

ANALYSIS 7
THE AIR INDIA SALE :
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

MONEY 8
SENSEX, NIFTY RACE TO NEW PEAKS AS
BULLS RULE 7TH DAY; IT STOCKS SPARKLE

SPORTS 12
WILL BAT AT NO. 3, KL TO
OPEN WITH ROHIT: KOHLI

HYDERABAD, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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NAGARJUNA
WANTS TO DO
MORE ACTION
DRAMA

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K'TAKA CONG'S 'ANGOOOHA-CHHAAP' JIBE ON PM SPARKS POLITICAL ROW

Bitter political sparring in Karnataka ahead of two by-polls touched a new low today as the Congress attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi as 'angootha-chhaap' or illiterate. 'Congress built schools but Modi never went to study. Congress even set up schemes for adults to learn, Modi didn't learn there too. People who chose to beg for a living despite beggary being prohibited are today pushing citizens to beggary. Country is suffering because of #angoothachhaap modi,' the Karnataka Congress tweeted in Kannada.

CENTRAL RAILWAY SETS UP 'RESTAURANT ON WHEELS' AT CSMT

The Central Railway (CR) has set up a 'Restaurant on Wheels' at the iconic Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in south Mumbai, which it said will offer a unique experience to diners inside the coach mounted on rails, an official said on Monday. According to a release issued by the CR, this restaurant has been made using a discarded rail coach which will become a landmark eating house in this area. 'The restaurant will be a fine-dining place offering a unique experience to diners and will accommodate 40 patrons inside the coach with 10 tables.

PUNJAB CABINET OPPOSES DECISION TO EXTEND JURISDICTION OF BSF

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Monday said the state Cabinet took a serious view of Centre's move to extend the BSF's area of jurisdiction in the state, saying law and order is a state subject and the police force is capable of dealing with any situation. The Centre has amended the BSF Act to authorise the force to undertake search, seizure and arrest within a 50 km stretch, up from the existing 15 km, from the international border in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam. 'We are completely against it. Law and order is a state subject,' Channi said.

OPPOSITION PUTTING HURDLES IN DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: JP NADDA

Accusing opposition parties of trying to put hurdles in the government's agenda of development, BJP president J P Nadda said on Monday that his party has worked for the nation keeping in mind not only 'political indicators' but also 'social indicators'. In his address at the BJP's national office bearers meeting, Nadda cited its welfare measures during the Covid-19 pandemic coupled with the agenda of development and pro-poor programmes like free grains, and asserted that the ruling party has worked to change the definition of politics, official sources said.

EC halts 'Dalit Bandhu'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Election Commission has directed that the implementation of the Telangana government's 'Dalit Bandhu' scheme be stopped in Huzurabad Assembly constituency till the October 30 bypoll is over, officials sources said on Monday.

The Commission's instructions in this regard have been communicated by the State Chief Electoral Officer's office here to the district officials who are conducting the election, the sources said.

The State government is presently implementing the 'Dalit Bandhu' scheme on a pilot basis in Huzurabad and a few other places in the State.

Under the flagship Dalit welfare



scheme, Rs 10 lakh is provided to each beneficiary to start a business of his/her choice so that the beneficiary can emerge out of poverty.

The bypoll has been necessitated in view of the resignation of Eatala Rajender following his removal from the State Cabinet over allegations of land-grabbing.



Heavy rains lash several parts of India, 5 killed in U'khand

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Heavy rains on Monday lashed several parts of north India, including Uttarakhand, where five people were killed in rain-related incidents, while a red alert for 10 dams was issued in Kerala due to incessant downpour in the southern state.

In Delhi, the month of October this year has been the wettest since 1960, when the city had recorded 93.4 mm of rainfall, according to data shared by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Heavy rainfall also lashed several parts of Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana.

Due to heavy downpour, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan postponed his campaign tour to Khandwa for the upcoming Lok Sabha bypoll there, while in Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh

Yadav's rally had to be cancelled in Budhana town as the venue was submerged in rainwater.

Authorities in Uttarakhand advised Chardham pilgrims, who arrived in Haridwar and Rishikesh by Sunday, not to proceed to the Himalayan temples till the weather improves.

Five people, including three labourers from Nepal, were killed and two others injured in rain-related incidents in the state.

The labourers were staying in a tent at Samkhal near Lansdowne in Pauri district when rubble flowing down from a field above due to the rains buried them alive, District Magistrate Vijay Kumar Jogdande said, adding that the injured were admitted to the Kotdwar base hospital.

In Selkhol in Champawat district, two people were killed when their house collapsed, following a landslide, the State Emergency Operation Centre said.

Rs 250 cr released for Dalit Bandhu in four mandals

The government on Monday released another Rs 250 crore for the Dalit Bandhu scheme. Of the Rs 250 crore, Rs 100 crore would be for Chintakani mandal of Madhira constituency, Rs 50 crore for Tirumalagiri mandal in Thungathurthy constituency, Rs 50 crore for Charakonda mandal of Atchampeta and Kalwakurthy constituencies, and Rs 50 crore for Nizam Sagar mandal of Jukkal constituency.

CBSE announces date sheet for first term of class 10 and 12 board exams

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The first term board exams for class 10 will begin from November 30, while the exams for class 12 is scheduled from December 1, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced on Monday. According to examination controller Sanyam Bhardwaj, the announced date sheet is for major subjects while the schedule for minor subjects will be sent to schools separately.

The exams for minor subjects for classes 10 and 12 will begin from November 17 and November 16 respectively.

Bifurcating the academic session, holding two term-end exams and rationalising the syllabus were part of the special assessment scheme for class 10 and 12 CBSE board exams for 2021-22, which were announced in July in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The CBSE had last week said that the first-term board examinations for classes 10 and 12 will be conducted offline in November-December.

NCB lens on all possible drug hubs

Page-3

Four arrested, including man in SUV that mowed down protesting farmers

PNS ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI

The Uttar Pradesh police on Monday apprehended four more persons, including a BJP worker, over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, taking the number of arrests in the episode to 10, said officials.

Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra along with others accused in the case were also sent into judicial custody from police custody on Monday, the officials said.

Eight persons, including four farmers, were killed in the October 3 violence during a farmers' protest in the Tikonia area of the district, with the incident snowballing into a major political controversy over the alleged involvement of the Union minister's son.

Four persons were arrested on

Monday by the Crime Branch of the Lakhimpur Kheri police along with the SWAT team. The SIT investigators and other senior officials are interrogating the accused and further probe is underway, the UP police said in a statement.

Those held have been identified as Sumit Jaiswal, Shishi Pal, Satya Prakash Tripathi alias Satyam and Nandan Singh Bisht, the police said.

So far, the Special Investigation Team IT has arrested 10 persons including the key accused Ashish Mishra, Ankit Das, Ashish Pandey, Lavkush Rana, Shekhar Bharti and Latif.

Ashish Mishra, Ankit Das, Shekhar Bharti and Latif were remanded in judicial custody on Monday after nearly a fortnight in police custody, the officials said.

KCR likely to reveal Yadadri reopening date today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao will leave for Yadadri on Tuesday to review and inspect the ongoing renovation works at the temple.

As the works of Yadadri temple are almost nearing completion, the Chief Minister will once again inspect and review the reconstruction works.

Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamy had already fixed the auspicious time and date for the reopening of the temple.

KCR is expected to announce the details and dates of the reopening of the renovated Yadadri temple.

The Chief Minister will also announce dates and timings of Sri Maha Sudarshan Yagam to be held as part of the reopening ceremony.

WHO says it 'cannot cut corners' for Covaxin

PNS ■ GENEVA

The World Health Organization on Monday asked for further data from India's Bharat Biotech to consider the company's request for an emergency-use listing for its COVID-19 shot, saying the WHO could not 'cut corners' in making a decision.

The World Health Organisation said on Monday that it is expecting one additional piece of information from Bharat Biotech regarding its COVID-19 vaccine COVAXIN and emphasised that it

has to thoroughly evaluate to ensure vaccines are safe and cannot cut corners before recommending a vaccine for emergency use.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, which has developed Covaxin, had submitted EOI (Expression of Interest) to the World Health Organisation on April 19 for its vaccine.

"We are aware that many people are waiting for WHO's recommendation for Covaxin to be included in the #COVID-19 Emergency Use Listing, but we cannot cut corners - before recommending a product for emergency use, we must evaluate it thoroughly to make sure it is safe and effective, the global health organisation said in a tweet.

"Bharat Biotech - the manufac-



No CSK without MS Dhoni, no Dhoni without CSK: Srinivasan

PNS ■ CHENNAI

There is no Chennai Super Kings without MS Dhoni, India Cements Ltd (ICL) vice-chairman and managing director N Srinivasan said on Monday. Likewise, the former BCCI chief added that there is no MS Dhoni without Chennai Super Kings, his emphatic statement telling a lot about the relation between the franchise and the iconic cricketer.

Under Dhoni's leadership, CSK won their fourth IPL title recently to complete an incredible comeback after their forgettable outing last year.

"Dhoni is part and parcel of CSK, Chennai and Tamil Nadu. There is no CSK without Dhoni and there is no Dhoni without CSK," Srinivasan

told reporters during a brief interaction after visiting Lord Venkateswalar temple with the IPL trophy. ICL owned the CSK franchise from inception in 2008 till 2014, when the ownership was transferred to Chennai Super Kings Cricket Ltd.

The Dhoni-led CSK beat Kolkata Knight Riders in the final last Friday to lift the IPL title for a fourth time. Asked about retaining Dhoni and other CSK players in the next IPL auction, he said retention policy is yet to be announced. To a question on the criticism about no cricketer from Tamil Nadu featuring in the CSK team, he said 13 players from the TNPL are playing in the IPL or representing India.

Coal supplies improve across the country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The coal stock situation at thermal power projects seems to be inching towards normalcy as the number of non-pit head projects having less than four days of coal (supercritical stock) reduced to 61 on Sunday from 70 a week ago, government data showed.

According to latest coal stock data of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the number of non-pit head projects having less than four days of coal (supercritical stock) was 61 on October 17 and 70 on October 10, while it was 64 on October 3.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Ashwin & Shukla Paksha

Panchangam

Tithi : Chaturdashi 19:02

Nakshatram : Uttara Bhadrpad 12:12

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

Rahukalam : 2:54 pm - 4:21 pm

Yamagandam : 9:07 am - 10:34 am

Variyam : 1:07 am - 2:50 am

Gulika : 12:00 pm - 1:27 pm

Good Time : (to start any important work)

Amritakalam : 7:08 am - 8:49 am

Abhijit Muhurtham : 11:37 am - 12:24 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy

Temp: 30/20

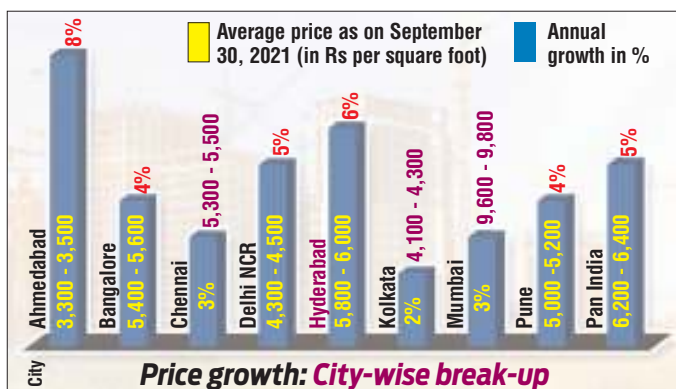
Humidity: 61%

Sunrise: 6:10 am

Sunset: 05:51 pm

Current Weather Conditions

Updated OCTOBER 18, 2021 5:00 PM



Hyderabad the most expensive property market after the Mumbai

Metropolitan Region (MMR), where the average rate stood at Rs

9,670 psf. Despite the price increase, demand for property in Hyderabad continues to be robust which is reflected not only in the sales numbers but also in the city's residential inventory. Localities where the majority of sales were concentrated in this quarter included Bachupally, Tellapur, Gandipet, Dundigal and Miyapur, etc.

During the July-September quarter of 2021, a total of 7,812 units were sold across the city, demonstrating an upswing of 222 percent quarter-on-quarter and 140 percent year-on-year.

Gati Shakti to accelerate India’s infrastructural development

India has been facing hurdles in industrial growth and attracting overseas investments on account of lack of proper infrastructural development. In fact, infrastructure has not been growing on par with population and increasing economic needs.

During the over five decades of Congress rule, no attention was paid to infrastructural development. In its manifestos, there was no mention of developing infrastructure. Cost escalation was very high due to Congress soft-peddalling on various projects. Besides, all infrastructure development projects were steeped in corruption and the quality of work suffered.

What one department did was not known to the other. As a result, there were instances of digging up the road to lay pipelines the very next day it was carpeted.

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, who noticed all these inconsistencies, focussed on infrastructural development works soon after coming to power. He identified crucial and major projects for execution and provided funds for their development.

These included international airports, highways and expressway projects, Metro projects, bullet trains, industrial corridors and bridges-over-sea, inland waterways. The list goes on.

Modi is keen to develop infrastructure not only in urban areas but also in rural areas.

Hundreds of projects that were stalled for decades began seeing the light of day.

Prior to 2014, railway track doubling was accomplished for up to 1,900 km. During the last seven years, this has reached 9,000 km and over 24,000 km of railway tracks were electrified.

Prior to 2014, Metro Rail was operated up to a maxi-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who noticed all these inconsistencies, focussed on infrastructural development works soon after coming to power. He identified crucial and major projects for execution and provided funds for their development.

mum distance of only 250 km; this has gone up to 700 km. Efforts are underway to take this to 1,000 km.

In 1987, the inter-state natural gas supply pipeline project was kicked off. Under Modi, a pipeline was laid up to 15,000 km; work to lay the pipeline for another 16,000 km is underway.

Prior to 2014, there were only two mega food parks in the country, now there are 19. At that time, there were only five inland waterways and now 13.

Modi unveiled a Rs 100 lakh-crore Gati Shakti Master Plan to achieve holistic infra-

structural development at a rapid pace. The Master Plan would eliminate the lack of coordination among Central and State governments, various government departments and among contractors. Complete information about deadlines for the projects would be at hand. It would facilitate optimum exploitation of resources, check wastage and effectively curb corruption.

It eliminates soft-peddalling of projects. Whether it's the Union or State government, all ministries pertaining to infrastructure would work in tandem. In the Gati Shakti



portal, progress of all projects would be uploaded.

The Bharat Mala, inland waterways projects, economic zones, textile, pharma and electronics parks and other infrastructural development projects would be part and parcel of the Master Plan.

On account of the PM's PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) problems pertaining to implementa-

tion of projects would be resolved prior to the launch. The Gati Shakti portal helps complete the works without intervention of the humans. A monitoring team would be constantly reviewing the progress of the projects.

Once it's decided to lay a railway line, the forest department, electricity department, road transport departments would give clearances under a single window programme.

Modi, upon coming to power, increased expenditure on infrastructure development projects by 35 percent. Modi launched the New Development Finance Institution with a seed capital of US\$ 270 crore to complete major infrastructure development projects.

Modi established the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and

Development (NBFID) especially for the purpose of the infrastructure development projects.

Modi, who was aware that economic development of the country is linked to large-scale infrastructure development, initiated measures to make the country a strong military power. As part of it, he inaugurated seven defence sector organisations replacing the Ordnance Board.

Modi felt that PSUs are a drain on the exchequer and decided to open doors to the private sector to invest heavily in them and modernise them. The sale of Air India is an example. Air India was losing money at the rate of Rs 20 crore a day. Its total borrowings stood at Rs 65,562 crore, while the accumulated losses crossed Rs 70,875.98 crore.

There is no doubt that the Tata Sons would turn Air India around. Instead of PSUs

remaining idle, Modi wants to entrust them to the private sector for their accelerated growth. It would help the government save thousands of crores besides paving the way for accelerated development of basic infrastructure.

The socio-economic development would take place with the exploitation of the public and private sector and the quality of life of people will improve, feels Modi.

The opposition would have no alternative except to praise Modi two decades down the line for development achieved in the country and how the quality of life of the people improved by paving the way for private sector in the public sector.

The development process initiated by PV Narasimha Rao picked pace during Vajpayee's rule. There is no doubt that the Modi government would implement the development works with the same speed and zeal.

CPI to contest 25 Assembly seats in '23 polls

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana CPI will be concentrating on 25 Assembly constituencies out of the 119 constituencies in the 2023 Assembly elections.

Telangana CPI Secretary stated that the party will strive hard to regain its lost sheen in its former fortresses. He said that as part of their efforts, the CPI will regain lost ground in Husnabad constituency.

Addressing the party's activists at Husnabad on Monday, Chada Venkat Reddy launched a scathing attack on the ruling TRS alleging that it did nothing for the people of Telangana in the last seven years.

Govt moots strategy to check illegal drug trade, transport

■ KCR convenes high-level meeting with Police and Excise officials on October 20

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State government has decided to formulate a comprehensive strategy to control the illegal transport of the banned intoxicating substances (narcotics and drugs).

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has convened a high-level meeting with officials of the Police and Excise Departments on October 20 at Pragathi Bhavan to formulate the strategy.

After formation of Telangana, the State govern-

ment had taken several measures to strengthen the Police Department, which included its modernisation for maintaining the law and order situation in the State better. The State government strictly enforced the ban on illicit liquor, playing cards clubs. In the backdrop of increase in the drug abuse cases in the country as well as the illegal drug mafia, KCR has now convened a high-level meeting with Police and Excise officials.

In the proposed meeting, Home Minister Mahmood

Ali, Excise Minister T Srinivas Goud, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Home and Excise departments' Principal Secretaries, DGP Mahender Reddy, Police Commissioners, IGs, DIGs, Additional DG (Law and Order), Additional DG (Intelligence), Districts SPs, Excise Department Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, District Superintendents, higher official from the State Special Task Force on Drugs wing will participate.

The Chief Minister instruct-

ed the district Excise Officials to come out with reports for the meeting on the existing situation and measures so far taken.

The meeting will discuss the matter pertaining to incidence of illicit liquor sale and functioning of playing cards clubs at some places in the State and the measures to be taken to curb them immediately.

The proposed meeting will draw an action plan to prevent youth from getting trapped into drug abuse and also to rehabilitate those who became victims of addiction.

Committed to spend Rs 1.7 L-cr on Dalit Bandhu: Chief Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Monday made it clear that his government planned to spend an estimated Rs 1.7 lakh-crore for the prestigious 'Dalit Bandhu' scheme over the next seven years.

Exuding confidence that TRS would be voted back to power in the next elections, KCR said the State would have a total outlay of Rs 23 lakh-crore in the next seven years - two years in the present term and five years in the next.

Addressing a meeting at Telangana Bhavan after welcoming his long term associate in the TDP, Mothkupalli

Narasimulu into TRS fold on Monday, KCR said that spending Rs 1.7 lakh-crore out of total outlay of Rs 23 lakh-crore in the next seven years would be no big deal.

Dismissing those who expressed doubts whether it could be done, the Chief Minister said the same doubts were expressed when he began his fight for separate Telangana. "It requires courage to think big," he said.

Under the scheme, each Dalit beneficiary family would get Rs 10 lakh to start a business or trade of his or her choice or any vocation in which they have experience to emerge out of poverty. The amount is given as a grant and there is no need to repay.

Explaining the economics behind Dalit empowerment programme, he said the investment of Rs 1.7 lakh-crore towards Dalit empowerment would get a return of Rs 10 lakh-crore and it would add to wealth creation. He also said that benefit like Dalit Bandhu would be extended to BCs, STs and Economically Backward classes.

The Chief Minister reiterated that this year, 100 Dalit families in every constituency would be extended Dalit Bandhu assistance of Rs 10 lakh each. The scheme was being implemented on a pilot basis in Huzurabad constituency and four other mandals in four SC constituencies.

KCR welcomes Mothkupalli into TRS fold

ML MELLY MAITREYI
■ HYDERABAD

Bolstering the TRS government's efforts to win over Dalits across the State, former TDP and BJP leader Mothkupalli Narasimhulu joined the Telangana Rashtra Samithi on Monday in the presence of TRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao at the Telangana Bhavan here.

Welcoming the senior Dalit leader with a TRS 'kanduva', KCR showered praise on his long standing associate and said Mothkupalli Narasimhulu did not need any introduction.

"Mothkupalli has carved a unique place for himself in public life and emerged as the voice of downtrodden sections," the TRS supremo said. He added that the Dalit leader did not join TRS for the sake



of politics but to strive for Dalit empowerment.

"Mothkupalli is a very close to me and we worked together for several years. In the past,

the people of Telangana endured many hardships for electricity and drinking and irrigation facilities. Mothkupalli who worked as Energy Minister was aware of those hardships. He later extended his services as Social Welfare Minister," KCR recalled.

Explaining the high esteem which the TRS holds Mothkupalli, the Chief Minister said the government was prepared to spend even Rs 1 crore for the medical treatment of the Dalit leader when he was infected by Covid-19. "My friendship with Mothkupalli is beyond politics," he said. He also extended a warm welcome to all those who came with Mothkupalli to join the TRS.

Stating that politics for TRS is a mission and for others a game, KCR said that he start-

ed the Telangana movement as he believed that statehood alone would be a solution to the problems of the people in the region.

"The TRS faced several challenges and hurdles in its movement for Telangana State," KCR reminded, adding that he was the most abused man by several people in the country for his determination and perseverance to fight for the separate State. He recalled that he had met BSP leader Mayawati 13 times seeking her support for Telangana State.

KCR said long-standing problems of Telangana were being addressed one by one and suicide by farmers and handloom weavers was on the decline. "There is much more to be done in the future. The living standards of the poorest of the poor have to be improved.

Revolt certain in TRS after Huzurabad by-poll: Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 'revolt' will certainly take place in the TRS and many changes will occur in that party after Huzurabad elections, TPCC chief A. Revanth Reddy said here Monday while meeting journalists at the CLP office.

He said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had said that there will be no early elections to avoid further chaos in the TRS.

"Why did KCR speak about early elections? Who asked him about early elections," he said. He said KCR had ruled out early elections as he had been trying to tell that his government will be in power for two more years.

He also said that elections will be held in Telangana along with Gujarat elections. Revanth said that KCR will go for elections as the nation will complete 75 years of Independence on August 15, 2022.

He said that KCR will go for early elections along with Gujarat elections as per the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He alleged that a conspiracy has been going on in Telangana to strengthen the BJP.

Revanth said that KCR will extend his cooperation during Uttar Pradesh elections and that already the BJP and KCR have entered into an agreement that there will be no cases against KCR. He said that

KCR will resign by the time of Gujarat elections.

Revanth said that the developments taking place in the TRS indicate early elections. He asked KCR who had said that the TRS will win 16 LS seats in the next elections and enjoy power at the Centre to explain what it indicates.

Revanth said that the announcement of the Telangana Vijaya Garjana public meeting on November 15 at Warangal by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is meant only to tackle the 'revolt' in the party.

He said that KCR had been covering up his 'fear' due to the developments in the party. He said that the Telangana Vijaya Garjana meetings would be the

Hyd now 2nd ...

Continued from page 1

However, the city has an unsold stock consisting of 50,103 units. But as per the report, Hyderabad has the lowest inventory overhang of 25 months compared to other cities.

Developers also launched 12,342 fresh units in the Hyderabad housing market in Q32021. Dundigal, Tella-pur, Gopanpally, Bachupally and Bandlaguda Jagir were the top localities that witnessed the highest new supply in this quarter. Over 36 percent of the new units launched in Q32021 were in the price bracket of over Rs 1 crore, with maximum share of units in Rs 1 to Rs 3 crore.

The report indicates that the city is bound for complete recovery of real estate.

Rajan Sood, Business Head, www.PropTiger.com said, "Considering housing affordability is at a record high this festive season on the back of 10-year low home loan interest rates and sops offered by some State governments, we expect markets in top eight cities to show stability in the ongoing quarter."

Sood said that though the overall cost of construction has gone up due to the rise in crucial input material cost, buyers are still being offered discounts temporarily.

Heavy rains lash...

Continued from page 1

Passenger vehicles are not being allowed to cross the Chandrabhaga bridge, Tapovan, Lakshman Jhoola and Muni-ki-Reti Bhadrakali barriers in Rishikesh.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami visited the state disaster control room at the secretariat in Dehradun to take weather updates and know the conditions of roads and highways.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg	
Dressed/With Skin	₹253
Without Skin	₹273
Broiler at Farm	₹140
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	416
VISAKHAPATNAM	470
VIJAYAWADA	441
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹4.16

YS Sharmila padayatra tomorrow from Chevella

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

YSR Telangana Party founder-president YS Sharmila will begin her Praja Prasthanam padayatra on October 20 from Chevella after addressing a public meeting on Wednesday.

She will continue her padayatra for 14 months, covering

4,000 km through 90 Assembly constituencies in Telangana. Sharmila will walk 12 km per day and address at least nine public meetings.

The YSRTP released the first week schedule of the padayatra on Monday. The first public meeting of the padayatra will be held at Chevella and Sharmila

will commence her walkathon immediately after that.

She will have lunch at Chevella and will halt for the night on the first day in Chevella.

Sharmila's padayatra will wind through Nakkalapalli village in Moinsabad mandal, Shamshabad mandal,

Maheshwaram mandal, and Kandukur mandal (night halt on the seventh day after visiting Thimmapur village).

Party leaders have already prepared a route map targeting youth with the slogan 'Eetharam Yuvathaku Navatharam Nayakathwam' (new leadership for present

youth) on the plank of YSR welfare rule.

YSRTP leaders said that Sharmila will participate in a 'Rachabanda' programme every day during which she would have a one-to-one interaction with the people. She will visit a minimum of three mandals in every constituency.

Coal supplies...

Continued from page 1

The improvement in the coal stock situation assumes significance in view of the ongoing shortage at thermal plants.

The Central Electricity Authority monitors coal stock situation of 135 thermal power plants with cumulative generation capacity of over 165 GW.

Cong: 224 hrs of campaign enough in Huz'bad

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

The ruling TRS and the BJP are busy with their election campaign in Huzurabad for the last five and a half months. They have been making all out efforts to win, spending almost 3,600 hours for the campaign. However, the Telangana Congress is confident of winning the Huzurabad by-poll with just 224 hours of campaigning.

Telangana Congress Affairs in-charge Manickam Tagore stated that 224 hours is enough to win the Huzurabad by-poll.

He said that Congress teams will take up a door to door campaign now.

While addressing important leaders meeting at a local hall at Huzurabad on Monday, Manickam Tagore said the Congress announced Balmoor Venkat Narsing Rao as its candidate before the BJP announced Eatata Rajender as its candidate officially. He said that the BJP and the TRS belonged to the same category.

Finding fault with the Election Commission for not responding although liquor was flowing like water and money was being distributed by pub-

lic representatives, Manickam alleged that the ruling TRS had been distributing Kaleswaram corruption money and liquor in Huzurabad constituency during the Dasara festival.

Both State and Central governments are the reason for the hike in the prices of petrol and diesel, he said.

The Congress gave the party ticket in Huzurabad to Balmoor Venkat Narsing Rao, who has been waging a fight on the unemployment issue. He alleged that Telangana, which was once a surplus state, is now mired in debts of around Rs 4

lakh crore.

Later, speaking to the media, Manickam Tagore said that the Election Commission is extending support to the TRS and the BJP. He said that Balmoor Venkat has a clean image and that people would ensure his victory.

Former deputy chief minister Damodara Rajanarsimha said that Telangana is witnessing the dictatorship of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao who is known for corruption.

Describing the Huzurabad by-poll elections as the costliest, Damodara said that there is no democracy in the State.

KTR reviews preparations for plenary, Vijaya Garjana meet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS Working President K T Rama Rao held a meeting with the public representatives of 20 constituencies here on Monday to give them an action plan for the TRS plenary being held on October 25 and the Vijaya Garjana meet at Warangal on November 15.

TRS Secretary General K. Kesava Rao and Ministers Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Puvvula Ajay Kumar, Sabitha

Indra Reddy, Jagadish Reddy, Niranjan Reddy and Srinivas Goud attended the meeting along with MLAs, MPs and local ministers and other public representatives and leaders.

KTR said that invitations would be sent to those attending the plenary on behalf of the party and arrangements should be made from now on for the Vijaya Garjana public meeting to celebrate the two decade journey of the party and its achievements.

He said that meetings of party workers should be held at the village and mandal level for finalisation of the action plan for the public meeting. Every village committee member should be made to attend the public meeting, he said.

The party's organisational restructuring has been done successfully and in future it will be further strengthened. Party cadres should respond to every call given by the party leadership, KTR said.

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NCB lens on all possible drug hubs

G RAVI KIRAN
■ HYDERABAD

All pubs and luxury hotels are being kept under watch by the Hyderabad NCB (Narcotics Control Bureau).

After the warning from Mumbai NCB officials on drug transportation through Hyderabad, the Hyderabad NCB has eyed all drug peddlers in the city. They are watching all pubs and are trying to nab drug peddlers and users. Drug peddlers have shifted operations to second-level centres due to this, sources said.

On October 1, the Mumbai NCB team raided a cruise ship and arrested 10 people who were taking drugs at a rave party. As part of this operation, the team conducted searches in



North Andheri near the port. They found a parcel box, in which 4.6 kg Ephedrine was kept inside mattresses. The parcel was booked from Hyderabad to Australia

through Mumbai.

After getting this information, NCB Hyderabad was alerted by headquarters. Drugs are being transported from Bengaluru to Hyderabad

according to a drug peddler arrested at Bengaluru by the NCB.

Correlating all this information, the NCB Hyderabad has started scanning all possible drug peddling centres in the city.

Many pubs and high class hotels have become distributing centres for drugs. The NCB is focusing on these centres and is observing all drug peddlers who were earlier arrested in different cases.

On holidays, usually there are more parties and there can be drug distribution. But due to the continuous watch of the NCB now it is not possible for them.

P Joseph, a software engineer, said, "On the eve of holidays including weekends,

drugs will be available at most pubs. It is distributed in a secret manner and they give it to only known persons. But after the Mumbai NCB raids here also there is too much attention. Due to fear of raids they are now afraid."

Drug peddlers have chosen secondary centres like small restaurants, cafés, bars and others. They are informing through mobile phones and are giving details of locations to get drugs.

However, there is much difference in the city after the raids in Mumbai by the NCB. NCB Hyderabad is on high alert and is scanning each and every possible drug distributing centre and because of this drug distribution is now very less.

Muslim Personal Law Board leaders to address annual Milad meet in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) leaders will address the annual public meeting in Hyderabad on Tuesday organised by All India Majis-e-Tameer-e-Millat to mark Milad-un-Nabi, the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad.

Tameer-e-Millat, a socio-religious organisation, has been organising the public meeting 'Jalsa Yaum-e-Rahmatul lil Alameen' for more than 70 years.

According to Tameer-e-Millat member Syed Aneesuddin, the public meeting is to be held at Exhibition Grounds in the heart of the city. Last year, the public meeting was held virtually due to Covid-19 pandemic. This was the first time in the history of this annual event that there was no congregation.

Thousands of people from the city and other parts of the state attend the meeting to hear the religious scholars and community leaders.

This year former Union Minister C.M. Ibrahim, renowned Islamic scholar and



former MP Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) Secretary Maulana Umrain Bin Mahfooz Rahmani and acting General Secretary Maulana Khaled Saifullah Rahmani will address the congregation. Mohammad Qasim Siddiqui Taskheer will deliver his address virtually from the US.

Syed Aneesuddin, Chairman of the 72nd Reception Committee, which overlooks the expansive annual conference, attended by Muslims from different parts of the State, said "Tameer-e-Millat president

Ziauddin Nayyar will preside over the meeting, whose theme this year is "Exploring solutions to contemporary problems in the light of Seerath (the life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH))."

"The Tameer e Millat has always been helping and guiding Indian Muslims in times of crises and natural disasters. This year's agenda of the public meeting is to help Indian Muslims explore the solutions to contemporary political, social and existential challenges in the light of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s teachings and way of life," said Ziauddin Nayyar.

GHMC demolishes illegal shopping mall building after Revanth's tweet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has responded to the tweet of Malkajigiri MP and TPCC chief A Revanth Reddy on Monday.

GHMC officials have demolished a shopping mall which was being constructed at Uppal Ring Road without permission.

Recently, several illegal buildings were constructed near Uppal Ring Road. In this context, Revanth tweeted to bring the issue to the notice of GHMC officials and Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Minister K T Ramarao.



Revanth tweeted in Telugu saying, "Despite several complaints, no action has been taken against the illegal construction." Suspecting Minister's support for illegal construction at Uppal Chowrastha, Revanth questioned Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT

Rama Rao, why was action not taken against the illegal construction? Is it because the department was negligent or the Minister himself is part of it? Revanth Reddy added.

He also tagged Telangana Chief Minister Office and GHMC Commissioner in his tweet



Passengers escape unhurt as bus catches fire in state

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Passengers of a Hyderabad-bound private bus had a narrow escape when the vehicle caught fire in Telangana's Jangaon district in early morning hours of Monday.

The private bus, which was moving towards Hyderabad from Chhattisgarh with 26 passengers, caught fire near Raghunathapally village in Jangaon district on National Highway 163. Noticing fumes emanating from the engine of the bus, the driver immediately stopped it and all passengers got down safely with their luggage.

The bus was completely gutted in fire which was allegedly caused due to a short circuit. A fire tender rushed to the site to douse the flames.

A police official said they suspect short circuit to be the cause of the fire. The Police have registered a case and investigation has been ordered.

Meanwhile, an accident involving a private bus occurred in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. The bus with 49 passengers moving towards Hyderabad from Poorumamilla in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh collided with a lorry near the Ring Road on the outskirts of Kurnool.

The bus passengers escaped unhurt but cleaner of the lorry was injured and was shifted to a hospital. Meanwhile, passengers of the private bus staged a protest at Kurnool Taluka Police station, demanding the private travels to arrange an alternate bus to Hyderabad.



Himayat Sagar gates closed as water levels come down

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) closed three gates of the water body, after the inflow of water from upstream into the Himayat Sagar dwindle. Currently only one gate of the reservoir is kept open upto a height of two feet.

On Monday, the water level at Himayat Sagar was recorded at 1,763.45 feet against the FTL of 1,763.50 feet. The

reservoir capacity is 2.97 TMC and the water level is 2.94 TMC. The inflow stood at 500 cusecs while the outflow was maintained at 700 cusecs.

Meanwhile, at Osman Sagar, the water levels were recorded as 1,790 feet against the FTL of 1,790.00 feet. The reservoir capacity is 3.90 TMC and the water level reached maximum capacity. Four gates of the reservoir are kept open upto two feet height to drain out water into the Musi river.

Daughter, lover murder woman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A woman was murdered by her daughter and her lover on Monday at Rajendranagar.

The accused identified as Nandini, 22, and Chotu, 25, were in relationship for a long time. Nandini used to work in a shopping mall as a salesgirl and Chotu used to work as a delivery man at an Indane LPG dealer's shop. Both had decided to marry and they had informed their parents. But Yadamma, the mother of Nandini, did not accept the proposal. This created a rift between mother and daughter.

Nandini and Chotu started an argument with the mother on Monday at her home at Chintalmet in Rajendranagar.

After heated arguments, frustrated Nandini pressed her mother's neck and strangled her to death.

Their relatives staying nearby informed the police immediately. The police have taken both Nandini and Chotu into custody and are investigating.

Doctors call for equal pay for equal work

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

While the State government of Telangana is showering incentives on contract faculty, regular staff working government colleges have called for equal pay for equal work.

Health Secretary SAM Rizvi on October 14 issued GO 605, sanctioning additional incentive of Rs 50,000 per month to the 144 contract faculty of anatomy, physiology and biochemistry of the eight new and existing six medical colleges over and above the existing



remuneration.

This hasn't gone down well with the doctors who have been working for far less pay. The Government Doctors

Association said that after the formation of Telangana, regular faculty have been working with very less HRA in colleges of Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda,

Suryapet and Siddipet. The Association said, "The faculty are receiving Rs 25,000 less per month than their colleagues in Hyderabad."

The Association urged the government to immediately implement peripheral medical college allowance which has been requested by them over the past few days and ensure that equal pay for equal work is enforced.

Doctors pointed out that the number of posts allocated to Mahabubnagar Medical College is quite less compared

to the new medical colleges that are coming up.

As many as 981 posts have been allocated to Mahabubnagar Medical College including regular, contract and outsourcing, but in all other colleges the sanctioned posts are up to 1500.

Government Doctors Association member Dr Kiran Prakash said that despite the fewer posts to Mahabubnagar Medical College, the staff have been going above and beyond their capabilities to provide service to the poor.

T-Hub new CEO to focus on T-Fund

M Srinivas Rao is best placed to lead T-Hub: KT Rama Rao

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana's start-up initiative T-Hub has welcomed its new Chief Executive Officer Mahankali Srinivas Rao (MSR).

Welcoming MSR into his new role, IT Minister KT Rama Rao said, "It is a homecoming for MSR, and we welcome and congratulate him on his new journey with the Telangana innovation ecosystem. Given MSR's rich experience in this industry, we believe he is best placed to lead T-Hub and its operations."

MSR has joined the T-Hub ahead of the launch of its new campus spread across 5,82,689 square feet. A serial entrepreneur, with 33 years of industry experience, he will focus on



creating a funding ecosystem at T-Hub, along with the other ecosystem stakeholders.

As per a press release, the process of the T-Fund initiative will be expedited further by the new CEO.

T-Fund is a co-investment fund that will invest in start-ups to further support the Telangana start-up ecosystem. Any start-up that is in the process of finalising a term

sheet or has a signed sheet can apply for T-Fund.

Additionally, T-Hub has launched a unique initiative, Funding Desk to support start-ups with their funding needs at various stages of their journey.

Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries & IT, Telangana, said, "Appointing MSR to take T-Hub to the next level of its growth is a strategic decision, given the powerful experience he is bringing to the ecosystem. Visionary leadership comes naturally to MSR, and it only gets better with his deep understanding of entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem nuances. The Board is happy to have him on board and we wish he achieves amazing milestones at T-Hub."



South Central Railway carries forward Swachh Bharat mission by making road junction at Lallaguda in Secunderabad and connecting adjoining rail areas look bright and attractive.

Accused in attention diversion cases held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Police on Monday arrested a habitual offender for his involvement in attention diversion cases in the city. The police officials recovered Rs 95,000 in cash and a mobile phone from him.

The accused identified as Intipalli Rama Rao, 27, a native of Rajole in East Godavari and a resident of KPHB Colony, was also jailed previously for similar offences. Investigation revealed that he had committed five more cheating cases like the one for which he was arrested.

He cheated many people who visited ATM centres to deposit cash by diverting their attention. He would offer to transfer the same amount

online and send a fake text message. Then he would take the cash from the people and flee the scene.

On October 7, Jaithwala Gowtham, 25, went to an ATM at SR Nagar to deposit Rs 1 lakh. The accused approached him and offered to transfer Rs 1 lakh online, as he needed cash urgently. Believing his words, Gowtham gave him the cash and the accused sent him a fake message similar to a bank message. However, Gowtham later found that the amount was not transferred. On October 12, he lodged a complaint with SR Nagar Police Station.

The accused committed 27 crimes in 2018 and 2019, including one registered at SR Nagar police station.

Fraudster dupes man of Rs 15 L

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A man, working as the assistant manager of a pharma company, was allegedly duped of Rs 15 lakh by fraudsters who promised to refund the fee and other charges paid by him to a job portal as he did not find

a suitable job.

Police sources said the victim had recently posted his resume on a few job portals seeking a job. He paid a sum towards various charges. It is suspected that the suspects had fraudulently procured his details from such job portals.

"They called him and collected his bank account details and other credentials and siphoned off money from his account," police said. The victim approached the Cyberabad Cybercrime cell and lodged a complaint. A case was booked and the investigation is on.

KCR reassures ryots on paddy procurement

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Allaying apprehensions among farmers that the State government may not procure paddy this season, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao made it clear on Monday that procurement would be done just like last year.

KCR instructed officials of the Civil Supplies Department to procure paddy through 6,545 centres that were set up last year for procurement. Farmers in the State need not worry or get agitated over the issue, he said. The Chief Minister advised farmers to clean paddy and ensure that it has no moisture and get the dry paddy to the procurement centres. The government is taking all measures to procure the paddy by paying the Minimum Support Price.

The Chief Minister was speaking after a review meeting on paddy procurement at Pragathi Bhavan here.

KCR convenes meeting to find solutions to Podu lands issues

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao will hold an extended meeting on October 23 with district Collectors and senior Forest Department officials on resolving the Podu lands issue and on the Haritha Haaram programme.

The daylong meeting will start at 11.30 am. The meeting would discuss the problems faced by the tribals, adivasis who were doing the shifting cultivation (Podu) and to redress their grievances with sympathy.

The meeting would also discuss measures to be taken to protect and preserve the forests.

The meeting would formulate a comprehensive action plan on these issues. The meeting, while assessing the results



so far obtained by the Haritha Haaram programme, would also discuss the future action plan.

Forest Minister A Indrakaran Reddy, Tribal Welfare Minister Satyavathi Rathod, Panchayat Raj Minister E Dayakar Rao,

Secretaries of the Departments concerned, Heads of the Departments, all district Collectors, District Conservators, DFOs, ITDA Project Officers and others will attend the meeting.

From October 20 to 22, three days, a team of officials

comprising Special Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, Tribal Welfare Department Secretary Christina ZChongtu, PCCF Shobha will study and examine the Podu lands issue at the field level in the forest areas.

The official team will undertake their visit by a helicopter.

Villagers protest at panchayat office against construction of pharma firm

PNS ■ MEDAK

Villagers of Chinna Chintakunta protested in front of the panchayat office on Monday demanding the State government of Telangana to stall the construction works of Dasa Pharmaceuticals, which they alleged initiated works without securing permissions.

They confronted with the panchayat secretary Tara Singh over the construction of pharmaceutical firm on seven acres of land, it acquired under survey number 40, without any permission. The villagers questioned the officials for delay in taking action against the erring company, in spite of it engaged in construction activity over the past several months.

They objected to the company setting up factory in the midst of fertile fields saying that the factory is polluting their fields.

They threatened to intensify their agitations, if the company did not put on hold the



construction activity.

They alleged that sarpanch Suresh Goud and some others have been cooperating with the company management to meet their selfish goals.

To a question, Tara Singh told the villagers that the panchayat did not give any permission to the company for construction of the factory. In spite of the village panchayat asking the company to stop works, the company management has

turned a deaf ear, he lamented. He said that the issue was taken to the notice of the top officials. He assured the villagers to serve notice on the management once again and take the problem to the notice of the higher authorities.

Chinna Chintakunta villagers have been appealing to the authorities to respond at least now and take suitable action against the company management.

Inter students asked to be present at the centre 30 mins before exam

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

District Revenue Officer B Chennaiah has cautioned the Intermediate first year students that they would not be let inside the examination centre even if they are late by a minute and advised them to reach the venue at least 30 minutes before the exam.

Reviewing the arrangements for the examinations with the district level coordination committee here on Monday, Chennaiah said that the examination would be held from October 25 to November 3 at 43 venues in the district. The exams would be held daily from 9 am to 12 noon.

He suggested to the district authorities to make all arrangements to conduct the examinations without any hiccups. Section 144 would be in place near the venues and asked the



xerox centres near the examination centres to shut shop.

Flying squad teams would ensure that no mass copying was done in the examinations.

In view of the Covid pandemic, medical camps would be run at the examination venues. He asked the authorities to keep sanitisers and masks ready at the venues. There should be no power

interruption during the examination hours.

He asked the RTC to run bus services on time to avoid inconvenience to the students.

Additional Superintendent of Police Babu Rao, Education Department officials, Telangana State Road Transport Corporation officials and postal officials took part in the meeting.

Legal awareness programmes for women in urban, rural parts: DLSA

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Warangal District legal Services Authority (DLSA) chairman Nandikonda Narsing Rao on Monday expressed concern over women who lacked legal awareness due to poverty, illiteracy and lack of adequate publicity about the law by government organs.

To sensitise women, the National Commission for Women and the National Legal Services Authority are conducting a series of legal awareness programmes, he said. Resource persons like the retired principal of KU Law College, Padma, legal experts K. Gopika Rani and Padmaja will sensitise women on various legal aspects, he said.

Presence of officials must at Praja Vaani programme: DC

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector Hanumantha Rao has directed district officials of all government departments to compulsorily take part in Praja Vaani programme held on Mondays to resolve the people's problems.

Receiving representations from people at Praja Vaani held here on Monday along with additional Collector, district Collector lent a patient ear to what the people had to say. He resolved some of the problems then and there.

The DC asked the officials of the government departments to resolve the problems aired through Praja Vaani sincerely.

He advised the district officials against deputing someone else on their behalf. If the



accountable officials were present at the programme, then it would be possible to dispose of the problems.

Show-cause notices would be served on the officials who would absent themselves from Praja Vaani.

He wanted the officials attend the programme and resolve some of the problems



Police Martyrs' Day on Oct 21

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

District Superintendent of Police R Venkateswarlu on Monday said that the Police Flag Day would be observed on October 21 in memory of the martyrs who had laid down their lives for the sake of the people.

Hundreds of police officials have died fighting terrorists, Maoists and anti-social elements, the SP pointed out. He appealed to the people and the media to pay tributes to the martyrs. He said a rally will be held at the police headquarters in connection with the day.

‘Beware of Eatala’s emotional traps’

PNS ■ HUZURABAD

Finance Minister T Harish Rao has asked the voters of Rangapur in Huzurabad Assembly constituency not to vote for BJP's Eatala Rajender as he was making provocative speeches and trying to exploit public sentiments.

Campaigning for TRS candidate Gellu Srinivas at Raghapur on Monday, Harish observed that Eatala quit TRS due to selfishness.

He said that there is now round the clock power for the agriculture sector eliminating the need for farmers to sleep near bore wells. In the past, several farmers had died due to snake bites in their fields at night, Harish pointed out.

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao boosted the morale of farmers, he said,



adding that the CM is giving Rs 5,000 an acre as agricultural input subsidy during kharif and rabi seasons under the Rytu Bandhu scheme.

Even at the height of the Covid pandemic, the credit for extending benefits under the scheme to farmers goes to KCR. The subsidy was given to

farmers at the cost of salaries to ministers, MLAs and government servants, he added.

He said that the CM did not allow him and other MLAs and Ministers to rest till the Kaleswaram project was completed.

Voters should think rationally and support the TRS. If there

is no TRS government, the flow of Godavari water through Rangapur irrigation canals would stop, he said.

He challenged anyone to prove that there is no Mahila Bhavan in any part of Siddipet district. Harish offered to rub his nose against the ground if that was the case. He expressed concern over the lack of a Mahila Bhavan in a major village like Rangapur.

Turning tables on Eatala Rajender, he said that Eatala's BJP was responsible for hiking LPG cylinder price to Rs 1,040. Surprisingly, Eatala would not say a word about reducing the cost of the cylinders, he said.

During the last 21 days, petrol and diesel prices have increased leading to escalation in the prices of pulses, edible oils and other commodities, he said.

‘Praja Vaani to resolve issues’

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

District Collector S. Venkat Rao on Monday said that a special Praja Vaani programme would be held at the mandal level to resolve problems in the government's land portal Dharani.

He received representations from the public during the Praja Vaani programme held here on Monday.

He said that a special meeting would be held to review representations received about the Dharani portal. He asked Tehsildars to resolve all applications pending with them and added that he is resolving representations sent to him immediately.

Speaker takes part in string of developmental programmes

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas on Monday inaugurated Someshwar-Pothangal high-level road bridge built at a cost of Rs 2.75 crore, 10 2BHK houses, Mudiraj and Yadava association Bhavans each built at a cost of Rs 9 lakh in Kolluru and Nagaram village of Banswada mandal.

He inaugurated additional classrooms built at a cost of Rs 54 lakh, a function hall built at a cost of Rs 30 lakh, launched Dontireddy tank irrigation canal repair works taken up at a cost of Rs 25 lakh.

Srinivas Reddy inaugurated 20 2BHK houses in Nagaram and laid the foundation stone for 15 houses in Nagaram. He laid the foundation stone for SC and Kuruma community halls to be built at a cost of Rs 10 lakh.

PADDY PROCUREMENT

TS pays special attention over disbursing money to farmers

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Additional Collector Muzammee Khan has assured farmers that the State government would credit the price of paddy sold to the government in their bank accounts provided they furnished photocopies of their Aadhaar Card and bank accounts to the farmers.

Allaying fears about delay in receiving the money after selling paddy at a meeting held here on Monday, the Additional Collector said that the government paid special attention to disbursing money to farmers taking into account the experience during the last rabi and kharif seasons.

Reviewing the problem with civil supplies, DCO, legal metrology, DPM and MEPMA officials here, he said the government is contemplating seeding farmers' pattadar passbook data and bank accounts



with Aadhaar Card.

The government will set up over 400 paddy procurement centres in the district. Soon after procurement, money would be credited into the bank accounts of farmers, he said, while discussing the location of procurement centres with officials.

He asked the agriculture and marketing departments to coordinate to avoid problems to farmers. He said that a special officer would be appoint-

ed at each rice mill. The legal metrology department will thoroughly inspect weigh bridges in all districts, he said. He sought comprehensive details of farmers cluster-wise from agriculture officials.

DRDA Project Officer Gopal Rao, Civil Supplies Officer Harish, DCO Prabhakar, MEPMA Project Director Hanmanth Reddy and officials of other government departments attended the meeting.

Praja Vaani: DC wants special officers to be on field by 7 am

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

District Collector P Uday Kumar has directed mandal special officers to undertake field trips without fail and resolve the problems, if any, then and there.

Receiving complaints from public as part of Praja Vaani here on Monday along with additional collectors Manu Chowdary and P Srinivas Reddy, he said that mandal special officers have been appointed to ensure supervision of the welfare and development programmes at mandal level.

The special officers should



inspect welfare and development programmes being implemented visiting at least two or three mandals every week and should hold a coordination committee meeting in the afternoon and discuss the problems and should resolve

them then and there itself.

He asked them to submit him a schedule of the field trip to villages and hand it over to him on Fridays and Saturdays. He told the special officers that they should be in the field visit by 7 am.

‘Huz’bad poll a battle between KCR’s ego and Eatala’s self-respect’

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

The BJP's star campaigner MLA Raghunandan Rao has described the Huzurabad by-election as a contest between the self-respect of Eatala Rajender and the egoism of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Addressing an election meeting of BJP candidate

Eatala Rajender at Gangaram in the Veenavanka mandal of the constituency on Monday, Raghunandan alleged harassment by the TRS leader and the police.

He pointed out how the voters of Dubbaka blessed him in spite of Finance Minister T. Harish Rao bribing voters with money. Eatala Rajender feeds the people to satiate their

hunger, while the Huzurabad DSP shot nine persons in Mudigonda when people sought allotment of 90 square yards of land to them. He appears to have abrogated powers to himself and feels who would challenge him if he repeats the same in Huzurabad, Raghunandan alleged.

How can the DSP, whose hand is tainted with the blood

of nine persons, conduct elections here? What would be the condition of the people here if he does anything wrong in a fit of rage, Raghunandan said. However, he said the people could not be cowed down by DSP Venkat Reddy.

Referring to the allegations of the TRS on increasing petrol prices, Raghunandan sought to know from the TRS govern-

ment whether his government has a share in it or not.

Quoting the example of Stalin, the CM of Tamil Nadu, Raghunandan pointed out that Stalin had cut petrol price by Rs 3 a litre.

What about the TRS government, he asked, and dared the government to reduce the price by Rs 30 per litre for the good of the public.

During the Dubbaka by-elections, the TRS struck fear in the minds of voters that Raghunandan, if elected, would fix meters on pump motors. "Did I fix meters to motors," he retorted, saying that the TRS government was built on lies.

Modi gave Rs 9,000 to construct individual sanitary toilets and gave 90 per cent of the cost of CC roads.

TS records 208 Covid cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana on Monday recorded 208 new Covid cases, taking the total number of positive cases in the state to 6,69,163.

The death toll rose to 3,940 after two more patients succumbed to the virus, a state government bulletin said. A total of 201 Covid recoveries

were reported today, taking the total number of recoveries to 6,61,294, leaving 3,929 active cases. The GHMC reported the highest number of 62 cases followed by 14 each in Karimnagar and Mancherial districts. A total of 45,418 samples were tested today. Cumulatively, the number of samples tested was 2,70,67,575.

INDIA CORNER Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, 4 others get life for murder

A special CBI court on Monday sentenced Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and four others to life imprisonment in the 19-year-old murder case of sect manager Ranjit Singh. The court in Panchkula had convicted Ram Rahim and four others -- Krishan Lal, Jasbir Singh, Avtar Singh and Sabdil -- in the murder case on October 8. "The court has sentenced five to life imprisonment," said CBI special prosecutor H P S Verma. Former Dera manager Ranjit Singh, who was also a follower of the sect, was shot dead on July 10, 2002 at Khanpur Kolian village in Haryana's Kurukshetra. He was murdered for his suspected role in the circulation of an anonymous letter, which narrated how women were allegedly being sexually exploited by the sect head at the Dera headquarters. According to the CBI charge sheet, the Dera chief believed that Ranjit Singh was behind the circulation of the anonymous letter and hatched a conspiracy to kill him. In 2017, Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for raping two disciples. He is currently lodged in Rohtak's Sunaria jail.



Coal India arm MCL dispatches over 5.47 lakh tonnes of dry fuel

Coal India arm MCL on Monday said it despatched over 5.47 lakh tonnes of coal to consumers on Sunday, breaking its own record of 5.45 lakh tonnes within a fortnight. The statement assumes significance in the wake of the country's power plants grappling with coal shortages. In a statement, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) said it has despatched the highest-ever 103 rakes of coal to the consumers, with 65 rakes coming from Talcher coalfields; while 38 rakes were supplied from Ib Valley coalfields in Odisha. MCL Chairman and Managing Director P K Sinha congratulated the officers and workers for their consistent and coordinated approach to maximise coal supply to consumers, which has resulted in an average despatch of 5.17 lakh tonnes a day for October. "Coal Indians in MCL have always remained at the forefront to face the challenges and achieved newer milestones in the pursuit of energy security to the nation," the CMD said.



BJP accuses Congress of 'vilification' of Patel at Working Committee meeting

The BJP on Monday accused the Congress of committing a "sin" over reports that a leader at the recent CWC meeting made critical remarks about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and asked if the party leadership will take action against him. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra cited reports that Tariq Hameed Karra, a Kashmiri leader and a permanent invitee to the Congress Working Committee, had credited Jawaharlal Nehru for Jammu and Kashmir's integration with India and had alleged that Patel wanted to keep the Valley out. Patra asked whether Congress president Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi objected when Karra "vilified" Patel and presented India's first home minister as a "villain" while praising Nehru. "Was Karra reprimanded? Will he be axed from the CWC," Patra asked, accusing the Congress of constantly insulting leaders like Subhas Chandra Bose, Patel and Hindutva ideologue Veer Savarkar. The Congress, he alleged, is reduced to being a party of a family and works to advance the family's rule. "What sort of mindset is this that one family has done everything and others have done nothing. What the CWC has done is a sin," he said.



RAIL ROKO

Farmers squat on rail tracks, services hit in Punjab, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI / CHANDIGARH/JAIPUR

Farmers squatted on rail tracks at several places on Monday morning as part of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha's six-hour 'rail roko' protest over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, hampering train movement in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The stir affected 150 locations in the Northern Railway zone and hindered the running of 60 trains causing inconvenience to passengers who could be seen waiting for long hours with their baggage.

In the North Western Railway (NWR) zone, rail traffic was affected in some sections in Rajasthan and Haryana with 18 trains cancelled, 10 partially cancelled and one diverted due to the protest.

Agitations were held at Punjab's Ludhiana, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Moga, Patiala and Ferozepur, and Haryana's Charkhi Dadri, Sonapat, Kurukshetra, Jind, Karnal and Hisar.

In Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffar nagar, Bharatiya Kisan Union workers halting the Amritsar-Delhi and the Jalandhar



Express trains by staging a dharna on rail tracks.

Trains were halted at Meerut and Greater Noida's Dankaur stations by the protesters, BKU media in-charge Dharmendra Malik said. In Ghaziabad's Modinagar, staged a demonstration in front of a goods train which already reached its destination.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of farmer unions spearheading the agitation against the Centre's Agri laws, had said, "To press for its demand for MoS Home Ajay Mishra's dismissal and arrest, so that justice can be secured in the Lakhimpur Kheri massacre, Samyukt Kisan Morcha has announced a nation-wide

Rail Roko programme. "SKM put out a call to its constituents to stop rail traffic for six hours on October 18 between 10 am and 4 pm," it had said. Protesting farmers, including women, raised slogans against the BJP-led government and demanded the arrest of Ajay Mishra. Security was deployed at rail stations in

the wake of the protest. Farmers sat on rail tracks in several sections, including the Ferozepur-Fazilka section in Ferozepur city and the Ferozepur-Ludhiana section at Ajitwal in Moga, officials said. In Rajasthan, farmers held a protest on the tracks in Hanu-mangarh district and raised slogans against the Central and the Uttar Pradesh governments. In the state capital, members of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha staged a protest at the entrance of the Jaipur Junction station. State joint secretary of SKM Sanjay Madhav said, "We have not been allowed to enter the Jaipur junction so we have started the dharna at the entrance."

The trains that have been affected in the Northern Railway zone include the Chandigarh-Ferozepur Express. Its scheduled departure from Ludhiana was 7 am, but has been stranded there due to a blockade in the Ferozepur-Ludhiana section, its chief public relation officer said.

The New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express was halted near Shambu station due to blockades near Sahnewal and Rajpura. "I am with the people who are being cheated for the benefit of Modi's friends and will continue to raise their voices," the former Congress chief said in a tweet in Hindi and added "Stop #TaxExtortion".

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi, in a tweet in Hindi, said, "Had promised that those wearing hawai chappals (slippers) will travel by airplane. But the BJP government has hiked the prices of petrol and diesel so much that now it has become difficult for those wearing hawai chappals' and the middle class to travel even by road." She used the hashtag 'BJP lai mehenge din (BJP has brought expensive days)' with her tweet.

Cong slams govt over rising fuel prices, Rahul alleges 'tax extortion'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday attacked the government over auto fuel costing more than the rate at which aviation turbine fuel (ATF) is sold to airlines, with former party chief Rahul Gandhi alleging that the Centre was resorting to 'tax extortion'.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also took a dig at the government, saying it promised to make those wearing hawai chappals 'travel by air but it has hiked the prices of petrol and diesel so much that it has become difficult for the middle class to travel even by road. Tagging a media report on auto fuels costing a third more than the rate at which ATF is sold to airlines, Rahul Gandhi tweeted that this is a very serious issue -- 'simple needs of the people that are not being fulfilled today come before election-vote-politics'.

"I am with the people who are being cheated for the benefit of Modi's friends and will continue to raise their voices," the former Congress chief said in a tweet in Hindi and added "Stop #TaxExtortion".

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi, in a tweet in Hindi, said, "Had promised that those wearing hawai chappals (slippers) will travel by airplane.



The Congress, from its official Twitter handle, alleged that auto fuels costing a more than the rate at which ATF is sold to airlines was a proof of the Modi government's 'loot'.

auto fuels costing a more than the rate at which ATF is sold to airlines was a proof of the Modi government's 'loot'.

Petrol and diesel prices on Sunday were hiked again by 35 paise a litre and after this hike the auto fuel was now costing a third more than the rate at which ATF is sold to airlines.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 105.84 a litre and Rs 111.77 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

In Mumbai, diesel now comes for Rs 102.52 a litre; while in Delhi, it costs Rs 94.57.

Petrol used in two-wheelers and cars now costs 33 per cent more than the price at which aviation turbine fuel (ATF) is sold to airlines. ATF in Delhi costs Rs 79,020.16 per kilolitre or Rs 79 per litre. All the figures are as per Sunday's hike.

Bangladesh vows to maintain harmony

PNS ■ KOLKATA

As reports of attack on minority Hindus continue to emerge from Bangladesh, its home minister, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, on Monday gave assurance that communal harmony will be protected in his country at any cost.

He claimed that the violence is aimed at fomenting trouble in his nation with an eye on the next general election.

The neighbouring country is likely to hold its elections in the end of 2023.

Speaking to PTI over phone, Khan Kamal said that an inves-

tigation is underway to nab the culprits involved in "inciting violence" in his country.

He also did not rule out "the involvement of the BNP-Jamaat elements" behind the attacks. "We have taken stern actions to tackle the situation. An investigation is underway; none of the culprits would be spared. I want to assure you that the communal harmony of our country will be protected at any cost. Both the minority and majority communities are citizens of this country and would be protected," Khan Kamal said.

The minister asserted that Bangladesh would not let the

trouble-makers succeed in their mission. "These incidents are aimed at tarnishing the image of our nation and creating tension with an eye on the general election. But we won't allow these forces to succeed," he said.

Violence had erupted in pockets of Bangladesh over an alleged blasphemy incident at a Durga Puja pavilion in Cumilla, around 100 km from Dhaka, following which paramilitary forces were deployed in many affected areas.

Sporadic clashes, however, broke out between the police and the bigots as media reported about vandalisation of Hindu

temples and Durga puja venues. At least five persons were killed, and scores of others injured in the clashes. Noting that hundreds of people have been arrested, Khan Kamal further said that four rioters have also been shot dead by the police.

"No peace-loving and pious Hindu or Muslim would ever indulge in violence. We are not ruling out the involvement of BNP-Jamaat or any third forces. They could be behind those attacks to halt the progress of our country. This could also be aimed at disturbing peace before the next elections," he maintained.

SC asked to probe NCB

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Shiv Sena leader has moved the Supreme Court seeking judicial enquiry into affairs of Narcotics Control Bureau at Mumbai and its officials in the wake of the arrest of Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan in a case of alleged seizure of drugs from a cruise ship in Mumbai.

The petition has urged the apex court to take suo moto cognizance to protect the fundamental rights of Aryan who has been booked under the NDPS Act by NCB, Zonal Office, Mumbai.



"I would like to point out towards the malafide style, approach and dirty vendetta affairs of NCB at Mumbai and it's officials targeting select film celebrity & few models since last two years and would like to request Your Honour to order to institute special judicial investigation & enquiry to

unearth the role of NCB official...," the plea filed by Mumbai-based Shiv Sena leader Kishore Tiwari said.

Referring to the statement of NCP leader and Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik in which he had cast aspersions on NCB, the plea said it's high time the NCB is probed by a top court judge to unravel the truth.

Aryan is currently lodged in Arthur Road prison in the case of alleged seizure of drugs from a cruise ship.

Based on a tip-off about a rave party, an NCB team raided the cruise on October 2.



IIT-M designs white light emitters for LED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers from Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras have successfully developed a white light emitter which can be used in LEDs applications.

According to the team, as conventional light-emitting diode (LED) materials cannot emit white light, there has been a worldwide search for materials that can directly emit white light rather than through these indirect techniques that can cause loss of efficiency. The researchers plan to produce LEDs using their distorted 'perovskite' materials.

The indigenously-developed bright white light emitters can potentially replace the conventional high-cost materials and phenomenally save

the energy cost per lumens. The innovation has been patented by the researchers and was recently granted the "SERB - Technology Translation Award".

The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) provides financial assistance to researchers, academic institutions, research and development laboratories, industrial concerns, and other agencies.

Apart from the patent, the results of this research work have been published in the prestigious peer-reviewed international journal belonging to the Nature group - Communications Materials.

"While LEDs have been available in almost all colours, white LEDs are a more recent development.

Low pressure to bring heavy rain in Odisha, predicts IMD

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Parts of Odisha braced for heavy rain as a low-pressure area (Lopar) formed over Gangetic West Bengal on Monday.

Fisherfolk have been advised not to venture into deep sea off the Odisha coast till Tuesday as squally weather with wind speed of 40-50 kmph and gusting up to 60

kmph is likely over north Bay of Bengal.

Under the influence of a cyclonic circulation in the morning, a Lopar formed over West Bengal and adjoining north Odisha, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said in a release.

It issued an orange alert of heavy to very heavy rainfall at one or two places over Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts till 8.30 am of Tuesday. The Met office warned of rise in the water level in Budhabalanga and Subarnarekha rivers.

Heavy showers are expected at one or two places over the districts of Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Deogarh and Jaipur till 8.30 am on Tuesday, the department said.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From turning "completely bald", avoiding playing the titular hero in "Anand" to troubling hapless producers by disappearing through a "secret staircase" behind his cupboard, "mad genius" Kishore Kumar had a number of tricks up his sleeves, reveals poet-lyricist Gulzar in his new book "Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir".

According to Gulzar, Kishore Kumar, and not actor Rajesh Khanna, was initially set to star in the 1971 cult classic "Anand". But just a few days before the shoot, Kishore Kumar, in a meeting to discuss his look in the film, shocked everyone by

turning up completely bald. "We were all shocked! On top of that, Kishore went around the office dancing and singing. 'What will you do now, Hrishi?' (director Hrishikesh Mukherjee)."

"Consequently, Rajesh Khanna was finalised for the role in a very short time. Perhaps Kishore never wanted to play the character. Nevertheless, I have never seen someone cutting off their nose to spite their face in such a manner," recalls Gulzar, who wrote the dialogues of the superhit movie.

The film ended up winning several awards, including the Filmfare Award for Best Film in 1972. Not only directors, many producers were also at the



receiving end of Kishore Kumar's mischief. In fact, one of Kishore Kumar's favourite things to do was "to land his producers in trouble", Gulzar writes in the memoir, published by Penguin Random House India. Once a producer went to the singer-actor's house to seek a meeting but as Kishore

Panel asked to reconsider plea by minor to donate part of liver

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has asked a three-member committee to reconsider the case after examining the fresh medical reports of a minor who is seeking permission to donate part of his liver to his ailing father suffering from an advanced stage of liver failure.

The court said it is hoped that in the case the 17-year-and-nine-month-old boy is found fit for donating a part of his liver as per his medical reports received

from the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), the committee set up by the appropriate authority will reconsider its earlier report for granting necessary approval to him so that his father's life may be saved.

Justice Rekha Palli said keeping in view the urgency involved in the matter, the petitioner is granted liberty to approach the registrar of the high court for the listing of the case on any date between October 16 to 20, if the need arises and fixed the plea for hearing on October 21.

Kumar was not in a mood to talk to him, he "simply opened his cupboard, stepped in and disappeared!"

"He used to have this astounding cupboard that hid a secret staircase within. Kishore simply opened the cupboard, stepped in and disappeared! Leaving the producer waiting for him outside the open doors of the contraption. If nothing else, this underscores the immense effort and planning required to live a life of absurdities," writes the veteran lyricist.

In another instance, Kishore Kumar halted the recording of songs for a film called "Bharosa" to demand tea. And after an endless wait, when the tea

finally arrived, he went ahead with the recording without even having a sip of it.

"Every time we tried coaxing Kishore, 'Let's go, Dada, let's get the recording done, Abdul -- his driver who had gone out to fetch the tea -- will be here soon', he would counter with, 'Let Abdul come. I'll have tea and only then'. Finally, when Abdul returned, Kishore immediately declared, 'Okay, let's record.' 'Why, don't you want tea?' we asked. Paying no heed, he went to get the recording done," he writes.

Gulzar clarified that the tea was not important for the singer. The whole charade was done for the "producer to spend

money and get tea for all the musicians and the staff".

Calling the legendary singer his "friend" with whom he had worked on several occasions, the 87-year-old writer admitted that Kishore Kumar was the kind of person with whom you couldn't be "angry or upset for too long".

"If I did, the loss was all mine. It meant being deprived of an essence of world -- the essence of Kishore. It had its own eminence, intoxication and feeling -- all of it unique. One would be hard-pressed to believe that anyone could conduct their real life with such sense of humour if one had never met Kishore," he noted.

Revival effort

Sasikala's attempt to make herself politically relevant again still lacks teeth

It is the golden jubilee year of the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, but the celebrations are muted. It lacks a unifying leader. It lost power to rival DMK. Its workers have been caught in factional fights ever since Jayalalithaa died. Can such a party dare think of a revival? A close aide of the late Puratchi Thalaivi, VK Sasikala, thinks so. She wants to revive, if not the party, at least her chances of becoming the leader. Coming out of prison after serving a four-year term in a corruption case, she used the occasion of the 50th year of the founding of the party to make herself politically relevant once again. Her political errands were low-key but not publicity-shy. She visited party mausoleums and museums in Chennai to pay her obeisance to MGR and Jayalalithaa. She talked to party workers about bringing back Jayalithaa's legacy; it was not yet the time to address the people. She proposes to tour the State, to assess the mood of the workers. Sasikala's opening gambit is now complete. It is for the party's dual leadership — Edappadi K Palaniswami and Ottakarathevar Panneerselvam — to respond. The former has taken credit for the AIADMK avoiding a rout in the assembly elections and surprisingly getting 77 seats. He thinks that makes him a better leader than OPS. The latter is more susceptible to Sasikala's influence because they share the same caste. It is not a difficult task for her to break the dual leadership but she would not want the party to break. That would not serve her purpose. She



wants to see how the 2017 heist-cum-murder incident in Jayalalithaa's Kodanad estate affects the OPS-EPS duo. EPS, the then Chief Minister, did not order a special probe. The DMK Government now has. All this has left the party workers a confused lot. They do not know who among the three leaders has the staying power. They want to see if Sasikala has the advantage of a sympathy factor because of her association with 'Ammma'. They will wait to check if the Kodanad probe troubles EPS and OPS. That is why none of the leaders is in a hurry to make a move.

The person who can keep the AIADMK united and maintain the State's bipolar politics has a chance of succeeding Jayalalithaa. Not even the DMK wants a challenger in the state other than the AIADMK. MK Stalin has gone on record saying that. The Congress knows its place already. The BJP, however, is intent on joining the party. It had originally bet on the AIADMK's decimation in the elections, hoping to find a factional partner if the party broke up. That did not happen as OPS-EPS had a bigger objective: grabbing party reins. However, Sasikala recused herself from the elections as questions were raised about an invisible hand influencing her decision. Can she summon the courage to keep the national parties at bay like Jayalalithaa?

PICTALK



Volunteers hold placards during the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign in Delhi Ranjan Dimri | The Pioneer

Flood and fury

Despite warnings and alerts from the IMD, official response in Kerala has been missing

Monsoon, the subcontinent's unique weather phenomenon, has inspired writers ranging from Kalidasa to Alexander Frater. While the former integrated the beauty and romance of monsoon in his 'Meghdoot', Frater informed the world about its vagaries and how it impacted the socio-economic lives of millions in his travelogue 'Chasing The Monsoon'. Till the early 1970s, the monsoon used to pass over the Indian landscape in an elegant pattern. But over the last few years, the monsoon's fury has started striking Kerala, and India at large, quite regularly. The year 2018 saw nature at its worst, claiming hundreds of lives and devouring thousands of houses and acres of farm lands in God's Own Country. Kerala was under the spell of heavy rains and winds over the last few weeks and this took a turn for the worse as the depressions in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea developed into downpours and heavy winds. Warnings issued by the Indian Meteorological Department and the local Cochin University of Science and Technology



do not seem to have been noticed by the persons who govern the State. Officials have confirmed that rains and landslides claimed more than 30 lives till Monday.

This is going to be the pattern of monsoon in coming weeks and months, according to Prof S Abhilash, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, CUSAT. He says there is a change in the pattern of rain distribution, intensity of rain and cloud structure. There has been no dearth of warnings and weather alerts from the IMD but something is missing in the official response to these timely bulletins. The cloudbursts and landslides are being seen as the fallout of the wanton destruction of the fragile ecosystem in the State. Since the 1960s, the rainforests were slaughtered to build dams and facilitate planting of cash crops like rubber and spices. P K Ramachandran, a veteran botanist with Rubber Board, laments over the report he made which made the Government to promote planting of rubber in thousands of hectares of rain forests. Policy makers forgot the State's proximity to the sea while the ecological devastation of Western Ghats led to flood and fury becoming regular events in Kerala. The land known for its serene nature has taken a vengeful persona, proving yet again that any unregulated action and irresponsibility by mankind will not go unpunished by Nature.

How the Partition helped India

In an undivided India with no Pakistan or Bangladesh in existence, the larger population would have been only 60 per cent non-Muslim

Pran Chopra, who later rose to be the editor of the Statesman, was reporting on an election which said a lot. A public meeting was held at Jalandhar in the middle of which there was *azaan* or a call for prayer. The crowd went to pray but Jinnah sat down on a chair, pulled out a cigar and lit it. He smoked until the crowd returned and then resumed his speech in English. The only other language he could speak was Gujarati. He had had no leisure to learn Urdu. Whenever Jinnah shouted "Islam is in danger", the crowd endorsed him loudly. The instance of a Muslim leader shunning prayer and smoking is telling.

If not the leader, what was he who succeeded in dividing a sub-continent? Evidently, he was the advocate-general for Pakistan. He could see that Muslims in India were generally nervous, if not also frightened. They were less educated than the Hindus and were fewer in the total number in the country. Furthermore, not even their elite owned industries and Nehru's socialist Government would take away their land. Muslims, who had ruled India for centuries, would be reduced to servants and clerks of Hindus.

The Advocate had a formula of Pakistan which to Aligarh students meant a New Medina which could go on to throw up a Caliph. There was no reigning religious-cum-temporal head of Sunni Islam. The last one was the Sultan of Turkey whom Kemal Ataturk had dethroned and exiled in 1924. There had been no replacement. He planned a viable strategy for his clients — the Muslims — and got on with his job. He had been the highest-paid barrister in the British Empire for several years. For dividing the country, his fees would be a place in history's hall of fame.

To indicate his role as an advocate, when he went, for the first time, to Dacca in the Eastern wing of Pakistan in February 1948, the university students demanded Bengali also to be a national language. Jinnah insisted that it can only be one tongue namely Urdu. He was curt, he did not know the Bengali psyche, and sowed the seeds of what eventually became Bangladesh. A leader would have



been more tactful and conciliatory. He did something similar in Delhi as he was finally leaving for Karachi. Some local Muslims had gathered in anxiety to ask their Qaid-e-Azam what could happen to them now that Partition has taken place? His reply was hurried and curt; I have achieved for you what you wanted; now look after yourself. What more can I do? Again the attitude of an advocate and not a leader.

On the last day of his life in September 1948, his health was deteriorating at Quetta, where he had gone to rest. His sister Fatima was with him and a British doctor. As his plane landed in Karachi, an old ambulance was awaiting his arrival. Remember, he was the Governor-General. Within two or three mile, the vehicle stopped and would not move forward. So the doctor took another ambulance, which took an hour or so to arrive and take an ailing Jinnah to his residence. That same evening at say 10 pm, he died. The next day he was buried but reportedly in a Savile Row tailored suit. Coincidentally, he died in the city of his birth, namely Karachi.

Jinnah achieved what he had set out on March 23, 1940, at Lahore. His death was no tragedy, because it was not an end with unfulfilled aspirations.



WITHOUT JINNAH, THE PARTITION WAS UNLIKELY. MANY MUSLIMS BELIEVE THAT WITHOUT THE QAID-E-AZAM, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO ONE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE BRITISH RULERS

Had he died unfulfilled, it would have been somewhat tragic for him, but more so for Hindus. The simple reason is that there would have been no Partition; without Jinnah, Partition was most unlikely. Many Muslims believe that without the Qaid-e-Azam, there would have been no one to negotiate with the British rulers. The Muslims had no other all-India leader. It is in this belief the Muslim League requested him to jettison his practice in a barrister in London welcome him back to India, as the League's life president.

To be convinced fully that Hindus needed the Partition, one has to digest the arguments laid out by Dr B R Ambedkar which are available in Volume VIII of his Complete Works. In his one blunt statement, Babasaheb declared, "An enemy without one's borders is more desirable than an enemy within". He went on to write that the Hindu provinces were paying much more tax, whose revenue was shared by the Muslim provinces. Yet because of their religious restrictions Muslim soldiers could not have fought for India, had the invading enemy been Muslim. The Khilafat Committee had endorsed this, as also the Muslim League.

In any case, in an undivided

India with no Pakistan or Bangladesh in sight, the larger population of the country would have been only 60 per cent non-Muslim. This 60 per cent would be too low to prevent either an Islamic takeover or an open civil war. For one, the Muslims in the Indian army exceeded the rest, especially if one counted only the fighting units minus the non-combatant ones. Secondly, Hindus particularly would have been reluctant to shed blood and take the lives of those when they looked upon as their brethren. Consequently, India would gone back to being a Dar-ul-Islam, which it had been for many centuries until 1858. The last Mughal incumbent on the throne, Bahadur Shah Zafar was arrested and exiled to Yangan in Burma (then Rangoon), which was when the Islamic world recognised that we had ceased to be an Islamic State.

(This concludes the series on Muhammad Ali Jinnah's role in India-Pak Partition.)

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE WALL'S SECOND INNINGS

Sir — Adroit Rahul Dravid would make a dexterous head coach of the Indian cricket team. He has always been an asset for the team in every role be it of a player, a captain or a coach. Dravid has already coached the India-A and the U-19 team for six years. His vast experience is certainly an advantage for young players who need just the right guidance and discipline. His cricketing skills, dexterity, decision making and strategic moves have proven successful in various capacities.

A quality that differentiates a good player and a great player is discipline, and Rahul Dravid has always been known for his impeccable discipline and focus. His unwavering temperament, no matter how ferocious the bowler seemed, puts him ahead of the league. Our young, and even experienced players, can learn a thing or two about discipline from the master himself and become 'great' players. Dravid's forte are team building and team approach. He has the ability to build on strengths, suitability (batting, bowling, fielding, field placement). His system's students such as Rishab Pant, Avesh Khan, Prithvi Shaw, Hanuma Vihari and Shubnam Gill are proof of the pudding. Nivriti Sreelekha | Secunderabad

RUSSIAN FILMMAKERS TAKE IT TO SPACE

Sir — The recent return of the Russian filmmakers from the International Space Station after finishing up their film shoot has increased the thrills of movie lovers manifold. It is extremely exciting to watch space scenes, which until now were artificially created with graphic designs. Shooting in space for 12 days must have been extremely hard to manage than a routine shoot on earth. Russians have historic success in space and now after finishing a shoot in space this time, Russia once again becomes the first country to do so.

Space has many endeavours to be explored by mankind. Space tourism and private space commercial capsule flights had already created a buzz and now a

Life in Kerala goes under



As ill luck would have it, Saturday noon saw Kerala reeling under torrential rains and resultant floods that left a long trail of disaster caused by many landslides. At Least 26 people have so far lost their lives and in a heart-wrenching scene, bodies of three children of eight, seven and four years holding on to each other were also found buried under the debris by the rescue team in Idukki district. The India Meteorological

Department (IMD) officials have also expressed apprehensions of a cloudburst having caused these unseasonal heavy rains wreaking havoc. The Army, the Navy and the IAF teams have also joined hands with the civil administrations while the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is going to deploy 11 teams to help in the rescue operations in the most affected districts. This bodes well for the bereft families that taking a serious view of the grim situation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan assuring him of all the possible aid while simultaneously announcing a 100 crore immediate relief package for the State. Let's all pray to the Almighty to give strength to all those on the receiving end of this natural calamity to bear with these painfully hard times with immense courage. Azhar A Khan | Rampu

BEHIND THE GLAMOUR OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Sir — From pings and chat windows to pokes and emoticons, everything exists in social media platforms to bring people closer. It helps learn new things, make new friends, explore new opportunities and develop new perspectives. But every coin has two sides. Young teenagers spend a lot of time browsing social media apps, particularly, Facebook, as they find it the best form of communication. But it is treacherous for the teenagers as it directly affects

their mental health. It spreads toxicity among youths. It is also not safe for the nation as it can be used to steal sensitive data by the enemies. It damages youngsters beyond measure.

Nowadays, people of all ages are glued to their phones to browse through social media applications like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter and many more. Half cooked stories and false news being spread is adversely affecting the very roots of the society. Everybody feels lonely in spite of being a member of several groups on social media. It is addictive as well as toxic and affects the self esteem of individuals. It is crucial that parents teach their children the adversaries around such apps. Even in schools, kids should be made aware of the truth behind the glamour of social media which takes a toll on their health as they start to use it. Somya Agrawal | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

To benefit a few friends of the Prime Minister, the public is being cheated and I will stand with the people.



Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi



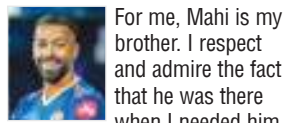
Israel should stop all its measures against our people in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian President — Mahmoud Abbas

Most of my films are meant for families to come in and engage, take back an important message and be thoroughly entertained.



Actor — Ayushmann Khurrana



For me, Mahi is my brother. I respect and admire the fact that he was there when I needed him the most.

Indian all-rounder — Hardik Pandya

As a token of my sympathy, I would like to make a donation...towards the relief and rescue efforts in Kerala.



Spiritual leader — Dalai Lama

FIRST COLUMN

INFLATION AND THE GATI SHAKTI PLAN

The rising global fuel prices and a domestic policy of high taxation is a major concern



SHIVAJI SARKAR

The Gati Shakti plan is aimed at coordinating infrastructure schemes of various Central Ministries and State Governments to ensure quick and efficient completion of works. It was perhaps a long-term need for a nation that is on booster doses of revenue injection through borrowings to push growth. Gati plan would try to help in timely implementation of projects through coordination of 16 Central Government departments and avoiding duplication for cutting costs. The new plan is stated to check the expenses on different projects but not check galloping inflation. Though food prices were in check for about eight months, the latest reports suggest that food and vegetable prices are shooting up in many areas. Industry department data say that certain food items' contraction has brought down food inflation to 4.69 per cent in September. During the same time, manufactured products' prices soared to 11.41 per cent from 11.39 per cent in August. Pulses rose 9.42 percent and in October, onion and fruit prices have started soaring. Food prices are not decelerating across the board. In the manufactured category, prices of basic metals rose to 26.71 per cent and textiles remain elevated at 26.09 per cent. Interestingly enough, activities in different sectors have not yet picked up the pace needed to give the desired effect. A major reason is the



rising global fuel prices and a domestic policy of high taxation on petroleum products, a concern expressed by RBI. Overall, inflation also pushes up wages and other costs. Global fuel prices have started firming up now with an increase in demand. India takes a double hit as a result. Food grain doles are keeping the prices in check to a certain level. However, as activities increase so do domestic demand.

This is what a coordination committee has to look at. With crude prices hovering around \$80 a barrel and likely to firm up further, the inflation scenario may become grim. Whether the Gati-Shakti plan, using geo-mapping and real-time data, can check rising prices would be interesting to observe. Pressures like rising wage and transportation costs could increase further. The Bloomberg commodity index crossed 100 in the last week of September, first time since 2015, and continues to stay at that level. Prices of coal and crude oil have risen. The RBI's monetary policy committee expects inflation to start increasing from the October-December quarter onwards. The WPI inflation is to rise, the MPC forecasts. Technically measured by consumer price index (CPI), inflation is at a low. It grew at 4.35 per cent, but overall, it has come down by 195 basis points. Inflation also impacts purchasing power. Consumers are yet not flocking to the market. Sales are not increasing. Many units are unable to transfer the additional costs on fuel to the consumers. Even the truckers face this problem. They cannot let their fleet remain idle. So even at lower prices they agree to transport goods. Another aspect is a kind of stagnation in income levels and in some cases even rising income is not seeing the end of poverty. There is concern about inequality-driven inflation. While the Gati Shakti has raised high hopes of completing projects within the budgetary expenses, to give pace to it, another master plan to check inflation is needed. The administered prices of petroleum products along with the higher cost on road travel also have to be seen from the aspect of coordination. Coordinated pricing is key to the success of the Prime Minister's new master plan. At lower fuel prices, there would be more activities, more revenue generation and the aim of the NDA Government to have an overall development could be achieved.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

The Air India sale : Better late than never



UTTAM GUPTA

Persistent neglect of Air India for over a decade and even during the period when its sale was under consideration has cost the exchequer dear

On June 28, 2017, the then Finance Minister, the late Arun Jaitley, had announced the 'in-principle' decision of the Union Cabinet for strategic divestment of Air India (AI) and five of its subsidiaries.

Over 50 months there after, on September 8, 2021, the Government has informed about its decision to privatise AI and its 100 percent subsidiary, Air India Express Limited (AIEL) and its 51 percent share in Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL). The iconic Maharajahs gone back to the hangar of the Tata Group almost 68 years after the company was nationalized in 1953. The AI privatization saga reveals four major pitfalls.

First, the move has been half-hearted from day one. That is a manifestation of an inherent tendency amongst bureaucrats and the political class to retain some controls even after divestment as also to ensure that employees continue to enjoy a protective cover even under the new boss.

The first attempt in 2017-18 came a cropper because in that offer, the Government insisted on retaining 24 percent shareholding with itself, retention of the employees besides imposing other conditions such as a minimum lock-in period of three years, etc. An additional rider was a requirement that the acquirer will have to take over a major slice of the debt on the books of AI. The investors showed no interest.

Eventually, the half-heartedness has given way to whole-heartedness even as the Government decided to sell 100 percent of its stake as also letting the acquirer shed employees after one year. It has also allowed the bidders to quote the 'enterprise value' - financial jargon for letting them get away with very little debt on the balance sheet of the divested undertaking.

However, the delay has come at a heavy cost to the Union Government. When the divestment was initially mooted, AI had a debt of around ₹50,000 crore. According to the secretary, Department of investment and public asset management, AI has been making a loss of ₹20 crore per day. No wonder, its cumulative debt has now ballooned to around ₹77,500 crore.

Second, after a divestment plan is taken on board, the scale of indifference to the working of the concerned PSU gets perked up which deteriorates its financial health further. As on March 31, 2021, AI had a debt of ₹58,000 crore. During the next five months till August 31, 2021, an additional debt of ₹3500 crore accrued. Furthermore, the Maharaja has piled up 'unpaid bills' of oil PSUs, airport dues and dozens of other vendors aggregating to ₹16,000 crore.

Put together, AI has liabilities of ₹77,500 crore. Of this, Tata will pay only ₹18,000 crore by taking over debt of ₹15,300 crore and give ₹2700 crore as equity. That leaves a whopping liability of a minimum around ₹60,000 crore with the Union Government (this could increase further



WITH DOZENS OF PSU DIVESTMENTS LINED UP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT LEARNS THE RIGHT LESSONS FROM MISTAKES OF THE PAST. THAT WILL HELP MAXIMISE REALISATION FROM THE SALE OF PROFITABLE UNDERTAKINGS AND MINIMISE THE LIABILITIES ARISING FROM THE LOSSMAKING COMPANIES

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)



as and when more unmet obligations come out of the cupboard) which will be transferred in its entirety to a special purpose vehicle named Air India Asset Holding Company Limited (AIAHCL).

The Centre will retain the non-core assets such as land, buildings, and housing colonies which, on sale, could fetch about ₹15,000 crore. Even if all of it is realized, the AIAHCL would be saddled with ₹45,000 crore. This amount will eventually come from tax payers' pocket and is over and above a whopping ₹110,000 crore already sunk since 2009-10 to keep it afloat.

Third, bureaucratic red tape rules the roost. Almost all processes starting from conception, getting approvals, Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM), Request for Proposal (RFP), inviting financial bids, selection of bidder, Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) and so on, crucial to successful completion of divestment are hamstrung by it. Add to this, the reluctance of bureaucrats to take timely decisions fearing they might be questioned after retirement.

The sale of AI has not remained unaffected by this malady. Some measures - reportedly under consideration - such as leaving decisions in regard to PIM, RFP and SPA to the DIPAM only (at present, these issues are decided by an inter-ministerial committee co-chaired by secretary, DIPAM and secretary of the concerned administrative ministry) are half-baked reforms.

Fourth, PSUs are often pushed

into a 'loss-making' situation by the political establishment (fully aided by the bureaucracy). This happens because of continuous interference by the latter in the working of these undertakings which is manifesting excessive manpower, high overhead cost, inflated payments to vendors etc. In case of AI, in 2007, it reached its nadir when the political bosses directed the management to procure 111 aircraft (for ₹70,000 crores) which was four times the requirement of only 28 put up by the management.

When a firm creates a huge liability (the aircraft purchases were funded by borrowings from a consortium of banks) with no matching business to put the assets to use, it inevitably leads to an unsustainable situation. The cash generation is bound to be too little vis-à-vis the requirement to amortize the loans. The irony is that the then Government did nothing to boost utilisation of the aircraft. Far from that, it gave away excessive bilateral seats and profitable routes to foreign/private airlines thereby ensuring that most of these aircraft sit idle. The other flawed decision was the merger of Indian Airlines with AI (2007). Even as there was little to gain by way of synergies (mergers are normally driven by this logic), vast differences in the work culture ethos, compensation packages, age profile of employees of the two entities led to operational inefficiencies thereby compounding losses and increasing debt of the combined entity.

To conclude, persistent neglect

of AI for over a decade and even during the period when its sale was under consideration has cost the exchequer dear. It is better late than never. By taking a call now (the deal is expected to be consummated by December, 2021), the Modi government has averted more drainage of resources besides garnering ₹18,000 crore (paid by Tata) plus another ₹15,000 crore being the value of non-core assets retained by it.

With dozens of PSU divestments lined up, it is imperative that the government takes the right lesson from mistakes of the past - as discussed above. That will help maximize realization from the sale of profitable undertakings and minimize the liabilities arising from abandoning the loss-making ones.

For instance, in case of AI, if only it had acted with alacrity in 2017-18 offering to offload 100 percent shareholding and no other encumbrance, it could not only have prevented further increase in debt but also successfully leveraged its lucrative assets (apart from 141 planes, it controls 4,400 domestic and 1,800 international landing and parking slots at domestic airports, as well as 900 slots at airports overseas, besides ownership of iconic brands like Maharaja) to secure a much higher valuation thereby reducing its burden.

Let us hope, henceforth Prime Minister Narendra Modi goes for a wholehearted approach and with a proactive and supportive bureaucracy he gets much better outcomes from the sales in the pipeline.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IF YOU (BJP) WANT TO FIGHT, FIGHT LIKE MEN. DON'T USE THE ED, CBI. THIS IS NOT MACHISMO. THIS IS UNMANLY.
—MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER
UDDHAV THACKERAY



HAD THESE AGENCIES BEEN MISUSED, THEN HALF OF YOUR MINISTERS WOULD HAVE BEEN IN JAIL.
—BJP LEADER
DEVENDRA FADNAVIS

Polexit? The Poles wouldn't want that

Poland has benefited enormously from grants and loans from the richer EU countries to the poorer ones: the country looks different already

It is possible that the tide which brought hard-right populist Governments to power in a number of Central European countries is starting to go out again.

In the Czech Republic, billionaire oligarch Andrej Babiš suffered a surprise defeat in his bid to be re-elected Prime Minister on Sunday. The last straw may have been the revelation in the 'Pandora Papers' only days before that he had set up an offshore company to secretly buy a \$17.6 million mansion in southern France.

In Hungary, Jew-baiting, Muslim-hating, ultra-nationalist President Viktor Orbán suddenly has to worry about winning re-election next year. The perennially split opposition parties managed to unite



GWYNNE DYER

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

last October and made their candidate mayor of Budapest, Hungary's capital. If they can manage to stay united, they might even bring Orbán down next year.

And in Poland, which has twice the population of the other two combined, the populist Law and Justice Party (PiS) is drifting into troubled waters too. It doesn't face re-election until 2023, but by then it may have managed to get Poland expelled from the European Union: Polexit. That would greatly upset the 88 per cent of Poles who want to stay in the EU.

The PiS is a deeply conservative party in the Catholic tradition, with populist trimmings like a Government subsidy of \$150



per month for each child under 18. Its voters are mostly rural and small town, deeply religious, older, and poorly educated. They respond well to racist, xenophobic and anti-semitic rhetoric. Donald Trump would feel right at home.

The PiS has been in power since 2015, but almost every recent election has been a hair's-breadth victory: it is as unpopular in the liberal cities as it is beloved in the deeply religious villages. So it sets itself the task of

improving its chances in future elections.

One obvious measure was to take control of the media. That was easy with the state-owned media: they were supposed to be impartial, but the government controls their budgets. However, it proved impossible to take over or freeze out the independent media, especially the foreign-owned ones, because EU law defends free speech.

Polish courts upheld the EU laws, because every member country had to pledge when it joined that on such matters EU law takes precedence over national laws and constitutions. So, the PiS decided to get around this roadblock by 'reforming' the Polish courts: if you don't like the judgements, change

the judges.

First the PiS Government forced a lot of judges out by lowering the retirement age, and replaced them with PiS supporters. When the EU objected to this blatantly political tampering with the courts, it packed the Constitutional Tribunal with its own people - and they declared that Polish law is superior to EU law last Friday. At that point, the Play-Doh hit the fan.

The European Commission declared that rulings by the European Court of Justice are "binding on all member states' authorities, including national courts." France's Europe minister was blunter: "There is the risk of a de facto exit." He's right. The PiS is playing

a game of chicken with the EU, of course, and has no intention of actually leaving the EU. As the streets of Warsaw and other Polish big cities filled with young people chanting 'Zostajemy' ('We're staying'), Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki declared "The place of Poland is and will be in the European family of nations" - but he is already in over his head.

Reason and instinct both argue that this storm will blow itself out. Poland has benefited enormously from seventeen years of grants and loans from the richer EU countries to the poorer ones: the whole country looks different already.

Right now, Poland is awaiting approval of a \$65

billion transfer from Brussels as its share of the EU's \$865 billion post-Covid 'stimulus package'. But that and much else might not come if Poland is in revolt against the EU's rules.

Russia is still close, and although nobody is expecting a Russian invasion at the moment, all of Polish history is shouting that you don't want to be alone out there.

And nine out of Poles want to stay in the EU.

So, it really should all blow over, but games of chicken are tricky. You have to drive like you have a death wish, and then turn away at the last second - but just after the other guy did. It's really hard to get the timing right, and if you get it wrong, you drive off the cliff. Polexit.



A HAPPENING HYGGE HOME

Wellness begins with self-care and when self-care is coveted for, the real interior game begins. The quality defining a space can be so strong that it shapes the overall vibe with the play of colours, the indulgence of aesthetics and the experiment with the décor. The secret lies in the sensorial associations of these décor pieces and their details—a memory of the vacations sparked by the shelled souvenirs, the rejuvenation from a spa makeover for a secluded powder room or the quietude along the rearranged bookshelves marked by a modest tea table. Finding the ideal décor cuts all the ties from the monotony and dares to bring us an ambience brimming with self-reflection and mindfulness. To know how, see below:

Nature as a part of decor

Green pockets underline the health quotient of a space—the core seeking in self-care practices. The improved indoor air quality and therapeutic effect brought by the greenery promises a positive atmosphere indoors. Houseplants accommodated in the planter boxes in brass, terracotta, ceramics, wood or other natural materials make the spaces 'look and feel' homier with an indigenous touch. Pair them with quirky ceramic sculptures to add to the zen-like character of the space.

The Hygge lifestyle

The blend of cosiness and comfort desired in the challenging modern times call for a relaxed décor. Surround yourself with pieces that make a space your home. Pieces that can evoke memories and stories, pieces that inspire your imagination. It could be as simple as an arrangement of photographs or a curated collection of specific statement pieces that leave a mark. When memories take the form of décor, there are many stories to tell—many simulations of gratitude. Lighting is another aspect that can add another dimension to the feeling that a space gives. It could

be adjustable lighting that can set the mood from vibrant to a snuggle perfect environment. A sublime warm-lit glow creates an aura where the light fixtures become the mood lifters and the interior scene—an escape.

Out-of-the-world character

A whimsical touch in the décor comforts the soul with the esthetic lure. Upholstered pieces arranged along a glamorous vanity corner invites an uncompromised, dainty appeal. Hints of plush fabric in velvet or pure linen bring a sense of warmth into the personal spaces. A statement mirror is ideal for adding a spark to the environment. An art muse with artworks, murals or wallpaper patterns can become a gateway to reflect our persona—modern art for edgy personalities, ethereal art for the introverts. Visuals resonating with our vibe are the best find.

Creative abundance

Interiors that revel in the abundance of details enrich the private environments. A wholesome table in a striking dining setup reassures contentment with the on-point etiquette—food being the very source of positivity and liveliness. There's more to the cose—a relaxing corner along a window to gaze out or to take a peaceful sip, a reading nook with a recliner for turning the pages of your all-time favourite books or a laid-back niche with souvenirs that take us down the memory lane. Tagging along, the aroma-rich additions like fresh garden-pluck flowers in vases, scented candles, aromatic diffusers or potpourri enhance the spatial attributes with a tranquilising touch.

Nostalgic centrepieces escort these charms in antique finishes or other forms of exquisite craftsmanship that come with a lore. A creative overload gratifies the spaces that nurture self-care in its purest, un-apologised form.

(The author, Punam Kalra, is a renowned interior designer)



Yoga and Ayurveda improve the quality of life and inculcate a positive attitude towards ageing, says Namita Piparaiya

In Ayurveda, a lifespan is divided into three stages — balavastha (childhood), madhyavastha (young and middle age), and vridhavadastha (old age). It is evident that two people of the same age may have different energy levels, and a lot depends on how we take care of our body or how much we push our energy beyond its limit.

Four factors influence our ageing, such as time, nature, diet, and type of illness. Additionally, in vridhavadastha, vata dosha (air and space element) becomes dominant. Since vata is concerned with bones and the nervous system, if proper care is not taken, the degeneration can be seen in joints along with the mind that undergoes various cognitive issues. These are some of the first signs of age-related decline.

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS IN WHICH AYURVEDA AND YOGA CAN HELP IN ENHANCING YOUR LIFESTYLE:

Create a routine

This is the first stage of ayurvedic living. At each

HOLISTIC LIVING



of life, we must create a routine that suits our personality-type. Having a fixed sleep schedule, starting your day by drinking water, finishing all ablutions, and making time for some mindful activities, like yoga and meditation, can help rejuvenate you in the morning itself. Plan your days and find

feelings of loneliness and boredom.

Stay active

Moderate daily activity will keep the body and bones healthy. In the vata stage, more grounding activities like hatha yoga or moderate weight-training are recommended. High-intensity activities like plyometrics increase vata, so it may not be suitable for everyone. Therefore, it is significant to choose your physical activities accordingly. Balance training is particularly important for healthy ageing because it is an excellent way to tone down vata and to develop strong mind-body awareness.

Along with a healthy body, a

strong mind is also important. We often underestimate the stresses of old age, which may arise due to loneliness, fear, loss of ability, and so on. By making time for pranayama, meditation, mindful walking, and even by engaging in recreational hobbies, we can keep our minds healthy.

Eat well

We must change our nutritional needs. Especially after 60, our dietary habits start catching up with our bodily systems. Therefore, we start seeing increased instances of issues like high blood pressure, diabetes, heart failure, electrolyte imbalances, insomnia, and so on. So, it is important to

choose nutrient-rich foods, that you can get by eating a wide variety of local produce, eating more fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean protein, healthy fats, especially Omega 3s. You should avoid sugary foods, dry salty snacks, and junk food.

Explore ayurvedic therapies

Not all herbs or therapies are suitable for everyone. An ayurvedic doctor will assess your body type and recommend treatments suitable for your specific conditions. This can include panchakarma, herbs, or dietary prescriptions. These are best taken after being assessed by a professional.

With a little discipline and some motivation, we can improve not only our longevity but also our quality of life. It helps in keeping a positive attitude towards ageing.

(The author is the founder of Yoganama, a wellness platform that emphasises on yoga, Ayurveda and philosophy for mindful living.)

Make your social media platform AESTHETICALLY APPEALLING

Social media platforms differ in functioning and appearance. Hence, it is really important to make sure that their aesthetics are in place so that one can attract more leads, increase sales, and broadcast the message in the right manner to the target audience. To ensure that your social media page is in the correct format and order, this guide can help you:

Draw inspiration

Every social media platform can weave a different story depending on the aesthetic you want to present. So make sure that you draw inspiration for your brand from the right sources and for the relevant social media platform. Pinterest and Instagram are more image-driven while content on Twitter is all about crisp tweets. Similarly, Facebook is all about combining trendy content with featured posts and stories. So, make sure that you use all the

trending platform-specific updates and features to draw and implement your inspiration.

Create content

Conceptualise a board for yourself and start pinning content you like. It may include photos, videos, GIFs, carousels etc, that reflect your brand aesthetic and help you weave the story you want to portray in the right format. If you decide to use a template, make sure to pick one that fits your vision, sensibility, and covers your competitive strategy. Also, pay attention to the description, content information of the products you are considering to feature.

Produce and post

While planning content may sound difficult, producing content can be even more tedious. Ensure that you use original social media templates, unique formats, and different fonts. Get innovative with design, and feature content on your page with

precision and perfection. You can shoot content, use Photoshop, try templates, or maybe combine free images from the internet to feature what you like.

Set the timeline

Create a timeline to help you remember when you want to post, or when you want to have your content finished. A timeline is like a calendar for your content. You can create a simple timeline in your notes or phone calendar to stay on top of things. This will ensure that you know what to post and when so that you don't get lost amid the chunk of content. Also, do keep a tab on trending and topical posts, events or updates so that you can integrate them into your social media content to feature an aesthetic that you love!

(The writer, Mehar Gulati, Founder, Scarlet Relations, has managed the outreach strategies of multiple brands working with over 20 clients during her time at different agencies for 3 years.)

How social media turned a virtual stadium for IPL fans

In India, cricket fever is a phenomenon, and it soars higher during big-ticket tournaments. In fact, cricket is a massive conversation on Twitter in India with fans coming to the service for a second-screen experience like no other. Amidst nail-biting finishes and thrilling catches, Twitter is always echoing with fans' cheers — sharing ball-by-ball updates of matches, supporting their favourite teams, and most of all — spreading their collective love for the sport.

As cricket's winning streak continues to grow on the service, Twitter took a look at cricket conversations from the past year, here's what Twitter have been talking about the most over the past year (July 2020 - July 2021):

Top hashtags: With cricket conversations heating up during bigger events and cricket leagues, fans take no breathers from expressing their support. From the most used hashtags, it seems like CSK fans have been cheering the loudest on

Twitter — #whistlepodu, #ipl2020, #yellove, #ipl2021, #csk

Top emojis: Fans' passion for cricket inspires a roller-coaster of emotions, and they take to Twitter to express these through emojis. Whether it was the nerves of a last-over thriller, or favourite players slamming fours and sixes, these were the emojis that fans used the most:

Top athletes: Waves of support continued to pour in through the year as fans came together to share love and encouragement for their favourite players. From on-field MVPs across matches to eternal legends off the field, these were the most talked-about athletes: Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni, Rohit Sharma, Sachin Tendulkar, and Suresh Raina.

Top cities: Fans across cities in the country chimed in with their interests and insights around the nationally-loved sport, keeping Twitter abuzz with conversations. These cities roared the loudest in cricket conversations on Twitter: Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, New Delhi and Chennai!





● Divya



● Mannara Chopra



● Archana Ravi and Ritika



● Shreedevi Chowdhury



● Payal



● Monal



● Sruthi



● Varsha



● Anu Totla

LADIES' DAY OUT

The installation ceremony of Samanvay Ladies Club in the presence of philanthropist ShreeDevi Chowdhury happened at the Mercure, Erramanzil. Women showed up decked in festive drapes and celebrating the festival in full swing.



● Ankita

PARTY

Photos by SV Chary



● Drishika Chander



● Aby Dominic and Manish Daya



● Jenny and Honny



MEAT LOVERS' MEET

Fipola, the store that offers meat, seafood, marinated cuts, and much more to the city, now has another destination on Road no. 10, Banjara Hills. The exclusive store's launch was attended by celebs and meat-lovers!

FUN

ARCHIE



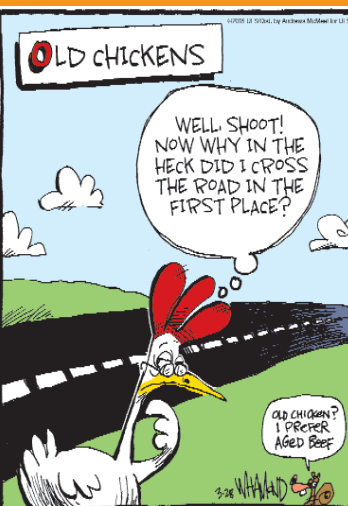
CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



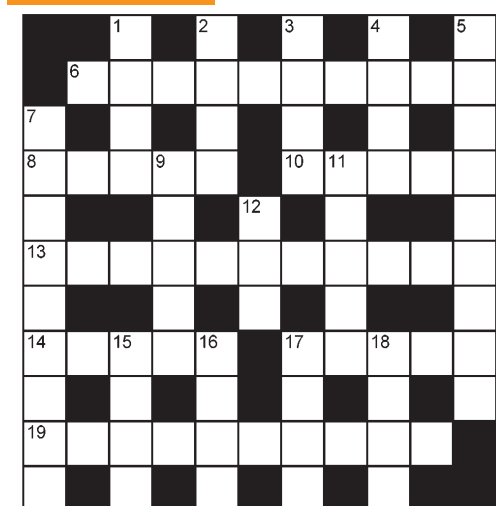
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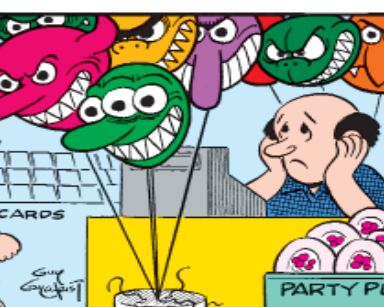
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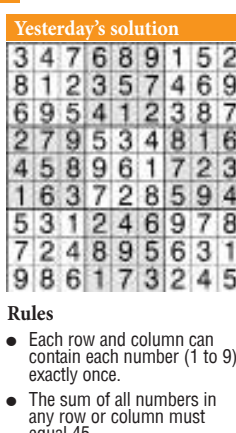
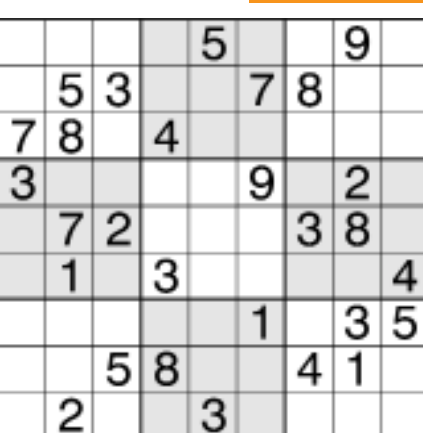
CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Rules

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

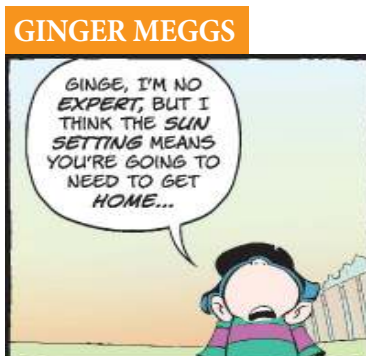
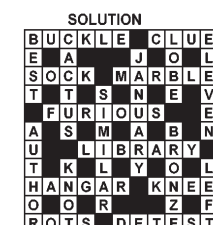
ACROSS

- A team game
- Foe
- A bamboo-eating animal
- Measure temperatures with this
- Player of bagpipes
- Stairs
- Book of word meanings

- A radio code that uses dots and dashes
- Wide awake and ready for anything
- An animal kept for milk
- Choose
- Spoil completely
- Gritty stuff on a beach
- Your hearing organs

DOWN

- Not in danger
- All right, but not especially good
- Halt
- A sign of tiredness
- A big sea bird
- A many-legged creature





SHYAM SINGHA ROY COMING TO THEATRES FOR CHRISTMAS

Natural Star Nani's magnum opus *Shyam Singha Roy* is one of the craziest projects in Telugu, this year. Director Rahul Sankrityan, who penned a first-of-its-kind concept, has made the film with high technical standards. Having full faith in the subject, producer Venkat Boyanapalli of Niharika Entertainment gave the director a free hand and provided all the resources for the best outcome. It is, by far, the most expensive film in Nani's career.

On Monday, the makers of the film announced that the film will hit the big screens on December 24! They released a romantic poster of the film to make the announcement. This poster confirms that the film is about an epic love tale between Nani and Sai Pallavi set in a period zone. Recently, the makers released a second dimension of Nani as 'Vasu' and like the first dimension of a Bengali guy, this too, received a thumping response from all the corners. There's a complete contrast between the two looks of Nani. Every promotional content had only increased fans' curiosity about the project. Considering the huge craze for the film from the neighbouring states as well, the makers have decided to release *Shyam Singha Roy* in all the four south Indian languages — Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.

The makers have announced the launch of a huge promotional campaign soon, as the film is presently in the post-production stages.

Melody songs specialist Mickey J Meyer is on board to compose soundtracks, while Sanu John Varghese cranks the camera. Naveen Nooli is the editor. National Award winner Kruti Mahesh and Yash master choreographed songs of the film.

Rahul Ravindran, Murali Sharma, and Abhinav Gomatam play important roles in the film.

"This Christmas, Shyam will arrive where he belongs. To the big screen and to your hearts. December 24th #ShyamSinghaRoy," the *Jersey* star wrote on Monday.

Meanwhile, *Pushpa* is also set to hit theatres on December 17.



#NBK107: Double bonanza for Balayya fans?

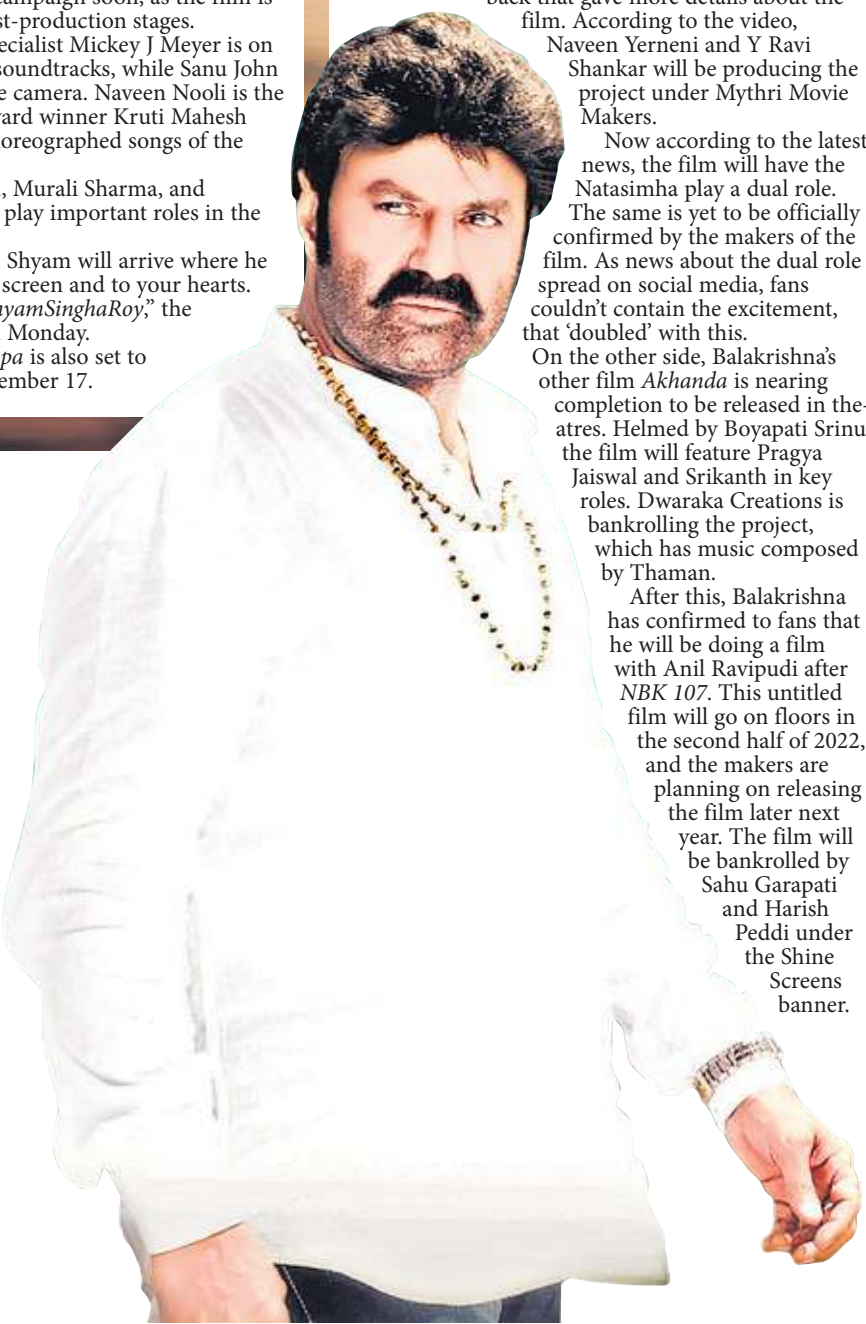
We know that actor Nandamuri Balakrishna will be collaborating with *Krack* director Gopichand Malineni for his next project, tentatively titled #NBK107. The makers had shared a 37-second video sometime back that gave more details about the film. According to the video,

Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar will be producing the project under Mythri Movie Makers.

Now according to the latest news, the film will have the Natasimha play a dual role. The same is yet to be officially confirmed by the makers of the film. As news about the dual role spread on social media, fans couldn't contain the excitement, that 'doubled' with this.

On the other side, Balakrishna's other film *Akhanda* is nearing completion to be released in theatres. Helmed by Boyapati Srinu, the film will feature Pragya Jaiswal and Srikanth in key roles. Dwaraka Creations is bankrolling the project, which has music composed by Thaman.

After this, Balakrishna has confirmed to fans that he will be doing a film with Anil Ravipudi after *NBK 107*. This untitled film will go on floors in the second half of 2022, and the makers are planning on releasing the film later next year. The film will be bankrolled by Sahu Garapati and Harish Peddi under the Shine Screens banner.



VISHWAK plays aghora

Vishwak Sen, in recent times has been very cautious in picking his roles for his films. He recently bagged a hit with *Paagal*, starring Nivetha Pethuraj. The actor has now announced the title of his next project as *Gami*. Chandini Chowdary is playing the female lead in the movie helmed by Vidyadhar Kagita. It is produced by Karthik Sabareesh under the banner of UV Creations. Going by the teaser, Vishwak, for the first time, will be seen as an aghora in the film.

Naresh Kumaran is the music director for the film, while Viswanath Reddy and Raghavendra are handling the cinematography and editing departments.



Nagarjuna wants to do more action drama

Looks like the failure of *Manmadhudu 2* has resulted in Nagarjuna Akkineni wanting to change his game. In a recent report on a Bollywood portal, the actor had reportedly mentioned that he is tired of doing family dramas and love stories. The actor's last film is *Wild Dog*, a serious action drama.

Nagarjuna is extremely popular for his love stories, he's also nicknamed 'Manmadhudu' (lover boy). The 'Greekuveerudu' (Greek hero), as called by his fans, has come to understand the change in the mindsets of audiences.

Nagarjuna is said to have decided to play his age on the screen. He realised that the audiences are no longer interested to see him as the lover boy or the family hero. The actor hence decided to do more of action dramas.

Nagarjuna apparently said, "I want to do action films currently. I am bored of doing family dramas, love stories, and biopics," said Nagarjuna adding, "I am currently feeling fitter and I don't think I have felt like this in my life ever."

Nagarjuna's next film is *The Ghost*, which is reportedly going to be high on action elements. At the same time, he is planning to increase the action dose in *Bangarraju*, the prequel of *Soggade Chinni Nayana*.

Sundeep heaps praise on *Madhura Wines* team



Madhura Wines, a romantic action entertainer, directed by Jaya Kishore B, starring Sunny

Naveen, is all set to hit big screens on October 22. Rajesh Kondepudi is producing the film while S Originals producer Srujan Yarabolu is

the associate producer. Speaking at the pre-release event of the film held recently, Sundeep Kishan, who came in support of the film, said, "I

like those who speak confidently. Sunny Naveen and the director of the film spoke confidently of the film, which I really appreciate. Going by their words, I believe this film will definitely be a hit. Although they all came from a short film background, the film was wonderfully screened. All the people who gave me life in this industry have come up from making short films."

Madhura Wines has music by Jay Krish-Karthik Kumar Rodrigues while cinematography is done by Mohan Chary and is edited by Vara Prasad.

People's Media Factory producer Vivek Kuchibhotla, Uppena director Buchibabu, Srikaram director Kishore, Sandeep Kishan, and other celebrities were the chief guests at the event and conveyed best wishes to the film unit.



Venky-Varun complete lengthy schedule of *F3*

Actors Venkatesh and Varun Tej, who are busy shooting for their upcoming film *F3*, the sequel to

2019 family drama *F2*, directed by Anil Ravipudi, have finished shooting a lengthy schedule for the film. The makers on Monday released a picture of Varun Tej and Venkatesh enjoying the wrap, much to the delight of their fans.

Sharing the picture, the makers revealed that the stars completed the fun-filled lengthy schedule on time.

The makers posted "The Cobras Venky Mama & Varun Tej completed a long schedule of *F3* Movie. Varun Tej shared a pic from the sets of *F3*."

Varun Tej said, "Wrapped up a long and crazy schedule of #F3It's gonna be mad fun!! And like always had a blast with my bro @VenkyMama. Can't wait for the next schedule to start."

Tamannaah and Mehreen Pirzada are the heroines in the film for which music is scored by Devi Sri Prasad.

