



ANALYSIS 7

THE AIR INDIA SALE :
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

MONEY 8

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

SPORTS 11

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

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

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

NAGARJUNA
WANTS TO DO
MORE ACTION
DRAMA
Page 12K'TAKA CONG'S 'ANGOOOHA-CHHAAP'
JIBE ON PM SPARKS POLITICAL ROW

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

CENTRAL RAILWAY SETS UP
'RESTAURANT ON WHEELS' AT CSMT

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

PUNJAB CABINET OPPOSES DECISION
TO EXTEND JURISDICTION OF BSF

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

OPPOSITION PUTTING HURDLES IN
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: JP NADDA

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

Focus on uninterrupted power supply, CM instructs officials

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Monday directed officials to mobilise required power for an uninterrupted supply and told them to focus on long-term power generation strategies along with temporary measures.

He reviewed the power situation in the State and during the meeting, the officials informed the Chief Minister that they are providing uninterrupted power supply across the State and moving forward with appropriate measures by assessing the situation on a timely basis.

They said that an additional two rakes of coal has been procured from Mahanadi Coalfields and also increased the thermal power generation under APGenco from 50 million units to 69 million units.

In regard to this, the Chief Minister instructed the authorities to ensure zero shortage of coal for



operating thermal power plants and told to constantly coordinate with Coal India and other organisations including Singareni to procure the required quantity of coal.

He also asked the officials to think of alternatives like using freight ships for transportation of

coal and constantly coordinate with the relevant ministries and agencies at the Centre.

Further, the Chief Minister directed the officials to take measures in setting up a 6300 MW reverse pumping power generation project and to focus on the pro-

posed 1350 MW reverse pumping project at Sileru. He instructed the authorities to materialise the proposed projects at the earliest. The officials informed that 170 MW of power is being made available from the Power Trading Corporation.

Justice Ravi Nath Tilhari assumes charge as AP High Court Judge

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Justice Ravi Nath Tilhari took charge as the Andhra Pradesh High Court Judge on Monday. AP High Court Chief Justice, Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, administered the oath of office to Justice Ravi Nath Tilhari. Earlier, Registrar General BS Bhanumathi read out the notification order issued by the first President of India at the swearing-in ceremony at the State High Court First Court Hall on Monday morning.

Justice Ravi Nath Tilhari was born on February 9, 1969, and was elevated as Additional Judge in December 2019 and took oath as a permanent judge on March 26, 2021. He passed B Com in 1985 and completed LLB in 1988. He joined as Additional District and Sessions Judge, Faizabad, in December 2008, and served in various capacities and became District



and Sessions Judge, in July 2020. He hails from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Justice Seshasai, Justice Durga Prasad, Justice Satyanarayana Murthy, Justice Ganga Rao, Justice Venkataramana, Justice Raghunandan Rao, Justice B Krishnamohan, Justice Suresh

Reddy, Advocate General Sriram, State Bar Council Chairman Ghanta Rama Rao, State High Court Advocates Association president K Janaki Rami Reddy, senior advocates, advocates, registrars and other were present on the occasion.

CM MEETS SEER



Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Monday visited Sri Ganapati Sachchidananda Swamy Ashram in Dattannagar here and performed special pooja to Goddess Marakatha Rajarajeshwari. After the ritual, the Chief Minister met Swamy Ganapati Sachchidananda and sought his blessings. TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy, Ministers Vellampally Srinivas, Kodali Nani, Rajya Sabha member Vijaya Sai Reddy and others accompanied the Chief Minister during his visit and took part in the rituals.

Govt declares
Milad-un-Nabi
holiday today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government on Monday issued orders changing the Milad-un-Nabi general holiday from October 20 to 19. The Chief Executive Officer, Andhra Pradesh State Waqf Board, Vijayawada, has said that Moon sighting for the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, 12th day of the Islamic month, is coinciding with October 19, the day of birth of Prophet Muhammad (SLS) (PBUH) and requested to change the holiday to October 19 on the occasion of Eid Miladun Nabi instead of October 20 as declared earlier.

The government, after careful consideration of the matter, has decided to change the General Holiday on the occasion of Eid Miladun Nabi to October 19 (Tuesday) instead of October 20 (Wednesday).

The day of Eid Milad-un-Nabi is celebrated as the birthday of Prophet Mohammad. The day is observed in the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal which is the third month of the Islamic lunar calendar. This day is also known as Maulid which is an Arabic word for 'giving birth'. Maulid is observed on the 12th day of the month, Rabi-ul-Awwal. Eid is observed around the world by the followers of Islam and in India, Eid Milad-un-Nabi is a gazetted government holiday. The AP general Administration department has issued orders to this effect.

Visakha tribals booked
for 'attack' on TS cops

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The Visakhapatnam rural police registered a case against a group of tribals who reportedly attacked the Task Force police of Nalgonda district in Telangana State on Monday. The Nalgonda Task Force police went to the Visakhapatnam Agency in connection with an investigation related to ganja smuggling, near Lambasingi village of Chintapalle mandal on Sunday.

The Task Force police team of

Nalgonda district went to Lambasingi, Annavaram, and some other villages in the Agency to nab some of the persons in connection with a crime of ganja smuggling.

When the police were heading to Annavaram village with an accused, who was earlier caught in Nalgonda with ganja, a group of tribals and a few ganja smugglers attacked the police vehicle with stones and weapons.

Man attacks
Tahsildar

PNS ■ GUNTUR

In a shocking incident, a man attacked Tahsildar at Yadlapadu village with an iron rod, injuring the official grievously, on Monday. The assailant was later arrested.

Police said that the accused Gonuguntla Kranthi Kumar had applied for uploading his 50 cents of land online in his name. However, his relative Sriramulu with forged documents got the land uploaded in his name.

Let govt hospitals have adequate
staff as per national standards: CM

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Monday directed the officials to ensure that all government hospitals have sufficient staff as per the national standards, without any compromise. He instructed the authorities to focus on the construction of 176 PHCs, to which they informed that the works shall start by January 2022 and complete within nine months.

He conducted a review meeting on control of the Covid pandemic, vaccination, health hubs, recruitment of staff in health centres and government hospitals across the State.

During the review, officials informed the Chief Minister that a



job calendar has been prepared based on the vacancies identified in various hospitals and are set to issue job notifications on October 20 and further complete the selection process and issue appointment orders on December 10 to those posts notified by DPHFW.

Jobs to kin of
deceased staff

Vijayawada: Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Monday instructed the officials to provide jobs on compassionate grounds to kin of the deceased government employees due to Covid-19.

During a review meeting, the Chief Minister directed the officials to immediately provide jobs to a family member of the deceased employees due to Covid, on compassionate grounds and complete the process by November 30.

Quack kills
woman for
resisting rape,
mob lynch him

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Ashwin & Shukla Paksha

Panchangam

Tithi : Chaturdashi 19:02

Nakshatram : Uttara Bhadrpad 12:12

Time to Avoid : Time to Avoid (Bad

time to start any important work)

Rahukalam : 2:54 pm - 4:21 pm

Yamagandam : 9:07 am - 10:34 am

Varjyam : 1:07 am - 2:50 am

Gulika : 12:00 pm - 1:27 pm

Good Time : (to start any important work)

Amritakalam : 7:08 am - 8:49 am

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

VIJAYAWADA
WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy

Temp: 34/25

Humidity: 65%

Sunrise: 6:10 am

Sunset: 05:51 pm

Current Weather Conditions

Updated OCTOBER 18, 2021 5:00 PM

Rains lash North India,
5 killed in Uttarakhand

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

In Delhi, the month of October this year has been the wettest since

1960, when the city had recorded 93.4 mm of rainfall, according to data shared by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

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

20 homes of Bangla Hindus set on fire

PNS ■ DHAKA

A mob has damaged 66 houses and set on fire at least 20 homes of Hindus in Bangladesh over an alleged blasphemous social media post amidst protests by the minority community against temple vandalism incidents during the Durga Puja celebrations last week, authorities said on Monday.

The arson attack by the mob of over a hundred people happened late on Sunday on a village in Rangpur district's Pirganj upazila, about 255 kms from here, the bdnews24.com reported.

The police rushed to a fishermen neighbourhood as ten-



sion mounted over a rumour that a young Hindu man of the village had dishonoured religion in a Facebook post,

Assistant Superintendent Mohammad Kamruzzaman told reporters. "The incident took place

after 10 PM yesterday but fire fighters doused the blaze within a short period (and) the situation is now under full control," he said.

No casualties were reported but 66 houses were damaged and 20 burnt during the attack, the officer said.

As many as 52 suspects have been arrested while a manhunt was launched for more suspects under a combing operation in collaboration with other security forces, he added.

As the police stood guard around the man's home, the attackers set fire to other homes nearby, the report said.

48 DSPs promoted
as ASPs in State

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As many as 48 DSPs (Civil) have been elevated as ASPs in the State.

As per an order issued on Monday by DGP Gautam Sawang, SR Rajasekar Raju, ACP, PCR, Vijayawada city, has been promoted as ASP.

The other officers discharging duties as DSPs who were given promotion orders are MKM Naidu (CID), K Kesappa SC/ST Cell, Chittoor, G Ramakrishna, DTC, Prakasam, YBPTA Prasad, SC/ST Cell, Nellore, JV Santosh Central, Rajahmundry (U), G Venkataramudu, Intelligence, ATV Ravi Kumar, East Rajahmundry, A Rajendra, SDPO, Allagadda,

Kurnool, B Srinivas Rao, CID, R Raghavendra, Intelligence, R Srihari Babu, PCS&S, S Khadar Basha, Central, Vijayawada city, M Mahendra SDPO, Srikakulam, G Prem Kazal, Disha, Visakhapatnam City, Sk Masum Basha, SDPO, Machilipatnam, Krishna district, G Srinivas Rao, DTC, Srikakulam, P Umavathi Varma, PCS&S, N Vishnu SEB, MJV Bhaskara Rao, CCS, Rajahmundry (U), RVSN Murthy, SDPO, Dwaraka, Visakhapatnam city, DV Ramana Murthy CTF Vijayawada city, V Umamaheswara Rao SC/ST cell-II, Krishna and L Sudhakar CCS, Tirumala.

Gati Shakti to accelerate India's infrastructural development

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

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

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

Prime Minister Narendra

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Y SATYA KUMAR
BJP National Secretary

portal, progress of all projects would be uploaded.

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

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

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

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

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

Modi established the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AP tops 'eSanjeevani' facility with over 47.3 lakh consultations: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government's National Telemedicine Service, eSanjeevani, has clocked 1.4 crore consultations so far, with Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu among the 10 states that have made maximum use of the service, the Union Health Ministry said on Monday.

Operating in two modes -- eSanjeevaniAB-HWC and eSanjeevaniOPD -- this initiative of the Centre has over the time gained immense popularity in being able to deliver healthcare services through digital platforms.

While the eSanjeevaniAB-HWC has accounted for more than 85 lakh consultations, 55,62,897 consultations have been reported in the eSanjeevaniOPD platform, according to the ministry.

Leading 10 states in terms of adoption of eSanjeevani are



Andhra Pradesh (47,28,131), Karnataka (25,73,609), Tamil Nadu (16,30,795), Uttar Pradesh (14,13,257), Gujarat (5,11,338), Bihar (4,74,959), Madhya Pradesh (4,71,509), West Bengal (4,60,167), Maharashtra (4,29,558), Uttarakhand (2,86,012).

The eSanjeevani AB-HWC (a doctor-to-doctor teleconsultation system) launched with

an intent to alleviate the urban-rural divide in terms of health services works on a hub-and-spoke model.

The 'Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres' (HWCs) set up at state level, act as spokes, which are mapped with the hub (comprising MBBS/ specialty/super-specialty doctors) at zonal level, the ministry said in a state-

ment.

This enables a patient residing in a rural area to avail quality health services.

The eSanjeevaniAB-HWC has accounted for 85,02,926 consultations, it added.

A total of 1,55,000 health and wellness centres will be on-boarded as spokes by December 2022. Currently, 28,450 HWCs are working as spokes, the statement said.

The eSanjeevani OPD, launched on April 13, 2021, aims to provide safe doctor-to-patient consultations. It also has continued to grow in demand as it allows citizens to consult doctors from the comfort and in the confines of their homes, bypassing wait time, travel, risks of infection, etc.

It has completed 55,62,897 consultations. The eSanjeevani OPD is available as a mobile app for both iOS and android

smartphones.

The eSanjeevani platform as a whole is addressing the shortage of doctors and specialists at the ground levels, while also reducing the burden on secondary and tertiary level hospitals, the statement read.

In line with the newly launched Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission, this initiative aims to constantly improve the digital health infrastructure of the country.

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Mohali provides holistic support to the users of the National Telemedicine Service.

"With the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the team at C-DAC Mohali is dedicatedly and continually improving the service by enhancing various aspects of eSanjeevani. A wider and deeper adaptability by all the states and Union Territories is also being ensured, the statement added.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The coal stock situation at thermal power projects seems to be inching towards normalcy as the number of non-pit head projects having less than four days of coal (supercritical stock) reduced to 61 on Sunday from 70 a week ago, government data showed. According to latest coal stock data of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the number of non-pit head projects having less than four days of coal (supercritical stock) was 61 on October 17 and 70 on October 10, while it was 64 on October 3.

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

The Central Electricity Authority monitors coal stock situation of 135 thermal power plants with cumulative

generation capacity of over 165 GW.

The data also showed that the number of power plants with zero days of coal has come down to 16 with cumulative installed generation capacity of 13,495 MW, compared to 17 with 16,430 MW capacity a week back.

The number was 17 with 21,325 MW capacity on October 3.

The number of the plants with one day of coal stock has also reduced to 25 with 34,080 MW capacity as on October 17, compared to 26 with 34,930 MW capacity on October 10. This number was 20 with 22,550 MW capacity on October 3.

Similarly, the number of plants with two days of coal also decreased to 18 (with 25,914 MW capacity) from 22 (27,325 MW) a week ago. This figure was 20 with 29,960 MW capacity on October 3.

The number of plants with three days of coal also came down to 15 (with 20,290 MW capacity) from 18 (24,094 MW) a week ago. The number was 19 with 22,000 MW capacity on October 3.

The number of plants with four days of coal has increased to 18 with 21,915 MW capacity as of Sunday, from 13 with 15,210 MW capacity a week ago, showing improvement in dry fuel stock. The number was 15 with 16,890 MW capacity in the preceding week.

The number of plants with five days of coal has decreased to 10 (12,630 MW capacity) from 11 with 10,775 MW capacity a week ago. This number was six (7,174 MW) on October 3.

The power ministry data also showed improvement in the power shortage situation as it came down to 1,456 MW On October 17 from 2,714 MW a week back.

Man attacks Tahsildar...

Continued from Page 1

When the accused approached Tahsildar Srinivasa Rao on the issue, he asked him to go to court to settle the dispute. Furious over this, he attacked the Tahsildar with an iron rod. The Tahsildar lodged a complaint with the Yadlapadu police.

SI Rambabu registered a case and arrested Kranthi Kumar.

Visakha tribals booked for...

Continued from Page 1

The Telangana police team fired from their service weapons, as a part of self-defence. In the incident, two persons were injured.

Based on a complaint lodged by the Nalgonda Task Force police, the Chinthapalle police registered a case under various sections. Further investigation is on.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹256
Without Skin	₹276
Broiler at Farm	₹142
EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	425
HYDERABAD	428
VISAKHAPATNAM	470
RETAIL PRICE ON VEDANTH	₹4.25

Let govt hospitals have adequate staff...

Continued from Page 1

Similarly, the selection process of all those posts notified under DME will be completed by December 5. In regard to APVVP, the notifications will be issued between October 20-23 and complete the selection process by December 25.

In regard to Covid, the officials informed the Chief Minister that there are 6,034 active cases across the State and recovery rate is 99.01 percent and positivity rate is 1.36 percent. Zero active cases were registered in 12,833 secretariats. They said 91.28 percent of COVID patients in network hospitals are being treated under Arogyasri and 69.62

percent are availing treatment in private hospitals under Arogyasri.

Keeping the Covid third wave in view, the officials informed that 27,311 oxygen concentrators and 27,311 D type oxygen cylinders were made available and added that the state government is setting up oxygen generation plants in 140 hospitals, which would be made available by the end of October.

The officials informed the Chief Minister that 3,00,38,454 people were administered vaccine of which 1,33,80,259 received a single dose while 1,66,58,195 have been administered with two doses. So far, 4,66,96,649 doses of vaccine have been utilised in the State.

Rains lash North India, 5 killed in Uttarakhand...

Continued from Page 1

Due to heavy downpour, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan postponed his campaign tour to Khandwa for the upcoming Lok Sabha bypoll there, while in Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's rally had to be cancelled in Budhana town as the venue was submerged in rainwater.

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

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

The labourers were staying in a tent at Samkhal near Lansdowne in Pauri district when rubble flowing down from

a field above due to the rains buried them alive, District Magistrate Vijay Kumar Jogdande said, adding that the injured were admitted to the Kotdwar base hospital.

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

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

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

In Kerala, where heavy rains have claimed 22 lives till Sunday, water levels are rising in the

catchment areas.

A red alert was issued in respect of 10 dams in Kerala, two shutters of Kakki dam in Pathanamthitta were opened and pilgrimage to Lord Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala has been put on hold for now, state Revenue Minister K Rajan said.

After a review meeting held at the Pathanamthitta district collectorate to assess the situation, Rajan and state Health Minister Veena George said that it has been decided to open the Kakki dam to release around 100-200 cumec water, which would increase the water level of Pampa river by around 15 centimetres.

They said the decision was taken in view of the water level in the dam increasing beyond the danger levels and also taking into consideration the heavy rains expected from October 20, which might worsen the situation if some water is not released now.

In view of the expected worsening of the weather from October 20 till 24, according to IMD information, they said it would not be possible to permit pilgrimage to the Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala for the Thula Masam poojas for which the shrine had been opened from October 16.

Heavy rains lashed Delhi, leading to traffic snarls and waterlogging at several places in the city. The minimum temperature settled at 23.9 degrees Celsius, two notches above the season's average.

Delhi recorded 87.9 mm of rainfall between 8.30 am on Sunday and 8.30 am on Monday. In the city this year, 94.6 mm of rainfall has already been recorded in October.

On Sunday, Delhi recorded 87.9 mm of rainfall, the fourth highest in a day, according to data.

A link road from National Highway-05 to Moorang was blocked due to flash floods triggered by heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh Kinnaur district at Khogpa Nullah in Moorang Tehsil, a disaster management official said.

In Madhya Pradesh, almost the entire state received post-monsoon showers in the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am.

More rains are likely over the next couple of days in the state, P K Saha, senior meteorologist at the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Bhopal office, told PTI.

Chief Minister Chouhan postponed his Monday visit to Khandwa due to the inclement weather, an official from Chief Minister's Office said, adding that the overnight rains caused slush at the venue where Chouhan was supposed to address public meetings.

48 DSPs promoted as ASPs in State...

Continued from Page 1

Similarly, the other DSPs, who got the elevation, are Ch Suresh, SPF, Ch Ravi Kumar, CID, SK Chandrasekhar, SB-I, Tirupati (U), M Anthonappa, SC/ST Cell-I, Anantapur, R Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, SDPO, Sattenapalli, Guntur (U), T Mohan Rao SC/ST Cell Visakhapatnam City, J Srinivasula Reddy, SDPO, Nellore Town, P Sankar, 3rd Bn, APSP, Kakinada (under suspension), DV Ramana Murthy, 14th Bn, APSP, Anantapur, K Praveen Kumar, DTC, Visakhapatnam, J

Mallikarjuna Varma, PTC, Anantapur, J Thippeswamy, Traffic Chittoor, SV Gopala Krishna, DTC, Nellore, AV Ramana, DCRB, Prakasam, BR Srinivasulu, 5th Bn, APSP, Vizianagaram, M Venkata Ramana SB-II, Tirupati (U), N Naga Raju, SDPO, Ongole, Prakasam, K Tirumala Rao, Disha, Rajahmundry, Y Harinath Reddy, SDPO, Nellore, V Bheema Rao, SDPO, Kakinada, East Godavari, M Venkateswara Rao, SB, East Godavari, M Siva Rami Reddy, SDPO, Kasibugga, Srikakulam, and Ch Vijaya Bhaskara Rao, SDPO, Narasaraopet, Guntur.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Will Kesineni quit TDP?

C PRADEEP KUMAR
■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP Member of Parliament from Vijayawada, Kesineni Srinivas Rao (Nani) is in news again for all the wrong reasons. The news that MP Nani is quitting TDP to join the BJP has become viral on social media platforms and the TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu's photographs that were on the Kesineni Bhavan are also removed ever since the MP met the BJP leaders in Delhi.

However, the MP's supporters and followers at Kesineni Bhavan in Vijayawada strongly condemned the baseless and false news on social media platforms that Nani was quitting TDP.

Speaking to the media, TDP Minorities leader Fatahullah said that all the photographs fixed to Kesineni Bhavan are intact, including the one of TDP president Chandrababu Naidu. He said that a Ratan Tata photograph was added to the existing TDP leaders' photos. Except that, no change was done in the 'bhavan'. Outside and inside of Kesineni Bhavan, the flexies of TDP founder NT Rama Rao and Chandrababu Naidu remain as it is. He said that earlier Ratan Tata trust had done many service activities and other programmes in various villages across the district and the activities are



Now, the question is what Kesineni would do after deserting the TDP. Sources said he, too, is eyeing the BJP like his erstwhile colleagues Sujana Chowdary, CM Ramesh and others. He continues to have good relations with these TDP-turned-BJP leaders.

going to continue in the days to come, he said.

He alleged that time and again a few people are hell bent to spread false propaganda on

MP Nani on social media platforms and he made it clear that the leader will continue to serve the people and will remain in TDP, he added.

On the other hand, it has been known in the political circles that Kesineni Nani has been feeling uncomfortable with TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu ever since the elections to the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC). It is an open secret that Nani has been keeping away from party activities for quite some time. Very recently, he announced that he won't contest the next elections and his daughter Kesineni Swetha, too, would keep away from politics and return to her business.

Now, Nani has gone a step further and gave firm indications that he won't continue in the TDP anymore. He got the photograph of Chandrababu Naidu removed from Kesineni Bhavan. It was replaced by a photograph of him with Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata.

Now, the question is what Kesineni would do after deserting the TDP. Sources said he, too, is eyeing the BJP like his erstwhile colleagues Sujana Chowdary, CM Ramesh and others. He continues to have good relations with these TDP-turned-BJP leaders. Defection of a strong leader like Kesineni to the BJP is definitely a big setback for the TDP, but at the same time, it has a benefit that it would put an end to the group rivalries in the party in Vijayawada.

MP for white paper on power crisis

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP Rajya Sabha MP Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar on Monday expressed concern that the Andhra Pradesh coal crisis was created only after the Jagannmohan Reddy government had stopped making payments to the coal producing companies. Ravindra Kumar said that in order to cover its misdeeds and failures, the government was trying to pass on the blame to the TDP.

Like in many other sectors, the ruling YSRCP created a deep crisis in the power sector only to hold the previous TDP rule for the same. The Jagann regime should come out with a white paper if it had any credibility and courage to face the public.

Addressing a press conference here, the TDP MP accused the government of telling lies that the power consumption had increased in the State. But the fact was that there was 63,311 million units consumption in 2018-'19 as against just 59,911 mu in 2020-'21. Power crisis was created in AP only to help Jagannmohan Reddy and his relatives' benami power companies to sell power to the State at very high cost.

Ravindra Kumar said that the Jagannmohan Reddy government was wrongly saying that thermal power generation



came down due to lack of coal stocks and also supply from the Centre. Whereas, Union Energy Secretary wrote a letter to AP Energy Secretary Nagulapalli Srikanth on September 2 asking the State to pay all dues to coal suppliers and also increase coal stocks.

The TDP MP demanded that the AP government explain why it did not make payments to coal producers despite the Centre's letter. It was only because of AP's deliberate lapses that thermal power generation came to a standstill. Artificial power scarcity was created only to make the State buy power from Sandur Power of which Jagannmohan Reddy's wife Bharati was a director. Jagannmohan Reddy and his relatives' companies were producing over 5,000 MW power. Plans were afoot to increase their profits.

TDP rises against State govt for 'undermining' irrigation projects

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP), at a meeting chaired by party national president N Chandrababu Naidu, on Monday, resolved to intensify its fight against the YSRCP government for 'stalling and undermining' irrigation projects. The TDP slammed the government for sabotaging the Polavaram and rivers interlinking projects for the sake of commissions. The TDP felt that CM Jagannmohan Reddy was planning another lift irrigation project of Rs 1,000 crore within Polavaram, apparently for huge commissions. The Polavaram works were halted and even the hydel project there was buried. Now, the ruling YSRCP was bringing to the fore another lift there as part of a vicious design. The TDP decided to undertake a 'Chalo irrigation projects' programme to highlight the ruling YSRCP's destructive activities. AP was losing its water rights conferred on it by the Bachawat award because of the government's thoughtless policies. All important projects were getting sidelined under the irresponsible regime of YSRCP. All sections of people were getting

stuck in losses and debts while the assets of Jagannmohan Reddy, his relatives and benamis were increasing manifolds. Some TDP leaders referred to the 'unearthing' of black money by the Central agencies from the co-accused persons in CM Jagannmohan Reddy's CBI and ED cases. Heaps of illegal cash were found in Ramky and Hetero premises. All the massive money hoarded by Hetero by selling Remdesivir in black market came to the surface now. Jagannmohan Reddy hid his J-tax collections from mafia syndicate in Hetero. It became evident that the YSRCP leaders were looting public wealth while people were losing lives in calamities like Covid.

Condemning the government's 'unlawful activities', the TDP leaders expressed concern that the AP race was getting destroyed because of drugs and spurious liquor. The ganja and heroin smugglers were right now ruling the roost in the liquor business. Mini plants were set up in Paderu areas to transport liquid ganja in the form of ice creams and chocolates. These were being transported in lorries and buses for supply all over the State.



ISO:9001 for Vizag temple

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Sri Kanakamahalakshmi temple, located in Visakhapatnam One Town, has achieved the ISO:9001 certificate. The certification was issued after assessing the quality of services and other services by the temple management in the vicinity of the temple.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Tourism M Srinivasa Rao said that with the Goddess' blessings, the Visakhapatnam is turning into a metropolitan city. As the number of devotees is increasing the way to the temple will be widened, he said and complimented the staff and officials for their services to the devotees.

Temple Executive Officer S J Madhavi met the minister and explained about services and issues of the temple.



On the occasion, she said that ISO teams have exercised all parameters and issued the certificate.

Bangla ship to be a tourist spot

Talking about the aground Bangladesh ship M V Maa, near Tenneti Park, the Tourism Minister said that there are proposals to develop the ship into a restaurant under public-private-partnership. Experts have examined the ship and clarified that if a cyclone hits the coast, the ship would sink in the sea.

Over 3,000-ton Bangladesh vessel drifted from its anchorage point and ran aground near Tenneti Park in the city in October 2020.

However, the ship was not restored into the waters due to heavy expenditure.

Minor girl feared drowned at sea

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

A 15-year-old girl student is feared drowned in the Bay of Bengal at Appikonda beach on Monday.

According to sources, O Deepika, along with a group of friends, went to the Appikonda and beach in the evening hours. Later, the friends entered the blue waters for a bath.

Caught in the water currents, three girls lost control and shouted for help. Some people on the shore immediately swung into action and rescued two girls and searched for Deepika but in vain. The Duvvada police rushed to the spot and expert swimmers started a rescue operation. Because of the light failure and cloudy weather, the swimmers failed to rescue her.



Durga temple richer by Rs 4.08 cr

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Kanaka Durga temple authorities have revealed that during the Dasara Navaratri celebrations Rs 4.08 crore revenue was generated through various activities from the pilgrims who visited the temple from October 7 to 15. Temple EO D Bramarambha, temple Trust |Board Chairman P Somi Naidu and others on Monday issued a report with particulars of income generated during the nine-day festival through

various activities. The temple authorities said that 5,75,000 pilgrims visited the temple during the Dasara Navaratri festival period and during the past 11 days 15,79,372 'Laddu prasadam' were sold.

On the problems faced by AP fishermen in the sea within the jurisdiction of Odisha, the minister said that his ministry would speak to the Odisha officials to resolve them.

Athawale promises steps for SC status to fisherfolk

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale, has assured the fisherman community that he would lay efforts to accord SC status to the community. The minister on Monday visited the Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour and inspected the facilities at the harbour.

Addressing a meeting, the minister said that the fisherfolk's demand for inclusion in the Scheduled Castes list was genuine.

Vijayanand takes charge as APSRTC Vice-Chairman

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Transport Minister Perni Nani has said that the State government is strengthening the APSRTC and it is serving the passengers even at the grass roots level in the rural areas of the State. He exhorted the new executive body of the APSRTC to develop the RTC and provide better services to the people. Perni Nani was the chief guest for the swearing-in ceremony of MC Vijayanand Reddy as the

Vice-Chairman of the APSRTC in a private function hall near Mangalagiri on Monday. Minister Nani has congratulated Vijayanand Reddy on the occasion. He said the YSRCP government would recognize the services of good people and good leaders and suitably rewarded them with good posts.

Deputy Chief Minister Narayana Swamy has hoped the vice-chairman Vijayanand Reddy would run the APSRTC in profits. He said the vice-

chairman is a talented and able person. Endowments Minister Velampalli Srinivas said the state government is trying to make the RTC into profits. He congratulated Vijayanand Reddy on assuming the charge. TTD chairman Y V Subbareddy, MP Mopidevi Venkata Ramana, RTC Satavahana region chairperson Tatineni Padmavathi, YSRCP leaders and others attended the swearing-in ceremony programme.



Ruling YSRCP MP from Amalapuram, Anuradha Chinta, inaugurated the Waterbase Shrimp World, an exclusive outlet at Amalapuram on Monday. MLA Satish Ponnada, Municipal Chairperson Reddy Satya Nagendra Mani and others were present on the occasion.

Covid call centre receives record 6 lakh calls

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The '104' Covid call centre has achieved a new milestone and has crossed 6 lakh incoming calls ever since it was started

in April 2021. The 1centre has also made 11.91 lakh outgoing Tele-Consultation calls by doctors. No other State across the country has done this at this massive scale and Andhra Pradesh is the only State to have set this record according to the statement released by the State Medical & Health and family welfare department on Monday.

YSRCP will win Badvel by-poll

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Deputy Chief Minister Amrith Basha has said YSRCP will win Badvel by-poll with a huge majority like all the earlier polls, as it was clear that people are in support of YSRCP after witnessing the good governance in the last 27 months. Speaking to the media on Monday, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the opposition Congress and BJP do not have any moral right to seek the votes, as all those party leaders have abandoned the state post bifurcation and failed to keep their promises made.

He said that only YSRCP deserves people's votes, as Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan

Reddy had fulfilled over 95 per cent of the election manifesto by implementing various welfare schemes benefiting all sections of the society.

On the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister slammed BJP State Chief Somu Veerajou over his false propaganda against the government and said that the latter was speaking without any knowledge or awareness of the Rayalaseema region.

He said Badvel constituency was developed during Dr YS Raja Shekar Reddy term, who completed the Brahman Sagar project and gave water to Badvel. He stated that BJP leaders should be responsible towards the completion of Polavaram project.

Sirimanotsavam begins with fervour

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Annual festival Sri Pydithalli Ammavari Sirimanotsavam began at Vizianagaram on Monday. The three-day festival kicked off with the inaugural ritual of Tollella Utsavam, which was attended by Vizianagaram Raja's family. P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju and family offered silk cloths to the goddess. Raju and family, as per the tradition, completed the rituals.

A procession from Durgamma Temple to Sri Pydithalli Ammavari Temple was led by Ashok Gajapathi Raju and family along with the silk cloths and other traditional offerings to the goddess. The Tollela Utsavam is celebrated on the first day seeking the goddess's blessings.

Earlier, Vizianagaram Collector A. Surya Kumari reviewed the arrangements made for the temple festival. After having darshan, the Collector, speaking to the media, said that all the arrangements were made following the Covid-19 guidelines. Sanitisers were kept near queues and the organisers are not allowing devotees without face masks to enter the temple premises, she added.

Thousands of devotees, elected representatives and officials had darshan of the deity,



Collector flags off vehicles to create pest awareness

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Collector Vivek Yadav has directed the Agriculture department's officials to create awareness among the cotton farmers on the eradication of cotton crop pest, pink bollworm.

The Collector flagged off the campaign vehicles to create awareness among the cotton farmers on taking steps to eradicate the dreaded cotton crop pest, the pink bollworm here on Monday. Talking to the media on the occasion, the Collector said that Guntur is one of the districts where cotton crop is raised hugely. The farmers should be sensitized on taking steps to check the cotton pest, the pink bollworm.

He said that the farmers should be sensitized on how to protect the cotton crop from the pink bollworm. He asked the agriculture officials to take steps to create awareness among cotton farmers at villages through the campaign vehicles. The Collector

asked the cotton farmers to take advice from the agriculture officials to protect their cotton crop from pink pests. Joint Collector (Rythu Bharosa-Revenue) A S Dinesh Kumar and agriculture department Joint Director Vijaya Bharati were among who were present.

Meanwhile, the Collector took part in the dial your Collector and Spandana programme held here on Monday and received grievances from the people. The officials received 244 grievances in the Spandana programme and 8 in the dial your Collector programme.

The Collector directed the officials to take steps to resolve the grievances at the earliest. He asked the officials to hold a meeting with nodal officers of respective departments every 15 days to resolve the grievances. Joint Collector A S Dinesh Kumar directed the officials to take steps to ensure that all 100 per cent biometric attendance in secretariats.



Quack kills woman for resisting rape, lynched

PNS ■ ONGOLE

In an appalling incident, a quack killed a woman when she resisted his molestation attempt and later, a furious mob lynched him at Kamapalli village in Jarugumilli mandal on the night of Sunday.

Police said on Monday that the deceased Tanniru Obishetti alias Obaiah was popular as a quack in the village. The deceased woman, Vonkayalapati Vijayalakshmi alias Vijay, was suffering from knee pain. The quack invited Vijayalakshmi to his house to give her medicines. When she went to his house, Obaiah tried to rape her which she vehemently resisted.

Irrked by her resistance, he tied her hands and legs and slit her throat. The neighbours heard her screams, but they thought that she was screaming with pain while being treated. The incident took place around 6 pm and the body remained in the house



until 8 pm. After that, the neighbours got suspicious of his actions and informed the police. SI Rajia Sultana rushed to the village and took Obishetti into custody.

Meanwhile, the husband, son and relatives of

Vijayalakshmi, along with villagers, rushed to the house and found her in a pool of blood. The furious villagers lynched Obishetti by hitting him with sticks. He died instantly. When the SI tried to prevent the mob, they also

attacked her causing her to faint.

The villagers suspected that Obishetti might have molested her. Singarayakoda CI Lakshman, and SIs Sampat Kumar, Nayab Rasul and U Rambabu along with police personnel rushed to the village and brought the situation under control.

DSP Kante Srinivasa Rao and Nagaraju also rushed to the village and collected clues and information about the incidents.

Villagers told the media that they suspected that Obeshetti performed Kyudrapujas at the place where Vijayalakshmi's body was lying.

They alleged that Obishetti was also an exorcist and used to practise conjuring. The police also collected information on who attacked Obheshetti. Meanwhile, the brutal murder of Vijayalakshmi and lynching of the quack has spread panic in the surrounding villages.

2 'panchaloha' idols recovered, six arrested

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The police arrested six persons as they were trying to sell two panchaloha (five-metal) idols. They recovered two broken idols of Hindu deities from the accused.

The Superintendent of Police said that the two idols, weighing 4 kg, cost around Rs.10 lakh. Last year, one of the accused, V Sundara Rao, found a cloth bag when he was tilling agricultural land with a tractor at Kammavaripalli in Kanigiri mandal. He opened it and found two idols of Hindu gods. He kept them in his house with the intention of selling them later. He contacted a relative of his, Shyam, asking for help to sell the idols. The duo, along with J Chittibabu, R Navin, R Venkata Rao and Bezawada Srinivasa Reddy, approached a pawnbroker called Ravi. However, the pawnbroker refused to buy the idols.

While they were trying to sell the idols to another person at Koretipadu centre, the police found them and arrested them.

SP asks officials to resolve Spandana grievances fast

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Superintendent of Police Malika Garg has directed the police officials to take steps to resolve the grievances of the public received during the Spandana programme at the earliest.

The SP held the Spandana programme at the District Police Office on Monday and directly received complaints. As many as 96 complaints were received during the programme on Monday. People from across the district came here with their complaints and submitted them in written format.

The SP directed the police officials concerned to respond positively to the grievances and ensure that all the complaints are investigated as per law and resolved expeditiously. Officers were also ordered to submit a report on the action taken on the Spandana complaints.

Speaking on the occasion, the SP informed that people could also lodge Spandana complaints at their nearest police stations, circle offices



SP directed the police officials concerned to respond positively to the grievances and ensure that all the complaints are investigated as per law and resolved expeditiously. Officers were also ordered to submit a report on the action taken on the Spandana complaints.

and SDPO offices and assured that she would also look into the complaints directly. She said that the problems would be resolved within the stipulated time; so the public should make use of the opportunity. They don't have to come to the district headquarters.

OSD K.Chowdeshwari, DSPs B. Mariyadasu, N.Suresh babu, P.Mallikarjuna Rao, SB-II Inspector N.Srikanth Babu, Panel Advocate BV Siva Ramakrishna, Spandana SIs and other staff attended the event.

Collector unhappy over VROs' performance

PNS ■ ONGOLE

District Collector Pravin Kumar has expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of VROs and directed them to work at the ground level in their jurisdictions to understand the problems directly. The Collector, on Monday, convened a meeting with mandal-level officers virtually and reviewed the development programmes, implementation of welfare schemes and other issues.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the VROs were not working up to the mark. They failed to resolve the grievances of people though they approached the officials many times. "We should not forget that we are

the servants of the public. All should allot time to resolve the grievances which were received in the Spandana programme," he said.

Taking the indifference of some MROs seriously, the Collector asked them whether they did not like to work in the district. He asked the MROs whether the VROs not visiting the areas in their jurisdiction was the reason for grievances remaining unsolved. He instructed the officials to resolve the grievances in the prescribed time.

MROs and VROs should give priority to the applications seeking ration cards and pensions, and resolve them at the earliest. The Collector asked them to set up 104 call centres in every mandal kendra affili-



ated to the Covid control room.

The Collector asked Joint Collector J Venkata Murali to take steps to incorporate the construction of government buildings into the Land Exchange Policy and submit a report in this regard. Pravin

Kumar directed the officials to make arrangements to conduct Revenue Spandana programme on October 21 and 22 in 1,058 village and ward secretariats. The Collector instructed the officials to take stringent action against those who sold DAP fertilisers in black market.

He asked the officials to encourage the beneficiaries to expedite the construction of houses in the Jagananna colonies. Joint Collector K S Viswanathan (Housing) informed the Collector that at present, the construction of 24,000 houses had begun while that of 5000 houses had reached the foundation level. Joint Collector K Krishnaveni (Aasara, Welfare), DRO S Saralavandanam, ZP CEO Devanad Reddy, Housing PD

Sainath Kumar and DWAM PD Sina Reddy were among those who were present.

Meanwhile, Collector Pravin Kumar took part in the Spandana programme held in the Prakasham conference hall on Monday. He received grievances from the people. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector directed the officials concerned to take steps to resolve the grievances.

Later, the Collector handed over appointment letters to nine persons who are relatives of deceased government employees on compassionate grounds. The Collector asked the officials to submit the details of those who died while in service and those who want to take voluntary retirement for health reasons.

Four burglars arrested, gold jewellery recovered

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The police have arrested four burglars and recovered gold jewellery worth Rs 15 lakh from them. SP Arif Hafeez told the media here on Monday that the four accused committed burglary at the house of Jonna Dinesh, a software engineer, at Undavalli village on October 2. The SP gave the names of the arrested burglars as K Veera Nagaraju, Gunja Venkanna, Balineni Krishna Reddy and Palukuri Narayana. On Sunday, the police found the fourth accused, P Narayana, at Prakasham barage with a bag containing the



gold jewellery and arrested him. The gang committed two such crimes in Prakasham district, two more at Tadepalli in Guntur district and one burglary in Miryalaguda in Telangana state. The accused

also stole a motorcycle from Tadepalli. The SP appreciated DSP J Rambabu, CI P Shesagiri Rao and the IT Core Team who provided valuable clues and information leading to the arrest of the burglars.

KCR welcomes 'friend' Mothkupalli into TRS fold

ML MELLY MAITREYI
■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

"Mothkupalli is a very close to me and we worked together for several years. In the past, the people of Telangana endured many hardships for electricity and drinking and irrigation facilities. Mothkupalli who worked as Energy Minister was aware of those hardships. He later extended his services as Social Welfare Minister," KCR recalled.

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

Stating that politics for TRS is a mission and for others a game, KCR said that he started the Telangana movement as he believed that statehood



alone would be a solution to the problems of the people in the region.

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

KCR said long-standing problems of Telangana were being addressed one by one and suicide by farmers and handloom weavers was on the decline. "There is much more to be done in the future. The living standards of the poorest of the poor have to be improved. Looking at the pro-poor policies of TRS government, some people in border areas in neighbouring States were seeking their merger in Telangana," he said.

Appreciating Mothkupalli for attending the brainstorming session on Dalit Bandhu, he said government introduced Dalit Bandhu as a prestigious programme and it would never be abandoned.

Ministers Mahmood Ali, Jagadish Reddy, Srinivas Goud, Whip G Suitha, MP Lingaiah Yadav, former Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhendia Reddy and MLAs were present on the occasion.

YSR Aasara 2nd tranche disbursed

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Minister for Education Adimulapu Suresh said that the Yerragondapalem-Pullalacheruvu road would be developed as a two-lane highway.

The minister participated in the disbursement of benefits under the second tranche of YSR Aasara scheme at Pullalacheruvu village on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that steps were taken to complete the construction of Stree Shakti bhavan building at the earliest. The building is being constructed in the MPDO office.



The minister said that proposals were formulated to provide irrigation water to 11,525 acres in six panchayats by digging a Kandalelru link canal to the Teegalelru canal. The project would be taken up at a cost of Rs.83 crore, he informed,

adding that he would ensure that the Chief Minister approved the project.

The minister reiterated that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is committed to the uplift of women and make them financially self-reliant.

Daughter, lover murder woman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

The accused identified as Nandini, 22, and Chotu, 25, were in relationship for a long time. Nandini used to work in a shopping mall as a salesgirl and Chotu used to work as a delivery man at an Indane LPG dealer's shop. Both had decided to marry and they had informed their parents. But

Yadamma, the mother of Nandini, did not accept the proposal. This created a rift between mother and daughter. Nandini and Chotu started an argument with the mother on Monday at her home at Chintalmet in Rajendranagar. After heated arguments, frustrated Nandini pressed her mother's neck and strangled her to death.

Their relatives staying nearby informed the police immediately.

Unidentified body found on riverbed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

local residents.

On receiving information, the Uppal police shifted the body to the hospital for autopsy.

A CLUES team has examined the spot.

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

Naidu draws plans to catapult Lokesh to power

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

Former chief minister and Telugu Desam Party supremo N Chandrababu Naidu is burning the midnight oil to fine-tune a strategy that he hopes would remove all hurdles for the political future of his son Nara Lokesh.

Naidu is confident that the TDP will return to power in Andhra Pradesh in the next Assembly elections and he is also confident of a political alliance with the Jana Sena and the Left parties.

It's clear that Naidu's main objective is that there should be no contenders for the top post - the Chief Minister - within the TDP as well as among the allies. If there are no contenders for the top post, the TINA

(There Is No Alternative) factor will ensure the coronation of Lokesh, believes Naidu.

In fact, the TDP supremo has been trying to promote Lokesh from the 2014 Assembly elections itself, but has met little success in his attempts. In fact, in the 2019 Assembly elections, Lokesh even failed to win from the Mangalagiri Assembly constituency.

The TDP MLA has never been able to make a mark in politics as desired by Naidu due to various reasons. Like Naidu, his son too is no orator, but the TDP supremo has developed his own style when speaking in public. On the other hand, Lokesh has allowed himself to become a laughing stock by virtue of several 'foot-in-the-mouth' comments in public. Perhaps realising that Lokesh



would never be able to speak his way to the top post, Naidu is planning to send all the senior party leaders to the Lok Sabha.

In this list of seniors are leaders like former ministers Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Devineni Uma, Paritala Sunitha,

Kalva Srinivasulu, Nimmakayala Chinna Rajappa and others.

It can be expected that family members of some of these leaders will be given Assembly tickets if necessary. This would go a long way in removing hurdles in the path of Lokesh from

within the TDP.

However, the main hurdle for not only Lokesh but also for Naidu is in the form of Pawan Kalyan, especially if the TDP and Jana Sena end up agreeing to a political alliance.

In the next Assembly elections, Pawan Kalyan would be a strong contender for the Chief Minister's post. In fact, he would remain a major hurdle for Lokesh as long as either one is politically active. To avoid this problem, Naidu plans to convince Pawan Kalyan to contest for the Lok Sabha instead of for the AP Assembly.

This Naidu would do by convincing Pawan Kalyan that he stands a good chance of becoming a Union Minister, especially in the event of a hung Lok Sabha.

The TDP supremo believes

that in the present political scenario, there is no chance of the BJP-led NDA or the Congress-led UPA getting a clear majority to form the government at the Centre.

If Pawan Kalyan does indeed contest for the Lok Sabha with an eye on the national political stage, a major hurdle in the path of Lokesh will be removed, Naidu hopes. However, Pawan Kalyan, who is determined to become the Chief Minister, may not be that easy to convince. It would take all of Naidu's experience, guile and tenacity to convince the Jana Sena chief.

In case the TDP does not come to power in AP in the next Assembly elections, the future of the party and also Lokesh will be shrouded in darkness.

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

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



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

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



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

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



RAIL ROKO

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI / CHANDIGARH/JAIPUR

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

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

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

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

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



Express trains by staging a dharna on rail tracks.

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

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

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

the wake of the protest.

Farmers sat on rail tracks in several sections, including the Ferozepur-Fazilka section in Ferozepur city and the Ferozepur-Ludhiana section at Ajitwal in Moga, officials said.

In Rajasthan, farmers held a protest on the tracks in Hanu-mangarh district and raised slogans against the Central and the Uttar Pradesh governments. In the state capital, members of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha staged a protest at the entrance of the Jaipur Junction station.

State joint secretary of SKM Sanjay Madhav said, "We have not been allowed to enter the Jaipur junction so we have started the dharna at the entrance." The trains that have been affected in the Northern Railway zone include the Chandigarh-Ferozepur Express. Its scheduled departure from Ludhiana was 7 am, but has been stranded there due to a blockade in the Ferozepur-Ludhiana section, its chief public relation officer said.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

But the BJP government has hiked the prices of petrol and diesel so much that now it has become difficult for those wearing hawai chappals' and the middle class to travel even by road." She used the hashtag 'BJP lai mehenge din (BJP has brought expensive days)' with her tweet.

The Congress, from its official Twitter handle, alleged that

Bangladesh vows to maintain harmony

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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

The minister asserted that Bangladesh would not let the

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

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

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

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

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

SC asked to probe NCB

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



IIT-M designs white light emitters for LED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Low pressure to bring heavy rain in Odisha, predicts IMD

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

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

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

kmph is likely over north Bay of Bengal.

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Revival effort

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

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



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

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

PICTALK



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

Flood and fury

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

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



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

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

How the Partition helped India

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

In any case, in an undivided

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE WALL'S SECOND INNINGS

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

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

RUSSIAN FILMMAKERS TAKE IT TO SPACE

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

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

Life in Kerala goes under



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

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

BEHIND THE GLAMOUR OF SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

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

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

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



Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi



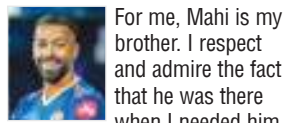
Israel should stop all its measures against our people in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian President — Mahmoud Abbas

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



Actor — Ayushmann Khurrana



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

Indian all-rounder — Hardik Pandya

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



Spiritual leader — Dalai Lama

FIRST COLUMN

INFLATION AND THE GATI SHAKTI PLAN

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



SHIVAJI SARKAR

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



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

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

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

The Air India sale : Better late than never



UTTAM GUPTA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

Fourth, PSUs are often pushed

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

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

To conclude, persistent neglect

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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

Polexit? The Poles wouldn't want that

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

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

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

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



GWYNNE DYER

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

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

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

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



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

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

improving its chances in future elections.

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

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

the judges.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

Bank and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards, slipping up to 2.36 per cent.

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

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

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

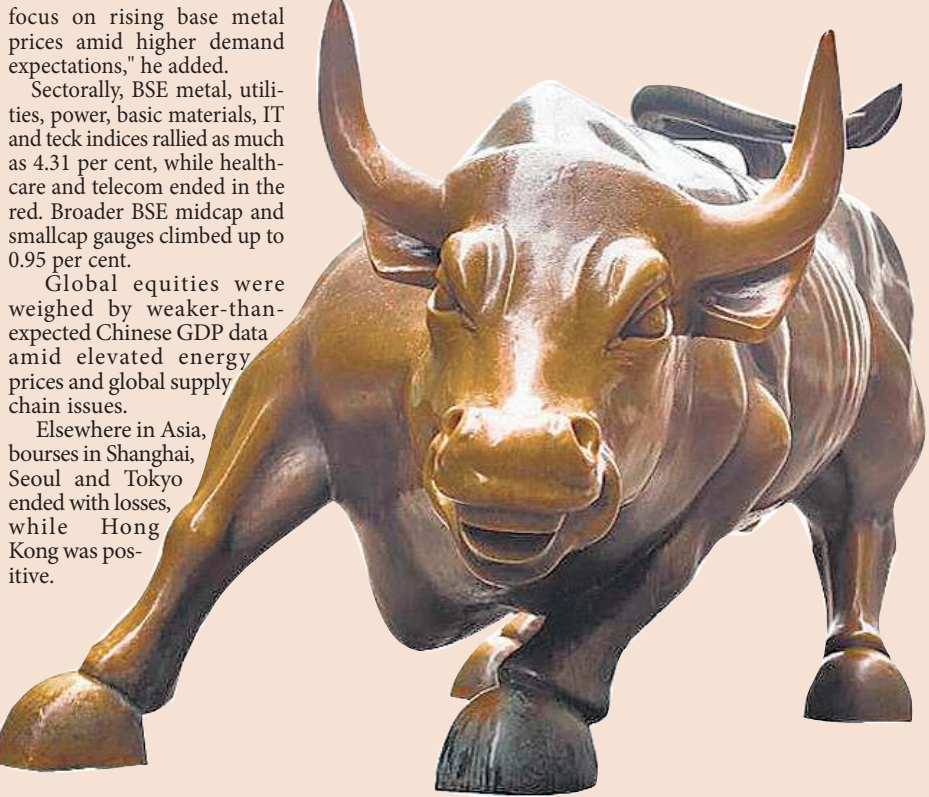
"On the sectoral front, shares of metal companies were in

focus on rising base metal prices amid higher demand expectations," he added.

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

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

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



MONEY MATTERS

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

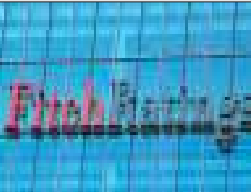
Exports of tea from India registered a fall of around 14.4 per cent in the first seven months of 2021 as compared to the same period last year. Total exports of the beverage during January to July of 2021 was 100.78 million kilograms as against 117.56 million kilograms in the same period of 2020, according to Tea Board data.



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

Changes for RPT to boost corporate governance: Fitch

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



Investors faced problem selling stocks due to 'CDSL issue'

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



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

Rupee drops by 9 paise to 75 a \$ on high crude oil prices

The rupee ended 9 paise lower at 75.35 against the US dollar on Monday, tracking a stronger greenback against key rivals overseas and rising global crude oil prices. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened on a steady note and later traded in a narrow range of 75.24 to 75.38 against the American currency. On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 75.26 against the US dollar. The forex market was closed on Friday for 'Dussehra' holiday. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up 0.19 per cent at 94.12. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.11 per cent to USD 85.80 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex surged 459.59 points or 0.75 per cent to end at 61,765.59; while the broader NSE Nifty jumped 138.50 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 18,477.05. Foreign institutional investors remained net buyers in the capital market on Thursday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,681.60 crore, as per exchange data.



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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

GPT Healthcare files draft papers with Sebi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



firm BanyanTree Growth Capital II LLC.

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

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

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

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

Kolkata-based Healthcare

Delhi, TN lead country's transition to electric cooking with 17% adoption

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The study found that in



Delhi and Tamil Nadu, 17 per cent of households have adopted some form of electric cooking; while in Telangana, the rate of adoption stood at 15 per cent.

In Kerala and Assam, 12 per cent of households have

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

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

India, Israel agree to resume negotiations on FTA from next month

PNS ■ JERUSALEM

India and Israel on Monday agreed to resume negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) from next month as the two sides are confident to conclude the long pending deal by June next year.

"It will be concluded by June of next year," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced after he met Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid.

Israel has also joined the International Solar Alliance, a global initiative that India has spearheaded, with Jaishankar and Israel's Energy Minister Karine Elharrar signing on the agreement.

In order to ease travel between the two countries amidst the COVID pandemic, India and Israel have also agreed to mutually recognise vaccination certificates.

Jaishankar, who arrived here on Sunday on his maiden visit to the country, would also call on President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.



partially switched to eCooking, it stated.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

through the initial public offerings.

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

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

'Need to keep supply chains open for vax raw materials'

PNS ■ NEW YORK

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

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

Sitharaman highlighted the need of an international financial architecture to fight the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe and supported the need of new financial instruments to focus and press forward green initiatives.

She underlined the need for

the World Health Organisation (WHO) to be strengthened for a more effective response to new challenges.

The minister stressed on the need to keep open supply chains for vaccine raw materials, the ministry said.

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

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

Global solar sector sees 190% jump in corporate funding

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



period of 2020, the global clean energy communications and consulting firm said.

Mercom Capital Group CEO

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

financing since 2010. As the push toward the energy transition picks up speed worldwide, solar is benefitting enormously."

Prabhu added that solar project acquisitions in the first nine months of 2021 have already surpassed all of 2020.

The global solar sector brought in USD 2.2 billion in VC funding in 39 deals, registering a rise of 466 per cent compared to USD 394 million in 29 deals during January-September 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reality bites: Economic anxieties, work-life focus key to K-drama popularity

At first glance, the appeal of Korean dramas may lie primarily in never-before-seen locations with good-looking actors giving life to gentle romances and taut thrillers. But the addictive K-drama pill encases a centre of sobering reality that of job insecurities and unconventional careers in a world of economic disparities.

Given that the popularity of Korean shows peaked during the long months of the pandemic, when many businesses big and small folded up or trimmed operations and many thousands lost their jobs, it is this mirroring of everyday realities that seems to have really hit home.

Bengaluru-based data insight specialist Vaishnavi said the practice of part-time jobs, for instance, shown in many shows reflects the "widening gap" between the rich and poor.

"It's the same even in our country. Also, the way we have entrance exams and too many people vying for the same job. How cut-throat all this is," the avid watcher of Korean shows told a news agency while explaining why she is so drawn to them.

Instead of old family money, the dramas, which show the way to unconventional jobs and also cast a light on everyday difficulties, are now focusing on hardworking people who don't inherit companies but rise through the ranks.

"This is temporary, right?" the ambitious dentist from Seoul, played by Shin Min-a, asks in the popular show *Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha* that ended on Sunday night, echoing as it were the bewilderment of an entire generation.

She is asking the question of an odd-jobs expert and graduate of Seoul National University, played by Kim Seon-ho, who



insists on earning by the minimum wage rate.

Much to her dismay, he doesn't plan to do anything more stable as he has come to respect money that has been earned through hard labour.

In *Squid Game*, the blockbuster hit from Netflix inspired by the children's game in Korea, 456 desperate contestants compete for a 45.6 billion Won (approx USD 38 million) prize money in a *Hunger Games* like survival competition.

The show, with its themes of class inequality, debt, desperation and raw greed, seems to have touched a chord among viewers already reeling from the pandemic-led economic divide that has resulted in many losing their jobs and small businesses getting ruined.

Life in South Korea, especially in the capital Seoul, is very expensive, said Shruti Jagard, a student of China Studies from Peking University, Beijing.

That's why, she said, unemployed people are working many part-time jobs, called 'arabait' in Korean, even in dramas.

"There has been a rise in individualism in the last 40 years. Once that happens, people want to move out of their parents' house and achieve financial independence. There is also a rise of the middle class who

already don't have a lot of family money to pass on to the next generation," the Jaipur-based Jagard told a news agency.

Saipriya, also a student, said many dramas show that people take up part-time jobs in coffee shops and eating joints to pay their school fees or support their family.

"They also do part-time work to earn some extra cash for expenses and to pursue their field of interest. It teaches us the importance of financial independence from a young age," she said.

K-dramas, which find new addicts everyday, also challenge gender stereotypes. A man is shown as a professional caregiver in *It's Okay Not To Be Okay*, the International Emmy nominated series, and *Navillera* has two men — a 70-year-old and a 23-year-old — doing ballet.

"I don't think we have seen a Korean show specifically on men who are ballet dancers or who want to pursue this form of dance," Jagard said.

A global leader in information technology, South Korea is a market that takes to trends like fish to water and when the new wave of feminism surfaced in the 2010s, the country's patriarchal and conservative society started opening its doors to progressiveness, she argued.

This has also resulted in a transformation of the portrayal of the working woman on screen — from the feisty poor woman getting help from her rich love interest in *Coffee Prince* (2007) and an understated efficient worker battling sexism in *Misaeng* (2014) to calling out abuse at work in *Something in the Rain* (2018) and the trial and tribulations of women in a search engine company in *Search: WWW* (2019).

Korean series tend to move with the times even as they take creative liberties to create drama.

So, there is increasingly more emphasis on different professions, not just medicine, law and management.

"They also motivate us to choose our passion over society's expectations. When we see the characters chase their dreams, it gives us the courage to do the same," said Saipriya.

The *Family Man* star Priyamani, also a K-drama fan, said different roles bring variety to the actor playing the character.

"It's a good thing they are tapping into the different aspects of a character given the love story or the main premise of the show. There are other sides to the role than just being the romantic interest," she told PTI.

According to Vaishnavi,

Pooja Bedi tests Covid+ after 'choosing' to stay unvaccinated

Actress Pooja Bedi tested positive for Coronavirus and has shared a video expressing hopes that her "natural immunity" will help her recover.

Pooja Bedi, who had been vocal about her "choice" of not taking the coronavirus vaccine, has informed fans that her fiancé and house help have also tested positive for the virus.

"I know I have been vocal about not taking the vaccine. For me, it was a choice that I took. I know that my immunity will naturally rise up and I want to rely on my natural immunity. Each one of you, go make your own choices, this is my chronicled journey," Pooja Bedi has said.

In a video that she posted online on Sunday, Pooja said, "Hello everyone! I have been wondering why I have not got the coronavirus till now. It is so infectious and everyone, at some point is going to get it. Well, voila! Seems that I have now caught it. I have tested positive."

She then went on to reveal that she had been cleaning her cupboards and believed it was her dust allergy. However, when it worsened, she went for the test and tested positive for Covid-19. "It is quite the virus that kind of knocks you out, I have been passing out a lot."

Assuring her fans that she is taking all the required precautions, Pooja Bedi added, "We must know that 99% of people who caught coronavirus before the vaccines came out, have survived. And, 99% post the vaccination have also survived. We need caution, not panic. The fact is, we have tools and aids on our side."

Pooja also said that she is taking fresh fruits, steam inhalations, etc.

Sharing the video, Pooja wrote on Instagram, "COVID POSITIVE!!!! I have finally been diagnosed as covid positive. I chose/choose to stay unvaccinated as its my personal decision to allow my own natural immunity and alternative healing and wellness practices to accelerate my healing. You do what's right for you. Each to their own Caution. not panic."



Kourtney Kardashian, Travis Barker are engaged






band and Talentless founder Scott Disick.

Travis, 45, shares two children Landon (18) and Alabama (17) with former wife and actor Shanna Moakler.





The couple sparked romance rumours back in December 2020 and made their relationship Instagram official in February.

FUN

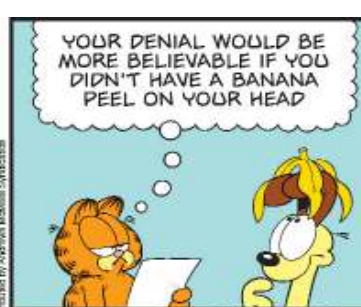


ARCHIE



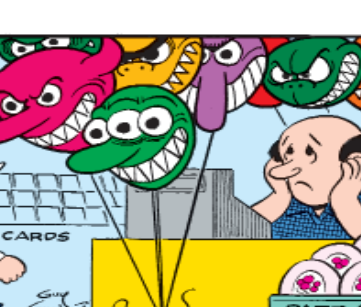


CALVIN AND HOBBS





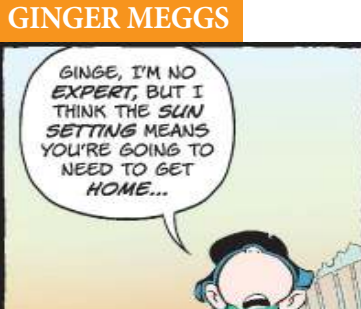
GARFIELD



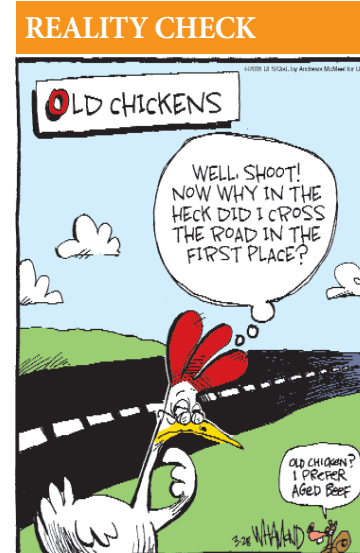
NANCY




GINGER MEGGS



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8		9		10
			11	
			12	
13				
14		15	16	17
18				
19				

SUDOKU

			5				9	
	5	3			7	8		
7	8		4					
3				9		2		
	7	2				3	8	
1		3						4
					1		3	5
		5	8			4	1	
2			3					

Yesterday's solution

3	4	7	6	8	9	1	5	2
8	1	2	3	5	7	4	6	9
6	9	5	4	1	2	3	8	7
2	7	9	5	3	4	8	1	6
4	5	8	9	6	1	7	2	3
1	6	3	7	2	8	5	9	4
5	3	1	2	4	6	9	7	8
7	2	4	8	9	5	6	3	1
9	8	6	1	7	3	2	4	5

ACROSS

6 A team game

8 Foe

10 A bamboo-eating animal

13 Measure temperatures with this

14 Player of bagpipes

17 Stairs

19 Book of word meanings

9 A radio code that uses dots and dashes

11 Wide awake and ready for anything

12 An animal kept for milk

15 Choose

16 Spoil completely

17 Gritty stuff on a beach

18 Your hearing organs

DOWN

1 Not in danger

2 All right, but not especially good

3 Halt

4 A sign of tiredness

5 A big sea bird

7 A many-legged creature

SOLUTION

B	U	C	K	L	E	C	L	U	E
E	A	J	O	L					
S	O	C	K	M	A	R	B	L	E
T	T	F	I	R	I	O	N	E	
A	S	M	A	B	N				
U	L	I	B	R	A				
T	K	L	Y	O	L				
H	A	N	G	A	R	K	N	E	E
O	O	R	Z						
R	O	T	S						



A HAPPENING HYGGE HOME

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

Nature as a part of decor

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

The Hygge lifestyle

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

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

Out-of-the-world character

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

Creative abundance

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Create a routine

This is the first stage of ayurvedic living. At each

HOLISTIC LIVING



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

feelings of loneliness and boredom.

Stay active

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

Along with a healthy body, a

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

Eat well

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

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

Explore ayurvedic therapies

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

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

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

Make your social media platform AESTHETICALLY APPEALLING

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

Draw inspiration

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

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

Create content

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

Produce and post

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

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

Set the timeline

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

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



How social media turned a virtual stadium for IPL fans

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Will bat at No. 3, KL to open with Rohit: Kohli

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli on Monday said he will bat at number three instead of opening the innings in the ICC T20 World Cup with KL Rahul having sealed the second opener's slot alongside Rohit Sharma.

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

"Things were different before IPL, now it's difficult to look beyond KL Rahul at the top of the order. Rohit is a no-brainer. World-class player, he's been solid up front. I will be batting at 3. That's the only news I can give to start off," Kohli said at the toss before the warm-up game against England.

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

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

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

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

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

While the IPL has been



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

"We have had success in the past. So we want to create that same energy, fielding is the best place to start I reckon when eleven guys are together. The IPL is right up there in terms of level and competitiveness, but this is

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

It all boils down to adaptability, said Kohli.

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

T20 WC biggest challenge: Hardik

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

Speaking of Dhoni, a fiercely private person whose life outside cricket is as enigmatic as his persona on the field, Pandya said the two-time World Cup-winning captain is someone he turns to in times of adversity, turmoil and even to understand his own mind.

"MS was someone who understood me from the start: how I function, what kind of a person I am, what are the things I don't like, everything," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

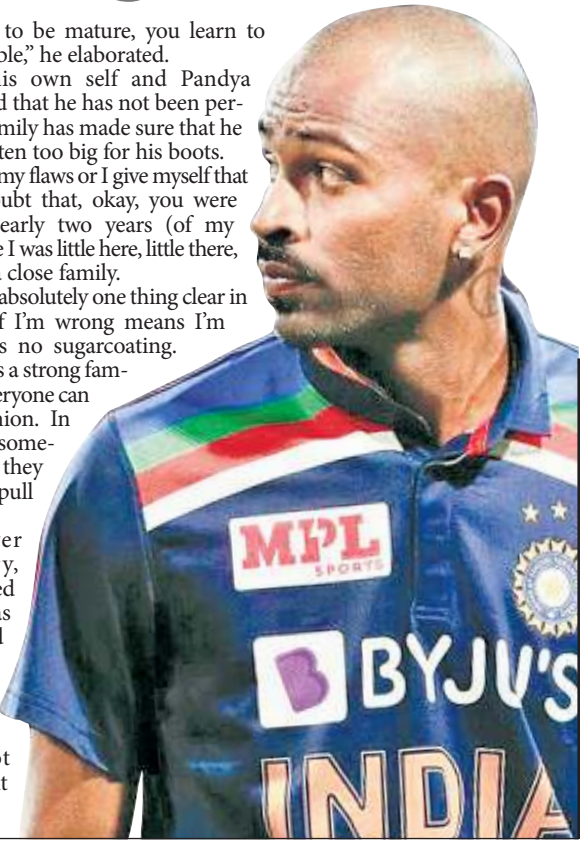
ly, you learn to be mature, you learn to become humble," he elaborated.

On to his own self and Pandya acknowledged that he has not been perfect but his family has made sure that he has never gotten too big for his boots.

"I accept my flaws or I give myself that benefit of doubt that, okay, you were young. The early two years (of my career), maybe I was little here, little there, but we were a close family.

"There is absolutely one thing clear in our family: if I'm wrong means I'm wrong; there's no sugarcoating. That makes us a strong family because everyone can have an opinion. In our family if someone is flying, they make sure to pull them down."

A lower back injury, which required a surgery, has all but ended Pandya's chances of playing Test cricket but he does not worry about it too much.



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

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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



"comfortable level". Raja recently attended the ACC meet in Dubai where he discussed the

modalities of Asia Cup and also had a meeting with BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and sec-

retary Jay Shah.

India-Pak bilateral cricket

On his meeting with the BCCI officials, Raja said: "A lot of work needs to be done to revitalise Pakistan-India cricket but there needs to be some comfortable level between the two boards and then we can see how far we can go. So overall, we had a good discussion."

"I met with BCCI President Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah on the sidelines of the ACC meetings. We need to create a cricketing bond, while I have also believed that politics

should stay away from sport as much as possible and this has always been our stance," he reiterated.

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

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

Ireland beat Netherlands by 7 wickets

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

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

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

Ireland chased down the target with as many as 29 balls to spare at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

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

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

Ackermann was out caught behind on review, having played an



attempted pull off a shortish ball that seemed to be going down leg.

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

Edwards too fell lbw as DRS (decision review system) tracked the ball hitting the leg stump.

For his final wicket, van der

Merwe played on to his stumps a wishid delivery, leaving the Irish camp in a state of frenzy.

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

During his 51-ball knock, O'Dowd hit seven boundaries.

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

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

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

Barcelona rallies to beat Valencia 3-1

AP ■ MADRID

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

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

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

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

"We've always said we need players like him," said Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman, who was back on the bench after a suspension of two league matches following a red



card for complaining.

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

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

Barcelona has begun a three-game home stint that Koeman called key to getting

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

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

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

The loss extended Valencia's winless streak to five matches. It dropped to ninth place in the league.

Sindhu eyes good outing on return to action

PTI ■ ODENSE

Double Olympic medallist and reigning world champion P V Sindhu will look for a good outing as she returns to competitive action after a break, at the Denmark Open World Tour Super 1000 tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

Sindhu, a bronze medallist at the Tokyo Olympics, had taken a break due to the hectic schedule during the Games, but she would be itching to make a winning return to the USD 850,000 event, which will also restart the BWF World Tour following a suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also in action will be London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal, who has recovered from her groin injury, which had forced her to retire midway through her first match at the Uber Cup Final last week.

While Sindhu, seeded fourth, will look for a rampaging start when she opens against Turkey's Neslihan Yigit, Saina will have to work hard to get past Japan's Aya Ogori in her opening round.

Sindhu, the 2016 Rio Games silver medallist, is likely to cross swords with Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan in the second round and a win there could put her face to face with fifth seed Korean An Seyoung.

All eyes will also be on



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

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

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

paign opener.

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

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

SINGLES

RAHANE TO LEAD MUMBAI

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

WRESTLER VINESH PHOGAT MEETS PM

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

WORLD ESPORTS CUP TO FEATURE GAMERS

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

MARY KOM TO SKID NATIONALS

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

BHAVANI'S WIN IN FRANCE

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





SHYAM SINGHA ROY COMING TO THEATRES FOR CHRISTMAS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



#NBK107: Double bonanza for Balayya fans?

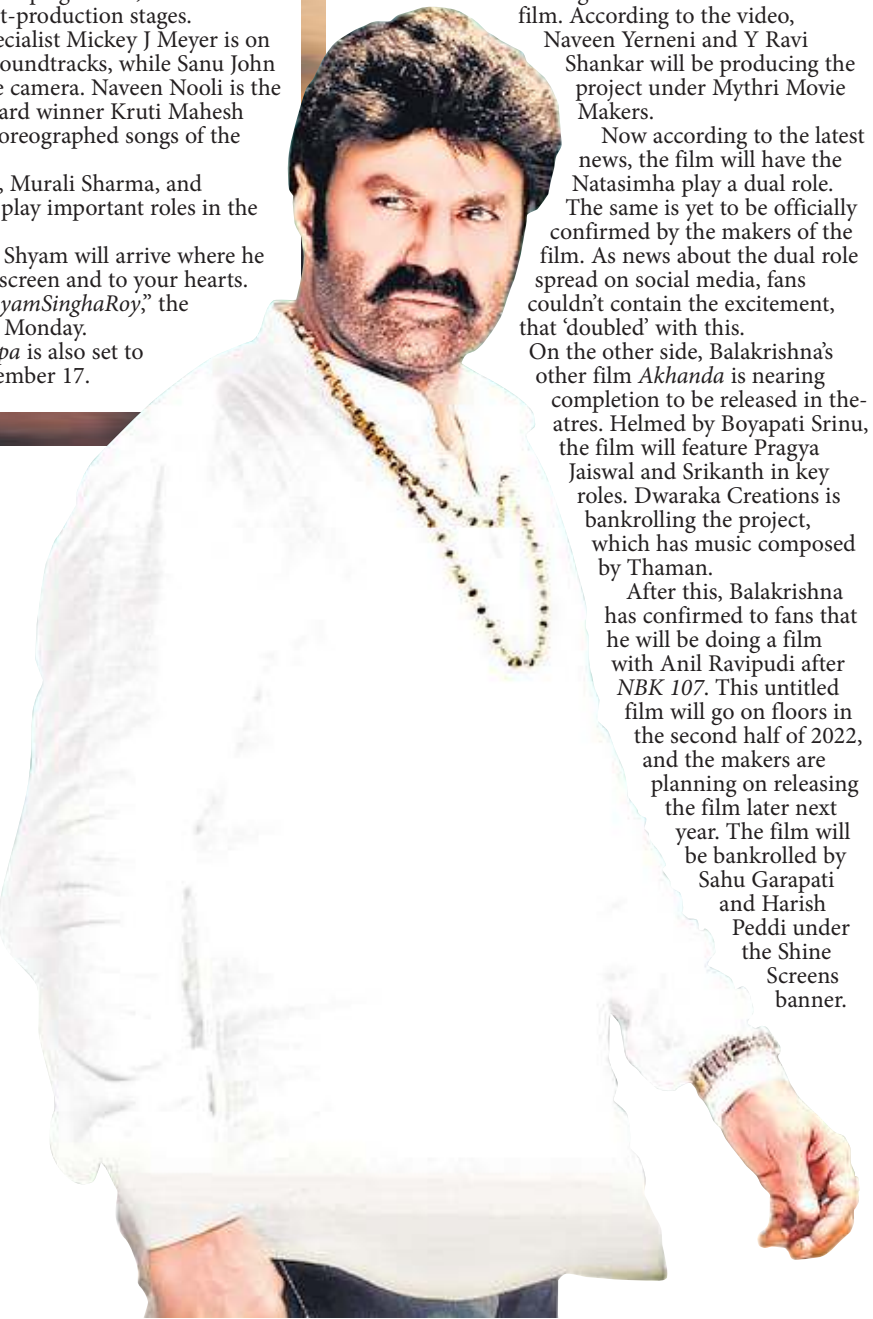
We know that actor Nandamuri Balakrishna will be collaborating with *Krack* director Gopichand Malineni for his next project, tentatively titled #NBK107. The makers had shared a 37-second video sometime back that gave more details about the film. According to the video,

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

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

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

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



VISHWAK plays aghora

Vishwak Sen, in recent times has been very cautious in picking his roles for his films. He recently bagged a hit with *Paagal*, starring Nivetha Pethuraj. The actor has now announced the title of his next project as *Gami*.

Chandini Chowdary is playing the female lead in the movie helmed by Vidyadhar Kagita. It is produced by Karthik Sabareesh under the banner of UV Creations. Going by the teaser, Vishwak, for the first time, will be seen as an aghora in the film.

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



Nagarjuna wants to do more action drama

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

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

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

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

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

Sundeep heaps praise on *Madhura Wines* team



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

Naveen, is all set to hit big screens on October 22.

Rajesh Kondepudi is producing the film while S Originals producer Srujan Yarabolu is

the associate producer.

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

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

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

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



Venky-Varun complete lengthy schedule of *F3*

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

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

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

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

Varun Tej said, "Wrapped up a long and crazy schedule of *F3*! It's gonna be mad fun!! And like always had a blast with my bro @VenkyMama. Can't wait for the next schedule to start."

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