



the pioneer

DIGANGANA
WANTS TO PLAY
MADHUBALA

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BCCI PLANS E-BIDDING FOR TWO NEW IPL TEAMS ON OCTOBER 17

The BCCI plans to have an e-bidding for the two new IPL teams on October 17. "The Board is planning to have the bidding on 17th October and it will be an e-bidding," sources in the know of things told PTI on Tuesday. The BCCI had on August 31 invited bids to own an IPL franchise with "Invitation to Tender" available for purchase till October 5. "The Governing Council of the IPL invites bids to acquire the right to own and operate 1 (one) of the 2 (two) new teams proposed to be introduced to take part in the Indian Premier League from the IPL 2022 season, through a tender process," the BCCI had said in a statement.

BJP CLAIMS MAMATA DIDN'T MENTION CRIMINAL CASES; COMPLAINS TO EC

The BJP on Tuesday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission, alleging that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee did not make a mention about pending criminal cases in her nomination papers for the Bhabanipur by-poll. Sajal Ghosh, the chief election agent of the saffron party's candidate for the constituency, Priyanka Tibrewal, wrote to the EC, raising objections to Banerjee's declaration. "I beg to object to the nomination/declaration filed by Mamata Banerjee... on the ground that the candidate has failed to disclose particulars of the pending criminal proceedings against her," he said.

SATURDAYS WORKING DAYS, SAYS KERALA GOVT AS COVID CASES DIP

After withdrawing the night curfew and stringent lockdown measures on Sundays, which were imposed in the wake of rising COVID-19 cases in the state, the Kerala government on Tuesday decided to restore Saturdays as working days, wherever applicable. "All employees are instructed to report for duty (on Saturdays) accordingly," an order issued by the Disaster Management Department said. It said that on August 4, all government offices, quasi government, public sector undertakings, companies, autonomous bodies and commissions were allowed to work from Monday to Friday with full attendance.

KANNADA ORGANISATIONS PROTEST AGAINST 'IMPOSITION OF HINDI'

In protest against the "imposition of Hindi", Kannada organisations on Tuesday held a twitter campaign and picketing in front of banks in several parts of Karnataka, on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. The Karnataka Rakshana Vedike organised a Twitter campaign with hashtag #StopHindilmposition from 10 am to 10 pm on Tuesday, while its activists staged picketing in front of banks in different parts of the State. KRV tweeted pictures of its activists staging picketing in Sedam, Chincholi, Ron, Hungund, Hiriyur, Pandavapura, Bengaluru, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Chikkaballapura, Thirthahalli, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Kolar, Mandya and Dharwad.

KTR ON TAX DEVOLUTION

Ek rupaya liya, aur 50 paise diya

Dares Bandi Sanjay to prove him wrong, offers to resign if proven wrong

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

TS IT and Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao on Tuesday came down heavily on the Centre's formula for tax devolution, suggesting it was tantamount to "ek rupaya liya, aur 50 paise diya".

Challenging BJP state unit chief Bandi Sanjay's claims over finances from the Centre, KTR said: "Over the past 6.5 years, we have given Rs 2.72 lakh crore in the form of taxes to the Centre. The Centre, through the Finance Commission, gave only Rs 1.42 lakh crore. We gave 1%, they gave 50 paise." In the next breadth, KTR offered to resign from his position if Bandi Sanjay could prove him wrong.

In his poser to Bandi Sanjay, KTR, during his tour of Gadwal, observed: "I will resign from my minister post if what I am saying is wrong. Will you resign from your MP post if you are wrong?"

KTR tore into Bandi Sanjay for



IT and Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao during his tour of Gadwal on Tuesday

claiming that in every scheme of TS there was Centre's contribution. He said, "UP is developing with money from Telangana's blood and sweat. If there is Centre's contribution in every scheme, why is there is no Rythu Bandhu in Karnataka? With our blood and sweat, we are helping other BJP-ruled states. The Modi government has been deceiving Telangana ever since it came to power". KTR asked BJP workers to go and check whether any of

Telangana's schemes were being implemented in neighbouring Karnataka. The IT Minister criticised the Centre for not sanctioning at least one medical college, IIM or Navodaya school for Telangana.

KTR challenged BJP state vice-president DK Aruna also to convince the Centre to include Boya Valmikis in the list of STs - regarding which a resolution was passed in the State Assembly and which was awaiting approval from the Centre. He said

In the last six years, Rs 2.72 lakh crore has gone from the state to the Center. The Center has given only Rs 1.42 lakh crore to the state. I will resign if this is not true. Will Bandi Sanjay resign as MP?

Aruna should try to persuade Modi to make reservations.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for the Jurala Park at Revulapalli. The park will be constructed on both sides of the Jurala project at a cost of Rs 15 crore. KTR opened the Chennakesava Sangala Park in Gadwala. KTR said, "We have shown in seven years the development that did not take place in 70 years". Pointing out that people wanted the government to speed up the distribution of houses, he said: "We will grant houses to the deserving poor".

State Cabinet to meet on Sept 16

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandra sekhar Rao will chair a meeting of the State Cabinet at the Pragathi Bhavan here on September 16. The Cabinet is expected to finalise the dates of the monsoon session of the Assembly, considering that the Legislature has to meet before September 25 -- as it will be six months since the conclusion of the Budget session on March 26. Although there have been speculations that the legislature sessions would commence from September 22, there is no indication of that yet at the Legislature Secretariat.

The Cabinet, scheduled to meet at 2-00 pm, will also discuss and decide on the Bills to be introduced during the session, particularly the one relating to the Dalit Bandhu scheme. The Chief Minister, it is understood, is in favour of granting legal sanctity to the scheme and therefore wants to bring out a piece of legislation.

Council may look at bringing fuel in GST

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The GST Council might on Friday consider taxing petrol, diesel and other petroleum products under the single national GST regime, a move that may require huge compromises by both the Union and State governments on the revenues they collect from taxing these products.

The Council, which comprises Union and State Finance Ministers, in its meeting scheduled in Lucknow on Friday, is also likely to consider extending the time for duty relief on Covid-19 essentials, according to sources in the know of the development.

GST is being thought to be a solution for the problem of near-record high petrol and diesel rates in the country, as it would end

the cascading effect of tax on tax (state VAT being levied not just on the cost of production but also on the excise duty charged by the Centre on such output).

In June, the Kerala High Court, based on a writ petition, had asked the GST Council to decide on bringing petrol and diesel within the goods and services tax (GST) ambit.

The sources said bringing petrol and diesel within GST would be placed before the Council for discussion in the light of the court asking the Council to do so.



'AP power utilities owe Rs 4,457 cr to TS'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Responding to a writ petition filed by the AP Genco in the Telangana High Court on Monday to recover dues from Telangana, TS Transco CMD Prabhakar Rao on Tuesday clarified that in fact the power utilities of AP owed Rs 4,457 crore to the Telangana Government. He said that AP had remained silent on clearing the dues recoverable from it by Telangana.

The Telangana government had been repaying loans availed by the combined AP government, he pointed out. The Government of Telangana was paying Rs 2,725 crore towards repayment of loans. So, Telangana should get funds pertaining to AP Genco's share of this repayment. The Telangana government had invested Rs 1,611 crore in the Krishnapatnam plant and that amount had not yet been recovered. If the foregoing dues were totalled, in fact AP owed money to Telangana, he explained. AP should repay Rs 4,457 crore to power agencies of Telangana, he said. The CMD said that the Telangana power utilities would present their case before the High Court.



'Ganesh immersion will continue at Tank Bund'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

It appears that, like in the case of Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu, people in Hyderabad will not let go off Ganesh immersion in the Hussain Sagar lake.

The Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsava Samiti said that Ganesh idols would be immersed in the

Hussain Sagar lake. They said that there would be protests on the roads should the police prevent immersion of idols that are brought to their destination.

The organisers of the annual immersion procession called the court order "a violation of the right to freedom of religion".

Minister says 'no question' of leaving accused in rape, murder of minor; hints at 'encounter'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Amid ongoing protests by political parties and public outcry over the rape and murder of a six-year old girl here four days ago, Telangana Labour Minister Ch Malla Reddy on Tuesday asserted that the accused in the case would be caught, but hinted that he could be eliminated in an 'encounter'.

"It (incident) is terrible. There should be an encounter against him (accused). He will definitely be caught. (We) will do encounter. There is no question of leaving him," he told reporters.

Asked why he had not consoled the family members of the victim, he said they would be helped in all possible ways.

"We will console them. We will definitely give ex gratia. We will help (the family) in all possible ways," he said.



Reddy's comments came against the backdrop of the rape and murder of the six-year old girl, allegedly by her neighbour at Saidabad here on the evening of September 9 and protests by the opposition BJP, Congress and others over the incident. The incident triggered spontaneous protests late that night by residents of the locality, who raised slogans and demanded justice and quick arrest of the culprit. They staged a road roko on September 10 morning, demanding justice and various kinds of help to the girl's family. They wanted

higher-ups, including a minister, to visit the place.

Hyderabad District Collector L Sharman, who had visited the spot, assured them that a house under the government's two-bed room housing scheme for the poor, besides education facility to the other children of the victim's parents, would be provided.

An immediate financial assistance of Rs 50,000 was given to the family by the government.

The protest by the residents was called off after the authorities spoke to them and following the assurances by the Collector.

State Women and Child Welfare Minister Satyavati Rathod, who spoke to police and other officials on September 10, urged them to take steps to bring the culprit to book and to ensure tough punishment.

Three pubs sealed by police and revenue officials

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Panjagutta police, along with revenue officials, on Tuesday, sealed three pubs located on the premises of Country Club at Begumpet for allowing illegal activities. The three pubs, Lisbon alias Club Tollywood, Hi5 and Purple, were ultimately sealed after filing as many as 18 cases against the management, said the Panjagutta police.

"As many as 18 cases were registered against the management of the pubs till now. The pubs were involved varied offences including performance of obscene acts in public places, running the place against the permitted time, outraging the modesty of women, voluntarily causing hurt by management of pubs.

SC favours framing of guidelines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday favoured framing of some guidelines for regular bail after filing of charge sheet in criminal cases and asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to give some suggestions.

The top court was hearing a plea of an accused who was not arrested during investigation of the case and was charge sheeted by CBI in a corruption case. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M

M Sundresh said, "in view of the submission in Court, it is deemed appropriate that some guidelines may be laid down so that the Courts are better guided and not troubled with the aspect of bail on charge sheet being filed".

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for CBI, said that he will submit certain suggested guidelines after deliberations with senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for one of the accused Satender Kumar Antil in the case.

AG consents to contempt case on YouTuber

Attorney General K K Venugopal on Tuesday accorded his consent to initiate criminal contempt proceedings against YouTuber Ajeet Bharti for his alleged "scurrilous" remarks in one of his videos against the Supreme Court and its judges.

Fees for self-financing courses in engineering double in state

3

KCR relief for Metro

ML MELLY MAITREYI
■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has assured the L&T authorities that the State government would explore ways to help Hyderabad Metro that has been incurring huge losses due to fall in the number of passengers due to Corona pandemic.

The Chief Minister responded positively to repeated representations from L&T authorities to the State government for help to bring

the Hyderabad Metro back on track. He announced on Tuesday that a high-level committee would be appointed with MA&UD Minister K T Rama Rao, R&B Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Chief Advisor to Government Rajiv Sharma, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, CM Principal Secretary Narsing Rao, Finance Special Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, MA&UD Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar, and Industries Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan.

WPI inflation rises to 11.39 pc in Aug on costlier mfg goods; food prices soften

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The wholesale price-based inflation rose marginally to 11.39 per cent in August, mainly due to costlier manufactured goods, even as food prices softened.

Snapping the two-month easing trend, WPI inflation rose in August and remained in double-digit for the fifth consecutive month. In July 2021, WPI inflation was 11.16 per cent, while in August 2020 it was 0.41 per cent.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Bhadrapada & Shukla Paksha

Panchangam

Tithi : Navami 11:16

Nakshatram : Purva Ashadha 28:56

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

Rahukalam : 12:11 pm - 1:42 pm

Yamagandam : 7:38 am - 9:09 am

Varjyam : 3:07 pm - 4:39 pm

Gulika : 10:40 am - 12:11 pm

Good Time : (to start any important work)

Amritakalam : 12:19 am - 1:51 am

Abhijit Muhurtham : Nil

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy

Temp: 28/22

Humidity: 83%

Sunrise: 6:02 am

Sunset: 06:19 pm

Current Weather Conditions

Updated SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 5:00 PM



Will power bills become a political weapon for opposition?

Domestic power bills, with enhanced 'true up' charges, have delivered high-voltage shock to the common man in Andhra Pradesh. The additional charges are being collected from people for their power consumption in previous years. The Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) has caused this 'storm' by allowing discoms to collect additional charges from consumers to the tune of nearly Rs.4,000 crore in a continuous process that may last eight months. In fact, discoms had proposed the collection of additional charges to the tune of Rs.19, 000 crore. But ERC denounced that proposal and gave its nod for collecting Rs 3,700 crore. Consumers were agast when they received their domestic power bills for August including a minimum of Rs 400 as additional charges on every connection, even if the consumer had consumed less units than in the previous months. This unexpected additional burden has affected even those sections which had happily benefitted from the welfare schemes of state government. Tenants are clueless about how the authorities would deal with them due to the unusual enhancement of domestic power bills as the discoms have decided to collect additional charges for past consumption as well -- for the period of 2014-19. There are many tenants who may be required to pay true up charges even if they have not been tenants during the entire period of reckoning. Clashes are likely between owners and tenants in some cases. The ERC initially used to elicit the opinions of members of registered political parties in the state. The parties used to send members well-versed in the subject. Former chief minister of



PIN POINT

Aside from TDP's capability to lead an agitation against the hike in power charges, it appears that the widespread resentment among the people could work against the government. The increase in power bills caused by the true up charges would be too heavy a burden on the common man.

undivided AP K. Rosaiah, CPI-M politburo member were among those who have attended such meetings. But these leaders often cornered the ERC on several issues, including revision of power tariff, on various occasions. Unable to digest such criticism, ERC has stopped the exercise, but is not averse to acting against the interests of power consumers in the state. The state government decided to stop ERC interactions with members of opposition parties, mainly because of the fall-out of media coverage of those proceedings. It is only a matter of time before opposition parties and civil society organizations begin to make the most of public anger over the true up charges. Twenty one years ago, then Chandrababu regime revised power tariff and put a huge burden of additional charges on people. Then Opposition, led by Congress party, launched an agitation with the support of Left parties in the state. The Congress Legislature Party was then headed by Dr.YS Rajasekhara Reddy, with a strong contingent of 91 members -- the biggest ever opposition in the state Assembly since its inception. That fierce agitation culmi-



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

nated in an indefinite hunger strike by 90+ MLAs of the entire Opposition in the Assembly. A flare-up of that protest resulted in police firing at Basheer Bagh in Hyderabad on 28 August, 2000. The police opened fire when a rally organised by all opposition parties proceeded to the venue of the MLAs' hunger strike. Three activists were killed in the firing that shook the entire state politically. That was the beginning of the end of Chandrababu

Naidu's rule in the undivided state. The opposition acted in perfect unity and sustained the negative mood of people towards then TDP government in subsequent years. Finally in 2004, the TDP was decimated. The TDP had to sit in Opposition benches for two consecutive terms of 2004 & 2009. The TDP came to power in the residuary state of AP only after spending 10 agonising years in the Opposition. However, in the present circumstances, the principal opposition party - TDP, under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu, does not have enough strength in the legislature to take on the YSRCP government headed by YS Jaganmohan Reddy. He has to launch an effective agitation against the true up charges. None of the YSRCP MLAs can afford to side with the public. The attempts being made by some ruling party leaders to blame the Chandrababu Naidu govern-

ment for the present hike in power charges do not hold water. In fact, the severity of the burden on people in the name of true up charges is much more than that which the TDP regime had imposed on people in those days. Some say the 'sin' committed by the TDP regime in the combined state of Andhra Pradesh is still haunting the party in the residuary state. Chandrababu then tried hard to crush the agitation against the hike in power charges. In those days, Chandrababu, with his 29 members in the Lok Sabha, was the darling of media, particularly after he extended crucial support to the NDA government headed by AB Vajpayee. Chandrababu did not tolerate democratic voices against him, particularly after he retained power in the state by forging an alliance with BJP. In the backdrop of the Kargil war, Vajpayee's image helped Chandrababu retain power in combined AP.

These days Chandrababu prefers to send his son Lokesh to those places where his presence is not warranted. He made a vain bid to go to Guntur district to visit the home of a rape victim, but the police foiled his efforts. This brought some political mileage to TDP. Aside from TDP's present capability to lead an agitation against the hike in power charges, it appears that the widespread resentment among the people could work against the state government. The manifold increase in power bills caused by the true up charges would be too heavy a burden on the common man. It is different matter if he gets welfare benefits worth thousands of rupees from the government. The feeling of gratitude towards the government for its freebies may not last long. People may respond to the calls of the principal opposition party if they feel that there is need for an agitation to ensure the rollback of true up charges.

TRS focusing on caste equations in Huz'bad

K VENKATESHWARLU
HYDERABAD

The ruling TRS party is in full swing and it has been continuing its by-election campaign in the Huzurabad assembly constituency through the Election Commission of India (ECI) has kept the election in abeyance. The party leaders including Ministers have been continuing their campaign in Huzurabad, conducting meetings with various sections and groups of people. The Ministers - T Harish Rao and Gangula Kamalakar - have been almost staying in the constituency and have been giving special focus to meeting with the caste organizations.

They are conducting meetings with the heads of caste associations besides various unions like contract employees etc. The party has already completed the meetings with almost all caste organizations. The TRS party leaders held meetings with Reddy Community, Munnurukapu, Padmashali, Mudiraj, Yadava, Goud, Rajaka, Kummari, Muslim, Nayi Brahmins, and remaining castes. The government already conducted a huge meeting with the SCs to draw attention to newly introduced Dalit Bandhu scheme. The party showered sops on all the communities which included construction of community halls, caste bhavans etc

allocating lands and funds for the construction of the same. The ruling party leaders have been continuing their campaign with the party candidate Gellu Srinivas Yadav along with local leaders including Padi Kaushik Reddy, who recently joined TRS from Congress party, BC Commission chairman Vakulabaranam Krishna Mohan Rao, SC Commission chairman and SC Commission chairman B Srinivas. However, the BJP has slowed down its campaign when compared with the TRS for the past few days. Though the BJP has not yet announced its candidate officially, former

Minister Etela Rajender, whose resignation caused the by-poll, has started his campaign. He slowed down his campaign when compared with the beginning days after the announcement of ECI decision. Meanwhile, BJP is busy with arrangements to make the Union Home Minister Amit Shah's September 17 meeting at Nirmal a big success. The Congress is yet to plunge into action and yet to announce its candidate for the election. According to the party sources, the party leaders may enter the constituency after September 17 by which time its candidate would be announced.

Council may look at bringing fuel in GST

Continued from page 1

When a national GST subsumed central taxes such as excise duty and state levies like VAT on July 1, 2017, five petroleum goods petrol, diesel, ATF, natural gas and crude oil were kept out of its purview for the time being. This is because both the Union and State Government finances relied heavily on taxes on these products. Since GST is a consumption-based tax, bringing petro products under the regime would have mean States where these products are sold get the revenue and not ones that currently derive the most benefit out of them because of they being the production centre. Simply put, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar with their huge population and a resultant high consumption would get more revenues at the cost of States like Gujarat. With Central Excise and State VAT

making up for almost half of the retail selling price of petrol and diesel currently, levying GST on them would mean charging a peak rate of 28 percent plus a fixed surcharge going by the principal of the new levy being equal to the old taxes. Tax experts said bringing petro products under GST will be a tough call for both the Centre and States as both will stand to lose. BJP-ruled states like Gujarat will be a loser even if a product like natural gas is brought under GST as it gets a lot of revenue from taxing the local production and import of the fuel (LNG). The Centre will also lose as the majority of the Rs 32.80 per litre excise duty on petrol and Rs 31.80 on diesel is made up of cesses, which it does not share with the States. Under GST, all revenues will be split 50:50 between the Centre and the States. The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman, in its September 17 meeting could also discuss the modalities of continuation of compensation cess beyond June 2022. This is the first time in 20 months that the GST Council will have a physical meeting. The last such meeting was on December 18, 2019, before the Covid-19-induced lockdowns. When the GST was introduced on July 1, 2017, amalgamating over a dozen Central and State levies, five commodities - crude oil, natural gas, petrol, diesel, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) - were kept out of its purview given the revenue dependence of the Union and State governments on this sector. This meant that the Union government continued to levy excise duty on them while State governments charged value-added tax (VAT). These taxes, with excise duty, in particular, have been raised periodically.

Ganesh...

Continued from page 1

Bagvanth Rao of BGUS, pointing to the instances of jallikattu being held in Tamil Nadu despite court order, infructuous ban on entry of women in Ayyappa temple and Indira Gandhi continuing as Prime Minister despite the 1975 Allahabad High Court judgment, said that, irrespective of court orders, the customs will continue and idols will be immersed in Vinayak Sagar. It may be mentioned here that jallikattu was banned by the Supreme Court in 2014, but the Tamil Nadu and the central governments stepped in to reverse the ban amid widespread protests in the state. The ban, many fans argued, was an assault on Tamil pride. BGUS leaders have threatened that should the authorities stop them from immersing the idols in Hussain Sagar, they would leave the trucks with idols on roads.

State Cabinet to meet on...

Continued from page 1

The state government has decided to implement Dalit Bandhu additionally in four more mandals drawn from as many districts situated in four directions, along with Huzurabad and Vasalamarri. The Cabinet will have to formally approve it. The Cabinet will have other important items agenda, particularly in view of the recent decision of the Food Corporation of India that it would be able to procure only 60 lakh tonnes of paddy. The decision of FCI would have an impact on paddy procurement in the State, where the output is going to be over one crore tonnes.

The State government had urged farmers to switch to other crops, saying it would be difficult to procure the entire quantity of paddy being presently cultivated; yet, most farmers are reluctant to bring down their paddy cultivation. The Cabinet is also expected to take a decision on issuing notification for recruitment to fill over 60,000 posts, considering the mounting pressure on the government to issue the notification without further delay.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹248
Without Skin	₹268
Broiler at Farm	₹137
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	413
VIJAYAWADA	425
VISAKHAPATNAM	425
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹4.13

TTD 'letters' create ripples in Union...

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The tradition was followed when the UPA was in power and when the TDP-BJP alliance was in power in AP, the BJP national leadership furnished some names. The then chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu accepted the appointment of Bhanu Prakash, a BJP leader of Tirupati who was recommended by Amit Shah and M Venkaiah Naidu. The BJP national leadership recommending some names is quite natural, but some Union

Ministers bypassing their party leadership to send their recommendations has left the party agast. The BJP national president soon got the gist of the matter and when he questioned a Union Minister about it, the latter denied having issued a letter to anyone. Sources said that Nadda then asked a top BJP leader to go deep into the whole affair and unearth the facts. Till the matter is resolved, it is unlikely the AP government would make public the final list of the TTD Board members.

9 Union ministers recommend same name Vijayawada The BJP national leadership is believed to set in motion corrective measures after it emerged that as many as 20 Union Ministers have sent their recommendations for appointment to the TTD Board. According to reliable sources, the BJP national leadership has asked the AP government not to take the recommendation letters sent by Union Ministers into consideration for appointment as

TTD Board members. Radhakrishnan, a BJP leader from Guntur who has shifted to Chennai, is said to be close to those in power at the Centre and also those who are close to the centres of power. During the tenure of Bhumana Karunakar Reddy as the TTD Chairman, he was the TTD Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Chairman in Chennai. Now, it has emerged that at least nine Union Ministers have recommended Radhakrishnan's name for the TTD member's post.

SC favours framing of guidelines

Continued from page 1

The top court also made an interim direction passed on July 28 granting anticipatory bail as absolute after CBI counsel did not oppose it. It listed the matter for further hearing on October 5 and refused a third party intervention in the present proceedings saying that the court is settling some legal principles and it would be appreciated if the intervenors give suggestions to the Additional Solicitor General on the issue. On July 28, while granting interim protection from arrest to Antil, the top court had said, "Prima facie, we cannot appreciate why in such a scenario is there a requirement for the petitioner being sent to custody. Be that as it may, it will be appropriate to lay down some principles in this behalf". It had said that a person's custody may not be necessary after filing of charge sheet if he has remained out on bail during the investigation. Antil's counsel had earlier contended that his client was not in office when the incident

AG consents to contempt case on YouTuber

Continued from page 1

"I find that the contents of the video which has been watched by about 1.7 lakh viewers are vituperative, gross and highly derogatory to the Supreme Court of India and the judiciary as a whole being clearly intended to denigrate the courts. "The allegations made by Mr Ajeet Bharti against the Supreme Court are, among other things, of bribery, favouritism and abuse of power," the top law officer said in his letter of consent. Kritika Singh, a lawyer, had written to Venugopal seeking grant of consent under Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, a condition precedent for initiating the criminal contempt by a person, other than the court. She had referred to some alleged objectionable comments of Bharti against the top court and its judges in his video of June 24 this year. took place but he had joined the investigation and a charge sheet has been. He had said that Antil was not arrested and then there was no need to arrest him now. The counsel had said that after the Court took cognizance of the charge sheet on January 20, 2021, he did not appear before the court and sought anticipatory bail. "On his non-appearance, non-bailable warrants were issued on February 17, and the

anticipatory bail application was dismissed," he said. The top court had asked the counsel as to why the petitioner did not appear after summons were sent in pursuance to cognizance being taken as logically, Antil ought to have appeared and applied for regular bail and there should have been no case for anticipatory bail at that stage. The counsel replied that the system which is sought to be followed espe-

cially in the Uttar Pradesh is that even if a person is not arrested during investigation, on charge sheet being filed, more so, in such cases of CBI a person is sent to custody and thus, his appearance and applying for bail would have resulted in his being sent to custody. The top court had then directed that the accused be not arrested and stayed execution of non-bailable warrants but had directed him to appear before the Court on the next date. Antil was working as an assistant provident fund commissioner when he was accused last year of being a beneficiary of Rs 9 lakh bribe paid to an officer working under him. The CBI filed the charge sheet in the case in October last year, which was taken cognizance this year in January. Antil did not appear before the court and instead filed an anticipatory bail plea, which was rejected by the trial court. A non-bailable arrest warrant was issued against him.

Minister says 'no question' of...

Continued from page 1

She had also said the government would stand by the deceased girl's family. State Congress president and MP A Revanth Reddy, BJP's National Vice President D K Aruna and others, who visited the girl's family members on Monday, slammed the Telangana Rashtra Samithi government over the incident. Meanwhile, Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar on Tuesday declared a reward of Rs 10 lakh to any person giving information or clue leading to the arrest of the absconding accused. Police in a release said that despite serious efforts, the accused was still at large. They said the accused, aged about 30 years, was a drunkard. He often slept on pavements and at bus stands.

Minister misled by cops about culprit?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao like many others was misinformed that the accused in rape-murder of the 6-year-old girl was arrested. While the Minister regretted the erroneous statement, he noted that the perpetrator is absconding and Hyderabad Police have launched a massive manhunt to nab the accused. The Municipal Administration Minister urged the police officials to put best efforts to ensure that the accused was nabbed and brought to justice quickly.

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Fees for self-financing courses in engineering doubles in state

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The government colleges are going to collect tuition fees for 1,160 seats in self-financing courses on a par with the tuition fee in private engineering colleges. Hereafter, the annual fees for BE courses would be doubled to Rs 70,000 from this academic year onwards. The students admitted to self-financing courses are not eligible to derive benefit under tuition fees reimbursement.

However, the self-financing seats would be filled under Engineering Agricultural and Medical Common Entrance Test (EAMCET) convener quota. Those who secured a rank below 1000 are eligible to get admission in these seats.

The universities offering self-financing courses have announced that they will collect tuition fees on a par with private engineering colleges.

In fact, the self-financing seats were not a new develop-



ment. In fact, the practice is prevalent for the past 10 years. However, the government colleges charging tuition fees on a par with private colleges is somewhat new.

The tuition fees is almost equal to the tuition fees being charged in top ten private engineering colleges. These colleges increase fees once in every three years. This year, the tuition fee is hiked rather clandes-

tinously.

Under the jurisdiction of the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad, Hyderabad (JNTU-H), Osmania University (OU), Kakatiya University (KU), Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU), Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), PV Narasimha Rao Telangana

State Veterinary University (PVNR TSVU) and Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University (JNAFAU), there are 15 colleges with total intake of 3645 seats. Of them, 1,160 are treated as self-financing seats. Those who get a rank below 1000 in EAMCET are eligible to apply for the seats. However, the students would have to pay the same fees that is applicable to the private colleges.

Candidates who got a rank below 10,000 are getting admission in private colleges under the EAMCET convener quota. But some of the students would have to pay an annual fee of Rs 1.2 lakh. In government engineering colleges, the annual fees prescribed for BE artificial intelligence is Rs 1.3 lakh. Private colleges who admit students under convener quota are charging the same amount from students. The varsities say that the higher fees would mean improving the finances of government col-

leges. But the academicians cry foul as it would render injustice to the poor students.

Availability of self-financing seats have been announced officially in chemical, civil, computer science, electrical, mechanical, metallurgical sciences this year.

There are six self-finance courses in the college campus started this year in Siricilla but affiliated to the JNTU-H. The campus at Jagtial offers five such courses, while the School of Planning and Architecture in Masab Tank offers three courses, the JNTU-H at Kukatpally offers seven courses, six courses are there in five-year integrated colleges and four in JNTU-affiliated college started in Sultanpur in 2012.

The BE college under KU in Kothagudem offers three courses, while the university campus colleges offer four courses. There are three courses in Mahatma Gandhi University, while there are six such courses in OU colleges.

‘Hyderabad is far better than other cosmopolitan cities in the country’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana is on the development track under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao. The capital city of Telangana - Hyderabad has been a first preference for IT companies and developed far better than any other cosmopolitan cities in the country, said Minister for Labour and Employment Ch Malla Reddy.

Hyderabad is the first choice for all the sections of society and people from different state flock here to thrive, the Minister said adding that the people of the other state desire to be in Telangana, under the rule of KCR.

Malla Reddy was speaking to media after finalising the village committees of Shamirpet, MC Pally and Medchal here on Tuesday. The selected members of the committee were handed over the membership cards on this occasion. The event was held at TRS Party office in Medchal.

Earlier in the day, the Minister inaugurated several developmental works in the Jawaharnagar area of Medchal-



Malkajigiri district. Speaking on the occasion, Malla Reddy said that the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao was committed for the development of the Jawaharnagar area and sanctioned sufficient funds for the development works here.

The Minister performed Bhumi Puja for the CC Road works of worth Rs 4 crore in the Jawaharnagar on the occasion.

He said that Rs 53 crores were sanctioned for different works in the region including CC Roads, Nala Development, Electricity and others. He said

that tenders will be ready for other pending works very soon and this area would be developed on par with other cosmopolitan regions of twin cities.

Several developmental works were delayed or remained stagnated for past two years owing to the coronavirus crisis and these will be soon completed now on war footing, said the Minister. Jawaharnagar Municipal Corporation Mayor Mekala Kavya, municipal officials, local TRS leaders and others participated in the programme.



THRILLS AMIDST BEASTS

Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the important wildlife sanctuaries in Telangana. The Kawal sanctuary houses various animals and several varieties of flora and fauna are seen here. If you want to get a glimpse of wild animals in their natural habitat, then, the Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary is a must see place. This Wildlife Sanctuary gives you a picturesque view of retreat. Every corner of this sanctuary is filled with adventure and thrill. Thousands of tourists visit this secluded animal kingdom to experience the thrills amidst wild beasts of the region. This sanctuary is located in the Adilabad district which is 50 kilometers from Mancherla and 250 kilometers from Hyderabad.

TITA to equip government school kids with the latest learning tools

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

To equip government school-children with the latest learning tools, Telangana Information Technology Association has launched coding programme - Telangana Early Coders - to impart coding skills for students of state schools.

Narayanpet Collector Dasari Hari Chandana and TITA Global President Sundee Kumar Makthala launched the coding program in Narayanpet on Tuesday.

As part of the programme, 2013 students and teachers will be trained in coding skills which will be imparted by TITA in association with Telangana State Technology Services and the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD).

Speaking on the occasion Collector Hari Chandana praised TITA chief Sundee Makthala saying that the coding programme will help chil-



dren in government schools learn new-age skills. She urged schools to make the best use of the programme.

Hailing Sundee for his various initiatives in the field of education and health, the district Collector said that coding programme that is taught at private institutes for a fee ranging Rs 25,000 to 30,000 will be taught for free. She said that techies have made it possible to

impart such training to school-children despite there was no such facility in rural areas.

Speaking on the occasion, TITA chief Sundee Makthala expressed happiness saying that US variety University of Texas at Dallas and TSTS has come forward for such a novel initiative. Sundee said that the coding programme will help rural students hone their technical skills.

Newly married woman hangs self at house

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A newly-wed woman committed suicide by hanging herself at her residence in Narsingi late on Monday night.

The deceased woman was identified as Revathi, 23. Revathi married a man named Rahul seven months ago and the two had moved to Mirchiguda in Narsingi from their native place of Parigi in Vikarabad district, one month ago. Police said that Revathi married Rahul against the wishes of her parents. Based on his complaint, the Narsingi Police registered a case and shifted the body to the hospital for an autopsy. However, according to sources, Revathi was upset as Rahul did not allow her to visit her parent's house and took the extreme step, upset over this. The police are investigating the incident.

Woman arrested for kidnap of 6-year-old girl at Kanchanbagh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Kanchanbagh Police on Tuesday arrested a 26-year-old woman for kidnapping a six-year-old girl on Monday.

The arrested person was identified as Asia Bee, 26, a resident of Shadnagar, said the police who rescued the kidnapped girl safely.

The police officials said that they received a complaint from the Muskan Ali Mirza, 41, a footpath dweller, on Monday afternoon at 1 pm that a 6-year-old girl was kidnapped from Kanchanbagh.

Mirza, the mother of the kidnapped girl, said that while she was asking for alms near Chanchalguda Central Prison

along with her daughter Alfiya, 6, an unknown lady claiming to be one Fatima approached her and informed that she can donate money (Zakat) through a known person at Hafeez Baba Nagar.

"She then took Muskan and her daughter in an auto following which the lady showed a house with black gate to the mother and told her to go and meet the house owner. Meanwhile, she left along with the girl in an auto," said the police, adding that the mother tried to stop the auto but in vain.

The cops then formed 6 teams and checked the CC cameras to track her movements. "During the probe, it

was noticed that the lady changed two autos to reach Shamshabad from Hafeez Baba Nagar and from Shamshabad, she went to Shadnagar by-pass road in an RTC bus. From there, she went to Farooq Nagar in another auto. She was nabbed from there and officials rescued the girl from her clutches," added the police.

It was revealed during the investigation that Asia Bee was previously involved in a PDS rice transportation case of Kothur Police. The complicity of the accused in the other kidnapping cases will be verified. She was then booked and placed under arrest before being sent for judicial remand.

Bank employee cheated of Rs 2L

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Unknown fraudsters cheated a bank employee to the tune of Rs 1.5 lakh in the guise of offering loans on Tuesday.

According to police officials, the victim, a resident of Saidabad working in the marketing wing of a private bank, had applied for a loan of Rs 3 lakh on an online loan app. Next day, he received a call from an unidentified person claiming to be an executive of a finance firm, assuring the required loan. Police said, after convincing the victim, the person collected Rs 1.5 lakh on the pretext of fees and switched off his phone.

Realising that he was cheated, the victim approached the police.

Five-day-old boy, minor abducted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An unidentified woman kidnapped a 5-day-old boy after luring his mother at Chandanagar on Tuesday.

According to the Police, Vadde Jyothi, a native of Domalguda in Hyderabad, went to a tiffin centre to have breakfast near the railway station road in Gangaram, along

with her 5 day old child. An unidentified woman came to her and gave her idli to eat and then took her baby by claiming that she would buy clothes and chappal for the kid.

Believing her, Jyothi handed over her baby to the lady. However, after eating, she noticed that the lady disappeared along with her kid. Based on her complaint, the

Chandanagar Police registered a kidnapping case and are investigating. Officials said the search parties have been deployed to trace out the kidnapper and kid.

In another incident, an 11-year-old boy was reported missing from Chandrayangutta on Tuesday. The boy, Shaik Hidayat, stayed with his parents at Ghousenagar in the

Chandrayangutta police station limits. According to the police, he had gone out of the house on Sunday evening saying he was going to a nearby shop but did not return.

After searching everywhere including neighbours and relative's houses, the family approached the police who booked a case and formed teams to trace the boy.

CCS police arrest man for cheating Amex of Rs 7 cr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyber Crime Station Police of Hyderabad on Tuesday arrested one person on charges of cheating the American Express Banking Corporation of nearly Rs 7 crore.

The accused, Mohan Kottilingam Uddanda, 39, a resident of Chandanagar, and a native of Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh, earlier worked as assistant manager of Invesco (India) Pvt. Ltd.

As per the agreement

between the Invesco Pvt. Ltd company and American Express Banking Corporation, the latter had provided corporate cards to Mohan for personnel and official use with Rs 5 lakh limit, along with other documents when he joined in the office in 2011.

In January 2021, Mohan resigned but did not return the card. With an intention to do fraud he changed the mobile number linked with the card to another number.

Later, the accused along

with his friends used the card while on a trip to Goa and later misappropriated an amount of Rs 7 crore withdrawn by presenting 14 cheques of different banks at Kolkata towards withdrawals for using the card, said Assistant Commissioner of Police, CCS, B Srinivasa Rao.

The American Express Banking Corporation has filed the complaint with the police, who registered an FIR against Mohan and arrested him.

Mohan was produced before a court and remanded.

Man from Odisha gets life term for killing coworker

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A man from Odisha was awarded life term imprisonment sentence on Tuesday, after he was found guilty of killing his coworker.

The arrested person, Mukunda Randhari, 33, is a centring worker from Binjilli in Nabarangpur of Odisha state.

On 8 May, 2020, Mukunda beat up his coworker, Jayaram, after a quarrel between the two turned aggressive. The centering contractor of the construction site, P Sudhakar employed Jayaram and Mukund and the duo were staying in the same under construction house. After work had stopped, Sudhakar gave Rs 14,000 to Jayaram and asked him to give half of it to Mukunda. However, Jayaram did not do so and an argument broke out between the two, during which, Jayaram used derogatory words and abused Mukunda.

Mukunda then bore a grudge against him and in the midnight, began attacking him with an iron rod. Other workers intervened and sent Jayaram to the hospital who died while undergoing treatment. Based on a complaint, a case was registered at Medipally police station. During the course of investigation, the accused was arrested and remanded to judicial custody. During the trial on Tuesday, the Judge awarded him a lifetime sentence and a fine of Rs 1,000.

Man killed as bike hits truck

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A motorist died on the spot after the bike he was riding was hit by a concrete mixer truck at Gachibowli, late on Monday night.

The victim was identified as M Krishna, 55, a centering worker from Gulmohar Park in Netaji Nagar Colony. According to the Police, Krishna was proceeding from Netaji Nagar Colony towards Kondapur when the mishap took place.

"When he reached the Masjid banda junction, the truck which was allegedly being driven rashly, hit his bike from behind. Krishna fell on the road and came under the rear left tyre of the truck and died on the spot" said a police official.

Rs 10L reward for info on accused in six-year-old's rape, murder case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Police on Tuesday announced a Rs 10 lakh reward for any information leading to arrest of the accused in rape and murder of a six-year-old girl.

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar announced the reward as Pallakonda Raju remained absconding.

He declared a reward to any person who gives information/clue leading to arrest of the absconding accused. The information can be passed to Deputy Commissioner of Police, East Zone on number 9490616366 or Deputy Commissioner of Police, Task Force on 9490616627.



The police also released a photograph of the accused, aged about 30 years.

According to a statement released by the police, Raju is approximately 5.9 feet tall and has long hair, tied with a rubber band. He is wearing a cap and red scarf around his neck.

The accused has tattoos on his both hands reading 'Mounika'. According to police, he has a beard on his chin and

is in formal trousers and a shirt. He is used to taking alcohol and sleeping at pavements and bus stands.

The child was sexually assaulted and murdered on September 9 by Raju who happens to be her neighbour in Saidabad. The body of the girl, who was missing since 5 p.m. Thursday, was found in the house of her neighbor after midnight.

The horrific incident had triggered angry protest from residents on Friday. They staged sit-in for seven hours on Champapet-Sagar Road, demanding immediate and harshest punishment to the guilty. Some of the protestors also demanded that the guilty be killed in an 'encounter'.

Parties in Telangana begin blame game over procurement of paddy

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

After achieving a record production of paddy over the last few seasons, lakhs of farmers in Telangana are now set to face a challenge in the upcoming rabi season, with the Food Corporation of India's (FCI) making it clear that it's not going to buy parboiled rice grown in rabi season.

This situation has given a chance for the political parties including TRS, BJP, Congress and Left parties to begin their blame game criticising other parties and yield political gains.

The Telangana Civil Supplies Minister Gangula Kamalakar on Tuesday alleged that the BJP-led Central Government is showing step-motherly attitude towards Telangana. Pointing out at the Centre



willing to purchase only 60 lakh metric tonnes of paddy against the total production of 1.45 crore metric tonnes of paddy in Telangana, he said that there would be no place to store paddy in the next Rabi

season, if the Centre does not to procure the rice stored in the godowns now.

Stating that there are several BJP activists in Telangana, who produce paddy, Gangula asked the BJP state president

Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Union Minister G Kishan Reddy to mount pressure on the Centre to procure paddy of Telangana farmers in Rabi season too.

While on the other hand, the BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar alleged that five farmers had committed suicides after Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's statements that "cultivation of paddy is not to hanging self". He demanded KCR to apologise to farmers of Telangana, who are committing suicides after KCR's statements. He alleged that the crop yield increased with good rains in Telangana. However, KCR, who is not able to purchase the crop, is trying to throw the blame on the Centre.

Meanwhile, the Congress leaders have started blaming both the TRS-led State government and BJP-led Central government over procurement of paddy. CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka criticised the Chief Minister for stating that the State government will not purchase paddy as the Centre is not willing to purchase the paddy. KCR has to procure the paddy similar to the Congress, which has purchased paddy before the bifurcation of state then during the Congress regime.

CPM state committee member Sarampally Malla Reddy stated that providing water and free power to the farmers in the state would be of no use if the State government has not purchased paddy. However, political analysts opine that the issue of paddy procurement may show impact on the Huzurabad by-poll too.

Transco CMD asks KTPP officials to produce power in tune with demand

PNS ■ JAYASHANKER
BHULAPALAPALLY

Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited (TSGenco) and Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited (TSTransco) chairman and managing director D Prabhakar Rao has addressed the officials of Kakatiya Thermal Power Project (KTPP) to produce power in tune with the demand in the state and take all steps to avoid power shortage.

Prabhakar Rao was declaring open 382 residential quarters for the 1100-MW KTPP employees at a cost of Rs 125 crore, ACHP and Chemical Lab Buildings at Bhupalapally here on Tuesday. He also switched on the second conveyor belt in the 600-MW plant of the KTPP. Local MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy also took part in the inauguration ceremony.

Later, the CMD went round the power plant and inquired about the progress of various works going on in the plant. Later, he reviewed the progress of the KTPP works with power plant authorities. He inquired



them about the coal stocks available with the power plant.

Addressing gathering in this connection, the CMD asked the authorities to prepare action plans to produce power continuously keeping in mind the demand for the power in the state. First and foremost, he asked the authorities to focus on maintaining enough coal stocks.

He assured the employees that the TS Genco is committed to the welfare of the employees and assured to provide all amenities to them.

Addressing the gathering, Gandra Venkata Ramana said that he was thrilled as the

CMD inspected the KTPP after a long time. The state government of Telangana has set an example in the country by providing round the clock power supply to the people. The Genco employees work in tune with the demand for power and should strive to reduce the cost of production of power and achieve higher power generation.

The media was kept dark about the CMD's visit to the KTPP. The secrecy attracted criticism from the media establishments. The media was not allowed even to cover the tour of the CMD casting shadows on the transparency of bureaucracy.

Collector raps NHAI, R&B officials over fatal accidents

PNS ■ JAYASHANKER
BHULAPALAPALLY

District Collector Krishna Aditya on Tuesday ordered the officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), R&B and municipal authorities to take immediate steps to repair highways so as to prevent fatal road mishaps.

The Collector reprimanded the officials for not carrying out the orders issued in the past road safety committee for repairing the potholes and for setting up cautionary sign posts at accident prone spots in the district.

Krishna Aditya held a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee with the officials of the NHAI, R&B, Panchayat Raj, Transport, Police and Municipal authorities. He pulled up the officials for not taking preventive measures even though frequent mishaps were taking place due to bad roads. Over 6,000 vehicles were passing through the district everyday. There was a greater need for the officials concerned to remain on high alert and prevent mishaps during the rainy season, which was



reporting high incidence.

The Collector said that there were over 200 potholes on the national highway between Parakala and Kaleswaram. It was unfortunate that no repair works were taken up. Many sustained injuries and 20 persons died in road mishaps in the past 2 months in this stretch. He ordered the NHAI executive engineer Vidya Sagar to take up repair works immediately and fill the potholes in one day. The signboards should be set up immediately. All steps should be taken to ensure that no fatal mishaps would take place any longer.

Krishna Aditya further said

that the highways between Bhupalapally and Chelpur and between Kaleswaram and Chelpur were very bad. He ordered the municipal commissioner Srinivas to arrange for signposts as early as possible.

R&B and PR officials were ordered to take up repair works on highways and bridges in Palimela, Mahamuttaram, Tekumtla, Mogullapalli and other mandals where rains caused heavy damage. All roads leading to Medaram should be kept in good condition ahead of the 'jatara'.

The Collector ordered the NHAI officials to arrange for parking of vehicles at Mylaram and Kataram so that the vehicles could be prevented from parking wherever they would like in Bhupalapally town. District Transport Officer Venu was instructed to check the irregular parking of vehicles.

The road laying works between Kataram and Manthani should be completed swiftly. RTC DM Dharam Singh was ordered to run bus services to the nook and corner of the district.



Efforts on for blue revolution in state

PNS ■ PATANCHERU

Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy on Tuesday said that all steps were being taken to release lakhs of fish seedlings in water bodies in the Patancheru division towards achieving the goals set by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao for ushering in the blue revolution in the State.

Mahipal Reddy said that efforts were on to release over 35 lakh fish seedlings worth Rs 70 lakh in the water tanks in Patancheru assembly constituency limits. This was being done by involving over 42 fishermen societies. The fishermen and their families should avail themselves of

this opportunity to increase their incomes and enhance their living conditions.

The MLA took part as chief guest at a programme held by the fisheries department to release 3.5 lakh fish seedlings worth Rs. 7 lakh in the limits of Patancheru town today. These seedlings were released into Saki Cheruvu, Timmakka Cheruvu, Teegala Nagaram Cheruvu and Dosham Cheruvu.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahipal Reddy said this was all part of the State government's drive to contribute to the flourishing of fisheries in the State. All cooperation would be extended for the overall development of the fishermen.

MLA performs bhumi puja for Bruhat Vanam

PNS ■ MEDAK

MLA Madan Reddy has said that the Bruhat Palle Prakruti Vanam would be developed magnificently in Sakru Thanda on the outskirts of Peddachintakunta village.

Speaking after performing the bhumi puja for the Vanam in Sakru Thanda on Tuesday, he said that the park would come on a 10-acre site. He said that he would bring special fund to develop the Bruhat Palle Prakruti Vanam and groom it as a model for other villages to emulate.

All amenities would be provided in the park for the tourists and for the amusement of the children, he said.

Zilla Grandhalaya Samsta Chairman Chandra Goud, MPP Jyoti Suresh Nayaka, Peddachintakunta sarpanch Siva Kumar, upa sarpanch Nagaraju, leaders, villagers and others were present on the occasion.



In a bid to hammer home the message that the pandemic is far from over, the organisers of a Ganapati festival in Begum Bazaar have modelled their pandal on the theme of Covid and tried to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination.

Apologise to farmers: BJP to KCR

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Launching a scathing attack against the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, Telangana state BJP president and MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Tuesday said KCR is responsible for the suicide of five farmers, who took extreme step in fear when they were asked to go for an alternative crop instead of paddy.

Addressing a public meeting at Ramdas chowrasta in Medak town on his 18th day of Praja Sangram Yatra, Sanjay demanded KCR to apologise to farmers and questioned the TRS government for the reason for delay in implementing Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima



Yojana, which was introduced So help distressed farmers, in Telangana.

Expressing concern over the prevailing situation in Medak, Sanjay said that the aim of his

yatra is to know problems of people and to question the TRS government for failing to address the problems of the people. The success of his yatra which is getting tremen-

dous support from people sending shivers down the spine to KCR, the BJP state president said adding that false information is being spread to confuse people that BJP and TRS parties have alliance. Sanjay clarified that BJP never had any alliance with TRS where as TRS had tie-up with TDP, Congress, MIM and Left parties.

Later, addressing a press conference, Bandi Sanjay Kumar alleged that KCR has forgotten the contribution of Sakala Janula Samme and he never dwell a single word about this mass strike. What you have done to employees who have joined in this strike, he questioned.

Give Dalit Bandhu to every Dalit family, says Congress

PNS ■ DUBBKA

Dubbaka constituency Congress in-charge Cheruku Srinivas Reddy on Tuesday demanded that the State Government give the benefits under Dalit Bandhu to every Dalit family in the State without fail.

Srinivas Reddy submitted a memorandum to this effect to the officials of the deputy tahsildar office. Later, he made a visit to the Dalit colony in Venkatraopeta village in Dubbaka mandal. He enquired about the problems of the Dalit families there.

Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas Reddy slammed the KCR Government for betraying the people by announcing new programmes and making false promises wherever there was a by-election in the State. In Huzurabad bypolls, the State government promised to cover all Dalit families under Dalit Bandhu benefits. But eventually, just 17 Dalits were given the benefits in the entire assembly constituency.

Srinivas Reddy asserted that he would wage a relentless struggle for a better deal to the Dalits under the leadership of PCC President Revanth Reddy.

Every Congress activist should work hard in order to bring Indiramma Rajyam in Telangana by throwing the TRS out of power. The party leaders and cadre should actively take part and make the coming Dalita Dandora in Gazwel on September 17 a grand success.

The Congress leader said that he would make all efforts for the strengthening of the party in the constituency. Congress leaders Gandhari Narendar Reddy, Repaka Tirupati, B. Anil, Niranjana Reddy, Ch. Swamy and others were present.

Workshop held on machine learning

PNS ■ WARANGAL

The Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science (KITS) has conducted a one-day workshop on machine learning to groom its students industry ready, according to KITS principal Prof K Ashoka Reddy.

Vijayawada-based firm Codegnan IT Solutions Private Limited's Chief Operating Officer Kallepu Saketh Reddy graced the occasion as the chief guest.

The chief guest dwelt at length on the creative aspects of machine learning. He highlighted various job opportunities in the sphere of machine learning.

‘Only TS not able to celebrate liberation’

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Former Minister and BJP leader Eatala Rajender asserted that the ruling TRS would pay a heavy price for continuing its autocratic rule without respecting the sentiments and feelings of the Telangana people.

Rajender deplored that the Telangana people were the only race who were not able to celebrate the 'liberation day' in the world. KCR should explain why he was afraid to officially celebrate September 17 as the liberation day. The people of the Huzurabad assembly segments were unhappy with the present regime.

Addressing the meeting of Jammikunta mandal party main activists, the former Minister asserted that a fitting lesson would be taught to the TRS for trying to suppress even the BJP which had got 303 MPs and which was rul-

ing in 18 States in the country. CM KCR should explain why he fell silent now when he had raised his voice in favour of the liberation day in the past. Maharashtra and Karnataka were celebrating their liberation days after separating from the Hyderabad State that was under the Nizam rule. Why not hold similar celebrations in Telangana? Of whom KCR was afraid of?

Etela Rajender said that though the Government did not hold the official celebrations, Nayini Narasimha Reddy used to hoist the flag on the Telangana Bhavan to mark the liberation day celebrations. As such, the BJP should organise these celebrations everywhere on September 17 every year. The BJP culture was not to betray the people with lies and betrayals. The party would continue its struggles to give solutions to the people's problems.

Improve sanitation in schools, PHCs, DC directs officials

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLY

District Collector Dr Sangeeta has directed officials concerned to pay special attention to sanitation in Sultanpur village.

On Tuesday, the Collector visited Sultanpur village in Yellegudem mandal of the district. She visited the government schools there, later she visited the Primary Health Centre in the village. She also visited the village panchayat office and inspected the records.

She went round the government schools inspecting the classrooms, kitchen, drinking water storage tank and the school surroundings. She expressed satisfaction at the cleanliness in and around the school. The District Collector asked the authorities to take steps to ensure that there would be no water stagnation in the school.



CPI dares KCR to adopt Bairanpally

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

CPI state committee secretary Chada Venkat Reddy has expressed anger over the rule by doras, erstwhile Deshmukhs or land lords in Telangana, replacing the Nizam rule in the state.

Chada Venkat Reddy was leading a bus yatra of the CPI to heroic village of Bairanpally in Dhoolmitta mandal of Siddipet district as part of the Telangana Armed Struggle Week festivities on Tuesday.

Addressing the gathering at the mud fort in the village, Chada Venkat Reddy said the

credit of sacrificing 4,500 lives of Communist party workers to liberate the poor from vetti of zamindars by planting red flags in the lands of the zamindars. After the bloodbath in the village, the Razakars paraded women naked and made them play Bathukamma in nude and tortured them, he said demanding the state government to develop the Bairanpally as a famous tourist attraction going by its historical antecedents.

The state and central governments have been ignoring the Telangana Armed Struggle, he said.

NVSS, Gudur Narayana visit public meeting site

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party state vice president and former MLA NVSS Prabhakar and party's senior leader Gudur Narayana Reddy on Tuesday have visited the site where Union Home Minister Amit Shah would address a huge public meeting on September 17, on the occasion of Telangana Liberation Day.

Prabhakar and Narayana Reddy have been appointed as in-charges of the public meeting of Amit Shah. They have been entrusted the responsibility of overseeing the arrangements for the public meeting.

The state BJP senior leaders visited the ground where the public meeting would be held along with Revenue, R and B, Panchayat Raj and police officials and inspected the arrangements. Nirmal district BJP president Rama Devi



and leaders of Nirmal district BJP have accompanied them.

The Union Home Minister would address the public meeting at Veyyi Uudala Marri near Nirmal. Veyyi Uudala Marri is a place where about 1000 Telangana Liberation fighters have been executed by the Razakars of erstwhile Nizam Government

of Hyderabad State before the liberation of Telangana on September 17, 1948.

The state BJP has taken the public meeting as a prestigious one and making all out efforts to make it a grand success. It has been gathering lakhs of people for the public meeting of the Union Home Minister.

INDIA
CORNER

4 drown, 7 missing after boat capsizes in river in Amravati

Four people drowned and at least seven others were missing after their boat capsized in the Wardha river in Maharashtra's Amravati district on Tuesday, police said. Two other boat occupants swam to safety, they said. The incident took place around 10.30 am in Warud tehsil under the jurisdiction of Benoda police station, when 12 members of some families from Gadegaon village along with the boatman were on way to a temple after visiting a waterfall nearby, a police official said. Prima facie, it appears that the boat was unable to sustain the weight of its occupants, he said. The victims had come to Zunj in Warud tehsil for the post-death rituals of a relative on Monday. On Tuesday morning, they all got on to the boat to visit a temple. However, the vessel capsized in the middle of the river, the official said. Two of its male occupants, aged 27 and 35, swam to safety, he said. Teams of the police and district disaster management authority have so far been fished out four bodies, and three of them were identified as boatman Narayan Matare (45), Wanshika Shivankar (2) and Kiran Khandale (25), the police said. Efforts were on to trace the other seven missing people, they said.



Goods train carrying wheat derails, falls into river in Odisha

At least nine wagons of a goods train running on the Angul-Talcher Road route of East Coast Railways derailed in the early hours of Tuesday and fell into a river, officials said. The wagons carrying wheat plunged into the river around 2.30 am, but the loco pilot and other staff were reported to be safe as the engine remained on the track, they said. Heavy rain in the wake of a deep depression in the Bay of Bengal is likely to have caused the accident on a bridge over river Nandira when the goods train was on its way from Firozpur to Khurda Road, the officials said. Talcher recorded 394 mm of rainfall in the last two days. Following the incident, the ECoR has cancelled 12 trains, diverted routes of eight others and short terminated another, they added. Accident relief trains from Sambalpur and Khurda Road have been rushed to the spot, where senior officials are reviewing the restoration work. "Prima facie, the cause of the derailment appears to be... flash flood. Retaining walls on both sides have been damaged and washout of tracks on approach to the bridge from the Angul side is also noticed," an ECoR official said.



Venkaiah Naidu expresses delight over India administering 75 crore Covid vaccine doses

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday expressed delight over India administering 75 crore doses of coronavirus vaccine and urged people to shed hesitancy and get inoculated. The country crossed the landmark of administering 75 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses on Monday. More than 71 lakh doses were administered on Monday till 7 pm, according to the provisional data available on Co-WIN portal.



"Delighted to know that we have crossed the milestone of administering 75 crore doses of the COVID-19 vaccine as the nation celebrates the 75th year of our Independence. My appreciation to the health workers, government officials and all others for their extraordinary efforts," the Vice President Secretariat tweeted, quoting Naidu as saying. The vice president appealed to those "harbouring doubts" to shed vaccine hesitancy and get themselves vaccinated as the country moves ahead to achieve the goal of inoculating all eligible people.

UP was run by gangsters before 2017, Yogi jailed them, says Modi

PNS ■ ALIGARH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said Uttar Pradesh was run by gangsters and mafias before 2017, but now things have changed under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and such elements are behind the bars.

He also said that earlier roadblocks were created in the implementation of welfare schemes meant for the poor, but now there are no such hurdles and benefits of these schemes are reaching the needy.

Modi was addressing a function after laying the foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University here.

The university is being established by the UP government in the memory and honour of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, the great freedom fighter, educationist and social reformer. It is being set up in a total area of over 92 acres at Lodha village and Musepur Kareem Jarouli village of Aligarh's Kol tehsil.

The university will provide affiliation to 395 colleges of the Aligarh division.

PM to attend Quad summit in Washington on Sept 24

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the first in-person summit of the Quad leaders in Washington on September 24 that is expected to broadly focus on contemporary global challenges including ways to ensure a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

Announcing the prime minister's visit to the US, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said he is also scheduled to address the 'General Debate' of the high-level segment of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 25 in New York.

In Washington, Modi is expected to hold separate bilateral talks with US President Joe Biden and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the Afghan crisis is likely to figure in the meetings.

The last time Modi visited the US was in September 2019 when he and then US President Donald Trump addressed the Howdy-Modi event in



Houston.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be participating, along with Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga of Japan and President Joseph R Biden of USA, in the Leaders' Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework in Washington DC, USA, on September 24," the MEA said in a statement.

It said the leaders will review progress made since their first virtual summit on March 12 and discuss regional issues of shared interest.

"As part of their ongoing efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, they will review

the Quad Vaccine initiative which was announced in March this year," the MEA said.

The Quad grouping comprises the US, India, Australia and Japan.

The US is hosting the in-person summit of the leaders of Quad to boost practical cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region as well as to send a strong signal about Washington's commitment to the grouping.

In March, President Biden hosted the first-ever summit of the Quad leaders in the virtual format that vowed to strive for an Indo-Pacific region that

is free, open, inclusive, anchored by democratic values, and unconstrained by coercion, sending an apparent message to China.

The MEA said the leaders will also exchange views on contemporary global issues such as critical and emerging technologies, connectivity and infrastructure, cyber security, maritime security, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, climate change and education.

"The summit would provide a valuable opportunity for dialogue and interactions among the Leaders, anchored in their shared vision of ensuring a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region," the MEA said.

Modi will travel to New York to attend the UN General Assembly after concluding his engagements in Washington.

"The theme for this year's General Debate is 'Building Resilience through hope to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalise the United Nations'," the MEA said.

Assam govt bypassing crucial clause of Accord for CAA: AJP

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) on Tuesday accused the Assam government of side-lining the "crucial" clause 5 of the Assam Accord, which deals with cut-off date for identification of illegal foreigners by bringing in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

AJP president Luriniyoti Gogoi and general secretary Jagdish Bhuyan, in a press statement, alleged that the BJP party-led government was working to reduce the Assamese people to a minority status in their own state in order to appease "foreigners" who will be turned into voters through provisions of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

"Clause 5 of the Accord specifies the cut-off date for identifying foreigners. But it will become irrelevant when the CAA is implemented. It will tantamount to killing the Assam Accord and its spirit," they said.

This vital clause has been ignored by the government when it recently formed a committee to implement the Accord, they added.

The state government had

on September 7 announced a committee with its ministers and representatives of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), which was a signatory of the Accord as member to prepare a roadmap within three months to implement the Assam Accord.

The Chief Minister's Office in a statement the same day had said that the meeting decided to prepare an "implementation framework to implement the provisions of Assam Accord with special reference to Clause 6, 7, 9 and 10".

Clause 5 of the Accord sets March 25, 1971, as the cut-off date for detecting and deporting illegal aliens from Assam.

The AJP alleges that the contentious CAA violates the Assam Accord as it seeks to provide Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis who came to India on or before December 31, 2014 from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after five years of residence here.

The AJP leaders also alleged the percentage of Assamese-speaking population will decreased by 10 per cent over



ABBA JAAN ROW India belongs to all: JD(U) to Yogi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country belongs to everybody, be it Hindus, Muslims, Christians or any other community, and political parties should maintain restraint in their comments, JD(U) president Lalan Singh said on Tuesday as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's 'abba jaan' remark in a public speech stoked a row.

"Terms like 'unity in diversity' are used for our country. The country belongs to all. No remarks should be made that harm the country," Singh, a co-nfident of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, told reporters when asked for his reaction to the BJP leader's comments.

In this context, he also took a swipe at JMM leader and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren for his remarks allegedly aimed at Bhojpuri and Magahi-speaking people of the state. Everybody has a right to settle in whatever part of the country they like, he said.

Addressing a programme in Kushinagar on Sunday, Adityanath had alleged that people did not get ratings before 2017 like they do now.

"Because then, people who say



'abba jaan' used to digest the rations. The rations of Kushinagar used to go to Nepal and Bangladesh. Today, if anybody tries to swallow the rations meant for poor people, he will land in jail," the chief minister had said. 'Abba jaan' is the Urdu term for father.

In his press conference, the JD(U) president, a Lok Sabha MP from Munger, also played down the decision of his party, the biggest BJP ally, to send its senior leader K C Tyagi to a rally being organised in Jind on September 25 by INLD chief Om Prakash Chautala, seen as part of efforts for forming a non-BJP, non-Congress front.

"We are strongly part of the NDA (BJP-led alliance)," he said, and dismissed talks about a third front, saying his party will attend the rally as it is being organised to mark the birth anniversary of Devi Lal.

SC not to reopen decision on grant of quota in promotions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday said it would not reopen its decision on granting reservation in promotions to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) as it was for the states to decide how they implement it.

Taking up various pleas pertaining to alleged hurdles in granting reservation in promotions to SCs and STs in various states, a three-judge bench headed by Justice Nageswara Rao directed the Advocate on Records of state governments to identify issues peculiar to them and submit those within two weeks.

"We are making it very clear that we are not going to reopen Nagraj or Jarnail Singh (cases) because the idea was only to decide these cases in accordance with the law laid down by the court," said the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai.

The top court noted that in its earlier order, the state governments were directed to finalise the issues which are peculiar to them so that court can proceed in the matter.

The issues framed by the Attorney General K K Venugopal and the ones circulated by others are enhancing the scope of cases, it said.



"We are not willing to do that. There are certain issues which are already decided in Nagraj that also we are not going to take up. We are very clear that we are not going to permit any arguments for reopening of cases or arguing that law laid down from indira sahney is wrong because the very scope of these cases is to apply the law as laid down by this court," the court said.

Venugopal submitted before the apex court that nearly all these issues have been covered by judgements of the top court and he would give a background of all the cases on issue of reservation since the Indira Sawhney case.

Senior advocate Indira Jaisingh contended that the issue which remains open is benchmarks for adequacy on

how a state will decide on which groups are backwards.

"It is not a question of disputed facts any more. In some cases HCs have struck down on the ground that backwardness has not been shown. How any state will establish that representation is adequate and in that sense there will have to be benchmarks for adequacy which will require detailed consideration," she said.

Responding to the submission, the bench said, "We are not here to advise the government what they should do. It's not for us to tell the government how to implement policy. It has been specifically held as to how the states have to implement it and consider backwardness and representation. States have to decide what to do subject to judicial review."

After blast, BJP MP says TMC trying to kill him

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Less than a week after miscreants hurled bombs at BJP MP Arjun Singh's residence in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas, similar explosions were reported outside his home on Tuesday morning, with the saffron party leader claiming that members of the ruling TMC were trying to take his life.

Around 9.10 am, bombs exploded on a vacant patch of land, which is just about 200 metres away from Singh's Bhatpara residence, a police officer said.

"We are investigating the matter. Our officers are there," he added.

The NIA on Monday took over the probe into the incident on September 8, which left the gate at the BJP MP's residence partially damaged.

Singh alleged that it was an attack planned by the Trinamool Congress to kill him, his family members and people close to him.

BJYM plans 20-day campaign to mark PM Modi's birthday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The youth wing of the BJP will undertake various welfare and awareness programmes and host 'Nava Bharat Mela' across the country to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday and his two decades in public service.

The 20-day 'Seva aur Samarpan Abhiyaan' will start on Modi's birthday on September 17 and conclude on October 7, according to a Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) statement.

As part of the campaign, every district unit of the BJYM will organize a unique 'Nava Bharat Mela', publicising the work of the Narendra Modi government over the last seven years. It will also comprise cleanliness drives, organising blood donation camps and quiz contests.

"The BJYM has been marking the birthday of PM Modi as Seva Diwas, hosting exten-

sive service programmes across the country. It has also been organizing manifold welfare activities across the country for a week in the form of Seva Saptah," said BJYM president Tejasvi Surya.

This time around, the celebrations will be extended to 20 days to mark Narendra Modi completing two decades as the head of public office -- 13 years as chief minister of Gujarat and 7 years as the prime minister of India, he said.

"The PM's birthday, which falls on September 17, is a day we spend in rendering service. October 7, the day he assumed office as chief minister, reminds us of his complete dedication to the service of our nation and its people, a quality that has been a feature of these 20-years of Narendra Modi's life," he said.

The 'Seva aur Samarpan Abhiyaan' will be carried out in all districts of the country.

Sansad TV launch today by Venkaiah, PM, Speaker

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will jointly launch Sansad TV on Wednesday, the Prime Minister's Office said.

The launch date coincides with the International Day of Democracy, the PMO noted.

The decision to merge Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV was taken in February, and the CEO of Sansad TV was appointed in March.

The PMO said Sansad TV programming will primarily be in four categories.

Bench to hear Deshmukh's plea on ED summons in PMLA case

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday said its division bench (comprising two judges), instead of a single-judge bench, would hear the petition filed by Maharashtra former home minister Anil Deshmukh against the summons issued to him by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case.

A single bench of Justice S K Shinde said the objection raised by the HC registry department that the issues raised in the plea ought to be heard by a division bench is "correct".

Justice Shinde directed the registry department to place Deshmukh's petition for hear-

ing before the appropriate division bench.

Deshmukh filed the petition earlier this month, seeking to quash the five summons issued to him by the ED.

Last week, when the plea came up for hearing before Justice Shinde, Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED, brought to the HC's attention a note addressed by the registry department saying the plea has to be heard by a division bench.

Counsel appearing for Deshmukh said the single bench had the jurisdiction to hear the plea. The court said it would consider the issue and pass orders.

The ED had initiated a probe against Deshmukh and his associates after the CBI filed its FIR against him on April 21 on charges of corruption and misuse of official position.

Deshmukh in his plea claimed the ED's action was a result of political vendetta.

The petition also said the agency's whole case was based on "malicious statements" made by dismissed police officer Sachin Waze, who is presently in jail in connection the case of an explosives-laden vehicle found near the residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani in February this year and the subsequent killing of businessman Mansukh Hiran.

Amit Shah for all regional languages

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said Hindi is a friend of India's regional languages and all of them should be promoted and encouraged.

Addressing a function on the occasion of Hindi Diwas, Shah also appealed to parents to communicate with their children at home in their mother tongue even if they study in English medium schools.

Otherwise, the children will be cut off from their roots, he said.

"Hindi has no difference with any regional language. Hindi is the 'Sakhi' (friend) of all Indian regional languages," he said.

Shah said all Indian regional languages complement and



complete Hindi and all regional languages must be promoted and encouraged.

Since 2014, more MPs are speaking in their own regional language in Parliament and they are being translated verbatim to English and Hindi, he said and added that this has helped people's representatives

to highlight the problems of their respective areas in the highest forum.

The home minister said people should not only be 'Atma Nirbhar' (self-reliant) in producing goods but also for languages.

He cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's example of speaking only in Hindi at all

international forums to convey his thoughts.

"Hesitation over Hindi is a passe," he said.

Referring to the New Education Policy (NEP) envisaged by Modi, Shah said it has provisions for promotion of regional and Hindi languages.

On dealing with the pandemic situation, he said India has been successful in handling COVID-19 with minimum damage due to joint efforts of the central and state governments and with the active cooperation of 130 crore population.

The prime minister, whenever he addressed the nation, talked with all stakeholders — doctors, experts and others — in Hindi which resulted in the message reaching the grass-roots level, he said.



Humane touch

The SC correctly favours suicide by COVID-19 patients to be treated as medical deaths

Continuing to keep a watchful eye on the rehabilitation of those devastated by COVID-19, the Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to consider suicides by COVID-19 patients as COVID-19 deaths so that their families can get compensation. Only extreme suffering from the infection could have led to the patients dying by suicide, the court reasoned. The Bench of Justices MR Shah and AS Bopanna made the remarks while examining the Centre's guidelines for issuing COVID-19 death certificates and payment of compensation. The guidelines do not consider deaths due to poisoning, suicide, murder and accident as COVID-19 deaths even if the infection was an accompanying condition. The court was satisfied when the Government said it would re-examine the matter. The court's proposal is certainly a humane gesture but both the Government and the judiciary should first consider the issue in its totality because of the implications involved. To cut to the chase, any suicide is the result of the victim being forced into taking the step due to extremely frustrating and depressing circumstances. The suicide leaves the family members without a bread winner if the victim was the only person employed and, in dire straits, if they were poor and disadvantaged. Technically speaking, it will be a challenge for the Government to prove that the suicide of a COVID-19 positive patient was owing to the infection and not any other reason. Secondly, several frustrating and compelling factors, as dangerous as COVID-19, force people to commit suicide.



Any Government policy to compensate only families of COVID-19 positive patients committing suicide may be seen to be discriminating against suicides for other, equally terrible reasons. Thirdly, the Government and the courts will need to sensitise the people who continue to think that suicide is merely a crime and which colours their attitude towards the victims. Suicide is a crime under the archaic Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code. The section was not repealed even though its scope was reduced by the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, that said anyone who attempts suicide is presumed "to have severe stress and shall not be tried and punished" and calls on the Government to "provide care, treatment and rehabilitation" of the person in order "to reduce the risk of recurrence" of such an attempt. The humanitarian aspect of the law needs to be popularised to blunt indifference to circumstances that lead to suicides and encourage rehabilitation of survivors or families of victims. Thousands of farmers commit suicide in India because of bankruptcy, indebtedness and crop failure. There is a compensation plan in place for them though farmers who do not hold title to their land, like women farmers in most cases, are not yet eligible for compensation. A rational approach to the matter is perhaps hidden in the question of whether a healthy farmer who committed suicide because he became indebted after failing to save his crop during the COVID-19 lockdown would be eligible for compensation as well.

PICTALK



A man on a rickshaw wades through a waterlogged street during heavy rain in Nadia, West Bengal

PTI

Quad unity

Biden's 'shift of focus to China' must show at the Quad Summit if he means business at all

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) was formed with an aim to contain China's growing influence in Asia and ensure territorial integrity in the Indo-Pacific region. After US President Joe Biden quit the unresolved Afghan war in order to "shift focus to China", the dialogue becomes way more important to him than ever. Hence, he is all set to host the first ever in-person Quad Summit at the White House in Washington on September 24 which shall be attended by the leaders of all four member countries — the US, India, Japan and Australia. The dialogue shall focus on areas such as combating COVID-19, addressing the climate crisis, partnering on emerging technologies and cyberspace, and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific. Biden has received multiple setbacks because of his soft stance lately, and this Summit could actually help rescue his lost relevance. A virtual meeting of the Quad leaders was also held in March this year, and the members pledged to work closely on COVID-19 vaccines and ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific. Quad is, by all means, the need of the hour for the US, the Quad and the Asean countries, and it is high time that Biden realises what Trump had learned back in 2017. Trump helped revitalise Quad and had called Nato "obsolete" because of its little relevance now. At the inaugural two-plus-two ministerial dialogue with Australia held on Saturday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that Nato was a "cold war term" while Quad looks to the future.



The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's primary objective was to deal with the USSR and its main constituent Russia, which is economically in a battered state today, while China is economically as well as militarily the toughest rival. On the other side, Beijing's aggressive behaviour towards Taiwan and other surrounding countries and its dominance in international waters is a grave concern. The Taiwan issue is likely to be on the agenda, and it should be. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian lashed out at the upcoming Quad Summit and said, "The relevant countries should abandon the obsolete Cold War mentality and narrow-minded geopolitical rivalry and view correctly and respect people's aspiration in the region." Biden needs to show that he means business. The rising instances of global terror after the developments in Afghanistan and maritime security in the Indo-Pacific must be discussed by the leaders.

Joe Biden slips with his soldiers

The POTUS, who managed five draft deferments from going to Vietnam, is again found wanting in his treatment of the US soldier in Afghanistan



BHOPINDER SINGH

Joe Biden is the 46th President of the United States, but not one of the 29 who served in the military, in some capacity. He had managed five draft deferments from going to Vietnam and equivocated on the Vietnam War *per se*, whilst politically opposing Richard Nixon's conduct of war. This flip-flop of positions was visible in Biden asserting that he was against authorising the Iraq War in 2002 as he was supposedly "against it from the moment it started", whilst contradicting himself with his vote for the Authorisation for Use of Military Force (AUMF) for the invasion, as the Chair of the Senate Relations Committee. Later, a chance duel against a decidedly racist, sexist and xenophobic Donald Trump (who clownishly and dangerously sought to usurp the imagery of the US military) ensured that Biden was sworn in as POTUS and, therefore, Commander-in-Chief of its Armed Forces. Clearly for many Veterans who traditionally supported the more rightwing Republican Party, Biden was the better of the two bad choices.

For a persistently combat-engaged nation with approximately 19 million Veterans as per the Department of Veteran Affairs, representing nearly 10 per cent of the total US adult population — the opinion of the 'Uniformed' fraternity matters. Biden frequently invoked the memory of his late son in his presidential campaign, Beau Biden, who served and rose to the rank of Major in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. Beau tenanted Iraq from 2008 to 2009 and received a Bronze Star for his services. Biden's "sacred obligation" campaign towards military families entreated that sentiment, "As parents of a service member who was deployed to Iraq, Vice-President Joe Biden and (Dr) Jill Biden understand that it's not just military members who sign up to serve our nation, their families do too." Meanwhile the ham-handed approach of Trump, including upstaging the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, as also respected Veterans like Generals James Mattis and HR McMaster, swung the mood in favour of Biden — aided immeasurably by Trump's



guffaws and derelictions.

Today, over eight months as the POTUS, Biden has taken one substantial decision in the militaristic realm, ie, withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and his consequential approval ratings have plummeted. While ending the 20-year war in Afghanistan was much sought after, the unheroically defeated and hurried manner (with the casualty from the ISIL-K attack) in which they withdrew has diminished the image and perceptions of the US military, externally and internally. Comparisons of a Vietnam redux are inevitable and odious, and it is only the Veteran who will pay that ignominious price and humiliation over time. Despair is magnified by the unfiltered reality of having amateurly underestimated the speed of collapse, the obvious lack of an operational plan and the embarrassment of having to take permission from the 'enemy', ie, Taliban, to 'evict safely'. Unlike the militarily uninitiated and unconcerned politicians, the US soldier will suffer the additional and unimaginable moral injury in the know of what it has left behind in terms of allies (interpreters, drivers and support staff), and the sure fate that awaits them. The chaotic and mismanaged departure has left the uni-

“WHILE ENDING THE 20-YEAR WAR IN AFGHANISTAN WAS MUCH SOUGHT AFTER, THE UNHEROICALLY DEFEATED AND HURRIED MANNER IN WHICH THEY WITHDREW HAS DIMINISHED THE IMAGE AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE US MILITARY”

formed fraternity pained, frustrated and shamed, and the blame is coming understandably on the POTUS.

Seemingly, Biden cannot seem to get much right with the 'uniformed' sentiments as he was seen disrespectfully checking his watch as casket after casket appeared during the somber "dignified transfer" ceremony for the 13 fallen US troops who were killed at the Kabul airport.

Many also commented on the inappropriateness of the President repeatedly invoking his late son's name, instead of that of those who had actually fallen under his watch. Many family members of the fallen soldiers refused to meet the President, while some others who did so, did some plain-speaking to his face. The mother of one called Biden "a dementia-ridden piece of crap who doesn't even know he's in the White House". Importantly, it is not a partisan divide as many of these families have equally slammed Donald Trump's ill-timed opportunism in politicising the soldiers' deaths, with many calling it "without honour", "disgusting" and "gross".

Trump with his patent cattiness has sought to spin grieving families predatorially into dangerous territory — insincere and qualified as his support always is, only to those

who back him politically, and smearing those who don't, like the Gold Star family of Captain Humayun Khan. The political tooling of the military is increasingly irresistible in democracies across the world with unwarranted usurpation of the narrative, parading and milking of raw emotions towards electoral harvest — even mature democracies like the US are prone to it.

In an unavoidably comparative sense, most Veterans know that the Commander-in-Chief requires selfless devotion to constitutionality, restraint, depth of character and principled leadership — and, therefore, they may still back Biden over Trump, but the recent handling of Afghanistan has led to the rightful questioning of Biden beyond partisanship. In the world of professional 'uniform', winning a "just war" is important and, if not that, then going down fighting with valour and dignity is the only other option — in Afghanistan, neither of the two was achieved, and the slip is clearly showing for Biden amongst the fraternity. He must be put to question, beyond partisan preferences.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BOOK LAUNCH PROVED COSTLY

Sir — During a pandemic, a certain amount of restraint is expected of everyone. Indian cricket team coach Ravi Shastri, along with the batting coach, fielding coach and physio contracted Coronavirus in England when the team was in the midst of a Test series and on the cusp of creating history. Shastri's book — *Stargazing: The Players in My Life* — has been hitting the headlines with its extracts being published in the media. But was it so important to release a book at a function where outsiders were allowed, and most of them did not adhere to personal protection, is the moot question?

It is said that no prior permission was sought from the BCCI by Shastri. The entire Indian team, too, was present at the book release in London on August 31, two days before the fifth Test at Manchester. The hugely anticipated fifth Test was called off. Obviously, Shastri knows he is not answerable to anybody, let alone the board. After all this, the Indian team's image has taken a beating. This comes at a time when the team seemed to have hit a purple patch.

Ganapathi Bhat | Nagpur

UNREASONABLY NEET

Sir — The Tamil Nadu Government has passed the Anti-NEET Bill, 2021, in the Assembly to ban NEET exams in the State. The decision to pass the Bill was taken in the wake of the suicide by death of a medical aspirant. With the passing of the Bill, students would get admission to UG medical degree courses based on the qualifying HSC or class 12 marks. TN has been in strong opposition to NEET since its recommendation in 2013. The TN Government's move to ban the exam raises questions about its suitability for admission to medical courses.

Strong arguments have been put forward against the need of conducting the exam. NEET is an assault on the autonomy of private, unaided institutions. It is an example of over-centralisation of education and violates the rights of

'Oscar Anna' bids final adieu



With the passing away of Oscar Fernandes, the nation has lost a highly respected politician, a veteran parliamentarian and a Congress stalwart who made significant contributions to Indian politics over the last few decades. Fernandes became a close confidant of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi after the demise of Rajiv Gandhi and remained a disciplined party man throughout his political life. The veteran leader was a five-term member of the Lok Sabha and four served

unaided, private and minority institutions. As most of the institutions are in cities and the fees are very high, poor students from rural areas face disadvantage. Considering all these facts, it is of great importance to arrive at a decision whether the imposition of NEET is fair. If all State Governments conduct admission to medical courses in fair and transparent ways, the imposition of NEET would be unreasonable.

Venu GS | Kollam

INUNDED BY HEAVY RAINS

Sir — The schools in Odisha are closed for two days amid downpour; there is record rainfall in Puri and Bhubaneswar. The Odisha Government has shut down schools in 12 districts for two days as rain continues to lash the State for the third day due to a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal. The deep depression after crossing the coast has moved west-northwest and is now lying as a depres-

sion over north coastal parts of Odisha and adjoining BoB. The system will continue to move west-northwest towards Chhattisgarh in the next 24 hours and over southern parts of Madhya Pradesh and adjoining Maharashtra in the subsequent 24 hours. Heavy rainfall is expected during this period over these States till September 15. Slight breather is foreseen between September 16 and 19 as of now. The rainfall deficiency for Odisha will drop back to normal range from a whopping 30 per cent or even more till August. Some of the districts will possibly shift to surplus for the season. Heavy rainfall over the State will continue for 24 hours and reduce thereafter. It is indeed good news but the damage caused by rains has given the State Government sleepless nights.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

SOUND BITE

The ED interrogated Abhishek Banerjee for nine hours. We cannot be threatened. We are not the Congress or Akhilesh Yadav or Sharad Pawar.



West Bengal CM — Mamata Banerjee

The people of Afghanistan need a lifeline. After decades of war, suffering and insecurity, they face perhaps their most perilous hour.

UN Secretary-General — Antonio Guterres

My love for horror films was one of the main reasons that got me excited to play the part in *Bhoot Police*, where I get 'possessed'.



Actor — Yami Gautam

India did not respect this series and they did not respect Test cricket either in flouting COVID guidelines ahead of the fourth Test.

Former England cricketer — Paul Newman

By making Telangana Dait Bandhu scheme a success, we will become the ones who laid new tracks for the development of Dalits.



Telangana Chief Minister — K Chandrasekhara Reddy

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN SUPER-SPREADERS OF EDUCATION, NOT VIRUS

Life seems to be otherwise going normal but educational institutions still face restrictions



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

States are still dilly dallying on opening educational institutions in the country. Non-vaccination of students or vaccine unavailability for children are the given reasons. Institutions are, therefore, seen as “super spreaders”. And there is fear of the third wave of COVID-19. Yet, life seems to be otherwise normal all around us. Political parties are holding rallies, farmers are organizing protests, election commission is holding elections, market places and malls are open, recreational activities are going on full-swing. There is no restriction on domestic air and surface travel. Then why restrictions only for students and educational institutions? Across the world, India is among five countries where educational institutions have remained closed for long. Millions of students are deprived of active learning at pre-school level and break in education for older students. States are registering a high dropout of students from the school system, especially girl students. They may never get an opportunity to go back to school again. The gains made through enrollment of



through Right to Education may be lost. A group of 56 renowned academicians, doctors including epidemiologists and other experts have urged state chief ministers to reopen schools and colleges. The signatories include Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, epidemiologist and public health expert, Professor Suneela Garg of the Lancet Covid-19 Commission, Dr Naveen Thacker of the International Paediatric Association, and Shaneen Mistri, Teach For India CEO Shaheen Mistri. The letter says, “There is an urgent need to bring children back to school. Since younger children are least at risk, we urge you to permit primary schools to open first, in line with Indian Council of medical Research (ICMR) recommendations, and then higher classes. Vaccination is not a prerequisite for reopening schools.”

The purpose of vaccination is to prevent severe illness and death, and children are at relatively low risk of severe or fatal COVID-19. It is well known that the lack of education for students, particularly girls, affects the health and livelihood of next generation. These are extreme costs. Government and task forces must strike a balance of risks and such balance is overwhelmingly in favour of opening schools. NK Arora, senior member of the National COVID-19 task force said in a recent interview, “There are 44 crore children in India, out of which 12 crore are in the 12-17 age group...Based on Indian and global data, the risk of severe disease and death are rare in children. However, children can spread infection. Adults have almost 15 times higher risk of death and severe disease compared with children below 18 years. So, if adults around them at home or at school are vaccinated, it will form a protective ring around them. There will be limited virus and disease transmission in that condition. I strongly feel that parents should send their kids to school without waiting for Covid-19 vaccine for two reasons; one, their risk of developing a severe disease is rare; second going to school is important for their cognitive, physical and mental development.” The Ministry of Home Affairs says the pandemic situation is stable. Experts justify arguing that if earlier prediction of India witnessing a rise of four-five lakh cases daily in a third wave was true, it would have happened by now. But it has not happened. On the contrary, our big cities are witnessing normal life with no substantial increase in cases, the reason being that on an average, over 67 per cent of our population have antibodies against the virus and the pace of vaccination is increasing every passing day. That is a good enough reason to consider reopening schools even if in a phased manner.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

Caste in UP polls: A case of Brahmins

Reported persecution of Brahmins is believed to be the new mantra of UP politics with all major parties out to woo this small but influential section



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Political parties, gearing up for the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, are looking for new political strategies that could bring them back to power. Caste and religion are the two basic fundamentals on which this election would be contested and the parties are planning their strategies around these planks. In this melee, the biggest casualty is development as no political party is talking about it. “Sadak, pani, bijli” is no longer an issue for them, but caste and religion are.

Just a few months back the opposition parties were tearing apart the Yogi Government for its failure to prevent deaths of people in the second wave of COVID-19. Then there were issues of poor law and order and lack of governance which the opposition claimed will prove detrimental for the ruling BJP. We were expecting protests across the state, almost every day, highlighting people's issues. We were expecting the opposition would come up with a vision and project itself as an alternative to the BJP; nothing of that sort has happened so far.

For the last one month, dengue and viral fever have been raging in western Uttar Pradesh where over 100 children have died so far. Senior leaders have criticized the government by issuing statements through tweets but none of the top opposition leaders has visited the affected region. Opposition leaders of substance merely shared their agonies through press notes.

The shades of what we can expect in the elections have started emanating when Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) claimed that it will start its Tiranga Yatra after “darshan of Ram Lalla” in Ayodhya. Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav has started hopping from one temple to another while in an attempt to invigorate Muslims, Asaduddin Owaisi, President of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), has raised the issue of the razing of a mosque in Barabanki. He even targeted the Samajwadi Party saying why it did not protest.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, on the other hand, is silently working on its Hindutva agenda. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has declared a 10 sq. km.-area around the Krishna Janmashstami around Mathura-Vrindavan as pilgrimage area thus prohibiting sale of liquor and meat in 22 wards of Mathura city. The Deepotsava in Ayodhya would be a grand affair this year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to attend the program when the government will attempt to break the Guinness record by lighting over seven lakh diyas.

Then there is caste which is the fulcrum of elections in Uttar Pradesh since the Mandal days. The emergence of smaller caste parties that have influence in small pockets has changed poll dynamics. The big parties are too eager to align with them realizing that all small gains can catapult them into power. This is evident



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(The writer is Political Editor, Lucknow edition of The Pioneer.)



the way Bharatiya Janata Party is trying to woo Apna Dal, a Kurmi based party and Nishad party, that has influence among Nishads - the boating community.

Akhilesh Yadav too has shown his willingness to align with smaller parties as he has publicly claimed that Samajwadi Party will not forge an alliance with big parties but his party's doors are always open for smaller parties. He has already declared an alliance with Mahan Dal and is also in touch with Om Prakash Rajbhar, an OBC leader whose SuheldevBharatiya Samaj Party, is an alliance with AIMIM but he is looking for greener pasture.

Castes like Sahus, Kashyaps, Sainis, Kushwahas, Mauryas, Shakyas, Pals, Dhangers, Gaderiyas, Kumhars, Nishads, and Mallas are much in “demand”. The BJP in 2017 had also expanded its reach among Other Backward Castes (OBCs), by allying with Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) and the Nishad Party in 2019. The SBSP, however, broke off ties after the 2019 Lok Sabha elections despite Rajbhar being made a cabinet minister in the Yogi Government and his son and other supporters given chairmanships of state-run corporations.

On the other hand, Samajwadi Party is focussing on Kurmis, Mauryas, Sainis, Sahus, Kashyaps, and other such. There is a feeling in Samajwadi Party that it might give more tickets to non-Yadav OBCs in the coming elections.

The search for caste alliance is not limited to backward or Other Backward Caste (OBC) only even the upper caste, particularly Brahmins are now much in demand. Persecution of Brahmins is believed to be the new mantra of UP politics as Bahujan Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party have declared that if their parties return to power, they will order a probe into the atrocities being committed against Brahmins during the Yogi Raj.

At the concluding session of the BSP's Prabudh Sammelan, Mayawati declared that if she was voted to power, a Commission would be set up to enquire into atrocities and injustice done to Brahmins by the BJP government. She even claimed that injustice was also done during Akhilesh Yadav's regime and her the party will work to restore the “samman” of the Brahmins.

Remember, this is the same Mayawati whose party had coined the slogan “Tilak tarazu aur talwar, inkomaarojutteychaar” (Beat Brahmins, Vaishyas, and Thakurs with slippers). Such is her compulsion to appease Brahmins that she did not hesitate to go for identity politics when she accepted a trishul, conch shell, and a silver elephant, the election symbol of the party, as gifts during a Prabudh Sammelan from party leaders.

The Brahmins, who constitute around 10 percent of the vote share in Uttar Pradesh, have suddenly become very important in Uttar Pradesh. Not only opposition,

even the ruling BJP has started looking for Brahmin icons to appease this politically important community. This was probably the first time when a ruling party celebrated the birth anniversary of Govind Ballabh Pant, a Chief Minister of an opposition party. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself laid a wreath on the statue of the former Chief Minister.

Why are the political parties giving so much attention to this vote bank in UP? First, the Brahmins make up a significant size of the electorate, and secondly, their strong socio-political history helps in influencing opinions during elections. Thirdly, though Brahmins largely remain with BJP, they do not hesitate to switch sides.

The Brahmins can influence 104 assembly seats out of 403 seats. According to the Lokniti-CSDS survey data, more than half of the Brahmin electorate always voted for the BJP till 2004. However, the community's support for the BJP fell below 40 percent in the 2007 assembly elections when Mayawati's BSP won the majority. It stayed that way till equations changed in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections when the BJP got almost 72 percent of the Brahmins votes. The trend was repeated in the 2017 assembly and the 2019 Lok Sabha elections when the party got 80 percent and 82 percent of Brahmin votes, respectively. After these three elections, Brahmin votes are to the BJP what Yadav votes are for the SP and Jatav votes are for the BSP.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WITH THE BLESSINGS OF SHRI RAMCHANDRA JI,
WE WILL RAISE THE TRICOLOUR AND
TEACH REAL NATIONALISM.
— DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER
MANISH SISODIA



THERE ARE LEADERS WHO EARLIER SPOKE
AGAINST THE RAM TEMPLE AND ARE NOW SEEKING
REFUGE IN THE LORD.
— UP DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER
KESHAV MAURYA

Birthday bashes and the personality cult of leaders

Narendra Modi is aware of how important image-building is for a politician

Who does not want a birthday bash, particularly politicians? It has been in vogue for many years, particularly among the famous and populist leaders. There are dedicated birthday functions for Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, B R Ambedkar, and so on.

It is normal practice for supporters to greet their leaders with flowers and cakes. The bigger the cake they get, the better the leader is pleased with his courtiers. RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav celebrates his birthday with secular cakes. On his 55th birthday, the cake was shaped like a church, masjid, and temple. Late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa once cut a cake in the shape of parliament, reveal-



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a retired Indian Railways professional and consultant. The views expressed are personal.)

ing her ambition for a national role.

Mayawati uses her birthday for crowdfunding and gets enormous amounts for her party on January 16. Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav was presented an 81-kilo “laddoo” when he turned 80 in November 2019. On Narendra Modi's birthday in 2019, a Surat bakery baked a 700-foot-long cake. In Delhi, BJP MPs cut a 370 kg cake to celebrate the revocation of Article 370.

The BJP too has found novel ways of celebrating birthday events. For instance, the silver jubilee function of the party held in Mumbai in 2005 had BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee emerging from a vast lotus built for the occasion at the Shivaji stadium.



The BJP plans to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 71st birthday as a mega event. A flurry of events is scheduled from September 17 (his birthday) till October 7 (when he became Gujarat Chief Minister 20 years ago). Last year, there were no grand birthday celebrations when Modi turned 70 because of the pandemic.

In the past, his birthday was marked as “Seva Saptah”.

The drive this year has been widened as “Seva our Samarpan Abhiyan” in tribute to his service and dedication. This period will also include the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi (October 2) and Deen Dayal Upadhyay (September 25).

The campaign will focus on how Modi had handled the aftermath of the Bhuj earthquake and how he managed to create brands such as the Gujarat Model and Vibrant Gujarat. Five crore “Thank You Modiji” postcards will be mailed directly to him as a token of gratitude. Fourteen ration bags with Modi's picture will be distributed. Videos and documentaries will be shown projecting Modi as the messiah of the poor. The Covid-19 pandemic

is not yet over. Then why these gala functions?

Internationally, Modi has much to be pleased about. Morning Consult, a US research firm has recently given Modi the highest approval rating of 70 per cent among global leaders. He led the chart that tracked 12 other leaders. Japan's Yoshihide Suga was at the bottom.

No doubt the opposition, which is looking for an issue, has criticised this mega programme when people still suffer from Covid-19. They point out that mishandling the pandemic is one of the significant failures of the Modi government, particularly the second wave, which took everyone unawares. The economy is down, and there is

massive unemployment, inflation and price rise. So, what is there to rejoice, they ask.

Modi is aware of how important image-building is for a politician. Elections are scheduled in half a dozen states, including UP, early next year. The party's election machinery has already been activated. The birthday celebrations will give a boost to the party cadres and prepare them to face the elections.

Further, they are intended to make Modi a cult figure, through BJP's parent organisation, RSS, is against such culture. Many regional leaders practice personality cults, including Mamata Banerjee, Mayawati, Kejriwal, Lalu Prasad Yadav, and others who have their own fiefdoms. These little tinpot dictators

coexist in a democracy with their personality cults, which is indeed a paradox.

Modi is presently in the mid-term of his second stint. Despite fulfilling most of the RSS-BJP core agenda like revoking Article 370 and building of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, Covid-19 has unexpectedly ruined the BJP's plans for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. His courtiers argue what is wrong with using the birthday as an occasion to project Modi as pro-poor. They contend that one should not grudge Modi his birthday bashes. After all, it is now clear that Modi is BJP and BJP is Modi and damage to one will damage the other. Birthday bashes are indeed a show of strength.

Markets eke out slim gains; Nifty closes at new high

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices resumed their climb on Tuesday after a day's pause following gains in IT, bank and engineering stocks amid a muted trend overseas. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 69.33 points or 0.12 per cent higher at 58,247.09. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 24.70 points or 0.14 per cent to its fresh closing record of 17,380.

IndusInd Bank topped the Sensex gainers chart with a jump of 4.07 per cent, followed by HCL Tech, Kotak Bank, Bajaj Auto, Tech Mahindra, L&T, Titan and TCS.

In contrast, HDFC, Nestle India, UltraTech Cement, HUL, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance were among the prominent laggards, shedding up to 1.07 per cent.

"Despite a bullish opening, domestic indices closed flat with a positive bias amid mixed sentiments among global peers. India's retail inflation soft-



ened to 5.3 per cent in August, staying within RBI's comfort zone, which was led by lower food inflation.

"However, the wholesale price inflation accelerated to 11.39 per cent, snapping the two-month easing trend owing to non-food articles. Global markets traded cautiously ahead of the US consumer price index to be released today," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

Services.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said the markets remained in consolidation mode.

"Though the index has been holding at higher levels, it would be difficult to regain momentum without the banking pack, which is still signalling a mixed trend. Amid all, we reiterate our view to continue with a positive yet cautious approach until we

see any sign of trend reversal," he added.

Sectorally, BSE utilities, consumer discretionary goods, auto, teck and consumer durables rose as much as 1.64 per cent, while metal, FMCG, energy and basic materials finished lower.

In the broader markets, the BSE midcap and smallcap indices outperformed the benchmarks, spurring up to 1.09 per cent. Global equities were steady ahead of US inflation data, which would provide clues on the Fed's tapering timeline.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Seoul and Tokyo closed in the positive territory, while Hong Kong and Shanghai ended in the red. Equities in Europe were trading mixed in the afternoon session. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.80 per cent to USD 74.10 per barrel.

The rupee settled flat at 73.68 against the US dollar.

Cabinet may approve revised PLI scheme for auto sector today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet is likely to approve on Wednesday the revised production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the automobile sector, which aims at promoting domestic manufacturing and create jobs, according to sources.

The government is believed to have slashed the outlay for this PLI scheme to about Rs 26,000 crore, they said.

Last year, the government had announced the scheme for the automobile and auto components sector with an outlay of Rs 57,043 crore, earmarked for five years.

"The Cabinet may take up the proposal in the meeting tomorrow (on Wednesday)," one of the sources said.

The sources did not disclose the reason for revising the scheme to Rs 25,938 crore, but stated that the focus is now more on battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

Professionals believe hybrid work is essential for work-life balance

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Majority of Indian professionals believe that hybrid work is essential for work-life balance, as this model would allow them to strike the right balance between their personal and professional lives, according to a LinkedIn survey.

According to LinkedIn's "Future of Work" Study 2021, nearly 9 in 10 (86 per cent) respondents think that hybrid work will positively impact their work-life balance.

Moreover, professionals are prioritising their well-being so much so that half of India's workforce believes that work-life balance is just as important as their salary, the survey that covered 1,108 respondents in the age group of 16 to 68, noted.

The survey further said with a majority of professionals continuing to work remotely, 1 in 3 professionals in India is burnt out due to increased workload (35 per cent) and stress (34 per cent) while working remotely in India, the study said.



"To shelter from such distressing times, professionals are prioritising their well-being and finding ways to strike the right balance. In fact, half of India's workforce believes that work-life balance (52 per cent) is just as important as their salary (52 per cent) today," it noted.

The Future of Work perception study was conducted by research firm Censuswide, and surveyed 1,108 respondents in India, who worked in an office before the pandemic and who had to work from home at some point during the pandemic due to COVID-19 restrictions/guidelines. The respondents were surveyed

between July 27 and July 29, 2021. "Long-term remote work has left professionals fatigued in India. This has caused a shift in the idea of what is important in our lives and has led to what we call 'The Great Talent Reshuffle'. Organisations are rethinking their entire work models, culture, and values, while employees are rethinking not just how they work, but why they work.

"At this time, we encourage companies to explore stronger flexible offerings and more mental health time off, as professionals are now seeking a greater balance and more fulfillment in their lives," says Ashutosh Gupta.

Maruti Swift crosses 25 lakh cumulative sales milestone

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Tuesday said its premium hatchback Swift has crossed 25 lakh cumulative sales milestone in over 16 years of its launch in the country. The model, which was the country's leading model in terms of sales in the last fiscal, has transcended its records by clocking cumulative sales of 2.5 million units, MSI said in a statement. Swift had created the premium hatchback segment in the country with its launch in 2005. "With its launch in 2005, Swift heralded the start of the premium hatchback segment in India... million Swift lovers. The No. 1 selling car of FY20-21, the sporty Swift has created a glorious legacy with its scintillating looks and power-packed performance," MSI Senior Executive Director (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava noted. Swift is not a car, it is a feeling, an emotion and a refreshing new thought process that challenged many notions around hatchbacks, he added.



India Inc hiring outlook for Oct-Dec 'most optimistic'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's job market looks bullish with 44 per cent of companies planning to add more staff in the next three months as corporates gear up to bring workers back after the pandemic, a survey said on Tuesday. According to the latest ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey released by ManpowerGroup India, employers report a Net Employment Outlook of 44 per cent - the most optimistic outlook in seven years.

The Net Employment Outlook is derived by subtracting the percentage of employers expecting a decrease in hiring activity from the percentage of employers anticipating an increase in hiring activity.

The survey of 3,046 employers indicates many companies are planning to increase their headcounts before the end of the year, expecting pandemic restrictions to ease and demand for products and services to rise.

"Corporate India is showing healthy

signs of recovery and an overall positive sentiment is gripping the market. Many of the deep-rooted structural factors that have sustained the Indian economy over the years like geopolitical stability, diversified economy, demography, etc, are likely to play a pivotal role in the new normal," said Sandeep Gulati, Group Managing Director of ManpowerGroup India.

Hiring intentions improved in all sectors quarter-over-quarter with services, manufacturing and finance, insurance and real estate sectors reporting some of the most optimistic outlooks. "Vaccine rollouts gaining tremendous momentum with most of corporate India due for the second vaccine coupled with the onset of the festive season may be the probable cause of the spike in optimism.

"The intent into action, however, needs to be observed considering the fear of the third wave and the continued talent shortage that most industries are finding difficult to bridge," Gulati said.

Supply constraints may push up phone prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Festive season this year is likely to see fewer launches by smartphone companies and prices of existing devices could rise by 7-10 per cent as players are grappling with severe shortage of components, including semiconductor chips, according to industry experts.

Trends like remote work and study-from-home during the COVID pandemic have led to an explosive growth in semiconductor demand that has placed a huge strain on global supply chains around the world. Freight costs in China have also gone up significantly, putting greater stress on device makers.

China accounts for a major chunk of the components supplied for use in electronic goods in the country.

According to Counterpoint Research Director Tarun Pathak, the



shortage situation will continue to impact the mobile phone industry for the next couple of quarters.

"The all-important festive season will be impacted in multiple ways like delayed or fewer new launches, an increase in pricing by 7-10 per cent for existing devices, and fewer offers. However, demand

is likely to stay strong this festive season. Amongst the chip shortage, the 4G chipsets are impacted and this is likely to stay till H2 2021," he added.

Pathak emphasised that demand is likely to stay strong this festive season despite these challenges.

While the 5G chipsets situation is relatively better with

the premium 5G chipsets crunch easing in the second half of this year, the mainstream (mass market) 5G chipsets will be in short supply.

Kanishka Chauhan, Principal Analyst at Gartner, explained that India has a heavy dependence on international foundries in the absence of fabrication facilities (for chip manufacturing) in the country. While orders from the smartphone industry are prioritised over other segments by fabrication facilities given the high volume, that prioritisation has also not protected the industry completely, he said.

"While on one side, the rising chip prices because of the shortage has significantly impacted the bill of materials for smartphone manufacturers, which is now trickling down to the consumers. On the other end, it is also impacting new product introduction plans," he told.

Digital niche, super niche skills demand surge

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Demand for talent with digital niche and super niche skills has witnessed a surge since the April-June quarter following growth in the digital economy, mainly fuelled by the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) industry, according to a report.

According to data from business solutions provider Ques, demand for talent with digital

niche and super niche skills including Full Stack, React JS, Android, Angular JS, and Cloud Infrastructure Technologies, Cyber Security, among others, has seen a surge since last quarter, as technology transformations have become a key priority for organisations.

Further, Gaming (Unity Developers), DevOps (Bamboo, Jira) and Platforms (Salesforce, SAP HANA) have also witnessed an increase in skill

demand, it added.

The data for the report is derived from the algorithm built into the company's application tracking system, which maps and matches candidates to positions in the time period of October-March 2020-2021 compared with March-August 2021. While analysing the overall demand for the top 5 skills among tier I cities, the report further revealed that Bengaluru witnessed the highest demand (40 per cent),

followed by Hyderabad (18 per cent) and Pune (18 per cent).

For Full Stack Developers, nearly equal demand was witnessed across Bangalore (42 per cent) and Hyderabad (37 per cent), while demand for Angular JS Developers was evenly distributed across Hyderabad (25 per cent), Bengaluru (21 per cent), Gurugram (21 per cent), Chennai (16 per cent) and Pune (13 per cent), it added.

Kia Sonet crosses 1L sales mark in less than one year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Kia India on Tuesday said its compact SUV Sonet has crossed one lakh cumulative sales mark in less than one year of its launch in the market. During the same period, the vehicle has also become the fourth highest-selling SUV in the country, the automaker said in a statement. Introduced in September 2020, Sonet has emerged as a breakthrough product in its segment, contributing almost 17 per cent to the segment and 32 per cent to Kia's overall sales, it added. "The Sonet was launched when the auto industry was facing its worst slump in history with the advent of COVID-19 pandemic. The market was battling rock-bottom customer sentiment amidst manufacturing and supply chain setbacks.

DRDO contracts Godrej, 9 cos to manufacture O2 generators

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has contracted 10 private sector players, including city-based Godrej & Boyce (G&B), to manufacture oxygen generators. GPE, a unit of G&B, has received the order from the Defence Bio-engineering and Electromechanical Laboratory (DEBEL), a DRDO laboratory in Bengaluru, to manufacture oxygen generators. G&B said in a statement. The second wave of the pandemic exposed the severe shortfall of oxygen across the country, which forced the state agencies to

source it from all the available resources across the country to save lives. Oxygen, which is generally used in industrial plants, was ferried through tankers on the road, through railway and also by air. The first batch of medical oxygen generators have been deployed in hospitals across Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh, it added. The system utilises an air compressor to provide compressed air to the oxygen plant which is filtered and dried by a refrigerant air dryer and further filtered before the air is admitted to the oxygen generator through adsorption towers, it added.

India ranks 54th out of 55 nations in housing prices appreciation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India ranks 54th out of 55 countries globally in the housing prices index as rates of residential properties fell marginally by 0.5 per cent year-on-year during the quarter ended June, according to Knight Frank.

India was at 55th position in the previous global housing price index report for the first quarter of this calendar year.

Turkey, with 29.2 per cent appreciation of housing prices, continues to lead the annual rankings. New Zealand is at second position with a 25.9 per cent price rise while the US ranks third with 18.6 per cent appreciation.

The Global House Price Index report tracks the move-



ment of mainstream residential prices across 55 countries and territories worldwide. The index tracks nominal prices in local currency.

Overall, 18 countries in Q2 2021 have reported double-

digit growth, while India and Spain were the only countries to register an annual decline in home prices.

Australia at 16.4 per cent recorded its highest rate of annual price growth since 2003.

"India's mainstream residential prices have largely remained stable with negative bias despite recovery being impacted due to the second wave. Moving forward with the downward trajectory in COVID-19 cases and mass inoculation drive, the sector is expected to make a healthy recovery with demand for homes only expected to increase in the coming quarter," said Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director at Knight Frank India.

The report cited that the index is rising at its fastest rate since Q1 2005. The pandemic-induced housing boom continues with prices rising by 9.2 per cent on average across 55 countries and territories in the year to June 2021.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA JAYASHANKAR DISTRICT					
GAZETTE NO. JSK/BH/PLA/4/2021, Dtd:28-08-2021 (Collector, Jayashankar Prasad, No.REV/G/LA/006/2020, dtd: 28.08.2021)					
FORM-VI (See Sub-rule (1) of rule-19 And Section -11(1) of the Act-30/2013)					
<p>Whereas it appears to the District Collector, Jayashankar Bhupalpal that a total of Ac. 6-17 gts Patta / Government land is required in Annaram Village of Mahadevpur Mandal of Jayashankar Bhupalpal District for public purpose, namely Gravity Canal works of Madigadda Lift System at Madigadda Borge of Kaleswaram Project in Annaram Village of Mahadevpur Mandal, Jayashankar Bhupalpal District.</p> <p>As per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, (Central Act No.30 of 2013) Amendment by the Telangana Amendment Act, 2016 (Act No.21 of 2017) in its application to the State of Telangana, the District Collector, Jayashankar Bhupalpal (appropriate Government) declares that the proposed acquisition is comes under exempted category as defined under 10A(1)(i) and 6(2) of the said Act and as such the provisions of Chapter-II and Chapter-III of the said Act shall not apply to the case.</p> <p>Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in the Annaram Village of Mahadevpur Mandal, Jayashankar Bhupalpal District land measuring, more or less Ac.6-17 gts of standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition.</p>					
SCHEDULE OF LAND					
Village: Annaram			Mandal: Mahadevpur		
District: Jayashankar Bhupalpal					
S. No.	Sp. No.	Type of Title	Area under acquisition in Ac. Gts.	Name of the Pattaedar, Occupant & Enjoyer with Father / Husband Name	Total Bore / Feet
1	2	3	4	5	6
Pattaedar as per Pahan Kodipalli Anusha, D/o. Malliah Bandam Padma, W/o. Thirupathi Reddy Jetta Kishiah, S/o. Rajiah Vennerupreddy Mahesh, S/o. Lachi Reddy Putti Vamsikrishna, S/o. Mohan Reddy Vennerupreddy Rajamma, W/o. Bapu Reddy Panchika Poshama, S/o. Gattiah Chandupetta Swarna, W/o. Ashok Reddy Puti Padma, W/o. Raj Reddy Gone Punnam, S/o. Pochiah Reddydalli Chandiah, S/o. Pochiah Ratna Rajababu, S/o. Madhusiah Udutha Nirmala, W/o. Narsiah					
1	164	Patta	0.17	Occupant as per Pahan Kodipalli Anusha, D/o. Malliah Bandam Padma, W/o. Thirupathi Reddy Jetta Kishiah, S/o. Rajiah Vennerupreddy Mahesh, S/o. Lachi Reddy Putti Vamsikrishna, S/o. Mohan Reddy Vennerupreddy Rajamma, W/o. Bapu Reddy Panchika Poshama, S/o. Gattiah Chandupetta Swarna, W/o. Ashok Reddy Puti Padma, W/o. Raj Reddy Gone Punnam, S/o. Pochiah Reddydalli Chandiah, S/o. Pochiah Ratna Rajababu, S/o. Madhusiah Udutha Nirmala, W/o. Narsiah	Task plant-1 Bore-1
Enjoyer as per Survey report Nagunuri Mallagadda, S/o. Ramiah (0.09 1/4) - Tank plants Vemuri Ratha, W/o. Lingamurthy (0.02 1/2) Kodipalli Anusha, D/o. Malliah (0.04) - Bore-1 Ratna Rajababu, S/o. Madhusiah (0.01)					
TOTAL EXTENT			0.17		
<p>This notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act no. 30/2013), as amended by the Right to Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No.21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.</p> <p>A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Jayashankar Bhupalpal & Land Acquisition Officer/Revenue Divisional Officer, Bhupalpal on any working day during the working hours. The Collector can Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Revenue Divisional Officer and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section-12 of the said Act.</p> <p>Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.</p> <p>Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested/affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this Preliminary Notification as provided under section 15 of the Act, before District Collector/Authorized Officer.</p>					
Sd/-		Sd/-		Sd/-	
Addl. Collector (J.B.)		Joint Collector,		District Collector,	
Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer,		Jayashankar Bhupalpal		Jayashankar Bhupalpal	
Jayashankar Bhupalpal		DPR No. 618/LA/PP/Advt/Pub/2021-22			

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA STATE LIMITED	
TENDER NOTICE NO. 4/2021-22 OF DEE/OP/KEESARA	
Sealed Tenders are invited from registered contractors for 1. Rectification / Maintenance & Erection of DTRs, LT and HT Lines and other allied works in operation Preetzaguda section - (T.S.No. 17) & 2. Pole Prapatti Works in Ghatkesar Section - (T.S.No. 18). The last date of sale of above tenders is 23.09.2021 upto 17:00 Hrs. Further information can be obtained from the O/o of the Divisional Engineer Elec/OP/Keesara. Contact Person: Smt P.S. Renuka, AE/Tech/Keesara: 7901644733. Email ID: de_o_keesara@ssouthernpower.com	
R.O. No. :19343-PP/LA/ADVT/1/2021-22	
DEE / OP / KEESARA	
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT WANAPARTHY	
S.I.T.No. 08. H.D/Wanaparth/5/2021-22 Dated: 07-09-2021	
As per the above mentioned C.T.S. online tenders have been invited for execution of four works worth Rs 54.00 lakh. The last date for submission of tenders is 3.30 pm on 25-09-2021. For details of works see the below mentioned website www.telangana.sprocurement.gov.in	
R.O. No. : 6496-OP/LA/ADVT/1/2021-22	
GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION	
NT No. 37/CTO/GHMC/2021-22, Dt. 14-09-2021. 1) Name of the Work: Procurement of Lubricants for Vehicles and Machinery of GHMC for the year 2021-22 (4" Call) Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: Start Date & Time: 15.09.2021 @ 11.00 A.M. onwards End Date & Time: 18.09.2021 @ 11.00 A.M. 2) NT No. 38/CTO/GHMC/2021-22 Dt: 14.09.2021. Name of the Work: Procurement of certain Lorry items to permanent eligible employees of Head Office, GHMC (Packages 1 to V). Start Date & Time: 15.09.2021 @ 11.00 A.M. onwards End Date & Time: 23.09.2021 @ 11.00 A.M. Name & Address Officer Call No. D/o. Chief Transport Officer, 4" Floor GHMC, Head Office Tank bund, Hyderabad. S.I.K. Aiy, CTO, GHMC, Contact No.: 040-29880748. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in	
R.O. No. : 15866-PP/LA/ADVT/1/2021-22	
CHIEF TRANSPORT OFFICER Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation	



YAMINIKRISHNA
BANDLAMUDI

RULING THE CARROM BOARD SINCE 5

Dreams are not what we see when we're asleep; they are rather what make us forgo our sleep.

These lines were well lived by the 'Carrom Queen' whose name entered the prestigious Guinness Book of World Records, and was honoured with a doctorate at the very young age of 16. She also has to her credit more than 40 awards, including some prestigious National awards. In conversation with *The Pioneer*, Dr Shaik Husna Sameera, a native of Guntur district, shares about the hard work and journey behind her success.

During her early days, she was as normal as any other child her age. She was 5 when she was enrolled in school, where she played carroms at leisure. When the opportunity to participate in the Junior under-12 sports competition came her way, she jumped and tasted success for the first time. "It was then that I started playing carroms wholeheartedly. I was almost addicted to success. That was the

moment I decided to do something unique from winning regular awards. The carrom board turned into my best friend and I had no time for friends except for education and carroms. My parents stood by me and I never looked back. In 2014, I played carroms for 18 hours, 18 minutes, and 18 seconds with national players in Vizag for the first time. It was then that I started creating an identity of my own," says Sameera. She then went ahead to have a series of victories. In 2015, she played carroms for 20 hours, 20 minutes, and 20 seconds in Hyderabad with 20 national players. She then broke her own record by playing for 34 hours, 45 minutes, and 56 seconds continuously with one national player at Dandamudi

Rajagopalam stadium in Vijayawada in 2016!

Dr Sajida, a proud mom to Sameera, speaks of her daughter, "Being a minor, it was very difficult to play for that long, at a stretch. This was the biggest marathon she has ever played. That was when she had her name enter the Guinness Book of World Record. My daughter was the youngest to receive a doctorate at the age of 16 from the Berkeley University of California, USA in 2016."

Apart from international recognition, the Carrom Queen has played over 30 national games till now. In 2019, she played on behalf of the Airport Authority of India and qualified for the semifinals as well. In 2020, she played for the Senior



Nationals and emerged a runner-up.

"I am now determined to become the World Champion in carroms. It demands extraordinary ability, for which I am striving hard. I have a special coach for the purpose and I maintain a tight schedule, as of now. I must thank my family and college management, who have always supported me in scheduling my exams and coaching classes according to my convenience. As far as education is concerned, I would like to do my Masters in EIFEL, which will fetch me extremely good communication skills, that would help me

in travelling the world in the future," Sameera tells us.

Apart from sports, Sameera is brilliant in science. She established her identity in singing, dancing, and secured a gold medal twice in calligraphy too. Though an all-rounder, she chose carrom as her career and to promote the game by adopting government schools and train children in carroms — for the same, she is looking forward to the government's support. She also urges the Sports Recruiting Managements to include carroms in the list of sports.

Here's hoping all her dreams come true!

Sushrii learnt how to suture HER WOUND FOR HER ROLE!

SHIKHA DUGGAL

The new webseries *Cartel* is still doing so well around town with all the gangsta buzz it has created. After being a part of Shah Rukh Khan-starrer

Zero, Sushrii Mishra, who is also known to be the beauty queen from Odisha, essays the role of Vaidehi Kapoor, a central character in ALT Balaji's action drama *Cartel* and speaks at length about her character and how she actually learnt to check blood pressure and perform stitches for her character. That's how cautiously she went for the role!

"I play the character of Vaidehi Kapoor in the show. She is a junior doctor by profession in the series. She is a powerful, intelligent woman who has a lot going on at her end. However, no one ever knows about her struggles due to the balanced, calm and kind person that she is. Vaidehi and Arjun (played by Tanuj Virwani, another brilliant actor himself), were each other's first love, and the love has only grown over time. Suddenly they part ways, they now meet after years and as the story progresses, my character's arc grows very interestingly from being an absolute outsider who hails from the medical fraternity to be a very integral part of the 'Angre' family developing a unique equation with each character," shares the model turned actress who also represented our country at Miss India Continents 2015!

There were a lot of exciting bits for

Sushrii to join this bandwagon of *Cartel* alongside some really reflective faces from the industry. She loves to keep things accurate. Since she plays a junior doctor, while prepping for the character, she revealed that she met doctors and nurses. She spoke to them to get a more vivid understand-

ing of their psyche. She also learnt

massage coma patients, do stitches, etc!

Being on the set with established actors like Supriya Pathak, Tanuj Virwani, Jitendra Joshi, Rithvik, Girija, and others was such a phenomenal experience for Sushrii. "The character, the story and the star cast -

I was sold! The strength and intelligence which Vaidehi Kapoor has, resonated so much with me that I was just ready to dive deep into the world of *Cartel*. Despite the web-show being in the making for a really long time, it still wasn't exhaustive for me. But, all good things in life take time and when a team of hardworking and talented people come together, you know that no matter how long it takes; the end product will hit milestones," adds the 'Miss Diva' title holder.

With a mixed bag of emotions, the actress dove right into the shooting mode. There were many such memories that she holds onto. For instance, she narrated that she loved the outdoor schedule; there were days when all of them would sit for lunch together. But the fondest ones have to be the times she spent speaking to Supriya Pathak and watching her perform.

Sushrii says she is a luminous actor, even the memory of it fills her heart with warmth and gives her goosebumps, she says!

"I have worked hard and have given my best. The entire team has invested so much love, energy and time in creating this brilliant piece of work. The show has been receiving rave reviews since its launch and I am so happy to know that it has been received well by the audience and the critics. If you haven't watched the show as yet, please do watch the show and you will be hooked I promise," she signs off!



All work and no play for Iqbal Khan

Actor Iqbal Khan, who is busy juggling between his Punjabi film and Hindi film schedules, has a jet-setting schedule and has finished shooting for two web series shot in Mussoorie and Rajasthan, both of which are in post-production and will release by this year-end. He is shooting for *Jalsa* helmed by Suresh Triveni starring Vidya Balan, Shefali Shah, and Rohini Hattangadi. The actor who is currently shooting for his first-ever Punjabi film, titled *Rabb Di Mehar*, is quite upbeat about making a debut in Bollywood. "Shooting for *Rabb Di Mehar* has been an incredible experience and I've gotten to meet and work with so many happy, positive and amazing people. Yes, I am missing both Sneha and Ammara, but like they say; the show must go on," says Iqbal. He is so busy that he missed twin birthdays this month of wife Sneha Chhabra and daughter Ammara.

Talking about the same, Iqbal Khan shares, "I am grateful to be shooting this whole pandemic. However, this is the first time in all these years that I was not with my wife and daughter on their birthdays. We are currently shooting on the outskirts of Jalandhar and even mobile connectivity is an issue here. However I could manage to connect with the family over a video call and will make up for all the moments I missed upon returning home. I haven't planned yet what to do due to a hectic schedule, but will do it on the flight back home." — PNS



Wildflower symbolism on breezy, easywear



soft. The lustrous and sheer fabrics of chiffon and organza collectively enhance the intricate details of every piece.

Enhancing the intricate detailing that brings forth a

sense of regal finery, this amalgamation gives the collection a fresh, contemporary, and global spin. Let 'hiraeth' take you on a nostalgic journey to where your heart belongs!



● Karthik, Sree Vishnu and Koushik



● Samyuktha



● Sumit and Neha



● Mothe Srilatha and Shoban Reddy



● Regina Cassandra



● Yashvi



● Vennila



● Tripura

PARTY

Photos by SV Chary



● Anusha



● Sravya



● Shrutha Reddy

CHILD'S PLAY

The fifth branch of Sim & Sam — a recreational theme play and game chain — was inaugurated by Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shoban Reddy at the Sports Square in Tarnaka. The new branch is a Circus-themed play area, and is winning the hearts of children as well as parents who want their children to have a healthy, fun playtime.

LIVING LIFE IN STYLE

Actress Regina Cassandra inaugurated Zing Mode, a lifestyle designing studio at Road No 36, Jubilee Hills, founded by Dr Tripura Rani, Mr Karthik Rachapudi and Dr Smrithi Guruvula. Miss Tripura Rani, left her lucrative job and forayed into salon and spa services, conjured up Zing Mode, which is a place where people can completely “transform their lifestyle”.

FUN

ARCHIE



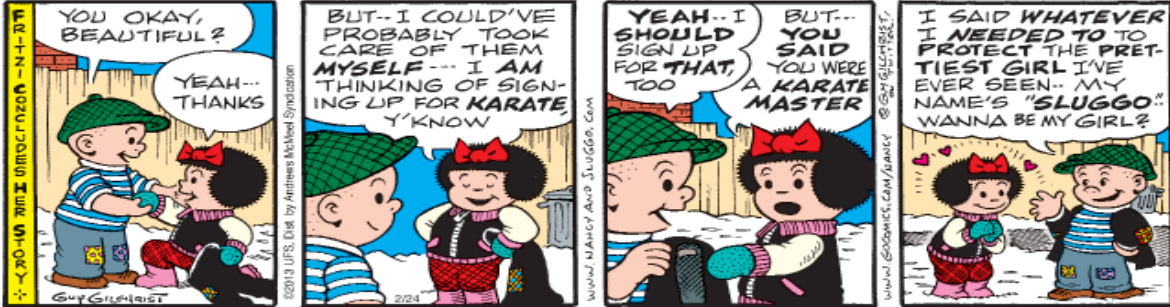
CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



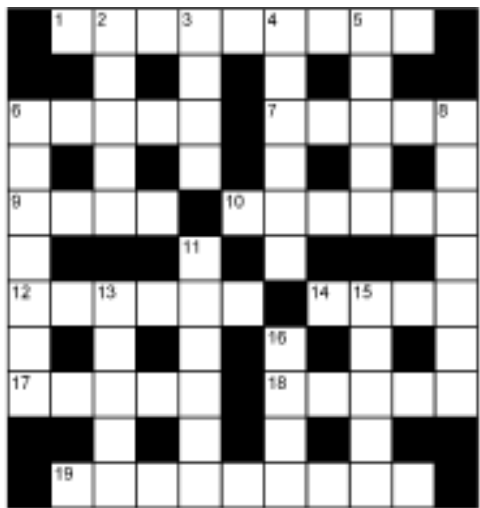
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Saying again
- 6 These brown fruit grow on a palm tree
- 7 A clothing size
- 9 A hard black fuel
- 10 Beat in a battle
- 12 A fire-breathing monster
- 14 The number in a quartet
- 17 Frown
- 18 Played a part in a play
- 19 Replying

DOWN

- 2 More than is needed
- 3 A compass direction
- 4 Had a conversation

5 A health professional
6 Makes a decision
8 Went in
11 Go after
13 Nut from an oak tree
15 Frequently
16 This grows on heads



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution								
2	5	7	9	4	6	1	3	8
3	9	4	8	1	7	6	5	2
8	6	1	3	2	5	9	7	4
9	4	3	2	5	8	7	6	1
1	2	6	7	3	4	8	9	5
5	7	8	1	6	9	4	2	3
4	8	2	6	9	3	5	1	7
7	1	9	5	8	2	3	4	6
6	3	5	4	7	1	2	8	9

Rules

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

DIGANGANA WANTS TO PLAY MADHUBALA

AMITHA GHATTI

Digangana Suryavanshi, who was recently seen in Gopichand and Tammanaah-starrer *Seetimarr* is basking in the success of the film. The actor-singer, who made her Tollywood debut with *Hippy*, is presently shooting for a film with Sundeep Kishan and is delighted that she has her hands full for the coming months. In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*, the actress, a former *Bigg Boss* contestant, shares that the script of *Seetimarr* underwent many changes after the cast came on board.

When asked what attracted her to say yes to *Seetimarr*, the actress says, "It is a typical commercial role and is very native, which was very attractive. Whatever you shoot and see in the final cut are completely different but for me, it was the role and intensity of my character and the screen time I share has what got me to join the film."

For Digangana, the entire process of *Seetimarr* has been a journey of its own as they started filming for the film before the onset of Covid.

She says, "Although we faced a rough journey with Covid, the theatrical release of the film is something I loved. It was nice to see people go out and watch our film in the theatres."

Adding further, she says, "This film is a memorable one for me because of the amount of time taken in terms of not just me being a part of the film but making the whole film. It started off in a situation where we didn't expect Covid. Anything becoming successful after rising through the rough road is always nice and very precious. I am glad that people have the time to come to theatres and watch the film."

Seetimarr is an out-and-out commercial film and is a wave of fresh air for the actress.

Taking through her character in the film, she explains, "I play Aakrithi in the film. She is a village sarpanch's daughter (Rao Ramesh's daughter). I play a bubbly quirky role. I found the character to be very stunning as she is somebody who is both smart and innocent and that's a good one to play." Digangana tells us she likes playing badminton and

inline skating. She even tried her hands (or legs, rather) on football and basketball in school, but she was not that great at those.

Sharing her experience on working with Rao Ramesh, the actress says, "My first time being on sets with Rao Ramesh sir was while shooting for my introduction scene. That whole day was something that I distinctly remember."

Digangana is extremely fond of biopics and she can't wait to watch *Thalaivi*. When asked whom

would she portray if given a chance to work in a biopic, she was quick enough to name Madhubala. "I think she has an

interesting life journey. Mughal-e-Azam has been one of the very iconic films ever made. If I get a chance, I would love to work on a biopic about her," says she.

On a concluding note, the actress, who is shooting with Sundeep Kishan for her next, says, "All the roles I am going to play now are completely different from each other. It's quite interesting that I have got to play different roles and characters, and that is very exciting."



Ganesh Bellamkonda plays Swathi Muthyam

That Ganesh Bellamkonda, the son of producer Bellamkonda Suresh is making his Tollywood debut, is known news. Celebrating the actor's birthday on Tuesday, the makers of the film unveiled the title and first look poster of the movie. Titled *Swathi Muthyam*, in the first look poster, Ganesh is seen in a formal look with a bag on his shoulders.

Sithara Entertainments, who are on a roll with multiple movies in production, are bankrolling this project being directed by debutant Lakshman K Krishna. Varsha Bollamma of *Middle Class Melodies* fame will be playing the female lead in the movie.

Speaking on the occasion, director Lakshman K Kumar said, "This story is about a guy

who has an innocent character like in *Swathi Muthyam*. The film is about life, love and thoughts about marriage and how the opinions change and how life goes on between them. Family relations and emotions are the main assets of this film. This movie will entertain every movie-goer for sure." Presently, the film is under production with a major portion of the shoot already finished. More details will be announced soon.

Naresh, Rao Ramesh, Subbaraju, Vennela Kishore, Harshavardhan, Pammi Sai, Goparaju Ramana, Siva Narayana, Pragathi, and Surekha Vani, will be seen essaying prominent roles in the film, which is touted to be a fun entertainer.

The film has music Mahathi Swara Sagar and cinematography by Suryaa.



Team Liger heads to Goa

Vijay Devarakonda and Puri Jagannadh combo is something fans across the nation cannot wait for. The shooting of their film *Liger*, a pan-India film, is underway. We hear that the team is heading to Goa to shoot a few high-octane scenes.

Vijay Devarakonda is making his Bollywood debut with this film that stars



Bollywood belle Ananya Pandey as the female lead. Reports are that the makers erected extravagant sets for the scenes. *Liger*, a highly commercial entertainer, has a sports backdrop and revolves around mixed martial arts tournaments. Actress Ramya Krishna also has a weighty role in the film that is being produced by Puri Jagannadh, Charmee, Karan Johar, and Apoorva Mehta.

Helping a family near Srirangapatna, Mysore, Prakash Raj gifted a JCB to the family in need, through his foundation Prakash Raj Foundation. "Empowering a family with a JCB near srirangapatna.. Mysore. a #prakashrajfoundation initiative.. The joy of giving back to life.. bliss (sic)," tweeted the actor.



Aranya is very close to my heart: Rana

Actor Rana Daggubati says his film *Aranya* is very close to his heart because he has always supported the cause to conserve wildlife and added that the movie gave him a chance to rekindle his love for nature.

"Prabu Solomon (director) insisted we shoot the film at real locations with the best possible natural setting. The movie is very close to my heart because I have always supported the cause to save our wildlife," Rana says. The actor took a brief 15-day training with Kumki elephant trainers to be able to get into his character Bandev's shoes.

"The film gave me a chance to connect with the mighty elephants, adapt to their surroundings, and see why they are called the protectors of the wild. I still remember we had some shots where all the elephants walked together, and we could feel the ground shake," he recalls.

Rana adds, "That was the moment I actually felt their mighty presence. *Aranya* gave me a chance to rekindle my love for nature."

The film will premiere on Zee Cinema on September 18.



Malinga retires from all forms of cricket

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka pace veteran Lasith Malinga on Tuesday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after terrorising the world's best batsmen for over a decade and a half with his toe-crushing yorkers delivered from a low and distinct sling-arm action.

A white ball legend in his own right and one of the greatest T20 bowlers, the 38-year-old was captain of Sri Lanka's 2014 T20 World Cup winning team. He posted a message on his social media account announcing his decision.

"Hanging up my T20 shoes and retiring from all forms of cricket! Thankful to all those who supported me in my journey, and looking forward to sharing my experience with young cricketers in the years to come," Malinga tweeted.

"I want to give 100 per cent rest to my T20 bowling shoes. While my shoes will rest, my love for the game will never ask for rest," a smiling Malinga added in the video.

Malinga last played a T20I match for Sri Lanka in March 2020 against West Indies in Pallekele.

Malinga, who took a total of 546 wickets across all formats for Sri Lanka, had already retired from Test cricket in 2011 and after that from ODIs as well but continued to

play T20Is for the national side.

He wasn't named in Sri Lanka's squad for upcoming World Cup.

Last year, he had expressed his desire to lead Sri Lanka in the T20 World Cup, which was originally scheduled to be held in Australia in October-November 2020 but will be held next month after a COVID-forced postponement.

"I am looking forward to help youngsters and guide them in the coming years," he said as he thanked his national team and all the franchises that he has played for, including IPL team Mumbai Indians.

Malinga, who has played a staggering 122 IPL matches, has 170 wickets to his credit, the highest in the cash-rich league, with the best bowling figures of 5/13.

He picked up 107 wickets in 84 T20 Internationals, 338 scalps in 226 ODIs and 101 wickets in 30 Tests.

He was the first bowler to bag 100 T20I wickets and finishes fourth in the highest wicket-taker category in the list behind Dwayne Bravo, Imran Tahir and Sunil Narine.

The Sri Lanka pacer had also announced his retirement from franchise cricket in January this year after being released by Mumbai Indians.

Malinga, one of the best T20

bowlers of all time, was a

key figure in the teams he played for in the Indian Premier League, the Big Bash League, the Caribbean Premier League and other franchise tournaments.

During his 12-year stint at Mumbai Indians, he was part of MI's four of the five IPL title triumphs but had opted out of the 2020 tournament due to personal reasons at a time when his father was not keeping well.

"The experience that I have gained through the past 17 years will no longer be needed in the field since I have decided to retire from T20I cricket marking my retirement from all formats of cricket," said Malinga in a video on his YouTube channel.

He added, "But I will be continuously supporting the younger generations who strive to uplift the spirit of the game and I will always be there with all who love the game."

A fearsome pacer known for his menacing yorkers, the leading wicket-taker in T20I also has two T20I hat-tricks to his name.

Malinga also picked up three hat-tricks in ODI cricket, with his performance against South Africa in the 2007 World Cup in West Indies etched in history.

"Today is a very special day for

me," he said.

"I want to thank each and everyone who supported me throughout my T20 journey. I want to thank the Sri Lankan cricket board and team members.

And Mumbai Indians cricket team, especially the team owners and officials.

"I would also like to thank the team members and staff at Melbourne Stars, Kent, Rangpur Riders, Kayana Warriors, Maratha Arabians and Montero Tigers. When I played with you all, I got many experiences through my cricketing journey."



Ulsan - Kawasaki rivalry headlines Asian Champions League

AP ■ SEOUL

Japan and South Korea may have wobbled in World Cup qualification earlier this month but their clubs are dominant in Asian competition. Between them, the two two countries have won 10 of the last 15 Asian Champions League titles and also provide seven teams in the Round of 16 of the 2021 tournament.

The eastern zone of the competition starts the knockout stage Tuesday with a clash between two of the title favorites: defending champion Ulsan Horang-i and Japanese champion Kawasaki Frontale.

"I came to Ulsan because I want to win titles," Ulsan midfielder Valeri Qazaishvili told the Asian Football Confederation's website.

"I've heard a lot about Kawasaki and I know they're a very good team who play good football," Qazaishvili said.

"It's a huge advantage for us to have this match at home in Korea with our fans behind us; to play at home is always special."

Both teams are top of their domestic leagues. When the Asian Champions League group stage finished in May, Kawasaki was way out in front at the top of the J League but one win from the last five games has left the club just one point clear and



out of the Levain Cup.

"We really wanted to win in the cup game and progress to the next stage so it is a painful feeling," coach Toru Oniki said.

"We have no time to think about that as we have to look forward to a tough game in Asia against the champion Ulsan and that gives us a chance to put the cup exit behind us."

The other two meetings between clubs from Japan and South Korea feature Nagoya Grampus hosting Daegu FC and Pohang Steelers, three-time Asian champion, traveling to Cerezo Osaka. Korea's Jeonbuk will host BG Pathum United of Thailand.

In the western zone, Tractor of Iran asked the Asian Football Confederation for its game with Al-Nassr of Riyadh to be postponed.

The team is struggling to put together the required 18-man roster as it has been hit by injuries and an outbreak of COVID-19.

Covid situation had us petrified: McCullum



PTI ■ DUBAI

Kolkata Knight Riders head coach Brendon McCullum says they were "paralysed a little bit by fear" when coronavirus struck the first half of the IPL in India.

It was KKR spinner Varun Chakravarthy and seamer Sandeep Warrier, who first tested positive for COVID-19 in May in the middle of the League, which was eventually postponed. The Purple and Gold brigade led by England white-ball skipper Eoin Morgan had an underwhelming first half. They are languishing at the seventh spot but McCullum is hopeful for a strong showing when action resumes from September 19 in the UAE.

"In regards to the tournament which is upcoming (second half of the IPL phase), we can end it right. We can take the game on and we're in a situation where we need things to go our way," McCullum was quoted as saying by the KKR website.

E-bidding for new IPL teams planned on October 17

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BCCI is planning to have an e-bidding for the two new IPL teams on October 17 and the bids to buy the sides can be made till October 5. "The Board is planning to have the bidding on 17th October and it will be an e-bidding," sources in the know of things told PTI on Tuesday. The BCCI had on August 31 invited bids to own an IPL franchise with "Invitation to Tender" available for purchase till October 5.

"The Governing Council of the IPL invites bids to acquire the right to own and operate 1

(one) of the 2 (two) new teams proposed to be introduced to take part in the Indian Premier League from the IPL 2022 season, through a tender process," the BCCI had said in a statement.

"Any interested party wishing to submit a bid is required to purchase the ITT.

"However, only those satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in the ITT and subject to the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid. It is clarified that merely purchasing this ITT does not entitle any person to bid," the cricket body had said.

"We need to hit the ground running, challenge one another privately, support one another publicly and try and get the best out of one another in the next 4-5 weeks. Who knows where we can go with this.

"There were sometimes throughout the season when I just felt we were being paralysed a little bit by fear," he added.

The virus had wreaked havoc in India at that time, claiming thousands of lives.

The 39-year-old former New Zealand skipper, who started his IPL journey as a player with KKR, is hopeful the team will be able to get rid of the angst that had been built in the first phase of the league.

"I wasn't able to free the guys up enough to understand

that and that's sort of a challenge for me. But it is also a good challenge for the guys as well that they need to push the envelope of their own thinking as well.

"Hopefully we will be able to strip away a bit of the angst which had built up in the first part of the season, just go out there and try and enjoy ourselves.

"That's the ambition that I have got for the franchise and hence why I am unapologetic and unrelenting in my belief that we need to play a braver style of play," he said. Talking about his coaching style, McCullum said, "When we left India (after IPL was called off due to Covid), I think everyone understood me as a coach on how I want our team to play."

Indian women's team has improved since T20 WC defeat: Mandhana

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Indian women's cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana says her side has improved "massively" since the World T20 final defeat to Australia last year and will be "extra competitive" during the upcoming series here which also features its first day-night Test outing.

India and Australia are set to lock horns in a multi-format series comprising three ODIs, the day-night Test and three T20s, starting on September 21. The Test will be played from September 30 to October 3 in Canberra.

The last time the two sides met was at the women's T20 World Cup final at the MCG last year where the hosts had hammered India by 85

runs to lift the trophy.

"The team has grown massively (since the T20 World Cup)," Mandhana told 'The Scoop' podcast.

The Indian squad finished its 14-day hard hotel quarantine on Monday.

"COVID was a big break after the T20 World Cup and a lot of girls had a chance to go back and understand more about their games, where they lack as an individual and come back stronger."

The stylish southpaw said that after the COVID-19 enforced break, the Indian team is slowly getting back into the rhythm of playing cricket.

"The whole team has worked on their fitness and skills... We are



Lee takes joint first position with Mithali

PTI ■ DUBAI

India skipper Mithali Raj was on Tuesday joined at the top by South Africa opener Lizelle Lee, whose unbeaten 91 in the opening match against the West Indies helped her take joint-first position in the latest ICC women's ODI rankings.

While Mithali, who retains her number one spot, is now tied in first place with Lee at 762 rating points, with Australia's Alyssa Healy in third place, India opener Smriti Mandhana also held on to her ninth spot.

Lee, who first seized the top position in June 2018 and again reached the summit in



March this year, scored 18 runs in the second match, which also counted towards this week's rankings update.

Veteran Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami and senior spinner Poonam Yadav remained static on fifth and ninth respectively among bowlers, while Deepti Sharma maintained her fifth spot in the all-rounders' list.

mindset. Hopefully the series goes well for the whole team. India have reached Australia after a multi-format series against England in June and July, while

Indian teen star Shafali Verma held on to her top rank in the T20 rankings with 759 points, ahead of Australian Beth Mooney (744) and India T20 vice-captain Mandhana (716).

There was no movement for Sharma (sixth) and Yadav (eighth) in the T20 bowling rankings with the former also retaining her fourth spot in the all-rounders' list.

In T20 rankings for bowlers, England's Sarah Glenn has moved up a slot to second position while New Zealand off-spinner Leigh Kasperek (up seven places to 15th) and all-rounder Jess Kerr (up eight places to 58th) have also moved up the table.

a few players like white-ball skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, teen batting sensation Shafali Verma and Mandhana also featured in The Hundred tournament.

Pele recovering, set to leave intensive care: Daughter

IAN S ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

The eldest daughter of Brazilian football legend Pele has said that her father is expected to move out of intensive care this week as he recovers from surgery to remove a tumour from his colon. The 80-year-old underwent the procedure at Sao Paulo's Albert Einstein hospital on September 4 after the tumour was found during routine tests. "He is doing well post-surgery, he is not in pain and is in a good mood (annoyed that he can only

eat jello but will persevere!). He will move into a regular room in the next day or two and then go home," Kely said in a post on Tuesday morning (IST). Kely said the three-time World Cup winner has been buoyed by the support of fans from around the world and praised the work of doctors. "He is strong and stubborn and with the support and care of the brilliant team at Einstein and all of the love, energy and light that the world is sending, he will get through this," she added.

Split captaincy is a good idea, Rohit can lead well: Madan Lal

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Former Indian cricketer Madan Lal on Tuesday came out in support of split captaincy theory in India, saying it will "ease the pressure on Virat Kohli." "I guess this could be a nice option. We are in a very good position right now. We are lucky that we have Rohit Sharma in the team and whenever Virat Kohli feels that he wants to concentrate on one or two formats then Rohit can

step in, and he has a lot of experience," Madan told IANS. "So, in a way, I feel it will benefit India. I read that Virat is likely to step down from captaincy (of ODI and T20) as he wants to concentrate on his batting, which is a good idea I guess. India as a team is doing a great job, we have seen that in England (Test series) recently. So, let's see what happens."

There are reports that Team India limited-over side could see a change of leader-

ship after the T20 World Cup next month with Kohli set to take a big call soon. If Kohli decides to give up on the captaincy, then opener Rohit will take over the reins in ODI and T20 cricket.

It was also reported that Virat is planning to take this decision since he wants to concentrate on his batting form which has dipped considerably over the last year. And meetings were also held within the BCCI in this regard.

Olympic bronze medal is just the beginning: Shamsher

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Forward Shamsher Singh on Monday said winning the Olympic bronze medal was just ticking off one box in the new beginning for the Indian men's hockey team, which aspires to be the world number one side.

The men's hockey team produced an inspiring performance at the Tokyo Games, where it edged out Germany 5-4 to claim a bronze medal, the country's first in the sport in 41 years.

"We still have a lot of targets to achieve as a team. We have ticked off the target of winning an Olympic medal but we have been striving to be the best side in the world in the last few years," Shamsher was quoted as saying in a Hockey india release.

"We are going to

give everything we have in every match we play in the future, especially in big tournaments such as the FIH Hockey Pro League. We are confident that if we keep improving match by match, then one day we will surely be the world number 1 team," he added.

Shamsher said the Tokyo Olympics will always hold a special place "in my heart."

"I am so lucky to be part of an Olympic bronze medal-winning team at such an early stage of my career. I also know that this is just the beginning for us as a team.

"We have the belief that we can do even better in the future and we are going to work towards our goals in the upcoming years."

Asked what is that one thing that helped the Indian

Yuriy Sedykh, hammer throw world record holder, dies at 66



AP ■ MOSCOW

Yuriy Sedykh, a two-time Olympic champion in the hammer throw whose world record from 1986 still stands, has died. He was 66.

The Russian track and field federation said Sedykh died early Tuesday following a heart attack. "Deeply mourn the loss of Yuriy Sedykh," World Athletics

senior vice president and pole vault great Sergei Bubka wrote on Twitter. "For me, Yuriy was a friend, a wise mentor." Sedykh won gold at the 1976 and 1980 Olympics, but missed the 1984 Los Angeles Games because of a Soviet boycott. He returned to win a silver medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and won a world title in 1991.

Sedykh threw a world record 86.74

meters at the European Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, a mark which still stands. At this year's Tokyo Olympics, all 12 finalists in the men's hammer were born after Sedykh set the record.

Sedykh made his huge throw at a time when track and field was starting to realize the scale of performance-enhancing drug use.

Former Moscow anti-doping laboratory director Grigory Rodchenkov wrote in a book last year that Sedykh was "a huge steroid abuser" who benefited from a Soviet cover-up. Rodchenkov said one of Sedykh's samples contained such large traces of the steroid stanozolol that it contaminated laboratory equipment.

Sedykh denied doping. In a 2015 interview with Russian newspaper Sport Express, Sedykh said athletes' big throws in the 1980s were because of better coaching and the Soviet Union's intensive talent scouting program.

After retiring, Sedykh worked in France as a physical education teacher. He was married to another Soviet world record holder, shot putter Natalya Lisovskaya. Their daughter Alexia won hammer gold for France at the 2010 Youth Olympics.

South Africa interested in hosting FIFA's Club World Cup



AP ■ CAPE TOWN

South Africa is interested in hosting FIFA's Club World Cup in December after Japan withdrew because of COVID-19, South African Football Association president Danny Jordaan.

Jordaan told The Associated Press he would meet with FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura in Lagos, Nigeria this week to get more details on what kind of bid South Africa must present to the world body to host the seven-team men's tournament. The Club World Cup will feature European champion

Chelsea and the other five continental club competition winners. The league champion from the host country also gets a place.

Japan withdrew last week amid fears the tournament would cause a rise in infections in a country that has just staged the Summer Olympics and Paralympics.

FIFA has yet to comment on the alternative host, with Saudi Arabia also keen to step in. An extended 24-team Club World Cup was due to debut this year in China but it was shelved because the pandemic required the rescheduling of national team competitions in June and FIFA was unable to raise the necessary funding for the planned quadrennial event. So the seven-team format was extended for another year.

The South African Football Association must get government approval to hold the tournament and meetings with the sports minister were also planned, Jordaan said.