BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

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

**SPORTS 12** 

HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW

**BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH** 

BHUBANESWAR RANCHI

NAGARJUNA WANTS TO DO MORE ACTION

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**DRAMA** Page 11

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

itter political sparring in Karnataka ahead of two by-Polls touched a new low today as the Congress attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "angootha-"Congress built schools but Modi 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**

he 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 finedining 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

unjab 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**

A ccusing 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'

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

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 pover-

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.

## 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 Tirmalagiri 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.

## 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

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 cer-

# Despite fines, flexis by followers of politicians continue to pop up

PNS HYDERABAD

The trend of installing banners and pasting posters has been increasing in Hyderabad over the past few weeks, much to the discomfiture of citizens.

Cut-outs bearing pictures of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, and TRS leaders KT Rama Rao, Harish Rao, J Santosh, Kavitha alongside local leaders were used during the Bonalu celebrations on a massive scale. Now, a plethora of flexis welcoming Mothukupalli Narsimhulu to the TRS fold have sprung up across the city. Streetlights have been turned into flexi-holders on the road medians, so much so that they sometimes block the view and thus pose a danger to commuters.

While locals keep objecting to flex banners being put up in their area, they are of the opinion that the civic body drastically failed to control flex boards, banners and

Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi

Gandhi's birthday was celebrated with pomp last week and banners appeared across the constituencies. Vigilant netizens raised complaints with EV&DM over the posters and fines ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 20,000 were imposed on the local leaders who proudly claimed to

"We are aware that many people

have installed the flexis.

Fines were also imposed on people who installed posters wishing people on Bathukamma, bearing the images of TRS leaders at Kacheguda, Chappal bazaar and

On Monday, several flexis welcoming Mothukupalli sprang up across multiple locations in the city including areas like Begumpet, Somajiguda, Nagarjuna Circle to Jubilee Check post Hyderabad Intellectuals Forum

Hyderabad Intellectuals Forum tweeted, "Any special permission granted for setting up flexis welcoming Mothukupalli into TRS? Or are they exempted from penalisation? Right from Nagarjuna Circle towards Jubilee check post this was the scene on Monday morning."

Interestingly, only TRS related banners were being posted online

banners were being posted online by netizens and fined by EV&DM over the past one week.

The famous Alpha hotel at Secunderabad was fined Rs 75,000 for displaying a hoarding of more than 15 feet height and unauthorised erection of five banners.

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

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

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

TODAY

ALMANAC

Panchangam Tithi: Chaturdashi 19:02

Month & Paksham:

Ashwin & Shukla Paksha

**Nakshatram:** Uttara Bhadrapada 12:12

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

Rahukalam: 2:54 pm - 4:21 pm

**Varjyam:** 1:07 am - 2:50 am

Gulika: 12:00 pm - 1:27 pm

Amritakalam: 7:08 am - 8:49 am

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

Yamagandam: 9:07 am - 10:34 am

**Good Time:** (to start any important work)

Yadav's rally had to be cancelled in 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 rainrelated 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 Selkhola in Champawat district, two people were killed when their house collapsed, following a landslide, the State Emergency Operation Centre said.

### **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 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-

NCB lens on all possible drug hubs Page-3

# 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

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-Bharat based Biotech, which has developed mitted EOI (Expression Interest) to the World Health Organisation on April 19

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 emerevaluate it thoroughly to make sure it is safe and effective, the global health organisation said in a tweet.

"Bharat Biotech - the manufac-

turer of Covaxin - has been submitting data to WHO on a rolling basis and WHO experts have reviewed these data. WHO is expecting one additional piece of information from the company

today, it said. The WHO's tweet came a day after its chief scientist Soumya technical advisory group will meet on October 26 to consider the emergency use listing of India's Covaxin which is being used in the country's nationwide anti-COVID-19 vaccination programme.

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



for its vaccine.

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 Ñadu. There is

told reporters during a brief inter-action after visiting Lord Venkatachalapathy 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.

# 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 investigators and other senior officials are interrogating the accused and further probe is underway, the UP police said in a statement. held have been

Those 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

no CSK without Dhoni and there is no Dhoni without CSK," Srinivasan

Majority sales happened in Bachupally, Tellapur, Gandipet, Dundigal and Miyapur

Hyd now 2<sup>nd</sup> most expensive housing market

**NAVEENA GHANATE** HYDERABAD

Buying houses has become dearer in Hyderabad, so much so that the city is now the second-most expensive realty market after Mumbai.

According to a quarterly analysis of India's prime residential markets by property brokerage firm www.PropTiger.com, average property value of new property in Hyderabad has risen annually by 3 percent in the July-September period of 2021 (Q32021), bringing the per-square-foot (psf) property rate

In terms of average rates, this annual appreciation has now made

Average price as on September 30, 2021 (in Rs per square foot) Price growth: City-wise break-up

Metropolitan Region (MMR), Hyderabad the most expensive property market after the Mumbai where the average rate stood at Rs

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.

**Temp:** 30/20 Humidity: 61% Sunrise: 6:10 am **Sunset:** 05:51 pm **Current Weather Conditions** Updated OCTOBER 18, 2021 5:00 PM







# Gati Shakti to accelerate India's infrastructural development

ndia 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-pedalling on various projects. Besides, all infrastructure development projects were steeped in corruption and the quality of work suf-

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 bridgesover-sea, inland waterways. The list goes on.

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

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-

infrastructural development works soon after coming to power. He identified crucial and major projects for execution and provided funds for their development.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who noticed

all these inconsistencies, focussed on

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 pro-ject 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

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

corruption.



Y SATYA KUMAR **BJP National Secretary** 

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 implementaresolved prior to the launch. The portal helps **SPEAKING** 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

tion of projects would be Development (NBFID) especially for the purpose of the infrastructure development pro-

> Modi, who was aware that economic development of the country is linked to large-scale infra-structure 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

# **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

Home Minister Mahmood

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,

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 instructed the district Excise Officials to come out with reports for the meeting on the existing situa-

tion 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

Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao on Monday made it clear that his government planned to spend an estimated Rs 1.7 lakhcrore 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

Addressing a meeting at Telangana Bhavan after welcoming his long term associate in the TDP, Mothkupalli there is no need to repay.

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

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 class-

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.

Hyd now 2<sup>nd</sup>...

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

12,342 fresh units in the

Hyderabad housing market

in Q32021. Dundigal, Tella-

pur, Gopanpally, Bachupally

and Bandlaguda Jagir were

the top localities that wit-

nessed the highest new sup-

ply 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

other cities.

Developers

Continued from page 1

# KCR welcomes Mothkupalli into TRS fold

Bolstering the TRS govern-ment's efforts to win over Dalits across the State, former TDP and BJP leader Mothkupalli Narasimhulu Telangana Rachtra Samithi on Monday in the presence of TRS president and Minister 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,

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.

atra for 14 months, covering

She will continue her paday-

Telangana Congress Affairs

in-charge Manickam Tagore stated that 224 hours is enough

to win the Huzurabad by-poll.

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 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-

constituencies in Telangana.

Sharmila will walk 12 km per

day and address at least nine

week schedule of the padayatra

on Monday. The first public

meeting of the padayatra will be

held at Chevella and Sharmila

The YSRTP released the first

public meetings.

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 chal-

lenges 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.

YS Sharmila padayatra tomorrow from Chevella 4,000 km through 90 Assembly will commence her walkathon Maheshwaram mandal, and youth) on the pla

Shamshabad

immediately after that.

She will have lunch at

Chevella and will halt for the

night on the first day in

Sharmila's padayatra will

wind through Nakkalapalli vil-

lage in Moinabad mandal,

# Revolt certain in TRS after Huzurabad by-poll: Revanth

PNS HYDERABAD

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

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

"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.

Kandukur mandal (night halt

on the seventh day after visit-

ing Thimmapur village).
Party leaders have already

prepared a route map targeting

youth with the slogan

Navatharam Nayakathwam'

(new leadership for present

Yuvathaku

will be held in Telangana along Revanth said that KCR will go for elections as the nation w complete 75 years of Independence on August 15,

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

youth) on the plank of YSR wel-

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.

fare rule.

He also said that elections KCR will resign by the time of Guiarat elections.

Revanth said that the developments taking place in the RS indicate es 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

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

**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.

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 govern-

ments, we expect markets in

top eight cities to show stabil-

ity 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.

# Cong: 224 hrs of campaign enough in Huz'bad

paigning.

RATES ₹/KG Dressed/With Skin ₹253 Without Skin Broiler at Farm

CHICKEN

RATES ₹/100 **HYDERABAD** VISAKHAPATNAM 470 VIJAYAWADA 441 **RETAIL PRICE** 

K VENKATESHWARLU He said that Congress teams lic representatives, Manickam will take up a door to door campaign now.

The ruling TRS and the BJP are While addressing important busy with their election camleaders meeting at a local hall at paign in Huzurabad for the last Huzurabad on Monday, five and a half months. They Manickam Tagore said the have been making all out efforts Congress announced Balmoor to win, spending almost 3,600 Venkat Narsing Rao as its canhours for the campaign. didate before the BJP However, the Telangana announced Eatala Rajender as Congress is confident of winits candidate officially. He said ning the Huzurabad by-poll with just 224 hours of camthat the BJP and the TRS belonged to the same category.

was being distributed by pub-

and liquor in Huzurabad constituency during the Dasara

diesel, he said. Finding fault with the Election Commission for not responding although liquor was flowing like water and money

alleged that the ruling TRS been distributing Kaleswaram corruption money

Both State and Central governments are the reason for the hike in the prices of petrol and 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

'Eetharam

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

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, Puvvada 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

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

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

on Monday.

The Greater Hyderabad

Municipal Corporation

(GHMC) has responded to the tweet of Malkajgiri MP and

TPCC chief A Revanth Reddy

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

Administration and Urban

Development (MA&UD)

Minister K T Ramarao



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

GHMC demolishes illegal shopping

mall building after Revanth's tweet

Revanth tweeted in Telugu

saying, "Despite several com-

plaints, no action has been taken against the illegal con-

struction." Suspecting Minister's support for illegal construc-

tion at Uppal Chowrastha,

Revanth questioned Municipal

Administration and Urban

Development Minister KT

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

Correlating all this informa-tion, the NCB Hyderabad has started scanning all possible drug peddling centres in the

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, 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



# 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 morn-

ing 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 lug-

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.

existing six medical colleges over and above the existing

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 Poorumamilla in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh collided with a lorry near the Ring Road on the outskirts of

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.

#### religious organisation, has been organising the public meeting 'Jalsa Yaum-e-Rahmatul lil Alameen' for more than 70 years. According to Tameer-eMillat member Syed Aneesuddin, the public meeting is to be held at Exhibition Crowde in the heart of the Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) Secretary Maulana Umrain Bin Mahfooz Grounds in the heart of the Rahmani and acting General city. Last year, the public meet-Secretary Maulana Khaled

Saifullah Rahmani will address

the congregation. Mohammad

Qasim Siddiqui Taskheer will

deliver his address virtually

Muslim Personal Law Board leaders

to address annual Milad meet in city

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.

# renowned Islamic scholar and Traffic restrictions for Milad-un-Nabi

PNS HYDERABAD

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-Millar to mark Milad-un-Nabi, the birth

anniversary of Prophet Muhammad.

ing was held virtually due to Covid-19 pandemic. This was

the first time in the history of

this annual event that there

Thousands of people from

the city and other parts of the

state attend the meeting to hear

the religious scholars and com-

This year former Union

Minister C.M. Ibrahim,

was no congregation.

munity leaders.

Tameer-e-Millat, a socio-

In order to relieve traffic congestion and to ensure public safety in connection with Milad-un-Nabi procession, the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad Anjani Kumar issued advisory for traffic diversions. The traffic restrictions will be imposed between 8 am and 8 pm on Tuesday. The procession will start from Dargah Syed Quadri Chaman and proceed via Engine Bowli, Shamsheergunj, Aliabad, Shahalibanda, Charminar, Pathergatti, Nayapul, Darulshifa and Mandi Mir Alam before culminating at Moghalpura playground.

Traffic will not be allowed from Dargah Syed Quadri Chaman, Gulam Murtuza Colony, towards Engine Bowli diverted towards Kandikalguda, Phisalbanda and old Kurnool Road from MBNR

crossroads. When the procession reaches Engine Bowli junction from Dargah Syed Quadri Chaman, traffic will not be allowed towards Charminar and instead will be diverted at

the junction towards Jahanuma. Traffic from Goushala junction will not be allowed towards Shamsheergunj road when the procession passes on the Engine Bowli - Charminar route. It will be diverted towards Engine Bowli or Bahadurpura. Traffic will not be allowed from Nagulchinta towards Shamsheergunj when the procession reaches Engine Bowli and is on its way to Charminar and will be diverted from the junction towards Lal Darwaza and

Kandikal Gate. Similarly, traffic will not be allowed between Darulshifa junction and Bibi Bazaar junction when the procession is on way to Moghalpura Volga Hotel where it will culminate.

#### Unidentified body found on riverbed

PNS HYDERABAD

The body of an unidentified man was found on the Musi riverbed near the mini Shilparamamam in Nagole late on Sunday. Police are investigating whether if he accidentally fell into the river at some other spot and came floating to the spot.

According to the police, the body, of a man aged in his mid-thirties and suspected to be a labourer, was found by local residents.

On receiving information, the Uppal police shifted the body to the hospital for autopsy.
A CLUES team has exam-

ined the spot.

"The victim appears to be a construction worker. It is yet to be ascertained if he accidentally fell in the river and died," the police said, adding that a case of suspicious death was booked and investigation was on.

## 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

Rama Rao, why was action not

taken against the illegal con-

struction? 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

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 ated a rift between mother and

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 stran-

gulated her to death. Their relatives staying nearby informed the police immediately. The police have taken both Nandini and Chotu into custody and are



The Government Doctors

sanctioning additional incentive of Rs 50,000 per month to the 144 contract faculty of anatomy, physiology and bio-This hasn't gone down well chemistry of the eight new and with the doctors who have

been working for far less pay.



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 mplement 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 Mahbubnagar Medical College is quite less compared to the new medical colleges that are coming up.

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

Government Doctors Association member Dr Kiran Prakash said that despite the fewer posts to Mahbubnagar 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 process of finalising a term



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 startups to further support the Telangana start-up ecosystem. 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 jour-

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 amaz-



# 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 cheatings 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.

# TMRIES students shine in JEE-Advanced

ing milestones at T-Hub."

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Secretary of Telangana Residential Minorities Educational Institutions Society B Shafiullah on Monday stated that two students of Telangana Minorities Residential Junior College have qualified in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)-Advanced.

As many as 17 students who qualified by faring well in JEE (Mains) werefurther groomed to qualify in the JEE (Advanced) by intensive free of cost coaching at Telangana Minorities Residential Junior College - Centre of Excellence (CoE) Barkas Boys, where students were provided all sort of

Mohammad Junaid achieved 4106 rank while R Ranjith Naik achieved 661 rank. Given their ranks, the students will secure seats in Indian Institution of Technology (IIT). Despite weak financial background, the two students have put up an outstanding performance in academics and

entrance examinations and are

now poised to make an entry into premier engineering institutions of the country.

Minister for Minorities Welfare, Government of Telangana Koppula Eshwar and Advisor to Government of Telangana, Minorities Welfare & President of TMREIS AK Khan congratulated the two students for their meritorious performance in the entrance

Shafiullah thanked the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao for providing highest quality education in English medium to poor minority students, on par with the corporate institutionsbesides nutritious food and coaching materials

# 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

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 pro-cure 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 a mainture and get the 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

Minister Chandrasekhar Rao will hold an extended 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 pro-

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

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



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

Minister Indrakaran Reddy, Tribal Welfare Minister Satyavathi Rathod, Panchayat Raj

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

Villagers of Chinna Chintakunta protested in front of the panchayat office on Monday demanding the State govern-ment 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 frim on seven acres of land, it acquired under survey number 40, without any permission. The villagers questioned the officials for delaying tioned 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

turned a deaf ear, he lament ed. 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

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

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 pan-

demic, 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

# Legal awareness programmes for women in urban, rural parts: DLSÁ

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 here 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 pro-gramme 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 sin-

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 Praja Vaani.

attend the programme and

resolve some of the problems

would absent themselves from He wanted the officials

then and there itself. Additional collectors Veera Reddy, Rajarshi Shah, DRO Radhika

Administrative Officer Swarnalata and officials of various government departments and members of public and others were present at the weekly grievances' redressal



# Police Martyrs' Day on Oct 21

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 antisocial 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 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 Chandrashekhar 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 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

## 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

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

Additional Collector Muzammeel 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 man-

The special officers should



ment 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

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

## '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.

# 'CM should step down for cheating Dalits'

BJP Telangana president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday

blamed Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for Election Commission suspending implementation of the Dalit Bandhu Scheme and called it as complete failure of the Chief Minister.

He demanded Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao's resignation for having cheated Dalits once again.

Speaking on EC putting the Dalit Bandhu on hold, he said KCR of depositing the that the EC would never stops ongoing schemes, hatched a plan to

freezing the amount deposited

in the beneficiaries bank

During the Dubbaka by-

elections, the TRS struck fear

in the minds of voters that

at least a single beneficiary under the scheme. There were no instances of Indian banks

ensure stoppage of

release of funds to

funds in the bank accounts of victims, but managing to get them

Bandhu, KCR said that the Dalits would be able to use the funds unconditionally. But subsequently, he went back on his

W h e

declaring Dalit

words and made deriving ben efits under the scheme conditional

The BJP has been demanding since the beginning of the scheme to allow beneficiaries to withdraw the funds, he pointed out. The BJP also represented to the district returning office and Collector in this regard. However, the TRS government, out of its crooked thinking, prevented beneficiaries from withdrawing the amount, he said.

# '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 byelection as a contest between the self-respect of Eatala Rajender and the egoism of Chief Minister

Chandrasekhar Rao. Addressing an election money. Eatala Rajender feeds the people to satiate their

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

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, aghunandan 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 government 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.

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 con-

struct 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

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.

were reported today, taking

## **Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim** Singh, 4 others get life for murder

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 Raniit 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 Raniit Singh was behind the circulation of the anonymous letter and hatched a In 2017, Gurmeet Ram Rahim conspiracy to kill him. 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

oal 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

he BJP on Monday accused the Congress of committing a "sin" over reports that a leader Tat 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 Tarig 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

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

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, Sonipat, Kurukshetra, Jind, Karnal and

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



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 infront of a goods train which already reached its

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

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 Hanumangarh 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 Ferozpur-Ludhiana section, its chief pubic relation officer said.

The New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express was halted near Shambu station due to blockades near Sahnewal and

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

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 electionvote-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'.

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.

The Congress, from its official Twitter handle, alleged that 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 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-

culprits involved in "inciting violence" in his country.

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.

He also did not rule out "the

The minister asserted that Bangladesh would not let the

tigation is underway to nab the trouble-makers succeed in their temples and Durga puja venues. mission. "These incidents are al 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

At least five persons were killed, aimed at tarnishing the image and scores of others injured in of our nation and creating ten- the clashes. Noting that hundreds of people 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

A Shiv Sena leader has moved the Supreme Court seeking 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.

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

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.

### five CPSEs as dividend PNS NEW DELHI The government has received

Govt receives

Rs 814 cr from

nearly Rs 814 crore as dividend tranches from five CPSEs, including PFC, HUDCO and OIL, this fiscal year, DIPAM secretary said on Monday. "Dividend tranches of

about Rs 296 crore and Rs 233 crore have been received respectively from PFC and HÛDCO, Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted.

OIL, KIOCL and SJVN have paid about Rs 92 crore, Rs 99 crore and Rs 94 crore respectively as dividend tranches to the government, he added.

As per the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) website, so far in the current financial year (April-March), the government has received Rs 8,096 crore as dividend from central public sector enterprises (CPSEs).

Besides, Rs 9,110 crore has been mobilised through

# 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 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

# Low pressure to bring heavy rain in Odisha, predicts IMD

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

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 Meteorologicial 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 dis-

The Met office warned of rise in the water level in Budhabalanga Subarnarekha rivers.

Heavy showers are expected at one or two places over the districts of Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Deogarh and Jajpur till 8.30 am on Tuesday, the depart-

# by minor to donate part of liver

**Panel asked to reconsider plea** 

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 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.

#### disinvestment of minority stake in CPSEs.

# Gulzar reveals all about 'mad genius' Kishore Kumar

PNS NEW DELHI

From turning "completely bald", avoiding playing the tit-ular hero in "Anand" to troubling hapless producers by disappearing through a "secret staircase" behind his cupboard, "mad genious" Kishore Kumar had a number of tricks up his sleeves, reveals poet-lyricist Gulzar in his new book "Act-ually... 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

"We were all shocked! On top of that, Kishoreda 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 Kishoreda 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

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. Kishor-

eda 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 Kishoreda, '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, Kishoreda immediately declared, 'Okay, let's record.' 'Why, don't you want tea?' we asked. Paying us 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 Kishoreda," he noted

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

# **Revival effort**

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

t 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 'Amma'. 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?



Volunteers hold placards during the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign in Delhi

Ranjan Dimri I The Pioneer

# Flood and fury

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

onsoon, 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

ran 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 subcontinent? 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 religiouscum-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

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 at Lahore. His death was no seeds of what eventually became tragedy, because it was not an Bangladesh. A leader would have end with unfulfilled aspirations.

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

Jinnah achieved what he had set out on March 23, 1940,



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 pres-

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 undivid-

ed 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. In other words, Hindu civilisation would have found it difficult to survive. It is not improbable that the Hindus might have lost this 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 Yangon 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

wreaking havoc



s 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

movie shoot opens many more possibilities. But the alarm bell rings right here. It is good that man has made space more accessible than ever before, but we also must be aware that our vision to explore more may harm the ecosystem. Therefore it is a big achievement to successfully finish shooting in space, but we must pledge to not ruin it with anthropogenic debris and leftovers that were used in projects of various types.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

**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

Department (IMD) officials have also expressed apprehensions of a cloudburst having caused these unseasonal heavy rains

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

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

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



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

Israel should stop

**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.



- Ayushmann Khurrana



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

Indian all-rounder — Hardik Pandva

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

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# **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** 

he 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 longterm 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

# The Air India sale: Better late than never



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

n June 28, 2017, the then Finance Minister, the late Arun Jaitely, 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 Transport Services Limited (AIATSL). The iconic Maharajahas 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

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 disinvestment 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 disinvestment 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

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 ₹60,000crore 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 vehi-cle named Air India Asset Holding

Company Limited (AIAHCL). The Centre will retain the noncore 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 disinvestment 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 lia-

bility (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 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

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 utilisation of the aircraft. Far from 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.

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

t 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 reelected 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'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 PiS is a deeply conservative party in the Catholic tradition, with pop-



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 ulist trimmings like a the deeply religious villages. Government subsidy of \$150 So it set itself the task of

improving its chances in the judges. future elections. First th

One obvious measure was to take control of the media. That was easy with the stateowned 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 foreignowned 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 He's right. The PiS is playing

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.

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."

a game of chicken with the Billion transfer from Brussels EU, of course, and has no as its share of the EU's \$865 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 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. Ít's really hard to get the timing right, and if you get it wrong, you drive off the cliff. Polexit.

# Sensex, Nifty race to new peaks as bulls rule 7th day; IT stocks sparkle

Equity indices darted up for the seventh straight session on Monday to close at fresh lifetime highs as investors remained in risk-on mode despite a bearish trend overseas.

IT, bank and metal stocks witnessed hectic buying, while profit-taking in pharma and auto counters capped the gains.

After touching a lifetime peak of 61,963.07 during the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex finished 459.64 points or 0.75 per cent higher at its new closing record of 61,765.59 closing record of 61,765.59.

Similarly, the Nifty surged 138.50 points or 0.76 per cent to its all-time closing high of 18,477.05. It touched a new intra-day record of 18,543.15.

Infosys was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, jumping 4.47 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, ITC, Maruti, SBI and Axis Bank. On the other hand, HCL Tech, M&M, Dr Reddy's,

to 2.36 per cent.

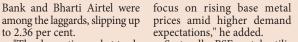
'The domestic market traded at record highs withstanding the weak trends in the global market due to disappointing Chinese GDP numbers and global inflationary pressure as a result of energy shortage.

"Chinese GDP grew by just

4.9 per cent during the July-September quarter owing to lower-than-expected growth in industrial activity. However, the trend in the Indian market was bullish as PSU Banks, Metals, IT and Energy stocks took charge of the rally," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Narendra Solanki, Head-Research (Fundamental), Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers, said the sentiment remains buoyant with early data showing Indian economy bouncing back

"On the sectoral front, shares Asian Paints, Bajaj Auto, HDFC of metal companies were in



Sectorally, BSE metal, utilities, power, basic materials, IT and teck indices rallied as much as 4.31 per cent, while healthcare and telecom ended in the red. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap gauges climbed up to 0.95 per cent.

Global equities were weighed by weaker-than-expected Chinese GDP data amid elevated energy prices and global supply chain issues.

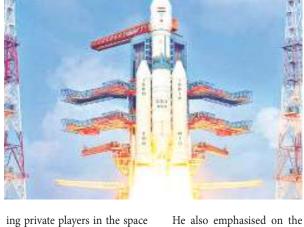
Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo ended with losses, while Hong Kong was pos-



# Gearing up to launch industry-led policies in space sector: ISRO chief

India is revising its existing policies and is also in the process of bringing in the new ones to increase industry participation in the space sector, Dr. K. Sivan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation Secretary & Department of Space, Govt. of India said today while addressing the inaugural session on 'Future of Space-International Participations & Collaborations' at the The India Pavilion, Expo 2020 Dubai. Dr. Sivan emphasised that the recent reforms in the sector has ensured that the role of private sector has evolved from being just suppliers to partners in the process.

In his video message, Dr. Sivan highlighted that space is one of the significant areas India is looking at for international cooperation, adding, "I hope space cooperation will further strengthen with commercial and technological collaborations." Indian industry has to play a big role in the space sector globally, said Dr. Sivan. Highlighting the reforms in the sector, Dr. Sivan said that the government is open to invit-



ing private players in the space sector and ISRO is tieing up with start-ups and industries. "India is focussing on international collaborations, including bilateral and multilateral partnerships," he added. Dr. Sivan also appreciated the Indo-UAE engagement in space and collaborations with ISRO in space applications.

He said that the Indian industry would play a big role in space sector as involvement of startups and MSMEs increases in future. "ISRO has joined hands with NITI and DPIIT for encouraging start-ups," he added.

need to make outer space safe and that it's a collective responsibility of the government and non-govt agencies to ensure that. "ISRO will be supportive of all international collaborations which benefit humanity," he said. Delivering the keynote address virtually, Dr. Pawan Goenka, Chairman, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) said that India aspires to launch a dozen missions every year going ahead as against 4-5 currently.

India, Israel agree

negotiations on FTA

India and Israel on Monday

agreed to resume negotia-

tions on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) from next

month as the two sides are

confident to conclude the

long pending deal by June

next year.
"It will be concluded by

from next month

PNS JERUSALEM

to resume

#### **MONEY MATTERS**

#### Tea exports down by 14 per cent in first seven months of 2021

xports of tea from India registered a fall of around 14.4 per cent in the first seven months of 2021 as compared to the same period last year. Total exports of the beverage during January to July of 2021 was 100.78 million kilograms as against 117.56



million kilograms in the same period of 2020, according to Tea Board data. Though the CIS block remained the largest importer of tea at 24.14 million kilograms, down from 30.53 million kilograms in the previous similar period. Though shipments to Iran was substantially down due to the sanctions, the Persian country imported 12.63 million kilograms in the first seven months of this year, as against 21 million kilograms in 2020. Exports to China were also lower at 3.29 million kilograms from 5.74 million kilograms in the first seven months of 2020.

## **Changes for RPT to boost** corporate governance: Fitch

recent changes by market regulator Sebi will tighten the rules governing related-party transactions and ease the delisting process. The revised relatedparty transaction norms will widen the scope of scrutiny and limit the ability of



large shareholders - often the founder family or promoters - to enter into such transactions without the approval of minority shareholders. This should strengthen the corporate governance of listed companies, it said. The delisting changes should facilitate greater transparency and more effectively balance the interests of acquirers and public shareholders. They should also result in quicker execution, Fitch added. "Recent changes made by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) will tighten the rules governing related-party transactions (RPT) and ease the delisting process," Fitch Ratings said in a statement. Last month, Sebi expanded the definition of the related-party transactions and has decided to make it easier for acquirers to delist equity shares after an open offer.

#### **Investors faced problem selling** stocks due to 'CDSL issue'

nvestors of several brokerage houses, including Zerodha and Paytm Money, faced possible difficulty while selling shares on Monday morning due to "an issue" related to depository Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL). The issue was resolved by



CDSL in the afternoon. Several investors opened up about their challenges in selling stocks on Twitter. In addition, online brokerage house Zerodha, Paytm Money, a wholly-owned subsidiary of fintech major Paytm, too warned investors about possible problems in executing sell orders. Zerodha tweeted, "You may face an issue with authorizing the sale of your stocks due to an issue with CDSL We are in touch with CDSL to have the issue resolved at the earliest." "You can now skip CDSL authorisation if you wish to sell your holdings on Kite until CDSL resolves the authorisation issue. Please make sure to authorise your holdings by 5 PM," Zerodha

# GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Name of the Work: SI No 1 to 4, Estt. Cost (Rs in Lakhs); Rs 18.50 Lakhs. Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: 18-10-2021 © 03:00 PM - 21-10-2021 © 03:00 PM, Name & Address Officer Cell No: Sri B Ramulu EE, Santosh Nagar Circlerminar Zone Masqati Ground, Darab jung Colony, Santosh Nagar, Hyderabad. Ph No: 9381673271. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in

8.0. No.: 17003-PP/CLWGWE/L/9021-22

EXECUTIV EGRIGINEER, SANTOSH NAGAR CIR-7, CHARMINAR ZONE GHINC



Tenders will float vide tender notice No.s 03(I to III)/ 2021-22, dt: 20-10-2021 (1st call) amounts 1) 3.70 lakhs, 2) 10.00 lakhs, 3) 7.73 lakhs and 4) 2.00 Lakhs respectively, available from 20-10-2021 © 3 PM to 27-10-2021. Upto 4.00 PM Further details can be seen in https://tender.telangana.gov.in., Executive Engineer, I & CAD Department, Irrigation Division No.2, Metpally. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, INFIGATION DIV HO-2, METPALLY, JACITYAL (DIST) R.O. No.: 16981-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22

Short Tender Notice
Short Tender Notice No. HD/10/2021-22, Dated: 11.10.2021. Tenders are invited by the undersigned for Construction of Community Hall Works (38) in PIU Yadadri Bhuvanagiri.

Total ECV: Rs.285.00 Lakhs, last date of receipt of application: 25.10.2021 up to 05.00 P.M., Tender schedules will be issued 27.10.2021 upto 65.00 PM., Date of receipt of tenders: 28.10.2021 upo 03.00 PM. Date of opening of tenders: 28.10.2021 at 03.:30 PM.

Further details can be had from the undersigned. ) DIPR R.O. No.: 678-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22

\$d/- Dist. Panchayat Raj Engineer, PIU Yadadri Bhongir.

#### Will find solution to issues faced by transporters amid Covid: Maha CM PNS MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday said a proper solution will be worked out to address various problems and financial crisis being faced by transporters in the state due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The chief minister was speaking during a meeting with a delegation of the Maharashtra State Truck, Tempo, Tankers and Bus Transport Federation at the Sahyadri Guest House here.

He also gave directions to the state finance, transport and police departments to find a suitable solution to various demands of the transporters.

The transporters' delegation put forth various demands, including exemption from the annual motor vehicle tax and business tax. complete exemption of motor tax on vehicles transporting passengers to schools and ligious places, and a pro vision of parking spaces for vehicles and buses across the

The transport federation also demanded reduction of tax on air-conditioned buses transporting workers, lifting of the 10 to 16-hour ban on the entry of heavy and heavy vehicles in major cities of the state, cancellation of expired pending transport cases, and reduction of police powers to inspect public service vehicles.

# GPT Healthcare files draft papers with Sebi

PNS NEW DELHI

GPT Healthcare, which runs the chain of ILS Hospitals, has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 450-500 crore through an initial share-sale.

The initial public offering (IPO) comprises fresh issuance.

(IPO) comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 17.5 crore and an offer of sale (OFS) of up to 2.98 crore equity shares by a promoter entity and an investor, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

The OFS consists of up to 38.05 lakh equity shares by GPT Sons and up to 2.61 crore equity shares by private equi-



ty firm BanyanTree Growth Capital II LLC.

The private equity firm will be fully exiting its shareholding via the IPO.

At present, GPT Sons holds 67.34 per cent stake in GPT Healthcare and BanyanTree Growth Capital II, LLC owns 32.64 per cent stake in the

According to market sources, the initial public offering is expected to fetch between Rs 450 crore and Rs 500 crore.

Proceeds from the fresh issuance of shares will be used to purchase medical equipment and general corporate pur-

Kolkata-based Healthcare

operates a chain of mid-sized hospitals in eastern India under the 'ILS Hospitals' brand and provide integrated healthcare services, with a focus on secondary and tertiary care. As of September 30, 2021, it operates four multi-specialty hospitals, with a total capacity of 556 beds.

It recently signed an MoU and a long-term lease agreement for a hospital with 140 beds in Ranchi with an investment of Rs 50 crore. Its Ranchi hospital is expected to commence operations in 2025. Other locations it is considering to expand are Lucknow, Varanasi, Patna, Guwahati, Cuttack and Raipur.

June of next year," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced after he met Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yair İsrael has also joined the International Solar Alliance, a global initiative that India has spearheaded, with

Jaishankar and Israel's Energy Minister Karine Elharrar signing on the agreement. In order to ease travel between the two countries amidst the COVID pandem-

ic, India and Israel have also agreed to mutually recognise vaccination certificates Jaishankar, who arrived re on Sunday on his r

en visit to the country, would also call on President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.



### Exports up 40.5 pc to USD 15.13 bn during Oct 1-14

PNS NEW DELHI

The country's exports rose by 40.5 per cent to USD 15.13 billion during October 1-14 on account of healthy perforpetroleum products, engineering and chemicals, according to preliminary data of the commerce ministry.

Imports during the period grew by 60.72 per cent to USD

14.82 billion, the data showed. India's merchandise exports grew by 22.63 per cent year-on-year to USD 33.79 billion in September on better performance by key sectors, even as the trade deficit widened to a record high of USD 22.59 billion.

## Delhi, TN lead country's transition to electric cooking with 17% adoption PNS NEW DELHI

In Delhi and Tamil Nadu, 17 per cent families are using some form of electric cooking or eCooking, as per an independent study released Environment and Water (CEEW)

"States like Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Assam and Kerala have seen a gradual uptick in the adoption of electric cooking (eCooking) devices such as induction cooktops, rice cookers, and microwave ovens, according to an independent study released today by the CEEW," CEEW said in a statement.

The study found that in

Delhi and Tamil Nadu, 17 per cent of households have adopted some form of electric cooking; while in Telangana, the rate of adop-

tion stood at 15 per cent. In Kerala and Assam, 12 per cent of households have partially switched eCooking, it stated.

The study is based on the India Residential Energy Survey (IRES) 2020, conducted in collaboration with the Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP).

## 'Need to keep supply chains open for vax raw materials' the World Health Organisation

PNS NEW YORK

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has highlighted the need of an international financial architecture to fight the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe and stressed on the importance to keep the supply chains open for vaccine raw materials. Sitharaman, participating in the 36th Annual G30 International Banking Seminar virtually here on Sunday, spoke on the panel about Financing the Commons, Climate and pandemic security,

the Finance Ministry tweeted. She "stressed on focused mobilisation and #equitableallocation of finances and #techsolutions to successfully harness the global #commongood of #climate and

#pandemic security," it said. Sitharaman highlighted the need of an international financial architecture to fight the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe and supported the need of new financial instruments to focus and press forward green initiatives. She underlined the need for

(WHO) to be strengthened for a more effective response to new challenges. The minister stressed on

the need to keep open supply chains for vaccine raw materials, the ministry said. India has been highlighting

the importance of enhancing the resilience of supply chains and greater engagement in the Indo-Pacific region, especially after the pandemic caused disruptions in the existing supply

Friday after her visit to Washington DC, also addressed a gathering of women entrepreneurs of Indian-origin in New Jersey, where she spoke on India's robust economic recovery and the road ahead and the opportunities India has to offer to the world. Sitharaman began her week-long US visit with a trip to Boston, addressed a roundtable meeting of investors and executives and addressed students and faculty at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Sitharaman, arrived here on

# Nykaa, give others get Sebi's nod to float IPOs

PNS NEW DELHI

As many as six companies, including Nykaa, Adani Wilmar and Star Health & Allied Insurance, have received capital markets regulator Sebi's go-ahead to launch initial share-sales.

Apart from these, Penna Cement Industries, Latent View Analytics and Sigachi Industries too received Sebi's clearance to raise funds

through the initial public offerings.

These six companies, which filed their preliminary IPO papers with Sebi between May and August, obtained its "observations" during October 11-14, an update with Sebi showed on Monday.

In Sebi parlance, issuance of observations implies its goahead to float the initial public offering (IPO).

# Global solar sector sees 190% jump in corporate funding

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The global solar sector, including the Indian market, has witnessed total corporate funding of USD 22.8 billion in the January-September 2021 period, registering a nearly threefold jump over the previous year, according to a report.

Corporate funding includes venture capital (VC) funding, public market and debt financing, Mercom Capital Group said in the report on Monday.

The total corporate funding increased 190 per cent in the first nine months of 2021, with USD 22.8 billion in 112 deals as compared with USD 7.9 billion in 72 deals in the same



period of 2020, the global clean energy communications and consulting firm said. Mercom Capital Group CEO

Raj Prabhu said, "Investments continue to be robust across the solar sector. This will end up as one of the best years for solar

push toward the energy transition picks up speed worldwide, solar is benefitting enor-Prabhu added that solar pro-

ject acquisitions in the first nine months of 2021 have already surpassed all of 2020.

The global solar sector brought in USD 2.2 billion in VC funding in 39 deals, registering a rise of 466 per cent compared to USD 394 million in 29 deals during January-

September 2020.
In India, Premier Energies, a solar photovoltaic (PV) cell and module manufacturer, raised USD 27.11 million from GEF Capital Partners.

Public market financing into the solar sector came to USD 6.3 billion raised in 23 deals, up 209 per cent compared with USD 2 billion in 10 deals in the year-ago period.

In the public market financing space, ReNew Power from India was listed on the Nasdaq after completing a business combination with RMG Acquisition Corporation II. With this deal, RMG II became a wholly-owned subsidiary of

ReNew Energy Global. During the period under review, there were a total of 83 merger and acquisitions (M&As) transactions compared to 42 deals in January-September 2020.

The largest M&A transac tion was by Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), which agreed to acquire a 100 per cent stake in SB Energy India from Soft Bank Group (80 per cent) and Bharti Group (20 per cent). The transaction values SB Energy India at an enterprise valuation of about USD 3.5 billion.

The M&A deals in India came from ReNew Power which has signed a definitive agreement to acquire 260 MW of operational solar projects in Telangana. Adani Renewable Energy acquired 40 MW of operating solar project in Odisha from Essel Green Energy for USD 30 million.

# ELVACE pioneer Dack

lifespan is

divided into

three stages

— balavastha

(childhood), mad-

hvavastha

(young and middle age),

havastha (old

age). It is evident

gy beyond its limit.

undergoes various cognitive

issues. These are some of the

first signs of age-related

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS IN

WHICH AYURVEDA AND YOGA

decline.

CAN HELP IN

**ENHANCING** 

LIFESTYLE:

Create a

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Tuesday

October 19, 2021



# **APPENIN**

ellness 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

#### **Out-of-the-world charac-**

A whimsical touch in the décor comforts the soul with the esthetic lure. Upholstered pieces arranged along a glamorised 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 t turning the pages of your all-time favourite books or a laidback niche with souvenirs that take us down the memory lane. Tagging along, the aroma-rich additions like fresh gardenpluck 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 selfcare in its purest, un-apologised

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



# Yoga and Ayurveda hprove the HOLISTIC LIVING improve the quality of life and inculcate a positive



personality-type. Having a fixed sleep schedule, starting your day by drink-ing 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

> mind-body awareness. **Focus on mental fitness**

excellent way to tone down vata and to develop strong

yoga or moderate weight-train-

ing are recommended. High-

intensive activities like plyo-

not be suitable for everyone.

Therefore, it is significant to

metrics increase vata, so it may

choose your physical activities accordingly. Balance training is

particularly important for healthy ageing because it is an

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 nutrientrich 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 thera-**

Not all herbs or therapies are suitable for everyone. An ayurvedic doctor will assess your body type and recom-mend 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.)



# How social media turned a virtual stadium for IPL fans

n India, cricket fever is a phe-nomenon, 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 secondscreen 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

**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,

**Top emojis:** Fans' passion for cricket inspires a rollercoaster 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!

# Make your social media platform **AESTHETICALLY APPEALLING**

ocial media plat-forms 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

#### **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 imagedriven 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 inspira-

#### **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

#### **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

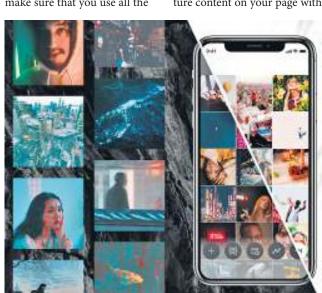
precision and perfection. You can shoot content, use Photoshop, try templates, or maybe combine free images from the internet to feature what you like.

#### 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

(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.)

love!





# what's brewing?



Divya



**'HI-END' AND HEARTY!** 

Actresses Drishika Chander, Mannara Chopra, Vennela, and many other models and fashion lovers sported wedding jewellery, bridal dresses, and other designer wear, at the HI-End wedding theme fashion showcase! Many celebs were seen at the HICC-Novotel in Hitech City this week, having a gala time.



Aby Dominic and Manish Dayya



Archana Ravi and Ritika









Photos by SV Chary





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.







**MEAT** 

ipola, 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!

#### **ARCHIE**

Drishika Chander









#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**







**CROSSWORD** 



## **GARFIELD**

**NANCY** 

ОН

BOY



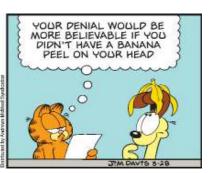
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CHARACTER



ONLY SCARY ONES LEFT!

NOW I SEE WHY THEY'RE ON **SALE** 



#### REALITY CHECK







#### **SUDOKU**

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**ACROSS** 

8 Foe

17 Stairs

good 3 Halt

6 A team game

with this

10 A bamboo-eating animal

13 Measure temperatures

19 Book of word meanings

14 Player of bagpipes

**DOWN** 1 Not in danger 2 All right, but not especially

4 A sign of tiredness 5 A big sea bird 7 A many-legged creature

15 Choose

- 16 Spoil completely 17 Gritty stuff on a beach 18 Your hearing organs

9 A radio code that uses

11 Wide awake and ready

dots and dashes

for anything 12 An animal kept for milk



#### THINK THE SUN SETTING MEANS YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO GET HOME ...

**GINGER MEGGS** 







	Rules								
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tollywood

# SHYAM SINGHA ROY **COMING TO THEATRES** FOR CHRISTMAS

atural 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, pro-ducer 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

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 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. the four south Indian languages — Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.

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

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

'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.

Nagarjuna wants to

do more action drama

ooks 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



# #NBK107: Double bonanza for Balayya fans?

e 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 the-

atres. 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





# Sundeep heaps praise on Madhura Wines team



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

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

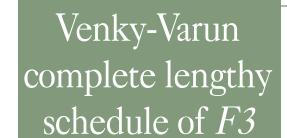
the associate producer. Speaking at the pre-release event of the film held recently, Sundeep Kishan, who came in support of the film, said, "I

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. Nagariuna 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 dra-mas, 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 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.

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 Charv 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





ctors Venkatesh and Varun Tej, who are busy

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 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 funfilled lengthy schedule on

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.

# open with Rohit: Kohli

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{ndia}}$  captain Virat Kohli on Monday said he will bat at number three instead of opening the innings in the ICC T20 World Cup with KL Rahul having sealed the second opener's slot alongside Rohit Sharma.

The Indian skipper kept it open-ended when asked about the team's top-six batters going into the opening match of the tournament against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 24.

"Things were different before IPL, now it's difficult to look beyond KL Rahul at the top of the order. Rohit is a nobrainer. World-class player, he's been solid up front. I will be batting at 3. That's the only news I can give to start off," Kohli said at the toss before the warm-up game against

Rahul emerged as the third highest scorer in the IPL with 628 runs besides hitting the most number of sixes (30) in the tournament.

"We are pretty sorted in terms of how we are going to start in the first game (versus Pakistan)."

The objective behind the two warm-up matches is to give game time to everyone as they get back into the groove after a short break.

"Outside of that we just want to give opportunity to guys in these games as much as possible. We will look to give game-time to most of them. The idea is to create the past. So we want to create some energy and momentum as a team.

We have played in different teams recently (in the IPL)," said the Indian captain.



competitive, Kohli didn't forget to mention that it's Indian cricket that is paramount.

'We have had success in that same energy, fielding is the best place to start I reckon when eleven guys are together. The IPL is right up there in terms of level and While the IPL has been competitiveness, but this is

G DELANY

paramount. Indian cricket is the priority for everyone. That has to be the case.

It all boils down to adaptability, said Kohli. "Adaptability is what mat-

ters. People play different roles in their IPL teams. It's about adapting quickly to this team now, who plays where is what

# Will bat at No. 3, KL to T20 WC biggest challenge: Hardik

**PTI** ■ DUBAI

tar India all-rounder Hardik Pandya considers the ongoing T20 World Cup the biggest responsibility of his career as a finisher because "everything is on my shoulders" in the absence of "life coach and brother" Mahendra Singh Dhoni from the playing line-up.
In an interview to 'ESPNcricinfo's

Cricket Monthly, the 28-year-old superstar, whose fitness is a concern heading into the event as he did not bowl in the IPL, spoke about the many challenges of his life, his acceptance of the not-so-perfect self and the extraordinary bond he shares with Dhoni.

This would be India's first World Cup campaign since Dhoni retired in 2020 and the side will open its campaign against Pakistan on October 24 here. Dhoni has been appointed the team's mentor for the

"The biggest so far, I will say, because this time I don't have Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Everything is on my shoulders - I like to think that way because it gives me an added challenge. It is going to be exciting, a cracker of a tournament," he said.

Speaking of Dhoni, a fiercely private person whose life outside cricket is as enigmatic as his persona on the field, Pandya said the two-time World Cup-winning captain me from the start: how I function, what kind of a person I am, what are the things I don't like, everything," he said.

Pandya recalled how Dhoni reached out to him on his return to the side during the tour of New Zealand in 2019 after a suspension for some sexist remarks on a TV show.

"...Initially there were no hotel rooms (for Pandya in New Zealand). But then I get a call, saying, "You just come. MS has told us, 'I don't sleep on the bed. He will sleep on my bed and I will sleep on the floor."

"He (Dhoni) was the first person who has been always there. He knows what kind of an individual I am. He knows me quite deep. I am very close to him. He is the only person who can make me calm.
"When all this (the TV remarks contro-

versy) happened, he knew that I needed support. I just needed a shoulder, which he provided multiple times in my cricketing career. I never saw him as MS Dhoni the greatest. For me, Mahi is my brother," he asserted. Pandya said there are times when he struggles to understand his own thoughts and it is Dhoni who comes to his rescue.

"...I have to call him and say, "Yeh soch rahan hoon, kya chal raha hai, batao." (This is on my mind. What do you think?) Then he will explain. So, yes, in a lot of ways he is a life coach. "Staying with him, obviousbecome humble," he elaborated. On to his own self and Pandya

acknowledged that he has not been perfect but his family has made sure that he has never gotten too big for his boots. "I accept my flaws or I give myself that benefit of doubt that, okay, you were young. The early two years (of my career), maybe I was little here, little there,

but we were a close family. "There is absolutely one thing clear in our family: if I'm wrong means I'm wrong; there's no sugarcoating. That makes us a strong family because everyone can have an opinion. In our family if some-

retary Jay Shah.

India-Pak bilateral cricket

BCCI officials, Raja said: "A lot

of work needs to be done to

revitalise Pakistan-India crick-

et but there needs to be some

comfortable level between the

two boards and then we can see

how far we can go. So overall, we had a good discussion."

Sourav Ganguly and secretary

Jay Shah on the sidelines of the

ACC meetings. We need to cre-

ate a cricketing bond, while I

"I met with BCCI President

On his meeting with the

them down." A lower back injury, which required a surgery, has all but ended Pandya's chances of playing Test

one is flying, they make sure to pull

cricket but he does not

> should stay away from sport as much as possible and this has always been our stance," he reit-

> Raja understands that ACC as a body has no power to dictate terms to a giant like BCCI and that's the reason he sounded a word of caution for the continental body knowing that their could be a shift of Asia Cup by the time 2023

> "The ACC was set-up to create a unified approach and collective stance so that we had one voice and if there was a situation, all stood together.

# 2023 Asia Cup in Pakistan will be 50-over affair: Raja

The 2023 Asia Cup in Pakistan will be a 50-over event with the Asian Cricket Council continuing its tradition of holding the tournament in the same format as that particular year's ICC global event. PCB chairman Ramiz Raja said on Monday.

However, the former Pakistan captain also dropped enough hints that there is very little chance of having a bilateral series against India in near future as a "lot of work still needs to be done" to reach a

BALBIRNIE

 $D_{\ reigning\ world\ champion\ P}^{\ ouble\ Olympic\ medallist\ and}$  v Sindhu will look for a good

outing as she returns to compet-

itive action after a break, at the

Denmark Open World Tour

Super 1000 tournament begin-

the Tokyo Olympics, had taken

a break due to the hectic sched-

ule during the Games, but she

would be itching to make a win-

ning return to the USD 850,000

event, which will also restart the

BWF World Tour following a sus-

pension due to the COVID-19

Olympics bronze medallist Saina

Nehwal, who has recovered from

her groin injury, which had

forced her to retire midway

through her first match at the

swords with Thailand's Busanan

All eyes will also be on

While Sindhu, seeded fourth,

Uber Cup Final last week.

Also in action will be London

Sindhu, a bronze medallist at

ning here on Tuesday.



"comfortable level". Raja recent- modalities of Asia Cup and also ly attended the ACC meet in had a meeting with BCCI pres-Dubai where he discussed the ident Sourav Ganguly and sec-

## have also believed that politics

RAHANE TO LEAD MUMBAI

Mumbai: India's Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane will lead a strong 20-member Mumbai squad that will take part in the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament with the flamboyant Prithvi Shaw being his deputy. The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) announced the squad, picked by the committee headed by former India pacer Salil Ankola, on its website on Monday. On the day, India's former hockey captain Olympian Viren Rasquinha had a session with the Mumbai team where he spoke about the success stories of India's celebrated Olympians.

#### WRESTLER VINESH PHOGAT MEETS PM

New Delhi: Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who met Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with her family. The 27-year-old had made a shock firstround exit from the Tokyo Olympics. She entered the Games as one of India's strongest medal contenders. The former world championship bronze-medallist was part of meetings that Modi had with Tokyo Games athletes ."Great meeting the honourable @narendramodi sir today. His enthusiasm and love for sport is truly boundless. Genuinely touched by your concern for athletes. A big thank you sir for sparing time from your busy schedule to fulfill your promise of interacting with me and my family," Vinesh tweeted.

#### WORLD ESPORTS CUP TO FEATURE GAMERS

New Delhi: Gamers from India, Nepal and Pakistan will compete in the inaugural World Esports Cup starting November 25, the organisers announced on Monday. The tournament, sponsored by Infinix Smartphones, will see a massive prize pool of Rs 75 lakh approximately, according to a media release. Esports athletes from the three countries will compete virtually in open qualifiers to take a shot at becoming the champion of the region. World Esports Cup (WEC), WEC Director, Vishwalok Nath said: "We all know how intense it becomes when it comes to any India-Pakistan match and we want fans to witness this epic clash in esports as well.

#### MARY KOM TO SKIP NATIONALS

New Delhi: Six-time world champion M C Mary Kom will not compete in the upcoming National Women's Boxing Championships in Hisar. The 38year-old, who reached the pre-quarters of Tokyo Olympics before bowing out with a hard-fought loss, is, however, training for the world championships in December. Even though the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has announced that only gold medal winners from the Nationals will make the squad, it is reliably learnt that trials could be held in a couple of weight categories, including the 48kg division, which Mary Kom would prefer to compete in.

#### BHAVANI'S WIN IN FRANCE

New Delhi: Fencer Bhavani Devi, who made history at the Tokyo Olympics by becoming the first Indian to compete in the sport at the Games, has won the Charlellville National Competition in France in the individual women's sabre event. The 28-year-old fencer tweeted about the same."Won the Charlellville National Competition, France in the Women's Sabre individual. Many thanks to coach Christian Bauer, Arnaud Schneider, and all teammates. Congratulations to all for a great start of the season," she tweeted after winning the competition. At the Tokyo Olympics, she won her round of 64 match 15-3 against Tunisia's Nadia Ben Azizi before going down to eventual bronze-medallist, Manon Brunet of France in the round of 32.

# **Ireland beat Netherlands by 7 wickets**

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Tohannesburg-born seamer Curtis Campher became only the third bowler to claim four wickets in four balls in T20Is as a superior Ireland beat Netherlands by seven wickets in their first round Group A T20 World Cup match here on Monday.

Thanks to Campher's exploits with the white ball, Ireland bundled out Netherlands for 106 after the Dutch had decided to bat.

Ireland chased down the target th as many as 29 halls to st the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Gareth Delany (44) and Paul Stirling (30 not out) were the significant contributors with the bat for the Irish team that had lost its T20 World Cup games to the same opponents in 2014 and 2016.

Earlier, bowling the 10th over of the Netherlands innings, the 22year-old Campher left the Netherlands innings in disarray when he dismissed Colin Ackermann, Ryan ten Doeschate, Scott Edwards and Roelof van der Merwe off successive balls. He was bowling his second over for the day, having gone for 12 runs first up.

Ackermann was out caught behind on review, having played an

attempted pull off a shortish ball that

best remembered for his incredible century against England in the 2011 World Cup, was out for a duck, trapped in front by a full and straight

Edwards too fell lbw as DRS (decision review system) tracked the

seemed to be going down leg.

ball hitting the leg stump. For his final wicket, van der

Merwe played on to his stumps a widish delivery, leaving the Irish The seasoned Ten Doeschate, camp in a state of frenzy.

Netherlands were in all sorts of trouble at 51 for six after Campher's multiple blows but opener Max ODowd (51) battled on amid the slide at the other end.

During his 51-ball knock, ODowd hit seven boundaries.

The day, however, belonged to Campher who had started poorly in

his spell, got a lucky breakthrough down the leg side before claiming his hat-trick, only the second player after former Australia speedster Brett Lee to achieve the feat in a T20 World

Cup.

In the next ball, Campher did what only two people could do before him in T20 international cricket before him, joining Lasith Malinga and Rashid Khan to take four wickets in successive balls.

# Lanka Premier League 2021 to kick off on December 5

IANS COLOMBO

The Lanka Premier League 2021 will commence on December 5 here with the inaugural game scheduled to be played between Galle and Jaffna.

The first round of the tournament, which will consist of 20 games, will be played at the RPICS, before it moves into MRICS, Hambantota to proceed with the final round

The finals of the League will be played on December 23 at the MRICS, Hambantota, whilst this year's tournament has December 24, as a 'Reserve Day' dedicated for The Lanka Premier League which is Sri

Lanka's topmost domestic tournament, with an international flavour, will consist of 24 games and will see the participation of topmost domestic and international cricketers.

The Final Round Games will see the top two teams in the points table playing the qualifier 1, whilst the 3rd and 4th placed teams on the table playing in the 'eliminator'

The winner of 'qualifier 1' will directly go into the finals, whilst the loser of 'qualifier 1' will play against the winner of the 'eliminator' in the 'qualifier 2' and the winner of that game will go into the finals.

# Barcelona rallies to beat Valencia 3-1 | Sindhu eyes good outing on return to action

Ansu Fati is quickly becoming Barcelona's go-to player in the absence of Lionel

The 18-year-old Fati made his first start for Barcelona after a long injury layoff on Sunday, scoring a goal and earning his team a penalty as the Catalan club halted its losing streak by rallying to beat Valencia 3-1 in the Spanish

Memphis Depay and Philippe Coutinho also scored for Barcelona as it moved to seventh place, five points behind leader Real Sociedad and with a game in hand.

Fati returned to action last month after being sidelined for more than 10 months because of a knee injury, coming off the bench in three straight matches before getting his first start on Sunday and giving fans more hope that the club can rebuild around him after Messi's departure to Paris Saint-Germain. He had already scored a few minutes after entering the game against Levante.

"We've always said we need players like him," said Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman, who was back on the league matches following a red Koeman called key to getting place in the league.



card for complaining. "It was his first start and it was already decided with the doctors that he would only play for about an hour. We don't want to overwork him in such

an important week for us." Barcelona was coming off two defeats before the international break — 2-0 at Atlético Madrid in the league and 3-0 at Benfica in the Champions League. It had won only once in its last six matches in all

competitions. Barcelona has begun a bench after a suspension of two three-game home stint that

"It was a very important win, we are in a key week in the season," Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong said.

"We started it well by earning points and gaining confidence, that's very important for the club right now."

Valencia's winless streak to five matches. It dropped to ninth

the team back on track. It will next play a critical Champions League game against Dynamo Kyiv on Wednesday and then the first "clásico" of the season against Real Madrid.

will look for a rampaging start when she opens against Turkey's Neslihan Yigit, Saina will have to work hard to get past Japan's Aya Ohori in her opening round. Sindhu, the 2016 Rio Games silver medallist, is likely to cross

Ongbamrungphan in the second loss extended The round and a win there could put

her face to face with fifth seed Korean An Seyoung.

Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy as the seventh seeded Indian pair open its campaign against English combination of Callum Hemming and Steven

Stallwood. The duo has been in impressive form, having won all its four matches at the Thomas Cup final in Aarhus, Denmark.

In the men's singles, young Lakshya Sen, who finished second best at Dutch Open on Sunday, will look to continue his good run when he faces compatriot Sourabh Verma in his cam-

paign opener.

Lakshya had failed to make the Indian team for the Sudirman Cup and Thomas Cup Final after losing his only match in the trials and would be eager to prove a point.

The women's doubles pair of N Sikki Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa and Meghana Jakkampudi and S Ram Poorvisha are also in the fray. Ashwini will pair up with Satwik in the mixed doubles category to face China's Feng Yan Zhe and Du Yue.

