

**ANALYSIS 7**  
INDIA TOWARDS THE SPACE  
AND BEYOND**MONEY 8**  
SENSEX ZOOMS 569 PTS;  
NIFTY TOPS 18,300-MARK**SPORTS 11**  
THE FINAL SHOWDOWN!

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



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BHEEMLA NAYAK'S  
'ANTHA ISTAM' TO  
RELEASE ON  
DASARA  
Page 12**FLOODING LED TO COAL SHORTAGE AT  
POWER PLANTS, SAYS COAL MINISTER**

Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi today said closure of some mines, and flooding of a few others due to monsoon led to the crisis but there is no need to panic as the situation is improving. Visiting the Ashoka mine of the Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) at Piparwar in Jharkhand's Chatra district, Mr Joshi said the power plants in the country will continue to receive the required amount of coal. "We are witnessing an improvement now," he said, when asked about the current situation. Joshi held discussions with officials of Central Coalfields Ltd and Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL) on the prevailing situation. **Full report in page 5**

**COAL INDIA TEMPORARILY HALTS  
SUPPLY TO NON-POWER CUSTOMERS**


Coal India Ltd, the world's biggest miner, has temporarily stopped supplies to non-power users, a company official said, as India battles one of its worst power supply deficits in years. "Supplies to non-power sector plants have been kept suspended till further information," according to a recent letter of Coal India's arm South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL). On being asked about the development, a CIL official said, "This is only a temporary prioritisation, in the interest of the nation, to tide over the low coal stock situation at the stressed power plants and scale up supplies to them."

**NO BAIL TODAY FOR ARYAN KHAN,  
COURT DECISION ON WEDNESDAY**

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's 23-year-old son Aryan Khan did not get bail in the drugs-on-cruise case today from a Mumbai Sessions Court that reserved the order till Wednesday, sending him back to jail. The decision meant that Aryan Khan, who has spent 12 days in jail since his arrest, has been left with no legal options till the order is announced. The court's move came after the Narcotics Control Bureau said that Aryan Khan is a regular consumer of drugs, as the bail hearing resumed an hour late since Additional S-G Anil Singh, representing the central agency, came in late.

**WOMEN CAN JOIN NATIONAL DEFENCE  
ACADEMY FROM NEXT YEAR: RAJNATH**

Women shall be able to join India's premier tri-service pre-commissioning training institute, the National Defence Academy, from next year, said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation international webinar on the Role of Women in the Armed Forces on Thursday. "I am happy that from next year, women shall be able to join our premier tri-service pre-commissioning training institute, the NDA," Singh said. He that the induction of women in Military Police commenced last year, marking a major milestone wherein women are inducted in the rank and file of Army.



**Happy Dasara**

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

- Resident Editor

# Top Maoist leader RK has died, say reports

G RAVI KIRAN  
■ HYDERABAD

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

Till the time of going to press, there was no official statement from the Maoist party. According to reliable sources, the police received the news through their network but it is yet to be confirmed by the Maoist. The Maoists usually release a letter on the demise of top leaders.

In fact, the buzz reached such a crescendo that some reports even claimed that the Chhattisgarh DGP has confirmed the death of RK.



However, there was no official statement from the Chhattisgarh police to validate this claim.

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

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

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

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



## P:2 Security forces wary of RK death reports, smell a ruse

## Over 1/3rd retracted biomedical research articles by Indians externally funded

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In an interesting revelation, more than one-third of retracted biomedical research articles authored by Indian scientists were externally funded by various funding agencies. Most importantly, the majority of the funded research was retracted due to fake data whereas it is plagiarism in the case of non-funded studies.

According to a study conducted by Bakhavachalam Elango, librarian at IFET College of Engineering in Villupuram of Tamil Nadu, to identify retracted articles in the biomedical literature authored by Indian scientists in some of the retracted publications, funding information could not be traced.

The PubMed database was searched to find the retracted articles for the study. PubMed is a free search engine for references and abstracts on life sciences and biomedical topics. The PubMed database is maintained by the United States National Library of Medicine (NLM).

Elango's search yielded 508 records of retracted articles. The results showed that more than half of the retracted articles were co-authored within the institutions and there is no repeat offender.



## CJI offers prayers at Tiruchanur temple

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

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

The CJI, accompanied by AP High Court Chief Justice Prasanth Kumar Mishra, was accorded a grand welcome at the main

entrance of the temple on his arrival amidst chanting of Vedic hymns by pundits.

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

Speaking to the media after emerging from the temple, the CJI extended his Dasara greetings to the people and said that it was the

divine Grace of Lord Venkateswara that helped him reach where he is today. Later in the evening, on their arrival at Sri Padmavathi Rest House in Tirumala, Chief Justice Ramana, along with Justice Mishra, Justice Lalitha, Justice Satyanaryana Murthy and Registrar General Bhanumathi were given a warm reception by TTD EO Dr KS Jawahar Reddy, AEO Dharma Reddy and other top officials.

## AP govt hands over only four projects on Krishna to KRMB

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

The AP government, however, attached a rider that the handing over of the projects be done "simultaneously only", implying that neighbouring Telangana too should fulfil its similar obligation as per the Jal Shakti notification.

In addition, AP Water Resources Secretary J Syamala Rao attached a note to the KRMB Chairman, requesting that necessary action be taken with respect to Jurala project also, under Telangana jurisdiction, upstream river Krishna that affects inflows into Srisaillam reservoir.

Syamala Rao requested that the



KRMB take over all projects of both states, including the ongoing projects upon completion, that affect inflows into the common reservoirs and that draw water directly from them.

The Union Jal Shakti Ministry issued a notification on July 15, as per the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, fixing the jurisdictions of the Godavari River Management

Board and the Krishna River Management Board.

The notification said the KRMB would exercise jurisdiction over the projects and its components like head works (barrages, dams, reservoirs, regulating structures), part of canal network and transmission lines on river Krishna.



## Land registrations, at village secretariats

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has directed the officials to complete the comprehensive land survey within the deadline and told to process land registrations and mutations at the village secretariats.

During a review meeting held at the camp office on YSR Jagananna Saswatha Bhu Hakku-Bhu Rakshana scheme here on Thursday, the Chief Minister instructed the officials to update the records during all the land transactions, duly listing the details

of both buyer and seller, only then the registration process can be termed as complete.

He asked the officials to form a special team including people who have expertise in land records and legal matters to develop an appropriate policy.

Based on their recommendations, SoPs for registration and mutation process will be formed ensuring that these services are within the village secretariats, where people needn't go around various offices.



## No dearth of funds to buy coal: Jagan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Thursday reviewed the current power situation in the State and directed the officials to take necessary steps for operating the thermal power stations at full capacity.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed the power generation and availability of the coal reserves at all thermal power plants in the state and instructed the authorities to purchase the required amount of coal from any coal reserves across the country.

He clarified that there is no shortage of funds to buy the required coal and told the officials to increase the production in the existing thermal plants to their full extent.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to start operating the new units of Krishnapatnam and VTPS power stations, which could generate 1600 MW of electricity.

Furthermore, he asked the officials to coordinate with the Singareni company for procuring the required coal. Officials were told to ensure no power cuts and constantly coordinate with the relevant ministries and agencies at the Centre.



## Bihar ram a Dasara delicacy in Vizag

VKL GAYATRI  
■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In view of Dasara, thousands of Bihar rams have been brought to the markets here which are competing with the local goats and sheep. As there is a big demand for the Bihar ram, particularly during Dasara season, traders are bringing them to the local markets. They are heavier and the meat tastes better than that of local breeds, which makes the rams the favourite of non-vegetarians.

Dasara is the second important Hindu festival after Sankranti. Following the tradition, many people offer birds and animals to the goddess seeking blessings. After slaughtering the birds and animals and offering the meat to the Goddess, the devotees eat it as prasadam. Boozers and non-vegetarian lovers celebrate the occasion with alcohol and several non-vegetarian dishes. As Vijaya Dasami, the last day of the nine-day Dasara festival, falls on Friday



this year, many people are planning to hold the celebrations on Saturday.

This year also, many local breed goats and sheep arrived at the markets. However, Bihar ram goats are the centre of attraction. As per unofficial data, over 25,000 animals, besides chicken, have been kept ready in the markets of north Andhra region. Traders are com-

ing from various parts of the state to Visakhapatnam to purchase the Bihar ram goats. Normally, non-vegetarians prefer mutton and chicken on regular days. However, as it's Dasara, they prefer the ram goats.

"Due to the huge number of animals available in the market, the rams are cheap in Bihar markets. Here, there is a big demand for

them. That is why a lot of farmers are coming from Bihar to sell the animals here. People from all parts of the state are coming here and purchasing rams," Soru Dhanvanth from Bihar told The Pioneer.

Those from trade unions, automobile workshops, transport companies, industries and various associations purchase the Bihar ram goats after pooling money. The price of a Bihar lamb ranges from Rs.10,000 to Rs 25,000.

"The meat is a little bit hard to bite, but very tasty and healthy. The dishes made of ram goat meat are delicious, even if it is a costly affair. On Dasara, we are ready to spend a little more," says B. Nagajagadeeswara Rao, HB Colony Auto-Rickshaw Stand president.

Meanwhile, the public health officials are also keeping an eye on the sales. Chief Medical Officer of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Dr. K S L G Sastry said that special teams have been deployed to check and certify the quality of mutton in the markets.

## New insights into role, dosage of insulin

ML MELLY MAITREYI  
■ HYDERABAD

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

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

Researchers from Ullas Kothur's group at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, in collaboration with Ranjith Padinhateeri's group at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay have found that the amount of insulin present in the body at the fasting as well as fed stage, dictates how its signalling network action is manifested inside the cell.

Their research has also revealed

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

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

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

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

Ashwin &amp; Shukla Paksha

Panchangam

**Tithi** : Dashami 18:01**Nakshatram** : Shrivana 09:16**Time to Avoid** : Time to Avoid (Bad time to start any important work)**Rahukalam** : 10:34 am - 12:01 pm**Yamagandam** : 2:56 pm - 4:23 pm**Varjyam** : 1:17 pm - 2:53 pm**Gulika** : 7:39 am - 9:07 am**Good Time** : (to start any important work)**Amritakalam** : 10:55 pm - 12:31 am**Abhijit Muhurtham** : 11:38 am - 12:24 pm**VIJAYAWADA  
WEATHER****Forecast**: Mostly sunny**Temp**: 34/26**Humidity**: 66%**Sunrise**: 6:08 am**Sunset**: 05:55 pm

Current Weather Conditions

Updated OCTOBER 14, 2021 5:00 PM



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

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

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

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

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

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

The estimated cost of pro-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



SURESH CHANDA  
IAS (Retd.)

tenance and staff.

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

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

Generally people have perception that hydro power is very cheap as compared to thermal power as water is

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

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

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

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

Plant (Rs.3.00 per Unit).

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

Then, how come it is even

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

Hope, the Telangana government, in the interests of its

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

(The author is a former Special Chief Secretary, Telangana)

## Land registrations, at village secretariats...

Continued from Page 1

The Chief Minister instructed the authorities to procure necessary equipment and resources including drones and required software to complete the land survey and told them to take measures to secure the survey data with the help of experienced people and organisations.

He directed the officials to take up a weeklong updation programme once every year ensuring transparency. He said that the reforms should be beneficial to the farmers and landowners leaving no scope for corruption.

The Chief Minister said that appropriate action should be taken to avoid the mistakes that took place in the records of prohibited lands during the previous government and emphasised the need to put a check on this regard. He directed the authorities to come up with a policy on this ensuring that such mistakes and deliberate actions are not repeated and strengthen the system.

The officials informed Chief Minister that so far, survey was completed in 51 villages which were undertaken as pilot project and assured that another 650 villages will be completed by December 2021, covering one village from each mandal. Similarly, the survey will be completed in 2400 villages by June 22, 2022 and another 2400 villages by August 2022, covering a total of 5500 villages. Officials stated that by June 2023, the entire survey will be completed.

As part of the pilot project, they informed that 30,679 farms were surveyed in 51 villages, updating the details of 3549 landowners. Also, the officials have resolved 572 queries from Revenue and 1480 from survey related and 235 officers have resolved border disputes. Upon completion of the survey, a pass-book with full details and maps have been given to the farmers.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹233
Without Skin	₹253
Broiler at Farm	₹128

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	421
HYDERABAD	428
VISAKHAPATNAM	470
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.21
(IN VIKRANTAM)	

# Plagiarism, fake data main causes for article retraction

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

According to the study conducted by Bakthavachalam Elango nearly two thirds (34.45 pc) of retraction notices were issued due to plagiarism and 29.92 pc due to fake data including image manipulation.

These two categories of reasons are prevalent among the retracted Indian biomedical literature and these two categories form the research misconduct, according to the US Office of Research Integrity.

"Earlier in 2012 research found that plagiarism and duplicate publication were the leading causes for retractions from India. Now, fake data replaced the duplicate publication," Elango observed.

He also said that to curb plagiarism among the academic and research community, the University Grants Commission (UGC), the



higher education regulation agency in India has adopted its first regulation on academic plagiarism with four levels of punishments.

Most of the retractions were due to misconduct. It is due to lack of awareness on medical research ethics, lack of legal restrictions; some scientists may be more prone to misconduct because of their desire to publish more and in higher impact journals, he added.

"The increasing trend of research misconduct is mainly due to publish-or-perish

situation in India: not only for promotion or incentives of individual faculty, a need for institutions towards rankings such as National Institutional Ranking Framework at national level as well as QS World University Rankings, and so on at global level. To create awareness on publication ethics and research misconduct, the University Grants Commission introduced a two-credit course "publication ethics and misconduct" which is mandatory for all PhD students," Elango said.

## Four countries account for 60% retracted articles

VIJAYAWADA: More than 10 pc of retracted Indian biomedical literature had international authors. The United States tops the list with 19, followed by Japan with five, Iran and South Korea each with four.

These four countries accounted for almost 60 pc of the retracted international collaborated articles. The United States tops the list because it is the major collaborative partner country for Indian authors in many scientific fields. Almost two-thirds of retracted international collaborated articles were published with authors from the G7 countries whose domination has been observed in many research areas.

# New insights into role, dosage of...

Continued from Page 1

Loss of insulin or its action leads to uncontrolled increase in blood glucose/sugar ultimately leading to diabetes.

The research findings relate to how cells respond to fluctuating doses of insulin hormone and how inappropriate interventions

lead to tissue damage and cause loss of kidney functions, retinopathy and neuropathy among others.

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

said.

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

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

The researchers at TIFR are currently engaged in

collaborating with clinical scientists to investigate this in humans and to evaluate the impact of insulin administration beyond glucose control in diabetic patients and to explore new treatment regimes that reduce tissue damage in addition to maintaining blood glucose levels in patients.

# Security forces wary of RK death reports, smell a ruse

SNV SUDHIR  
■ VIJAYAWADA

Reports of the death of 65-year-old top gun of outlawed CPI Maoists- Akkiraju Haragopal alias RK have baffled Central intelligence agencies.

While there are unconfirmed reports that RK died of an unknown serious health ailment somewhere in Dandakaranya in South Bastar of Chhattisgarh State on Thursday, in their last update just a few days ago the IB received from the Naxal hotbed is that he was hail and healthy.

In fact, it is learnt that intelligence sources found that RK had also put on a little weight compared to how he looked during his last public appearance over a decade and a half ago when he came out of the jungles to hold 'peace talks' with the then chief minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy.

IB also found that RK might be contemplating to surrender as age is catching up. "It was

## Top Maoist leader RK has died, say reports

Continued from Page 1

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

In an interview with The Pioneer's VKL Gayatri a few years ago, RK had said that he dedicated his life to bring about a change in the society and he wanted to build an ideal society devoid of disparities. He denied that the Maoist were killing people, stating that the police were killing Maoists in fake encounters.

While the mystique surrounding the man remains

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

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

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

RK had direct interaction with former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy while YSRCPL MLA Dharmana Prasada Rao played a key role

in the discussions.

A past master in guerrilla tactics, RK's strategy was to compromise, withdraw and live to fight another day, with the ultimate goal of revolution unwavering. However, political parties did not accept his demands while YSR did.

After YSR's death, his successor K Rosaiah also expressed the wish to settle the Naxalism problem once and for all, with the active cooperation of RK.

However, to Rosaiah's dismay, some sections from Odisha, West Bengal and North Telangana opposed any such overtures.

His death, if confirmed, would definitely be a major jolt to the Maoist party which lost a key leader - Hari Bhushan - only recently.

is very much hail and healthy.

# Over 1/3rd retracted biomedical...

Continued from Page 1

"More than one-third or 34 pc of retracted publications were externally funded by various funding agencies and funding information could not be traced in 70c of retracted publications.

Out of total 173, majority of the funded retracted articles more than 71pc, were published after 2010. Such retracted scientific articles with financial support by public money are not only wasting the money but also wasting the human resources in the form of editor, publisher and reviewer," said, Bakthavachalam Elango in the study titled 'Retracted articles in the biomedical literature from Indian authors'.

The study also revealed that 10 in every 10,000 biomedical research articles published by Indian scientists in several international scientific journals were retracted due to plagiarism and fake data.

Though the number of retracted articles is very low compared to the number publications contributed by Indian scientists the worrying

factor is that the retracted articles are almost four times higher than the total retractions in PubMed.

Around 25pc of retracted articles were published in the top 15 journals and 33pc were published in the non-impact factor journals. Average time from publication to retraction is calculated to 2.86 years and retractions due to fake data take the longest period among the reasons.

"Alarming, more than 34pc of retracted articles were funded by external funding agencies and majority of the funded research had the issue of data fabrication. At least publicly funded research should be free from any kind of misconduct. It is strongly suggested that funding agencies may consult the indexing databases or retraction databases such as www.retractiondatabase.org while considering the project proposals," Elango B added.

Notably, 10 pc of retracted articles were published in the top two journals: Plos One and the Journal of Biological

Chemistry.

It is clearly evidenced from the study that plagiarism is prevalent in the articles with lower number of authors while fabricating the data is prevalent in the articles with higher number of authors.

"Plagiarism allegations should be dealt with seriously with suspension, punishment or expulsion.

Their academic record should reflect the ethics offense, possibly causing them to be barred from entering different academic institutions. Plagiarism now carries a penalty of 3-6 years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,200 - \$3,600, if prosecuted under the law in the Philippines.

The penalties for plagiarism can be severe, and it does not matter if the plagiarism was unintentional or not. Plagiarism can also result in legal action being taken against the plagiarist resulting in fines as high as \$50,000 and a jail sentence of up to one year," an academician who teaches at a government medical college in Vijayawada told The Pioneer.

# AP govt hands...

Continued from Page 1

"While the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana shall be responsible for managing natural calamities, the KRMB shall advise the two State Governments on the management of disaster or drought or flood in the river Krishna, particularly in reference to the release of water for the management and mitigation of the natural calamities," the Central notification said.

The notification formally came into force on Thursday.

The AP government, however, agreed to immediately hand over only the Srisaillam project spillway and river sluices, Pothreddypadu head regulator and Srisaillam Right Main Canal, Handri-Neeva Lift Irrigation Scheme and the Muchumarri Lift Irrigation Scheme to the KRMB.

It also agreed to transfer the posts sanctioned in various cadres and respective field offices under these four projects to the Central body.

At a special meeting of the KRMB in Hyderabad two days ago, the AP government insisted on including the powerhouses on river Krishna, the main bone of contention between the two states, in the prioritised list for handing over to the Board.

"AP is ready for prioritised implementation of the (Jal Shakti) notification but truncated implementation with exclusion of powerhouses will not be acceptable," the state Water Resources Secretary asserted at the Board meeting.

The Board decided that "all direct outlets (components) from the main reservoirs of Srisaillam and Nagarjuna Sagar projects which are listed under Schedule-II of the Gazette Notification may be prioritised by respective State governments for handing over to the KRMB by October 14, 2021." The KRMB prioritised 15 projects in both states for handing over, including the two main powerhouses each under AP and Telangana control.

**ANDHRA PRADESH INTEGRATED IRRIGATION AND AGRICULTURE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT**  
(WORLD BANK AIDED PROJECT)

**Request for Bids (National Competitive Bidding)**

**Tender Notice No. 01/2021-22/ Dated: 01-04-2021 (3rd call)**

The Superintending Engineer, W.R.Dept., Irrigation Circle, Visakhapatnam District, Pin Code:530002, Andhra Pradesh invites Bids from the intending Bidders for various works of 8 (Eight) works in Visakhapatnam District. Under 'World Bank aided Project' from Dt: 18-10-2021 @ 17:00 hours to dt:26-11-2021 up to 17:00 hours. For complete details visit us at <http://www.apcadda.in> & on e-procurement platform For queries: Contact No: 0891-2706341.

SE-4/4 SURYA KUMAR, SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, W.R. DEPT., IRRIGATION CIRCLE, VISAKHAPATNAM

0891-2706341/0891-2706342/0891-2706343/0891-2706344/0891-2706345

# Jagan govt suppressing Kapus socially, politically: TDP MLA

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP MLA Anagani Satya Prasad on Thursday expressed concern that the Jaganmohan Reddy government was perpetrating injustice and betrayals on the Kapu community by cancelling their welfare programmes and job opportunities.

Satya Prasad said that the injustice, that was meted out to Kapus in the past two-and-a-half years, was not seen before in both the united and Navyandhra Pradesh. Their welfare corporation was totally undermined under the YSRCP rule. The welfare programmes implemented by the TDP were cancelled. Just a few benefits were given along with other communities in the name of Navaratnalu.

In a statement here, the TDP MLA said that their party provided 5 per cent reservations to Kapus in educational and job opportunities. The YSRCP has cancelled it unilaterally. The Chief Minister has been trying only to cheat the community with his lies and betrayals. No new programmes were brought and even the existing schemes

were cancelled with total disregard for their well-being.

Satya Prasad said that unlike the previous regime, the Jagan rule was suppressing Kapus politically and socially. Their welfare was thrown to the winds. The 5 per cent reservation was arbitrarily cancelled. As a result, over 12,000 unemployed youth lost their jobs in just 'sachivalayas' (secretariats). The YSRCP leaders were targeting the community out of political bias and victimisation.

The TDP MLA asserted that the Kapu corporation used to provide lots of benefits to them under the previous regime. Huge funds were spent to ensure better education and job opportunities to their community. Many programmes were implemented for Kapu welfare under the TDP regime. Over Rs 10 lakh financial assistance to each of the 4,528 Kapu students to study abroad. Over Rs 28.26 crore was spent for them under the NTR Vidusi Vidya Adarana programme.

Satya Prasad said that the Jagan rule has set aside all the development programmes that were aimed at Kapu well-being.



## Lokesh urges CM to reinstate contract, outsourced staff

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP national general secretary and MLC Nara Lokesh on Thursday urged Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy to restore the services of APCOS outsourcing employees without causing any more suffering to their families. Lokesh also demanded immediate payment of pending salaries to the contract and outsourced employees for over 20 months. Thousands of these employees were brought out of their respective agencies after the formation of the AP Corporation for Outsourced Services (APCOS). But, they were later removed from their jobs so that those opportunities could be given to the ruling party activists.

In a letter to the Chief Minister here, Nara Lokesh termed it as atrocious on the part of the government to do injustice to the outsourced employees on flimsy grounds. The agencies previously gave salaries to the outsourced and contract employees. All these agencies were cancelled. Later, the Government stopped salaries to these employees on the

pretext that the respective agencies were no longer in existence. Lokesh said that the contract and outsourced employees were not given salaries for 20 months and then they were removed from services without making any payments. The Chief Minister made countless promises to these employees during his statewide padayatra before the elections. At that time, Jagan said he had listened to their woes and that he would give job security to them after coming to power. Nara Lokesh reminded the Chief Minister how he had promised the employees that the system of middlemen and agencies would be removed. The government started another betrayal by announcing that the contract and outsourced employees were brought under the APCOS. Thousands of these employees in the medical and health department were given certificates as APCOS employees. Separate CPMS IDs were created for them so as to treat them as Government employees with job security. Later, they were not paid salaries and arbitrarily removed from their jobs.

# People with questionable credentials in TTD board, charges BJP leader

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Former TTD Board member and BJP leader Bhanu Prakash Reddy has demanded that the YSR Congress Party-led State government to revamp the TTD Trust Board or face protests.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, he alleged that people with questionable credentials and 'unemployed' politicians were included in the board. The government nominated 24 regular members along with four ex officio members and 52 special invitees to the TTD Board. It made clear that the special invitees will not have the voting right while passing resolutions at board meetings, but they will have privileges on par with TTD Trust Board members as regards darshan. The appointment of these special invitees drew criticism from various quarters, and it's known that the PIL in the High Court challenging the appointment of the special invitees has obtained a stay from the court.

Recently on Wednesday the High Court issued notices to 18 newly appointed members of the TTD Trust Board seeking their response to a petition wherein it was alleged that 14 of them have criminal background and the nomination of four others was purely political in nature. The matter has been posted for next hearing after the Dasara



**BJP leader Bhanu Prakash Reddy said the TTD should not be filled with 'politically unemployed' and people with criminal backgrounds and as per the TTD's expenditure domain, the chairman and member of the board shall not receive (or be paid) any salary or remuneration from the TTD funds.**

vacation. The court was hearing a petition filed by BJP leader G Bhanu Prakash Reddy, who argued that the said individuals were unfit to be members of the prestigious TTD Trust Board owing to their alleged involvement in some cases, and the facts needed to be ascertained. It may be noted that individuals above 18 years of age were among total 24 persons nominated as members of the TTD Trust Board through GO Ms.

No.245 (dated September 15), which the BJP leader had challenged.

His contention was that the government had scant regard to their personal details and whether they had faith in the Hindu customs and traditions followed in the world-famous temple. He said the TTD should not be filled with 'politically unemployed' and people with criminal backgrounds and as per the TTD's expenditure domain, the chairman and member of

the board shall not receive (or be paid) any salary or remuneration from the TTD funds (other than) honorarium or compensatory or travelling, accommodation, food, and conveyance allowances as prescribed, during their visits to the Tirumala hills to attend the board meeting. He said, "The TTD spends approximately Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh per month towards these expenses. Though a few members didn't collect any allowance, most of them collect and cause an additional burden on the TTD. Apart from this, each member gets a quota of at least 20 break darshan and 30 special entry darshan tickets (each costing Rs 300) per day."

He said, this meant that, if all the trustees opt to utilise their full quota, the TTD will have to provide 1,620 break and 2,430 special entry tickets per day. "This will cause inconvenience to common people," he said while demanding that the state

reshuffle the TTD board to avoid such a burden on TTD. Reddy further demanded Chief Minister Jaganmohan to revoke, and new Board should be constituted, for the traditions and sentiments of the devotees. He also said that importance should be given to those known for their devotional fervour and the spirit of 'Swamivari Seva'. Appointment of accused persons in CBI cases as members of the Board was highly objectionable, he said.



## CM extending support to debt-ridden women SHGs: Edu Minister

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Minister for Education Adimulapu Suresh said that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy was extending financial support to the debt-ridden women self-help groups.

The minister handed over a cheque for the disbursement of money to the beneficiaries under the YSR Aasara second tranche at a programme organised at Tripurantakam village on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the previous government had promised to waive off the

loans of DWCRA women, but failed to do so. Consequently, the SHG women became debt-ridden. Chief Minister Jagan Reddy is committed to uplift women and determined to make them financially self-reliant.

The government is also implementing various welfare schemes, especially for women, he said and appealed to them to utilise the benefits of the schemes. The minister handed over a cheque of Rs.3,13,42,126 for the beneficiaries. DRDA project director Babu Rao and MPP president Subba Reddy were among those who were present.



## Lord takes ride on celestial 'Sarva Bhoopala Vahanam'

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Depicting the supremacy of Lord Malayappa Swamy as 'controller of the worlds', the deity along with His two Consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi, was taken on a celestial ride on the 'Sarvabhoopala Vahanam' on the penultimate day of the annual Brahmotsavams of Lord Venkateswara here on Thursday. The term 'Sarvabhoopala' means 'Emperor of Entire Universe'. The 'Vahana Seva' took place at Kalyanotsava Mandapam between 7 am and 8 am. Special rituals dominated the

proceedings in connection with 'Sarva Bhoopala Vahana Seva' that was observed as an alternative to the customary procession of 'Rathotsavam' (wooden chariot) in tune with the TTD's decision to carry out the celebrations within the main temple complex in adherence to the Covid protocols. TTD Trust Board Chairman YV Subba Reddy, Deputy Speaker Kona Raghupathi, TTD EO Dr KS Jawahar Reddy, TTD Board members Prashanti Reddy, AP Nanda Kumar, Additional EO AV Dharma Reddy and other temple staff were present.

## 'Kalam Prerana Sthal' to open in Vizag today

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

To commemorate the 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', and on the occasion of 90th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal' will be inaugurated at Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of DRDO on Friday.

On the occasion, a statue of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam will be unveiled by Dr. Samir V Kamat, Distinguished Scientist

and Director General of Naval Systems and Materials in the presence of Dr. Y Sreenivas Rao, Director NSTL. The NSTL products Varunastra, TAL and Maareech will be displayed at the venue.

Varunastra is ship-launched, heavyweight electrically propelled anti-submarine torpedo capable of targeting quiet submarines, both in deep and shallow waters in an intense counter measures environment. Varunastra can be fired from all ASW ships. Torpedo Advanced Light



(TAL) is a light-weight anti-submarine weapon, electrically propelled can be launched

from ships and helicopters.

Maareech Decoy, autonomously identifies incoming threats and launches expendable decoys from multi-barrel launcher, generates a tactical solution and counter measures to seduce the weapon.

The most popular and valuable quotations of Dr. Kalam are carved on the stone and permanently affixed at the Prerana Sthal. Outstanding Scientists PVS Ganesh Kumar, BVSS Krishna Kumar, Dr. A Srinivas Kumar and other

senior scientists will participate in the event.

The NSTL is organising the inauguration of "Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal", on October 15, to motivate the NSTL fraternity as well as students and citizens in and around Visakhapatnam. 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal' will provide motivation to NSTL fraternity and the public. The life of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, his impeccable achievements as a scientist, and President of the nation is an inspiration to generations.



## Plantation drive launched at Visakh Refinery

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited's (HPCL), Visakh Refinery, has launched 900 saplings plantation programme on its premises to mark the 900 months of India's Independence. The HPCL Visakh Refinery has launched the plantation programme as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Executive Director, HPCL-VR V Ratan Raju inaugurated the event at the Raj plant in Mecca. The HPCL is responsible for the conservation of a total of 900 different species of saplings on the HPCL premises.

Speaking on the occasion, Ratan Raju said the plantation drive is aimed at preserving the ecological balance of the environment. The event was attended by HPCL-VR Executive Director, VRMP Veerabhadra Rao, General Manager (HR) K Nagesh, employees' union leaders MM Naidu and others.

## Explore internet skills, RINL CMD tells staff

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Chairman-cum-Managing Director of RINL Atul Bhatt has said that the quality of training at RINL is the best in Andhra Pradesh and called upon the employees to explore the inherent skills to achieve excellence in their work areas.

Addressing a function, on the occasion of Dasara festival, the CMD said that in line with the skill India initiative, one should impart quality training to freshers and apprentices to increase the employability nationwide to meet the skill demand.

V V Venugopal Rao, Director (Finance), A K Saxena, Director (Operations), K V Nagi Reddy, CVO, K V Vidya Sagar, ED (Works) and employees, trade union leaders were present.



## Rehab works for Bhogapuram airport oustees in full swing

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The State government has geared up to finish the rehabilitation colony works of the land losers of Bhogapuram airport, coming up in Vizianagaram.

The State government has allocated 5 cents of land to each beneficiary at Gudepu Kothavalasa and asked them to construct houses on their own for which the government has credited Rs 9.20 lakh.

The beneficiaries have started construction of houses. Majority of the people have laid the foundation stone during the Dasara festival season. Joint Collector Dr. G C Kishore Kumar visited the sites on Thursday and performed Bhumi Pooja for some constructions.

The infrastructure for the rehabilitation colony, including internal roads, electrification, drainage system, drinking water facility and others, would

be facilitated by the government to the colony.

The works are also in full swing at the rehabilitation colony.

Speaking on the occasion, the Joint Collector said that the amount for the construction of houses is credited to the back accounts of the beneficiary.

He advised the beneficiaries to contact the officials directly and not to believe the middlemen in getting the rewards from the government.

### COACHING FOR CIVIL SERVICES

## Academy ties up with SRM University AP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sarat Chandra IAS Academy and SRM University AP to train the students of SRM in UPSC Civil Services Examination (IAS, IPS, IFS, IRS) and other competitive examinations conducted by Central and State governments has been signed. SRM University constituted a panel of professors which went through applications from several IAS Coaching institutes across India and conducted several

rounds of presentation and finalised Sarat Chandra IAS Academy based on competent expert faculty, pattern of the coverage of syllabus, quality of online and offline teaching methodology, quality of material and regular exams and based on the results produced in the last few years.

Managing Director, T Sarat Chandra said, "We consider it a privilege to enter into a MoU with a prestigious and largest university like SRM."

He said, "The IAS exam is dynamically changing and to make students clear the exam,

we focus on bringing expert faculty; integration of static syllabus with current affairs, mains answer writing practice, brainstorming to write multiple dimensions in essays, daily current affairs compendium sourced from various newspapers, guest lectures by IAS officers, regular exams and feedback.

Dr K Mohan, Director, IT and Knowledge Management in SRMU said that this is a two-year programme during which the IAS coaching will go hand in hand with their regular academic programmes.





# PSA oxygen plant mandatory in 100-bed hospitals: Collector

PNS ■ GUNTUR

District Collector Vivek Yadav has said that all the hospitals in the district with at least 100 beds must have a PSA oxygen plant to ensure that no patient dies due to oxygen shortage.

The Collector, along with Mangalagiri MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy, inaugurated a newly established PSA oxygen plant on the NRI hospital premises in Mangalagiri on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the government made it mandatory that every 100-bed hospital must have the PSA oxygen plant in the hospital. He said steps were taken to establish such oxygen plants in all 100-bed hospitals in the district.

The Collector said that the Andhra Pradesh government had fought Covid-19 effectively and all worked in a coordinated and planned manner to check the spread of coronavirus. He said that the state had successfully tackled the first wave. However, during the second wave, many patients struggled for oxygen. "In order to overcome such a situation, Chief Minister Y S Jagan



Mohan Reddy has taken many precautions," he said.

Vivek Yadav said that all people should be administered Covid vaccine which was the only way to contain the pandemic. He said the health officials were making efforts to expedite the vaccination process. "80 percent of vaccination has been completed in the district. The rest 20 per cent people should be given the vaccine at the earliest," the Collector said. He said that a survey

revealed that Coronavirus influence would be scant if one was infected after taking the vaccine. Alla Ramakrishna Reddy MLA said that the NRI Hospital management set up the 1000-litre oxygen plant under the Corporate Social Responsibility. He lauded the doctors and staff saying that they had saved the lives of many Covid-19 patients by providing treatment during the second wave.

"Many patients had come to

the NRI Hospital from Telangana state for treatment," he reminded. The NRI Hospital is the only hospital in Guntur district which brought oxygen from North India and supplied it to the other hospitals during the second wave, he praised. Hospital principal Dr. Narasa Raju, Dr. G Srinivas, Dr. N Lakshmi and Tahsildar Srinivas Reddy were among those who attended the programme.

## Mentally-ill youth sets bus on fire

PNS ■ ONGOLE

A mentally-ill person set an APSRTC bus on fire at Pamuru bus station in Kanigiri mandal on Thursday. The bus was partially damaged.

Police said that a youth, Yedukondalu, suspected to be mentally-ill, attempted to set on fire a stationary RTC bus after pouring petrol. There were no passengers in the bus. The locals put off the flames and informed the police, who took the man into custody.

CI Papa Rao told The Pioneer that the youth was suspected to be mentally-ill.



## Peddireddy urges people to vote for YSRCP

PNS ■ KADAPA

Minister for Panchayat Raj Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy has appealed to the voters in the Badvel constituency to vote for YSRCP considering the development it had carried out so far and welfare schemes being implemented for the poor.

Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, along with MP Avinash Reddy, YSRCP Badvel candidate Dasari Sudha and other

leaders, campaigned in the constituency on Thursday.

Later, talking to the media, Peddireddy said that the Congress and the BJP betrayed the nation. The Congress party had disappeared from the state and it was also going to disappear from the country soon, he said.

"Nobody knows about the BJP here. Nobody will vote for the BJP," he added.

The minister said that the Jagan Reddy government was

implementing all the welfare schemes, and at the same time, development of the state was being carried out. While facing the Coronavirus pandemic situation, the government led the state to development and ensured that the fruits of welfare schemes reached all eligible beneficiaries, he claimed.

MP Avinash Reddy called upon activists to take the benefits of welfare schemes and development to every household.

## SHORT TAKES



### 1,155 quintals of rice seized

**GUNTUR:** The Vigilance officials have seized a huge quantity of rice during a raid conducted at a rice mill at Ponnuru. The Vigilance officials said here on Thursday that they seized 1,155 quintals of packed rice, 241 quintals of paddy and 40 quintals of rice grits during a raid conducted at MSR rice mill at Kasukarru village. Last week, the officials apprehended two lorries of the rice mill while transporting ration rice illegally. The officials also inspected the documents in the rice mill. Meanwhile, the police in Prakasham district seized 1,006 bags of ration rice while being transported in a lorry illegally at Savalapuram. The cops said on Thursday that on a tip-off that a huge quantity of ration rice was being transported illegally, the police conducted vehicle checking at Kalavai village in Singarayakonda mandal. In another incident, the police found 1,006 bags of ration rice being transported to the Krishnapatnam port in Nellore district. The police seized the lorry, ration rice and arrested two persons.

### Celebrate Dasara, follow norms

**ONGOLE:** Prakasam District Superintendent of Police Malika Garg has conveyed Vijaya Dasami wishes to all the people of the district. The SP appealed to everyone to celebrate the Dasara festival by following the Covid norms, wearing masks, using sanitiser and observing social distance. The SP said that in the wake of Devi Navratri and Dasara celebrations, a strong police bandobast has been set up in all sub-divisions across the district. Strict surveillance will be in place near temples, shrines and other places where Dasara celebrations are held and effective measures have been taken to prevent any untoward incidents and thefts in those areas.

### Woman threatens FB friend

**HYDERABAD:** A man belonging to Banjara Hills has complained to the police on Wednesday that he was being threatened and blackmailed by a woman who was his friend on Facebook. He said that she had taken his nude video and was threatening that she will post it on social media unless money was paid to her. The man, 32, staying in Banjara Hills, had a friendship with a Facebook friend named Sakshi Varma Reddy in July 2021. Police said that he used to chat with her. Later, they had video chats. The woman appeared nude during one of the video chats and asked the complainant also to do the same. The tempted complainant did so. Afterwards, she started threatening him that his nude video would be exposed if he fails to pay money, police said. Facing embarrassment the man approached the police. The police are investigating the case now. The police think that the woman's Facebook profile would be a fake, and that the nude video of the woman may have been made artificially.

### Woman alleges gang rape

**HYDERABAD:** A woman was allegedly gang-raped by three persons after being kidnapped near Himayat Sagar on the outskirts of Hyderabad, police said. The incident, which occurred on Wednesday, came to light on Thursday after the victim lodged a complaint at Rajendranagar police station of Cyberabad Police Commissionerate. As per the complaint, the 30-year-old woman, a resident of Purnanul area, had gone to a liquor shop in Hyderguda on Wednesday evening. An auto-rickshaw driver, who was sitting there, befriended her and offered to drop her home. The victim said that she trusted him and boarded the auto-rickshaw but later, two more persons joined them and allegedly took her to a deserted place in Himayat Sagar. There they first sexually assaulted her, then snatched her valuables, and fled. After regaining consciousness, the woman reached the police station with the help of few local residents and lodged the complaint. Police inspector Kanakaiah said that they sent the woman for medical examination and formed special teams to arrest the accused.

### Two nabbed for murder

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

## Row over MLA Rajani's image among those of Goddesses on flex

PNS ■ GUNTUR

A flex banner on which the images of Hindu Goddesses and of Chilakaluripet MLA Vidadala Rajani were printed drew flak from the devotees at Poleramma temple in Chilakaluripet town. Of Guntur district. The MLA's image appeared on the flex banner with folded hands on both ends, creating an impression that she is one of the Goddesses.

The devotees at the temple expressed strong objection to putting up such a flex banner insulting Hindu Goddesses. They said that they had never seen a political leader's image



beside those of the Hindu deities. It is nothing but hurting the sentiments of lakhs of Hindu devotees, they lashed out. Meanwhile, Brahmana

Chaitanya Vedika State president Siripurapu Sridhar Sarma said that the image of MLA Rajani was printed on the flex banner along with

those of the Hindu Goddesses deliberately to humiliate the deities and hurt the feelings of the Hindus.

Talking to The Pioneer, Sarma said that flex banners with the images of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy were put up on the way from Tirupati to Tirumala, limiting Lord Venkateswara to the State of Andhra Pradesh. "These misdeeds are being carried out deliberately by some people to insult Hindu Gods and hurt the sentiments of crores of devotees," he slammed, adding that these people would incur the curse of Gods.

## Actor Prakash Raj demands CCTV footage of MAA polls

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Following high drama around the Movie Artists Association (MAA) elections, Vishnu Manchu was elected president of the association and even though his rival Prakash Raj and his supporters resigned from their positions, Vishnu did not react.

Many artistes came forward claiming they faced mental harassment by the Manchu family during MAA elections. Others also alleged foul play in the elections. In this context, Prakash Raj has sought evidence from the spot. He has written a letter to the polling officer seeking CCTV footage from the polling booth.

Prakash Raj's letter said, "You



them and their henchmen in the polling arena."

Prakash Raj said the MAA elections and later incidents made them a "laughing stock" in the eyes of the public and there is disgust about behaviour of some known faces. He said even MAA members want to know the truth about these reports.

Prakash Raj has demanded CCTV footage of the polls, saying "as a polling officer, it is your duty to preserve all the records at least for three months."

"I request you to give us CCTV footage as early as possible. Unless you act immediately, I fear the footage will be deleted or tampered with," he wrote.

### RK PURAM ROB

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

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and South Central Railways (SCR) passing the buck onto each other, construction of RK Puram Rail Over Bridge (ROB) has been pending for a decade.

An RTI petition filed with both the GHMC and SCR reveals that the two entities have been waiting for the other to act first, while commuters continue to suffer every single time they use the stretch.

The GHMC, in its response to the RTI petition, said: "GHMC has requested the South Central Railway to furnish a feasibility report for taking up the proposal of a two-lane ROB parallel to existing ROB. Feasibility report is awaited".

On the other hand, the

**The GHMC, said: "GHMC has requested the South Central Railway to furnish a feasibility report for taking up the proposal of a two-lane ROB parallel to existing ROB. Feasibility report is awaited".**

response of the SCR to the RTI petition regarding the same issue states: "Railways, vide letter dated 1.11.2011 communicated to GHMC that the ROB work costs Rs 7.53 crore and requested to pay centage charges 2% i.e. Rs 14.70 lakh for preparation and approval of drawings and estimates. Till date there is no correspondence from the State government".

Both the RTI petitions were filed by activist Robin Zaccheus, who questioned the TRS government regard-

ing the injustice meted out to residents of Malkajgiri. He said, "The RTI exposes the lies of the State government on the RK Puram ROB project. Why is it delayed for a decade?"

He said that traffic conditions on the RK Puram to Secunderabad stretch have turned bad to worse with life threatening accidents, regular traffic jams, arguments and fights between commuters becoming a daily affair. Lakhs of commuters using the RK Puram stretch are suffering, Robin Zaccheus said.

## TSRTC keen to introduce sleeper bus services

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) Managing Director VC Sajjanar is keen to introduce sleeper bus services to compete with private operators. He said the RTC would acquire sleeper buses once revenues improve.

Analysing the profitability of private operators, RTC officials had told the managing director that private operators have converted all their buses into sleeper buses. The demand for non-A/C sleeper buses is always very high. In fact, at least 1,000 private sleeper bus services are being operated from Hyderabad.

Responding to this, Sajjanar, who is focused on improving RTC's finances, said that he would introduce sleeper bus services by the TSRTC soon.

Last Monday, while the RTC's bus services including long-distance buses had only



60 per cent occupancy, private sleeper buses were fully booked due to the festival rush.

The RTC had wanted to run sleeper bus services in the past, but a senior official put his foot down and the proposal was shelved.

RTC officials want to run some sleeper bus services to test the market. The MD is in favour of introducing them only after the RTC's finances have improved.

Four or five years ago, private bus operators used to run only 20 per cent of their fleet as sleepers. As the demand for sleeper services surged, private operators converted many of their buses into sleepers. These services are generating profits for private operators, and they have increased them.

The TSRTC is planning to introduce sleeper services by converting some of its Garuda Plus buses.

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

PNS ■ PANAJI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

## Forensic teams' site visit to be mandatory in select crimes

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

PNS ■ PANAJI

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

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

PNS ■ CHATRA (JHARKHAND)

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

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

country will continue to receive the required amount of coal.

"We are witnessing an improvement now," he said, asked about the current situation.

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

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

ing more coal.

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

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

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



## Heroin worth Rs 10L seized, two arrested

PNS ■ DIPHU

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

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

# Govt launches 'One Health' surveillance consortium

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



# Allow Chhath puja in Delhi, Covid under control: Kejriwal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

protocols in view of the pandemic.

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

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

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

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

# SC stays NGT order on 4 sugar units

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



# 'Won't blame others for the viral video'

PNS ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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



cent. The party suspended Saleem from the party for six years and served a show-cause notice to Ugrappa, who is Congress spokesperson, seeking an explanation in three days. The Congress state chief said the issue related to the viral video was not personal but pertained to a party, which was built by the lakhs of party workers. Hitting back at the BJP for targeting him following the viral video, Shivakumar said let the BJP take note of what their

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

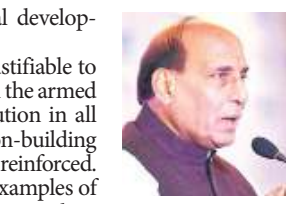
In an address at a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) seminar on the role of women in the armed forces, the defence minister also talked about Rani Laxmi Bai and former president Pratibha Patil, and said India has a positive experience in harnessing

women's power in national development.

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

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

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



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

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

against Pakistan that resulted in the birth of Bangladesh.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Burning sensation

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

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

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



Street vendors sell effigies by the roadside ahead of Dussehra, in Delhi

Ranjana Dimri | The Pioneer

## Not there yet

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

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



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

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

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

# Beijing not really the bigger fish

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



PRAFULLA GORADIA

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FIGHTING THE TINY-MIGHTY DEMON

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

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

Jayanthi Subramaniam | Coimbatore

### A BLAST FROM THE ARCHIVES

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

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

## A humble man with wisdom



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

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

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

Krishna K Vepakomma | Hyderabad

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

G David Milton | Maruthancode

### AN IRRITATING NEIGHBOUR

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

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

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

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



Congress leader — P Chidambaram

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

US Secretary of State — Antony Blinken

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



Actor — Rajkumar Rao

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

KKR captain — Eoin Morgan

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



Rajasthan Chief Minister — Ashok Gehlot

FIRST COLUMN

PLI SCHEMES: NOT A LONG-TERM ANSWER

Straightening out our manufacturing inefficiencies is the key to boost growth



HIMA BINDU KOTA

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



the contribution of its manufacturing sector to the GDP, from 17 percent to 25 percent. The scheme also intends to encourage foreign investors who may want to inject capital into or establish business relationships with companies that have access to PLI incentives. As many as 13 sectors have been identified as intended beneficiaries of the PLI scheme. Taking the example of mobile manufacturing and electronic components industry, a total of 16 applications worth ₹35,541 crore have been approved so far. Five of them were from the global champions category, another five companies were from the domestic champions category and the remaining six companies were from the electronic components category. These companies together invested approximately ₹1,300 crores under this scheme in the first six months of operation inspite of tough times prevailing at the time, and added upto 22,000 jobs. This, in a way, fulfils the very reason for which the scheme was conceived.

Samsung, Foxconn, Hon Hai, Rising Star, Wistron and Pegatron are some of the global electronics giants who have started their operations under the scheme. As contract manufacturers for Apple iPhones, their presence will enhance the manufacturing base in India immensely. There are high expectations from domestic companies alike. After getting approval under PLI scheme, it is anticipated that Indian companies shall expand significantly by increasing their manufacturing operations and gain recognition as national champion companies in mobile phone production. There is an expectation that there would be high demand for mobile phones in future. This is evident from the latest mobile export figures of ₹4,600 crore for the quarter ending April-June 2021. This was a growth of 250 per cent over the previous period. The imports also nose-dived by 80 percent to ₹600 crore from ₹3,200 crore. These figures would jump immensely when Pegatron commences production this year. In this context, the PLI scheme is anticipated to head to a production of approximately ₹10.5 lakh crore with over 60 per cent of this to be exported. This scheme was extended from FY 2025 to FY 2026 at the request of the industry and allows applicants to pick FY 2022 as the base year. With the additional investment of ₹11,000 crore, over the next five years, direct employment would increase by two lakh and indirect employment by three times. Overall, the PLI Scheme bodes well for the mobile phone industry. However, the same cannot be said about other industries like solar manufacturing. These schemes are at best short-term in nature and cannot be regarded as replacement for straightening out manufacturing inefficiencies and business complexity. Both the industry and the Government should work together during this time period to develop competitiveness and quality.

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

# India towards the space and beyond

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



ANIL PRAKASH

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

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

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

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

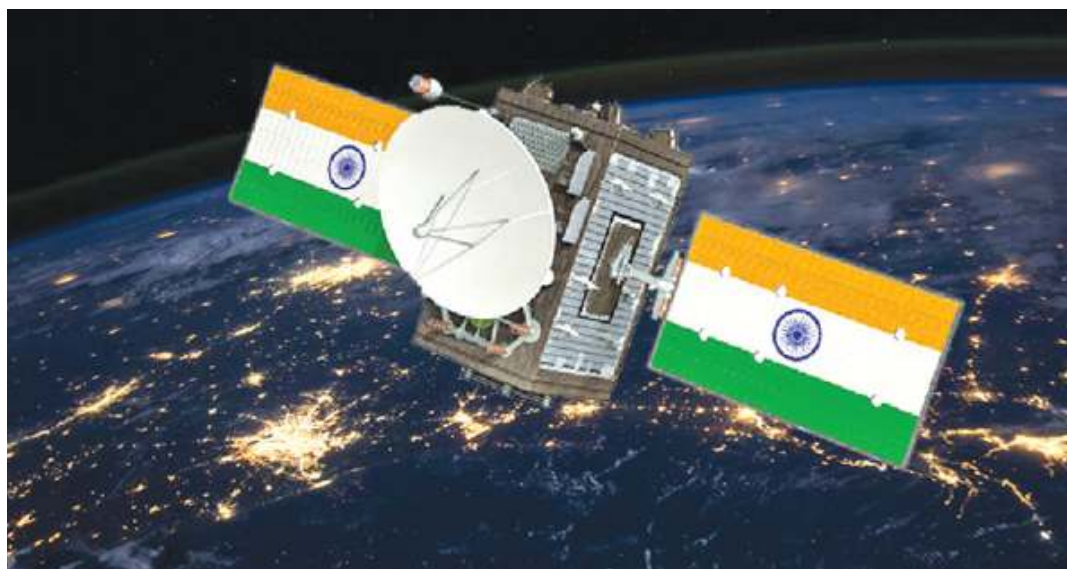
The entry of large organisations has enabled start-ups and MSMEs to play a critical role in the value chain. Currently, there are around 500 firms directly and indirectly engaged with space technologies and a score of start-ups are engaged with the Government.

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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

# Climate negotiations need an innovative approach

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

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



VK BAHUGUNA

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

representatives in tow for twelve days of talks.

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



to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.

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

rise in temperature and consequent climatic vagaries being notices every year with increasing intensity resulting in acute hardship to the poor and disadvantaged sections of the world population.

It would be interesting to quote the sixth assessment report of the IPCC for larger public demonstration and stern warning to the policy makers. It says: "Observed changes in the atmosphere, oceans, cryosphere and biosphere provide unequivocal evidence of a world that has warmed. Over the past several decades, key indicators of the climate system are increasingly at levels unseen in centuries to millennia, and are changing at rates unprecedented in at least the last 2,000 years."

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

In a nutshell, this assessment of IPCC is a grim reminder for the world lead-

ers to have a time-bound action plan for the next five to 10 years to achieve the targets set by the Paris agreement for 2030. In this regard, the United States after returning to the negotiating table, must shoulder the responsibility to lead the developed world.

The negotiators must draw lessons from 'Carbix' a company co-founded by an Indian, Vinit Dighe, and J. Sammy in Quincy, Massachusetts, USA. They develop reactors to harness carbon dioxide from emission streams generated by waste to energy plants, geo-thermal plants, water desalination and natural gas plants. They target cement manufacturing which alone contribute to eight percent carbon emission. They use the emissions

to produce minerals like calcium carbonate and limestone while at the same time remaining carbon negative.

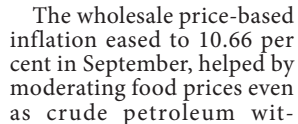
It is like catching the emissions and converting them into valuable minerals. There is a huge scope for a permanent carbon sequestration market. It would be appropriate if Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav invites the Indian innovator who is breaking new ground on climate change mitigation to have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

**PNS ■ MUMBAI**

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

## PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

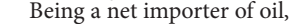


Retail inflation in September too slowed to a five-month low of 4.4 per cent on moderating food prices. "Banking stocks also contributed to the rally and remained in focus as the sector is set to kickstart its earnings season," Nair added.

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

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

shtra, Chattisgarh, Bihar,



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

manufacturing plant at Hosur in Tamil Nadu. The landmark has been achieved in less than five years. TVS Motor Company's Hosur manufacturing plant produces around 10 per cent of BMW Motorrad's volumes globally, the company said in a regulatory filing. The Indian two- and three-wheeler major had in 2013 signed a cooperation agreement with BMW Motorrad to develop and produce sub-500cc motorcycles for the global market. Subsequently, the partners have introduced three products on the 310cc platform, namely BMW G 310 R, BMW 310 GS and TVS Motor Company's TVS Apache RR 310. All three products are manufactured at the Hosur facility, the company added. TVS Motor Company Director and CEO KN Radhakrishnan said, "This achievement is a strong testimony to the success of our eight-year partnership, which has created a common learning platform for both companies. Our partnership has been truly exceptional for creating aspirational products made for the global market." BMW Motorrad Head Markus Schramm said the strong synergies with TVS Motor Company have led to the development of impressive offerings in the sub-500cc segment. "Since their launch, both BMW G310 R and BMW G 310 GS single-cylinder models continue to enjoy unrivalled popularity. With the roll out of the 100,000 unit of BMW Motorrad's 310cc series, these two agile all-rounders are an integral part of BMW Motorrad's success story," he added.

**PNS**   
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

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

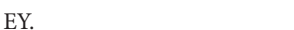
**PNS** ■ NEW DELHI

eral oils, basic metals, non-food articles, food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, chemicals and chemical products etc. as compared the

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

## PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

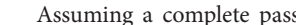


The report by EY and IVCA said pure-play PE and VC

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

## PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

The RBI will start the

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



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



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

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

## CELEBRATING WOMANHOOD, TELUGUTHANAM AND

# AMMAVAARU



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

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



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

— RANGU NAVEEN ACHARI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF TELANGANA JAGRUTHI.



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

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

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

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

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





IANS ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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

# The final showdown!

## HEAD TO HEAD (CSK VS KKR)

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

### THIS SEASON'S MATCHES

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

### FOR THE RECORD

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

### ROAD TO THE FINAL:

#### CHENNAI SUPER KINGS:

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

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

### KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

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

FAISEL FEATURES

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

### Squads:

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

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

## Indian team's new jersey showcased at Burj Khalifa



IANS ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ KARACHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Ended in heartbreak: Pant after IPL ouster



PTI ■ SHARJAH

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

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

## Chhetri double strike helps India beat Maldives 3-1

PTI ■ MALE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## India's last group match lost to China

PTI ■ AARHUS (DENMARK)

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

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

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



minutes.

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

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

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

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

## Shafali makes quiet WBBL debut

PTI ■ HOBART

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SINGLES

### BARCELONA STARTS CRITICAL HOME STINT

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

### HOCKEY INDIA TO BE HELD IN JHANSI

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

### HIMA DAS TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

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

### JK TYRE TO FEATURE CONTINENTAL GT CUP

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

### INDIAN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL AGAINST SWEDEN

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

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



**T**he makers of Powerstar Pawan Kalyan and Rana Daggubati's upcoming film *Bheemla*

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

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

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

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

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



## Manchi Rojulochaie trailer: Comedy track promises a winner

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

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

The lead pair Santhosh and

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

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

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

## Thaggedhe Le: Teaser packed with action

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

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

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

A gang of muggers is

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

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



## Project K demands a budget of 500 crore?

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

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

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

Indian cinema.

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

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

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

## Anand Deverakonda's next launched, titled Baby

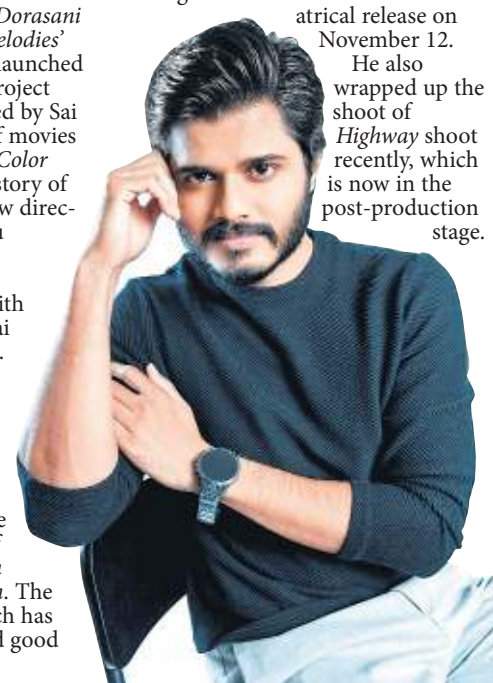
**A**nand Deverakonda, who tasted success with *Dorasan* and *Middle Class Melodies* had his fourth film launched on Thursday. The project titled *Baby*, is helmed by Sai Rajesh, who is known for spoof movies and writing and co-producing *Color Photo*. He has also written the story of *Baby*. The launch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

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

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

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

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



## Kabali fame to compose tunes for Nani's Dasara



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

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



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

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

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

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

## Multiple Dasara treats to ensure theatres are houseful



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

### Maha Samudram

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

### Most Eligible Bachelor

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



### Pelli Sandadi

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