddy, he said blaming the governments both in the state and at the Centre of resorting to anti-farmer and anti-people policies.

government did not reduce the prices of petroleum products, whose prices the center increased manifold. He blamed both the governments for burdening the people. TPCC leaders Gandra Satyanarayana Rao took part in the protests held in Tekumatla, Regonda, Mogullapalli, and Chityala. The Congress rank and file protested against the delay in procurement of paddy and submitted memoranda to

Collector Bhavesh Misra asks officials to ready Kaleswaram for the festival

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR **BHUPALAPALLY**

District Collector Bhavesh Misra has asked the officials of various government departments to submit proposals of their budgetary allocation for conducting pushkarams to the river Pranahita. Reviewing the arrangements for pushkarams to the river scheduled for 2022 in Collectorate with officials here on Wednesday, he asked them to make arrangements for the conduct of the once in a 12-year event on a grand scale at Kaleswaram. Therefore, he asked the relevant government departments to submit their budget proposals. Pushkarams to the river would be held from April 13 to 24 next year, he said adding that the district administration would make all arrangements to hold the pushkaram on a grand scale at Kaleswaram which is the confluence of three rivers including Pranahita. Daily lakhs of devotees would take part in the event from across the country, he asked the concerned government departments to be prepared to ensure no inconvenience to the devotees.



Panchayat Raj department should ensure that sanitation is maintained always during the puhkarams. He asked it to appoint sanitation workers in three shifts. He wanted the electricity department to illuminate Kaleswaram with electric lamps and asked the Rural Water Supply department to build additional water tanks and take steps to install hand pumps to ensure that there is no drinking water problem at the main bathing ghat, temple surroundings, and at parking places. He suggested building

both temporary and permanent toilets at the venue. The electricity department should install additional transformers and electric poles, while the irrigation department should build main bathing ghat and other bathing ghats, arrange for shower bath, dress changing rooms, and installation of barricades to prevent devotees go deep into the river. The R and and Panchayat Raj Engineering department should take steps to widen roads, undertake repairs to roads, build new roads, while the National Highways authorities should take steps to undertake repairs to the main road from Mahadevpur to Kaleswaram. He wanted the information and public relations department to set up a media center for giving adequate coverage pushkarams. All the 12 days, various cultural programmes should be conducted, he said. The RTc officials should ensure the cleanliness of the bus station, besides taking steps to transport devotees to and f

Protect degree college lands from encroachers: BDSF

PNS KAMAREDDY

Activists of the Bahujan Democratic Students' Federation (BDSF), led by general secretary GVM Vithal, on Wednesday, protested in front of the degree college against the encroachment of college lands and consigned an effigy of land grabbers. He alleged conspiracy by land encroachers to grab government degree college lands.

As a result of hunger strikes in the past, the degree college lands were registered in the name of the college. The land encroachers have gone to court on the strength of the fake documents, he said calling it

He alleged the hand of local elected people's representatives in encroaching the lands. The BDSF will resist the efforts of land grabbers, he declared and vowed to protect the college lands. The encroachers have eyed government degree educational institutions, he



college lands worth several hundreds of crores, he said. The local elected people's representatives turned a blind eye to it only to encourage

encroachment, he felt. BDSF district president MP Stalin demanded the government to build many educational institutions. It was shameful to note that the government did not respond in spite of protests by the BDSF seeking the establishment of many

He demanded the government to turn Kamareddy into an educational hub by building engineering, polytechnic, law, medical, and other educational institutions. He sought the establishment of hostels for SC, ST, BC, minority students so that the encroachers would not eye-grabbing the government land. He sought action against encroachers by the district collector, government whip, and localMLAs.



Sanitation workers to clean Govt school

PNS PEDDAPALLY

Ramagundam Municipal Commissioner Sankar Kumar on Wednesday inspected the sanitation works underway in a government school at Malkapur accompanied by corporation authorities and asked sanitation inspector Kishore Kumar to take steps to clean government school premises in Peddapally town on Thursdays, Fridays, and

Acting on directions from District Collector, the municipal commissioner inspected

the clearing of bushes, weeds, and other plant growth on the school premises. Later, he proceeded to the government hospital where construction activity is going on to accommodate additional beds.

He asked the civic engineering authorities to prepare proposals to protect the hospital from the pig menace. Municipal Corporation executive engineer Mahender, assistant engineer Jameel Ahmed, Sanitary Inspector Kishore Kumar, office super-intendent Musab Ahmed and others were present.

Probe RFCL recruitments: CPI

PNS PEDDAPALLY

CPI AITUC leaders on Wednesday called on CBI regional commissioner and urged them to probe into the job mafia in the Ramagundam Fortilisers, and Chemicals Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited. A CPI and AITUC leaders delegation comprising Maddela Dinesh and Nalla Ravinder submitted a memorandum to the regional commissioner of the CBI Kalyan. The memorandum urged the CBI to probe into irregularities in recruitment and confirm the bribes being collected by officials to give appointments and take steps to recruit

the locals in the fertiliser unit. They sought action against the contractors and HR department officials found

indulging in irregularities in the recruitment. The delegation asked for the assurances given to the project displaced villagers at the time of the public hearing held in 2015 and give employment to locals.

Constables are pillars of police department: SP

District Superintendent of Police R Venkateswarlu on Wednesday described the police constables, head constables as the main pillars of the police department.

The efforts of the police to get the criminals convicted in the court are laudable, he said. He interacted with policemen performing duties at the police station, court, in the city patrolling the areas and welcomed ideas to prevent crime in the city.

The increase in conviction rate will decrease the crime rate, he said appealing to the policemen and officers to strive to improve the conviction rate.

Technical skills will bring value in addition to the policing skills, he said asking the educated youth in the police department to strive to establish their specialty.

Quoting examples of cases, including the one under the



Koilakonda PS limits in which the judgment was delivered on Wednesday, he explained the working of the police personnel as a team. He asked the police to forge ahead always keeping in mind how to improve the police image. Inspector Sitayya and IT core personnel took part in the meeting

Medak nominations in order

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Upon scrutiny of nominations, those filed by independent candidates for the post of MLC from Medak local bodies' constituency Praveen Kumar and Irene Saty anarayana Goud were found to be not in order and hence

District Collector Harish said that five persons were in the race after the scrutiny.

The scrutiny of nominations was taken up on Wednesday in the presence of general election observer and commissioner to the department of commissioner M Veerabhadraiah. District Collector and returning officer Harish subjected the nominations to scrutiny in the pres-

ence of assistant returning officer Ramesh, contestants, representatives of political parties as per the Election Commission checklist. In all, seven candidates have submitted 13 sets of nominations. These include TRS candidate Ontari Yadava Reddy and Congress candidate T Nirmala. The nomination papers of the two were found to be in order. Out of five independent candidates who have filed their nominations the nomination papers of Vijayalakshmi, Saibaba Chintala, and Matta Mallareddy were found to be in order while those of Praveen and Kumar

rejected. 8 valid in Nalgonda
The returning officer,

Satyanarayana Goud were

Nalgonda District Collector Prashanth Jeevan Patil said that 8 nominations were accepted and 3 were rejected in the Nalgonda local body MLC elections. Patil examined the nominations filed for the elections in the presence of the candidates, their agents, and nominees at the Collector's office on Wednesday.

He said that a total of 11 candidates filed nominations for the Na Igonda Local Bodies Legislative Assembly constituency, out of which 8 nominations were accepted and the remaining 3 nominations were rejected due to various reasons. Additional Collector, Assi stant Returning Officer V. Ch andrasekhar, and others participated in the scrutiny of these nominations.

It's TRS-BJP's match-fixing drama: Revanth

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC chief A Revanth Reddy has alleged that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's Delhi tour is nothing but TRS-BJP's match-fixing drama. He said that the farmer had become a pawn in the political chess match of the two parties. Revanth Reddy asked the Chief Minister why he had been stag-ing dramas in Delhi on Rabi crop instead of procuring paddy of Kariff season which is in the procurement centers. In an open letter to the people of the State, Revanth Reddy demanded that the Chief Minister give clarity on procuring the soaked paddy immediately.

Support bereaved families of farmers

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

Noted Tollywood actor, producer, and director R N arayanamurthy has demanded the Centre come to the rescue of the bereaved family members of the farmers who died during the course of agitation demanding scrapping of three agriculture laws and pay suitable compensation to the fam-

He appreciated the boldness of the farmers who fought against the black farm laws till they reached their goal. Addressing media at the Red Cross building on Wednesday in connection with the release of his film Raitanna, he described the Centre relenting on the farm laws as a historic incident and demanded the center to repeal the labor codes and electricity amendment act

In the wake of over 3 lakh farmers committing suicides, the then Congress constituted Swaminathan Commission to go into the gamut of the problem. The BJP replaced the Congress at the Centre promis-



ing to implement the deduction of input costs so that Swaminathan Commission's recommendations but shelved them upon coming to power. The farmers' condition in the country would have been improved had the commission's recommendations been implemented. The revised MSP would have reflected profits by 50 percent, after

the farmer would have earned profits. The farmers' agitation will be remembered forever in the history of the country forever, he said. Move to privatise the public sector BSNL, postal department, railways, airways, seaways is an atrocious act. He welcomed the Telangana Government's decision to pay

Rs 3 lakh compensation to the next of the kin of deceased farmers during the agitation. CPI district secretary Parameter Goud, AITUC district secretary Rammohan, CPM district secretary A Ramulu, CITU district secretary Kurumurthy, CPM state leaders Kile Gopal and others took part in the programme.

'Tackle nutritional deficiency in children'

Additional Collector Rajarshi Shah asked the CDPOs and supervisors to focus on children with nutritional deficiencies and bring them to a nor-

Addressing the Anganwadi teachers at a workshop held at the Collectorate auditorium here on Wednesday, he reviewed measures to identify SAM and MAM children and measures to improve their nutritional status.

The workshop focuses on identifying the children with nutrition deficiencies,

measuring the weight of children and measures to be taken for the growth of the children. He said that the

health condition and nutrition level of children can be esti-mated whether the child has appropriate height and weight according to its height. Severe nutritional deficiency among children would ring alarm bells to posterity, he said asking the Anganwadi teachers to



a Salter scale, infantometer, and

stadiometer, digital weighing machines, district welfare officer is directed to replace the equipment wherever this equipment

damaged. He asked the

Anganwadi teachers to record the height and weight of babies correctly

and warned them against taking wrong readings. The SAM and MAM babies should be given additional nutritional supplements. With the proper plan, the babies should be brought back to normal condieither went out of order or tion, he said asking the Anganwadi teachers to coun-

sel the parents. With the help of ANMs, PHC doctors, Anganwadi teachers should send children suffering from malnutrition should be sent to Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres. The Anganwadi ayas should cook Arogya Lakshmi food and send it to homes of pregnant women in tiffin boxes prior to the latter leaving their homes for work. If children and expectant mothers like curd, the ayahs should prepare curd and give it to them. He laid emphasis on

good sanitation, clean drinking water since lack of these would affect the children's health. No child in the district should suffer from malnutrition, she said. Earlier, he made a power-point presentation on measuring the height of children and sensitised participants of the work-shop on other relevant aspects. Woman and Child Welfare officer Padmavati, pediatri-cian Dr. Vijay, CDPOs, supervisors, Anganwadi teachers, and others took part in the pro-

We didn't attack GHMC office : BJP

We will file cases against corporators, says police

PNS HYDERABAD

BJP corporators have stated that they were not involved in any attack on the GHMC office. They said on Wednesday that they staged a protest demanding that GHMC general body meeting be convened and pending developmental works be taken up. However, flower pots were destroyed during pots were destroyed during the tussle with the police as they tried to take their prob-lems to the notice of the

the Mayor convene a council meeting at least now to solve the problems.

Meanwhile, the police filed cases against the BJP corporators who staged a dharna at the GHMC office which led to the tension. The Saifabad police filed cases against 32 corporators following the complaint lodged by GHMC officials stating that the BJP corporators destroyed the populs's rators destroyed the people's assets. Saifabad CI Saidi

Mayor. They demanded that Reddy stated that they would also file cases against the BJP leaders and activists who accompanied corporators, after examining CCTV

The police are planning to take stringent action against the corporators follo wing Municipal A dministration Minister K T Ramarao's tweet asking City Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar to initiate serious action against the BJP cor-

Telangana millers worried about Centre's rice policy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Around 2,000 rice millers of Telangana are concerned about the Centre's decision regarding rice purchase, South India States Rice Millers Association President Thudi Devender Reddy said Wednesday.

He said that as of now only

600 mills were active in the State. Devender said that around 30 percent of the rice will get split if Rabi paddy is converted into raw rice.

Noida International Airport to see Rs 8,914 cr investment in first phase

he first phase of the Noida International Airport at Jewar will entail an investment of Rs 8,914 crore and the initial annual passenger handling capacity will be 12 million, a senior official civil aviation ministry official said on Wednesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be laying the foundation stone of the international airport, which is expected to be operational by September 2024. The greenfield airport, spread over 1,330 acres of land, will

initially have two runways and Zurich Airport International AG (concessionaire) emerged as the winning bidder for developing the aerodrome. Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal on Wednesday said the capital expenditure for the first phase of the project will be Rs 4,588 crore. The total cost will be Rs 8,914 crore, including Rs 4,326 crore to be spend by the Uttar Pradesh government towards Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) and land acquisition.



UP Congress to launch 15-day membership campaign tomorrow

he Uttar Pradesh Congress will launch a 15-day membership campaign on the Constitution Day on November 26 with a target of enrolling one crore new members, a party leader said on Wednesday. The campaign will continue till December 10. On November 26, 'Bhim Charcha' and dinner will be organised in villages, settlements, and wards. Contributions of Dr B R Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, will be

discussed, Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) president Ajay Kumar Lallu said. During the campaign, one crore new members will be added under the slogan "Ek Parivaar, Naye Sadasya Chaar (one family, four new members)", Lallu said, adding that all new members will have to give a missed call on 8230005000 to register themselves. The drive will be conducted in all rural and urban areas, at major markets, bus stands, and railway stations among other places, he said



Over half of women, children found anemic in 14 states, UTs

naemia among children and women continues to be a cause of concern, with more than half of them being found anemic in 14 states and UTs and all-India compared to NFHS-4. The government on Wednesday released the factsheets of

key indicators on population, reproductive and child health, family welfare, nutrition and others for India and 14 states and UTs, clubbed under phase two, of the 2019-21 NFHS-5 here. The states and UTs which were surveyed in this phase were Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, a Health Ministry statement said



Union govt extends 5-kg free foodgrains scheme till March'22

PNS NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal to extend distribution of 5kg foodgrains per month for free under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to over 80 crore ration card holders for four months till March 2022, a decision that will cost an additional Rs 53,344 crore to the exchequer.

Free foodgrains under the PMGKAY scheme, which was announced in March last year to provide relief to poor peo-ple during the COVID pandemic, is over and above the normal quota provided under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) at a highly subsidised rate of Rs 2-3 per kilo-

Thakur said the Cabinet has extended the PMGKAY proprogramme. gramme by four months till

This will cost an additional Rs 53,344 crore to the exchequer, he said, adding that the total cost of Briefing about the decision, I&B Minister Anurag Rs 2.6 lakh crore, including all

March 2022.

In the wake of economic disruptions caused by the unprecedented outbreak of COVID-19 in the country last year, the government had in March 2020 announced the distribution of additional free-of-cost foodgrains

(rice/wheat) to about 80 crore National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries

The Phase-I and Phase-II of this scheme were operational from April to June 2020 and July to November 2020, respectively.

The Phase-III of the scheme was operational from May to June 2021, while Phase-IV of the scheme is currently operational for July-November,

"The PMGKAY scheme for Phase V from December 2021 till March 2022 would entail an estimated additional food subsidy of Rs 53,344.52 crore," an official statement said.

The total outgo in terms of foodgrains for PMGKAY Phase V is likely to be about 163 lakh tonnes.

So far, under the PM-GKAY (phase I to IV), the Centre has allocated a total of

almost 600 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to the states/UTs, equivalent to about Rs 2.07 lakh crore in food subsidy.

"Overall, the government will be incurring an expenditure of nearly Rs.2.60 lakh crore in PMGKAY Phase I-V," the statement said.

As per the reports from the states/UTs so far, 93.8 per cent of foodgrains have been lifted.

Nearly 37.32 lakh tonnes (93.9 per cent of July 2021), 37.20 lakh tonnes (93.6 per cent of August 2021), 36.87 lakh tonnes (92.8 per cent of September 2021), 35.4 lakh tonnes (89 per cent of October 2021), and 17.9 lakh tonnes (45 per cent of November 2021) foodgrains have been distributed to about 74.64 crore, 74.4 crore, 73.75 crore, 70.8 crore and 35.8 crore beneficiaries,

Repeal of farm laws only due to polls in UP, other states'

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday alleged that the BJP-led central government would not have taken a decision to repeal the three contentious farm laws if there were no elections in Uttar Pradesh and other states in the near future.

Speaking to reporters at Mahabaleshwar in Satara district, he again asserted that the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra will complete its full five-year term, and expressed confidence that if elections are held now, the three-party alliance will once again come to power.

Pawar was speaking to reporters before attending the NCP's youth wing conven-

Last Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made an announcement about with-

drawing the three agricultur-

al laws, which faced strident protests on Delhi borders and elsewhere.

Replying to a query about it, the former Union agriculture minister said the move was announced in view of the upcoming elections in UP and other neighbouring states.

There are elections in UP and other neighbouring states. As per our information, the people in power, when they visited the villages in some parts of these states, they got some different kind of reception from the locals. Considering this, they might

have sensed what kind of treatment they will get when they go to seek votes. It seems that on that backdrop, this practical decision was taken," he

"If there were no elections in these states in the near future, this decision would not have been taken," he added.

When asked about Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrakant Patil's reported remark that the state government will change in the new year, Pawar said that after the MVA government of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, was formed two years ago, a claim was made that it will collapse in 15 days.

"But later it was heard that it will fall in one month, two months, three months and so on," he said.

"Since Patil has time, he is trying his hands at astrology and on the basis of that, he must be drawing such conclusions. Let him enjoy it.

Pragya appears before court in blast case

BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, appeared before a special NIA court here on Wednesday. Thakur, out on bail, had

last come to the court in January 2021.

er in lawyers told special judge for NIA cases P R Sitre that as she was in Mumbai for medical treatment, she would attend the court.

She had not been summoned by the court.

The Bhopal MP arrived at 12.25 PM and sat on a lawyer's chair in the front

A soft 'mulmul' cloth was placed on the chair by her aides before she took the



The judge asked about her "Kabhi theek rehta hai, kabhi nahi (sometimes it is good, sometimShe has been taking treatment at the Kokilaben hospital in the city, and as the treatment suited her, she came for further treatment, the MP told the judge.

Asked about the nature of her illness, she said she was suffering for multiple ailments.

She will be staying in Mumbai for the next two days and if required get admitted to the hospital, Thakur added.

AIR POLLUTION

Schools, colleges in Delhi to reopen from November 29

PNS NEW DELHI

In view of an "improvement" in the air quality, the Delhi government Wednesday decided to resume physical classes in schools, colleges and other eduational institutions and government offices from November 29. The ban on the entry of

trucks carrying non-essential items will continue till December 3. However, CNG and electric

trucks will be allowed to enter Delhi from November 27, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said after a meeting to review curbs to tackle air pol-

Rai urged government staff to use public transport.



"We hired private CNG buses recently. We have decided to use them to ferry employees from government residential colonies such as Gulabi Bagh and Nimri Colony," he said.

The government will also start a shuttle bus service from the Delhi Secretariat to ITO and Indraprastha metro stations for

"The air quality has improved over the last three days. The city's AQI is similar to pre-Diwali days," he said.

On November 13, the city government had ordered closure of all educational institutes, construction an demolition activities and asked its employees to work from home to combat air pollution and minimise its health effects.

On November 17, it had extended the restrictions, besides banning the entry of trucks carrying non-essential items in Delhi.

The ban on construction and demolition activities was lifted on Monday in view of an improvement in the air quality and inconvenience caused to

Whispers of Cong leaders on tributes to Sardar go viral

PNS ■ BENGALURU

With the whispers between senior Congress leaders in Karnataka, Ď K Shivakumar about paying homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at an event organised to observe Indira Gandhi's death anniversary going viral, the BJP has accused the grand old party of showing respect to the country's first Home Minister only out of fear of the J P Nadda-led party.

The 1.15-minute video purportedly shows conversation between the two leaders, who were seated on the dais at the party office here to observe the event on October 31, which also happens to be Patel's birthday. It was picked up by mics placed on the table while the

cameras were on. In the video, Siddaramaiah can be seen reminding Shivakumar, at the beginning of the event, that the day also hap-

pens to be Patel's birthday In response, Shivakumar says, "It is, Sir, but this is day (Indira's death anniversary) and that is birthday (Patel's). We don't keep their portraits

together." Following

Siddaramaiah can be heard saying, "But, what happens is, BIP will take advantage of it." To which Shivakumar replies, "Yes...but we have never kept (nortraits together so fa-

The video is then fast-forwarded to show Shivakumar asking a party worker if Patel's portrait is there, and directs him

He then tells Siddaramaiah, he will get the Patel's portrait placed next to Indira, to which the former CM says, "it will be

Shivakumar then supervises the placement of Patel's portrait and all the leaders of the state including Siddaramaiah pay floral tributes to it. Sharing the video, BJP lead-

ers alleged that Congress shows respect to Patel, due to fear of

"If anyone had doubt about how much the Nehru Dynasty hated Sardar Patel, this video makes it clear. Congress lead-Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar agree to place photo of Sardar Patel along with that of Indira Gandhi fearing BIP. It is a shame that Slaves are so much scared of an Italian, BJP national General Secretary C T Ravi tweeted.

The committee will give its

recommendation to the central

government for the disposal of

enemy property or the manner

in which the enemy property may be dealt with and matters

connected therewith.

Congress workers stage 'Ramdhun' protest

PNS BHOPAL

Congress workers led by Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh on Wednesday chanted the name of Lord Ram some distance away from BJP MLA Rameshwar Sharma's home here in Madhya Pradesh in protest against his statement asking people to break the knees of Congressmen.

Congress workers chanting 'Ramdhun' (Lord Ram's name) started marching from the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on the Minto Hall campus, about one km away from Sharma's house, but police

stopped them midway. Singh had announced to stage a protest at Sharma's house and chant Lord Ram's name after a video clip of the MLA, who represents Bhopal Huzur seat, went viral.

"Digvijaya Singh came here, has he done anything?... Break the knees if any Congressman comes here, Sharma had purportedly said.

Prez hails role of unsung freedom fighters

PNS ■ KANPUR

President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday said the Independence of the country was achieved due to contribution of several unsung freedom fighters and their contribution should be made known to the

Kovind arrived here on a two-day visit for the birth centenary celebrations of former MP Chaudhary Harmohan Singh Yadav, who was also a Shaurva Chakra winner.

Harmohan Singh Yadav, who died in 2012, had been associated with the Samajwadi Party (SP), now in the

Opposition.
During his address on the occassion, the president said, 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is being celebrated all over the country to mark 75 years of our Independence. During this two-year-long Mahotsav, we will remember the contribution of unsung heroes of the free-

dom struggle who had laid down their lives."

Remembering freedom fighters Ajijan Bai, Mainavati, Jaidev Kapoor, Shiv Varma, Bijay Kumar Sinha and Gaya Prasad on the occasion, he said India could get Independence due to the important contribution of many such freedom

fighters. Therefore, it is the duty of all of us to bring information about the contribution of such anonymous freedom fighters to the public, Kovind said.

He said the future of any nation is guided by the experience of the past and enriched by its heritage.

Panel for disposal of enemy properties recast गृह मंजातप MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIR

izenship.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has reconstituted a high level committee for the disposal of enemy properties that have been left behind by those who migrated and took up citizenship of Pakistan and China.

The committee, which is headed by a senior officer of the Union Home Ministry, will look after the disposal of over 12,600 immovable enemy properties, which may fetch up to Rs one lakh crore to the exchequer, officials said.

According to a Home Ministry notification, an additional secretary rank officer will be the chairman of the committee while there will be five members from different central government wings besides a member secretary. The move is seen as a fresh effort by the government to



monetise the vast assets left behind by people who left India during partition and after the 1962 war.

enemy properties were found in Uttar Pradesh (6,255 properties), followed by West Bengal (4,088 properties), A total of 12,485 enemy properties were left behind by Delhi (658), Goa (295), those who took up Pakistani Maharashtra (207), Telangana citizenship, while 126 enemy properties were left behind by (158), Gujarat (151), Tripura those who took up Chinese cit-(105) and Bihar (94).

The recommendations may include sale, usage by a central government department or transfer of enemy property. So far, movable properties worth about Rs 2,700 crore have been disposed of and the amount has been deposited in

the consolidated fund of India account. However, no immovable

The highest number of enemy property has been sold so far. The notification said that an additional secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs

the committee while mem-

bers include the Financial

Advisor in the MHA, a joint

(MHA) will be the chairman of

secretary in the MHA, a joint secretary in the Department of Disinvestment and Public Asset, a joint secretary or equivalent in the Ministry of Law and Justice and the chief engineer of the CPWD.

The Custodian of the Enemy Property for India will be the member-secretary.

Earlier, the custodian of the Enemy Property for India was a member while the joint secretary in the MHA dealing with enemy property matters was the member secretary.

Enemy properties are vested with the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI), an authority created under the Enemy Property Act 1968.

According to the law, enemy property refers to any property belonging to, held or managed on behalf of an enemy, an enemy subject or an enemy

Apex court to hear plea on quotas in hiring of faculty

The Supreme Wednesday agreed to hear a plea seeking direction to the Centre and IITs to follow the reservation policies in admission in research degree programmes and recruitment of faculty members.

A bench of Justices L N Rao, B R Gavai and B V Nagarathna said it is issuing notices to the Centre and all the IITs on the plea for prayer A which is related to following of reservation policies in admission to research programmes and recruitment of faculty mem-

During the brief hearing, Advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey, appearing for petitioner Sachichida Nand



Pandey, said the IITs are not following the reservation policies and direction may be issued by the court.

The bench said there are many prayers in the petition but it would only issue notice on the prayer A only.

Pandey has also sought directives for creation of students/scholars and research harassment complaints and to constitute a committee of technical experts review the performance of existing facul-

He has also sought cancellation of the appointment of non-performing faculty due to violation of reservation norms, formation of transparent recruitment policy. "It is submitted that the

process of taking admissions in the research program and appointment of faculty members by the respondents (IITs) are completely unconstitutional, illegal and arbitrary. The respondents are not following the guidelines of reservation as per the constitutional mandate," the plea said.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Woes continue

The Taliban may get aid but not recognition unless they start recognising women's rights

The Taliban are making it difficult for the world community to recognise their interim Government in Afghanistan. Their fresh diktat against women being the latest reason. They have a Ministry that seeks to regulate and control the lives of Afghan women - Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice. The Ministry has banned women from appearing in television dramas and entertainment shows. Women news presenters have to wear headscarves. These are part of the eight directives in the first tranche of restrictions imposed on the media. Films in opposition to Islamic law and "Afghan values" cannot be broadcast. Foreign films that promote "foreign values" are banned. Comedy shows cannot insult anybody. Shows depicting the "prophets and companions" are disallowed. Cynics would say the people have escaped with only a few restrictions because last time the Taliban



were around, they had totally banned television and other forms of media. However, it is the Taliban's attitude to women that needs to be repeatedly highlighted. However much they profess to have moderated and modernised themselves, it is sadly true that at their core, they have not changed a bit since their rein between 1996-2001. That it is the Ministry on virtue and vice that deals with women's issues is a dead giveaway. Is that why the Taliban also did not find the need for a minister for women and child welfare? It was only three months ago, on August 17, two

days after the Taliban grabbed power, that Beheshta Arghand became the first-ever female television host to conduct a sit-in interview with a Taliban leader. There would be no second time as the Taliban's moderate make-up wore off fast. Women employees in the private and public sectors have since been asked to go home. Womenoriented jobs are under review. Girls were told they could attend segregated classes in universities. Some women, used to relative freedom in the last two decades, tried to protest but they were beaten and even whipped by Taliban enforcers. Contrary to the Taliban assurances that women's rights would be respected, women are being increasingly left out of the public sphere. The world should know that women would be worse off in the rural areas where the Taliban fighters and tribal heads hold sway and who alone have decided for decades how women ought to live. Many of the farflung provinces have different rules for women depending on how radical the local Taliban chiefs are. Women's groups want the international community to leverage financial aid to Afghanistan to improve the women's lot. But that is a Catch-22 situation because the lack of aid can lead to mass hunger and deaths in the country. The United Nations has collected over \$600 million as distress aid. With the onset of winter, the supply of food and medicine is crucial. Ironically, most of the aid workers are women and one wonders if the Taliban have anything to say about that.



An anti-smog gun sprays water droplets to curb air pollution, in Gurugram

Gaining muscle

The TMC has been successful in nagging the BJP unlike the Congress ahead of the Assembly polls

 ¶est Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has started cementing her aspirations of a national footprint for the Trinamool Congress in the coming months. especially in the first quarter of 2022. Both Mamata and her nephew Abhishek, an official of the party's national organ, had declared soon after crushing the BJP in the State Assembly election that the Trinamool wouldn't contest a number of upcoming Assembly elections not just to mark presence but also to win the States and form a Government there, the Chief Minister has now declared that the "march to the Centre cannot be possible without the support of States". The Trinamool Congress supremo sent out this message after a number of prominent leaders from different political par-



ties joined the TMC recently. Ever since her party bagged an undisputed victory against the BJP in Bengal, the TMC has been on the front foot against the ruling party at the Centre. It has courageously been staking its claim to the Chief Minister's chair even as far as in Goa. It's been signing up and roping in newer regional leaders, mostly at the cost of the Congress and possible dent in the fortunes of the BJP.

In the latest addition to its political and electoral arsenal, Ashok Tanwar, who had guit the Congress a couple of years back, has joined the TMC in New Delhi in Banerjee's presence. Tanwar, a former Haryana

Congress chief, was considered to have had Rahul Gandhi's ears but later fell out with the party over his rivalry with other State leaders, including former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Tanwar had floated Apna Bharat Morcha after quitting the Congress but has now come out in strong support of the TMC supremo and has been throwing his weight in support of her party "across the entire country" and against the "misgovernance of the BJP". Tanwar's entry is sure to have given a shot in the arm to the TMC in Haryana, which is a State, apart from Punjab and regions in Uttar Pradesh, that played a major role in the farmers' unflinching demand against the BJP-led Union Government for the withdrawal of the three farm laws. However, that threat staring in the face of the BJP is still not over, what with the Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait warning the Centre of a prolonged agitation if it didn't agree of "all the demands" of the protesting farmers, including those involving the Minimum Support Price and punishing the Union State Minister Teni for the Lakhimpur Kheri incident.

The legacy of the division of India



Hindus and Muslims derive their inspiration from different sources of history. Very often, the hero of one is a foe of the other

here were two sides to the coin of Partition. One was that the Muslim community was well behind the Hindus as well as the other minorities. They were about a third in population or one-third in numbers compared to the Hindus. Therefore, if Independent India adopted a universal adult franchise, they would be out-membered by lengths. Secondly, the Muslim's were less educated. As a matter of long-term strategy, Islam had played down education from its early days of the seventh century. For the last thousand years, Hejaz as well as Caliphs had prohibited ijtihad (reinterpretation or change) and enforced taglid (orthodoxy). The less educated a person, the fewer the questions he/she is likely to think up and ask. Thus, ensuring the perpetuity of the religion. Incidentally, women's education was restricted to reading the Quran, especially the prayers.

When the British came to India, instead of using English, the clergy exhorted their followers to avoid the study of English and Western science. Sir William Hunter has made a lucid analysis of how and where the Muslim students fell back in the 19th century and even earlier. Then came the decision of Lt Governor of UP to make English the court language, Hindi and Persian was abolished. Such measures, although rational, put the Muslims back. Their fear was of diluting their identity which was dearer to them than their devel-

The other difficulty was that very few Muslims took to business and industry, the only exceptions were the Khojas, the Memons and the Bohras, all based in Bombay. The Muslim elites of the rest of India were land based, whether agricultural, farming vegetables or cultivating orchards but had very few factories. In short, cultivating the Hindus had the economic lead. Timur Kuran, Professor at the University of Duke, has explained at length the financial disadvantage of Islamic communities. He has focused on West Asia and how Islamic ordainments have other and likewise, their victokept the common folk econom-

ically back. Imagine West Asia without petroleum! And imagine a business without banking and lending without interest!

The Viceroy had called an

all-India election in December 1945 to January 1946. By that time, Jinnah's speech preceding the passing of the Pakistan resolution on, March 23, 1940, at the Lahore session of the Muslim League was humming to virtually all Muslim ears in India. Incidentally, Jinnah deliberately made Fazlur Rahman of Bengal sign the resolution. Rahman was a popular, prominent peasant leader of the eastern wing of what eventually became Pakistan and now Bangladesh. His Two Nation Theory is very briefly stated here: the Hindus and Muslims have different religious philosophies, social customs and literatures. They neither intermarry nor interdine and, indeed, they belong to two different civilisations which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions. Their views on life and of life are different. It is also quite clear that Hindus and Muslims derive their inspiration from different sources of history. They have different epics, different heroes in different episodes. Very often the hero of one is a foe of the



MUSLIM INDIA CANNOT ACCEPT ANY CONSTITUTION WHICH MUST **NECESSARILY** RESULT IN HINDU MAJORITY. IF HINDUS AND **MUSLIMS ARE BROUGHT UNDER A DEMOCRATIC** SYSTEM, IT CAN ONLY MEAN

History has presented to us many examples, such as the union of Great Britain and Ireland. We know that the history of the last 1,200 years has failed to achieve unity and we have witnessed, during the ages, India was always divided into Hindu India and Muslim India. The termination of the British regime will be a worse disaster. Muslim India cannot accept any Constitution which must necessarily result in a Hindu majority Government. If Hindus and Muslims are brought together under a democratic system, it can only mean Hindu Raj. Muslims are not a minority; Muslims are a nation according to any definition and they must have their homelands, their territory and their State.

Indeed, Jinnah argued as if one is prepared to ignore the other. Ås Dr Rafiq Zakaria has put it: all throughout his younger years, Jinnah showed no interest in Muslims. He was, then, all for the Congress; its non-communal, nationalistic principle which enthused him.

When he was a young whole of his scheme.... an linnah worked for Hindu-Muslim unity and series on Indian Partition. made every attempt to see that the Congress and the League presented a united front. He assured the British that they need not be unduly perturbed

as its terms of the Lucknow Pact if implemented would help them as well. He welcomed the declaration made by the British Government on August 20, 1917, which assured Indians that "the policy of His Majesty's Government, with which the Government of India are in complete accord, is that of the increasing association of selfgoverning institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible Government in India as an integral part of the British Empire." To give effect to it, the new Secretary of State Edward Montague visited India in the winter of that year. He along with Viceroy Lord Chelmsford conferred with the leaders of different schools of political thought to try and find a consensus on the future constitutional advance. Of all the politicians whom Montague met, he was most impressed by Jinnah. He recorded this in his diary: "Young, perfectly mannered, impressive looking, armed to the teeth with dialectics, and insistent upon the

(This is part of an on

The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)



FITNESS SHOULD BE GIVEN DUE IMPORTANCE

Sir — I strongly believe that every individual has the right to healthy living. Healthy living is not a privilege, but a right. Sadly, however, in our country, healthy living is more like a right in the pocket of people who are able and willing to pay for it. Therefore, a chain of health clubs needs to be opened and made accessible — to make fitness a part of every Indian's lifestyle. To provide easy access to superior quality and affordable fitness regimens that will be an integral

part of every Indian. Unlike the US, we do not have special cycling lanes; our offices are not equipped with lockers and showerrooms that we can freshen up after walking or cycling our way to work. Also, the Indian weather does not permit exercise all year around — the summers are bad, the rainy season has its own woes and the winter is practically nonexistent. Such scenarios don't leave much scope for exercise. We haven't given due importance to fitness and working out and it's high time that we realised the benefit of a brisk walk or a jog in the morning so that we wake up fresh and sleep well.

MR Jayanthy Subramaniam | Mumbai

WHERE DID WE REACH AFTER 26/11? Sir —Even though Mumbai's lauded as a business hub, the 26/11 terror attack tells a different story. No commercial Capital of a country would be so ill equipped as to not be able to detect and prevent such attacks on time. While some may argue that Manhattan was a victim of 9/11, too, I point out that Mumbai has been a soft target since times immemorial. Terror has sneaked up on us not once but thrice — the 1992 riots, 2006 blasts and 2008 attacks; all caught Mumbai unawares. In short, for Mumbai to truly become India's commercial hub, the quality of life, quality of infrastructure, quality of security and attitude - all need improvement.

The 26/11 attacks saw the world in a state of disbelief at one of the most audacious acts of terrorism ever committed. Although we have lived with terrorism

Tigers are shy, but they kill

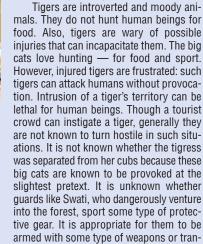


10-year-old tigress called Maya attacked and killed a 45-year-old Swati Dumane, forest guard at the Tadoba Andheri Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra. The guard was on beat duty for the All India Tiger Estimation survey at the TATR. Generally, tigers are nocturnal hunters. Attack on Swati took place early — at around 8 am. The slain Swati and three of her colleagues are said to have waited, for half an hour or so, for Maya to move away after spotting her a mere 200 metres away. When the tigress did not

for decades, the attacks were frightening as we learned what that these terror outfits were capable of. However, over the last few years, India has significantly improved its intelligence network and anti-terror measures. It's the need of the hour to save the youth from being influenced and brain-washed by these outfits. Every Indian can contribute to national security just by staying vigilant. CK Ramani | Pune

THE GOVT SHOULD RECONSIDER THE CAA, TOO Sir — The repeal of the three farm laws has inclined many people into thinking that the repeal of the Citizenship

Amendment Act (CAA) is not beyond the realms of possibility. The anti-CAA movement could not (and did not have to) go ahead despite gathering momentum each day in the face of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government's preoccupation with the fight against the pandemic including national lockdowns and its lukewarm approach to its implementabudge, the workers, instead of returning to their base, explored a detour only to be ambushed by the big cat.



quilliser guns to save themselves. Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

tion due to the unprecedented public health crisis and opposition to the legislation from unanticipated quarters. Even though no rules have been framed to implement the law, the CAA is ominously still there on the statute book.

The Government cannot be unaware of what the implementation of the CAA will signal to the outside world -India's retreat from secularism. No amount of rationalisation can justify CAA's enactment or validate its discriminatory provisions. The CAA is wholly unacceptable and it has to go for the simple reason that it does not jibe with secularism and the equality of religions guaranteed in the Constitution. The legacy of the freedom movement and the Constitution do not discriminate between the religions that 'originated' in India and that did not.

G David Milton | *Maruthancode*

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

In Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule, there is nothing left that hasn't been made expensive.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi



There is also a time for the Government to step back, so Australians can move forward.

Australian Prime Minister —Scott Morrison

Thank you all for your prayers for my father's health. He is recovering well and looking forward to interacting with all of you soon



-Shruti Haasan



As long as I keep batting well and keep contributing to the team's total, I am happy

Indian batsman — Cheteshwar Puiara

There used to be riots every third or fourth day in UP. but now the State has a 'riot-free' identity.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister -Yogi Adityanath www.dailypioneer.com

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FIRST COLUMN

UNIFORM CODE FOR EDUCATIONAL BODIES

In private colleges, there are no uniform rules in salary structure or promotions



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

he so-called quality maintained by private schools is only in physical infrastructure and English communication promotion and not at the intellectual level. Good quality education can be provided even in open spaces. The digital revolution in education that happened during the pandemic has made the physical structure of schools irrelevant. It is the willpower and dedication of teachers that matter. However, teachers are not paid well in most private schools and the COVID situation has made things worse for them as they have to do extra duty without additional pay. Across the country, private school teachers are the lowest-paid. There is no job security also as any time managements can dismiss teachers if they are not complying with the management rules. The situation in the higher education sector is no different. During the pandemic time, hundreds of teachers were made to resign from private colleges and universities. Even otherwise in private colleges, there are no uniform rules in salary structure or promotions. Many private institutions are recruiting people who do not meet required qualifications. These private institutions just need a workforce that would just obey them. There are also private aided colleges that take hefty dona-



tions for the recruitment process. Teachers working in all private higher education centers are not satisfied and their dissatisfaction is transferred to the students through their teaching. Recently, the Kerala legislative assembly passed a landmark Kerala Self-Financing College Teaching and Non-Teaching Employees (Appointment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2021, that puts in place a law to guarantee service conditions for employees in private colleges. The legislation, which had been recommended by the Kerala State Higher Education Council, is being viewed as one that would standardize rules to ensure service conditions for those employed in the unaided sector. Even though this is a progressive step in removing the perils of higher education, one area of concern is the special privilege mooted for minority institutions. In Kerala, most of the private colleges are managed by minority communities and over-exploitation of teachers happens in these centers. As per the privileges enjoyed by the minority institutions, government cannot completely control them. The private medical and dental colleges run by these agencies rarely provide a full stipend for students as per government norms. In some cases, PG students have to return the stipend that is credited into their account, fearing backlashes by management. The staff members from the management side, usually from the same community, get undue favours and members from other communities are harassed mentally and curtail their professional advancement. The unhealthy atmosphere prevailing among the teachers is transferred to students and the whole system gets vitiated.

When an educational institution is managed by the fees and donations from students and teachers belonging to other communities, how can an institution claim special minority status? If they want to enjoy that status they should teach students from their community alone, and also recruit teachers from the same community. Even in private government-aided educational institutions managed by minority communities (even non-minority also) teachers are recruited after taking lakhs of rupees as donations. This is an open secret and none of the political parties have the courage to take on these managements, fearing backlash in elections. In such a situation we have to appreciate the effort taken by the government of Kerala. However, it would be hard to see how the government will implement the new bill effectively in institutions enjoying minority status. It is high time we develop a nation-wide common law controlling the functioning of private schools and colleges, for education is common for everyone, irrespective of class, gender, or racial discrimination.

(The writer is a popular science writer and academician. The views expressed are personal.)

Interests of Indian fishermen in danger



If the problems of overfishing and depleting marine resources continue, it can badly impact the catch by small fishermen and their livelihood

or some time, a round of negotiations has been going on in the WTO, in which an agreement is expected to be made aiming to ending subsidies to curb alleged illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. These talks are said to be the part of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which seek to end subsidies for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing while ensuring special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries. But if this agreement is reached, it may adversely affect the livelihood of small fishermen in India and other developing and underdeveloped countries.

It is true that the world is facing the problem of overfishing and depleting marine resources. If this situation continues, this can impact catch by small fishermen and their livelihood. The idea of the United Nations that overfishing will affect sustainable development is always justified. But the big question is, who is responsible for overfishing in the ocean? At least the small fishermen of India or other developing countries having very low fishing capacity are nowhere to blame for this.

Fishing is done in two ways. One, by small fishermen who catch fish in their boats; and second by trawlers and large ships of large companies. Over the past few decades, the evidence of fishing by large ships and trawlers in a mechanized manner by large companies has increased significantly.

Small fishermen in India do not catch fish in the ocean during the rainy season. Know why? Because it is the breeding season for fish. But the big trawlers do not mind fishing during the same period. However, since the big trawlers come under the organized sector, the small fishermen will be considered as illegal, unreported and unregulated; and the subsidy given to them by the governments will end but the big trawlers and ships will continue to be entitled to catch fish from the sea by mechanical processes and also the government subsidies. In such a situation, the livelihood of small fishermen of India and other developing countries will be adversely affected while big companies will benefit at their cost.

Unfortunately, under pressure from developed countries and big corporates, in the WTO, the exercise is going on to push the agreement on this subject. Director General of the World Trade Organization, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, says that completing these negotiations on fisheries subsidy is the top priority of WTO, not only for fisheries but also for the WTO system. And this is being done under the guise of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

It is noteworthy that after the grant of fishing licenses to large trawlers in India in the early 1990s, due to excessive fishing by them, the availability of fish from the sea was getting depleted. As a



FISHERMEN IN INDIA DO NOT CATCH FISH IN THE OCEAN DURING THE RAINY SEASON BECAUSE IT IS THE **BREEDING SEASON** FOR FISH. BUT BIG TRAWLERS DO NOT MIND FISHING **DURING THIS** PERIOD. AND, SINCE BIG TRAWLERS COME UNDER THE ORGANISED SECTOR, SMALL FISHERMEN WILL BE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND

UNREGULATED

(The writer is Professor,

result, the livelihood of small fishermen was getting adversely affected. At that time there were major agitations to highlight this problem of fishermen, including those led by Swadeshi Jagran Manch and Fr Thomas Kochery, due to which the then government had to stop the renewal of licenses to large trawlers.

After some time, the trawlers again started getting permission. Once again, the demand for re-banning of trawlers by environmentalists is gaining momentum. A committee of the Government of India is working towards regulating these trawlers. Environmentalists say that banning these trawlers is the appropriate solution to the problem of overfishing. Although these trawlers have not been outrightly banned, many states including Kerala and Orissa have been banning trawlers in monsoon (rainy season) on the demand of traditional fishermen so that the breeding of fish is not affected.

agreement on fishing subsidy will ensure the availability of fish and the protection of marine resources for the future generations. In this regard, if at all any international organization can ban subsidies for fishing, it is the World Trade Organization. The exercise to make rules in this regard has been going on since the year 2001, with the start of Doha Rounds of Negotiations. However, the interesting thing is that though all the remaining provisions of the Doha development Round, under have already been rejected outright by the

ly, exercise is going on to end the fishing subsidy.

It is true that today 34 percent overfishing is taking place, whereas in 1974 it was only 10 percent. Due to overfishing, the availability of fish is gradually reducing, due to which the livelihood of the people living in the coastal areas is getting adversely affected and their poverty is increasing. Today, about 40 million people in the world depend on the fishing, so the security of their lives is linked with the protection of marine resources.

Although the current negotiations are focused on eliminating subsidies for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, these efforts are being strongly opposed by developing countries. Developing countries believe that ending subsidies on fishing will adversely affect the livelihood and rights of their small fishermen. Although it has been said in the resolution that special and differential treatment for developing It is being argued that the and less developed countries is part the small fishermen of developing countries will suffer the most from

this agreement. Surprisingly, while everything was stand still during, these talks continued unabated. Therefore, due to restrictions on movements, views of small countries whose missions are not in Geneva could not be appropriately incorporated in this document. For this reason, also, there is anger in this context amongst developing countries. Recently, when the Director General of the World Trade Organization came to India, India had clearly stated that although

due to the irrational subsidies given by various countries for fishing, India's small fishermen have been suffering the most, due to overfishing by developed countries. Therefore, it is necessary to eliminate the subsidy being given to big vessels in these developed countries. Therefore, India has clearly stated in this context, that the draft text is not balanced. In this regard, special treatment will be required for developing countries and this agreement can be balanced only by incorporating India's suggestions.

India's demand is that developed countries stop subsidizing fisheries that go beyond their natural geographical boundaries. Industrial fishing countries are not ready to concede this. India wants that the provision of subsidies should continue to protect the interests of its poor and small fishermen. There is no illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in India. India maintains that since the creation of the WTO, develof the proposals, but it seems that oped countries received special concessions, and their agricultural subsidies continued unabated, while the rights of developing countries were restricted. That mistake should not be repeated in this agreement on fisheries subsi-

Today, the need of the hour is that India and other developing and least developed countries should face this bigotry of rich countries and there should be no unbalanced and irrational agreement in respect of fisheries subsidies, so that we can protect the interests of our small and poor fishermen.

PGDAV College, University of Delhi. The views expressed developed countries, surprising-

NEITHER YOU HELPED THE COVID PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS, NOR PROVIDED ANY COMPENSATION. WHAT TYPE OF GOVERNMENT IS THIS? —CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI





COMPENSATIONS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED. THE CENTRE HAS DONE MORE THAN WHAT ANY **GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE POSSIBLY IMAGINED.** —BJP SPOKESMAN **TOM VADAKKAN**

Farm laws to be repealed in upcoming Parliament session

The burning question, however, remains: Why were these legislations enacted in the first place if they were to be repealed without implementation?

uring the protracted farmers agitation against the three farm laws, a view was advanced especially by those in support of the impugned legislation that it is not easy to suspend operation of a parliamentary enactment or that it is not constitutionally permissible to repeal a law by issuing an ordinance. Such an argument, besides ex facie specious, stands completely annihilated with the announcement of the Prime Minister to

repeal them. Article 73 of the Constitution says that the executive power of the Union is co-extensive with the legislative powers of parliament. The Government, in exercise of its executive power, can suspend, amend or repeal an Act



(The writer is former Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha

and a member of Delhi Bar Council. The views expressed are personal.)

of parliament as long as it commands parliamentary majority. Any subsequent statute may repeal any Act in whole or in part, either expressly or impliedly by enacting a new legislation. Clause 6 of the General clauses Act, 1897 provides that any Act or Regulation can be repealed by the legislature. Unless a different intention appears, the repealing Act cannot revive anything not in force or existing at the time at which the repeal takes effect; or affect the previous operation of any enactment so repealed or anything duly done or suffered thereunder, etc.

The executive power of the Union extends (a) to the matters with respect to which Parliament has power to make



such rights, authority and jurisdiction as are exercisable by the Government of India by virtue of any treaty or agreement. So, on matters which parliament can legislate, it is the prerogative of the executive to pilot legislative proposals and get them enacted, including an enactment of repeal, with parliamentary support. Laws may also be repealed if

is a ground swell of public opinion against them.

The three farm laws were originally promulgated as ordinances by the government and later replaced by the duly passed Acts of parliament. Since the winter session of parliament will convene in a week, it is not an edifying parliamentary practice to promulgate an Ordinance for the repeal. The Government will bring a Bill to repeal the three laws during the ensuing session. There will be a fierce debate and the opposition would leave no stone unturned to show that they were right in their opposition to the original Bills and the government palpably wrong. The government, in turn, would say that

course of time or in case there the misguided agitating farmers. Once passed by both the Houses of parliament, and assented to by the President, the three laws would stand

> The burning question, however, remains: why were these legislations enacted in the first place if they were to be repealed without implementation? It needs to be borne in mind that in a robust democracy, public opinion, likened to a rope of multiple fibers capable of taming even an elephant, matters. It is for the government to discern whether the opposition is orchestrated by vested interest or it is genuine, broad-based and the real voice of all the farmers of the country.

The Union Government laws; and (b) to the exercise of they are found detrimental in they were unable to convince could not have remained

impervious to the farmers' agitation for long especially when elections are round the corner in the largely affected States. But it is also a fact that agro-economists continue to be divided over the proposed repeal. Many nonpartisan agrarian

experts consider it a setback to reforms. Incontestably, the fear of losing the impending election is a great deterrent to reforms, regardless of the general perception of bold, visionary and

transformative leadership. It is in this context that the practice of referring the contentious legislation to the committees holds good as the committees crystallise different shades of opinions and help build consensus and unity

out of plurality. The National

Professionals Bill were referred to the Standing Committee, and based on the recommendations of the Committee, new Bills were introduced and passed by Parliament. So were many other legislations. The great hurry in which the farm laws were passed during the Covid-19 time without referring the Bills to the standing committee only added fuel to the fire. The lesson is clear and unmistakable that in a parliamentary democratic set up it is not possible to impose laws on an utterly hostile community despite the best of intension and the promise of longterm national gains, without due consultation, consensus and credible parliamentary Commission Bill and the scrutiny.

National Commission for

Allied and Healthcare

Cryptocurrency industry urges Central government to take nuanced approach

"I think popular crypto-

assets like Bitcoin and

Ethereum will be pre-approved

by the regulators for getting

listed on the exchange. We also

request the government to give

immediate clarity on the taxa-

tion and filing of crypto assets,"

and CEO Ashish Singhal said

the industry has been actively

communicating with all stake-

CoinSwitch Kuber founder

Thakral said.

The cryptocurrency industry on Wednesday urged the government to take a nuanced approach towards regulating crypto assets in India and asked investors in the country to remain calm and not arrive at a rushed conclusion, a day after the government listed for introudction a Bill to ban all such cryptocurrencies, with some exceptions.

'The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021', to be introduced in the winter session of Parliament beginning November 29, seeks to "create a facilitative framework for creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The Bill also seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India, however, it allows for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its uses".

BuyUcoin CEO Shivam Thakral said it expects the Bill



to accommodate the aspirations of Indian crypto owners, Indian crypto entrepreneurs, and investors who have put their faith in India's crypto growth story.

"The crypto Bill should be flexible enough for young blockchain projects to flourish and we strongly believe that there is a strong case for a standard process for new cryptocurrencies before they get listed on any exchange in India

"Our discussions in the last few weeks indicate there is a broad agreement on ensuring that customers are protected, financial system stability is reinforced and India is able to take advantage of the crypto technology revolution...

"As of now, I urge all crypto asset investors in the country to remain calm, do their own research before arriving at a rushed conclusion," said Singhal, who is also the co-chair of the Blockchain and Crypto Assets Council

Cryptocurrency exchange CoinDCX's spokesperson said a well-assessed and thoughtthrough regulation will pave the way for greater adoption of the technology and will help millions of Indians embrace this new-age asset class.

OKEx.com CEO Jay Hao said India is home to the highest number of crypto owners in the world and the onus lies on the government to protect the crypto investors in the country.

We urge the government to take a nuanced approach towards regulating crypto assets in India. With the positive outcome of the cryptocurrency Bill, India will embark on an exciting journey of becoming the global leader in crypto, Defi, and NFTs," Hao said.

Currently, there is no regulation or any ban on the use of cryptocurrencies in the country. Against this backdrop, Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this month held a meeting on the cryptocurrencies with senior officials, and indications are that strong regulatory steps could be taken to deal with the issue.

There has been a rising number of advertisements, featuring even film stars, promising easy and high returns on investments in cryptocurrencies in recent times, amid conbeing allegedly used for luring investors with misleading

Govt steps up crackdown on spurious helmets, gas cylinder

Consumer protection regulator CCPA on Wednesday said it has stepped up crackdown on counterfeit or spurious household products like pressure cooker, two-wheeler helmet and cooking gas cylinder carrying fake 'IS mark' as apart of a special drive in the inter-

est of public safety.

Already, the Consumer
Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued notices to five ecommerce entities, including Amazon, Flipkart and PaytmMall, as well as various sellers for offering pressure cookers that are non-compliant with Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) norms, it said.

"We have stepped up monitoring and enforcement on sale of spurious products not only in the physical market but also on the e-commerce platforms. We have identified three daily household products -domestic pressure cooker, twowheeler helmet and cooking gas cylinder -- as part of a countrywide drive," CCPA Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare told PTI.



To curb sale of spurious products and counterfeit goods in the physical market, the CCPA has directed all district collectors across the country to inquire into or investigate complaints regarding violation of rights of consumers as a class within its jurisdiction and submit a report in the next two months, she said.

Further, the CCPA is personally monitoring all e-commerce websites to check sale of defective products, especially the three products identified as part of the campaign so that to initiate a class action lawsuit,

Appealing to consumers to

be aware of fake products. Khare said while shopping these daily household goods, the consumers should first look for the 'IS (Indian Standard)' mark of the BIS for their own safety. Even on the websites, consumers should check for this quality sign in the product features.

Consumers should be aware that domestic pressure cooker, two-wheeler helmet and cooking gas cylinder are some of the mandatory products that have to comply with the BIS quality norms. These products cannot be sold without the mandatory 'ISI' mark', she

MONEY MATTERS

Hero posts two-fold jump in festive season retail sales

ero Electric on
Wednesday reported over
two-fold jump in festive season retail sales at 24,000 units during October 1 to November 15, 2021. The company had clocked 11,339units in the same period a year ago, the company said in a



amendment in FAME II policy (Faster Adoption and manufacturing of electric vehicles in India), which offers increased upfront incentives for electric two-wheelers and rising fuel prices has propelled the demand for electric vehicles resulting in heightened demand, the company said in a statement. Commenting on the sales performance, Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill said, "we saw two clear indicators in our showrooms this festive season. A significant percentage of customers chose Hero E bikes over the petrol bikes and many factored environment and sustainability as influencing

Thermax bags Rs 830 cr order to set up FGD systems



hermax on Wednesday said it has bagged a Rs 830 crore order to set up flue gas desulphurisation systems for a private power company. FGD systems will be installed to cut down

SOx emissions and comply with the air quality standards set for fossil fuel based power plants. "Thermax Limited has concluded an order of Rs 830 crore from an Indian power private sector company to set up flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) systems for their three units of 660 MW capacity each in the state of Uttar Pradesh," a company statement said.MD & CEO Ashish Bhandari said, "Our proven technological capabilities in the area of air pollution and gaseous abatement, especially FGD, where we are already executing a few large orders, led to this competitive win." In addition to supporting the customer in meeting statutory compliance related to industrial pollution norms, the project reinforces the company's commitment to the environment, he added.

Rupee pares initial losses, settles 2 paise up at 74.40

losses and settled 2 paisa up at 74.40 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, ahead of the release of the minutes of the latest Federal Reserve meeting. At the



interbank forex market, the local unit opened on a weak note at 74.53 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.31 and a low of 74.54.It finally ended at 74.40 against the American currency, registering a gain of just 2 paise over its previous close of 74.42. According to Emkay Global Financial Services, the forex market is stuck in a lacklustre trading range, with focus being on Fed minutes and a slew of US economic data. "Only an upbeat data with marginally hawkish FOMC) minutes will bolster the case that the US consumer is in good shape and increase bets for an earlier than expected rate hike, appreciating the USD-INR spot," it said.

Ohmium arm enArka ships 1st unit of electrolyser to US

hmium International on Wednesday said its subsidiary enArka India has shipped its first unit of electrolyser to the US as a first step towards establis-hing the country as a global hub for green hydrogen generation. An electrolyser is a system that uses electricity to break water into hydrogen and oxygen in a process called electrolysis. Ohmium in a statement said the electrolyser has been manufactured at the Bengaluru plant, which is India's first green hydrogen electrolyser gigafactory.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

At Proof Swarnajayanthi Commercial Complex, Ameropat, Hydrachiad.

Public Motification Um. 1930 of HMDA Act.2088 (G.C.Ma. No. 191 MA & UC Dept., dated 95.11.2037) in coarcies of powers conferred by Sub-Section If of Section 15 of Hydrachad Metopolitan Development Authority Act 2008 (Act No. 8 of 2008), the Government hereby makes the following draft variation to the land use envisaged in the notified Master Plan Cyberabad Development Authority (CDA) vide (G. Mas No. 588, MASUD 622-01-02014, as required by sub-section (I) of the self-section.

The site in Sp. 315, situated at Backpain Village & Nandal and Medicinal-Managaria District to an extent of 129-95 Sqlits which is presently commerced for industrial Managarian pure zone and use come as pertinential with the section of the section of the control of the section of the control of t DIPR R.O. No. 2348-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVI/1/2021-22 Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA

Sebi's decision to extend deadline for F&O margin norms to protect investors' interest

Sebi's decision to defer the implementation of the 50 per cent cash margin rule for future and options traders till February 28 will help market participants to adjust to the new process of segregation and monitoring, experts said on Wednesday.

The move was welcomed by market participants, as they were seeking for extension of the deadline due to operational

The regulator, on Tuesday, extended the deadline till February 28, 2022, for implementation of the 50 per cent cash-margin rule for futures and options traders. The earlier deadline was December 1,

"On the basis of representations received from stakeholders, it has been decided that the provision of earlier circular come into force with effect from February 28, 2022,



instead of December 01, 2021,"

Paytm Money CEO Varun Sridhar said this is a good move by Sebi as this will help the market participants, including MIIs, to test and stabilise the system developed by them for the new process of segregation and monitoring. Investor education towards

the implication of new rules will be very important, and investors will also be able to adjust to the new requirements gradually, he added. For trading in the futures and options (F&O) segment, the earlier margin rules allowed investors to cover their margins entirely with their

However, from February 28, 2022, clearing members will be required to maintain at least 50 per cent of the total collateral in the form of cash or cash equivalents. Clearing members (CM) guarantee trade settlement to stock exchanges on behalf of clients.

For the purpose of monitoring at least 50 per cent cashequivalent collateral at the

level of clearing member, the excess cash-equivalent collateral of a client will not be considered for other clients or for proprietary accounts of trading or clearing member.

Welcoming Sebi's decision, Vijay Singhania, Chairman, TradeSmart, said that the major issue in the implementation of the rule is the lack of practicality.

"Sebi circular requires segregation of client funds in different segments like cash, F&O, currency etc., and to upload the same to clearing corporation/ PCM. It is practically not possible," he said.

Further, he said that brokers are supposed to maintain a combined ledger for all segments for a client, and the client can trade in any segment based on the combined ledger balance. In all fairness, there should be only one combined consolidated margin for each client instead of segregating the same into segments.

Sensex plunges 323 points in late sell-off

Market benchmark Sensex tumbled over 323 points after an intense last-hour sell-off on Wednesday, triggered by losses mainly in index heavyweights Infosys, Reliance and HDFC. After trading in the green

for most part of the session, the BSE gauge settled 323.34 points or 0.55 per cent lower at 58,340.99 -- marking its fifth decline in the last six days. Likewise, the NSE Nifty fell

88.30 points or 0.5 per cent to end at 17,415.05. On the Sensex chart, Maruti, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, ITC, Reliance,

L&T, UltraTech Cement and HDFC were the major losers, dropping as much as 2.62 per On the other hand, ICICI Bank, NTPC, Kotak Bank,

Bajaj Finance, and PowerGrid closed with gains. Of the Sensex constituents,

22 shares ended in the red.

the wake of price-cooling efforts by the US and other countries. Offloading of shares by foreign institutional investors continued on Tuesday, as they

sold shares worth Rs 4,477.06

At a time when countries are

crore on a net basis.

Elsewhere in Asia, stock

markets closed with moderate

to deep losses, tracking a rise

in US bond yields and volatil-

ity in global crude oil prices in

'Guidance on disaster management 'Concept of Aadhaar Tea workers in Bengal demand data vault fallacious' audit will help govts address risks' min wage from

PNS NEW DELHI

National Health Authority CEO and senior member of founding team of Aadhaar R S Sharma on Wednesday criticised some of the restrictions imposed by the Unique Identification Authority of India over use of the unique ID due to apprehensions around privacy.

Sharma, who was the first director general of UIDAI, said that the concept of data vault is fallacious which is adversely impacting the purpose of Aadhaar.

"Aadhaar Act says Aadhaar information should be safely kept. Aadhaar number is not an identity. It is like putting all the numbers on the currency notes into some safe vault saying that these numbers will not be disclosed. This is a fallacious way. Once you start with a fallacious foundation



then everything else becomes fallacious. You came up with the Aadhaar data vault," Sharma said while speaking at a workshop organised by the UIDAI. The UIDAI has recently introduced a concept of Aadhaar data vault which is a centralised storage for all the Aadhaar numbers collected by authorised agencies.

The objective of Aadhaar data vault, as explained by the UIDAI, is to reduce the footprint of Aadhaar numbers within the systems and environment of the organisation hence reduce the risk of unau-

Jan 2022

PNS JALPAIGURI

Tea garden workers in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts on Wednesday staged demonstrations, demanding implementation of minimum wage from January 2022.

The Joint Forum of Trade Unions in the sector called for the protests, alleging that the minimum wage issue has not been resolved and workers are losing financially, Tea workers in north Bengal are now getting a daily wage of Rs 202 after a 15 per cent interim hike was granted in January, a trade union leader said. Planters' body Tea Association of India secretary general P K Bhattacharya said members of an advisory panel on minimum wages will meet on December 1 to decide on the issue.

PNS NEW DELHI

Comptroller and Auditor

General (CAG) of India Girish Chandra Murmu has said guidance on disaster management audit will help governments assess and address the risks to achieve the overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030.

The CAG was speaking as the chair of the INTOSAI Knowledge Sharing & Knowledge Services Committee (SKC) on Tuesday evening. He presented important guidance documents on the audit of disaster management and the audit of privatisation at the 75th INTOSAI Governing Board meeting, according to a statement.

Murmu stressed that a collective effort alone shall result in transformational changes and extraordinary results in the public audit profession.

"He expressed hope that the sustainable development," the guidance on the audit of disstatement said.

aster management will help governments in assessing and addressing the

using privatisation as a tool to raise the efficiency of stateowned enterprises, improve service delivery, reduce the fiscal burden and enhance the productivity of the economy as a whole, Murmu said the

guidance on the audit of privatisation will be of immense help. The International Org-anization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTO-SAI) operates as an umbrella organisation for the external government audit community.

Its governing board is its apex organ tasked with implementing INTOSAI's goals and

'India has potential to soar to No 1 spot in air travel'

PNS KOLKATA

India has the potential to attain the top position in air travel in about a decade, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Wednesday, underlining the government's commitment to pushing the sunrise sector to scale new heights.

The government, he said, is committed to improving connectivity on both regional and long haul international routes, and has set a target of raising the number of airports to 220 by 2025 from 136 at present.

'We have jumped from 74 airports in the last 70 years to 62 (more) airports in the last seven years. Now we have 136 airports. But that's not where we are going to stop. We have a target of a total of 220 airports by 2025, and that include heliport and water ports.



The task before us is gigantic. Tomorrow we are going to launch the Jewar airport (near

"If you look at what we have been able to achieve in the last 5-6 years from 2014-2019....the connectivity growth, civil aviation alone has (grown) 89 per cent, and that

helped us in jumping from the seventh position in terms of travel numbers to almost fourth position in 2019. And mind you, we will be jumping to the number one position in the next decade or so," the union minister told a virtual session of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Airports sector to see Rs 90K crore investments in 5 years he country's airports sector is expected to see an investment of

temic

and complex

disaster-related risk and

strengthening the internation-

al collective effort to achieve

the overall 2030 agenda of

Rs 90,000 crore in a five-year period, with nearly Rs 68,000 crore coming from the private players, a senior official said on Wednesday. The civil aviation sector, which was battered by the coronavirus pandemic that had also resulted in the suspension of domestic and international flight services, is slowly on the recovery path and the daily domestic air traffic is nearing the pre-COVID level of 4 lakh. Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal said investments totalling Rs 90,000 crore will be made for airports over the five-year period, starting 2020-21. Out of the total amount, around Rs 20,000-22,000 crore will be invested by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), while the remaining amount of about Rs 68,000 crore would be from the private sector. The government expects to have 220 operational airports over five years and will include heliports. Currently, there are 136 operational airports in the country, and many aerodromes are in the works. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the new airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday. Among others, a new airport at Mopa in Goa is expected to be ready next year, and an aerodrome is also coming up at Navi Mumbai

Govt making all efforts to complete Al disinvestment process by Dec PNS NEW DELHI

The g overnment is making all efforts to complete the disinvestment process of national carrier Air India by the end of December, according to a senior official.

Tata group firm Talace Pvt Ltd has emerged as the winning bidder for loss-making Air India.

On October 25, the government signed the share purchase agreement with Tata Sons for the sale of the airline for Rs 18,000 crore. The amount includes payment of Rs 2,700 crore in cash and take over Rs 15,300 crore of the carrier's debt.

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Thursday November 25, 2021

TRAVELLING WITH AN ARTIST'S EYE

SHIKHA DUGGAL

ccasionally, travel can bring a massive change in one's life. A usual rover may travel to explore but there are some like Alpula Pocham from Mancherial district of our very own state, who travel to inspire others. He found his fulfillment in travelling with art! This travel journey of Pocham was unprepared. The only thing he could see was marking his name somewhere. We got in touch with him for the 'community wise' story so that all our readers could explore travelling through an artist's eye. What actually intrigued us about this *kala*yatri was his way of glass casing the civilisation of tribal people, while he was on an expedition! After travelling to 18 states in India, this voyager drew





state's happenings very carefully. And, here I am with all the sketches that show my country's diversity," he tells us.

The tourist set on this outing three years ago, which is indeed a long time! The legacy, the upheaval — he wanted to show it all. "I was keenly interested in understanding my own country. There was no better way than travelling and sketching it out. It's social carving for me," he adds.
After documenting the traditions so well, the sketcher is currently on his latest visit to

the states that

"I was on

he witnessed

on his way.

a kala-yatra,

a tour from

Kashmir to

kumari. I was

supposed to

observe every

Kanya

Devbhoomi! The whole thing started as a painting and now he is turning out to be an icon on his own. "I wanted to show some relics of each state, who knew I'll be able to inspire so many. My chitra raises



questions about the pres ence of these forgotten areas or tribes that one can

symbolise. Though we are moving with time, we must not fail to remember our 'sanskriti," he insists.

He drew what he loved and his current muse is the Solan town in Himachal Pradesh. The illustrator also believes his sketchbook is



what a camera is to a photographer! "It accompanies me everywhere, I am recording my travel experiences especially the transient ones. It is the easiest way to recharge myself and getting away from home



offers me new views. It fires an imagination in me and forms the theme of my work!" he says.

A small encounter in this Telangana boy's life turned out to be a life-changing event and it brought him the new environment he was looking for all this while. The world is a book and those who don't travel read only one page, furthermore, Alpula proved this saying right! Though he was condemned by his near and dear ones to be always

attached in the field of fine arts, he proved all of them wrong and became the first travel artist of Telangana state. The son of a manual worker was once let down by the locals for drawing the movement of Bihari women, they were affronted as per the illustrator nevertheless he didn't give up. He has also stayed at the premises of temples and schools for picturing picturesque spots — such was his journey that we must be pleased about.

Revolutionising fitness with a holistic approach

K RAMYA SREE

s life becomes more stressful and our health is under attack daily from long hours of work, poor nutrition, and environmental toxins around us, it is becoming more important that we take our health into our own hands.

Traditional exercise and weight training were designed to tone and build muscle so our outward appearance is pleasing to the eye. But what about the physical condition of our inner body and our emo-tional state? How can we keep healthy inside and out? One can answer these with a holistic approach to fitness.

Launched last year in April, Portl is a smart mirror-based personalised fit-nessand wellness device that fits seamlessly within your home where an individual gets programs cus-tomised to them, that ensure highly relevant and engaging content from the instructors on-demand and via live classes. That means you will not find cookie-cutter solutions here! From HIIT, strength, dance fitness, endurance, yoga, mindfulness, and nutrition coaching, all are

just a single click away.

The Pioneer chats with Indraneel Gupta Founder and CEO, Portl, and Vishal Chandapeta, Co-Founder, who have over 5 years of experience in the fitness industry serving the needs of large fitness and wellness businesses to share their views on fitness, Port more.

How did the idea come about?

Both Vishal and I are avid fitness enthusiasts, and previously ran a startup within the Fitness space already. Back then, we were serving the needs of large fitness studios and during that time, we learnt sumers' needs, their pain points, and overall habits when it comes to fitness as a lifestyle. This experience helped us build Portl and address the unmet needs of the consumers across personalization, convenience, and a holistic approach to overall health. We started working on Portl as a concept a couple of months prior to the lockdown in India, and the consumer behaviour and fitness trends during the pandemic made us accelerate our plans and build a



product that really addresses consumer needs.

How tough or easy was it to integrate Al with tech-related to fitness?

The tough part about providing personalization at scale especially from a fitness perspective is that we have to cater to a wide array of people, their preferences, their lifestyle habits, and their health conditions before a fitness programme can be created. We focused our efforts on creating a highly accurate form-feedback system at the outset and coupled that with our personalization engine to create unique roadmaps for every individual that adapts and adjusts itself based on the users' progress. This activity in itself is both timeconsuming and resource-intensive. However, this capability allows us to constantly improve and create unique and relevant experiences for each user

Who is your target audience?

We aren't just for fitness enthusiasts. Its unique capabilities enable people across all ages and fitness levels to realise their best versions and improve overall health. The very fact that the Portl can be used by different people within a household makes it a ubiquitous device for all fitness, wellness, and health applications. The wide array of workout formats, the form-feedback

and personalization, the health monitoring and pain management, the nutrition coaching, and mental wellness mean that no matter what a person's current health status is, Portl caters to all their needs and is a holistic health and wellness solution that goes far beyond existing home fitness solutions.

What are some things it offers to consumers that a Fitbit or a fitness monitoring app can't? Portl is a complete health, personalized fitness, and wellness solution packaged into a sleek, interactive, and intelligent mirror. We go well beyond existing wearables and fitness apps - our form-feedback system allows us to correct a users' exercise technique in real-time; our personalization engine allows us to provide highly relevant workouts based on a users' capabilities, limitations, and preferences; our health monitoring allows us to track all key health vitals and use those metrics to create better workouts and nutrition schedules that are suited to an individual. The social aspects of the Portl system allow users to interact and engage with community members whilst pursuing their fitness goals.

And the fact that all of

this is available at your home, on-demand at affordable prices is incredible, and we are excited to bring the Portl into every home.

How is working from office more productive than working from home

ompanies are analysing the benefits and drawbacks of getting staff back to work now that the market has begun to rebound. On the one hand, they are concerned about employee health and are continuing to implement remote work restrictions in order to avoid the spread of coronavirus within the workplace. Organisations, on the other hand, are focusing on what is best for their business and what is the ideal method to implement a hybrid work model.

Undoubtely majority companies are perplexed by both situations when it comes to getting their remote employees back to the office. Companies are embracing the concept of freedom, but many are unsure whether or not to

empower employees to choose when, how, and where they work. As a result, talent management teams are guiding remote workers back to the office, which is beneficial to all parties.

High levels of health safety

According to various market polls, if given the option during the Covid-19 epidemic, employees would prefer to work from home even after the crisis is passed. Employees are hesitant to leave their homes for work. Companies are introducing strong safety measures in the workplace to make them feel safe and comfortable.

Health screening methods are being implemented by companies that are worried about their employees' health. Temperature checks are required, and touchless

technologies are installed to reduce the danger of transmission. Apart from that, physical separations such as workstation space and rotatory shifts play a role.

Deepens connections

Having employees in the office is beneficial to create deeper connections by interacting face to face. This results in establishing trust and building connections with the team. As a result, it fosters innovation and productivity that

contributes to business growth and scalability. Further more. emphasising team-building activities



Besides this, companies are planning virtual games and activities in which employees can participate, work together and build better relationships at work. Companies are planning

> happy hours and other activities to engage the employees in fun activities. In addition, employees returning to the office can leverage reskilling programs organized to accelerate their

Enabling clear communication

Despite the fact that the companies have adopted advanced digital tools to keep remote working seamless and easy yet they still thrive on establishing clear communication. During the remote work period, communication at the workplace has dynamically progressed. Undoubtedly the use of technology in today's time has set newsstandards of communication. Therefore, returning to the office will require a strategic plan for

employees. On-site communication structures the communication protocols at the workplace. It helps employees develop a better understanding of roles than off-site communication. This will contribute to creating deep connections and culture at the workplace. Apart from this, employees communicating in offices can lead to innovative ideas that are less likely totake place on email or video conferencing.

Flexibity in workplace

Undoutedly returning back to the office after a long period of flexibility can be overwhelming to employees. Majority of the companies are adopting a gradual transition approach to make it comfortable for employ-ees.On the other hand, employees are concerned about the fixed number of working hours every week. To address this concern, companies are allowing their staff to determine their own working hoursand prioritize their mandatory meetings and in-office attendance.In addition, companies are redesigning their leave policiesfor employees even with mild coldsto avoid infecting others at the workplace.

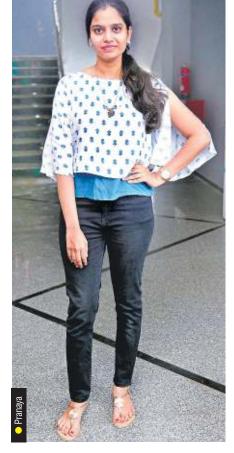
Summing up

Working from home has its own advantageous including flexibility for employees and reduced operating costs for employers. However, working from home has many distractions. Returning to the office makes it easier to streamline communications, work and develop innovative ideas. Additionally, it is expected to make the employees stay functional and aligned with business objectives.

(The writer, Yogita Tulsiani, is the MD & Cofounder, iXceed Solutions (Global Tech-Recruiter Provider))

what's brewing?









Absolute Barbecues (AB's), opened its 48th restaurant on the 4th floor, SLN Plaza, Kompally on Wednesday. With a large variety of exotic meats on the Wish Grill clubbed with Brazilian Churrasco, and an unending variety of starters followed by a cold stone creamery, AB's is a place for everyone who seeks happiness and celeḃration with food and drinks



Zee Telugu has a special surprise in store for the audience this kartikamasam. To celebrate the festivities and spread cheer and joy in everyone's lives, the channel is all set to launch a fresh reality show — Super Queen and showcase a special program — Karthika Maasamlo Vanabhojanala Sandadi. The show is set to go on air starting November 28 at 12 pm

Priyanka Chopra shoots down split rumours, shares *Jonas Brothers Family Roast* clip

A ctor Priyanka Chopra Jonas took a dig at the rumours of her split with popstar-husband Nick Jonas by sharing a clip from their Netflix comedy special Jonas Brothers Family Roast.

On Monday, Priyanka dropped her surname, along with her husband's last name, from all social media handles.

Her move led to speculation that the 39-year-old actor was splitting with the American singersongwriter, who she married in 2018.

Taking to Instagram late Tuesday evening, Priyanka shared a clip from the show, where she was seen roasting Nick "Brought my husband and his brothers a nice

roast for dinner. Perks of being a Jonas," she wrote with a cheeky, tongue-out emoticon.

emoticon.

In the clip, the *Dil Dhadakne Do* star is seen poking fun at the duo's 10-year age gap.

Priyanka said the couple teach each other a lot of things, while Nick.

of things: while Nick showed her how to use the social networking service TikTok, she quipped, "I showed him what a



successful acting career looks like."

She also joked about being the most famous Jonas in the family.

"Also, have you guys noticed how much content the Jonas Brothers post online? Like, they're forever on Instagram, always on their phone. It's so cute. I'll tell you why. Because all of them combined still have less followers than me. So I guess the most popular Jonas is @PriyankaChopra on Instagram."

The actor is currently awaiting the release of her much-anticipated Hollywood film The Matrix Resurrections, scheduled to open in cinemas worldwide on December 22.

Hollywood star Keanu Reeves plays the lead role of Neo in the Warner Bros Picturesbacked movie series, which also stars Carrie-Anne Moss, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Jessica Henwick, and Neil Patrick Harris.

FUN

ARCHIE











SPEED BUMP





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and some folks are

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"Romeo and Juliet"



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11 The other side in a war

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8 Wanders

10 Office tables

14 Gets closer to

17 Go by bike

13 He wrote the play

19 Somewhere to go

1 This bites a dog 2 Divisions in a play

3 Second-hand 4 Comes first in a race 5 Spoke very quietly

GINGER MEGGS OKAY, MUM. I'M OFF TO THE BEACH WITH

Some folks







tollywood

ecently the trailer for upcoming Telugu crime-thriller *Drushyam 2* starring the super talented Venkatesh Daggubati reprising his role from the Telugu hit

Drushyam was released. Director Jeethu Joseph now opens up about his journey with thrillers and what made him tag as a thriller director. He has films, where he has struck a balance in creating nail-biting suspense thrillers and out-and-out come-

On being asked about his relationship with thrillers, Jeetu shares, "I have done comedy films, I have done family dramas, but people tag me as a thriller director. Personally speaking, I like to watch mystery movies. Since my childhood, I have watched the Amanda Christie novels, Sherlock Holmes, so of course I have an inclination towards the genre. But as a filmmaker, I want to do all kinds of films."

He further adds, "My first film was an investigation movie, my second film was Mummy and Me, which was a family film. I have also done a comedy film with Nidhi, but my 4th and 5th were thrillers — Memories and Drishyam. So two thrillers back-to-back, immediately people started expecting thrillers from me, alongwith the producers asking me on thriller subjects. So I like thrillers, and mystery, everything for that matter."

On speaking about his future plans, Jeetu shares, "Actually I'm planning for a family comedy, a love story, because doing back-to-back thrillers is also boring, as in the making the shots are almost the same. But I like thrillers."

On being quizzed about his reluctance to remake his own film, Jeetu reveals, "My inspiration was Kamal sir. When it comes to Telugu, my excitement is Bingde sir, Naresh sir, Barnee sir and I'm meeting different artists who are all very experienced, being in the industry for the last 20-25 years. So I love sitting with them and talking to them, which made me love making this film."

Jeetu Joseph's directorial, Drushyam 2, starring Venkatesh, Meena, Tanikella Bharani, Nadhiya, Naresh, Sampath Raj, Kruthika, Jayakumar and Esther Anil, is set to premiere on November 25 on Amazon Prime Video.

Family comedy, **love story in line for** Jeetu Joseph





DII Kaju likely to produce Mahesh Babu's next

fter RRR, SS Rajamouli is soon going to shift his focus for his next Mahesh Babu and fans can't wait to know how their prince Mahesh Babu is going to look like in this upcoming film. While it has been announced that K L Narayana will bankroll this Rajamouli-Máhesh Babu film, rumours are that K L Naravana has askeď noted producer and distributor Dil Raju to coproduce the film as the budget and scale will be huge for this adventure drama based on African forest. So far, Dil Raju has not

produced any of Rajamouli's films. If everything goes accordingly, the duo will be come together for Mahesh Babu for

the first time. Though nothing much has been revealed officially since the maiden confirmation by Rajamouli, looks like the makers have gradually kick started the film's pre-production. It is also being heard that Tamil actor Chivaan Vikram to play the lead antagonist in this drama. After from the film's announcement, no official confirmations have been made about anything of this film.

people helped to complete this movie. My favorite thing about the Bhagat Singh Nagar is the response it has been receiving off late." "The film was made with the concept of responding if anything goes wrong with our families and people around us. Its core

intention is to do good to as many people as possible. Our producer Ramesh Uduttu garu has completed the film with his support to

The film will be released

'More comfortable doing films with Bhimavaram slang'

K RAMYA SREE

ctor Raj Tarun has made a mark for himself in every Telugu person's heart with his very first film *Uyyala Jampala*— thanks to his Bhimavaram dialect that got him even closer to the audience who oozes boy-nextdoor vibes. The actor is back with another family entertainer -Anubhavinchú Raja — set in the backdrop of Bhimavaram village. Directed by Srinu Gavireddy, the film, also starring Kashish Khan, will open in theatres on November 26. Ahead of the film's release, the actor converses with the media about the film, being produced by

Srivenkateswara Cinemas LLP, his character, and more. Raj Tarun who shot most of his films in Bhimavaram is happy that this film too was shot there, as he could bring out the nativity in him to screens in an organic way. Speaking about the

Annapurna Studios and

character he played in Anubhavinchu Raja, which is very new to him. the Kumari

actor shares, "The character in the movie has nothing to do with my real life. I have personally seen the entire process that goes into becoming a security guard. Playing a security guard was not easy for me."

The actor's friendship with his director is long associated and that made it even easy for Raj Tarun while shooting for the film. "Srinu and I have been friends for the last nine years. There are many reasons for a movie to become a hit or a flop. I know Srinu's strengths and abilities. I am not scared about the film's final response. With the help of Annapurna Studios, Srinu got the opportunity to show his talent," he says about his director friend.

The story of this film was told to the actor long ago but Raj felt it was not for him. He says, "Srinu narrated this story to me long back but I never thought this film was meant for me. It was only after he narrated the story to Supriya garu, Naga Chaitanya, and Nagarjuna garu, my name popped up. That is when I heard the full story."

The actor says he is stuck to movies with Bhimavaram slang because those films never disappointed him at the box office, while the films he experimented didn't work out that well. "Bhimavaram slang suits me well. I am more comfortable doing films in that slang. *Anubhavinchu Raja* will be in the backdrop of Bhimavaram and Hvderabad."

Like many other films, even this film was delayed owing to Covid-induced lockdown, but that time gave the director and the actor to make some necessary changes to the script. The actor

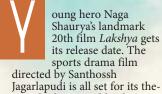
feels Anubhavinchu Raja must be watched in theatres only, hence they waited till the theatres are fully func-

tional in the Telugu states. Furthermore, about the movie, he adds, "The movie is full of family emotions. It shows the father and son relationship so naturally. There is a message underlined.

"I do not like gambling. I do not play those games. I watch *Kodi Pandalu*, but do not bet. The film starts at the Sankranthi festival. We will show the festive atmosphere there. I love animals. I genuinely got attached to the hen used in the film for shooting. Apparently, that hen is dull these days as it is not shooting," laughs the Rangula Ratnam actor.

The actor, who is proud of every movie he has made so far, says he doesn't take it to heart if a film doesn't perform well. He learns his lessons from his failures. "I had no idea about Hyderabad, Somehow, I came here and I have done 14 movies, now I have two other movies in the pipeline," concludes Raj Tarun who is also in plans to work in a web series soon.

Naga Shaurya's Lakshya coming on Dec 10



atrical release worldwide on December 10. This film is coming after Naga Shaurya scored a blockbuster with his last movie Varudu Kaavalenu.

Underwent unbelievable physical transformation to play the role of an archer, Naga Shaurya will be seen in a never seen before avatar. He sports two different getups in the sports drama based on ancient sport archery. Naga Shaurya underwent training to understand the nuances of the sport. Ketika Sharma is paired opposite him.
Presented by Sonali Narang,

the film is produced by Narayan Das K. Narang, Puskur Ram Mohan Rao, Sharrath Marar in Sree Venkateswara Cinemas LLP, and Northstar Entertainment Pvt Ltd banners

Director Santhossh Jagarlapudi came up with first of its kind story and Jagapathi Babu will be seen in a crucial

Kaala Bhairava rendered soundtracks for the movie, while Raam Reddy handled cinematography and Junaid is the editor.



Bhagat Singh Nagar sends out strong message

ollywood's another small-budget movie that is making good noise for the last few days is Bhagat Singh Nagar. With people like Srikanth, Banerjee and YSRCP MLA Kolagatla Veerabhadra Swamy coming forward in support of the film, the makers of the Bhagat Singh Nagar seem confident about the film's success. Bhagat Singh Nagar marks the debut of actors Vidarth and Dhruvika in the lead roles. Directed by Valaja Kranthi, the film is



Singh.

Bhagat Singh Nagar is being produced by Walaja Gauri and Ramesh Udattu

under the banner of Great

India Media House.

Speaking at the pre-release event, the lead of the film Vidarth said, "This movie is a product of a group of passionate film-makers. The film was made with the support of our families and friends. Many

make this film come out very well," he added. in theatres tomorrow.



Eyes on Rahane as 'second string' India take on gutsy Black Caps

captain battling existential crisis, a veteran **L**pacer about to be phased out and a white-ball maverick trying to earn his redball stripes makes for a heady combination as Ajinkya Rahane's second-string India aim to size up a gritty New Zealand in first Test starting Thursday.

Rahane, with his career on line, gets to lead India may be one last time while 100-Test veteran Ishant Sharma will be praying that young turk Mohammed Siraj doesn't

nudge him out. Shreyas Iyer is set for Test debut and would like to reaffirm 'Bombay (not Mumbai) School of Batsmanship' whose philosophy transcends beyond the white-ball riches of Indian Premier League.

"Shreyas Iyer will be making his debut but I can't reveal anything about combination," skipper Rahane confirmed ahead of the match.

It is indeed a rarity to find an Indian Test team that is without its hit opening pair of Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul. Also missing from line-up is skipper Virat Kohli and a genuine match-winning keeperbatter Rishabh Pant.

But this also gives head coach Rahul Dravid a chance to check out what his back-up bench strength is before the away tour of South Africa which starts in less than a

month's time. In the batting line-up for the first Test, only Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara and Mayank Agarwal have played more than 10 Tests.



If Agarwal does well, that will keep KL Rahul on his toes and a good show from Shubman Gill will keep the team management interested in slotting him in the middleorder when the two regular

openers come back. In any sport, leader of the side is considered to have a secured slot in the side but in this Indian team, the skipper will be batting to save his career after an average of 19 in 11 Test matches in the current

Two more failures in two home games could effectively mean end of the road for Rahane. Even Dravid will also find it difficult to justify the Mumbaikar's inclusion in the Johannesburg-bound flight next month.

A look at Rahane's net ses-

India vs New Zealand ve from 9:30 am (I STAR SPORTS

sion doesn't inspire much confidence. He tried an ugly hoick off Jayant Yadav's off break and was clean bowled. Prasidh Krishna induced an outside edge which would have been regulation catch.

But it was scary to see net bowler Shivam Mavi bowling a perfect bouncer and hitting im on the chest.

It is never easy to lead a side when your own batting form has deserted you. How Rahane strikes a balance in this Test between being a ruthless captain and also the batter his team expects him to be will decide in which direction his career goes from here.

If he plays the game of survival against a Tim Southee or bumper-happy Neil Wagner, it might bring about downfall but as Pujara said, "being a bit fearless" will relieve him a bit from the gigantic pressure that's on his shoulders to save his career.

senior-most player in the current set-up with 100 plus games and 300 plus wickets, the situation is getting bleak by the day. He didn't look in good

Similarly, for Ishant, the

rhythm during the net session and if Siraj is dropped from the eleven, the lanky pacer will once again need to prove that team management's decision isn't a travesty

Umesh Yadav however remains the first-choice new ball bowler. Shreyas, who has a had a decent red ball record but has not played a long for-

mat game since 2019, will have his task cut-out.

Dravid made him negotiate short ball throw-downs from left-arm specialist Nuwan in order to simulate Neil Wagner's round the wicket tactic. A solid debut with an aggressive mind-set might give them a shot at permanent mid-

dle-order place in future. If one goes by cues from nets, the sequence of batters appears to be Gill and Mayank, followed by Pujara and Rahane. Next in line was Shreyas, which confirmed that Surva will have to wait for his Test debut.

While it's not known if Axar Patel's workload is being managed but Jayant Yadav had an extended run in the nets under watchful eyes of Dravid. A middle-order with three defensive players like Pujara, Rahane and supposedly Hanuma Vihari, won't be a great proposition when India plays away from home in coming days.

But one man, itching to go out there and reaffirm his status as world's number one spinner will be Ravichandran Ashwin, who had been licking his wounds for the past few months after a royal snub by regular captain Kohli during the last series.

The third spinner is likely to be Axar Patel, who had a brilliant debut home series against England (27 wickets) when he last donned the

INDIA-NEW ZEALAND IN TESTS Venue Played NZ won Ind won Drawn In India 16 16 10 In New Zealand In England Total 21 26 Last five matches: At Kanpur **HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS** 583-7 dec at Ahmedabad 1999-00 680- 8 dec at Wellington 2013-14 **LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS** 81 in 26.3 (8- ball) overs at Wellington 1975-76 NZ: 94 in 38.2 overs at Hamilton 2002-03

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES 231 Vinoo Mankad at Chennai 1955-56 NZ: 302 Brendon McCullum at Wellington 2013-14 **BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCE IN AN INNING**

8-72 S. Venkatraghavan at Delhi India 1964-65 7-23 Richard Hadlee at Wellington 1975-76

FAISEL FEATURES T E A M S

Kane Williamson (captain),

Taylor, Henry Nicholls, Tom

Tom Latham (wk), Ross

Blundell (wk), Will Young,

Glenn Phillips (wk), Daryl

NEW ZEALAND

INDIA Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav. Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel.

whites even though Jayant

Southee and Neil Wagner will

be the two pacers with left-

For Black Caps, Tim

looked in good rhythm.

Mitchell, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Kyle Jamieson, William Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sommerville, Ajaz Sharma, Mohammed Patel, Mitchell Siraj, Jayant Yadav, Srikar Bharat (2nd wk) and

Santner and

off-spinner

Rachin Ravindra arm spin duo of Ajaz Patel and Mitchell Santner along with

Somerville likely to complete

KL Rahul gains a slot to fourth in T20I rankings

Tndia opener KL Rahul gained a slot to occupy the fifth spot while middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav galloped 24 places to the 59th position in the ICC men's T20I player rankings released on Wednesday.

Pakistan's wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan, too, gained a slot to occupy the fourth position.

Rizwan's upward movement is courtesy his 90 runs in the three-match series against rating points behind after scoring 80 in two matches against New Zealand, a series also won

Guptill has gained three slots to batters' list, from 40th to 35th. reach 10th position scoring 152



Sharma is 13th, gaining two places after topping the series with 159 runs

Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman New Zealand's Martin is another one to move up the The rankings for bowlers

0, while opener Rahul is only six runs against India while Rohit see Mitchell Santner gain 10 slots to reach 13th position with four wickets in the series against India and Bhuvneshwar Kumar up five to 19th with three scalps. Deepak Chahar has moved up 19 slots to reach

NEUFC, Kerala Blasters eye first points

PTI ■ MARGAO

Coming off big defeats, both NorthEast United FC and Kerala Blasters would look to open their account and get their campaign up and running when they face off in the Indian Super League (ISL) here on Thursday.

While the Khalid Jamil-coached NorthEast United conceded four goals against an experienced Bengaluru FC, Kerala Blasters too lost by a 2-4 margin to last edition's runners-up ATK Mohun Bagan in their opener.

Kerala Blasters' pre-season performances provided hope but they found the going too tough against a strong and thoroughly professional ATK Mohun Bagan.

At the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Thursday, the southerners will get another to impress and open in this edition of the league.

It is not going to be easy though against the Highlanders who fought hard against a fancied Bengaluru FC outfit. The team from the eastern part of the country came back twice to level things in the first half, but the lack of concentration and inexperience at the back cost them dear, as they leaked four goals.

Paine should play in Ashes: Harris

Prasidh Krishna

AP ■ BRISBANE

im Paine has the full support of the Australian team and deserves to keep his place for the first Ashes Test against England, opener Marcus Harris said on Wednesday.

Paine suddenly quit as Test captain last week over a series of lewd text messages with a female colleague in 2017 that were about to be made public. Harris said the news came as a shock to the playing group who only learned about it 30 minutes before the official announcement. But he backed Paine to come through the scandal and said he deserved to play in the opening Test at Brisbane on December 8 on his wicketkeeping abilities alone.

absolutely" Harr



asked if he should be in the starting eleven. "He's done a really good in the last few years under tough circumstances, and I think you can still probably argue that he's the best gloveman in the country.

"I know he's got the support of all the players," he added, with most of them personally contacting Paine in the wake of the scandal.

"Obviously Painey is a very popular member of the group, and he was as skipper as well. So we're looking forward to him getting up here in the next week or so and getting on with cricket." The 36-year-old Paine has made it clear he still wants to play for Australia with selectors needing to decide whether to cut him loose and start

Sindhu, Srikanth, Praneeth advance to second round

ndia's double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu showed great determination to outwit her opponent in the women's singles opening round, while B Sai Praneeth and Kidmabi Srikanth also advanced to the men's singles second round of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 event here on Wednesday.

After a slow start, Sindhu, the reigning world champion, engineered a turnaround to register a hard-fought 17-21 21-17 21-17 win over a tenacious Aya Ohori of Japan in one hour 10 minutes.

her impressive record against the



Japanese shuttler to 11-0. World number seven Sindhu, who made a semifinal exit after suffering a straight game defeat to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi here last week, will meet 23-year-old German shut-With the win, Sindhu improved tler Yvonne Li in the second round.

It will be the first meeting

between the third seed Indian and

world number 26 Li. In the men's singles, world number 16 B Sai Praneeth clinched a 21-19 21-18 win over France's

Toma Junior Popov.

In a repeat of last week's Indonesia Masters quarterfinal, Srikanth once again got the better of compatriot HS Prannov.

The former world number one Srikanth, who is coming off two back-to-back semifinal finishes at Hylo Open and Indonesia Masters, continued his good run of form as he eked out a 21-15 19-21 21-12 victory over Prannoy in 56 minutes.

While Praneeth will next take on Christo Popov of France in the

winner of the first round clash between Tokyo Olympics gold medallist second seed Dane Victor

Axelsen and Japan's Koki Watanbe. The mixed doubles pairing of N Sikki Reddy and Dhruv Kapila, however, made a first round exit, falling to the Japanese duo of Kyohei Yamashita and Naru Shinoya, 7-21

It was a bad day in the office for Reddy who made a first round exit in the women's doubles event as well.

Reddy and veteran shuttler Ashwini Ponnappa went down 27-29 18-21 to the fifth seeded Bulgarian duo of Gabriela Stoeva Stefani Stoeva.

Australia will be without captain for 15 years if it is looking for perfect skipper: Clarke



The Australian Test team will be ■ without a captain for the next 15 years if the country's cricket administrators are looking for someone with a "prefect" and unblemished record, feels former skipper Michael Clarke.

Cricket Australia (CA) is set to appoint a new captain after Tim Paine stepped down from the post in the wake of a 'sexting' scandal. Fast bowling spearhead Pat Cummins has emerged as the frontrunner to succeed Paine and former skipper Steve Smith is also in the

Clarke pointed out how Ricky Ponting became one of Australia's greatest captains after overcoming an erratic start to his international career.

'Go back in my time even to Ricky Ponting. If that's the case, he never would have captained Australia," Clarke told Big Sports Breakfast'.

He had a punch up in the middle of a Bourbon & Beefsteak. Are you not going to give him the job because of that?
"He's a great example. He's shown

you how time, experience, maturity, playing at the highest level and even the captaincy turned him around."

Paine is the only specialist wicketkeeper in Australia's 15-man squad to face England in the upcoming Ashes but chairman of selectors George Bailey said he is not final for the first Test starting in Brisbane on December 8.

Clarke admitted that the Australian Test captain needed to be held to a high standard, but he said the team would end up with few options if it has unrealistic

Benzema handed 1-year suspended sentence

AP VERSAILLES

 $F^{
m rance}_{
m ward\ Karim\ Benzema\ was}$ given a one-year suspended jail sentence and a fine of 75,000 euros (\$84,000) Wednesday in a sex-tape case that rocked French soccer.

Benzema was found guilty of being involved in an attempt in 2015 to blackmail France teammate Mathieu Valbuena.

The Versailles court decision is unlikely to affect Benzema's immediate sporting future. The forward is regarded as one of the favorites to win the Ballon d'Or award on Nov. 29 in Paris following an impressive season with Madrid. French federation president Noel Le Great has already said Benzema would be allowed to keep playing with France even if found guilty.

A win would have earned

Barca qualification alongside

Bayern Munich, whom

they must now beat on

December 8, if Benfica

down Dynamo Kiev,

to progress. Bayern

had already quali-

fied for the last 16

before its 2-1 win at

Cristiano sends Red Devils into UCL last 16

Ronaldo, Sancho score in Man Utd's 2-0 win in 1st game after Ole's exit; Chelsea thrash Juve

AP ■ VILLARREAL

Manchester United booked their place in the Champions League last 16 as Cristiano Ronaldo scored in a 2-0 victory at Villarreal on Tuesday, while holders Chelsea also reached the knockout phase by thumping Juventus.

Three-time European champions United went into their first game since sacking Ole Gunnar Solskjaer at the weekend needing a win to confirm a top-two finish in

Group F. But they were under massive pressure as defeat would have left their fate out of their

own hands David de Gea made two

crucial saves and United, with Michael Carrick in caretaker charge, took advantage through Ronaldo's 78thminute lob.

Jadon Sancho, so often a peripheral figure since his big-money move from Borussia Dortmund in the close-season, capped a fine individual display with his first goal for the club late on.

Ronaldo's goal was the 799th of his career, his 140th in the Champions League and his sixth in the competition this season.

The other qualification spot in the group remains up for grabs after Young Boys and Atalanta played out a thrilling



Atalanta face a winnertakes-all match against Villarreal in Bergamo next

CHELSEA THRASH JUVE Chelsea romped into the last 16 and to the top of Group H with an impressive 40 thrashing of Juventus at

Stamford Bridge.
Thomas Tuchel's men new that qualification would be secured if they could avoid defeat or if Zenit Saint Petersburg failed to beat

Malmo. The Blues dominated the early stages and took the lead through young defender Trevoh Chalobah's third goal

of the season. It was a defender who doubled Chelsea's lead in the 56th minute

England right-back Reece James hammered a fine vollev into the bottom corner to net for the fifth time already this term. Chelsea grabbed their third goal less than two min-

KEY NUMBERS Chelsea vs Juventus was Thomas Tuchel's 50th match in charge of Chelsea in all competitions, and 32nd win (D11 L7).

Jadon Sancho has scored his first ever Man Utd goal in what is his 15th appearance in all competitions

Juventus have lost a game with a margin of 4+ goals in all competitions for their first time since Feb 2004, vs AS Roma in Serie A (0-4).

utes later, Ruben Loftus-Cheek off, to come off the bench and prodding the ball to Hudson-Odoi, who smashed home from close range.

Xavi's Barca held by Benfica

September.

Barcelona: Barcelona's hopes saw off 3-0 in Lisbon in of qualifying for the Champions League last 16 go down to the final Group E matchday after an entertaining 0-0 draw against Benfica

on Tuesday. With Xavi Hernandez taking charge of his second game since replacing Ronald Koeman in the Barca dugout, the Catalan side produced a performance a world apart from the sorry outfit Benfica

score in added time.

Dynamo Kyiv and the result secured the German champions first place in the There was still time for last 16 as Jonathan David Timo Werner, making his first ppearance since an injury lay-

group. scored a first-half winner in a 1-0 victory in France.

All four teams in the group can still go through, In Group G, Lille made after Sevilla saw off Salzburg wait to reach the

Wolfsburg 2-0.