

ANALYSIS 7
INDIA TOWARDS THE
SPACE AND BEYOND**MONEY 8**
SENSEX ZOOMS 569 PTS;
NIFTY TOPS 18,300-MARK**SPORTS 12**
THE FINAL
SHOWDOWN!

HYDERABAD, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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BHEEMLA NAYAK'S
'ANTHA ISTAM' TO
RELEASE ON
DASARA

Page 11

**Happy Dasara**

The Pioneer wishes its readers, advertisers, agents, suppliers and vendors a happy Dasara. May this Dasara be a harbinger of peace, health, prosperity and joy to all. The offices of The Pioneer will remain closed today (15-10-2021) on account of the festival and there will be no issue of the paper tomorrow (16-10-2021).

- Resident Editor

CJI NV Ramana
offers prayers at
Tiruchanur temple

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, on a two-day visit to Tirupati and Tirumala, offered prayers to Goddess Padmavathi at the famous Tiruchanur temple on Thursday afternoon.

The CJI, accompanied by AP High Court Chief Justice Prasanth Kumar Mishra, was accorded a grand welcome at the main entrance of the temple on his arrival amidst chanting of Vedic hymns by pundits.

2

Top Maoist leader RK has died, say reportsVKL GAYATHI/G RAVI KIRAN
■ HYDERABAD

Reports of the death of top Maoist leader Akkiraju Haragopal better known as Rama Krishna or simply, RK, due to ill health in Dandakaranya of South Bastar forest area flew thick and fast on Thursday.

Till the time of going to press, there was no official statement from the Maoist party.

According to reliable sources, the police received the news through their network but it is yet to be confirmed by the Maoist. The Maoists usually release a letter on the demise of top leaders.



Akkiraju Haragopal (File photo)

In fact, the buzz reached such a crescendo that some reports

even claimed that the Chhattisgarh DGP has confirmed the death of RK. However, there was no official statement from the Chhattisgarh police to validate this claim.

According to the reports, RK died of an infection of the lungs. The reports said that the top Maoist leader had contracted this infection following a bout of dengue.

So credible the reports appeared that the police reached the house of RK in Guntur district as well as the residence of his Sirisha, in Prakasam district.

2

Security forces wary of RK death reports, smell a ruse P:2**AP fulfils obligation on Krishna projects in part**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The AP government on Thursday issued an order handing over only four components (projects), on river Krishna that fell under the state jurisdiction, to the KRMB in compliance with the Gazette Notification issued by the Union Jal Shakti Ministry in July this year.

The AP government, however, attached a rider that the handing

over of the projects be done "simultaneously only", implying that neighbouring Telangana too should fulfil its similar obligation as per the Jal Shakti notification.

In addition, AP Water Resources Secretary J Syamala Rao attached a note to the KRMB Chairman, requesting necessary action with respect to Jurala project also.

2

CBSE term 1 board exam date sheet on October 18

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Date sheets for term 1 board exams for Class 10 and Class 12 students will be released on October 18, the CBSE has said.

The exams will take place in November-December, 2021. This will be an objective-type exam of 90 minutes duration. It was decided to divide subjects of Class 10 and Class 12 into two groups.

'What TS does today, India does tomorrow'

TRS working president KTR says Telangana is a role model for the country through its programmes and policies, delegates responsibilities for plenary

ML MELLY MAITREYI
■ HYDERABAD

The TRS plenary and the scheduled election of party president scheduled for October 25 has triggered an enthusiasm in the party cadre and leaders across the State as it is billed as an occasion to talk about the achievements of the party and the TRS government.

TRS working president KT Rama Rao, who visited the Hitelex premises on Thursday to review the arrangements for the plenary, said that the last seven years have proven that "What Telangana does today, India does tomorrow," and



TRS working president KT Rama Rao reviews arrangements for the party's plenary at the Hitelex on Thursday.

the State has become a model for the entire country to emulate.

Overcoming various challenges, Telangana was achieved through a powerful people's movement under the leadership of TRS president K Chandrasekhara Rao, he said.

2

TRS in a flux over KCR's public meetK VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

TRS leaders are in a dilemma these days, unable to decide whether to go ahead with the much-talked about Huzurabad by-election public meeting to be addressed by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao.

Ideally, the leadership of any major political party would prefer getting its topmost leader to address the voters just ahead of an election. In this case, KCR addressing a public meeting ahead of the Huzurabad by-poll would have worked wonders for the morale of the party cadre and would have swung undecided voters in its favour, TRS seniors feel.

2

'Blessing in disguise' Covid helps parties cut poll expensesSNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

While all major political parties are splurging money to woo voters in Huzurabad Assembly constituency ahead of the by-election, they are thankful to Covid-19 which has come as a blessing in disguise and is helping them cut down on at least some expenses.

The Election Commission has prohibited public meetings with large crowds in Huzurabad as part of the Covid-19 protocol.

According to experts in making arrangements for large gatherings, conducting a public meeting with around one lakh people would cost at the very least Rs 2

crore.

If political leaders like Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao or Union Home Minister Amit Shah are the main speakers, their party – the TRS or the BJP in this case – would work hard to mobilise at least over one lakh people.

2

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TS Genco power plants should run as efficiently as those of NTPC

Availability of electricity (energy) at competitive tariff is one of the most critical components of infrastructure that is essential for sustained growth of the economy and welfare of people in any nation.

In 2003, the Parliament passed a historic piece of legislation, called The Electricity Act 2003, consolidating the previous laws concerning electricity.

The law is aimed at development of electricity industry, promoting competition in the power sector, and protecting the interests of consumers. The power sector was unbundled into three segments, namely Generation, Transmission and Distribution.

The responsibility of fixing tariff was handed over to an autonomous body called the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) to ensure that the interests of consumers are well-protected.

The final cost of power, which is the sum total of Generation cost, Transmission cost and Distribution cost, is fixed through an extensive consultation process by SERC.

The estimated cost of pro-

Both NTPC Ramagundam and TS Genco power plants are situated in similar locations - at coal pit heads in Telangana. Hence, if both are run at the same level of technical and commercial efficiency, their generation cost ought to be similar.

curement of power from the State Power Generating Stations (TS Genco power plants), Central Power Generating Stations (like NTPC), long-term purchase of power from other private power agencies and short-term power purchase from Power Exchange etc. is filed by the State Discom before SERC.

The Retail Power Tariff order issued by TS ERC in March 2018 for the year 2018-19 (latest order in the public domain) gives a break-up of power purchase cost from different sources in Telangana.

As per this order, the cost of power purchase by TS Discoms from TS Genco thermal plants is Rs.3.97 per unit; whereas, the power purchase cost from NTPC thermal power plants located in

Telangana is Rs.3.00 per unit (Table 1). This represents a huge difference of 97 paise per unit.

In the power sector, a difference of a few paise per unit also makes a lot of difference. To give an example, if TS Genco's power cost is on par with that of NTPC Ramagundam, the savings to citizen per year will be of the order of Rs.1,800 crores.

Both NTPC Ramagundam and TS Genco power plants are situated in similar locations - at coal pit heads in Telangana.

Hence, if both are run at the same level of technical and commercial efficiency, their generation cost ought to be similar. But that is not the case. The reason could be that TS Genco power plants are old with lesser thermal efficiency or higher cost of main-



SURESH CHANDA
IAS (Retd.)

tenance and staff.

But for older plants, by this time, their construction costs could have largely depreciated.

Thus, there is room for lower fixed cost per unit. The moot question from the public point of view is: Why TS Genco plants cannot be run as efficiently as NTPC power plants? There is need for intensive cost audit of the generation cost of TS Genco Thermal Power Plants so as to identify the causes of higher generation cost and to take remedial measures.

Generally people have perception that hydro power is very cheap as compared to thermal power as water is available free of cost in the

Power Procurement Cost for Tariff Year 2018-19 (Latest Tariff order)

Generation Source	Quantum of Energy in MU	% of Total purchase	Fixed Cost Rs. In Cr	Variable Cost Rs. In Cr	Total Cost Rs. In Cr	Cost per Unit (On Fixed Cost) Rs.	Cost per Unit (On Variable Cost) Rs.	Cost per Unit. unit as	Cost per % to NTPC Rates
TS GENCO Thermal	18675.77	28.61	2997.90	4417.80	7415.70	1.61	2.37	3.97	132.19
TS GENCO Hydro	2985.67	4.57	1063.16	0.00	1063.16	3.56	0.00	336	118.55
NTPC Ramagundam	3074.37	4.71	219.08	704.38	923.46	0.71	2.29	3.00	100.00
Total Central Stations	15872.96	24.32	1251.46	3819.58	5071.04	0.79	2.41	3.19	106.36
AP Gas Power	58.17	0.09	3.57	12.48	16.05	0.61	2.15	2.76	91.86
Thermal Power Tech 1	2006.32	3.07	350.68	349.14	699.82	1.75	1.74	3.49	116.12
Thermal Power Tech 2	4244.22	6.50	1128.73	811.07	1939.80	2.66	1.91	4.57	152.16
Singareni Power	8421.43	12.90	1514.92	1494.38	3009.30	1.80	1.77	3.57	118.96
Chhatishgarh SPDCL	7055.09	10.81	1871.72	846.61	2718.33	2.65	1.20	3.85	128.27
Wind Telangana SPDCL	184.35	0.28	0.00	86.65	86.65	0.00	4.70	4.70	156.48
Solar Telangana SPDCL	3288.59	5.04	0.00	1831.74	1831.74	0.00	5.57	5.57	185.44
Solar Telangana NPDCL	1327.32	2.03	0.00	744.62	744.62	0.00	5.61	5.61	186.77
Short term Purchase	1158.59	1.77	0.00	447.68	447.68	0.00	3.86	3.86	128.64
Total	65278.48	100.00	10401.22	15566.13	25967.35	1.59	2.38	3.98	132.43

[Source: TS ERC Retail Power Tariff Order for 2018-19,27 th March 2018]

dam.

That's why the variable cost for hydro power is zero (Table 1). But TS Genco Hydro Power Plants' generation cost is at Rs.3.56 per unit (Table 1). It is higher than that of NTPC Thermal Power

Plant (Rs.3.00 per Unit).

TS Genco Hydro Power Plants are very old. Hence, by this time a large portion of the construction costs of the power plants must have been depreciated.

Then, how come it is even

costlier than that of NTPC Thermal Power Plants? Hence, there is need for intensive cost audit of TS Genco Hydro Power generation cost.

Hope, the Telangana government, in the interests of its

citizens, will undertake intensive cost audit of generation costs of its power plants through third party cost experts.

The author is a former Special Chief Secretary, Telangana

CJI NV Ramana offers prayers...

Continued from page 1

Justice Ramana offered prayers to the presiding deity. Later, Vedic pandits rendered 'Vedasirvachanam' in the temple premises.

Speaking to the media after emerging from the temple, the CJI extended his Dasara greetings to the people and said that it was the divine Grace of Lord Venkateswara that helped him reach where he is today.

Later in the evening, on their arrival at Sri Padmavathi Rest House in Tirumala, Chief Justice Ramana, along with Justice Mishra, Justice Lalitha, Justice Satyanaryana Murthy and Registrar General Bhanumathi were given a warm reception by TTD EO Dr KS Jawahar Reddy, AEO Dharma Reddy and other top officials.

New insights into role, dosage of insulin in minimising tissue damage

ML MELLY MAITREYI ■ HYDERABAD

The role of insulin hormone in regulating glucose in the blood is well known but it also plays a role to ensure that cells utilise glucose for metabolism and growth and maintenance of tissues.

This function is brought about by a complex signalling network that is operative in all cells of the body.

Researchers from Ullas Kothur's group at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, in collaboration with Ranjith Padinatheeri's group at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay have found that the amount of insulin present in the body at

the fasting as well as fed stage, dictates how its signalling network action is manifested inside the cell.

Their research has also revealed how continuous repeat insulin stimulation because of uncontrolled feeding habits without a fasting phase could lead to resistance with implications in metabolic disorders, aging and age-related diseases and may break the signal network in the cells.

The new research findings not only provide fundamental insights into the actions of insulin during normal feed-fast cycles but also raise the possibility of re-evaluating insulin dosage in the clinical context and in efforts to minimise diabetes-associated damage to

key organs.

Speaking to The Pioneer, Ullas Kothur said that in a healthy individual, the levels of insulin rise after a meal and fall during fasting which is necessary to supply 'normal' levels of glucose to all the organs in the body.

Loss of insulin or its action leads to uncontrolled increase in blood glucose/sugar ultimately leading to diabetes. The research findings relate to how cells respond to fluctuating doses of insulin hormone and how inappropriate interventions lead to tissue damage and cause loss of kidney functions, retinopathy and neuropathy among others.

Though decades of research identified the molecular components of insulin signalling, how the signalling network would change in response to varied insulin inputs was unknown until now, Ullas Kothur said.

Continuous exposure to insulin is bad as the study has discovered that very high amounts of insulin inputs may control blood sugar but end up breaking the signalling network in the cells and potentially lead to resistance and cause tissue damage as seen in diabetes.

This is relevant since modern lifestyles have led to intake of high calorie diets and aberrant feeding habits. The break in the signalling following high insulin inputs in the cells can be equated to uncontrolled traffic signals which cause traffic jams and or accidents.

KCR extends Dasara greetings

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Thursday extended his greetings to the people of Telangana, on the occasion of Dasara.

KCRS said that the festival sends an inspirational message that until the set goal is achieved, one should not rest and Vijaya Dashami is celebrated as the victory of good over evil.

He prayed to Goddess Durga to bless the people of Telangana with good health and prosperous life.

Kavitha: By-poll result cannot be referendum

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an interesting observation, MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has said the result of Huzurabad by-election cannot be considered as a referendum on the performance of the TRS government or the strength of TRS.

Exuding confidence that TRS candidate Gellu Srinivas would win the Huzurabad Assembly by-election as people have faith in the TRS and the State government, Kavitha said that the outcome of a by-election could not be analysed in that manner.

Speaking to a private television channel on Thursday, Kavitha said that in the recent Assembly by-election, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee won with a huge majority. "Would the BJP consider Mamata's massive victo-

ry as a referendum? Kavitha asked. If BJP really feels that way, it would become a problem for the party, she said.

The MLC pointed out that BJP candidate Eatala Rajender was not able to clearly spell out why the by-election was necessitated. "The people of Telangana are intelligent and the people of Huzurabad knew what led to the by-election and they also have clarity on whose side they should be," the TRS leader said.

Calling upon people to elect efficient persons based on the work done and the work to be done, she said the administrative capabilities of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao have been proven over the last seven years and therefore the party candidate would win the election easily.

‘Blessing in disguise’...

Continued from page 1

Not only the stage decoration, but the parties would have to spend on transport, supply of liquor and food and other expenditure which would work out to nothing less than Rs 2 crore in this age of high inflation.

Usually to conduct such high-profile public meetings, the political party will release some money and local party leaders would shell out the rest from their own pocket. In some cases, the party would bear the total expenditure.

As per Election Commission guidelines, if a party wants to conduct a public meeting in Huzurabad Assembly constituency limits with its nominated star cam-

paigners, the gathering should not be more than 1,000 people. If other leaders are to address the public meeting, the gathering should not exceed 500 people.

Since KCR or Amit Shah would be star campaigners for their respective party, the limit on the number of people attending would be just 1,000. No party would want to invite such high-profile leaders when the crowd is so small, and the leaders themselves would not come to participate in such "small" public meetings.

Now, instead of holding public meetings, political parties are giving preference to roadshows and street corner meetings and thus saving crores of rupees.

TRS in a flux...

Continued from page 1

However, the party will be holding its plenary at the Hitec on October 25, and polling is scheduled for October 29.

The TRS had been thinking of organising a massive public meeting to be addressed by KCR on October 27 to ensure a thumping victory for its candidate Gellu Srinivas Yadav.

The polling is on October 29. But the party is in a dilemma now as its plenary meet is scheduled for October 25.

With the date of the plenary set on October 25, TRS leaders are in a dilemma whether to go ahead with the public meeting two days later

Rashmika is LOT Mobiles new brand ambassador

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

LOT Mobile stores which has rapidly expanded in nine years and is marching towards opening 150 stores, has now signed up with a new brand ambassador, Rashmika Mandanna.

Director of LOT, M Akhil said Rashmika's energy, attitude and enthusiasm is in perfect sync with their brand and with the same enthusiasm, LOT has planned its expansion of 100 plus new stores by the end of next year.

Talking to the media, Rashmika said she is proud and excited to endorse such a

popular mobile retail store in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. She also added that she is looking forward to communicate the brand with the audience through their unique and interesting campaigns.

Akhil announced new offers for this festival seasons that included 10 per cent guaranteed cashback with instant redemption, 5 per cent cashback on ICICI credit card, upto 15 per cent cashback on OPPO mobiles, upto 10 per cent cashback on ViVP phones, upto Rs 10,000 cashback on Samsung phones and upto 10 per cent cashback on Xiaomi phones.

Top Maoist leader RK dies of...

Continued from page 1

At last count, over 200 cases were registered against RK who has been eluding the police for decades now and he carried a reward of over Rs 1 crore on his head.

RK has played a key role in the Maoist party's dominance for almost four decades. He is the prime accused in the cases regarding attacks on former chief ministers N Chandrababu Naidu and Neduromalli Janardhan Reddy, and IPS official Laddha. He is also accused of masterminding the attack on police in Balimela reservoir.

In 2017, in the Balimela encounter, he was supposed to have died but later it was found that he did receive a bullet injury and made a complete recovery. From then onwards, RK went underground.

In an interview with The Pioneer's VKL Gayatri a few years ago, RK had said that he dedicated his life to bring about a change in the society

and he wanted to build an ideal society devoid of disparities.

He denied that the Maoist were killing people, stating that the police were killing Maoists in fake encounters.

While the mystique surrounding the man remains undiminished, many say that his decision to join the Maoist party was in actuality a reflection of his democratic spirit.

He once said "Maoism is not the only weapon but when we run out of avenues, we have no choice but to pick up weapons."

RK had participated and played a key role in the discussions held with the Government led by YS Rajasekhara Reddy in 2004. He has become famous following an interview that was aired on a TV channel for the first time.

RK had direct interaction with former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy while YSRCPLA Dharmana Prasad Rao played a key role in the discussions.

After YSR's death, his

TRS and BJP workers clash over protocol at hospital inauguration

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an apparent spill over of the by-election rivalry between the ruling party and the opposition BJP, a controversy over protocol led to a clash between the workers of the two parties here on Thursday.

BJP and TRS workers clashed over alleged violation of protocol at the inauguration of a 50-bed government hospital at Ameerpet, resulting in Union Minister G Kishan Reddy and State Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav leaving the venue earlier than

planned. Their early exit was solely due to their inability to pacify the party workers soon after inaugurating the hospital.

The situation turned volatile when BJP workers argued that the name of the Union Minister should have been on top of the inaugural plaque of the hospital. They also were upset and angry that there was no picture of the Union Minister in the banner / flexi put up at the hospital premises.

The BJP workers confronted the hospital authorities

over the issue.

It then led to a free-for-all between the two groups of party workers forcing the police to enter the scene.

Sensing the unruly situation, both Kishan Reddy and Talasani Yadav left the hospital after inaugurating various blocks and wards without addressing the gathering from the dais.

The 50-bed hospital set up by the State government at Ameerpet would cater to both outpatients and in-patients. It has operation theatres, scanning and other facilities.

‘What TS does...

Continued from page 1

People blessed the party for the second time as they appreciated its policies and programmes, KTR said. "Not only people of Telangana, even people in other parts of the country look up to Telangana," KTR said.

Listing various programmes of Telangana that are emulated by the Centre and other States, the Minister said that the BJP-led Union government started PM Kisan taking inspiration from Telangana's Rythu Bandhu scheme and modelled it on similar lines.

The Centre's Jal Jivan Mission is based on Mission Bhagiratha of the State government to provide piped drinking water to every household, he said.

KTR said that the Centre introduced 'Nagar Van' programme on the lines of Urban Parks in the State to provide urban lung spaces and it will be soon introducing a new policy similar to TS'sPASS for faster

clearances to industries.

Earlier, KTR held meetings with officials of the police and other departments about arrangements for the plenary including parking, venue, traffic management along the route to be taken by the Chief Minister, sanitation at the venue etc.

About 14,000 delegates – elected representatives and those to be invited as per the party by-laws, would be given identity cards. Only those invited would be allowed to attend the plenary. Prior to the plenary, the TRS general body meeting would be held on October 25 to elect the party president.

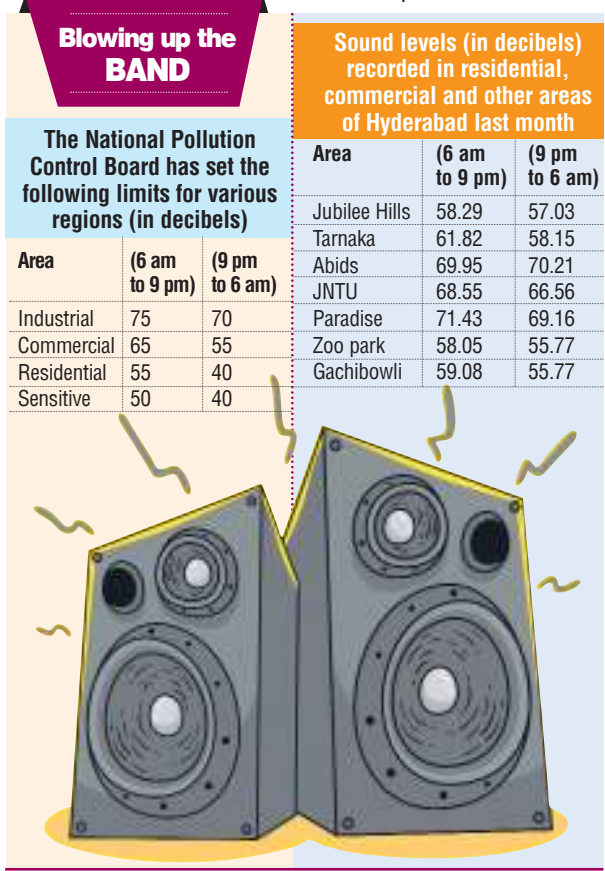
The TRS working president constituted different committees to coordinate and look after various aspects of the plenary. Accordingly, Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy was appointed chairperson of the Reception Committee with MP Ranjith Reddy, MLA Arikepudi Gandhi and Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi.

Fetes and festivals contributing to noise pollution in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sound pollution in the city which is increasing with every passing day is not limited to sounds from vehicles, but is also coming from building construction operations. Sound pollution is increasing in residential and commercial zones, hospital areas, parks and other sensitive areas. It is affecting people from all sections of society. Sound pollution increases during festivals and celebrations. It affects the elderly, children and those who suffer from chronic diseases the most. High decibel sound is causing arrhythmia, hypertension and other problems in those

exposed to it. If the sound limit crosses 65 decibels people tend to develop heart problems, experience loss of hearing, lack of sleep, headache, depression and other disorders. Last year, sound pollution continued at the same level without any improvement, the TSPCB has said. It observed that sound levels in residential, commercial and sensitive silence zones during days and nights have exceeded safe limits. Rapid urbanisation, the use of automobiles and the increasing building construction operations have been generating excessive sound, according to statistics. Experts have suggested initiation of measures to prevent and control sound scientifically.



No increase in Hussain Sagar pollution this year, says PCB

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Pollution Control Board (TSPCB) has claimed that the pollution level in Hyderabad's Hussain Sagar lake has not increased this year due to immersion of Ganesh idols when compared to the previous year. The board attributed this to the heavy rains received in Hyderabad after immersion. Every year TSPCB monitors the water quality of Hussain Sagar lake during Ganesh festival. This year too it monitored the water quality of the lake as per Central Pollution Control Board's revised guidelines for idol immersion of 2020. The festival, which began on September 10, ended on September 19. Like every

year, thousands of Ganesh idols from various parts of twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and outskirts were immersed in the lake during the festival. According to joint chief environmental scientist of TSPCB, the water quality was monitored before, during and after immersion of idols. The samples were collected from six different locations on September 8, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 28. Four samples were collected during immersion and one each before and after immersion. The samples were collected at platform number one and 2 at NTR Park, near Lumbini Park, at Necklace Road, near Lepakshi Handicrafts and near Buddha Status (midstream) control point.

At all the locations, Dissolved oxygen has shown a decreasing trend during idol immersion, said the board. TDS has shown an increasing trend during idol immersion and specially at Necklace Road TDS has increased drastically during immersion. COD and BOD values have also increased during the idol immersion. However, Dissolved Oxygen at all locations restored to normalcy after immersion. At all the locations heavy metals were below detectable limits either before, during or after immersion of idols, says the report. According to the TSPCB, the reasons for this trend include rainfall received between September 7 and 29 that coincided with the period of Ganesh festival.

Accused trying to block recovery of Telugu Akademi funds: Cops

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After the arrest of ten persons for their alleged role in siphoning off Rs 60 crore of Telugu Akademi's fixed deposits, the police officials said that the Union Bank of India and Canara Bank will have to pay back the entire FD money to Telugu Akademi. The accused have not yet revealed details of the properties they have purchased using the scammed money. In the Telugu Akademi case, the accused were exposed and arrests were made. But recovery of the embezzled Rs 65 crore has become difficult for the police. Police officials said the money was deposited in the banks as Fixed Deposits (FDs) as per bank rules. The accused withdrew the money using fake documents with the help of bank officials. The accused made fake copies of the FDRs with the knowledge of bank staffers. It means that responsibility for



the fraud lies with the banks. They have to pay back the money deposited by the Telugu Akademi, police officials said. The accused have not yet revealed how the stolen money was utilised. Sources said that one of the accused had stated that he had burnt currency worth Rs 80 lakh fearing the police. Another one said that he had given the money to a person and he is not available now. The accused are dodging questions of the police to prevent seizure of their properties.

The police have to present strong evidence in court to get an order to seize properties of the accused. Key accused Sai Kumar is experienced in stonewalling investigations and recovery of money in earlier cases. The scams in Andhra Pradesh government departments have come as a shock to everybody. A police official said that if the accused have managed to execute such a huge scam, they definitely would have a plan to avoid recovery of the money.

Cops arrest one more in Telugu Akademi fraud

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad CCS Police arrested a home loans agent in Telugu Akademi case, in Guntur, on Thursday. The arrested person identified as Sambasiva Rao was close to some bank managers. The key accused, Sai Kumar, approached him and asked him to introduce him to the managers of UBI and Canara Bank. Sambasiva Rao introduced Sai to Mastan Vali and Sadhana, managers of the banks. Later, Sai Kumar operated the scam as per his plan. For his help, Sambasiva Rao was paid Rs 60 lakh by Sai Kumar.

Apolitical 'Alai Balai' event on October 17

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Governors of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh will be participating in 'Alai Balai' - an apolitical annual event here on October 17. Telangana Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, Andhra Pradesh Governor Bishwabhusan Harichandan, Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath, Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya along with Union Minister G Kishan Reddy and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will take part in the traditional event.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhu Naidu and his Andhra Pradesh counterpart YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, have also been invited for the programme, which is being organised by senior BJP leader Bandaru Dattatreya's daughter Vijayalakshmi, who is also the Chairperson of 'Dattanna Alai Balai' Celebration Committee. The event would be held at the Jalavihar here on October 17. Vijayalakshmi told reporters. Prominent personalities from different spheres of life will be felicitated at the event besides cultural programmes by noted artists, followed by lunch with delicacies of Telangana will be part of the event, she said.

Actor Prakash Raj demands CCTV footage of MAA polls

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Following high drama around the Movie Artistes Association (MAA) elections, Vishnu Manchu was elected president of the association and even though his rival Prakash Raj and his supporters resigned from their positions, Vishnu did not react. Many artistes came forward claiming they faced mental harassment by the Manchu family during MAA elections. Others also alleged foul play in the elections. In this context, Prakash Raj has sought evidence from the spot. He has written a letter to the polling officer seeking CCTV footage from the polling booth. Prakash Raj's letter said, "You



were witness to many unfortunate events that happened in the just-concluded MAA elections. The tempers were high and we saw unruly, anti-social behaviour of DRC member Sri Mohan Babu and ex-president Sri Naresh. They abused, threatened and physically attacked members of MAA. "I assume you used your discretionary powers to allow

them and their henchmen in the polling arena." Prakash Raj said the MAA elections and later incidents made them a "laughing stock" in the eyes of the public and there is disgust about behaviour of some known faces. He said even MAA members want to know the truth about these reports. Prakash Raj has demanded CCTV footage of the polls, saying "as a polling officer, it is your duty to preserve all the records at least for three months." "I request you to give us CCTV footage as early as possible. Unless you act immediately, I fear the footage will be deleted or tampered with," he wrote.

Two offenders booked under PD Act in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad Police invoked PD Act against an accused who was earlier arrested in a sexual offence case by the Cyber Crimes Police on June 4, 2021. The accused, Vedanthan Aditya Bharadwaj, 25, a resident of Brundavan Colony, was indulged in acts of attempt to rape, stalking of women and recording of obscene videos of women and uploading them in porn websites, said the police. Meanwhile, a drug peddler Rohit Singh, 21, was also detained by the Mangalhat Police under the PD Act on Thursday.

The popular Sunday Funday at Tank Bund will have a different version at the historic Charminar from this Sunday. Urban Development Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar, starting off a tweet with the phrase 'Ek Shaam Charminar ke Naam', said the effort was to make it a pleasant experience for all. "MP Hyderabad Janaab @asadowaisi, @CPHydCity & @balala_ahmed visited #Charminar precinct today to finalise arrangements for traffic free & pedestrian friendly programme for coming Sunday. Our effort is to make it a pleasant experience for all," he tweeted. Arvind Kumar had last week tweeted that MA&UD Minister KT Rama Rao and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi had suggested that the Sunday Funday concept at Tank Bund be replicated at Charminar too. With the inspection on Thursday, the concept appears to be finalised and will be launched on October 17.



Foreign currency seized at airport

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Customs Department booked a case against a passenger who attempted to smuggle foreign currency notes to Doha from RGIA. On Thursday, a male passenger who was scheduled to fly out to Doha via an Air India flight (AI-901) was detained by the customs officials.

30-yr-old woman alleges gang rape

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A woman was allegedly gang-raped by three persons after being kidnapped near Himayat Sagar on the outskirts of Hyderabad, police said. The incident, which occurred on Wednesday, came to light on Thursday after the victim lodged a complaint at Rajendranagar police station of Cyberabad Police Commissionerate.

As per the complaint, the 30-year-old woman, a resident of Puranapal area, had gone to a liquor shop in Hyderguda on Wednesday evening. An auto-rickshaw driver, who was sitting there, befriended her and offered to drop her home. The victim said that she trusted him and boarded the auto-rickshaw but later, two more persons joined them and allegedly took her to a deserted

place in Himayat Sagar. There they first sexually assaulted her, then snatched her valuables, and fled. After regaining consciousness, the woman reached the police station with the help of few local residents and lodged the complaint. Police Inspector Kanakaiah said that they sent the woman for medical examination and formed special teams to arrest the accused.

26-yr-old woman, paramour nabbed for man's murder

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Gachibowli Police arrested two persons on Thursday, a woman and her paramour, for the murder of her husband at Gopanpally. The arrested persons identified as Manikyam, 42, a car driver and M Jyothi, 26. The 33-year-old victim's body was found in an open plot at Gopanpally. During investigation, police learnt that Manikyam and Jyothi were having an affair, to which Shekar objected. So, the duo decided to kill him. Manikyam then mixed pesticide in alcohol and gave it to Shekar. Later, Manikyam inflicted deep cuts on his body. On Thursday, the Gachibowli Police arrested the accused and were remanded to judicial custody.

SCR, GHMC pass the buck for a decade as commuters suffer

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and South Central Railways (SCR) passing the buck onto each other, construction of RK Puram Rail Over Bridge (ROB) has been pending for a decade. An RTI petition filed with both the GHMC and SCR reveals that the two entities have been waiting for the other to act first, while commuters continue to suffer every single time they use the stretch. The GHMC, in its response to the RTI petition, said: "GHMC has requested the South Central Railway to furnish a feasibility report for taking up the proposal of a two-

lane ROB parallel to existing ROB. Feasibility report is awaited". On the other hand, the response of the SCR to the RTI petition regarding the same issue states: "Railways, vide letter dated 1.11.2011 communicated to GHMC that the ROB work costs Rs 7.53 crore and requested to pay centage charges 2% i.e. Rs 14.70 lakh for preparation and approval of drawings and estimates. Till date there is no correspondence from the State government". Both the RTI petitions were filed by activist Robin Zaccheus, who questioned the TRS government regarding the injustice meted out to residents of Malkajigiri. He said,

"The RTI exposes the lies of the State government on the RK Puram ROB project. Why is it delayed for a decade?" He said that traffic conditions on the RK Puram to Secunderabad stretch have turned bad to worse with life threatening accidents, regular traffic jams, arguments and fights between commuters becoming a daily affair. Lakhs of commuters using the RK Puram stretch are suffering, Robin Zaccheus said. He said, "Be it 108/102 emergency services or private ambulances. All emergency services have no option but to stop at RK Puram flyover due to jams. Neither the present nor the past government have done anything about it."

BJP sees trouble with cauliflower symbol in Huzurabad by-election

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana BJP has sensed trouble with the Cauliflower symbol allocated to an Independent candidate in the Huzurabad by-poll.

The Election Commission allocated the Cauliflower symbol to Independent Edla Joji Reddy.

Although the cauliflower symbol doesn't resemble the Lotus symbol of BJP candidate Eatala Rajender, the party has alerted its cadre to ensure that this does not affect its candidate in anyway, it is learnt.

However, the TRS is also in trouble as the Election Commission allocated the Road Roller and Chapathi Roller symbols to other candidates.



The EC allocated Road Roller to Prajavani Party candidate Lingidi Venkateshwarlu and Chapathi Roller to Praja Ektha Party candidate Siliveru Srikanth. These symbols resemble the TRS's Car symbol and hence TRS leaders see

trouble with these two symbols. The BJP candidate Eatala Rajender's symbol is the lotus, TRS candidate Gellu Srinivas Yadav's symbol is the Car and Congress candidate Balmoor Venkat Narsing Rao's symbol is the Hand.

The candidates contesting on the tickets of registered parties have been allocated symbols.

Anna YSR Party candidate Mahmed Mansoor Ali's symbol is the Batsman, Jai Swaraj Party candidate Kannam Suresh Kumar's symbol is Pen Nib with Seven Rays, Marxist Communist Party of India (United) candidate Karra Raji Reddy's symbol is Computer, Yuvatharam Party candidate Keshetty Vijay Kumar's symbol is Glass, Dalith Bahujan Party candidate Devunuri Srinivas's symbol is Cup Saucer, Prajavani Party candidate Lingidi Venkateshwarlu's symbol is Road Roller and Praja Ektha Party candidate Siliveru Srikanth's symbol is Chapathi Roller. The EC has also allocated symbols to 20 Independent

candidates.

They are Uppu Ravinder (Helicopter), Urumulla Vishwam (Match Box), Edla Joji Reddy (Cauliflower), Kummari Praveen (Gas Cylinder), Kota Shyam Kumar (Bat), Kante Sayanna (Diamond), Guguloth Tirupathi (Frack), Ganji Yugender (Pot), Chandrashekar Chalik (Whistle), Chiluka Anand (Almirah), Prashanth Palle (Camera), Pidishetti Raju (Scissors), Buttemgari Madhava Reddy (Ring), Myakamall Ratnaiah (Sewing Machine), Mautam Sampath (Soap Box), Ramesh Shanigarapu (Television), Ravula Sunil (Harmonium), Srinivas Reddy Lingampally (Plow Tiller), and Chendaluri (Air Conditioner).



'Saddula Bathukamma' celebrated in RG-1 area

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLY

The Bathukamma festival was celebrated in all mining areas of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) on a grand scale as per directions of the SCCL's chairman and managing director.

The Saddula Bathukamma festival was celebrated grandly at the Godavari Kala Pranganam in the RG-1 area.

Ramagundam MLA Korukanti Chander and RG-1 general manager K Narayana distributed prizes to the winners of various contests.

Local women and Singareni Seva Samiti members took part in the event. AGM Finance Ramakrishna, Area Safety Officer KV Rao, DGM (Personnel) Lakshmi Narayana, DGM (civil) Naveen Kumar, and others attended.

'Bathukamma': Remembering women who ended lives

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The significance of Bathukamma festival is to remember and honour the women who were forced to commit suicide during the rule of nawabs and landlords unable to bear their atrocities. As a mark of respect, fellow women used to arrange flowers in a particular fashion and bless them, singing songs and wishing to live life and not to terminate it.

During the Bathukamma festival women arrange flowers in a triangular shape. Women and girls, dressed up in attractive clothes, wearing turmeric, sandalwood paste and kumkum circle the Bathukammas singing songs. On the ninth day, they immerse the Bathukammas in water or in a flowing river. The songs reflect love, friendship, affection, devotion, history and mythology. Bathukamma festival is the cultural identity of Telangana.

No exit polls at Huzurabad till Oct 30

PNS ■ WARANGAL

District Collector RV Karnan who is also the Returning Officer has ordered that no exit polls should be conducted in connection with the Huzurabad by-election till 7.30 pm on October 30 as per Section 126 (A) of the People's Representation Act of 1951.

The Election Commission of India has prohibited exit polls by the print, electronic or any other media before the above said deadline. If anyone violates the order, they will be punished as per EC rules.

of India has prohibited exit polls by the print, electronic or any other media before the above said deadline. If anyone violates the order, they will be punished as per EC rules.

TRS turned Hyderabad into a 'murder capital': Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad City Congress Committee Minorities Department Chairman Sameer Waliullah strongly condemned the rising incidents of murders in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and demanded immediate removal of Home Minister Mahmood Ali and Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar.

"People of Hyderabad, especially businessmen, are living in fear. There is no sense of security among citizens as criminals are brutally killing their targets on the streets of Hyderabad in broad daylight without any fear of law or the police," Sameer Waliullah said in a media statement on Thursday.

Referring to the murder of a businessman in Banglaguda on Wednesday, Sameer Waliullah said that the police failed to take action despite the

victim officially lodging a complaint in the police station concerned expressing fear for his life. Although, as an eyewitness, a sub-inspector has been suspended, the reality remains that the police failed to provide security to a citizen who expressed fear for his life well in advance.

Sameer Waliullah said that the negligent attitude of Hyderabad Police has encouraged 'street murders' wherein an average of at least one person was brutally murdered in full public view every week. "Lack of accountability, especially at the higher level, is responsible for the rising crime rate in the city. There is literally no check on the manufacturing, sale, supply and possession of lethal weapons. Such weapons are accessible to anyone who could pay a price and they are freely being used to commit an offense," he said.

Mega loan mela on October 20th

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

A mega loan mela will be held here on October 20 under the aegis of the district lead bank. Both public sector and private sector banks will have their stalls at the ZP grounds, the venue of the mela. The mela will commence at 10.30 am.

At the mela, visitors would be sensitised on Central-sponsored schemes like PM Mudra, PM Swanidhi, Stand Up India, Agri-Infra Fund, PM-FME and other programmes. Loans will also be sanctioned on the spot to those eligible.

The visitors can also find out options to secure loans from banks participating in the mela.

Lead Bank Manager Nagaraju Kumar urged people to visit the loan mela and to make use of the banks' various loan schemes.

Revanth calls on DS at latter's residence

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC chief A Revanth Reddy visited former PCC chief and TRS Rajya Sabha member D Srinivas along with a few other Congress leaders at the latter's residence on Thursday.

Later, Revanth Reddy said that he made a courtesy call as DS had suffered a fracture in hand after falling. He said that the politicians in Telangana would be there for each other whenever there are problems

and political ideology doesn't matter. Reddy also said that DS is very close to him. He spent an hour there and enquired about DS' health.

DS had fractured his hand after slipping and falling in his Puja room on his birthday. He also underwent a surgery.

DS said that there is no politics in Revanth Reddy's meeting with him. Reddy came to his residence only to enquire about his health, he said. "I am very happy that PCC chief Revanth Reddy came to my residence," he added.

It may be recalled that DS has been staying away from politics after the TRS party kept him away from party activities. However, DS' elder son and Nizamabad's first mayor D Sanjay met Revanth Reddy and said that he would join the Congress. However, Sanjay hasn't joined the Congress officially yet. In this context, Revanth Reddy's meeting with DS has significance. Reddy also discussed with DS the political situation in the state and at the Centre, it is learnt.



15,000 CCTV cameras for Khammam district

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Superintendent of Police Vishnu S Warrior has said the state government of Telangana is planning to install at least 15,000 CCTV cameras in Khammam district and to link them to the command and control centre to improve security.

As many as 10,000 CCTV cameras will be installed in the city alone and they will be linked to the command control centre, the Superintendent of Police said.

Technological reforms have been introduced to punish the guilty without fail, he said.

Criminals have been going for new methods to commit crimes, but CCTV cameras have been helping the police a lot in solving them, the Superintendent of Police added.

The CCTV cameras are useful in controlling crimes on the one hand and in preventing them on the other, the SP said, adding that they had given vital clues in many sensational cases.

Community policing has been introduced in city police commissionerate limits, he said, adding that he is also sensitising villages to install CCTV cameras.

State would initiate measures to uphold traditions: Gandra

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALAPALLY

MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy on Thursday unveiled idols of Bathukamma at Pulluri Ramayapalli in the municipal town limits and at Chelpuru village of Ganapuram mandal.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion, Venkata Ramana Reddy said that the state government of Telangana would initiate all measures to uphold the cultures and traditions of the people of the state. As part of it, it is officially conducting Bathukamma festival.

Hyd-bound vehicles clog highway in Choutuppal

PNS ■ CHOUTUPPAL

A heavy traffic jam was reported on Thursday night at Choutuppal with vehicles carrying Dasara festival travellers to various destinations in Andhra Pradesh.

The people of Telugu states have started their home-bound journey from Thursday morning onwards. As a result, the Hyderabad-Vijayawada national highway was choked with the vehicles carrying the festival rush.

Towards the evening, the rush on the high way increased manifold. Vehicles set out their journey became

stranded by the time they reached Koyyalagudem Ganesh temple.

Vehicles were found stranded from Choutuppal to Koyyalagudem on the highway. The vehicles took at least four hours time to travel four km.

On account of absence of an underpass at Choutuppal, the traffic problem is getting multiplied during festival periods.

Having crossed Choutuppal, the vehicles are zooming past. With the implementation of the FasTag at Panthangi toll plaza, the movement of traffic is free on the highway.

Workers told to register names with welfare board

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

The Telangana Building and Other Construction Workers

Welfare Board has been implementing insurance schemes to benefit workers to benefit fami-

ly members in case any untoward incident happens to the worker, says Labour officer Sai Suman.

Out of one lakh house construction workers and other workers, only 33,000 have registered their names with the welfare board, he said adding that the

rest did not get their names registered due to lack of awareness on their part. He said that dangers are lurking around for construction workers quoting the instances of paying Rs 6.30 lakh as insurance amount to the family members of the G

Satyanaaryana of Manganuru village of Bijinapalli mandal of the district when the worker meets with accidental death.

He advised the workers to fill the application form given by the Labour Department and pay Rs 110 as premium.

Dayakar Rao, Vinod take part in 'Navahnika Chandi Yagam'

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALAPALLY

Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao and State Planning Board vice-president B Vinod Kumar on Thursday took part in the 'Navahnika Maha Chandi Yagam' being performed by MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy and his spouse Jyoti at their camp office and performed special pujas and received the blessings of the Vedic scholars.

Peddapalli Zilla Parishad Chairman Putta Madhu, state leaders Gandra Gautam Reddy, Jakku Rakesh and important



TRS leaders in the district, ZPTCs, MPPs, village sarpanches, MPTCs, mandal and town party presidents, youth wing of the party president, PACS chairmen, temple

committee chairman and others took part in the celebrations. Later, town youth President Burra Raju released a song dedicated to MLA Venkata Ramana Reddy.



Misuse of farmer's cheques case solved

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Additional SP Narmada has said that the Nalgonda Police have solved the case of misuse of farmer's cheques, which has been creating a sensation in the district for the past few days.

She disclosed the details of the case, misappropriated

cheques, bank, Revenue officials and brokers involved in the case.

The Telangana government introduced Rythu Bandhu scheme in May 2018 to provide Rs 4,000 per acre for agricultural investment to the farmers.

It was found that Revenue officials, middlemen and

bank officials jointly drew Rythu Bandhu cheques of farmers who died and who are living in other places, and also the cheques not collected by farmers in Gurrampode, PA Pally, Chinthapally, Nampally and Chandur mandals. In total, they drew around Rs 6,50,460 through 547 cheques.



No takers for reserved seats in RTC buses

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The notice 'Reserved for MLAs/MPs' behind the front seats of RTC buses is now history. The TSRTC management is not posting this notice now in its buses. It will be seen only in old buses here and there and not in new ones.

The MLAs from Communist parties — CPI and CPM — used to travel in RTC buses in seats reserved for MLAs. However, there are no MLAs from the Communist parties now. Now MLAs from all political parties have costly cars and they are not at all using RTC buses.

One RTC driver said that he used to see MLAs in buses 20 years ago and not now. He said that even ward members are having cars now, and politicians feel that it is below their



dignity to travel in RTC buses.

The MLAs, MPs and MLCs now confine themselves to statements saying that people have to travel in RTC buses to ensure their safety.

Now the TSRTC management is stepping up efforts to promote the corporation and is urging the public to travel in RTC buses and support the RTC.

TSRTC's new MD VC Sajjanar travelled on an RTC bus on Ganesh immersion day with his family, friends and others.

The MLAs used to come in buses to the Assembly. However, the Assembly authorities stopped arranging buses from MLA quarters

to Assembly as nobody was using them. Former CPM MLA the late Sunnam Rajaiah was the only MLA who used to travel in the bus arranged by the Assembly authorities. Rajaiah was MLA during 2014-2018. Rajaiah used to travel in RTC buses from Hyderabad to his native place Bhadrachalam.

Besides Rajaiah, former MLA Gummadi Narsaiah, the late Kunja Bojji and many other CPM MLAs from Khammam district used to travel in RTC buses. However, Gummadi Narsaiah still uses RTC buses as he has no vehicle.

MLAs, MPs and MLCs will have reservations in buses for their families if they travel along with them. Otherwise, MLAs, MPs and MLCs will have seat reservations for themselves and their gunmen too.

UAV built by T-Works covers 45 km in 33 min

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

T-Works, an initiative of the Telangana government that nurtures a culture of makers and innovators, has successfully designed, developed, and tested its indigenous vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) autonomous Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). It covered 45km in 33 minutes.

Following the development, T-Works is now among the few organisations in India that can design, fabricate, integrate, and operate long range VTOL hybrid drones.

The airframe and its components were designed and fabricated by T-Works using software design tools, 3D printing, laser cutting, and computer numerical control router (for milling, drilling and cutting materials) available at its Begumpet premises, T-Works CEO Sujai Karampuri said in a release here on



Thursday. The Airborne Medical Rapid Transport (AMRT25), as the UAV is called, has a 2.5m wingspan and can launch and land vertically like a drone. It can also fly forward like a winged aircraft, he said.

Its VTOL motors are powered by a 10,000mAh battery while the forward flight is powered by a 30cc petrol engine. A 5m x 5m flat clearing is sufficient to safely launch and land the AMRT25. The design is more suited to carry heavier payloads over larger distances as the wings produce additional buoyant force.

INDIA CORNER Actor's fans vandalise theatres over delay in release of film

Frenzied fans of Kannada star Kichcha Sudeep went on a rampage in some cinema halls across Karnataka on Thursday as his latest movie Kotigobba-3 could not hit the screens as announced. Alarmed by the violence, film producer Soorappa Babu and Sudeep appealed to the fans in separate video messages not to vandalise cinema theatres and said the film would be released on Friday. Waiting eagerly to watch the first show of the film, Sudeep's fan queued up outside cinema halls in many parts of the state early in the morning. To their disappointment, they learnt that the movie would be released only on Friday. Some fans got upset and broke the iron gate of a cinema theatre here and also indulged in stone-pelting. After violence was reported in some theatres in the state, Babu said, "... my film Kotigobba-3 could not be released today as I was cheated. There are many reasons... Some people have conspired against me. The movie will be released tomorrow at 6 am. Please pardon me. I am not at fault." Urging his fans not to vandalise theatres and maintain calm, Sudeep said, "I saw Babu's video message. I know well who conspired against you (Babu). Only time will give the answer to them (Babu's opponents)."



BJP MLA threatens to quit party, seeks a 'better' board or corporation to head

Tuvarakere BJP MLA A S Jayaram (Masala Jayaram) on Thursday accusing his own party of "betraying" him, threatened to quit it, if he is not appointed as the head of a "better" board or corporation in the state, by the end of this month. "I have somewhere felt that the party is betraying me, so I have said I don't want (the current position). Party has to identify and give (better board or corporation), if they don't give I know what to do. I have asked and waited for long. I have spoken to the state (BJP) President and the Chief Minister in this regard," Jayaram said. Speaking to reporters here, he said, if the party neglects, he will not remain in it and will also end his political career. "There is a limit to my patience, they have said they will give it (new post) by this month end. I will wait till then. I'm not aspiring for a Minister post, what I'm asking for is a good board or corporation, if they give its okay or else I will take my decision," he added. Jayaram is currently the Chairman of Karnataka State Spices Development Board.



SIT takes Ashish, 3 others to recreate sequence of events in Lakhimpur

The SIT probing the Lakhimpur Kheri violence on Thursday took Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son and three others arrested in the case to recreate the sequence of events leading to the incident in Uttar Pradesh's Tikonia village. Amid tight security, the three accused were taken to the site of the incident on the Tikonia-Banbirpur road, around 60 km from district headquarters Lakhimpur city, police said. Eight people died in the October 3 violence and of them, four were farmers, allegedly knocked down by a vehicle carrying BJP workers. Infuriated farmers then allegedly lynched some people in the vehicles. The other dead included two BJP workers and their driver. In the incident, a journalist was also killed. Farmers claimed that Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra was in one of the vehicles, an allegation denied by him and his father who say they can produce evidence to prove he was at an event at that time. Ashish Mishra 'Monu' was arrested in the case on October 9 after 12 hours of questioning, and a court has accepted his police custody from October 12 to October 15.



Amit Shah: BJP will win absolute majority in Goa Assembly polls

PNS ■ PANAJI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday expressed confidence that the ruling BJP would win "absolute majority" in the Goa Assembly elections due in February next year and form the government in the state once again.

He said the "double engine" of BJP governments - in Goa and at the Centre - would help in the development of the state.

Addressing a function after laying the foundation stone for the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) at Dharbandora village in South Goa, he also said that chartered flights will start arriving in the tourism-dependent state from November 15.

"BJP will form the next government in the state with absolute majority... There is still time for elections. But I am appealing to the people of Goa to make up their mind to elect the BJP government in the state under the leadership of Narendra Modi at the Centre," Shah said.

"This double engine government will help to continue the development of the state," he added. The next year's Assembly elections is going to be a multi-party affair as apart from the ruling BJP opposition Congress, several regional forces, including the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC), Arvind

Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena have decided to contest the polls for the 40-member House.

In the 2017 Goa Assembly polls, the Congress had emerged as the single largest party by winning 17 seats in the 40-member House. However, the BJP, which had bagged 13 seats, acted swiftly



by joining hands with some regional parties and came to power.

The Union minister further said the prime minister has decided to allow chartered flights from November 15.

"I am happy to announce that chartered tourists will start flying in the state after that," he said.

Hailing the Pramod Sawant-led Goa government for covering the entire eligible population in the state with the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, he appealed to it to complete the process of second dose vaccination at the earliest.

Forensic teams' site visit to be mandatory in select crimes



PNS ■ PANAJI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the government aims to make it mandatory for forensic teams to visit the scene of crimes that attract imprisonment of more than six years. He also said that there is paucity of trained manpower in the field of forensic science, which affects the conviction rates and leads to piling up of cases. Shah was addressing a gathering at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) at Dharbandora village in South

Goa. "We need to create fear in the mind of hardened criminals that they will be behind bars. To do this, you need trained manpower in forensic science, which is in shortage," he said. The aim is to ensure that the visit of forensic team would be mandatory in those crimes that attract more than six years of imprisonment, he added. "To do this, we should have teams in all 600 districts of the country. In all the districts, there should be smaller forensic science laboratories and at each DySP-level (Deputy Superintendent of Police), there should be a mobile forensic van," the minister said. In order to set up this kind of infrastructure, there is a requirement of 30,000 to 40,000 people, he said. "How can we create such an infrastructure?... That is why we require institutions providing forensic education," Shah said. He said the world's first forensic science university was conceived in Gujarat when Narendra Modi was the chief minister.

Closure of some mines, inundation due to monsoon led to coal crisis: Joshi

PNS ■ CHATRA (JHARKHAND)

Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi on Thursday said closure of some mines, and inundation of a few others due to monsoon led to the crisis but there is no need to panic as the situation is improving.

Visiting the Ashoka mine of the Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) at Piparwar in Chatra district of Jharkhand, Joshi said the power plants in the

country will continue to receive the required amount of coal. "We are witnessing an improvement now," he said, asked about the current situation.

The minister held discussions with officials of CCL and Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL) on the prevailing situation.

"We can produce two million tonnes of coal per day," he said, asserting the need for produc-

ing more coal.

Closure of some coal mines and inundation of a few others due to monsoon led to the hindrance in coal supply to power plants, Joshi told reporters.

The minister also discussed the issue related to the availability of land for mining at the meeting.

A solution will be found with the cooperation of all, including the district administration, he said.



Heroin worth Rs 10L seized, two arrested

PNS ■ DIPHU

Heroin worth Rs 10 lakh has been seized from a bus in Assam's Karbi Anglong district, and two passengers have been arrested, police said on Thursday.

During a regular vehicle-checking drive on NH 39 on Wednesday night, police stopped a Barpeta-bound bus coming from Dimapur and seized 186.4 gm of heroin and arrested two passengers hailing from Manipur and Nagaland, Khakhati police station officer-in-charge Moublik Brahma told reporters. During interrogation, the duo claimed that they were instructed to transport the drugs to Guwahati and wait for further instructions, he said, adding that an investigation is underway.

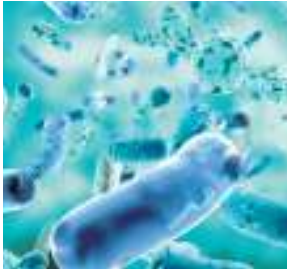
Govt launches 'One Health' surveillance consortium

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Biotechnology has launched a 'One Health' consortium that envisages carrying out surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic as well as transboundary pathogens in the country.

The project also looks into the use of existing diagnostic tests and the development of additional methodologies for the surveillance and understanding the spread of emerging diseases, the DBT said in a statement.

Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, launched the First 'One Health' project of the DBT through video conferencing on Thursday.



The consortium envisages carrying out surveillance of important bacterial, viral and parasitic infections of zoonotic as well as transboundary pathogens.

Noting that the COVID-19 pandemic showed the relevance of 'One Health' principles in the governance of infectious diseases, specially efforts to prevent and contain zoonotic dis-

eases throughout the world, Swarup emphasised on a holistic approach to understand the health of human, animals and wildlife to minimise the damage caused by future pandemics.

Swarup said the 'One Health Consortium' consisting of 27 organisations led by DBT-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology, Hyderabad, is one of the biggest health programmes launched by the government in post-Covid times.

The consortium consists of AIIMS, Delhi, AIIMS Jodhpur, IVRI, Bareilly, GADVASU, Ludhiana, TANUVAS, Chennai, MAFSU, Nagpur, Assam agricultural and veterinary university and many more ICAR, ICMR centres and wildlife agencies.



Allow Chhath puja in Delhi, Covid under control: Kejriwal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urged Lieutenant Governor (LG) Anil Bajjal on Thursday to call a meeting of the DDMA as soon as possible to allow Chhath puja celebrations as the COVID-19 situation in the national capital is under control.

The development comes amid a sharp attack on the Kejriwal government and protests by the Delhi BJP against the Chhath ban.

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had written to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, urging for clarity over Chhath celebrations in view of Covid and issuance of guidelines to celebrate the festival.

In an order on September 30, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) prohibited Chhath celebrations at public places, including at riverbanks, waterbodies and temples, in view of the threat posed by COVID-19.

In his letter to the LG, Kejriwal said the Covid situation in Delhi has been under control for the last three months and he believes that the permission to celebrate Chhath should be given with suitable

protocols in view of the pandemic.

"I have urged Hon'ble LG to allow Chhath pooja celebrations in Delhi. Corona is now in control and many other states have allowed it," he wrote on Twitter while sharing his letter to Bajjal on the platform.

Neighbouring states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan have also given permission for Chhath celebrations with reasonable restrictions for health and safety, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said in his letter to the LG, adding, "I urge you to kindly call a meeting of the DDMA as soon as possible and grant permission for Chhath pooja celebrations."

Earlier, the chief minister had said Chhath celebrations were prohibited at public places in view of the health and safety of people amid the pandemic. He had also slammed the protests by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as "dirty politics" over a sensitive issue.

Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari, who has started a "Chhath Rath Yatra" of the city's Purvanchali-dominated areas against the Chhath ban, wrote to Kejriwal on Wednesday, accusing him of hurting the sentiments of Hindus.

SC stays NGT order on 4 sugar units

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has stayed National Green Tribunal order's imposing Rs 20 crore penalty on four units of Dhampur Sugar Mills Ltd in Uttar Pradesh for continuous violation of environmental laws.

A bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and J K Maheshwari issued notices to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), UP Pollution Control Board

(UPPCB) and others on an appeal filed by Dhampur Sugar Mills.

"Issue notice, returnable in six weeks. In the meanwhile there will be a stay of the order to the extent of payment of compensation of Rs 5 crore which has been imposed against each unit and the costs of Rs 10 lakh to be paid by Respondent Nos. 1 to 3 (Dhampur Sugar Mills Ltd)," the bench said.



'Won't blame others for the viral video'

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The Congress' Karnataka unit president D K Shivakumar said he will not blame anyone for the viral video in which former Lok Sabha member V S Ugrappa and media coordinator M A Saleem attributed him to an alleged scam when he was a Minister.

"People have already spoken whatever they wanted. I will not blame the BJP or the media. We only gave others a chance to use us," Shivakumar told reporters

here. He was responding to the queries on the embarrassing video of the purported conversation between Saleem and Ugrappa on Tuesday ahead of a press meet at the party's meeting hall.

In the video, Saleem is purportedly heard calling Shivakumar a 'Collection Giraaki' (extortionist), who allegedly increased the 'commission' in irrigation contracts from eight per cent to 12 per



cent. The party suspended 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 Congress state chief said the issue related to the viral video was not personal but pertained to a party, which was built by the lakhs of party workers. Hitting back at the BJP for targeting him following the viral video, Shivakumar said let the BJP take note of what their

leaders have spoken against their leader such as MLC A H Vishwanath, C P Yogeshwar, Ramesh Jarkiholi and Basanagouda Patil Yatal. "Why the BJP has not yet answered to the charges levelled by Vishwanath, Yogeshwar, Ramesh Jarkiholi and Yatal (against former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and his family)? Why are they not speaking about collection during the BJP's tenure," the Congress state chief said.

Rajnath hails Rani Laxmi Bai, Indira and Pratibha Patil Says tradition of women as both caregivers and protectors has continued over centuries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former prime minister Indira Gandhi not only led the country for a number of years, but she also did so during the times of war, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday, in an apparent reference to her role in the 1971 war with Pakistan.

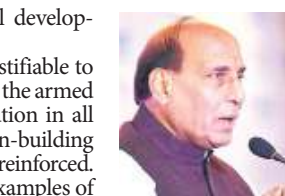
In an address at a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) seminar on the role of women in the armed forces, the defence minister also talked about Rani Laxmi Bai and former president Pratibha Patil, and said India has a positive experience in harnessing

women's power in national development.

Singh said though it is justifiable to discuss the role of women in the armed forces, their wider contribution in all spheres of security and nation-building must also be recognised and reinforced.

"There are a number of examples of women taking up arms to protect their country and the rights of the people through history. Rani Laxmi Bai is amongst the most revered and respected amongst them," he said.

"India's former prime minister Indira Gandhi not only led the country for a number of years, she also did so dur-



ing the times of war. And more recently, Pratibha Patil was the president of India and the supreme commander of the Indian armed forces," the defence minister added.

Under Indira Gandhi's prime ministership, India won the 1971 war

against Pakistan that resulted in the birth of Bangladesh.

Singh said the tradition of women as both caregivers and protectors has continued over the centuries and remains deeply embedded in the customs and traditions of the region.

"If Saraswati is our goddess of knowledge, wisdom and learning, mother Durga remains associated with protection, strength, destruction and war," he said.

Singh said India is amongst a very few countries that took an early initiative in terms of women's participation in the armed forces and that women are now

being accepted for permanent commissioning and shall be commanding Army units and battalions in the near future.

"Women have been serving with pride in the Indian Military Nursing Service for over 100 years now. The Indian Army had commenced commissioning women officers in 1992. It has now moved to inducting women officers in most of the branches of the Army," he said.

"Women are now being accepted for permanent commission and shall be commanding Army units and battalions in the near future," he added.

Burning sensation

Innovative ways to deal with stubble burning instead of cash incentives are needed

It is the second week of October and the annual problem of stubble burning has resurfaced around Delhi. The Central Pollution Control Board says the air quality in Delhi has already reduced over the last week. The air quality index (AQI) on October 13 was 171. It falls under the 'moderate' category of 101-200 AQI. The index has jumped from the 'satisfactory' since the last week of September and crossed three digits to 125 on October 7. Between now and the end of November every year, Punjab, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh record a high number of stubble burnings. This year, however, the burning is delayed; NASA images show a lesser number of fires in Punjab and Haryana. In Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar of UP, however, instances of stubble burning are increasing. The response of the UP administration is simply to lodge an FIR against persons involved in the crop residue burning and impose fines ranging from ₹2,500 to ₹15,000. That hardly deters the farmers who feel their losses will be more if they don't burn the stubble and get the field ready for the next crop in the small window available for doing so. The solution lies not in punitive measures and ordinances and laws but in innovation. Certain steps that Delhi, Punjab and Haryana are taking this year may show the way.

The crux of the problem is that around 20 million tonnes of paddy straw was generated in the monsoon harvest. There is a 55-day window to clear it for the winter wheat crop. The straw cannot be used as fodder and burning it is the easiest and cheapest method. However, that badly pollutes the air, in and around Delhi. Governments have introduced effective machines to remove the stubble but the farmers find them expensive. Innovation has now come into the picture. The Delhi Government has started using the Pusa Decomposer this month. Developed by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), it is a low-cost microbial bio-enzyme that decomposes crop residues, including stubble. Thousands of farmers in Punjab and Haryana have registered with a firm to use the decomposer. A Bengaluru-based start-up has tied up with the IARI to simplify the use of the decomposer. It provides the mixture in capsule form that can be transformed into a ready-to-use powder that can be mixed with water and sprayed instantly. There are other experiments that States are undertaking. Farmers are being persuaded to diversify into Basmati paddy that can be used as fodder. Scientists are exploring microbial solutions that can dissolve the stubble and convert it into soil nutrients. Trials are underway to generate bio-CNG and bioethanol from the stubble. Paper and sugar mills are being incentivised to install boilers that use stubble as fuel. It is time the innovation leads the anti-stubble war instead of impractical solutions like giving farmers a cash incentive of ₹100 per quintal for not burning stubble.



Street vendors sell effigies by the roadside ahead of Dussehra, in Delhi Ranjan Dimri | The Pioneer

Not there yet

The TMC has brighter prospects after winning West Bengal, but Delhi is still far away

In July, when after her resounding success in Bengal elections Mamata Banerjee told the media in Delhi that she was a mere cog in the anti-BJP wheel even a nitwit knew she was testing waters. Three months later, the Trinamool Congress mouthpiece *Jago Bangla* projected her as the woman behind the Opposition wheel who could take down Narendra Modi in 2024 general elections — dismissing Rahul Gandhi's claim to it all.

But can she do in Delhi what she did in Kolkata? The TMC has no doubts that with the help of team PK — read Prashant Kishor — she will succeed where Jyoti Basu and Pranab Mukherjee failed. No doubt the TMC think tank is walking on a presumptive trajectory. According to them, in the absence of Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Banerjee has emerged as the undisputed leader of Bengal with 42 parliamentary seats. Bengal is the third largest State after Uttar Pradesh (80) and Maharashtra (48) in terms of the MPs. The TMC is convinced that her thumping success in Bengal and Rahul Gandhi's repetitive failure elsewhere to jack up

a decomposing Congress keeps her ahead of the grand old outfit.

However, the proverbial 'pros' notwithstanding, the bacterial 'cons' may erode Didi's prospects because winning Bengal and grabbing Delhi are different ball games. First of all, she has to offer a viable Bengal Model for PM Modi's Gujarat Model. Industry is her Achilles Heels. Despite her having 'convened' yearly global business summits with huge fanfare, the resultant investment is in the vicinity of a regulation zero. Back from one such summit meeting in Kolkata, a mighty big industry captain from Gujarat privately told his board of directors that investing in Bengal was equivalent to putting necks on railway tracks. Didi must be running her ploys in Singur and Nandigram that brought her to power but that remain the cause of her biggest woes as a Chief Minister. Secondly, though Banerjee has blasted Modi for selling out national assets and cutting down Government jobs, her own Government is responsible for eating up more than 5.5 lakh posts. Unlike Jyoti Basu, who commanded respect by his politics, trustworthiness, untainted image and age, the contemporary heartland politicians with their own ambitions and personal ego may not accept Mamata's suzerainty. Hence Delhi is very much visible from Kolkata but it is still far away. *Dilli abhi door hai, Didi!*

Beijing not really the bigger fish

The aggressive behaviour of China has antagonised many countries. North Korea and Pakistan apart, it is difficult to think of a Chinese ally

It is true that Xi Jinping's China is by now sufficiently worked up, for whatever reasons. It also is increasingly apparent that China has to be stopped in its tracks, if the world is not to plunge into a devastating war. Had Europe, Britain and France in particular, done likewise in 1936, WWII would have probably been averted. Notwithstanding Germany being bound by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, forced to downsize its military and remain peaceful, its Fuhrer Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to seize the demilitarised Rhineland — formerly German territory — in 1936, in complete violation of the Treaty. No European power did or even said anything. Germany's generals, who were then reluctant to precipitate another armed conflict, began having faith in their Fuhrer's supposed strategic calibre.

In 1938, just two years after Rhineland, Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and France's PM Edouard Daladier promptly accepted Hitler's invitation to a conference in Munich to settle the Sudetenland issue. This Czechoslovakian province was substantially German-speaking. The Fuhrer wanted it for the greater glory of his fatherland. The visiting leaders promptly conceded this demand without so much as even consulting the Czechoslovaks. Chamberlain publicly eulogised the success of this conference as having achieved "peace in our time". This conclusively convinced the Germans that their Fuhrer knew what he was doing.

The inevitable happened thereafter. Austria was the next to be gobbled, as part of greater Germany, without a shot. In September next year, Poland was overrun in less than six weeks, with France capitulating in a similar duration in 1940. Had the French and British resisted Nazi Germany, which was militarily less prepared in 1936, Hitler would possibly have lost power or stayed away from such military adventures.

China is much better prepared, economically and militarily. It has progressed leaps and bounds, particularly after Deng



Xiao Ping. But how far would it have gone had the American gates for its goods not opened up? China's goods are not products of its own technology, but the result of very diligent copying, politely called 'reverse engineering'. The cheap cost of Chinese goods can be attributed to virtually free grants of land and throwaway interest rates for term loans to local entrepreneurs and of course, low wages to its workers, at least in the early phase of China's meteoric rise.

This is in contrast to Japan's manufactures — automobiles, electronic goods, computers, watches, et al. These are not only original but also largely unsurpassed by other countries. Militarily too, unlike Japan, China does not have a sufficient tradition. Strangely, the People's Liberation Army (PLA; China's armed forces) belongs to the Communist Party of China and not to the country. Moreover, China's armed forces are not made up of volunteers but mostly conscripts. It is one thing for anyone to be prepared to give his life for his country; it is difficult to fight with the same spirit for a political party, which can rise and fall, like the Congress in India, for instance. Else, there can be factional

“STRANGELY, THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY BELONGS TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA AND NOT TO THE COUNTRY. AS A SOLDIER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIGHT WITH THE SAME SPIRIT FOR A POLITICAL PARTY

feuds too within a party, which partly explains a vast number of Chinese soldiers losing their lives in most skirmishes and small battles they have been involved in, over the last few decades. Also, more crucially, the Chinese armed forces have not been involved in fighting since 1979 when they invaded Vietnam, a war where the yellow giant took a beating.

Battle experience is more important than training, in order to be a soldier. A battle hardened soldier is far more dependable than a well-trained recruit. Anyone who has not faced bullets is unpredictable in a combat situation, as to how he would react when the shooting begins. Today's PLA may not have a single soldier who has faced actual combat.

In the meantime, the aggressive behaviour displayed by China's political leadership has antagonised many countries. North Korea and Pakistan apart, it is difficult to think of a Chinese ally. While North Korea's army is large and marches excellently in military parades, it has not felt a bullet since 1953, which is 68 years hence. In contrast, the Indian army was originally founded by the British, who were amongst the best trained armed forces

other than the German ones. The country has fought five wars, as well as continual insurgencies in eastern India and Kashmir.

China is presumably militarily as mighty as most people worry. Taiwan is a major issue with the current leadership in Beijing. The South China Sea is another flash-point. The Himalayas in India's north are potentially the third one. There are Japan and Taiwan, which for their size have excellent air forces. There is Australia further south. All that is necessary is for the USA to open its treasury of advanced weaponry. The rest of the allies are strong enough to halt the yellow giant from going any farther, if not actually force it to take a few steps back in its aggressiveness.

This is also imperative because China's much-hyped rise has already happened. In other words, China is no longer rising but has risen. The window of opportunity to grab global hegemony is closing. And that makes the situation as dangerous as it was in 1914.

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

SOUND BITE

We will win Goa in 2022 and Delhi in 2024. Go forward with courage and confidence that victory is ours.



Congress leader — P Chidambaram

With every passing day and Iran's refusal to engage in good faith, the runaway gets short.

US Secretary of State — Antony Blinken

I gravitate towards stories that trigger conversations. Even as an entertainer, I want my work to get people thinking.



Actor — Rajkumar Rao

Should've been a lot easier after the start we got...Dew came in and all, but we're in the final and we're delighted.

KKR captain — Eoin Morgan

The State Government is in constant touch with the Centre to increase the supply of coal so that power generation can run smoothly.



Rajasthan Chief Minister — Ashok Gehlot

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FIGHTING THE TINY-MIGHTY DEMON

Sir — As the matter stands, we are making a pertinent move to get rid of the COVID-19 pandemic as the number of deaths and the number of cases are reducing day by day. We are taking resolute actions to reduce the caseload and the people's cooperation is needed in this direction. As the COVID-19 hangs over the Dussehra celebrations, we must not fall prey to the eyeing 'rakshasa' in the form of the virus. Celebrations are a necessary part of social living as they spread an ethos of joy and togetherness. However, reckless celebrations can lead to consequences that we would not want.

We are all waiting for the D-Day with baited breath when the nation will announce the clearance of the outbreak. The Genie will be out of the bottle and Coronavirus will take its place. Once bottled, it will be thrown deep into the sea never to be found again. Until then, we must celebrate the triumph of good over evil in a safe and planned way.

Jayanthi Subramaniam | Coimbatore

A BLAST FROM THE ARCHIVES

Sir — Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's claim that Vinayak Damodar Savarkar submitted mercy petitions to the British at Mahatma Gandhi's behest is not corroborated by historical facts. It was a vain attempt at whitewashing Savarkar's reputation as part of the project to rewrite history to present Hindu Right's past in a good light. Rajnath Singh's claim was a distortion of facts; it is demolished by the fact that the mercy petitions submitted by Savarkar in 1911 and 1913 preceded Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa and his joining the freedom movement in 1915. The mercy petitions predated Mahatma Gandhi's article.

The words in his petitions were not worthy of being called a freedom fighter. He pledged loyalty to the British crown and appealed to its 'manifold beneficence' to secure his release from the Andaman Cellular Jail. It cannot be helped if the Hindutva brigade suffers from a sense of inferiority due to its non-participation in

A humble man with wisdom



The nation celebrates the birth anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India who was famously known as the 'Missile Man of India, on Oct 15. To acknowledge the efforts of Dr Kalam and the stupendous role he played as a teacher throughout his scientific and political careers, the day is celebrated as 'World Students' Day'. He was a great scientist, a writer, an impeccable teacher, and a man of exceptional qualities. He described educa-

tion as the means of progress and believed that education alone can remove poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition from our life. He always believed that a strong society can be built only when the students are made proficient in their subjects.

Dr. Kalam, who won the highest civilian award the Bharat Ratna, considered himself a teacher and felt very pleased when he addressed students. He emphasised that students should have an aim in life, grasp knowledge from everywhere, work hard towards their goal and never accept defeat. Dr Kalam's strong commitment to education made him excel in his academics and multifaceted career. He always inspired the youth of the country to think and do new things. His ideas will keep inspiring the youth for generations to come. He will always be remembered as an eminent scientist, an incredible teacher, and a great man who inspired millions through his philosophy of simple living and high thinking.

Krishna K Vepakomma | Hyderabad

the freedom struggle and worse, its collaboration with the British colonials in India. At this rate, the BJP may soon project and celebrate Savarkar as India's foremost freedom fighter, relegating the true freedom fighters who refused to cower before the might of the British Empire.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

AN IRRITATING NEIGHBOUR

Sir — Outlandishly, India's contiguous neighbour China's expansionist shenanigans are far from over with as many as 13 rounds of military talks between the two sides coming to naught. Ironically, China comes to the table every time with new conditions for de-escalation on Ladakh borders. As If this was not enough, Beijing, in a bid to dishearten Indian delegations for the confabulations on Sunday, has also taken an irrational exception to a visit by India's Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu to Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday.

In a reaction, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi has also read the Chinese side the Riot Act, asserting that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India and, hence, Indian leaders keep visiting the State at will or when an occasion demands. He further reminded that the unilateral attempts by the Chinese side to alter the status quo on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western side of India-China border against the bilateral agreements, are responsible for the ongoing imbroglio. Ironically, in a 'pot calling the kettle black' scenario, the Western Command of China's People's Liberation Army's (PLA) has blamed that India insisted on 'unreasonable and unrealistic demands to add difficulties to the negotiations'.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

PLI SCHEMES: NOT A LONG-TERM ANSWER

Straightening out our manufacturing inefficiencies is the key to boost growth



The COVID-19 pandemic has created awareness of the vulnerabilities of supply chains and shortage in essential products not only in India but worldwide. This has led to renewed sense of economic nationalism with Governments pushing domestic companies to produce and employ more. The Union Government's latest ₹26,058 crore package to boost production of automobiles, auto parts and drones is part of the strategy to make India a manufacturing hub. Known as Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, this an element of the much larger Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative to make India self-reliant in key products across sectors that are critical and important for India's future growth, by reducing its dependency on imports and developing globally as an export hub. Particularly designed to improve manufacturing capacities in both sunrise and strategic sectors, this scheme aims to reduce import bills, enhance cost competitiveness, and generate employment across skill categories. By achieving these objectives, India wants to expand



the contribution of its manufacturing sector to the GDP, from 17 percent to 25 percent. The scheme also intends to encourage foreign investors who may want to inject capital into or establish business relationships with companies that have access to PLI incentives. As many as 13 sectors have been identified as intended beneficiaries of the PLI scheme. Taking the example of mobile manufacturing and electronic components industry, a total of 16 applications worth ₹35,541 crore have been approved so far. Five of them were from the global champions category, another five companies were from the domestic champions category and the remaining six companies were from the electronic components category. These companies together invested approximately ₹1,300 crores under this scheme in the first six months of operation inspite of tough times prevailing at the time, and added upto 22,000 jobs. This, in a way, fulfils the very reason for which the scheme was conceived. Samsung, Foxconn, Hon Hai, Rising Star, Wistron and Pegatron are some of the global electronics giants who have started their operations under the scheme. As contract manufacturers for Apple iPhones, their presence will enhance the manufacturing base in India immensely. There are high expectations from domestic companies alike. After getting approval under PLI scheme, it is anticipated that Indian companies shall expand significantly by increasing their manufacturing operations and gain recognition as national champion companies in mobile phone production. There is an expectation that there would be high demand for mobile phones in future. This is evident from the latest mobile export figures of ₹4,600 crore for the quarter ending April-June 2021. This was a growth of 250 per cent over the previous period. The imports also nose-dived by 80 percent to ₹600 crore from ₹3,200 crore. These figures would jump immensely when Pegatron commences production this year. In this context, the PLI scheme is anticipated to head to a production of approximately ₹10.5 lakh crore with over 60 per cent of this to be exported. This scheme was extended from FY 2025 to FY 2026 at the request of the industry and allows applicants to pick FY 2022 as the base year. With the additional investment of ₹11,000 crore, over the next five years, direct employment would increase by two lakh and indirect employment by three times. Overall, the PLI Scheme bodes well for the mobile phone industry. However, the same cannot be said about other industries like solar manufacturing. These schemes are at best short-term in nature and cannot be regarded as replacement for straightening out manufacturing inefficiencies and business complexity. Both the industry and the Government should work together during this time period to develop competitiveness and quality.

(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

India towards the space and beyond



Opening space programmes to private players is a breakthrough act and the world is watching keenly to see how feasible it will be to set up shop here

With the Government of India opening up 'Space', the private sector is all set for their time under the sun. For over five decades, ISRO has been the mainstay for all space related activities under the Department of Space (DOS) which is directly overseen by the Prime Minister. It has to its credit various successful missions from being the world first space agency to find water on the moon to having the world's largest constellation of remote-sensing satellites and two satellite navigation systems namely, GAGAN and NAVIC.

Currently the Indian Space industry accounts for a mere \$7 billion in the rising \$360-billion global space market. Despite its huge and undisputed achievements, ISRO, by its own admission, has been falling short in meeting the ever-increasing demands for space-based applications and services within India. Almost every sector starting from agriculture, fishing, transport, weather department, oil and gas, and urban development are dependent on space and satellite technologies for their businesses.

The move to open India's space programmes to private players is a breakthrough act and the world is watching keenly to see how feasible it will be for them to come in with their facilities and services and set up shop here. The private industry, which was unable to compete due to their limited roles earlier, can now participate in the entire gamut of space activities not just as a vendor but as partners. ISRO infrastructure, scientific and technical resources, and even data for space programmes are accessible to the private industry. The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) is set to act as a facilitator and a regulator; it will be an interface between ISRO and private players to facilitate the best use of resources.

The space start-up segment in India looks vibrant and is doing extraordinary work in upstream, in-orbit and downstream segments. A multitude of private players and young start-ups encouraged with new age investors having a better risk appetite and patience for projects with long gestation period, are setting up ventures from launch facilities, satellite thrusters, mm Wave and optical communication Links, Satellite manufacturing, earth observation applications, Space Situational Awareness (SSA), Collision detection, Debris mitigation and de-orbiting et cetera.

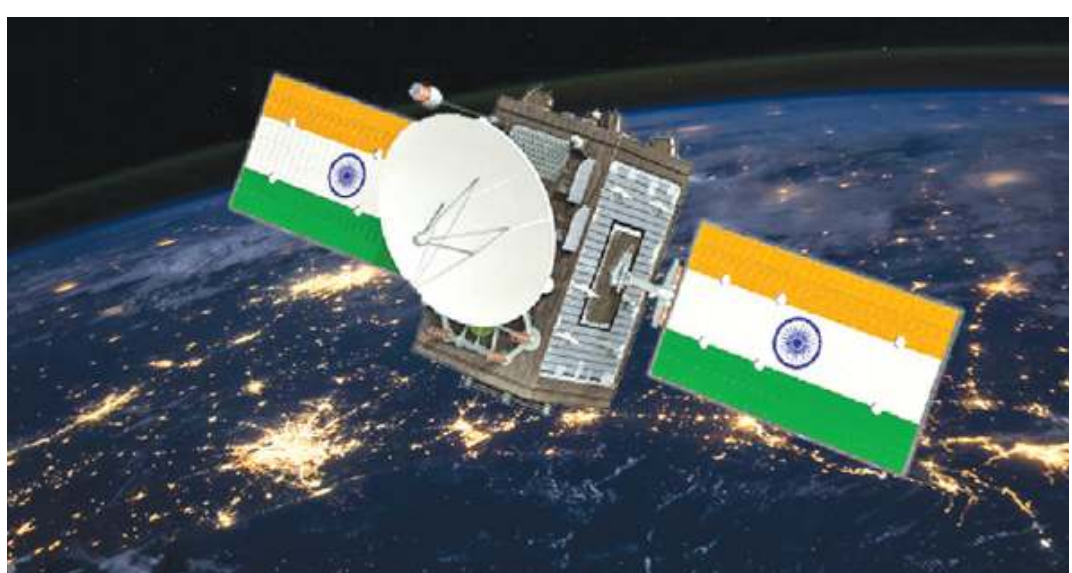
The entry of large organisations has enabled start-ups and MSMEs to play a critical role in the value chain. Currently, there are around 500 firms directly and indirectly engaged with space technologies and a score of start-ups are engaged with the Government.

As a nation India has immense entrepreneurial spirit which has never been more pronounced than the recent difficult times of pandemic and with youngest sets of founders creating disruptive technology and business models in the field of



THE ENTRY OF LARGE ORGANISATIONS HAS ENABLED THE STARTUPS TO PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN THE VALUE CHAIN. CURRENTLY, THERE ARE AROUND 500 FIRMS DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY ENGAGED WITH SPACE TECHNOLOGIES AND A SCORE OF STARTUPS ARE ENGAGED WITH THE GOVERNMENT

(The writer is Director General, Satcom Industry Association. The views expressed are personal.)



micro-satellites, advanced rocket propulsion, launch vehicles, AI, Robotics, deep intelligence, etc., this segment is ready to find its wings given the right conditions. However, despite having 60 years of experience and expertise in space missions and satellite communications, India lacks on many fronts.

The start-ups lack resources and technology to handle independent space programmes. And even though the private sector firms can now use ISRO's infrastructure and resources, there is no clarity on the processes involved, the time frame for the sanctions and permissions etc. An easier facilitation center to deal and help the Start-ups in a time bound manner will go a long way in helping in this.

Lack of enabling policies makes the start-ups move to other geographies to set shop -- regulatory and financial barriers create uncertainty for young businesses which is detrimental in this large-investment and slow ROI segment. These barriers force the young entrepreneurs to look for environment that offers easier prospects.

Access to satellite spectrum is a basic issue across the industry and is a critical to the success of this segment. Presently there is no clarity on the availability of satcom spectrum. Without policy level certainty on spectrum allocation the young start-ups will find it very difficult to conduct routine telemetry, telecommand and payload data operations.

There are three distinct authorisations/licenses that are required, viz., GMPCS, VSAT, INSAT MSS and the license categories under the Universal Licensing do not offer any clarity for satellite services for the business in the upstream and

downstream sectors. It is time for India to consider start-up-friendly licensing regime like the short-term experimental licensing by ISRO for their tie ups with the Universities for their Satellite Missions.

The Department of Space's current combined role as licensor, market regulator and satellite operator, is causing a conflict of interest with private satellite builders and satcom service providers. Further there is DOT, DOS, WPC, INSPACE, and NSIL creating multiple layers permissions and asks, hampering the ease of doing business scenario for the sector. A clear delineation of functions is necessary for the commercial units to not seek places elsewhere to start their entity.

The new rules allow foreign companies to set-up facilities in India and enables 100 per cent FDI in the space sector which is a positive move and could give rise to several joint ventures. This paves the way for collaborative development of satellites, huge investment, job creation leading to enhanced GDP growth.

Currently, too many layers of taxes at various levels including GST, revenue share, multiple DOT, DOS charges and withholding tax, etc., has led to almost one third of the entrepreneurs actively looking at relocating out of India to reduce compliance and tax burdens. Countries like Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia offer a far more structured and rationalised tax structure than India and it makes more business sense for the entrepreneurs to shift base there.

There are several accelerator programmes run by the Government to promote the start-up ecosystem. India is the third largest start-up ecosystem in the

world after the US and China and this is one more chance for the segment to grab their chance at succeeding.

There are challenges ahead, there is no doubt. India has 140 incubators and accelerators compared to China and the US which have over 2,400 and 1,500 incubators and accelerators, respectively. There is an urgent need to simplify regulation around registrations, bankruptcy laws, grants, investments etc to get entrepreneurs back into the system.

ISRO and the Government have a crucial role to play in resolving the policy gaps and loopholes by assuring the start-ups and private sector of a lucrative market for their products and services. A large-scale market opportunity awaits the private players in the upstream sector to engage in the manufacturing design and development of high-tech spacecrafts and in proliferation of the satcom applications in downstream sector. Regulators and relevant authorities need to work closely with emerging start-ups to bring about much needed reforms and incentives that allow industry to operate locally for the country to benefit from their success.

Space is a global phenomenon and India must not allow itself to miss the opportunity to be at the top of this frontier. Policies must be harmonised with the global best practices. Developments and standards need to be on par with the rest of the world.

The industry has the wherewithal to grow and contribute significantly both in terms of technological development and GDP growth, thus becoming a true partner to the Government on India's journey towards space and beyond.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I HAVE URGED THE HON'BLE L-G TO ALLOW CHHATH PUJA IN DELHI AS CORONA IS UNDER CONTROL NOW. —DELHI CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL



STUBBORNNESS YIELDED TO FAITH. DID YOU NOT KNOW IT WHILE PUTTING A BAN ON CHHATH PUJA, MR CHIEF MINISTER? —BJP LEADER MANOJ TIWARI

Climate negotiations need an innovative approach

Over the past several decades, key indicators of the climate system are changing at rates unprecedented in at least the last 2,000 years

The climate change negotiations are held periodically under the banner of United Nations Forum for Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) among participating countries through Conferences of Parties (CoP). The next CoP is the 26th and scheduled to be held in Glasgow in November. Former British Cabinet Minister Alok Sharma, chairperson for CoP 26, has exhorted the countries to agree for ambitious emission reduction targets that will lead to net zero emission by 2050. He had red-flagged the sixth report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report published in 2021. World leaders will arrive in Glasgow like a jamboree and with several thousand negotiators, Government and business



(The writer is Chairman, Centre for Resource Management and Environment. The views expressed are personal.)

representatives in tow for twelve days of talks. One of the important features of this year's CoP will be taking stock of the Nationally Determined Contributions of the countries they were asked to bring after five years since the Paris agreement. One of the issues will be to see how the countries are going to fare in controlling the rise in atmospheric temperature to 1.5 degree Celsius. The participants in CoP 26 will have to agree to step-up phasing out coal, curtail deforestation, speed up the switch to electric vehicles and encourage investment in renewables. Apart from mobilising finances for climate change adaptations, it will be necessary to build warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture



to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives. The sixth report of IPCC indicates longer term changes in the Earth's climate. The report clearly proves that during 2015 to 2021 each subsequent year has been hotter than the previous one and 2021 is proving to be the sixth hottest year ever recorded. The report states that global warming has constantly increased during the previous four decades compared to the 80 years before. The report vividly describes the human activities responsible for this

rise in temperature and consequent climatic vagaries being notices every year with increasing intensity resulting in acute hardship to the poor and disadvantaged sections of the world population. It would be interesting to quote the sixth assessment report of the IPCC for larger public demonstration and stern warning to the policy makers. It says: "Observed changes in the atmosphere, oceans, cryosphere and biosphere provide unequivocal evidence of a world that has warmed. Over the past several decades, key indicators of the climate system are increasingly at levels unseen in centuries to millennia, and are changing at rates unprecedented in at least the last 2,000 years."

Specifically, global mean surface temperature has increased by 1.09 C between the pre-industrial baseline period 1850-1900 and the most recent decade of 2011-20. This was more likely than not the warmest in roughly 125,000 years. Similarly, the rainfall pattern will change to extremities in volume and intensity resulting in excessive rainfall within few days and then prolong draughts in all over the world. As for sea ice, between the decades of 1979-88 and 2010-19, the average monthly August-October Arctic sea ice area shrunk by around one quarter with a loss of around two million square kilometres of ice. In a nutshell, this assessment of IPCC is a grim reminder for the world lead-

ers to have a time-bound action plan for the next five to 10 years to achieve the targets set by the Paris agreement for 2030. In this regard, the United States after returning to the negotiating table, must shoulder the responsibility to lead the developed world. The negotiators must draw lessons from 'Carbix' a company co-founded by an Indian, Vinit Dighe, and J. Sammy in Quincy, Massachusetts, USA. They develop reactors to harness carbon dioxide from emission streams generated by waste to energy plants, geo-thermal plants, water desalination and natural gas plants. They target cement manufacturing which alone contribute to eight percent carbon emission. They use the emissions

to produce minerals like calcium carbonate and limestone while at the same time remaining carbon negative. It is like catching the emissions and converting them into valuable minerals. There is a huge scope for a permanent carbon sequestration market. It would be appropriate if Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav invites the Indian innovator who is breaking new ground on climate change mitigation to have a tie-up with Indian industries to produce minerals out of emissions. India could then be a world leader not only in climate change innovation but also effectively control pollutants and use pollution as a raw material for mineral production.

Rupee gains 11 paise to close at 75.26 against \$

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee gained 11 paise to close at 75.26 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday as heavy buying in domestic equities and weakness in the greenback strengthened investor sentiment.

Besides, fresh foreign capital inflows also helped the domestic unit to post gains for a second straight day, forex traders said. However, surging crude prices in the international market restricted the rupee's gain, they added.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 75.27 against the greenback, and moved in a range of 75.20 to 75.37 in the day trade. It finally ended at 75.26 against the American currency, registering a rise of 11 paise over its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee had settled at 75.37 against the US dollar.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 568.90 points or 0.94 per cent higher at 61,305.95, while the broader NSE Nifty surged 176.80 points or 0.97 per cent to 18,338.55.

Sensex zooms 569 pts; Nifty tops 18,300-mark

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Extending its winning run to the sixth straight session, equity benchmark Sensex rallied 569 points to close at a new peak on Thursday, driven by gains in index majors HDFC twins, ICICI Bank and ITC amid positive macro cues and upbeat global markets.

Closing above the 61,000-mark for the first time, the 30-share Sensex settled 568.90 points or 0.94 per cent higher at 61,305.95. Similarly, the Nifty surged 176.80 points or 0.97 per cent to a new lifetime closing high of 18,338.55.

ITC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising around 3 per cent, followed by HDFC Bank, PowerGrid, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank and NTPC.

On the other hand, TCS, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance and Asian Paints were among the laggards.

"The Indian market sustained its upbeat mood supported by positive global market, favourable inflation



data and upmove in IT stocks following strong earning scorecards by sector majors, Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

The wholesale price-based inflation eased to 10.66 per cent in September, helped by moderating food prices even as crude petroleum wit-

nessed a spike.

Retail inflation in September too slowed to a five-month low of 4.4 per cent on moderating food prices. "Banking stocks also contributed to the rally and remained in focus as the sector is set to kickstart its earnings season," Nair added.

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

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

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude rose 1.02 per cent to USD 84.03 per barrel.

Petrol, diesel prices hiked again

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After two days of lull, petrol and diesel price on Thursday was again hiked by 35 paise per litre, sending retail pump prices to their highest ever level across the country.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 104.79 a litre and Rs 110.75 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

In Mumbai, diesel now comes for Rs 101.40 a litre; while in Delhi, it costs Rs 93.52.

This is the 13th time that petrol price has been hiked in two weeks while diesel rates have gone up on 16 times in three weeks.

There was no change in rates on October 12 and 13.

While petrol price in most of the country is already above Rs 100-a-litre mark, diesel rates have crossed that level in a dozen states including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, Bihar,



Kerala, Karnataka and Leh.

Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes.

Shedding the modest price change policy, state-owned fuel retailers have since October 6 started passing on the larger incidence of cost to consumers.

This is because the international benchmark Brent crude has jumped to near USD 84 per barrel for the first time in seven years.

On September 13, Brent was trading at USD 73.51.

Being a net importer of oil,

India prices petrol and diesel at rates equivalent to international prices.

The surge in international oil prices ended a three-week hiatus in rates on September 28 for petrol and September 24 for diesel.

Since then, diesel rates have gone up by Rs 4.9 per litre and petrol price has increased by Rs 3.9.

Prior to that, the petrol price was increased by Rs 11.44 a litre between May 4 and July 17. Diesel rate had gone up by Rs 9.14 during this period.

MONEY MATTERS

Revolt Motors to re-open bookings for RV400 from Oct 21



Electric bike maker Revolt Motors on Thursday said it will re-open bookings for its RV400 motorcycle across 70 cities from October 21. The company said it also plans to expand its retail presence by

entering 64 new cities, including Bangalore, Kolkata, Jaipur, Surat, Chandigarh, Lucknow & NCR by early 2022, from presence in just six cities to cater to the consumer demand. "Expanding our current sales network from 6 to 70 cities, comes on the heels of the overwhelming demand from our customers ever since we started rolling out our bikes and the encouraging response from the governments at the Centre and states. Our new sales network will help us cater to this strong order bank across the country and further help us in the EV revolution," Revolt Motors Founder Rahul Sharma said in a statement. The brand is currently operational in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad.

Kia India drives in Sonet edition at Rs 10.79 lakh



Automaker Kia India on Thursday said it has launched the first anniversary edition of its compact SUV Sonet, priced between Rs 10.79-11.89 lakh (ex-showroom). The Sonet 1st anniversary edition is available in four

powertrain options, paired with manual and automatic transmissions. The petrol trims are priced at Rs 10.79 lakh and Rs 11.49 lakh while the diesel variants are tagged at Rs 11.09 lakh and Rs 11.89 lakh. The Sonet has been one of our breakthrough products that have contributed to Kia's success in India. With sales of more than one lakh units in less than a year, the Sonet has already established itself as one of India's highest-selling compact SUVs. "To celebrate this adoration, we are excited to launch the anniversary edition of the Sonet," Kia India MD and CEO Tae-Jin Park said in a statement. Carved out of sheer design excellence, the anniversary edition Sonet is based on the concept of Aurochs and boasts a muscular look offering a bolder and premium driving experience to customers, he added.

TVS completes rollout of 1L units of BMW 310cc series

Chennai-based TVS Motor Company on Thursday announced the roll out of 1 lakh units of BMW Motorrad's 310cc series of motorcycles from its manufacturing plant at Hosur in Tamil Nadu. The landmark has been achieved in less than five years. TVS Motor Company's Hosur manufacturing plant produces around 10 per cent of BMW Motorrad's volumes globally, the company said in a regulatory filing. The Indian two and three-wheeler major had in 2013 signed a cooperation agreement with BMW Motorrad to develop and produce sub-500cc motorcycles for the global market. Subsequently, the partners have introduced three products on the 310cc platform, namely BMW G 310 R, BMW 310 GS and TVS Motor Company's TVS Apache RR 310. All three products are manufactured at the Hosur facility, the company added. TVS Motor Company Director and CEO KN Radhakrishnan said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA POLICE DEPARTMENT OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION			
C.No.838/15/2018-2021-22			
Bidders are invited from Manufacturers and Authorized Dealers. The Items to be supplied: Tyres and Batteries of various types of vehicles have to be supplied.			
Sched No.	Name of the Article to be Supplied	Approx. Qty Required	EMD amount in Rs.
1	Tyres (mentioned at point B)	160	2.5%
2	Batteries	87	2.0%
Schedule of Tender: Bid Opening Date & Time: 21-10-2021 at 11:00 AM. Pre Tender Meeting: 09-10-2021 at 11:00 AM. Bid submission Closing Date & Time: 26-10-2021 at 5:30 PM. Opening of Pre-Qualification Bid: 09-10-2021 at 11:00 AM. Opening of Technical Specification: 09-10-2021 at 11:00 AM. Opening of Price / Financial Bid: 10-10-2021 at 11:00 AM. Bid Address: Director General of Police, Operations, (Supply and Logistics), Telangana, Hyderabad.			

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL KAMAREDDY DIST: KAMAREDDY		
File No. PT/637/2021.	PUBLIC NOTIFICATION	Date: 13.10.2021
In pursuance of the notification issued vide GSR 571(18) Dt.12.08.2021 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change, Government of India, New Delhi, amending the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, notification is hereby imposing complete ban on sale and use of carry bags below 75 microns thickness and also imposing ban on sale and use of Single use plastic items. Fines will be imposed on the violators by the Task Force formed by the Municipal Commissioner to implement Ban on Sale and use of plastic. A help line numbers 9640050750, 9849971023 & 9888110983 is available to receive complaints on sale and use of banned plastic items.		
R.O. No. : 16949-PPVCL/AMVT/1/2021-22		
COMMISSIONER KAMAREDDY MUNICIPALITY		

Adani Group takes over operation of Thiruvananthapuram Airport

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Adani Group has taken over the operation, management and development of the international airport in Thiruvananthapuram, saying it is now a Gateway to Goodness.

Announcing the formal takeover of the airport, the business giant said in a tweet that it was privileged to serve and welcome passengers to God's Own Country.

"Connecting lives with cherished travel experiences, we are pleased to share that #ThiruvananthapuramAirport is now a #GatewayToGoodness. We are privileged to serve and welcome passengers to God's Own Country filled with lush greenery, beautiful beaches, and exquisite cuisine", the group said in the tweet, both



in English and Malayalam, past midnight on Thursday.

The group took over the operations of the airport despite protest by both ruling LDF and opposition UDP against handing it over to private players.

Last year, the Kerala Assembly had unanimously passed a resolution protesting the privatisation of the airport. Kerala Chief Minister

Pinarayi Vijayan had criticised the takeover of the airport by the Adani group, saying it was not for the development of the facility but to protect the interest of monopolies.

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport is the first of four airports in the state. Established in 1932, the airport was owned and operated by Airports Authority of India.

WPI inflation eases to 10.66 pc in Sept

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The wholesale price-based inflation eased to 10.66 per cent in September, helped by moderating food prices even as crude petroleum witnessed a spike.

WPI inflation remained in double-digit for the sixth consecutive month. In August, it was 11.39 per cent. In September 2020, inflation was 1.32 per cent.

"The high rate of inflation in September 2021 is primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, non-food articles, food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, chemicals and chemical products etc. as compared the

corresponding month of the previous year", the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in food articles eased for the fifth straight month, recording (-) 4.69 per cent in September from (-) 1.29 per cent in August, mainly due to easing vegetable prices. Pulses prices continued to spike at 9.42 per cent.

Inflation in the fuel and power basket was 24.91 per cent in September, against 26.09 per cent in the previous month.

The rise in crude petroleum and natural gas prices was 43.92 per cent in September over 40.03 per cent in the previous month.

PE, VC investments halve in September

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Investments by private equity and venture capital funds in September more than halved to USD 4.8 billion as compared to USD 10.9 billion in August, but higher than the USD 4.3 billion recorded in the year-ago period, a report said on Thursday.

On a quarterly basis, investments in the July-September period surged 3.4 times to USD 25.3 billion, with a sharp rebound in buyout investments and start-up investments accounting for 39 per cent of investments, the report by consultancy EY and industry lobby IVCA said.

"In our view, we could see 2021 PE/VC investments and exits exceed USD 70 billion and USD 50 billion, respectively," said Vivek Soni, partner at



EY.

Meanwhile, rival Grant Thornton Bharat also came up with its deal tracker report, which suggested that there were 597 transactions worth USD 30 billion in the September 2021 quarter with the initial public offerings (IPOs) driving the number at USD 5 billion.

"(The year) 2021 has seen greater resilience, digital insurgency and inventions driving the deal activity in the recent months. The year witnessed growth every quarter and we expect the trend to continue for the coming quarters," its partner Shanthi Vijetha said.

The report by EY and IVCA said pure-play PE and VC

investments, which exclude investments in real estate and infrastructure, recorded the highest-ever quarterly value at USD 23 billion, 2.4 times the USD 9.7 billion recorded in the year-ago period, and 63 per cent higher than the USD 14.1 billion recorded in the June 2021 quarter.

PIPE (private investment in public equity) investments recorded USD 1.3 billion across 23 deals in the reporting quarter as against USD 1.8 billion across 18 deals in the year-ago period, and USD 619 million across 18 deals in the June 2021 quarter.

Credit investments recorded USD 1 billion in the September 2021 quarter, compared with USD 1.1 billion in the year-ago period and USD 355 million in the preceding quarter.

Rising global oil and coal prices pose macro risks: Analysts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The rising commodity prices expose India to macro risks including on the already elevated inflation and growth fronts, a foreign brokerage said on Thursday.

There has been 14 per cent jump in oil prices to USD 83 per barrel and 15 per cent rise in coal rate to USD 200 per metric tonne, analysts at Morgan Stanley said.

"This rise in energy prices, specifically oil, has prompted concerns of higher inflation, slower growth and whether this could lead to disruptive monetary policy tightening," they said.

They added that there are upside risks to inflation, and growth will only improve from a two-year compounded annual growth rate, which will lead to normalisation of the policy.

Inflation will move back toward 5.5 per cent by the quarter ending March 2022



after remaining below the 5 per cent mark in the next few readings, it said, noting that a continued rise in energy prices, specifically oil, increases inflation risks.

Assuming a complete pass

through, a 10 per cent rise in oil prices can increase CPI inflation by 0.40 per cent, while on the current account balance side, given India imports 80 per cent of oil demand, a 10 per cent rise in

oil prices can widen the CAD by 0.30 per cent of GDP, it said.

However, the handsome exports will ensure that the current account gap remains restricted to 1 per cent in FY22, they said.

It's Swiss peer UBS said a USD 10 per barrel average increase in global crude prices would widen India's current account deficit (CAD) by USD 14 billion or 0.5 per cent of GDP, and if oil prices rise towards USD 100 per barrel, it could temporarily push the CAD to about 3 per cent.

"In such a scenario, we think the rupee could also temporarily test 78 against the USD," it said.

On the growth front, while near-term risks have emerged due to supply-side shortages (semiconductor chips affecting auto sector, coal shortages affecting power generation), at the margin the situation has been stable, and the brokerage expects the impact to be transitory. High-frequency growth data is improving quickly, with most indicators having moved into positive zone on a two-year CAGR basis, it added.

The RBI will start the

process of policy normalisation with a 0.15-0.20 per cent hike in the reverse repo rate (at which it absorbs excess liquidity) in December and February, it said, adding that the central bank may also hike the repo rate in February if growth improves further.

UBS attributed shortages in coal to understocking during the pre-monsoon months as per normative requirements, regulated supply to defaulting power plants by Coal India, a larger-than-expected rise in power demand on economic recovery, monsoon rainfall leading to floods in eastern and central states with coal mines, leading to logistical issues; and a decline in coal imports.

There is little reason for discoms to restrict supply to industrial consumers in power shortages unless there is a policy directive, it said, pointing out that such consumers are the best for discoms.

Celebrating womanhood gives an enchanting feeling, and the state's time-honoured festival 'Bathukamma', meaning 'Mother Goddess comes alive', represents the cultural spirit of Telangana. Here, Goddess Maha Gauri - life giver, is adored in the form of Bathukamma. On the occasion of the grand festival, *The Pioneer's* **SHIKHA DUGGAL** spoke to passionate promoters of the rituals involved in the celebrations.



“Since 26 years, I have been an active inhabitant of Hyderabad and Bathukamma for me is another reticence of worshipping Maa Durga. Despite being a marwadi, I am totally fascinated with this Telugu festival. For me bathukamma denotes 'shakti' and 'swaroop' and these two thoughtful qualities can only be carried by a woman. There is this incessant celebration for nine days and the very spirit of rejoicing is to empower women and bring value to their lives. A woman these days is not just reserved to do home chores, she is equally contributing to the economy of this state! The attempt to organise a bathukamma event with such dignitaries on board this year was more about the intent. One of the most striking aspects of this flower festival for me, would be the power positions being represented by some of the most well-known women in the city. To have Smitha Sabharwal aka the 'people's officer', Shikha Goel (Addl Commissioner of Police), Abhilasha Bisht (Additional Director General of Police) and many such notable women celebrating the fiesta with us was a dream come true. The day we celebrated Bathukamma, Kavitha Kalvakunthla hinted at a dialogue towards the financial strength of women which seemed so progressive! Since it is a carnival for the women, the city has time and again announced policies for the welfare of women, however, it is now upon us as to how we can make use of them in the best way possible. And, that comes only if there is consciousness.”

—Rakhi Kankaria, Founder & Director of Rachnoutsav Academy, the one who organised one of the biggest bathukamma festivals across the city, this year.

CELEBRATING WOMANHOOD, TELUGUTHANAM AND

AMMAVAARU



“I have been an observer of the Bathukamma festival since my childhood; I have seen Telangana women celebrating it with so much zest and pomp, that it used to make me understand their love for it. Believe it or not, back then, the boys of the city were so involved in this festival that they were the ones who would go and collect all kinds of flowers so that their mothers could craft one beautiful bathukamma. If you go to the villages, the white flowers and marigolds would win the race. Without those, bathukamma is incomplete (he giggles). A whole day would go in making the bathukamma. There is so much attachment with this that sometimes it would turn into a sort of competition over whose bathukamma was going to be the tallest! There was a mad race amongst the boys while collecting the flowers. Bathukamma is considered to be the pride of every family. Although, after joining hands with Kavitha akka, I understood the spiritual significance of bathukamma too. The likely qualities of this festival, how is it connected to sustainability — all that was taught to me. She once mentioned how you'll find abundant marigolds only where there is plenty of iron in the earth present and that is in Rayalseema and Telangana. Tribals were the first ones to get associated with this festival in their own way. They had the daily custom of taking rounds together worshipping the mother earth and that tradition is still alive through bathukamma's culture today. It shows unity,

music, vigor, literature and prosperity! Also, bathukamma is an indication of an end to a male-dominated society which is delightful to see as a man. We are equals! Apart from this, nobody knows who created these



bathukamma songs but it is being sung with so much joy to date, that it feels like watching a holy person trussing the beads of a 'maala'. All the 'bathukamma' songs have conventional lyrics and talks about social causes too; there is no modernism in it, which is good. Some things are meant to be deep-rooted!”

—RANGU NAVEEN ACHARI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF TELANGANA JAGRUTHI.



“For me, Bathukamma represents Telangana and Telangana women's pride. It has been bringing us all together for generations now, and I'm so glad that we will be passing on something so beautiful to the generations after us. Earlier, it was mostly played only in rural parts of Telangana, but today we see all of the state embracing this festival and its culture with pride. I love everything about it, but dancing around the bathukamma has my heart. I thoroughly enjoy arranging the flowers for the festival. We know of festivals and religions garlanding deities but this festival is unique in that we place the deity in the midst of flowers, or on a throne made of flowers. Every flower is creation's miracle, and bringing together a wide variety of them for the goddess is a magnificent sight. I can just keep looking at it all day. Even when we are in the worst of crises with our people, we put it all aside, and come together in unison to worship 'ammaavaru'”

— Mangli, folk singer from Telangana who has also crooned several 'bathukamma' songs for the state.

“Bathukamma holds a very imperative significance for me, even though this event is wholly devoted to women. Assisting my mother so she could celebrate with pomp and glory, was my kind of revelry as her son, I have come a long way celebrating Bathukamma. Celebrating it is celebrating life on a lively note. From what I have seen so far in these 21 years as a celebrity photographer, the state has been doing whatever it can in order to strengthen, encourage and

endorse Bathukamma even for the forthcoming generations. I capture those moments and I feel all the vibrant, colorful, floral moments in them all. Bathukamma is unswervingly connected to the state's artistic identity. Celebrated with music and dance for nine days, preparing a bathukamma is a beautiful folk skill of the state.”

—SAI KIRAN KORE, A CELEBRITY PHOTOGRAPHER WHO WAS SEEN CAPTURING STILLS OF INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE HAVING FUN DURING BATHUKAMMA ACROSS THE CITY.










BHEEMLA NAYAK'S 'ANTHA ISTAM' TO RELEASE ON DASARA



The makers of Powerstar Pawan Kalyan and Rana Daggubati's upcoming film *Bheemla*

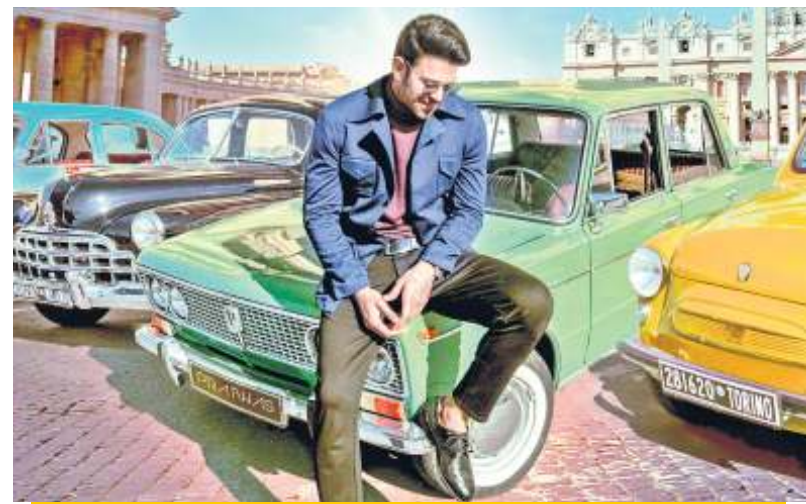
Nayak have another Dasara treat up their sleeves! They are all set to treat audiences with the second song launch on the auspicious day of the festival, October 15.

Just hours before the song's release, makers released a glimpse of the song and fans have been going ga ga over it.

The song *Antha Istam*'s promo was unveiled by the makers and it's a romantic number between Pawan Kalyan and the female lead Nithya Menen. The song has the actress asking her beau if that's how he loves her. The song is crooned by melody queen KS Chitra and her soothing voice is just pleasing to the ears.

This promo definitely sets good expectations for the full song that is to release on the day of the festival.

Music composer Thaman has been delivering the best of the best tunes in recent times and *Antha Istam* looks like once it releases, it will surely have music lovers listening to it on loop. *Bheemla Nayak*, remake of the Malayalam hit *Ayyappanum Koshiyum*, is a cop drama also starring Samyuktha Menon. Directed by Saagar K Chandra, director Trivikram is penning the dialogues.



Project K demands a budget of 500 crore?

Pan India star Prabhas is currently busy shooting for a series of projects. His next release *Radhe Shyam* is readying itself for a Sankranti release, while his other films *Adipurush*, *Salaar*, and *Project K* are in the production stages.

All these films, as we know, are big-budget projects that are being made by shelling hundreds of crores. Meanwhile, producer Ashwini Dutt revealed the budget he allocated for *Project K*.

The veteran producer reportedly said that a budget of Rs. 500 crores are being spent on *Project K*, making it one of the most expensive projects ever made in

Indian cinema.

Ashwini Dutt, who participated in the Navaratri celebrations and pooja held in Purushothama Rama Mandiram in Kovvuru village of West Godavari district, speaking to media, he said, "We have shot a 12-day schedule of *Project K* until now. The shoot will continue till October next year. Apart from *Project K*, we are also producing another film titled *Anni Manchi Shakunamule*."

Project K is being directed by Nag Ashwin of *Mahanati* fame. It features Amitabh Bachchan and Deepika Padukone in the other lead roles.

This sci-fi action thriller may hit the screens in 2023.



Manchi Rojulochaie trailer: Comedy track promises a winner

Manchi *Rojulochaie* has become one of the most talked-about films in the Telugu industry circles. Now, capitalising on the Dasara festivities, makers of the upcoming film dropped its trailer on Thursday, and we must, it looks quite promising.

Much like Maruthi's previous films, *Manchi Rojulochaie* appears to be a comedy entertainer loaded with hilarious situational comedy.

The lead pair Santhosh and

Mehreen look good together. Aha Ghosh, who plays the female lead's father, seems to have bagged a meaty role. He is the instigator of the comedy track.

The dialogues are witty, as one would expect from a Maruthi film. The background score too, for the trailer, is as impressive.

Manchi Rojulochaie is directed by Maruthi and produced by V Celluloid and SKN. The film is all set to hit the big screens for Diwali on November 4, 2021.

Thaggedhe Le: Teaser packed with action

Young and talented actor Naveen Chandra's upcoming flick *Thaggedhe Le*

directed by Srinivas Raju under Bhadra Productions is gearing up for its theatrical release. The makers kick-started promotions recently by releasing the first look poster of the movie.

Now a day prior to Dasara, they launched the teaser of the film. The teaser opens with police enquiring Naveen Chandra about a case. He who is shown to be married, seems to be involved in extramarital affairs. Actresses Divya Pillai and Ananya Sengupta are the leading ladies opposite Naveen Chandra in the film.

A gang of muggers is

shown to rule in a brutal manner. Apparently, the cops are investigating a murder mystery, even as they fail to find any evidence. The teaser introduces us to various characters in the film, and all of them look suspicious.

The teaser is laced full of mass and action elements that generate some interest in the film.



Anand Deverakonda's next launched, titled Baby

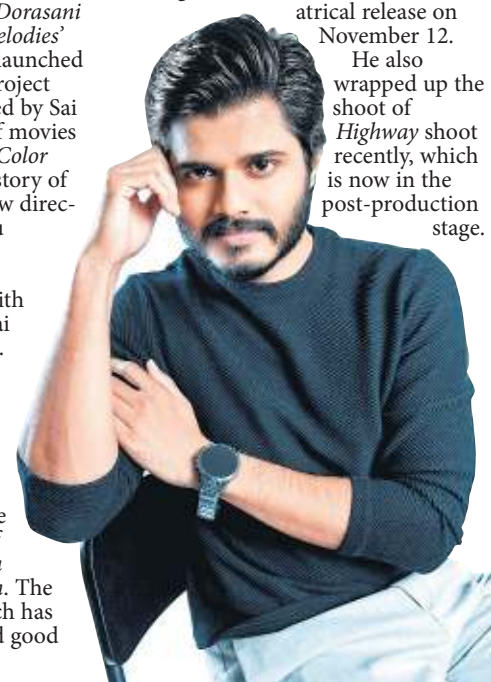
Anand Deverakonda, who tasted success with *Dorasi* and *Middle Class Melodies* had his fourth film launched on Thursday. The project titled *Baby*, is helmed by Sai Rajesh, who is known for spoof movies and writing and co-producing *Color Photo*. He has also written the story of *Baby*. The launch ceremony saw director Sukumar and producer Allu Aravind gracing as the guests.

The film stars Vaishnavi Chaitanya, who shot to fame with YouTube videos. Directed by Sai Rajesh, it is bankrolled by SKN. The film will go on floors from October 20.

Anand Deverakonda currently awaits the release of *Pushpaka Vimanam*. The film which has generated good

buzz right with its title is all set for the theatrical release on November 12.

He also wrapped up the shoot of *Highway* recently, which is now in the post-production stage.



Kabali fame to compose tunes for Nani's Dasara



Here's good news for fans of Tamil music composer Santosh Narayan. The music director back to composing songs for Telugu movies again. Santosh Narayan of *Kabali* fame made his Telugu debut in Venkatesh's *Guru*. He will now be composing for Nani's 29th film. The film is said to be titled *Dasara*.

Nani today took to social media yesterday to inform his fans that the film will kick start the shoot on October 15. The poster reveals the story backdrop of coal mines of the Singareni region in Telangana. To be directed by newcomer Srikanth, a former associate of Sukumar,



#Nani29 has Singareni coal mining region and Kothagudem area in Telangana.

Nani will speak in the Telangana dialect for the first time.

SLV Cinemas, the production house behind Rana's *Virata Parvam* and Ravi Teja's *Ramarao On Duty*, will bankroll the project.

Meanwhile, Nani recently wrapped his work on *Shyam Singha Roy* and is working on director Vivek Athreya's *Ante Sundariniki*.

Multiple Dasara treats to ensure theatres are houseful



This Dasara, despite the pandemic, we are going to witness the magic of three films. Two films that were scheduled to hit for Dussera have stepped out leaving *Maha Samudram*, *Most Eligible Bachelor* and *Pelli Sandadi* to gain during the festival season.

Maha Samudram

The biggest of the three and the film that is aiming at the mass crowds is *Maha Samudram* featuring Sharwanand and Siddharth in the lead roles. The second film from director Ajay Bhupathi of *RX100* fame has generated tremendous buzz thanks to superbly cut promos. The trailers have left the audience guessing about the story. *Maha Samudram*, which released on Thursday, opened to mixed reviews.

Most Eligible Bachelor

'Most Eligible Bachelor' stars Akhil Akkineni and Pooja Hegde. Akhil has pinned hopes on this film. Pooja Hegde's star power, Gopi Sundar's soundtrack, and GA2 Pictures track record should help Akhil scoring the first hit in his career. The film has gained traction in recent weeks. The film hits theatres today.



Pelli Sandadi

Veteran director K Raghavendra Rao is making his debut as an actor in this family entertainer. He plays a major role, while Srikanth's son Roshan and Kannada actress Srivalli are the young pair. Directed by newcomer Ronanki, the film is a typical masala drama. The film will have to compete with *Maha Samudram* and *MEB* to stay in theatres. This film too, releases today.



IANS ■ DUBAI

MS Dhoni's experienced Chennai Super Kings will lock horns with resurgent Kolkata Knight Riders, led by Eoin Morgan, in the high-octane grand finale of IPL 2021 at Dubai International Stadium, here on Friday.

It will be a record ninth final appearance in 12 editions for Chennai, who have won three titles in 2010, 2011, and 2018 while KKR, who have won the trophy in 2012 and 2014 under the captaincy of Gautam Gambhir, will play their third final. It will also be a repeat of the 2012 IPL final, where both teams faced each other.

CSK beat Delhi Capitals by four wickets in Qualifier 1 in Dubai and became the first team to reach IPL 2021 final and Kolkata also defeated the same team by three wickets in Qualifier 2 on Wednesday to set up the blockbuster final showdown against MS Dhoni's team.

The summit clash on Friday will also be a battle between the two best white-ball captains MS Dhoni and Eoin Morgan, who might be short of runs but have been smart in their tactics on the field.

Openers Faf du Plessis and Ruturaj Gaikwad along with Moeen Ali, Ravindra Jadeja have done exceedingly well with

HEAD TO HEAD (CSK VS KKR)

Matches: 24
Chennai Super Kings won: 16
Kolkata Knight Riders won: 8

THIS SEASON'S MATCHES

- Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 18 runs at Mumbai
- Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 2 wickets at Abu Dhabi

FOR THE RECORD

- Kolkata Knight Riders never loss a final match in IPL. They reached finals on two previous occasions, and won the title both times. They beat Chennai Super Kings in the final in 2012 and defeated Punjab Kings in the 2014 final.
- Chennai Super Kings have won three times in eight previous finals. Their last title came in 2018.
- Chennai Super Kings have won four and lost one in last five matches played against Kolkata Knight Riders.

ROAD TO THE FINAL:

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS:

- Lost to Delhi Capitals by 7 wickets at Mumbai
- Beat Punjab Kings by 6 wickets at Mumbai
- Beat Rajasthan Royals by 45 runs at Mumbai
- Beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 18 runs at Mumbai
- Beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 69 runs at Mumbai
- Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 7 wickets at Delhi
- Lost to Mumbai Indians by 4 wickets at Delhi
- Beat Mumbai Indians by 20 runs at Dubai
- Beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 6 wickets at Sharjah
- Beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 2 wickets at Abu Dhabi

- Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Sharjah
- Lost to Rajasthan Royals by 7 wickets at Abu Dhabi
- Lost to Delhi Capitals by 3 wickets at Dubai
- Lost to Punjab Kings by 6 wickets at Dubai
- Beat Delhi Capitals by 4 wickets at Dubai (Qualifier 1)

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

- Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs at Chennai
- Lost to Mumbai Indians by 10 runs at Chennai
- Lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore by 38 runs at Chennai
- Lost to Chennai Super Kings by 18 runs at Mumbai
- Lost to Rajasthan Royals by 6 wickets at Mumbai
- Beat Punjab Kings by 5 wickets at Ahmedabad
- Lost to Delhi Capitals by 7 wickets at Ahmedabad
- Beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 9 wickets at Abu Dhabi
- Beat Mumbai Indians by 7 wickets at Abu Dhabi
- Lost to Chennai Super Kings by 2 wickets at Abu Dhabi
- Beat Delhi Capitals by 3 wickets at Sharjah
- Lost to Punjab Kings by 5 wickets at Dubai
- Beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 6 wickets at Dubai
- Beat Rajasthan Royals by 86 runs at Sharjah
- Beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 4 wickets at Sharjah (Eliminator)
- Beat Delhi Capitals by 3 wickets at Sharjah (Qualifier 2)

FAISEL FEATURES

the bat for CSK. But, how they deal with the 12 quality overs from KKR's spin trio of Varun Chakravarthy, Shakib Al Hasan, and Sunil Narine, can decide the outcome of the final.

However, the final match will be played on a better pitch in Dubai in comparison to a slow and sluggish tack of Sharjah. And the likes of Ambati Rayudu, Robin Uthappa and MS Dhoni in middle overs can heave a sigh of relief.

Deepak Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Dwayne Bravo, and Josh Hazlewood have been good with the ball for CSK. But they have also crumbled under pressure especially while defending the target. The experience of playing in Dubai in the last couple of games may help CSK bowlers to acclimatise well with angles of ground and pitch.

On the other hand, Eoin Morgan-led KKR have been on a fairytale ride since the UAE leg of the tournament began. A bulk of



Kolkata's success in the UAE leg has been due to the fearless approach by their youngsters. Openers Shubman Gill and Venkatesh Iyer have given them fantastic starts and Rahul Tripathi and Nitish Rana have also chipped in with useful innings.

Shakib's all-round abilities have provided more balance to KKR in absence of Andre Russell, who sustained a hamstring injury. It will be interesting to see whether Russell becomes fit to play in the final or not. Their pacers Lockie Ferguson, Shivam Mavi have picked wickets at regular intervals while spinners Varun Chakravarthy, and Sunil Narine have stifled opposition batsmen with disciplined bowling.

However, the big concern for the McCullum-coached side going into the final will be the form of Dinesh Karthik and Eoin Morgan, both of whom registered ducks in the Qualifier 2 against DC on Wednesday and continue to have a poor season with the bat.

Squads:

Kolkata Knight Riders: Eoin Morgan (C), Andre Russell, Dinesh Karthik (W), Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Nitish Rana, Pat Cummins, Prasidh Krishna, Rahul Tripathi, Sandeep Warrier, Shivam Mavi, Shubman Gill, Sunil Narine, Tim Seifert, Varun Chakravarthy, Shakib Al Hasan, Sheldon Jackson, Vaibhav Arora, Karun Nair, Harbhajan Singh, Ben Cutting, Venkatesh Iyer, Pawan Negi, Gurkeerat Mann Singh, Tim Southee

Chennai Super Kings: Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu, KM Asif, Deepak Chahar, Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis, Imran Tahir, N Jagadeesan, Karn Sharma, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Santner, Ravindra Jadeja, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shardul Thakur, R Sai Kishore, Moeen Ali, K Gowtham, Cheteshwar Pujara, Harishankar Reddy, Bhagath Varma, C Hari Nishaanth.

Indian team's new jersey showcased at Burj Khalifa



IANS ■ DUBAI

A couple of hours after its launch, the new jersey of the Indian cricket team was showcased in a scintillating light show on Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, in Dubai. MPL Sports, the official kit sponsor for the Indian cricket team, posted the video of the light show at the Burj Khalifa with the new jersey late on Wednesday night.

"For the first time ever, a Team India Jersey lit up the @BurjKhalifa. The #BillionCheersJersey inspired by the cheers of a billion fans reached new heights, quite literally.

Are you ready to #ShowYourGame and back Team India?" tweeted the MPL Sports on Thursday.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) also shared the video on its Twitter handle, reading as "The Team India World Cup jersey unveil gets bigger and better with a projection on the iconic Burj Khalifa. Watch the historic moment here!"

The new jersey, unveiled ahead of the men's T20 World Cup in the UAE and Oman, features soundwaves designs inspired from the cheers of the fans. During the show, larger-than-life renditions of captain Virat Kohli, vice-captain Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah in the new jersey.

India will kick off their men's T20 World Cup campaign against Pakistan in a Group 2 match of Super 12 on October 24 in the Dubai International Stadium.

Pakistan will have to be fearless against India in T20 WC opener: Miandad

PTI ■ KARACHI

Former Pakistan captain Javed Miandad believes a fearless approach would be crucial to his country's chances of upstaging a star-studded India when the two arch-rivals clash in their highly-anticipated T20 World Cup opener on October 24.

India have never lost to Pakistan in an ICC World Cup, either 50-over or T20.

"The match against India will be crucial to getting momentum in the tournament. They are a strong side and have several top players but if we can play without fear and pressure and everyone does his bit we can beat them," he said.

Miandad believes that the Pakistan team has the capability of doing well in the event if it puts in a collective effort.

"T20 format is one where people think that one or two play-

ers can win you matches but I look at it this way that in this format everyone needs to contribute in some way or the other for a team to be a winning outfit," Miandad said.

The former batter retired from all cricket in 1997/98 before the T20 format was introduced internationally.

He said that Pakistan can't just rely on an in-form Babar Azam to steer them ahead.



Ended in heartbreak: Pant after IPL ouster



PTI ■ SHARJAH

Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant on Thursday said he is proud of his side despite its ouster from the IPL after a close loss to Kolkata Knight Riders in Qualifier 2 and described his teammates as "exceptional warriors".

Delhi lost by three wickets, primarily undone by an underwhelming batting show which put up just 135 runs on the board for KKR to chase. Delhi fought hard with the ball but KKR edged home with one ball to spare after losing five wickets for seven runs at one stage. "It ended in heartbreak last night, but I could not be more proud of leading this team of exceptional warriors. We battled hard through the season, and while we may have fallen short on some days, we always gave 100 per cent," Pant tweeted. "To the owners, management, staff, my teammates and most importantly, our passionate fans, I want to say thank you from my heart. You all made this season special.

Chhetri double strike helps India beat Maldives 3-1

PTI ■ MALE

Talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri struck twice to lead a beleaguered India to a 3-1 win over hosts Maldives in their final league match and enter the final of the SAFF Championships here on Wednesday.

Chhetri scored in the 62nd and 71st minutes after Manvir Singh had given India the lead in the 33rd minute in the must-win match for India. Ali Ashfaq pulled one back for Maldives in the 45th minute from a spot kick.

The 37-year-old Chhetri, who was playing in his 124th

match, is just one goal shy of Argentine maestro Lionel Messi (80), who is the second highest international goal scorer among active players behind Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (115).

Seven-time champions India, who finished on top of the five-team table with eight points, face Nepal in the final on October 16.

Nepal drew 1-1 with Bangladesh in the earlier match of the day to finish second in the round-robin league with seven points.

India had beaten Nepal 1-0 in a league stage.

India's last group match lost to China

PTI ■ AARHUS (DENMARK)

Already through to the quarterfinals, the Indian men's badminton team suffered a defeat at the hands of formidable China in its last group match of the Thomas Cup here on Thursday.

Only the doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty could manage a win in the men's team championship tie as they beat He Ji Ting and Zhou Hao Dong 21-14 21-14 in a 41-minute contest.

The win by Rankireddy and Shetty duo boosted the confidence of the Indian team after a struggling Kidambi Srikanth began the day for India with a 12-21 16-21 loss to Shi Yu Qi in 36



minutes.

Sameer Verma gave a tough fight to Lu Guang Ju but eventually lost his singles match 21-14 9-21 22-24 after one hour and 23 minutes as India trailed 1-2.

The other doubles pair of M R Arjun and Dhruv Kapila went down fighting 24-26 19-21 to Liu Cheng and Wang Yi Lyu in 52 minutes before Kiran George lost to Li Shi Feng 15-21 17-21 in the 43-minute singles match.

The defeat against China was the first for the men's team in the tournament.

It had beaten the Netherlands 5-0 on Sunday before notching a victory against Tahiti by an identical margin on Tuesday to qualify for Thomas Cup quarterfinals for the first time since 2010. The women's team plays against Japan in the Uber Cup quarterfinal match later in the day.

Shafali makes quiet WBBL debut

PTI ■ HOBART

Young Indian batter Shafali Verma endured an underwhelming Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) debut in her team Sydney Sixers' six-wicket win over Melbourne Stars on the opening day of the competition at the Bellerive Oval here on Thursday.

Chasing 100 runs to win in 11 overs in the rain-hit match, the 17-year-old right-handed opener fell for 8 (10 balls, 1 four) in the fourth over.

Her first-wicket partnership with Alyssa Healy, who hit a

superb 57 (27 balls, 11 fours), yielded 40 runs before Shafali was bowled by Annabel Sutherland attempting a big heave.

The Sixers appeared to be on their way to a comfortable win before losing three wickets including that of Healy. But Nicole Bolton (7 not out) and Angela Reakes (3 not out) steered them home.

Earlier, sent in to bat by Sixers captain Ellyse Perry, the Melbourne Stars rode on a quick-fire 54 not out (31 balls, 5 fours, 1 six) by Elyse Villani to make 99 for 1 in 11 overs.

Skipper Meg Lanning contributed 23 (17 balls, 4 fours).

SINGLES

BARCELONA STARTS CRITICAL HOME STINT

Barcelona: Ronald Koeman got a reprieve. Now he needs to make it last. A visit from Valencia on Sunday kicks off a three-game home stint that the Barcelona coach said must mark a turnaround for his beleaguered team. After facing Valencia, Barcelona will host Dynamo Kyiv and Real Madrid within a week. The run of games at Camp Nou comes after an international break that gave Koeman a chance to regroup following a tumultuous period for a team struggling to win without Lionel Messi. Two weeks ago, Koeman's job was considered in serious jeopardy after Barcelona had lost both of its Champions League games by an identical 3-0 score.

HOCKEY INDIA TO BE HELD IN JHANSI

New Delhi: The 11th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship will be held in Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh from October 21 to 30 with 28 teams taking part in the tournament. The championship will provide a platform for the domestic players to showcase their talent. The 28 participating teams will be divided into eight groups. The group winners will qualify for the quarterfinals. After six days of group matches, the quarterfinals will be played on October 27, the semifinals on October 29 and the medal matches the next day.

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.

JK TYRE TO FEATURE CONTINENTAL GT CUP

New Delhi: JK Tyre, India's leading tyre manufacturer and pioneer of motorsports in India, has partnered with Royal Enfield for the first edition of Continental GT Cup - India's first retro racing format. The track racing championship will be part of the upcoming season of JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship (JKNRC) 2021. JKNRC continues to lead as India's flagship racing Championship for the past 24 years. Since its inception, the platform has witnessed participation from the country's leading automobile manufacturers, including Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motors India, General Motors, and Suzuki Motorcycles besides leading Superbike manufacturers.

INDIAN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL AGAINST SWEDEN

Manama: Buoyed by the win against higher-ranked Chinese Taipei in the last match of its international tour, the Indian women's football team will play against two Swedish sides later this month as part of its preparations for next year's Asian Cup in the country. The team will play against two top tier 1 sides Hammarby IF (October 20) and Djurgarden IF (October 23) in Sweden. India head coach Thomas Dennerby was earlier at the helm of affairs of both the clubs. The team has already played four international friendlies against the UAE (4-1), Tunisia (0-1), Bahrain (5-0) and Chinese Taipei (1-0) over the last few weeks in Dubai and Manama.