

ANALYSIS 7
EXTENDING SYMPATHIES
TO THE NEW LAUREATE**MONEY 8**
SENSEX RALLIES 453 PTS
TO NEW PEAK; NIFTY AT 18,100**SPORTS 12**
DC SET 136-RUN TARGET FOR
KKR IN 2ND IPL QUALIFIER

HYDERABAD, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

PRAGYA
JAISWAL
CONTRACTS
COVID, AGAIN

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**PAWAR BACKS AKHILESH YADAV'S SP
FOR 2022 UP ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

NCP president Sharad Pawar on Wednesday said his party will back the Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party in the next year's Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections to take on the BJP. Pawar also said the NCP will consult the SP if the Maharashtra-based party decides to contest a few seats in UP. Talking about the recent killing of four farmers in UP's Lakhimpur Kheri district, Pawar said from the very first day, the BJP took a stand that there is no truth in the killing of farmers. "Yogi Adityanath cannot absolve himself of the responsibility of not taking action against the crime," he told reporters.

**SUPPLY FROM MAHANADI COALFIELDS
CROSSES 5.1 LAKH TONNES A DAY**

State-owned CIL arm Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd on Wednesday said it has further increased its business operations, with an average daily coal despatch crossing 5.1 lakh tonne in the current month, as it also keeps a close watch on the stock situation of dry fuel in thermal power plants in Odisha. The statement comes at a time when various plants in the country are facing coal shortages. "Odisha-based miniratna Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd has further augmented its business operations with an average daily coal despatch crossing 5.1 lakh tonnes," the Coal India arm said.

**MANMOHAN SINGH ADMITTED TO
AIIMS WITH WEAKNESS AFTER FEVER**

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here Wednesday evening after he complained of weakness following a fever, sources said. They said the 89-year-old Congress leader had a fever on Monday and had recovered, but he turned weak and was on fluids. The former PM was admitted to the cardioneuro unit of the AIIMS and is under the care of a team of cardiologists led by Dr Nitish Naik, Singh's personal physician for years. The Congress said the former prime minister is stable and is undergoing routine treatment.

**ONE-SHOT SPUTNIK LIGHT VAX SHOWS
70% EFFICACY AGAINST DELTA VARIANT**

The Russian Direct Investment Fund and Gamaleya Center on Wednesday said one-shot Sputnik Light vaccine demonstrates 70 pc efficacy against infection with the Delta variant of coronavirus in the first three months after vaccination. Gamaleya Center has submitted an article analysing efficacy of Sputnik Light vaccine against the Delta variant to the medRxiv preprint server for health sciences, RDIF said. The analysis was conducted based on data from 28,000 participants who received a single dose of Sputnik Light, compared with a control group of 5.6 million individuals who were not vaccinated.

Modi unveils Rs 100 lakh-cr master plan to boost growth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched a Rs 100 lakh crore national master plan for multi-modal connectivity that aims to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy.

PM Gati Shakti targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time, PM Modi said at a function to launch the plan.

The plan aims to lend more power and speed to projects by connecting all concerned departments on one platform, he said, adding the infrastructure schemes of various ministries and state governments will be designed and executed with a common vision.

PM Modi said taxpayers' money in the past was 'insulted' through a lethargic approach to development work, with departments working in silos and there was no coordination on projects.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviews a model of an infrastructure project at the unveiling of the PM Gati Shakti national master plan in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Development, he said, is not possible without quality infrastructure and the government has now resolved to develop it in a holistic manner.

"Gati Shakti joins different

departments for the coordinated development of projects from road to railways, aviation to agriculture," the Prime Minister said.

2 cr people got first dose of vaccine in TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

According to statistics supplied by the state government, as of October 12, over 2.03 crore people received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, while over 79 lakh got their second jab too.

COVID-19 cases in Telangana continued to show a downward trend with 184 cases being reported on Wednesday, taking the tally to 6.68 lakh.

The toll stood at 3934 with just one causality.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation accounted for the highest number of cases with 55 followed by Rangareddy-14, a health department bulletin said.

The number of active cases was 4,211.

The total number of cases in the state stood at 6,68,450, while with 162 people being cured, the total recoveries are 6,60,305.

TS sets up panel to study gazette nuances as KRMB prepares to take over projects

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Notwithstanding the gazette notification on jurisdiction of River Boards set to take effect from Thursday, the Telangana government on Wednesday set up a subcommittee to advise it on the proposal sent by the Krishna River Management Board to take over Srisailem, Nagarjuna Sagar and other projects and systems under them as part of implementing the notification.

The subcommittee — comprising experts, CWC officials and others — has been asked to submit a report on the proposal sent by the KRMB pertaining to various operating rules, administrative and operational procedures to be followed with regard to the irrigation projects to the Telangana government by October 30.

The subpanel will be headed by Engineer-in-Chief C Muralidhar and will have Mohan Kumar, Chief Engineer, ISWR as convenor, according to a GO issued by Rajat Kumar, Irrigation Department Special Chief Secretary.

Other members of the subcom-



mittee are M Srikanth Rao, Chief Engineer, Irrigation, Nalgonda, MA Raoof, Member, Technical Advisory Committee, Ghanshyam Jha, engineering expert, Chetan Pandit, hydrology consultant and V Ravinder Rao, senior advocate.

Sources said that the subcommittee will study the 'Draft Rule Curves' and operation protocols of the Jurala Project, Srisailem dam and Nagarjuna Sagar dam and advise the government on the follow up action to be taken with regard to the gazette notification.

Telangana officials said that

these decisions could not be taken overnight without due consideration and analysis and how it would impact the interests of the State.

"One should not read too much into the notification on jurisdiction of KRMB and GRMB coming into effect from October 14. KRMB officials themselves said that this was a transition phase and even without the implementation of notification, the Board has been performing a regulatory role even before the gazette notification," they said.

TRS plenary after 3 years on Oct 25, to elect party president

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After a gap of three years, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi will elect its president in a formal process at the State-level general body meeting to be held on October 25.

The election will be held as per the Election Commission's stipulations and over 14,000 elected representatives from across the State and other representatives as per by-laws will be invited to the general body meeting.

The schedule for the party's presidential election will be released on October 17 to enable those interested to file their nominations at the party's central office. The last day for filing nominations is October 22 and scrutiny will be taken up on October 23. Withdrawal of nominations will be on October 24 and the election, if necessary, will be held on October 25 at HICC, Madhapur.

TRS working president KT Rama Rao announced at the Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday.

'Telangana Vijaya Garjana' mega public meet on Nov 15

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi is planning a mega public meeting "Telangana Vijaya Garjana" at Warangal on November 15 to celebrate the historic journey of the TRS in the last two decades — achieving Statehood and then the seven years of successful rule with many memorable achievements.

TRS working president KT Rama Rao said that the party emerged as a people's movement with the single agenda of achieving Statehood under the leadership of K Chandrasekhar Rao. "After a 14-year long struggle, the people succeeded in emerging as a political force to achieve a separate State," he said.

People chose the leader of this

movement as their Chief Minister too and in the last seven years, he has ensured equal priority to welfare and development, KTR said, reminding that in 2018, KCR led the party to power again.

"The youngest State of Telangana is recognised as a progressive State across the country and many of its policies are being emulated by others and even the Centre. Telangana's contribution to the nation's GDP was acknowledged by the RBI and NITI Aayog," the IT Minister said.

Addressing a media conference at Telangana Bhavan, KTR said the

party thus decided to organise 'Telangana Vijaya Garjana' to celebrate its successful journey. With the party organisational restructuring done, and State-wide party committees in every village, mandal, basthi and division and associate committees, lakhs of committee members and general public would be invited for the mega public meeting.

He called upon people to come to the Vijaya Garjana meeting. On October 27, State-wide constituency-wise preparatory meetings would be held for Vijaya Garjana, KTR disclosed.



France invites KTR to speak at Ambition India Business Forum

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao has been invited by the government of France to speak at the 'Ambition India Business Forum' to be held on October 29 at the French Senate in Paris.

Ambassador of France Emmanuel Lenain, in a letter to KTR, said, "We believe it creates a great momentum between France and India and would provide a good occasion to promote the State of Telangana."

TS gets 7 of 14 judges appointed to 3 High Courts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A total of 14 new judges were on Wednesday appointed to three High Courts, including seven judges to the Telangana High Court, four to the Kerala High Court and three to the Orissa High Court.

These appointed include 12 judicial officers, one advocate and a member of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

The six judicial officers appointed as judges of the Telangana High Court are P Sree Sudha; C Sumalatha; G Radha Rani; M Laxman; N Tukaramji and A Venkateshwar Reddy while ITAT member P Madhavi Devi is the seventh appointee.

The Department of Justice in the Law Ministry issued a list of the latest set of appointments.

The sanctioned Bench strength of the Telangana High Court was recently increased from 24 judges



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The Department of Justice in the Law Ministry issued a list of the latest set of appointments.

The sanctioned Bench strength of the Telangana High Court was recently increased from 24 judges

to 42 judges after the Central government gave nod to the High Court's proposal for the same.

As on October 1, the Telangana High Court was functioning with only 11 judges, a vacancy position of 31.

There are precedents of members of tribunals, including ITAT, being appointed as High Court judges. Such members are advocates with specialisation in a particular field.

The 14 appointments on Wednesday came a day after a record 17 judges were appointed to the Allahabad, Madras and Gauhati High Courts on Tuesday.

Jairam, Owaisi attack Rajnath for his 'Gandhi-Savarkar comment', say Minister trying to rewrite history

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders on Wednesday attacked Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for his remark that it was on Mahatma Gandhi's request that Veer Savarkar wrote mercy petitions, and accused him of "trying to rewrite history".

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi shared on Twitter a letter by Gandhi on Jan 25, 1920 to Savarkar's brother regarding a case, and accused the Union minister of giv-

ing a "twist" to what Gandhi wrote.

The AIMIM leader also said the first petition Savarkar wrote was in 1911, just six months after getting to prison and Gandhi was then in South Africa. Savarkar wrote again in 1913/14 and Gandhi's advice is from 1920, he added.

Rajnath Singh at an event to release a book on Veer Savarkar on Tuesday had alleged that there was a deliberate conspiracy to defame Savarkar and that it was on Gandhi's advice that he wrote his mercy petitions.

**TODAY****ALMANAC****Month & Paksham:**

Ashwin & Shukla Paksha

Panchangam

Tithi : Navami 18:51**Nakshatram** : Uttara Ashadha 09:35**Time to Avoid** : Time to Avoid (Bad time to start any important work)**Rahukalam** : 1:29 pm - 2:56 pm**Yamagandam** : 6:12 am - 7:39 am**Variyam** : 1:32 pm - 3:07 pm**Gulika** : 9:07 am - 10:34 am**Good Time** : (to start any important work)**Amritakalam** : 11:00 pm - 12:35 am**Abhijit Muhurtham** : 11:38 am - 12:25 pm**HYDERABAD
WEATHER****Forecast**: Mostly sunny**Temp**: 31/21**Humidity**: 60%**Sunrise**: 6:08 am**Sunset**: 05:55 pm

Current Weather Conditions

Updated OCTOBER 13, 2021 5:00 PM



Isolated populations in India more vulnerable to Covid, finds CCMB

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Isolated populations in India are more vulnerable to Covid-19, as per a genomic analysis done by CSIR-CCMB.

Researchers, in their genomic analysis covering several Indian populations, found that populations that carry similar long DNA segments (homozygous) in their genome are most likely to be more susceptible to Covid-19.

The researchers also assessed the ACE2 gene variants that make individuals susceptible to Covid-19. They found that the Jarawa and Onge populations have a high incidence of these mutations.

Dr Kumarasamy Thangaraj from CSIR-CCMB, who is presently Director of CDFD, Hyderabad and Prof Gyaneshwer Chaubey of BHU, Varanasi jointly led the

genomic analysis of several Indian populations.

Dr Thangaraj, who traced the origin of Andaman Islanders, said, "We have investigated a high density genomic data of >1600 individuals from 227 ethnic populations. We found a high frequency of contiguous lengths of homozygous genes among Onge, Jarawa (Andaman tribes) and a few more populations who are in isolation and follow a strict endogamy, making them highly susceptible to Covid-19 infection."

"There have been some speculations on the effect of Covid-19 among isolated populations. However, for the first time, we have used genomic data to assess the risk of Covid-19 on small and isolated populations," said Prof Chaubey, Professor of



Molecular Anthropology at BHU, Varanasi.

"Results obtained from this study suggest that we need to have a high priority protection and utmost care for the isolated populations, so that we don't lose some of the living treasures of modern human evolution," said Dr Vinay Kumar Nandicoori, Director, CCMB, Hyderabad. The research has been published online recently in the journal Genes and Immunity.

The infection of SARS-CoV-2 has impacted various ethnic groups all over the world. Recent studies suggest that the indigenous groups in Brazil have been massively affected by Covid-19. The death rate was twice as high among the indigenous communities of Brazil. It was also shown that

many of the indigenous communities have reached the verge of extinction due to this pandemic. India is home to several indigenous and smaller communities including Andaman Islanders, who are living in isolation for tens of thousands of years

Other participants of this study include: Prajval Pratap Singh, Prof VN Mishra, Prof Royana Singh and Dr Abhishek Pathak from BHU, Varanasi; Dr Prashanth Suravajhala from Amrita University, Kerala; Pratheusa Machha from CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad; Dr Rakesh Tamang from Calcutta University, Dr Ashutosh K Rai from Saudi Arabia, Dr Pankaj Shrivastava from FSL MP, and Prof Keshav K Singh from University of Alabama USA.

TS sets up panel to study gazette...

Continued from page 1

The KRMB in its meeting with Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Irrigation officials on Tuesday had said the gazette notification would come into force from Thursday and it would regulate five projects and 29 outlets and hydel power stations in the first phase and it requested them to hand over the projects, men and material.

The State has to give its formal consent to the KRMB and issue GOs to let it take over the identified projects. Once the subcommittee gives its views on the proposal sent by the KRMB, the Irrigation officials would have to present them to Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao who would be very much interested to know about the implications, sources said.

These are not simple issues to resolve for the State when

the movement for Telangana statehood was launched for fair share in water resources, funds and jobs.

Implementation of gazette notification could impact the State's utilisation of river water under the Bachawat Award.

Telangana State had represented to the Centre several times that it should first resolve its concerns including re-allocation of Krishna water by constituting a new tribunal, illegal diversion of water by neighbouring AP for its projects without approvals or water allocation.

It also explained that the Srisaalam project was basically for power generation and submitted the documents related to it.

Sources said that handing over irrigation projects to the Centre through KRMB and GRMB was fraught with risks for both the States in the long run.

Modi unveils Rs 100 L-cr master...

Continued from page 1

Stating that high logistics cost in India at 13 per cent of GDP was impacting competitiveness in exports, he said PM Gati Shakti is aimed at reducing both logistic cost and turnaround time.

This, he said, will give a boost to India as an investment destination.

The Prime Minister said the speed and scale that India is witnessing under his government was never seen in the previous 70 years of independence.

Giving examples, he said the first inter-state natural gas pipeline was commissioned in 1987. From then to 2014, 15,000-km of the natural gas pipeline was built.

Currently, more than 16,000-km of the new gas pipeline is being constructed.

Aryan Khan WhatsApp chats...

Continued from page 1

Aryan Khan, 23, was arrested along with Arbaaz Merchant and six others after the raid on the cruise on October 2.

Aryan Khan's lawyer Amit Desai stressed that no drugs were found on him when officers in disguise raided a rave party on the ship. In fact, he was not even on the ship when the raids started, he argued.

"The allegation of illicit trafficking is inherently absurd. This boy who has nothing, he was not even on the vessel. It is an absurd and false allegation," said Mr Desai, who is

also actor Salman Khan's lawyer.

He also claimed Aryan Khan "had no cash" when he was on the ship, so he could not have bought drugs. The NCB dismissed the argument, saying Aryan Khan used to source his drugs from Arbaaz Merchant.

"Even though from some accused persons there is no recovery or recovery of small quantity of contraband, the participation by acts and omissions of such persons who have acted in concert, conspiracy in the commission of offences forms the basis of this investigation," said the bureau.

CM's wife, daughter-in-law take part in 'Bathukamma'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's wife Shobha, daughter-in-law Shailima, and other women family members participated in Bathukamma festivities on Wednesday.

Shobha, Shailima, wife of Minister KT Rama Rao, and others played Bathukamma at Pragati Bhavan, the official residence of the Chief Minister. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister has greeted people on the eve of Saddula Bathukamma, the last day of the Poola Bathukamma.



The floral festival of Telangana, which began on October 6, will end on October 14.

Women sing and dance around specially arranged flowers during the folk festival. Ever since the formation of

Telangana in 2014, Bathukamma is being celebrated as the state festival.

The Chief Minister's daughter and state legislator K Kavitha has been playing a key role in promoting the festival.

This year, Telangana Jagruthi, headed by Kavitha, brought together music maestro AR Rahman and filmmaker Gautham Vasudev Menon for a song on Bathukamma.

According to Telangana Jagruthi, Bathukamma festival is an integral part of Telangana and it identifies with the cultural identity of the people from the state across the globe.

TS gets 7 of 14 judges appointed to 3 High...

Continued from page 1

Between August 8 and September 1, the apex court collegium had processed over 100 names recommended by various High Courts and had finally sent 68 names to the government for appointment as judges to 12 High Courts.

Later, more names were sent to the government. On October 11, three advocates and two judicial officers were elevated as judges of the

Rajasthan High Court.

On October 9, eight judges were elevated as Chief Justices of High Courts and five High Court Chief Justices were transferred based on recommendations made by the Supreme Court collegium.

In a separate development, seven judges were on October 11 transferred to different High Courts.

On October 5, as many as 15 judges of 11 High Courts were transferred.

Arvind sets 72-hour deadline...

Continued from page 1

The orders were sent to the GHMC Commissioner, Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration, Engineer-in-Chief (PH) and the HMWSSB MD to conduct meeting with all engineering contractors, outsourced staff agencies; Municipal Administration Department engineering teams and town planning teams, sanitation staff, electricity department Deputy EE, EE; and all builders and developers to specifically direct all concerned that no manhole, openings on footpath, any other such dangerous cavities, open electrical wires are left unattended anywhere. Ward councillor or corporators and all ward members should also be sensitised in this regard and any such dangerous or dark or vulnerable spots should be notified, the Special Chief Secretary instructed. He said that in several of the recent incidents, the cause prima facie appeared to be avoidable safety lapses on the part of the field level staff.

The memo reads: "Reasons like negligence in timely undertaking preventive maintenance, absence of adherence to safety protocols at work sites, failure to put safety barricading / danger sign boards or insufficient illumination, etc are resulting in avoidable mishaps taking precious human lives. Such mistakes or negligence of the field staff coupled with supervisory lapses on the part of senior officers are resulting in such accidents denting the image of the

municipal bodies."

The memo added that any negligence on part of the staff will not be tolerated anymore. "It should be their endeavour to ensure safety of workers as well as the civilians by taking reasonable precautions at all work sites. In case of any mishap, henceforth, the jurisdictional staff shall be primarily held responsible and if any sort of negligence is found on their part, they will be made personally liable for the criminal misconduct leading to human injuries or loss of lives. Immediate action including suspension and criminal negligence against the concerned head of the executing agency, HOD and Municipal Commissioner will be initiated, in case any such negligence is noticed henceforth."

Renowned mobile sales outlet in south India the Big C has announced attractive festival offers to customers for Dasara, including maximum cash back offer of Rs 10,000 on Samsung mobile phones, Rs 7,000 instant discount on OnePlus mobiles and Rs 6,000 on iPhones.

In a statement on Wednesday, chairman-cum-managing director of the Big C Balu Chowdary explained that there is 10 per cent cash back on all mobiles and facility to pay in easy installments without any down payment and interest. He said that

Big C offers festival offers to customers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Big C offers the following other cash back offers including Rs 3,500 through Bajaj Finance, Rs 1,500 through ICICI bank, Rs 3,500 through Amazon Pay, 15 per cent cash back on Oppo mobiles through PayTM Mall, Rs 3000 on MI mobiles, 10 per cent on Vivo phones and Rs 4000 on Oppo Mobiles.

A cash back offer of Rs 4,000 has been announced on MI TV sets. Brand Ambassador of the firm Mahesh Babu asked customers to make use of the festival offers.

the buyer of a mobile phone is entitled to get a sure prize.

KT Rama Rao said that the party has completed the organisational restructuring recently as per the TRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's instructions.

Party committees have been formed from the grassroots-level in all 12,767 gram panchayats, in over 3,600 wards, mandals, bastis and divisions in all the constituencies.

The associated committees have also been constituted in all the above areas and details of all committees have been submitted to the party central office.

As per the TRS by-laws and norms, the election of party president should be held once in two years on the party's foundation day on April 27 followed by the plenary. However, the general body / plenary and presidential election could not be held due to general elections in 2019, the Covid-19 induced lockdown in April 2020 and again in April 2021.

The situation has improved now and a majority of the population in the State has been administered the vaccine and in one month, it is expected to reach 100 percent, KTR said.

Party general secretary Srinivas Reddy will be the Returning Officer for the election.

After the election on October 25, the plenary will continue with the party president in the chair to discuss State-level issues, issues related to interest of the State, people's problems and government's policies and programmes. The plenary session will introduce the resolutions to be adopted.

KTR said former Speaker S Machusudhana Chary will be the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee and he will decide the resolution to be taken up.

On October 17, KCR will address a joint meeting of Legislative and Parliamentary Party members at Telangana Bhavan.

Asked about the appointment of TRS working president, KTR said the post is not elected but appointed by the party president.

Sources said that KCR is the undisputed leader of the party and the election is a mere formality conducted in line with the party by-laws. There will be no surprises unless the party president has someone else in mind for the post.

TRS plenary session after...

Continued from page 1

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2 cr people...

Continued from page 1

Over 38,000 samples were tested today, taking the cumulative number of specimens examined to over 2.69 crore.

The samples tested per million population were over 7.23 lakh, the bulletin said.

The Case Fatality Rate in the state was 0.58 per cent, while it was 1.3 per cent at the national level, the bulletin said.

The recovery rate in Telangana was 98.78 per cent. It was 98.04 per cent in the country.

Meanwhile, the state government suspended the vaccination programme from October 14-17 due to Dussehra festival, an official release said.

Jairam, Owaisi attack Rajnath for his 'Gandhi-Savarkar...'

Continued from page 1

"He was an icon of Indian history and will remain so. There can be a difference of opinion about him, but to look down on him as inferior is not appropriate and not justifiable...." Singh said, adding that the hatred towards Savarkar is "illogical".

"Lies are spread about Savarkar repeatedly. It was spread that he filed many mercy petitions seeking his release from jails.... It was Mahatma Gandhi who asked him to file the mercy petitions...." the defence minister said.

In a series of tweets, Owaisi said, "IMHO, whoever wrote this speech for you should be fired. It's not good to have advisers who

Savarkar sought general amnesty...

Continued from page 1

Responding to a query, Ranjit Savarkar said no one is demanding that Veer Savarkar be called the Father of the Nation because this concept itself was not acceptable to him. "My grandfather had sought a general amnesty for all the political prisoners. If he had really apologised to the British, he would have been given some post," he said. Speaking at a function in Delhi on Tuesday, Rajnath Singh said that it was on Mahatma Gandhi's request that Veer Savarkar wrote mercy petitions to the British and people from the Marxist and Leninist ideology wrongly accuse him as a fascist. On Wednesday, some opposition leaders attacked Rajnath Singh, alleging that he was "trying to rewrite history".

have a Savarkarite relationship to truth" while countering Singh's view.

"Rajnath Singhji is amongst the few sober and dignified voices in

Modi Sarkar. But he doesn't seem to be free of the RSS habit of rewriting history. He has given a twist to what Gandhi actually wrote on Jan 25 1920. Here is that

letter to Savarkar's brother," Ramesh said on Twitter while sharing the letter.

"Rajnath Singh has clearly blown Gandhi's letter of Jan 25 1920 out of context. Not surprising. This is par for the course for the BJP/RSS," he said in another tweet.

Defending Savarkar, BJP MP Rakesh Sinha tweeted "Congress opposes Savarkar ji who never integrated with British administration and exhibited the highest sacrifice for the Motherland. However, some people had regular dining at Mountbatten's home."

BJP IT cell in-charge Amit Malviya in a tweet quoted Gandhi on Savarkar "he is clever.

France invites KTR to speak at Ambition India...

Continued from page 1

The French Ambassador's invitation to KTR said: "I would hence like to invite you to participate in person in Ambition India 2021, as a keynote speaker after the roundtable 'Growth: Drafting the future of Indo-French relations in a post-Covid era'."

"It would be an honour for us to welcome you at the French Senate and organise high-level meetings for you with the French investors,"

the French Envoy added.

KTR expressed happiness over receiving the invitation and stated that the Forum would be a great global platform to highlight the investment opportunities existing in Telangana.

Several roundtables on doing business in India, healthcare, climate, digital transformation as well as agro-business will be held afterward, while the afternoon session will be devoted solely to B2B meetings between French and Indian

companies.

This business event organised under the high patronage of the French President Emmanuel Macron aims to foster trade and investment relations between France and India. It enables companies to be aware of the challenges of the Indian market as well as learn more about investment opportunities through updates on the Indian government's economic policies and regulatory specificities.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹235
Without Skin	₹255
Broiler at Farm	₹129
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	398
VISAKHAPATNAM	470
VIJAYAWADA	441
RETAIL PRICE	₹3.98
(IN HYDERABAD)	

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After giving its best shot with Covid vaccines, Hyderabad is getting ready to manufacture Covid treatment crubs.

Drug manufacturers from Hyderabad are on the cusp of manufacturing 'molnupiravir' – the first antiviral drug to treat Covid-19.

Hyderabad-based Everest Organics Ltd (EOL) announced on Tuesday that it started making the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) for a generic version of Merck & Co's experimental antiviral drug molnupiravir to treat mild to moderate Covid-19.

The Indian bulk drugs manufacturer joins Divi's Laboratories Ltd as an API maker for Merck's experimental oral drug. In May this year, Divi's Labs announced that it is the authorized manufacturer for molnupiravir API.

Dr Srikakarlalapati Sirisha, Chief Executive Officer, Everest Organics Limited - New Product Development said that after the successful development and commercialisation of various Covid-19 drugs such as Oseltamivir, Remdesivir and Posaconazole, the company is looking to expand this portfolio and hence has developed an additional Covid-19 treatment API in that segment.



Hyderabad based Dr Reddy's, Optimus Pharma,

Hetero and Natco Pharma are leading in their trials and they plan to seek approval from the DCGI by October-end or at least in November.

Merck earlier this month sought US emergency use authorisation for the drug, putting molnupiravir on course to become the first oral antiviral medication for Covid-19.

It may be mentioned here that the data showed molnupiravir nearly halved the risk of hospitalisation or death in at-risk non-hospitalised patients with mild-to-moderate Covid-19.

The United States has agreed

to purchase 1.7 million courses of molnupiravir for US\$1.2 billion, which works out to about \$700 per 5-day course.

However, Merck is allowing three generic manufacturers to make its pill in India which could cost less. Those deals allow the manufacturers to set their own price and in India it could come down to Rs 850 to Rs 1,000 for the full course.

A healthcare expert opined that Indian generic companies manufacturing molnupiravir would bring down the prices to affordable levels. "The ease of making this drug will enable rapid scale up unlike vaccines," the expert said.

'Telangana Vijaya Garjana' mega public meet on Nov 15

Continued from page 1

He said that after November 15, party district offices which are ready, would be inaugurated. This would be followed by training sessions for party workers.

To a question, KTR said district committees and convenors and State Committee would be constituted after the election of TRS president on October 25.

Ground-level corruption dents image of TS police department

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The corruption among ground-level police officials is costing the department too much.

Police personnel at the ground-level ignore violations of rules by hotels, restaurants and pubs. The open distribution of narcotic drugs by peddlers has been ignored by the police in the Old City. A special operation by an official of Joint Commissioner of Police (JCP) rank had busted the links of the police with ganja peddlers. The suspension of the Mangalhat Inspector has raised questions about police corruption in other areas.

On September 30, as part of Operation Ganja, a police team led by JCP AR Srinivas searched Dhoolpet, Mangalhat and Karwan areas of the Old City. Around 150 persons who were consuming ganja and who had come to buy



ganja were arrested.

Ganja peddlers were arrested in a big way in that area only during this operation. A press meet was arranged the next day by JCP AR Srinivas.

Inspectors of Mangalhat, Dhoolpet, and Karwan and other staffers of these police

stations didn't know about this operation until its execution. Hurt by the development, the Inspectors were not seen at the press meet. They did not answer the media on that day. They just told the media that they didn't know anything about 'Operation Ganja'.

On October 10, Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar issued suspension orders to Mangalhat Inspector G Ranveer Reddy, Mangalhat Sub Inspector K Ramu Naidu and M Venkat Kishan of Shahinyatgani. These suspensions were triggered by Operation Ganja, sources said. Although they knew about ganja peddling in their area they neglected the issue or were bribed by the ganja peddlers.

A discussion has now started in the Department about police personnel ignoring violations of the law and willfully not showing interest in tackling them.

On September 22, a mobile phone camera was found in the washroom of women at a restaurant in Jubilee Hills. The next day, the police issued orders to all restaurants and pubs to inspect washrooms and other places. But now there are many violations in

those restaurants and pubs.

After getting information about a parcel containing drugs from Mumbai with a Hyderabad address, the NCB alerted their staff and the local police to check all pubs regarding drug peddling. After two days, it has become routine again. The NCB focuses on drug transport and the police have to focus on drug peddling, where they are compromising allegedly.

Social activist K Srinivas said, "The police will move only if they get a complaint. Otherwise, there is no such practice of them keeping an eye on all those places. Drugs are available at pubs and ganja is available on the streets. All these can be detected only if ground level police personnel acts sincerely, but that is not happening.

There are allegations that they are getting bribes from drug peddlers, and that is why they are ignoring violations."

Traffic violators learning lessons, thanks to Telangana traffic cops

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Realising that they are on the police radar, many people who violate traffic rules have been correcting themselves after being fined once by the police.

Many people who violate traffic rules like those not wearing helmets, have become disciplined after being fined by the police. Realising the gravity of the situation, they have become quick learners and are now wearing helmets, observing lane discipline and not jumping signals.

Every year, the traffic police impose fines in around one crore cases. Of the total number of violators, those who violated rules just once constitute nearly 75 per cent of the offenders. Now they are taking extra precautions not to violate traffic rules a second time.

It is mandatory for all two-wheel riders to wear helmets to protect themselves from head injuries in case of accidents. The police have been conducting awareness programmes asking the public to follow traf-



fic rules and avoid accidents.

But some others have been throwing norms to the winds and the police have been imposing fines on them through contact and non-contact methods. The traffic police are cracking the whip on violators with the help of the cameras they have and CCTV

cameras.

Deputy Commissioner of Police LS Chowhan said that many motorists have been taking precautions not to violate traffic rules a second time after being fined once by the police. He added that this is indeed a welcome development.

Two persons held for theft of copper coils

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The CCS LB Nagar team of Rachakonda, along with Kandukur Police on Wednesday nabbed two habitual offenders involved in theft of copper coils from transformers. Officials seized Rs 18.60 lakh cash along with 160 kilos of copper coils, four bikes and a car from them.

Police said that they have detected the involvement of the accused, Nandulal Rajbar, 35, and Abhimanyu Rajbar, 29, in 77 cases. Two more associates, Sahdev, 30, and Rahul Rajbar, 26, were reportedly absconding. "They were involved in 28 cases in Rachakonda, 3 cases in Cyberabad, 42 cases in Vikarabad and 4 cases in Sangareddy. They had damaged 196 transformers by stealing copper wires from them," police said.

The two police teams made efforts with help from the fingerprint team and IT core team and apprehended the duo on Wednesday morning 6 am while they were proceeding in a car under suspicious circumstances at Lemur crossroads in Kandukur. Upon questioning, they revealed their names and also confessed



the commission in property offences, said the police.

"Nandulal is a habitual offender from Uttar Pradesh and came to Hyderabad in the year 2001 when he was 15-years-old along with his relative Jairam Rajbar to work at Nacharam. After 5 years, unsatisfied with his earnings, he hatched a plan to commit property offences with his friends - Santosh and Ghani - and stole scrap materials in Nacharam, following which they were arrested and sent to Cheralapally jail in 2012. Post the release, he formed a gang of 7 with one Raj Patel and Abhimanyu Rajbar and committed 32 copper coil thefts from transformers and was remanded from Yacharam," explained the police.

They were now arrested and remanded to judicial custody by the Rachakonda police.

Man bludgeons wife suspecting her fidelity

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A woman was bludgeoned to death by her husband at Tappachabutra early on Wednesday morning.

The victim was identified as Mangamma, 40. She was married to Srinivas, 45, a daily wage worker. The couple were residing at Markandiah Nagar along with their children.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the couple quarreled frequently. "Srinivas used to suspect his wife's fidelity and the couple had abusive arguments over the issue. He kept questioning his wife's character and used to shout at her. On Tuesday evening too, the couple had an argument and their son Vishnu had intervened to pacify them" said the Tappachabutra Police.

However, early on Wednesday morning Srinivas woke up and smashed his wife's head using a heavy boulder. Their daughter rushed her to Osmania General Hospital where the doctors declared her dead. The body was shifted to the OGH mortuary.

HMDA to accept requests for 'Sunday Funday' stalls

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Following the huge success of the 'Sunday Funday' event on Tank Bund, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) is receiving a number of requests from vendors to set up stalls at the event.

The HMDA has accordingly invited those desirous of setting up a stall mainly handicrafts, handlooms, eateries or similar to send email with details of their products, price list and contact details to ea2ps-maud@telangana.gov.in and hciphmda@gmail.com.

Alternatively, a written request may also be submitted every Monday and Tuesday from 11am to 2pm at the Buddha Purnima Project Authority office of HMDA, a release said.

All the requests will be carefully examined and henceforth, the stalls will be given for



two Sunday-Funday events in a row to each vendor with a fixed nominal fee.

The selection will be by draw of lots in each category giving an equal chance to eligible interested agencies/individuals.

The stalls, particularly food stalls, must maintain high quality standards, and it is mandatory for each stall to display

the price list and stick to those prices. Water bottles and other packed items must be sold as per the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) only.

Additionally, any individual/group wanting to perform a musical/instrumental/any other art form may send their request at the above email ids which will be considered to encourage local talent.

Man stabbed to death on road in Chandrayangutta

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A person was stabbed to death on the road in broad daylight at Chandrayanagutta on Wednesday. The victim died on the spot.

The accused persons pulled the deceased person Hameed Jubedi, 47, out of the car and murdered him.

Hameed used to work as a consultant of Western Union Money Transfer agency. He used to look after currency exchange for them. He had three friends named Adil Jabri, Syed Jabri and Arif Jabri. These friends were also involved in a few currency transactions.

Years back, a case was registered against the four including the accused and the deceased by the Customs Department regarding a transaction. From then, the suspects had been asking Hameed to remove their names from the case and to take sole responsibility for the case.



But, Hameed had rejected their pleas. His relatives said the three suspects were brothers and that they had warned Hameed to either solve the case or they would kill him.

On Wednesday, at around 4 pm, while Hameed was travelling in the car, the suspects attacked him with knives and hit him with a stone. The suspects are absconding.

Sub Inspector Venkatesh of Chandrayanagutta Police Station, who was investigating the case said, "They had disputes regarding a customs case. We have identified them and are searching for them."

Youth drowned in waterfall at Balasamudram

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A youth from Balasamudram locality of Hanamkonda drowned in the pool of water at the Bheemunipadam waterfall near Sitanagaram on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Diniki Saikrishna, 18. He along with his two friends had gone to the waterfall. It is said that Saikrishna drowned while the trio was swimming in the pool of the waterfall.

'VACCINATION HOLIDAY' Nine-day break for vaccination in state

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The State government of Telangana has declared a 'vaccination holiday' for a total of nine days in October.

Accordingly, there will be no vaccination across the State on October 14, 15 and 16, as well as the five Sundays in the month — October 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31.

It may be mentioned here that in view of the festive sea-

son, October 15 and 16 were declared holidays.

However, Medical and Health personnel had appealed to Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to grant a break to the vaccination on October 14 as well.

The Chief Minister agreed to their request and directed Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar to give a break to the vaccination programme on Thursday as well.

City sales up due to north Indian style of buying

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The massive spike in sale of residential housing in Hyderabad, unlike in the rest of the country, has taken not only realtors but also the government by surprise.

While other cities have recorded above 100 percent sales, Hyderabad registered up to 300 percent increase in sales in the last quarter. Despite this surge in sales, several units are still available. Flats, during pre-sales, are selling like hot cakes while main sales have been dull. There are many big builders in the city who have vacant flats despite having all the credentials.

Experts opine that this is the influence of the 'North Indian' style of buying property.

C Shekar Reddy, Chairman of CII Indian Green Building Council, Hyderabad said, "This North Indian culture has recently come in, as undivided share sales was never a phenomenon in South India. Many flats are sold in UDS sales but



when the actual sales begin, flats are unsold. When people have the money, they tend to believe that they are investing in flats that will yield the most."

He said that customers are not taking into account when the flat will be delivered and this factor is hurting regular developers. "This problem came to the fore in the last two years, despite RERA. Builders are circumventing regulations. If someone is selling at cut-throat price, the question as to how they would construct the flat arises," Shekar Reddy said. He pointed out that the

prices of steel, cement and sand, as well as labour costs are bound to increase.

"This cut-throat pricing is not good for industry. The new guys in the market are not well aware of the fluctuating construction costs. South India never had such issues but this started in the last two-three years. Affordability has to be kept in check if we want people to come to Hyderabad," Shekar Reddy said.

Interest rates on house loans have also been reduced and people are trying to get the best possible house at the

lowest rate, irrespective of the delivery date. This apart, most of the people investing are either second home buyers or NRIs. The cultural change that is happening among end-users is evident from the fact that earlier, the communication was always between the end-user and developer. However there has been an increase in middlemen these days, say realtors.

CREDAI national vice-president G Ram Reddy said, "Realtors are concerned as UDS pre-sales are hurting the market a lot. Main sales are not as hot as in pre-sales where everybody is investing in land. This is leading to an increase in land prices. Investors are reaching out to developers without experience through brokers. Now we also have brokers like NCR in Hyderabad. The brokers are taking as high as 6 percent which used to be about 2 to 3 percent," he said.

He said that some people are pooling money to give as

advance and they then are extracting this money from customers. "It has become a chain where the lead broker has sub-broker and this network has become strong. It is not a very good sign for industry," Ram Reddy said.

Experts urge people to consider carefully if their project will be realised or not and not be misled by the seemingly low price offered.

Experts point out that huge discounts are also double-edged swords.

TREDA President R Chalapathi Rao said, "Price resistance will become a problem for developers and discounts are becoming a concern. Even developers are wondering if they should tell who has purchased for how much."

He said that customers want to know the rate and if the prices increase they forget the inventory costs and all. Apart from inventory costs, there are a lot of additional costs. Discounts are a double edged sword," he said.

Nehru Zoo Park to get two pairs of Eastern Grey Kangaroos from Japan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park will get two pairs of Eastern Grey Kangaroos from Japan.

Nehru Zoological Park Curator VVL Subhadra Devi announced on Wednesday that they will be a part of the Zoo family in the coming months. The kangaroos will come from Japan's Yokohama Zoo.

The curator made the announcement when Hyderabad-based Gland Pharmaceutical Ltd came forward to donate Rs 20 lakh for the construction and maintenance of the kangaroo enclosure at the Nehru Zoological Park.

Gland Pharmaceutical Ltd's CSR head, Raghuram, and CSR members P. Sampath Kumar, and Swathi visited the zoo and presented the cheque. The work for the enclosure will be taken up during 2021-22.

Later, Raghuram and his



team members, along with the zoo officials, visited all the animal enclosures and appreciated their maintenance and upkeep. They further promised to continue their support in the financial year 2022-2023.

Subhadra Devi thanked Raghuram and other officials of Gland Pharmaceuticals for showing a great gesture towards the development and maintenance of the kangaroo

enclosure. She said that in this pandemic season, this contribution will be very helpful in development of infrastructure like animal moats without compromising the development of the zoo due to paucity of funds.

She appealed to all the citizens and corporates to come forward to adopt the animals and take part in the conserving the wildlife in the zoo.

TS to develop Mallanna Vanam reserve forest to woo tourists

PNS ■ SIDDIPEET

The State government of Telangana has plans to develop Mallanna Vanam in the rest of the reserve forest area, excluding the 50 tmc Mallanna Sagar reservoir area, in Siddipet district.

The state government has directed the forest officials to develop 3,467.02 hectares of the reserve forest area (excluding the inundated forest area of 1,327.45 hectares under Mallanna Sagar), which is adjacent to Rajiv Rahadari, as Mallanna Vanams.

Tourists from Hyderabad are flocking to Mallanna Sagar reservoir as it is very close to the national highway. Therefore, Forest officials have drawn up plans to develop the area into a tourist spot.

There are many flora and fauna species in the forest area. From Lakudaram in Siddipet district, the forest area spreads over an area of 20 kilometers. On the directions from the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, the



authorities are planting ayurvedic plants in vacant spaces in the forest area. To prevent soil erosion, trenches have been dug up at various places and various species of plants have been planted on their bunds. The plant species include aloe vera, basil, bam-

boo, lemon grass and so on. As part of reforestation, teak, neem and other species have been planted.

Plans are afoot to lay a road for a distance of 1.5 km from Lakudaram to the forest area. Funds have been released for the purpose. Proposals have

been sent to the government for the road project spending Rs 9 crore. At elevated places, watch towers would be built for the benefit of tourists to enable them to take a look at the beauty of the forest.

An entrance plaza would be set up near Lakudaram, con-

sisting of a ticket sales counter, security room, rest room etc.

Land was surveyed from the south eastern part of Kondapaka reserve forest to Vemulaghat, which is on the north-west side of Sirisinagandla reserve forest.

The Ankareddy tank, with a depth of 65 feet, presents a pleasant view of a lake nestled among hillocks in the forest area. The tank, which spreads up to half a km, has water up to 2.5 tmc, according to Forest Officer Sridhar.

The officials have identified over 150 minor ponds in the forest area, spread over 3467.02 hectares. The ponds have been restored to have water. These are useful for wild animals to quench their thirst.

There are over 15 check dams in the forest area. They help recharge the ground waters in the region. There are many water springs as well. The officials say that the forest is home to several species of fauna, including wild boars, wild goats, peacocks, deer and rabbits.

Niranjan Reddy calls Revanth a stooge of Chandrababu Naidu

‘When kicked in Kodangal, Revanth landed in Malkajiri’

PNS ■ WANAPARTHI

Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy has called the TPC president Revanth Reddy a stooge of former Chief Minister and TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu and called him a culprit in the note for vote case that surfaced in new state of Telangana.

He accused Revanth Reddy of making a big to malign the image of Telangana bringing the note for vote case to the fore. Niranjan Reddy called him a drop of poison in milk.

Addressing media here on Wednesday, the Minister accused Revanth of trying to sling mud on the TRS government by convening the Nirudyoga Jang Siren meeting.

He called Revanth Reddy as the Sampooranesh Babu of politics. The Minister accused Revanth Reddy of visualising himself as a hero with the help of four AP TV channels and eight YouTube channels and felt that he is useless for the people. Was it not the handiwork of Congress that allowed the lands of Mahabubnagar



district to go parched, he queries. Mahabubnagar district earned the dubious distinction of having the highest migrations from the district by people in search of livelihood, he said quoting Revanth as saying when he was in the TDP.

The Congress should be accountable for the death of migrant workers from the district, starvation deaths in the district and for the suicide trend in the district till 2014, Niranjan Reddy said recalling how Revanth Reddy criticised the Congress when he was in TDP.

When the TRS kicked him in Kodangal, he fell in Malkajiri, he said criticising

him for becoming an MP with support of Andhra voters. The people of the state are aware of this, he remarked.

The Minister said that Revanth Reddy would never be able to get the love of the people of Mahabubnagar, except blessings from AP people.

It is impossible for the Congress to come to power in Telangana, he said recalling how Revanth prostrated before the then Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy for a ministerial berth in his Cabinet.

It was everybody's knowledge how Revanth wrote reports in favour of Pothreddy Padu, a bone of contention between AP and Telangana, he said.

Instead of going through survey numbers in RR district and in the vicinity of Hyderabad, the minister advised Revanth to know the history of irrigation projects of Palamuru district before opening his mouth.

Was it not the Congress that destroyed the Rajoli Banda Diversion Scheme ayacut lands and stretched the execution of Jurala project, he questioned.

Cotton Corporation ready to pay support price for produce

PNS ■ NALGONDA

If support price is not available for cotton in the private market, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is ready to pay the support price and buy quality cotton, Additional Collector Vanamala Chandra Shekhar has informed.

A review meeting on cotton procurement was held at the collector's conference hall on Wednesday, which was attended by officials of CCI, Marketing, Police, Agriculture, Weights and Measures departments and ginning mill owners. At present, the price of cotton in the private market ranges from Rs 6,600 to Rs 6,800 per quintal. If the price falls, CCI will have to pay a support price of Rs 6,025 per quintal to buy cotton.



The meeting directed Transport Department officials to discuss and fix the cost of transportation, as well as Electricity Department officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the ginning mills.

Meanwhile, Fire Department officials were ordered to inspect the ginning mills and take precautionary measures to prevent fire accidents.

Pharmacies warned against selling drugs without doctor's prescription

PNS ■ NALGONDA

DIG AV Ranganath has warned owners of medical shops and agencies in the district against selling narcotics without a doctor's prescription. "Action will be taken against them under the PD Act," he added.

During a meeting with representatives of all the medical shops in the district and Chemists and Druggists Association members at the District Police Office on Wednesday, the DIG said that the Chief Minister had given a clear directive to take strict action on drug abuse by youngsters. They were working towards making the district cannabis-free. Medical shop managers are often asked to



give information to the police as young people are attracted towards synthetic drugs because the transportation and sale of marijuana is risky. He said the details of those who provide information would be kept confidential and at the same time, necessary steps would be taken to give them protection.

Ranganath warned that

under no circumstances should intoxicants be sold without a doctor's prescription, and that anyone who sells them against the rules would be punished. It would result in the revocation of licences of medical shops and the registration of the PD Act. Everyone should abide by the law and government regulations, he added.



BJP aghast at Rajender's omissions, commissions

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Lack of courage of conviction, emotional leakages, inability to present a clear perspective, making wrong statements, not responding to challenges posed by the TRS, making statements with lack of maturity have apparently dogging six-time MLA and two-time former Minister Eatala Rajender, who was made to eat a humble pie by the TRS Minister and trouble-shooter T Harish Rao.

The BJP leaders are worried over the piquant behaviour of Eatala. "Was he made these remarks out of his senses or lack of it," the worried BJP leaders feel.

Unable to read the mind of Eatala, a senior BJP leader wishing to remain anonymous, felt that Eatala was not clear on what he will do if elected, but making pointless statements harping on unnecessary things. He is spreading falsehoods.

The BJP leader feels that the party's image is at stake because of all these things. "Even educated have been criticising," he remarked.

Using the bad words like 'Kodakaa' or 'Naa Kodakallaaraa' and trying to gain sympathy of voters alleging threat to his life from the TRS would not go well with the people, he said, adding that voters need more clarity.



RSS workers told to work hard for 'Akhanda Bharat'

PNS ■ JAGITYAL

RSS regional Seva Pramukh Vasu has called upon RSS trainees to set their best foot forward to achieve Akhanda Bharat.

He was participating at the valedictory function of the seven-day preliminary training programme for district-level RSS workers held here on Wednesday.

He said that the RSS has been striving hard for the past 96 years to unite Hindus. Now, the Hindus can proudly claim to be Hindus, he added.

He expressed concern over Pakistan trying to grab Indian land with Chinese help and noted that the present government at the Centre was not weak like earlier ones.

The RSS has been striving to eliminate some of the ills of Hindu society, including untouchability.

Oil palm guarantees profits: Pocharam

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Assembly Speaker Pocham Srinivasa Reddy has termed oil palm cultivation as a profitable business. Participating as chief guest in the oath taking cere-

mony of the new market committee here on Wednesday, he said the introduction of reservations in agricultural market committees would render justice to all sections of society. He asked the farmers to

think afresh to earn profits. He asked them to grow vegetable crops.

Oil palm gives guaranteed profits, he added.

The Speaker requested farmers to make full use of state

government incentives and subsidies.

District Cooperative Central Bank chairman Pocharam Bhaskar Reddy and other elected public representatives took part in the function.



DC inspects godown storing electronic voting machines

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

District Collector P Uday Kumar inspected the godown at the Nellikonda Agriculture Market Yard near here on Wednesday where electronic voting machines (EVM) are kept and checked its seal. He also inspected the locks and other security related aspects.

The authorities are required to inspect EVMs once in every three months. There must be

effective supervision here, and there should be no scope for any untoward incidents, the Collector said.

Later, he called up district officials and told them to shift the Sakhi Centre in the town, which is operating from a rented building, close to the EVM godown.

Additional Collector Srinivasa Reddy and others were also present.

Special covers on state unsung heros released

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Icons of Telangana, Komaram Bheem, Chakali Ailamma and Raavi Narayana Reddy, who sacrificed their lives during Nizam rule were being honoured by the Telangana Postal Department. Apart from these icons, another special cover released on Urdu poet, Makhdoom Mohiuddin.

Under the theme of unsung heroes, on Wednesday, the Telangana Postal Circle officials have released special covers, in their birth places, along with the kith and kin of the icons, on the occasion of National Postal Week celebrations, which started on October 11, across the country.



The Hyderabad Regional Director of Postal Services, KA Devaraj, on Wednesday released a special postal cover to honour a former resident of Andole, Urdu poet and freedom fighter Makhdoom Mohiuddin, at the Andole sub-post office here in connection

with Philately Day. Municipal chairman Gudem Mallaiah, vice-chairman Praveen Kumar, postal AD Narendra Babu, public representatives, postal authorities, heirs of the poet including his son Jaffer Mohiuddin and others participated in the event.

Cops unite missing mentally challenged girl with parents

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Responding to a call received at the police control room, the Peddapalli Police on Wednesday searched for a missing mentally unsound girl and successfully reunited her with her parents.

A family belonging to Chhattisgarh had arrived here for employment. The daughter of the family, while playing with other girls, went missing.

The family complained to the police control room as their efforts to locate the girl did not succeed.

After receiving the call Sub Inspector Rajesh alerted the Blue Colts who looked for the girl in the area and found her walking on Cheekurai Road. They took her to her parents.

The girls' parents and other



family members thanked the police.

Valedictory of Bathukamma begins from Mahabubnagar

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Excise Minister Dr V Srinivas Goud has said that the valedictory function of Saddula Bathukamma will begin from Mahabubnagar this year.

He said that Dasara is being celebrated by the people of Telangana maintaining communal harmony. Addressing the media here under the aegis of the Dasara Utsav Committee and the Arya Samaj on Wednesday, he said that Dasara is being celebrated on a grand scale since

the last 70 years. He said that people of different faiths celebrating the festival is indeed a matter of joy. He hailed the Muslims taking part in the Bathukamma festival.

Fire crackers are being brought from Mumbai to celebrate Dasara.

District Collector Venkat Rao, SP Venkateswarly, ZP Chairman Swarna Sudhakar Reddy, Municipal Chairman KC Narasimhulu and others were present at the function.



Vinod releases 3 publications

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Planning Board Vice-chairman B Vinod Kumar on Wednesday released the government publications titled Telangana Journey, State Economy and Telangana Economy at his official residence and sent them to MPs, MLCs, MLAs, ZP chairmen, Collectors, SPs, Government secretaries and other officials along with a covering letter.

He opined that these publications are useful to students, people besides the elected people's representatives.

Eatala's wife, 11 others withdraw nominations

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

On the last day of withdrawing nominations on Wednesday, as many as 12 candidates withdrew their nominations from Huzurabad by-election race, leaving 30 contestants in the ring.

Spouse of Eatala Rajender, the BJP candidate, Eatala Jumuna too withdrew her nomination papers. However, the main contest will be between TRS party's Gellu Srinivas and BJP's Eatala Rajender. The TRS leadership took winning the Huzurabad

seat as a matter of prestige and leaving no stone unturned to wrest the seat from Rajender. The party deployed MLAs, MLCs, Ministers and other party functionaries to ensure Rajender's defeat in Huzurabad.

As the nominations phase concluded on Wednesday, the campaign will get more intense in the days to come. The by-election stirred up a lot of interest among the people of the state, as Eatala Rajender posed challenge to K Chandrashekar Rao's leadership.



Rs 1.45 cr unaccounted cash, 867 liters liquor, gold seized

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Returning officer for Huzurabad by-elections RV Karnan on Wednesday said that Rs 1,45,20,727 was seized through vigilance teams while being transported without permission.

Moreover, the by-poll will help the BJP to test the ground and feel the pulse of the people

prior to Assembly elections, due in two years. The polling would be held

These teams have conducted various checks and seized the amount.

Also seized were 30 grams of gold worth Rs 1.5 lakh, 867 litres of liquor worth Rs 5,11,652, 66 saris and 50 shirts worth Rs 2,21,000, 14 kg of silver worth Rs 9,10,000. Further, 3.51 kg ganja worth Rs 19,750 was also seized.

on October 30. The counting of votes will take place on November 2.

CBI, ED & NCB being misused to target Oppn: Sharad Pawar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday claimed that central agencies, including the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate and the Narcotics Control Bureau, were being misused to target the opposition. Referring to the Income Tax department's raids on entities linked to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, the NCP president while addressing a press conference here said personnel of the agencies have been conducting raids for the sixth day on Wednesday, which is very unusual.

"Central agencies, including the ED, CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) and NCB, are being misused," he claimed.



He also said the Mumbai Police's Anti-Narcotics Cell has done a better job than the NCB. The NCP, which shares power in Maharashtra with the Shiv

Sena and Congress, had earlier said it will face the onslaught of central agencies on its leaders and workers will full vigour. The I-T department had

raided entities linked to relatives of Ajit Pawar, a senior NCP leader, in the state. Senior NCP leader and former state minister Anil Deshmukh is also facing probe by central agencies on multiple charges.

The NCB recently conducted a number of raids, including on some high-profile people. Apart from the recent drugs bust onboard a cruise liner off the Mumbai coast, that led to the arrest of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, the NCB last year investigated a drug case linked to the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput and several other matters related to narcotics involving high-profile people.



Alliance with Samajwadi Party first priority, says Shivpal Yadav

PNS ■ AGRA

Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party president Shivpal Yadav on Wednesday said that his first priority is to form alliance with Samajwadi Party in the upcoming UP assembly polls but he did not rule out the possibility of a tie-up with other "secular" parties.

The PSP national president also claimed that the Samajik Pariwartin Rath Yatra that began on Tuesday in Vrindavan, Mathura, would conclude at the birthplace of the lord Rama in Ayodhya after going through 75 districts in the state.

Top JeM terrorist commander killed in Pulwama encounter

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Top terrorist commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) Sham Sofi was killed in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, police said.

Acting on specific inputs about the presence of terrorists in Tilwani Mohalla Waggad in the Tral area of Awantipora, in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there, a police official said.

He said an encounter broke out after the militants opened fire at the security personnel, who retaliated.

In the exchange of fire, a militant was killed, the official said. Inspector General of Police (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar said the slain terrorist



ist has been identified as Sham Sofi who was a top JeM commander. "Top JeM Commander 'ter-

rorist Sham Sofi killed in Tral 'Encounter,' the IGP said on Kashmir Zone Police's Twitter handle.



NIA arrests 9 terror associates after multiple raids in J&K

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

The NIA has arrested nine terror associates during searches at 18 locations in Jammu and Kashmir after registration of a case over a conspiracy launch attacks in the union territory and other major cities including New Delhi, an official said on Wednesday. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had registered the case on October 10 and initiated an investigation.

An NIA spokesperson said a total of nine people were arrested -- five on Wednesday and four a day earlier -- after multiple searches in different districts of the valley over the past two days. The NIA identified the five accused arrested on Wednesday as Mohammad Haneef Chirali and Arif Farooq Bhat of Srinagar, Hafeez of Budgam, Owais Dar of Pulwama and Mateen Bhat of Shopian.

"The NIA conducted searches at two locations in Srinagar and seized electronic devices and incriminating jihadi documents," the spokesperson said on Wednesday. The NIA also said during the day that four accused people -- Waseem Ahmad Sofi, Tariq Ahmad Dar, Bilal Ahmad Mir alias Bilal Fafu and Tariq Ahmad Bafanda, all residents of Srinagar -- were arrested during the searches carried out at 16 locations in Srinagar, Pulwama and Shopian districts on Tuesday.

Siddaramaiah and Yediyurappa junk Kumaraswamy's claims of 'secret meet'

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Chief Ministers Siddaramaiah and B S Yediyurappa on Wednesday rubbished JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy's claim that both leaders have had a secret late night meeting.

Kumaraswamy had yesterday claimed that the recent Income Tax raids on a person, who is said to be close aide of Yediyurappa, was an attempt by the BJP leadership to "control" him, following his alleged meeting with Siddaramaiah.

Congress stalwart Siddaramaiah challenged Kumaraswamy and said he will retire from politics, if it was proved that such a meeting took place. On the other hand, BJP veteran Yediyurappa termed it as



"far from truth and meaningless". "I had gone to meet Yediyurappa on his birthday. I had not met him personally as Chief Minister or as the Leader of Opposition. I have not met him (personally) till today. We both were in the same hospital when we were infected by Corona, even then we had not

met," Siddaramaiah said. Speaking to reporters in Kalaburgi, he claimed it is Kumaraswamy who repeatedly met Yediyurappa, when he was the CM.

"Let him (Kumaraswamy) prove that Yediyurappa and I have met, I will retire from politics.... While in opposition I

will never meet those in the ruling party, nor go to their office or house, it is the principle I follow....it (Kumaraswamy's claims) is blatant lies," he added. On the other hand, Yediyurappa, who took to social media to reject claims about his meeting with Siddaramaiah, without naming Kumaraswamy, said he has never compromised on the ideology he believes in and his only aim was to bring BJP back to power in Karnataka.

"Other than my birthday on February 27, 2020, I have not personally met Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah. I have no need to have such a meeting. We in the party are working to bring BJP back to power in the state," Yediyurappa tweeted.

Vijayan says K-Rail project inevitable for development; UDF walks out of Assembly

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday categorically rejected the concerns raised by the opposition UDF against the proposed semi-high speed rail project, saying that the over Rs 63,000 crore initiative is inevitable for the infrastructure development of the state and his government has a transparent approach in this regard.

The Congress-led opposition members strongly argued in the state Assembly that the mammoth project, named K-Rail project, would cause huge financial burden and severe environmental damage to the state and would not be beneficial for common men.

Abortion allowed till 24 weeks of pregnancy for select women

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has notified new rules under which the upper limit for termination of a pregnancy has been increased from 20 to 24 weeks for certain categories of women.

According to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2021, these categories include survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest, minors and women whose marital status changes during an ongoing pregnancy (widowhood and divorce) and women with physical disabilities.

The new rules also cover mentally ill women, cases of



foetal malformation that has a substantial risk of being incompatible with life or if the child is born it may suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities to be seriously handicapped and women with pregnancy in humanitarian settings or disaster or emergency situations as may be declared by the government.

NHRC-SHRCs meet to explore new areas of collaboration

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Representatives of the NHRC and State Human Rights Commissions (SHRC) on Wednesday met here to explore new areas of cooperation and share the best practices for promotion and protection of human rights, officials said. The meeting began in the morning at the Vigyan Bhawan in the presence of NHRC chairperson justice (ret'd) Arun Kumar Mishra.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) marked



its 28th foundation day on Tuesday.

The NHRC-SHRCs interface meeting is taking place here to "explore common and new areas of collaboration for the promotion and protection of human rights," a senior official said.

Video links Cong unit chief to scam; goes viral

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The Congress in Karnataka on Wednesday found itself in a tight spot after a video showed a purported conversation between the party media coordinator M A Saleem and former Lok Sabha member V S Ugrappa attributing the Congress State president D K Shivakumar's involvement in a scam when he was a Minister.

Taking strong exception to the clipping that went viral, Shivakumar said he cannot deny that the conversation did not take place and rejected the content of the conversation.

Acting swiftly, the party expelled Saleem from the party for six years and served a show-cause notice to Ugrappa, who is Congress spokesperson, seeking an explanation in three days.

The conversation is said to be related to the scams in the Irrigation Department in which Shivakumar was allegedly involved when he was Irrigation Minister in the coalition government of Congress-JD(S), which ran for 14 months and collapsed in June 2019.

However, Ugrappa clarified Saleem was only briefing him what the BJP people have been talking about the raids carried



out by the Income Tax (I-T) Department since October 7 against three major contractors executing irrigation and highway project on 47 premises in four States, including Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Court extends actor Leena Paul's custody

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has extended the custodial interrogation of actor Leena Maria Paul till October 16 in a money laundering case related to extortion of Rs 200 crore from a businessman's wife here.

Special Judge Parveen Singh also extended the ED custody of Paul's husband Suresh Chandrasekhar, an accused in 21 cases, by 11 days after the couple were produced before the court on October 12 on expiry of their 3-day custodial interrogation granted earlier.

The couple allegedly

duped former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh's wife Aditi Singh. The probe agency had sought the extension of couple's custody by 11 days each.

"After perusing the record, I find that to establish the money trail of the proceeds of crime and to confront the accused with the statements of other accused, further custodial interrogation of the accused is required. However, I do not find any grounds for sending accused Leena Maria Paul to ED custody for 11 days," the judge said.

Bengal zamindars' descendants follow Puja tradition

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The yellowing house with high ceilings and shuttered French windows covers an entire bloc on S N Banerjee Road in Janabazar area in the heart of Kolkata.

Turn around the corner, and one comes across a gated, high arched tunnel-like driveway into the palatial building which opens into a huge courtyard leading to a broad flight of stairs ending in a 'Thakur Dalan' (open hall of worship).

Dominating the 'dalan' framed by Corinthian columns is a tall Durga idol in dazzling traditional attire. As if on cue, the 'dhakis' (drummers) start playing and the womenfolk of the household begin ululating and blowing their conch shells.

This is the Durga Puja at Rani Rashmoni's palace, one of the oldest zamindar (estate owner) houses in this metropolis, which Mark Twain once described as a city of palaces.

Kolkata's palaces still boast of zamindari-style Durga Puja celebrations more than two centuries old, while mansions in outlying districts have even older celebrations.

Though the 'bonediana' (aristocratic traditions) has somewhat dimmed as these powerful families have lost their huge estates after the country's Independence and some split into multiple factions, nevertheless, the spirit of joie de vivre (joy of living) remains strong in these puja gatherings.

"Durga Puja here started in



1792. Unlike other idols, our Durga has 'Tapta Kanchan' (molten gold) colour.

Ramakrishna Paramhansa, among others, has blessed our courtyard," Prasun Hazra, a

descendant of the Rani Rashmoni family, said. Rani Rashmoni is known for

taking on the might of the East India Company in opposing attempts to tax Bengal's fishermen, and also establishing the massive Dakshineswar Kali Temple on the city outskirts and patronising Ramakrishna, whose disciple Swami Vivekananda set up a missionary order in his name.

Around 4.4 km away, stands Shovabazar Palace, the site of the city's two oldest family pujas.

The Durga Puja of the 'Choto Tara' (cadet branch) of the princely family founded by Maharaja Naba Krishna Deb, a rich zamindar who was a close confidante to Lord Robert Clive and Governor-General Warren Hastings, is a closed-door family affair and visitors are allowed only by prior appointment.

INDIA CORNER

Woman Army officer found hanging at military training institute in Pune

A 43-year-old woman officer of the Indian Army was found hanging at her official accommodation in the premises of the Military Intelligence Training School and Depot (MINTSD) here in Maharashtra on Wednesday, police said. The Army and the police suspect it to be a case of suicide. The incident came to light in the morning when the staff had gone to serve tea to the Lieutenant Colonel-rank officer. She was found hanging with a dupatta around her neck, an official said. According to the police, the Lieutenant Colonel had come to the MINTSD for training. She had some domestic issues and had filed for a divorce, said Namrata Patil, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone V). "We have launched a probe into the death," the DCP said. In a statement, the Army authorities have said that an incident of likely suicide by an officer has occurred in the premises of Military Intelligence Training School and Depot, Pune. The officer was undergoing a course at the institute, it said. A case with the civil police has been registered and the Army is providing all assistance in the investigation, the release said.

Savarkar never apologised to British, claims Shiv Sena's Raut

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday said Veer Savarkar had never apologised to the British, a day after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh claimed that the freedom fighter had written mercy petitions to the British on Mahatma Gandhi's request. Talking to reporters in Pune, Raut said freedom fighters who languish in jail for more than ten years can adopt a strategy thinking they can do something after coming out of jail instead of remaining inside. In politics or while serving imprisonment, a different strategy is adopted, Raut said. "If Savarkar had adopted any such strategy it cannot be called an apology. Savarkar might have done that (adopted a strategy). This cannot be called an apology. Savarkar never apologised to the British," he said. Raut, who had demanded Bharat Ratna for V D Savarkar on many occasions, said the freedom fighter, a Hindutva icon, has always been an ideal for his party. When asked about Rajnath Singh's statement on Savarkar, Raut said he was not aware of it. Rajnath Singh on Tuesday hailed Veer Savarkar as a staunch nationalist and India's first military strategist in the 20th century and said it was on Mahatma Gandhi's request that he wrote mercy petitions to the British and people from the Marxist and Leninist ideology wrongly accuse him as a fascist.

Govt withdraws travel advisory on Covid checks for those arriving from the UK

The government has withdrawn a travel advisory that added COVID-19 related additional checks and restrictions on those arriving from the UK after the British government ordered discontinuation of mandatory testing and quarantine norms for those vaccinated with Covishield travelling from India. In an official memorandum issued on October 11, the health ministry said that based on the evolving scenario, it has been decided that the revised guidelines stand withdrawn and the earlier guidelines on international arrival issued on February 17 shall be applicable to all travellers arriving in India from the UK. Earlier this month, India had said that all British nationals arriving in India from the UK will have to undergo a mandatory 10-day quarantine if they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. India's had made this announcement after the UK recognised Covishield vaccine produced by the Serum Institute of India but retained the 10-day quarantine period for fully vaccinated travellers from India.

FIRST COLUMN

CHANGING INNOVATION LANDSCAPE IN INDIA

India needs a futuristic approach to trigger innovation at the base of the pyramid



MOHIT GAMBHIR

Innovation in India has always been human centric. We innovate to resolve the problems of mankind, and to create a better life for the common people. Today, the scope of innovation and entrepreneurship spreads across all facets of life. Students, researchers and intellectuals are actively pursuing innovation and entrepreneurship as career options. India should move from coveted innovation to the open innovation model. Open Innovation model is a futuristic approach to instigate the innovation and entrepreneurship at the base of pyramid — at the level of society and educational institutions. The growth of new India can only be achieved by making open innovation pervasive and fuelled by the right kind of training, skill upgradation, reskilling, and apt infrastructural support at school and institutional level. As an interventional initiative, Ministry of Education has established an innovationcell at the All-India Council for Technical Education in 2018. Since then, the Ministry



of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) has taken multiple policy and program initiative to establish the world's biggest open innovation model at global stage. The Cell works on four pillars of excellence: Policy intervention; handholding of HEIs and schools, faculty and students; impact assessment and facilitating national and international platforms for Indian and global students. Initiatives like the Innovation Council in higher educational institutes has been purposed to streamline the ground level ecosystem and handholding of ideas from students.

The beginning of Smart India Hackathon, Toyathon, Singapore-India Hackathon, ASEAN India Hackathon between 11 countries, SAMADHAN Challenge, Ideathon for pandemic, Drug Discovery Hackathon, and Innovation Contest has set the foundation for world's biggest open innovation model and it is scaling at a rate where India could assimilate its new age innovative and aspirational human resource. As India is working relentlessly towards a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, it must look for alternative career opportunities in term of innovation and entrepreneurship. Inculcating the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in our youth is a challenging job and it cannot be simply achieved by flooding the market with investment opportunities, subsidies and grants. It requires a keenly calibrated system of innovation management, especially championing open innovation management at school and higher education level. For impact assessment, MIC has started Atal Ranking for Institution's on Innovation Achievements to measure the major indicators at the higher educational institute level. At industry and ecosystem level, NITI Aayog has started India Innovation Index on the line of Global Innovation Index by adapting non-traditional approaches for measuring innovation such as patents per million of population, publication in scientific journals, percentage of GDP spending on research. Empirical evidence suggests that innovation enables social welfare. Health innovations like penicillin use, transplants, and artificial limbs have saved and improved the quality of life of millions. Satellites, television and radio technologies are being used for the welfare of farmers and in disaster management. Modern farming equipment, fertilizers, Grameen Bank, microfinance and crop insurance schemes have raised agricultural productivity, improving food security and freeing up labour which can participate in other industries.

Nothing can progress without innovation and everything of today exists because of yesterday's innovation and invention. We need to innovate to accommodate evolving situations and needs and prepare a wonderful place to live in, not only for us but for our future generations as well.

(The writer is Director in the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. The views expressed are personal.)

Extending sympathies to the new laureate

Abdulrazak Gurnah has been grappling with his African identity and how it relates to the history of migrations and colonialism in East Africa



BALAKRISHNAN SATYAM

The French poet, Rene Proudhomme, who was the first Nobel Literature laureate in 1901, wrote in his famous 'The Broken Vase': Thus often does the hand we love, barely touching the heart, wound it. Then the heart cracks by itself and the flower of its love dies.

He's speaking of a delicate and vulnerable aspect of us, and how easily it can dry up. Literature has always been about sensitivity and sensitization. It nourishes and rekindles the soul to fellow feeling. In the hurly-burly of our daily lives, and competitiveness and ambition, and the pursuit of profit, we are indifferent to the outcome for others, to their sentiments, or even their deprivation. There is an inherent conflict among us as we focus on our goals, and marginalise others whose interests don't hold concern for us.

But there are witnesses compiling every injustice, recording every protest, and kindling people's memories about glory and decline. A few of these observers serve not only to voice the experience of the victims, but give us insights on how humanity at large can live more sensitively. Their words stir us, find their way inside to lash at our conscience, and refocus our thinking on what it is to be essentially human.

Another Frenchman, especially famous for declining the Nobel prize for Literature, Jean Paul Sartre, declared: 'Hell is other people'. There is a constant challenge to try to understand and empathise with others, further aggravated by differences in language, custom, and traditional beliefs. It is here that writers often build bridges by establishing commonalities and explaining away differences.

As the celebrated 1950 Literature laureate, Bertrand Russell, said at the Stockholm Concert Hall, "...sympathy is a genuine motive, some people at some times are made somewhat uncomfortable by the sufferings of some other people. It is sympathy that has produced the many humanitarian advances of the last hundred years."

There are many literary prizes, so how is the Nobel Prize for Literature different, apart from perhaps, having the largest bounty? Because it is given out at the same time as awards in sciences — it accords the same prestige and acclaim to novelists, poets, and futurists as is enjoyed by biochemists, astrophysicists and developmental economists.

It also reflects the Nobel Foundation's outlook of recognizing a broader contribution to modern human heritage. Rudyard Kipling was the youngest to win it at 42, but generally the prize recognises much older writers with eight or more books behind them. In terms of sheer number of copies sold, and cultural impact, Harper Lee could have been considered for her 'To Kill A Mockingbird', but that's not how this prize is awarded — for one, that was her only novel, till she



THERE ARE MANY LITERARY PRIZES, SO HOW IS THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE DIFFERENT APART FROM, PERHAPS, HAVING THE LARGEST BOUNTY? BECAUSE IT IS GIVEN OUT AT THE SAME TIME AS AWARDS IN SCIENCES — IT ACCORDS THE SAME PRESTIGE AND ACCLAIM AS IS ENJOYED BY BIOCHEMISTS, ASTROPHYSICISTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL ECONOMISTS

(The writer is a Creative Director, advertising faculty, and an amateur epistemologist. The views expressed are personal.)



published a sequel several decades later with nothing in between.

The committee has also not looked towards any trailblazing authors in the sci-fi category despite it being the fastest evolving genre as technology itself has been racing at the speed of Moore's Law. What the jury does seem to endeavour to do is to cast its net far and wide to ensure authors from many corners of the world are considered.

Possibly the most interesting reference to Zanzibar in the world of literature was in 1968, when Brunner wrote an imaginative sci-fi novel titled, "Stand on Zanzibar". The book's title refers to how large an island could hold the planet's population if everyone had to get just enough standing space. Brunner's speculation was that the Isle of Man (about 600 sq. km) wouldn't suffice in the future and that by 2010, it would take a Zanzibar (about 1600 sq.km) to hold everyone. The theme of his Hugo award-winning novel was overcrowding, which is a common urban fear when there is an influx from faraway lands.

Which brings us to this year's Literature laureate, Abdulrazzak Gurnah, born in Zanzibar in 1948. Being on an important trade shipping route in the Indian Ocean, besides Bantus, there are people of Omani, Yemeni, southern Iranian, and even Indian descent. At the same time, it has been known as a hub of the slave trade where Arabs sold natives from Malawi and Mozambique to visiting ships.

When the Zanzibar Revolution of 1964 overthrew the traditional oppressors, Gurnah fled as a teenager and started his life anew in the British Isles. So, he has experienced how complex and burdensome our identities can be.

In the early pages of his novel 'Desertion', he says about a character, Hassanali: "He could not disguise his anxiety and people who had known him all his life knew this about him, and made a joke out of it. They said it was something to do with his jinsi, his ancestry. Indian people are cowardly, they said, hopping about like nervous butterflies. His father was not timid. He had been a hothead in his youth, who sang and danced and raced the streets with anyone, and he was the Indian in his jinsi. It was God who made him like this, nothing to do with jinsi, and who was he to argue."

Gurnah has been grappling with his African identity — as a Tanzanian (Zanzibar opted to merge with Tanzania after the Revolution) — and how it relates to the history of migrations and colonialism in East Africa. He has taught in Nigeria, which also has ethnic as well as acute communal strife. And he's known since his mid-teens what it is to adapt to life in a European culture.

As the last few years have caused waves of migrants out of West Asia and North Africa, and very recently, Afghanistan — the travails of the uprooted and the kinds of baggage they bring into their new places of residence will

be in the spotlight.

Exiles who had to flee from their native lands are already distrustful of fate, and suffer to some extent from PTSD. Their attention is split between what's still going on in the places they have departed from, and the challenges in their new environment. They haven't the preparation that a graduate student has had before he or she lands up overseas on a good campus. Such exiles find themselves usually in less friendly locations than a university. Gurnah has been lucky in that regard.

The expatriate experience is very different depending on one's age at arrival, line of work — whether a specialist in demand or unskilled, level of affluence, and aptitude for networking. Openness towards the way of life in the adopted country does help in integrating better, and gaining acceptance. An exile could have a sense of betrayal of their native culture when they move closer to a sense of belonging in their land of arrival.

In the future, we might think differently about the elements of identity, given the limitations that our instinctive ones about language, ethnicity, creed, and district have. We'll then identify Literature laureates less by language of writing or nationality and instead emphasise their literary genre and individuality more. We'd then also be narrowing the 'gulf between cultures and continents' that the Nobel citation refers to in 2021.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

LIES WERE SPREAD ABOUT SAVARKAR. IT WAS MAHATMA GANDHI WHO ASKED HIM TO FILE MERCY PETITIONS. —UNION DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH



THE BJP IS PRESENTING DISTORTED HISTORY. IF THIS CONTINUES, THEY WILL MAKE SAVARKAR THE FATHER OF THE NATION. —AIMIM CHIEF ASADUDDIN OWAISSI

Healthcare infrastructure needs a check-up

Data passing through the hospital systems and databases must be digitised and harmonised to truly transform the healthcare infrastructure

Reports of shortages of hospital beds, ventilators, medical equipment and doctors and nurses to cope with growing cases of COVID-19 infections have thrown into sharp focus the need to accelerate digital transformation of healthcare infrastructure worldwide.

Modern medicine has been enriched by genomics, telemedicine, virtual reality for surgery and many biopharmaceutical advances. But behind the many medical advancements, true digital transformation of health infrastructure — hospitals, blood and vaccine banks, centres for dialysis, ambulatory surgery, imaging and radiology — is slow.

Unlike for other sectors, digital transformation to



HARSH VARDHAN

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enable Internet of Things (IoT), 5G connectivity, and artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) is much more complex for healthcare.

Healthcare infrastructure innovation has been and remains curtailed by three main issues: firstly, compliance with regulatory standards at national and international levels; secondly, multiple forms of medical data, from patient records to X-rays, CT scans and other analogue or digital data; and thirdly, reluctance to change which prevents a clear digital dashboard to allow administrators to respond, plan and predict in real time.

Many hospitals with sophisticated equipment have yet to fully capture and update medical records to enable clin-



ical decision support and real-time hospital workflow, let alone combine them seamlessly with long-term care and disease management.

How can planners and administrators improve information technology (IT) infrastructure to prepare for a true digital transformation for the healthcare sector? Several key steps can kick-start or accelerate the process. The first is to build or enable real-time data

capture at every touchpoint of healthcare hardware. This means installing sensors, and embedding IoT and high-speed communication throughout each facility down to the last piece of equipment.

The second is to break down information silos once and for all. Data passing through the hospital systems and databases must be digitised, harmonised and shared, from patient records, X-rays and CT scans to data on the functioning of each piece of equipment and machinery within the infrastructure.

This roadblock has eluded decades of effort by IT consultants and systems integrators. A protocol of "golden data" in a common format will enable visibility of the entire healthcare enterprise.

Third, the same visibility can facilitate interoperability of different healthcare systems — electronic patient health records can be analysed alongside COVID-19 infection trends and the demand for vaccines and the cold-chain infrastructure needed to store or deliver them.

Fourth, healthcare assets, be it CT scanners, operating rooms or ventilators, have to be tracked on usage and location levels. This can help predict breakdowns, plan for maintenance and help the next shift of medical staff to locate them.

Fifth, such tracking will support more vital C-suite decisions such as scenario planning which can calibrate potential equipment shortage, availability of spares, and service-level agreements with

suppliers with hospital manpower planning. By standardising protocols for maintenance — helped by cloud-enabled real-time data — productivity will improve.

Sixth, there are lessons to be drawn from a concept known as inventory technical management practised by MRO service providers. Those who are more digitally enabled have upscaled to the next level — flexible pooling of inventory to prevent duplication and to share hardware more intelligently.

Finally, the guardians of healthcare hardware can take tentative steps in AI/ML without sacrificing medical outcomes. These include sensors that can monitor health data of each patient more frequently than checks by nurses, and the

use of chatbots to allow nurses or junior doctors to ask questions when certain patient symptoms occur or to check when a piece of equipment needs to be sent for servicing.

Through AI/ML, healthcare hardware can be "trained" to self-correct. It can learn prescriptive maintenance through protocols that can predict failures and recommend actions to take. Over time, each major piece of equipment can instruct itself on when to prepare for maintenance, the possible risks, and the pre-emptive measures it should take.

Covid-19 has triggered a once-in-decades shift in the thinking behind healthcare administration. It is time for the hospital to get out of the sick bed and embrace digital transformation.

Sensex rallies 453 pts to new peak; Nifty at 18,100

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex soared 453 points to touch a new closing high of 60,737 on Wednesday, tracking gains in index heavyweights Reliance Industries, ITC and Infosys amid a positive trend in global markets.

After scaling a record peak of 60,836.63 during the session, the 30-share Sensex settled 452.74 points or 0.75 per cent higher at 60,737.05, taking its winning run to the fifth consecutive day. Similarly, the Nifty rallied 169.80 points or 0.94 per cent to 18,161.75. It touched an intra-day record of 18,197.80.

M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, zooming over 5 per cent, followed by PowerGrid, ITC, L&T, Tech Mahindra, Titan and Tata Steel.

On the other hand, Maruti, HUL, Nestle India, Axis Bank and SBI were

among the laggards.

"Domestic equities remained steady and witnessed sharp up-move with benchmark Nifty and Sensex recording fresh all-time highs amid mixed cues from global equities," said Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities. Sustained rebound in financials and Reliance Industries supported broader indices. Tata Group stocks were in focus especially Tata Motors after company announced USD 1 billion investment from TPG in Electric Vehicle division valuing EV business strong at USD 9.1 billion.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai and Seoul ended with gains, while Tokyo was in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in mid-session deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude fell 0.54 per cent to USD 82.97 per barrel.



Govt scraps basic customs duty, cuts agri cess

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday scrapped basic customs duty as well as slashed agri cess on crude varieties of palm, soybean and sunflower oil till March 2022, a move which will help cool prices and increase domestic availability in the festive season. The duty cuts will be effective from October 14 and will remain in force till March 31, 2022, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in a notification.

Crude palm oil will now attract agri infrastructure development cess (AIDC) of 7.5 per cent, while the rate will be 5 per

cent for crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil. Post reduction, the effective customs duty on crude varieties of palm, soyabean and sunflower oil will be 8.25 per cent, 5.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively. Besides, the basic customs duty on refined varieties of sunflower, soyabean, palmolein and palm oil has been slashed to 17.5 per cent each from 32.5 per cent at present.

"The government has slashed import duties on edible oils because of high retail prices in the domestic market and the festive season," Solvent Extractors' Association of India Executive Director B V Mehta said.

Gati Shakti to transform governance: KM Birla

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla on Wednesday said that PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for infrastructure "embodies and combines" some unique features that mark a paradigm shift in governance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday unveiled Rs 100 lakh crore Gati Shakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal connectivity that aims to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy.

"To me, Gati Shakti embodies and combines some unique features that mark a paradigm shift in governance," Birla said while participating at the event.

Using the most modern technology, Gati Shakti brings all stakeholders on one platform, he added.

"Such breaking of silos within the government is indeed a dream come true for all of industry," he said, adding that

the platform approach also increases transparency all around and helps resolve bottlenecks quickly. According to Birla, the outcome-based approach of Gati Shakti marks a departure from the traditional approach to planning.

"There is great emphasis and granularity in specifying targets in terms of outcomes and not merely outlays," he said.

Birla said that he cannot imagine any such government programme anywhere in the world with such large scale, and technology enabled real-time monitoring of development projects.

"This is yet another example where India is setting a global benchmark for digital governance," he said.

Noting that building and managing high-quality infrastructure is a national enterprise, he said that roads and rivers do not respect state boundaries.

Exim Bank targets USD 7 bn financing of project exports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) targets to achieve financing of USD 7 billion of project exports over the next five years with the government announcing fund infusion of Rs 1,650 crore in the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) to boost project exports.

The NEIA Trust, set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in March 2006, provides export credit insurance cover for promoting medium and long-term project exports from India.

The corpus infusion will enhance the project export possibility having cover by NEIA by about Rs 33,000 crore over the next five years (equivalent to USD 4.5 billion), the bank said in a statement. "The capital infusion will help tap huge potential of project exports in focus markets. The Bank has currently supported 31 projects valued at USD 2.74 billion in 14 countries under the Buyer's Credit under NEIA programme," it said.

India retains 3rd position in RE investment attractiveness index

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has retained the third rank in the Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index released by consultancy firm EY.

India remained at the third position in the 58th edition of EY's 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' (RECAI), which ranks the world's top 40 markets (nations) on the attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities, an EY statement said.

With the environment, social and governance (ESG) measures soaring to the top of the agenda for companies and investors, RECAI also highlights that corporate power purchase agreements (PPAs)



are emerging as a key driver of clean energy growth, it added.

A new PPA Index - introduced in this edition of RECAI - focuses on the attractiveness of renewable power procurement and ranks the growth potential of a nation's corporate PPA market. India is ranked sixth among the top 30

PPA markets.

India's thriving renewable energy market conditions, inclusive policy decisions, investment and technology improvements focusing on self-reliant supply chains have pushed the clean energy transition to new heights, the statement said.

Royal Enfield to undertake bike expedition to South Pole this year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mid-sized motorcycle maker Royal Enfield on Wednesday said it will undertake a motorcycling expedition to the South Pole to commemorate 120 years of the brand.

The company, which is a part of Eicher Motors, said it would mark 2021 with an ambitious attempt to push the boundaries of motorcycling possibilities. The expedition, which would feature the company's Himalyan bike, would attempt to reach the South Pole from the Ross Ice Shelf via the Leverett Glacier. "120 years is a long legacy for the brand, and we are very happy to have made it count. Over these years, we have created and nurtured a thriving culture of riding and exploration around the world.



This pursuit of exploration has been a quintessential part of our DNA, and 90° South is another chapter in our series of extraordinary, epic motorcycling rides," Royal Enfield Managing Director Siddhartha Lal noted. In the past, rides like Himalayan Odyssey have paved the way for motorcycling adventure in the Himalayas and an epic expedition like this to the South Pole will further inspire people to become adventurers again, he added.

A test of endurance and perseverance for man and machine,

this expedition is the first of its kind attempt to traverse the 770km long route to the South Pole on a motorcycle, Lal stated. To begin from Cape Town, South Africa, on November 26 2021, the expedition will witness two Royal Enfield riders - Santhosh Vijay Kumar and Dean Coxson - attempting to reach the geographic South Pole, from the Ross Ice Shelf, via the Leverett Glacier, to the Amundsen-Scott Pole station.

Royal Enfield has already conducted rides across the globe- ranging from riding on the highest motorable pass in the world, to reaching the Base Camp of Mount Everest in Tibet; from riding over the most inaccessible mountain pass at Daulat Beg Oldi, Karakoram, to riding across the desert at Kutch.

PNS ■ BEIJING

China's exports rose at a slightly faster pace in September while demand for imports of iron ore and other commodities eased as a property construction boom cooled and authorities enforced curbs on energy use.

Customs data showed exports rose 28.1% to \$305.7 billion. That was slightly faster than the 26% increase logged in August, and

above economists' forecasts. Imports rose 17.6% to \$240 billion, less than the previous month's 33% increase.

This year's trade figures have been distorted by comparison with 2020, when global demand plunged in the first half after governments shut factories and shops to fight the pandemic. Chinese exporters reopened after the ruling Communist Party declared the virus under control

"China's foreign trade performance is leading the field among the world's major economies, and China has seen an increase in its international market share," said Li Kuiwen, a spokesman for the customs agency.

in March 2020, while their foreign competitors still were hampered by anti-virus curbs. "China's foreign trade perfor-

mance is leading the field among the world's major economies, and China has seen an increase in its international market

share," said Li Kuiwen, a spokesman for the customs agency.

"Taking into account the impact of the high base of foreign trade in 2020, the growth rate of imports and exports may fall in the fourth quarter of this year, but the overall upward trend of China's foreign trade will not change, and rapid growth throughout the year is still expected," Li said.

Shriram Housing gets Rs 300-cr equity

PNS ■ MUMBAI

To oil its fast-paced expansion and the resultant expansion of its loan book, affordable segment-focused Shriram Housing Finance has secured an additional Rs 300 crore equity capital from the parent Shriram City Union Finance, taking its total equity capital to about Rs 1,100 crore. The company has set a target of crossing Rs 5,600 crore of assets under management (AUM) target by March,

as it had already crossed the Rs 4,000-crore mark in July and the new growth capital will help it expand the balance sheet faster.

For the Shriram Group's housing finance company, this is the second round of equity capital infusion; and with this, the total equity infusion in FY22 so far stands at Rs 500 crore and since the launch at Rs 1,088 crore. The capital infusion will enable the mortgage lender to expand its balance sheet faster by growing its loan book.

Puravankara to invest Rs 420 cr for two projects

Residential projects in Mumbai, Bengaluru

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Puravankara Ltd will invest around Rs 420 crore for construction of two residential projects in Mumbai and Bengaluru and is targeting over Rs 1,250 crore sales revenue over the next four years from these properties on the back of rising housing demand. The company on Wednesday launched two projects -- 'Provident Palm Vista'

located near Shil Phata, Mumbai with one million square feet of saleable area and 'Tivoli Hills' located near Devanahalli, Bengaluru having a total saleable plot area of about 1.4 million square feet. "We are introducing our affordable housing brand 'Provident' in Mumbai market. We will build this project in JDA (Joint Development Agreement) model," Puravankara CEO Abhishek Kapoor told PTI. The

company's economic interest in the 'Provident Palm Vista' project is nearly 69 per cent.

In this project, Kapoor said the company is likely to sell units in a price range of Rs 40-80 lakh. Earlier this year, Puravankara re-entered the Mumbai market to develop a premium mixed-use project in the city at a cost of Rs 450 crore. The group had developed real estate projects in 1970s under a different brand.

July-Sept investment in realty sector up 17 pc

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Institutional investment in real estate increased 17 per cent year-on-year to USD 721 million in the July-September period, driven by better infusion of funds in housing, data centre and warehousing projects, according to JLL India.

Institutional flow of funds includes investments by family offices, foreign corporate groups, foreign banks, proprietary books, pension funds, private equity, real estate fund-cum-developers, foreign funded NBFCs and sovereign wealth funds. It also includes anchor investors in REITs.

Property consultant JLL India said the data has been compiled as per available information in the public domain. The investment period has



been captured on the basis of term sheet signed or transaction announcement and not from the actual transfer of capital. Investments in data centre sector have been included in the investments.

The consultant said that institutional investment post-

ed 17 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth during Q3 2021 (July-September) as investors continued to conduct deals despite the resurgence led uncertainty and disruptions. However, the investment fell by 47 per cent on a sequential basis.

According to the data, institutional investments in residential sector remained flat at USD 211 million during the July-September period. Data centre and mixed use projects received USD 161 million and USD 137 million funding, respectively, as against nil in the year ago period.

Office segment saw a sharp decline in investments to USD 100 million in July-September from USD 405 million in the year-ago period.

"Office space transactions have been muted due to a likely delay in the due diligence process and investors gauging the unfolding of work from the office scenario," the consultant said.

Warehousing and land got USD 94 million and USD 18 million, respectively, in Q3 of

2021 calendar year as against zero investments in the corresponding period of the previous year.

"Close analysts of investments during Q3 2021 reveals that it has been more balanced with the residential sector accounting for 29 per cent of the total investments, followed by alternative sector - Data Centre (DC) accounting for 22 per cent share. The mixed-use project of residential and commercial accounted for 19 per cent of the total investments," said Lata Pillai, Managing Director and Head, Capital Markets, India, JLL.

As per the data, Mumbai with increased investments in the DC industry and capital flow in select residential projects led the investment pie with a 39 per cent share.

India Digital Trade Facilitation Forum launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Global digital payment solutions provider PayPal and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade on Wednesday launched the India Digital Trade Facilitation Forum -- a platform to provide education, training, and capacity building to MSMEs and help scale their businesses across global markets. The focus of the forum orbits around educating, guiding, and raising awareness among MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) about marketing, scaling, digitalisation and exports through masterclasses led by subject experts, a release stated.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
O/o Superintending Engineer, P.R. Region Karimnagar

E procurement Tender Notice

NIT No.599 to 513/SE/Tenders/2021/22, Dt:12.10.2021

No of Works (05), Name of the work Establishment of Sheep Market at Kundanpalli(V), Anthargaoan(M) Peddapally District undersigned. Total ECV Rs.252.00 Lakhs Bid uploading Starting Date 18-10-2021 to Closing Date:25-10-2021. Further details can be had from 'e' procurement market place www.tenders.telangana.gov.in.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, P.R.Region Karimnagar

DIPR RD No: 663-0P/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
I&CD DEPARTMENT

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle-3, Malkaj

Tender Notice No: 61/IC3/MKL/2021-22, Dt:17.06.2021

Name of the Work: RBLS Lift-I-Operation & Maintenance of RBLS Lift-I Stage-I & Stage-II pumping stations at Panchadrapadu (V) and Khanapur (V) in Malkaj (M), Narayanpet (Dist) for the year 2021-22 (01.11.2021 to 30.06.2022). Approximate Estimate Contract Value: Rs.1.92.99.000/- Further details can be seen at 'e' procurement market place in Telangana Market place (<https://tender.telangana.gov.in>).

R.O. No. : 16903-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RBLSP CIRCLE, PEBBAR

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
G.H.M.C

E-Procurement Short Tender Notice

NIT No: 48/EE(EVDM)/GHMC/2021-22, Dt:13.10.2021

Name of the Works/Products: Procurement of Reusable Cloth Nose Masks with Logo & gloves for the staff of the Directorate (EV&DM), GHMC, Estimated Amount (Rs.In Lakhs): 7.50, Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: Start Date: 14-10-2021 @ 12.00 PM, Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 18-10-2021 @ 12.00 PM, Name & Address Officer Phone No: Office of the Executive Engineer (EVDM) GHMC, 6th Floor, Buddha Bhavan, Hyderabad, Ph No. 040-29880769.

R.O. No. : 16951-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EVDM), GHMC



EASING MOBILITY TO HELP WOMEN —‘RIDE’ HIGH—

RACHEL DAMMALA

Women being able to travel safely with no apprehension, by themselves, is still a dream for a huge section of women in India. And to say it is the case only for women in rural India, is a misconception. Making travel easier and safe for women has more benefits than one can think of. Beginning with an increase in opportunities, having a stable career, timely access to medical help, approaching challenges fearlessly, and being able to perform better at one's job, are some of the many benefits of women being able to travel fearlessly from point A to B. Aiming to make this a reality is a Hyderabad-based NGO Moving Women (MOWO), in association with Shell Foundation (U.K), through their campaign Moving Boundaries.

As part of the campaign, Jai Bharathi, founder of MOWO, is touring India on

her motorbike for 40 days, covering 20 cities to create awareness and encourage women to learn driving. She started from Hyderabad on October 11, and will be covering places like Bangalore, Chennai, Kochi, Goa, Pune, Mumbai, Surat, Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Jaipur, Amritsar, Srinagar, Chandigarh, New Delhi, Lucknow, Allahabad, Patna, Guwahati, Kolkata, Ranchi, and Bhubaneswar, among others.

As she seeks to promote awareness on the importance of women acquiring the power of driving and traveling safely to expand their horizons in all aspects of their life, we ask Jai what got her started on the campaign. "When women are seen riding a motorbike, it automatically sparks interest, especially in women. I have had women in the past walk up to me and tell me how they feel inspired to learn how to ride a scooter themselves, but they do not know where and how to get started. So you see, this not only garners attention, but creates aspira-

tion and starts a dialogue. With this, our goal is to encourage more such women to learn driving. We offer to teach them or direct them to sources that do," Jai tells us.

Jai talks about how, still, women in India face restrictions in their mobility. "They are unable to travel long distances to get a decent education or take up jobs which involve complex or unsafe commute, which results in a restricted pool of job opportunities."

She who is excited to meet and inspire women of different strata, will hold workshops to make driving an aspirational and achievable employment choice too, for women. Asked if she is worried women in rural India may not be as open to something like this, as people in urban India would be, she says, "I was of the same opinion until a year ago. What changed my opinion was when we got an invitation to teach women how to ride from Narayanpet district. Despite the invitation, I was apprehensive about hav-

ing a good number join, but to my surprise, on the very first day, we received 144 applications!"

Explaining how learning to ride can change the lives of these people, she cites an example. "A very shy tailor in Narayanpet would depend on her husband to pick and drop her to work, to her cus-

tomers place, the marketplace for raw materials, and more. After she learnt how to ride a scooter, she no longer has to wait for her husband's time to get her work done. She goes to work, her customers and secures raw materials for her work as she pleases, and this has helped her get better, more effective at her job, and earned her better pay. All such women need is a push in the right



direction and they're ready to soar," shares Jai.

On how different their campaign and the design of their course is, from any driving school, Jai elaborates, "It's great if women can get to learn

at any given driving school, but what some may see as a problem is that most driving schools are for four-wheelers. They're also taught by men, which some may not find comfortable. Our course is focussed on motor driving, and it's different in many ways in that, we start with getting them comfortable with the vehicle, teaching them how to put a center stand, traffic rules, help them secure a learner's license and only after they get that, use a helmet and elbow guards, etc. does our actual training start. We also don't ride pillion behind the learner, because that carefully removes the dependency on the teacher, and it shifts to themselves. Our trainers stand right beside the riders and make the process more effective. We also learn in groups, community learning makes people share their stories, inspire and encourage each other."

Before she signs off, we ask her what the organisation plans to do and see in the near future and she shares, "At the end of the day, it's not me or my organisation that I want women to come to, but anybody doing the same job. The goal is to have more women joining the force that they will no longer find it difficult to travel from place to place."



Ayurveda can help diabetics keep heart problems at bay



Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), including heart attack and stroke, are the leading cause of death across the world, claiming approximately 18.6 million lives every year. Out of these, around one-fifth are Indians. These numbers are severe and the repercussions of illness, even more.

Numerous causes can lead to CVDs such as unhealthy food habits, environmental changes, extreme stress, other health diseases and more. Recent studies have also revealed that diabetes is also one of the leading causes of heart problems. According to this research, people with diabetes are 2-4 times more prone to developing a heart-related problem. That's because high blood sugar can damage blood vessels and

the nerves that control your heart. For a country like India, this should be an alarming factor for two primary reasons. First, a major portion of the diabetic people in the country is unaware of it (undiagnosed diabetes). Second, India has the largest working population that's currently dealing with severe stress and environmental changes, both major causes of heart diseases and diabetes.

Now, fighting these evils is essential for a healthy life and what's a better solution than our holistic ancient practice — Ayurveda.

A plethora of studies have been conducted by the Ministry of Ayush that divulge how Ayurveda can be helpful in the prevention of diabetes and in turn, Cardiovascular diseases. Here are some of the best



recommended Ayurvedic practices:

Adopting healthy dietary and lifestyle options

Your food (Ahara) and lifestyle (Vihara) habits have a direct impact on your physical health. Hence, it is crucial to adopt habits that keep you healthy. Changes in food habits like eating more fruits and vegetables, lean protein, and whole grains while reducing processed food can help in decreasing the risk of heart diseases or keep them from worsening.

Lifestyle (Vihara) changes like following an active rou-

tine, maintaining an optimum/healthy weight and not consuming alcohol, quitting smoking, etc., will help in fighting heart diseases to a great extent.

Yoga

Being physically active makes your body more sensitive to insulin (the hormone that allows cells in your body to use blood sugar for energy), which helps manage your diabetes. Physical activity also helps control blood sugar levels and lowers your risk of heart disease. Therefore, for preventing and managing heart diseases (Hridroga), try to

get at least 150 minutes per week of physical activity, such as brisk walking or Yoga.

Yoga has various asanas such as Surya Namaskars and Pranayama that can help in keeping your blood pressure, blood glucose levels, and heart rate low.

Managing stress

Stress is becoming a leading cause of heart diseases. Since people are nowadays constantly exposed to high stressors at work and home, it's essential to keep the stress level low.

According to Ayurveda, Meditation can help in man-

aging and reducing stress. Chanting and breathing exercises can also help in reducing your blood pressure and lowering your heart rate.

Ayurvedic supplements

Ayurveda has a rich amount of supplements to prevent and manage Cardiovascular Diseases. For instance, Ayurveda recommends a traditional combination of Karela, Amla, Jamun, and Guduchi.

These supplements help in regulating carbohydrate metabolism which helps keep the blood sugar levels in check.

Make sure you consume these supplements after consulting with an Ayurvedic doctor for ideal results. You can also opt for various therapies that Ayurveda has to offer like the Saman Therapy for management of CVDs and Rasayana Therapy for prevention.

(The writer, Dr. Anand Dwivedi, is an Ayurvedacharya with 33 years of experience, Expert at Kapiva Academy of Ayurveda.)

Cyber security month: Tips to keep cybercriminals at bay

The current business landscape has evolved manifold, over the past couple of months. Majorly caused due to the pandemic, the change has severely impacted the way we consume and share data. This, coupled with the continuation of the remote working model, has led to the creation of multiple transactional points, making it easier for cybercriminals to plan and execute their attacks.

The increase in the incidents of cyber-attacks has become one of the biggest challenges for businesses in India. In fact, as per a recent study by India's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), cyber-attacks in India rose by almost 300% in 2020 as compared to 2019. This study also stated the main cause for this increase to be due to the shift to a remote working model.

It is true that most businesses are now initiating/are planning to make the shift to a hybrid style of working. However, to be in a better position to safeguard their data against threats, they will need to keep data security at the centre of their decisions. They will additionally need to make adequate changes to their existing security policies to protect their mission-critical data.

Keeping this in mind, here are 5 safety tips for businesses to keep in mind, this cyber security month:

●**Setting up a VPN access:** A virtual private network (VPN), is an internet security service that can securely connect and move data between an employee based outside office premises, and a company's internal network or public internet. Not only does it encrypt data transfers in transit, it also masks the user's location. By setting up a VPN service, businesses can ensure utmost security for their critical data.

●**Running a password audit:** It becomes extremely important for any business to ensure that its remote

employees are resetting their devices' passcode regularly. Incorporating the need to consistently change passcodes as a part of the business's security policy, can help reduce the risk of continuous data attacks. Additionally, using a two-factor authenticator and advising employees to set tough passwords can add more layers of protection to the business data.

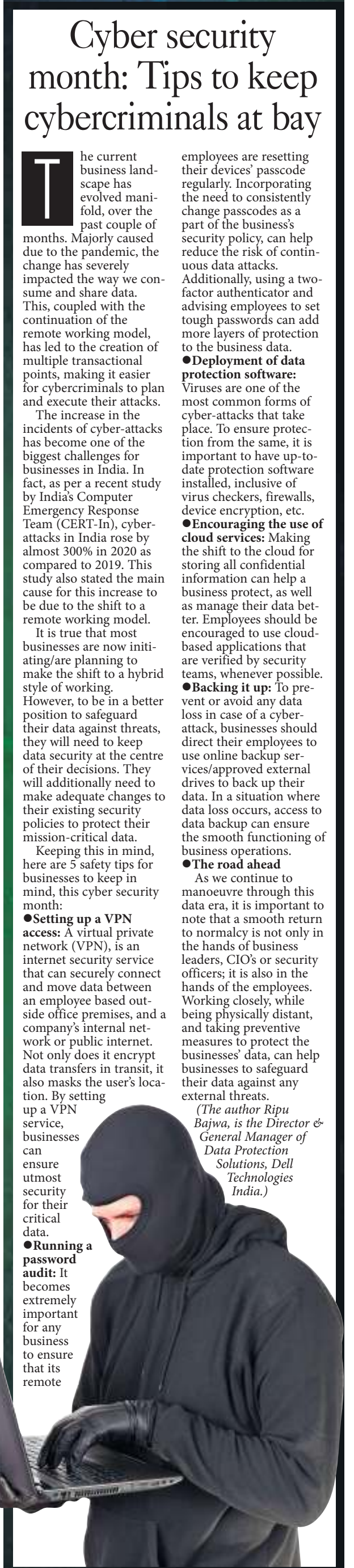
●**Deployment of data protection software:** Viruses are one of the most common forms of cyber-attacks that take place. To ensure protection from the same, it is important to have up-to-date protection software installed, inclusive of virus checkers, firewalls, device encryption, etc.

●**Encouraging the use of cloud services:** Making the shift to the cloud for storing all confidential information can help a business protect, as well as manage their data better. Employees should be encouraged to use cloud-based applications that are verified by security teams, whenever possible.

●**Backing it up:** To prevent or avoid any data loss in case of a cyber-attack, businesses should direct their employees to use online backup services/approved external drives to back up their data. In a situation where data loss occurs, access to data backup can ensure the smooth functioning of business operations.

●**The road ahead**
As we continue to manoeuvre through this data era, it is important to note that a smooth return to normalcy is not only in the hands of business leaders, CIOs or security officers; it is also in the hands of the employees. Working closely, while being physically distant, and taking preventive measures to protect the businesses' data, can help businesses to safeguard their data against any external threats.

(The author Ripu Bajwa, is the Director & General Manager of Data Protection Solutions, Dell Technologies India.)





Godfather to rope in Britney Spears & Salman?

Telugu megastar Chiranjeevi has an attractive slate with multiple interesting movies lined up. As Chiranjeevi's *Acharya* helmed by Koratala Siva is gearing up for release soon, his other projects are

progressing well too. The official remake of Malayalam super hit *Lucifer* is titled *Godfather*. This Mohan Raja directorial is to feature Chiranjeevi, who would reprise Mohanlal's role. Now, if reports

are to be believed, the makers of *Godfather* are planning to bring Hollywood's pop sensation Britney Spears on board to croon a racy song for Chiranjeevi. Bollywood star Salman Khan too may make a cameo appearance in this movie.

But there is no official confirmation regarding Britney Spears' song for *Godfather* and Salman's appearance as well. Touted to be an intense political drama, Thaman S. will compose the music for *Godfather*.

ALA VAIKUNTHAPURRAMULOO HINDI REMAKE LAUNCHED, TITLED SHEHZADA

We know that Kartik Aaryan has been roped in to reprise Icon star Allu Arjun's role in his hit film *Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo*. On Wednesday, the makers of the film Allu Arvind and Naga Vamsi of Sitara Entertainment officially announced that the film's Hindi version is titled *Shehzada*, with the caption '*Duniya ka Sabse Gareeb Prince!*' Taking to social media to announce the film, Kartik Aaryan wrote, "#Shehzada Duniya ka Sabse Gareeb Prince @kritisanon #RohitDhawan." The film will release in theatres in November 2022. Producer Bhushan Kumar shared via a statement, "I've been wanting to mount a big scale family action-packed musical film for a long time, I'm excited to be teaming up with Rohit Dhawan, Allu Arvind and Aman Gill on this film, I'm eagerly looking forward to the

magic Kartik, Kriti, Pritam and the rest of the team will create in *Shehzada*." Kriti Sanon is playing the role of Pooja Hegde, Manisha Koirala is reprising Tabu's role, while Ronit Roy Bose is playing her husband in the Hindi version. Kriti and Kartik earlier worked together in *Luka Chuppi*. One of the biggest hits of 2020, *Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo* featured the viral hit *Butta Bomma*, and coincidentally, Kartik had earlier performed on the song in a video, winning praise from Arjun. This is Kartik Aaryan's third film to be announced this year. Directed by Trivikram Srinivas, the Telugu film sees a young man who seeks validation from his father who is critical of almost everything he does. His world turns upside down when he realises that he was switched at birth with a millionaire's son.

Pragya Jaiswal contracts Covid, again

Actress Pragya Jaiswal has tested positive for Covid for the second time. Pragya, who is fully vaccinated, tested positive for Covid on Sunday. Taking to Instagram, Pragya shared a post that read, "Not the most exciting news to wake up to on a Sunday morning, but I've tested positive for Covid after being fully vaccinated and having had Covid once before. I have isolated myself and am following all safety protocols under the advice of my doctor's. Humbly requesting all those who have been in contact with me in the last ten days to please take care and take the necessary precautions. See you on the other side." She shared the post with the caption, "I have mild symptoms & nothing to really worry about hopefully...See you all very soon" On the work front, the actress is gearing up for the release of her *Akhanda* with Balakrishna and Srikanth. She also awaits the release of her upcoming film, *Antim-The Final Truth*, which marks her Bollywood debut.



BIRTHDAY GLAM



The makers of the upcoming film *Radhe Shyam* on Wednesday released a new poster featuring a gorgeous Pooja Hegde. The poster was released to mark Pooja's 31st birthday celebration. "The Queen of every heart! Here's wishing our #Prerana a very Happy Birthday! (sic)," UV Creations, which is bankrolling the romantic drama, tweeted. The film will release in theatres on January 14 for Sankranti. The film that stars Prabhas as the lead will have him play a full-fledged romantic role after a long gap.

Avika Gor enjoys producing her next project

Actress Avika Gor has just wrapped up the shoot of her first and as-yet-untitled production venture. The *Uyyala Jampala* actress said that being a producer has made her a more humble actor. Avika was shooting in Goa for the maiden production venture and called it an "amazing experience." "It's been an amazing experience as it's my first production. We shot in Goa for over 10 days and the whole vibe was so different," said the actress, who rose to fame with her role as Anandi from the television show *Balika Vadhu*. The 24-year-old actress did not divulge much about the film or the cast. She shared: "I think being a producer has made me a more humble actor and it has also helped me grow as a person. I feel extremely proud of myself and can't wait to get this movie completed and released soon." On the acting front, Avika was seen in the Telugu language thriller drama *Net*. She will next be seen in the Telugu film *Thank You*.



Panchathantram teaser: Brahmi, Swathi return to the big screen



Over the last few years, we've seen small-budget films weaving magic on the big screen. *Panchathantram* looks like one that will join this list. Touted to be an anthology dealing with five different stories, the teaser of this movie was unveiled on Wednesday. Actor Satya Dev lent his voice for the teaser. He introduces the characters and the world of *Panchathantram* to us. The teaser looks beautiful visually and the background score is soothing. It was fresh to see actors like Brahmanandam and Swathi



Reddy back on the screen after a long time. Both of them play pivotal roles in it. *Panchathantram* features an ensemble of the cast that includes Samuthirakani, Rahul Vijay, Shivamika Rajashekhar, Naresh Agastya, Divya Drishti, and Vikas. The film is directed by debutant Harsha Pulipaka. Akhilesh Vardhan and Srujan Yarabolu have bankrolled the project under their respective banners Ticket Factory and S Originals.

PUSHPA: DSP-SRIRAM DELIVER A SOULFUL HIT WITH SRIVALLI

The much-anticipated song and collaboration between music director Devi Sri Prasad and popular singer Sid Sriram has finally delivered a beautiful number for the film *Pushpa*. The newly released song, called *Srivalli* starts on the best melodious tone, and only gets better as you continue listening to it. DSP's tune and composition are pleasant and have that perfect repeat value. Sid

Sriram's magnificent vocals elevate the song, the duo complements each other very well. Chandrabose's deep, and meaningful lyrics take the song to another level. He beautifully encapsulates the love track between Pushpa Raj - Allu Arjun, and Srivalli, played by Rashmika Mandanna. The lyrical video gives a brief glimpse into the love story of the lead actors, set against a rustic backdrop. The video also features a sweet and simple dance performance by Allu Arjun, and it depicts his desperate attempts to win Srivalli's heart. *Pushpa: The Rise* is releasing in theaters on December 17 this year. The Sukumar directorial is in the final leg of production. Mythri Movie Makers and Muttamsetty Media are producing it. The film will release in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.



DC set 136-run target for KKR in 2nd IPL Qualifier



PTI ■ SHARJAH

Kolkata Knight Riders, led by mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy, produced a clinical bowling display on a slow pitch to

restrict Delhi Capitals to 135 for 5 in their IPL Qualifier 2 here on Wednesday. Sent in to bat, DC batters struggled on a sluggish pitch with the KKR bowlers bowling a tight line and length.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan top-scored with a 39-ball 36 while Shreyas Iyer remained not out on 30 off 27 balls. Chakravarthy took two wickets for 26 runs while Lockie Ferguson and Shivam Mavi got one each.

After seven dot balls in the first two overs, DC took 12 runs from the third with Shaw hoisting Shakib Al Hasan for a big six.

Dhawan joined the party in the fourth over, smacking two consecutive sixes off Sunil Narine as DC amassed 14 runs from the veteran West Indian.

Chakravarthy broke the dangerous-looking partnership by having Shaw LBW with his first delivery of the day with the batter playing a wrong line to his googly.

Ferguson was impressive as he conceded just nine runs from his first two overs as DC reached 38 for 1 at the end of Power Play overs.

After a quiet period during which Mavi, Narine and Chakravarthy bowled a tight line and length, Dhawan got a boundary in the 10th over to reach 65 for 1 at the halfway mark.

With odd ball skidding low, it was getting difficult to get runs and DC were dealt a blow when Mavi, who was bowling beautifully, got rid of Marcus Stoinis who was playing only his second match in the UAE leg.

With pressure building on the DC batters, Dhawan fell in the 15th over while going for a big shot. He could only get an outside edge off a Chakravarthy delivery for Shakib Al Hasan to take a diving catch at backward point.

DC were 83 for 3 in the 15th over when captain Rishabh Pant (6) came in and he disappointed in a crucial match as he went for a big shot the next over only to balloon a Ferguson delivery for Rahul Tripathi to take a regulation catch.

There was no lack of drama as Shimron Hetmyer was caught by Shubman Gill off Chakravarthy in the 17th over but it turned out to be a no ball.

DC managed to score 36 runs in the last three overs to put up a decent total in the end.

Shardul Thakur replaces Axar Patel in India's main squad for T20 World Cup



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fast bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur on Wednesday replaced Axar Patel in India's squad for the T20 World Cup to be held in the UAE and Oman from October 17.

The 29-year-old Thakur has impressed with his 18 wickets in the ongoing IPL for Chennai Super Kings. With this, India completed the announcement of its final squad for the marquee tournament. Teams are allowed time till October 15 to finalise changes.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee after a discussion with the team management has added Shardul Thakur to the main squad. All-rounder Axar Patel, who was part of the 15-member squad will now be on the list of stand-by players," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

With pace all-rounder Hardik Pandya not bowling during the IPL because of fitness issues, the selectors wanted a cover for him. The Mumbai Indians star's workload management is a major concern for the team management.

"The selectors felt that they were one pacer short and also with Hardik Pandya not bowling, they needed an all-rounder in the main squad," a source close to the selection committee told PTI.

"Axar remains in stand-by and if Ravindra Jadeja gets injured, he will again be back in main team. Till Jaddu (Jadeja) plays, Axar won't be required."

As reported by PTI, the selectors also included Harshal Patel among the net bowlers for the Indian team.

"The following cricketers will join the team bubble in Dubai and assist Team India in

their preparations: Avesh Khan, Umran Malik, Harshal Patel, Lukman Meriwala, Venkatesh Iyer, Karn Sharma, Shahbaz Ahmed and K. Gowtham," the statement said.

Among the stand-by players, Railways leg-spinner Karn Sharma, who is part of the CSK right now, was a surprise inclusion.

Considered a close confidante of Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has been roped in as mentor of the national side for the World Cup, Sharma is retained year after year by CSK without playing too many matches as it is believed that he has been the franchise's "Lucky Mascot".

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal could not find a place despite an impressive IPL with Royal Challengers Bangalore. He claimed 18 wickets in 15 matches. India will open their campaign on October 24 against Pakistan.

BCCI extends date for buying ITT for new IPL teams



IANIS ■ MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has further extended the date for purchasing the 'Invitation to Tender' (ITT) document for the two new Indian Premier League (IPL) teams -- which will be added from the 2022 season -- to October 20, 2021.

A BCCI statement said that interested parties can purchase the ITT document on receipt of payment of the "non-refundable tender fee of Rs 10 lakh plus any applicable Goods and Services Tax". All other terms contained in the Invitation document shall be applicable, said the BCCI. The IPL Governing Council had on August 31

this year announced the release of tender to "own and operate" two new IPL teams, which will compete in the 2022 edition of the lucrative tournament.

Subsequently, the date was extended to October 10 and now the date has been further extended by 10 days.

"Interested parties are requested to email at ittipl2021@bcci.tv to get further details for purchasing the ITT. The email requesting the ITT should have the subject line 'ITT for the Right to Own and Operate One of Two Proposed New IPL Teams,' said a BCCI statement.

"Any interested party wishing to submit a bid is required to purchase the ITT. However, only those satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in the ITT and subject to the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid. It is clarified that merely purchasing this ITT does not entitle any person to bid," the statement added.

Fan-inspired Team India jersey for T20 World Cup unveiled



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Claiming to be inspired by the fans, the Indian cricket team's jersey for the upcoming T20 World Cup was unveiled on Wednesday, days before the country opens its campaign with a much-awaited clash against arch-rivals Pakistan in Dubai.

The tournament will be held from October 17 to November 14 in the UAE and Oman. The new shirt, called the 'Billion Cheers Jersey', has been inspired by

fans and was unveiled by MPL Sports, the official kit sponsor of the Indian men's, women's, and Under-19 teams.

"This is the first time in the history of Indian cricket that fans have been memorialised on a jersey. It carries their chants and cheers from iconic past matches, transformed into unique soundwave patterns," stated a release from ML Sports.

The jersey comes in shades of prussian blue and royal blue.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said, "The Indian cricket team enjoys support not just in India but around the world, and there's no better way to celebrate their excitement and energy than through this jersey." "This will undoubtedly provide the team with the much-needed enthusiastic support in their quest to emerge as the T20 champions of the world."

We are also pleased to see that MPL Sports continues to deliver merchandise that is widely affordable and accessible."

The board's secretary Jay Shah echoed the view.

Amandeep leads 10th leg of Hero WPGT

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Amandeep Drall lived up to her top billing with a flawless 4-under 68 that put her on top of the leaderboard at the end of the first round in the 10th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Wednesday.

After day one at the Chandigarh Golf Club, Amandeep was one shot ahead of the highly rated amateur Avani Prashanth (69), who had four birdies against one bogey.

Kapurthala golfer Amandeep leads the combined Hero Order of Merit for 2020-21 despite missing out on the last few legs of the Tour because of busy schedule in Europe.

Both Amandeep and Avani had a bogey-free 3-under 33 each on the back nine. They also had a birdie each on the front nine, but Avani also dropped a shot on the ninth, while Amandeep stayed error-free.

Avani was the winner of the third leg and runner-up in the seventh leg in 2021. Amandeep is yet to taste a win in 2021, though she had two in 2020. She was runner-up to Avani in the third leg, so she has a score to settle with the youngster.

Seher Atwal and Jahanvi Bakshi also carded under par rounds of 1-under 71 each to be Tied-third. Seher and Jahanvi had contrasting rounds producing similar scores.

Narine won't be added to West Indies World Cup squad: Pollard

PTI ■ SHARJAH

West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard says they will resist the temptation of adding Sunil Narine to their T20 World Cup squad despite the spinner's sublime form in the ongoing IPL, where he played a key role in Kolkata Knight Riders reaching the Qualifier-2. The 33-year-old Narine reminded the fans of his vintage past with his four-wicket haul and impact batting in the eliminator against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday. He has taken 11 wickets in eight IPL matches since the league's resumption in the UAE.



He went wicket-less against Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad and in an earlier

match against RCB but took three wickets in the team's two-wicket defeat to Chennai Super Kings. However, he has not played any international cricket since August 2019, forcing defending champions West Indies to ignore him while announcing their World Cup squad on grounds of fitness.

The ICC deadline to make changes in the squad ends on Friday. "If I add my two cents or my words on how his non-inclusion came about, then it could be spun - just like how he's bowling on these Sharjah wickets - in all different directions," Pollard told ESPNcricinfo.

Golfers Aditi, Tvesa and Diksha to play in New York leg of Aramco Series

IANIS ■ NEW YORK

Indian golfers Aditi Ashok, Tvesa Malik and Diksha Dagar will compete at the third leg of the Aramco Series in New York beginning this week. Only Tvesa has played both earlier legs in London and in Spain, while Diksha was in the winning team in London and missed the event in Spain.

Aditi, fourth at the Olympics, will be playing the Aramco Series for the first time this season. Tvesa has had numerous solid finishes this season, but Aramco Series events have not given her a good finish. Diksha Dagar was part of the winning team in London and was

T-12 in the individual standings.

A stellar field includes Olympic champion Nelly Korda with her sister Jessica, Lexi Thompson, Lizette Salas, Angel Yin, Alison Lee and Lindsey Weaver. Others including Danielle Kang, Cheyenne Woods and Natalie Gulbis will be getting a taste of the Series for the first time.

The top Europeans are Catriona Matthew, Emily Kristine Pedersen, Charley Hull, Anna Nordqvist, Sophia Popov, Bronte Law, Caroline Masson and Anne Van Dam. The two individual winners from London (Marianne Skarphord) and from Sotogrande, Spain (American Alison Lee) are also in the field.

Ronaldo scores hat trick, Denmark qualifies for World Cup

AP ■ PARIS

Another hat trick for Cristiano Ronaldo, another win -- and qualification for the World Cup -- for Denmark.

And yet more crowd trouble in a game between England and Hungary.

There was a sense of familiarity to the World Cup qualifiers in Europe on Tuesday, not least in Faro where Ronaldo extended his men's record tally of international goals to 115 by scoring the 58th hat trick of his career for club and country in Portugal's 5-0 win over Luxembourg.

Denmark became the second European nation to qualify for next year's tournament in Qatar, after Germany on Monday, by securing an eighth straight



win in group play by beating Austria 1-0.

The decisive win -- sealed by Joakim Maehle's second-half goal -- came at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen where star playmaker Christian Eriksen collapsed in June during a European Championship game. It is still unclear if Eriksen can resume his career to play at the World Cup in 13 months' time.

England is likely to be there, but was made to wait before booking its place after being held to a 1-1 draw by Hungary at Wembley Stadium.

Events on the field were overshadowed by clashes between police officers and Hungary supporters at the start of the match, sparked -- according to police -- by a visiting fan making "racially aggravated" comments toward a steward.

SINGLES

NEYMAR'S TEAM URGE HIM TO PLAY WCUP

Sao Paulo: Neymar's Brazil teammates are still hoping the 29-year-old striker will remain with the national team after next year's World Cup, despite saying the tournament in Qatar could be his last. Neymar said in an interview aired this week that he doesn't know whether he will be able "mentally to endure" more international soccer after the 2022 World Cup and that he's approaching the tournament as if it is his last. His teammates rallied around the Paris Saint-Germain player on Tuesday, saying they understand the pressure Neymar faces as Brazil's biggest star. "We want him to stay with us for many years," midfielder Fred said. "But it is hard to talk about someone else's head. Sometimes people face a huge pressure."

FIFA ASSESS PUNISHMENT FOR CROWD UNREST

Zurich: FIFA is analyzing the crowd unrest and assessing punishments after condemning disorder involving Hungary and Albania fans in separate World Cup qualifiers. At Wembley Stadium in London, Hungary supporters fought with police in the stands just after kickoff on Tuesday as officers sought to arrest a spectator on suspicion of racially abusing a steward. Hungary drew 1-1 with England. Another Group I game in Tirana was suspended for around 20 minutes. Karol Swiderski had just scored for Poland in the 77th minute when he was apparently struck by a bottle thrown from the Albania fans. Poland's players walked off but returned to the field and held on to win 1-0. .

HIMA DAS TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID -19

Ace Indian sprinter Hima Das, who is making a comeback from a hamstring injury, on Wednesday revealed that she has tested positive for COVID-19 but is stable in isolation. Das, 21, reported to the national camp at National Institute of Sport (NIS) in Patiala recently. "I would like to inform everyone that I have been tested positive for Covid-19. I am stable and at the moment in isolation. I look forward to utilising this time to recover and come back stronger than before," Das tweeted. "A gentle reminder for everyone to stay safe and wear mask." Das could not make the cut for the Tokyo Olympics after missing the 200m qualification mark of 22.80s as she clocked 23.21s in the Federation Cup in March this year.

INDIA REACH THOMAS CUP QUARTERS

Aarhus (Denmark): The Indian men's badminton team hammered Tahiti 5-0 to enter the quarterfinals of the Thomas Cup for the first time since 2010 but the women's team suffered a crushing 0-5 defeat against a strong Thailand in its last group match here. It was the first defeat for Indian women after beating Spain (3-2) and Scotland (4-1). The women's team has already reached the quarterfinals. The men's team, on Tuesday, recorded its second straight 5-0 win, having beaten the Netherlands with an identical margin.

AIFF NAMES 28 INDIA PROBABLES

New Delhi: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Wednesday announced 28 probables, including Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem and Aniket Jadhav, for the national team's qualifying campaign for next year's AFC U-23 Asian Cup. India have been drawn alongside Oman, Kyrgyz Republic, and hosts UAE in Group E of the Qualifiers, with the matches set to be played between October 25 to 31 at the Fujairah Stadium in Fujairah, UAE. The AFC U-23 Asian Cup is scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan. The Blue Colts are set to assemble in Bengaluru on October 17, before leaving for the UAE on October 20 for their matches.