

ANALYSIS 7
DOES AUKUS CAST A
SHADOW OVER QUAD?**MONEY 8**
470 INFRA PROJECTS SHOW COST
OVERRUN OF RS 4.3 LAKH CRORE**SPORTS 12**
JADEJA CAMEO HELPS
CSK BEAT KKR BY 2-WICKETS

HYDERABAD, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

KEERTHY
SURESH'S MOM
TO PLAY A
CAMEO?

Page 11

GUJ: RIJJU INAUGURATES COUNTRY'S FIRST SPORTS ARBITRATION CENTRE

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju on Sunday inaugurated the country's first 'Sports Arbitration Centre of India' here in Gujarat which will serve as an independent body to fast track disputes in the sports sector. Rijju said this centre will have "a far-reaching impact" and play an important role in expanding the country's sports sector. "Sports Arbitration Centre of India (SACI) is going to give a major push to make the sports sector big. Because when the sector grows, there will emerge lots of issues attached to it. So you have provisions to handle those emerging issues," he said after the inauguration.

RSS-LINKED WEEKLY TERMS AMAZON AS 'EAST INDIA COMPANY 2.0'

E-commerce major Amazon has been termed as "East India Company 2.0" by the RSS-linked weekly, Panchjanya, which has also alleged that the firm has paid crores of rupees in bribes for favourable government policies. In its latest edition, which will hit the stands on October 3, Panchjanya has carried a cover story that is highly critical of Amazon. "Whatever the East India Company did in the 18th century to capture India, the same is visible in the activities of Amazon," the article titled 'East India Company 2.0' reads.

ARMY OFFICER SETS NEW GUINNESS RECORD FOR 'FASTEST SOLO CYCLING'

An Indian Army Officer has set a new Guinness world record for 'Fastest Solo Cycling (Men)' by covering a distance of 472 km from Leh to Manali in 34 hours and 54 minutes, a defence spokesman said on Sunday. Lt Col Sripada Sriram of the strategic Strikers Division started cycling from Leh in Ladakh at 4 am on Saturday, he said Lt Col Sriram has set a new Guinness world record for the 'Fastest Solo Cycling (Men)' from Leh to Manali (in Himachal Pradesh) on September 26. The total distance covered was 472 kilometers with a total elevation gain of approximately 8,000 metres, the spokesman said.

ROWDY CELEBRATIONS ACROSS NORWAY WITH END OF COVID MEASURES

Police in Norway on Sunday reported dozens of disturbances and violent clashes including mass brawls in the Nordic country's big cities after streets, bars, restaurants and nightclubs were filled with people celebrating the end of COVID-19 restrictions. The Norwegian government abruptly announced Friday that most of the remaining coronavirus restrictions would be scrapped from Saturday and that life in the nation of 5.3 million would return to normal. The unexpected announcement by Prime Minister Erna Solberg late Friday afternoon to drop coronavirus restrictions the next day took many Norwegians by surprise.

Herbal drug Fifatrol can help check viral infection, dengue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a rise in dengue, influenza and viral fever cases in different parts of India, experts claim that herbal drugs like Fifatrol can help in boosting immunity and hasten recovery from these diseases.

Professor K N Dwivedi of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) said in Ayurveda, there are some herbs and concoctions which can prevent the progression of infections due to seasonal flu and vectors such as mosquitoes and eliminate them gradually.

He pointed out that Fifatrol, a formulation of time-tested immunity strengthening herbomineral preparations like guduchi, daruharidra, apamarga, chirayata, karanja, kutaki, tulsi, godanti, mrityunjaya rasa, tribhuvana kriti rasa and sanjivani vati, has been found to help fight infection, flu and cold.

Shout with anger and demand 50% reservation in judiciary

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana on Sunday exhorted women lawyers to strongly raise their demand for 50 per cent reservation in the judiciary while assuring them of his "total support".

"I don't want you to cry but with anger, you have to shout and demand that we need 50 per cent reservation," he said.

The CJI said that it's an issue of thousands of years of suppression and women are entitled to the reservation and added, "It's a matter of right, and not a matter a charity."

He said, "I want to say that I strongly recommend and support the demand of a certain percentage of reservation in all law schools of the country for women, so that they can join the judiciary."

Speaking at a felicitation function organised by Lady Advocates of



Supreme Court for the nine newly appointed judges, including three women judges, CJI Ramana said he has modified Karl Marx's "Workers of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chain" quote for the occasion and added: "Women of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chain."

Appointment of women at sr levels can shift gender stereotypes: Justice Nagarathna

Supreme Court Judge B V Nagarathna on Sunday said advancing women participation in judiciary promotes role of gender equality in broader ways and female judicial appointments, particularly at senior levels, can shift gender stereotypes, thereby changing attitude and perceptions of appropriate roles of men and women. Justice Nagarathna, who is set to become the first woman Chief Justice of India in 2027, said, "Women visibility as judicial officers can pave the way for greater representation of women in other decision-making positions such as legislative and executive branches of the government." She was speaking at a function organised by the Lady Advocates of the Supreme Court for felicitation of nine newly appointed judges of the top court, which includes three women judges. Justice Nagarathna said, I say, Chief Justice of India NV Ramana has shown the way as to why in other branches women cannot break the glass ceiling whether in the legislature or in the executive branches.

The CJI said, You all are laughing. Yes, I don't want you to cry but with anger, you have to shout and demand that we need 50 per cent

reservation. It's not a small issue but an issue of thousands of years of suppression.

TS postpones e-auction of government lands in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has postponed e-auction of 117.35 acres of land at Puppulaguda and Khanamet on the outskirts of Hyderabad in view of some court cases. The Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) on Sunday announced that the notification issued for sale of the land through e-auction stands postponed.

Nine plots to an extent of 22.79 acres at Khanamet village were to be auctioned on September 27 while 26 plots to an extent of 94.56 acres at Puppulaguda village were to be auctioned the next day.

TSIIC Vice Chairman and Managing Director E V

Narasimha Reddy said certain frivolous claims were made by third parties on the government lands put for e-auction by approaching various courts. "In order to provide complete assurance to prospective buyers, Government will ensure speedy disposal of all pending cases before the process of auction is resumed," he said in a statement.

Secretary, Industry and Commerce, Jayesh Ranjan, said that the state government's intention has always been to auction lands after ensuring clear titles.

"Some unscrupulous elements have filed frivolous cases in courts regarding lands identified for auction,"



Srikakulam bears the brunt as 'Gulab' begins to make landfall

2 fishermen dead, 1 missing, 3 swim to safetyVKL GAYATHRI
■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The coastal areas of Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh were badly affected under the influence of 'Gulab' cyclone which started making landfall on Sunday night.

According to the reports, several trees were uprooted in various coastal villages of Srikakulam district due to heavy rain accompanied with gales.

According to reports, six fishermen V Nayakara, V Chiranjeevi, P Hemarao, K Bhimarao, Y Paparao and B



Mohan Rao from Manchineellapeta village, purchased a fishing boat two days ago and ventured into the sea. While three of them reached the shore safely late on Sunday evening, two others died while trying to swim ashore.

Rs 7,270 cr plan for road safety in 14 states

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is all set to roll out a new Rs 7,270 crore State Support Programme for Strengthening Road Safety to help realise the vision of 'Zero road fatalities on Indian roads.'

The centrally-sponsored six-year programme will be implemented in 14 states that are now contributing to 85 per cent of the total road fatalities in the country.

While MoRTH will lend a budgetary support of Rs 3,635 crore, an amount of Rs 1,818 crore will be secured as loan each from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Of the total cost, Rs 6,725 crore will be disbursed to the 14 states



based on their performance while MoRTH will use Rs 545 crore for

capacity building activities.

The scheme will incentivise state governments to drive road safety interventions at the grassroots level with the main objective of curbing road accidents and achieving a reduction in fatalities, the MoRTH said in a concept note circulated to the target states.

The target states under the scheme are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Telangana, West Bengal, Odisha, Haryana and Assam.

"This is an output and outcome-driven scheme wherein the performance of the states will be assessed on 11 mandatory and three elective indicators (road safety interventions)."

Telugu Chief Ministers take U turn on farm laws with differing stance

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

Ahead of Monday's 'Bharat bandh', the ruling parties in the Telugu states have taken a U turn on the farm laws recently enacted by the BJP-led Union government, but with a differing stance on extending support to the opposition parties-led nationwide protest.

As for the farm laws, the stance of the Telangana



Rashtra Samiti government in Telangana has been at variance with that of the YSR Congress Party government in Andhra Pradesh. Although TRS had opposed the farm bills in Parliament, it is now supporting the farm laws. The YSR Congress had supported the farm bills in Parliament, but is now opposing the farm laws. The YSR Congress has also extended

its support to Monday's Bharat Bandh called by opposition parties.

In Andhra Pradesh, the main opposition Telugu Desam Party also has taken a U turn on the farm laws. Just like the ruling YSR Congress, the Telugu Desam Party supported the farm bills in Parliament, but is now opposing the farm laws and has extended support to Bharat Bandh.

Protem Chairman may helm T'gana Council this session

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Legislative Council may be helmed by protem Chairman V Bhoopal Reddy for the entire monsoon session.

According to sources, the TRS government may not appoint the new Chairman during the current session. Prottem Chairman V Bhoopal Reddy will handle the Council, though the House does not have a Deputy Chairman either.

According to experts, there is no tenure for prottem Chairman and hence Bhoopal Reddy may be allowed to steer the Council until a new Chairman is appointed. The sources said that the TRS government might appoint a new chairman only after elections are conducted for six vacant MLC seats.

People victimised by fake apps of cyber criminals

G RAVI KIRAN
■ HYDERABAD

Certain apps available on Google Play Store are those that have been developed by cyber criminals and others linked to them. The people behind these fake apps are preying on unsuspecting people who download them on their mobiles or other devices.

Although, following exposures of fraud and malicious activity, there is some level of monitoring of financial-related apps, many shady apps continue to be available for download on Google Play Store. Hence, cyber criminals and others linked to them are making apps that are designed to cheat people. Bitcoin apps, Loan apps, betting apps and others are giving jolts to

users, while relieving them of lakhs of rupees. Some of the recent cases reflect this fact.

A builder of Madannapet has lost Rs.43 lakh to cyber criminals. He had installed an app on the suggestion of cyber criminals. A businessperson of Chandrayanagutta lost Rs.14 lakh after installing an app to invest in Bitcoin currency with the influence of unknown people. Like this, many are falling into the trap of cyber fraudsters by installing fake apps. Many of these apps are available in Google Play Store.

Cyber criminals are using Google Play Store as their platform for spreading fake apps and cheating people. As of now, Google has in place for its Play Store rules that disallow apps with potential for child endangerment, sexual con-

tent, hate speech, violence & terrorism, bullying & harassment, dangerous products, gambling and the like. But there is no restriction on finance-related apps such as loan apps, Bitcoin currency apps and others.

Nallamothu Sridhar, a technical expert, said: "Google Play Store will act according to its manual. But cyber criminals are sending links of Any Desk, TeamViewer and

other apps to people and getting login codes in return. Then they will get access to the mobile of the victim, and they can install any app. Regarding Loan Apps, Google Play Store has framed a few conditions. If a loan is given for a period of more than six months, then it will be treated as a financial app. But cyber fraudster change the period to 10 days or 15 days after the installation in the particular mobile. Like that they get round the app and cheat

Google Play Store as well as the user. Even, Play Store will monitor and remove fake apps from time to time.

Man feared washed away in heavy rain

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A man, believed to be a software professional, is feared washed away after falling into a rainwater-filled trench dug up for a drainage system here late Saturday after heavy rains lashed and flooded low-lying areas, police said.

The Disaster Response Force (DRF) of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and the police took up rescue operations to trace the man, a senior police official told PTI on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the official said, a woman lodged a complaint stating that her husband has gone missing.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham:
Bhadrapada & Krishna Paksha
Panchangam
Tithi : Shashthi 15:42
Nakshatram : Rohini 17:41
Time to Avoid : Time to Avoid (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam : 7:38 am - 9:08 am
Yamagandam : 10:37 am - 12:06 pm
Variyam : 8:38 am - 10:27 am, 12:00 am - 1:48 am
Gulika : 1:36 pm - 3:05 pm
Good Time : (to start any important work)
Amritakalam : 2:04 pm - 3:53 pm
Abhijit Muhurtham : 11:43 am - 12:30 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: ScatteredThunderstorm
Temp: 24
Humidity: 97%
Sunrise: 6:05 am
Sunset: 06:8 pm
Current Weather Conditions
Updated SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 5:00 PM



Monday Mirchi

Sajjanar fighting a losing battle?

Former super cop VC Sajjanar may have become a hero among people and a section of the Police Department by the unique ways in which he dealt with rapists and acid throwers, but his latest avatar as TSRTC MD has pitted him against market forces that suggest he is now fighting a losing battle. When he took charge, employees' hopes were raised that good days are ahead for the corporation. However, Bajireddy Govardhan Reddy, soon after taking over as chairman, issued an ominous statement about eventual privatisation of RTC if it cannot be turned around. This has put Sajjanar in a piquant position. For, he has just struck a chord with the employees by his surprise inspections, travels by bus -- including those with his family members, visiting ailing employees in hospitals etc. -- all done to make employees feel comfortable with him in the driving seat of the corporation. With Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao reportedly giving four months to the corporation to "perform or perish", Sajjanar will have to do much more than being in the good books of employees. The larger question is: Can the dreaded former police officer make the corporation profitable in four months? Tough task indeed for a man who had shined as a tough cop.

Cops 'working hard' to bare govt!

It is OK if cops occasionally go beyond their call of duty, considering social media always highlights those who break the mould, say by dancing in a unique style while regulating traffic at an intersection, holding traffic to help chicks cross the road, or penalizing helmetless riders and later compensating them with a helmet on the spot. Hyderabad traffic cops too do their part whenever it rains heavily. They are on the ground, drenched to the bone, but helping people and clearing puddles. But when pictures of how hard these cops are working amid the downpour appear on social media, they also expose chinks in the government's armour. People, particularly netizens, while appreciating the cops' seva, point how the government has done nothing to stop the inundation of roads in the first place. Previously GHMC used to face the flak that traffic cops are doing the civic body's job, while civic staffers just don't get onto their feet. With the diminishing role of GHMC Commissioner, citizens are now directly attacking the government, armed with proofs of cops' hard work amidst pouring rain.

WhatsApp 'Guru' Mahesh Bhagwat does it again!

IPS officer and Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Mahesh Bhagwat has done it again. Thanks to his mentoring as a 'Guru' via WhatsApp groups, over 100 candidates from various States have bagged good ranks in the latest Civil Services exam, including 14 figuring among the top 100 rankers. Despite his demanding job, Bhagwat allocates time for his passion: mentoring Civil Services aspirants. He takes pride in guiding them to successfully crack the interview and the personality test post prelims and

mains. He reaches out to them through various WhatsApp groups, earning the epithet 'WhatsApp Guru'.

Elevation of outgoing CS Adityanath Das

The outgoing Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Adityanath Das, may have been embarrassed with the state government naming his successor well in advance and not preferring an extension. As Sameer Sharma prepares to take over as the new CS from October 1, Das can now leave his present position with his head held high considering that the AP government has appointed him as the Chief Advisor to the State government with the status of Cabinet Minister and posted him at AP Bhavan. For Das, this would be a smooth transition to a position in which he would be handling what has been his forte for years. Das, who has headed the Irrigation Department in the combined AP as well as in residual AP state, will hopefully iron out the differences between the Telugu States over water sharing and other irrigation-related issues, and help resolve the matters amicably.

SEC fights for his own voting right

It is strange to hear, but true. He who has secured the voting right to lakhs of people is now fighting for his own voting right. Andhra Pradesh State Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar, upon being removed from his post by the AP government, launched a legal battle and reassumed his post. Even after retirement he has been fighting with the AP government in the court. As SEC, in his five-year tenure, he had addressed the complaints of those who wanted voting rights. When he was in government service in the combined Andhra Pradesh Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar had transferred his name to the voters' list in Hyderabad from that of his native place Duggirala in Guntur district. After retirement, Nimmagadda, having decided to settle down in Duggirala, applied to the state election authorities for transfer of his name from the Hyderabad voters' list to that of his native place Duggirala. When Nimmagadda verified the voters' list of Duggirala village, he did not find his name. Later, he came to know that the election authorities had rejected his application. Nimmagadda has gone to court again, challenging the decision of the election authorities.

CMO babu cut to size

Sulking AP babus have a reason to cheer as Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has sidelined a CMO official who, with his 'know-it-all' attitude, had irked them by his intrusive behavior and unwarranted interference in every aspect of government functioning. Since he was known to be close to Jagan, none of them dared to talk back whenever he poked his nose. Jagan apparently had an eye on him and showed him his place when he crossed his limits. This episode suggests that it is not easy to work with the Chief Minister and that those who try to take undue advantage of proximity with him will bite the dust.

- Yours truly

CSIR should re-invent itself for future challenges: Venkaiah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday advised the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to reinvent itself and turn futuristic while pursuing the science of the highest order.

Participating in the CSIR's 80th Foundation Day celebrations here, he said that he wanted CSIR laboratories and institutes to address challenges that require long-term scientific and technological solutions.

Citing climate change, drug resistance, pollution, epidemic and pandemic outbreaks, among the challenges that need the focus of the scientific community, Naidu said: "I want CSIR to bestow greater attention on agricultural research and come out with new innovations, techniques and solutions to address the



problems faced by farmers."

Union Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh asked the CSIR and all the science departments to explore S&T innovations needed in the next ten years to make India globally competitive, a Science and Technology Ministry release said. As the nation is celebrat-

ing the Azadi ka Amrit Mahostav, the combined strength of the CSIR, Department of Bio-Technology, Department of Science and Technology, and Ministry of Earth Sciences, along with other science ministries, can indeed transform the entire country in the next 25 years as the entire progress is going to remain heavily technology-dependant, he said, adding, 25 years later, India should be a global leader ranging from defence to economics with strong scientific and technological inputs.

Lauding the 80-year successful journey of CSIR, he said that it is heartening to see the evolution of the CSIR from developing India's first indelible ink used in elections to providing Indian Standard Time using atomic clocks

today.

From the development of Swaraj Tractor to the recent test flying of HANSA-NG is a testament to the growth of CSIR in the last eight decades, he added.

The legacy of CSIR is built on the cumulative contributions of its many national laboratories and institutes, he said, adding that each laboratory is unique and specialising in diverse areas as genomics to geology, material technology to microbial technology and food to fuel. Singh congratulated all the scientists, researchers and students who won the prestigious Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Prizes and said that the accolades will further motivate the recipients to continue their excellent work and inspire those around them, the release said.

Mentored by CP Mahesh Bhagwath, 131 candidates clear civils exams

PNS ■ MEDCHAL MALKAJIGIRI

As many as 131 civil services aspirants, mentored by a senior IPS officer in Telangana, have cleared the civil services examination-2020.

The mentorship was provided by Rachakonda Police Commissioner Mahesh M Bhagwat along with civil servants and educationists, said a press release here on Sunday. Congratulating the candidates, he advised them to render citizen-friendly services in administration and work with honesty, sense of ownership, the release said.

Last year, the interviews were postponed because of the Covid pandemic, so the candidates were trained online by the police officer and the others, the release added.

JSP symbol 'tumbler' tumbles out of CEC gazette notification

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a rude shock to the Janasena Party, the party symbol was not listed in the gazette notification issued by the Central Election Commission. The CEC has issued a gazette notification on the allocation of party symbols to the political parties.

As per the notification the Janasena party common symbol "glass tumbler" was not in the list published by the CEC.

The CEC has reserved symbols to three regional parties in Andhra Pradesh and finalized the symbols for eight national parties. Earlier on May 23, the CEC had issued a gazette notification allocating

reserved symbols to only three of the recognised regional parties in the state. In AP, the ceiling fan symbol was reserved for the ruling YSRCP, the bicycle symbol for the opposition TDP. While the reserved symbols for BJP, Congress, CPM, CPI, Trinamool Congress, BSP, NCP and National People's

Party under the national party status. However, the CEC has recently issued a notification in the Free Symbols category stating the glass and glass symbol allotted to the Janasena party in the last Assembly elections.

The Central Election Commission (CEC) has put a restriction on the use of

four symbols by the political parties or independent candidates in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Meanwhile, in the latest notification issued by the CEC, the glass symbol allotted to the Janasena Party in the last assembly elections was included in the Free Symbols category.

Rs 7,270 cr plan for... Shout with anger and demand...

Continued from page 1

The grants will be distributed to the states based on the Key Performance Indicators," top official sources told PTI.

The preliminary project report prepared by MoRTH says the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act (2019) was brought in as an important intervention to achieve the fatality reduction target.

"To leverage the strengthened law, it is necessary to have focused interventions in the related areas of road safety like road engineering, enforcement, road safety advocacy and media campaigns and efficient emergency response systems. The states need to be supported to act on result-oriented strategies. Hence the new scheme," the sources said.

India reported about 1.51 lakh road deaths in 4.49 lakh accidents in the year 2019. Of the total deaths, the 14 identified states accounted for 1,27,379. The number of fatalities remained consistent over the last five years.

In 2020, 1.32 lakh road deaths were recorded across the country, with the Covid-

19-induced lockdown resulting in the reduction in number.

The new scheme targets to reduce the fatality rate by 30 per cent by March 2027.

Cyclists, two and three-wheeler riders and pedestrians have been identified as 'vulnerable road users' who comprised about 54 per cent of road traffic deaths in India.

Under the new scheme, performance-based indicators have been proposed with the aim of reducing the impact of road accidents on these vulnerable users.

An Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD) will be rolled out in all states by 2022-23 and applied for identifying and rectifying all black spots on state highways and major district roads.

Road safety audit will be made mandatory on state highways and urban roads by the end of the scheme period.

From 2022-23, MoRTH will launch a 'Challenge Round' every year to provide incentives to states on additional road safety interventions and also to promote competition among states.

TS postpones...

Continued from page 1

even though the title matter has been well-settled by Supreme Court of India in government's favour.

"Inconvenience caused to prospective buyers is deeply regretted," he added.

This was the second round of auction of government lands in the city. In July, the state government has earned Rs 2,729 crore from e-auction of 65 acres of land over 13 plots at Kokapet and Khanamet.

19 political parties...

Continued from page 1

TPCC Campaign Committee chairman Madhu Yashiki Goud would participate at Hayathnagar on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway. TPCC senior vice-president Dr Mallu Ravi and party senior leader M Ram Reddy would participate at LB Nagar. TPCC senior vice-president Sambani Chandrasekhar would take part at Ibrahimpatnam, along

with former MLA Malreddy Ranga Reddy.

Communist Party of India national secretary Dr K Narayana would participate at Shamshabad on the Bangaluru highway along with TPCC working president Mahesh Kumar Goud and TPCC senior vice-president Vem Narendra Reddy. AICC secretary SA Sampath Kumar would participate at Alampur Tollgate on the Bangalore highway.

People victimised...

Continued from page 1

Regarding Crypto Currency also, cyber criminals make a fake app resembling the original app. After installation, it will be modified. They will show profits in the account, but the victims will know that it is a fake one only when they try to withdraw it. The Google Play Store cannot verify it. Only people have to be vigilant and alert to avoid these cyber frauds".

Herbal drug Fifatrol...

Continued from page 1

Developed by AIMIL Pharma, the herbal drug is being recommended by Ayurveda experts for even dengue and viral flu patients and it is very effective.

According to sources, during a trial on dengue patients at AIIMS, Bhopal, Fifatrol was found to have increased blood platelet count significantly.

Professor Dwivedi explained that there are four types of dengue -- serotypes one to four -- at play, and the prevalence of serotype-two, which is more severe than other types, has been growing very fast across states.

In serotype-two dengue infection, platelet count drops

rapidly, and the body's immune response becomes hyper active leading to a cytokine storm that can damage the organs. This variant of dengue also impacts the kidneys, he said.

"But this drug (Fifatrol), being enriched with immune-enhancing herbomineral preparations, can fight bacteria, viruses and allergens and provides fast relief from nasal congestion, sore throat, body ache and headache."

Fifatrol has also been mentioned in nearly 200 technologies and research activities evaluated by experts in a compendium for combating coronavirus as compiled by the National Research Development Corporation.

Srikakulam bears the...

Continued from page 1

The whereabouts of another fisherman are yet to be known. One of the fishermen fishermen informed his relatives that they were in danger as the sea had turned very turbulent. With this, Minister of Fisheries Dr. S Appala Raju alerted the rescue teams and the Eastern Naval Command to rescue the fishermen.

Paddy and horticulture fields were inundated at several places. As many as 50 NDRF troops along with the equipment, fire services personnel, police and local in the villages are participating in the relief and rescue operations.

At about 7.30 pm, three of the missing fishermen Y Papa Rao, V Chiranjeevi and K Bhimarao reached the shore safely near Akkuppalli village of Kalingapatnam. They informed that V Nayakara and B Mohanrao had died at the sea and the whereabouts of P Hemarao are yet to be ascertained.

Meanwhile, the officials have evacuated over 200 people from the coastal villages to the Cyclone Relief Centres and also distributed food to them. The APEPDCL has set up control rooms to restore power lines and police.

India sore over China's reluctance to permit stranded

Continued from page 1

The virtual dialogue was co-hosted by the School of International Studies of Sichuan University (SCU), China Centre for South Asian Studies and Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA).

I might add here that India has also attempted to keep our trade and commercial relationship insulated from current differences, for instance by continuing to issue visas to Chinese businesspersons to visit India," he said.

However, we are disappointed to see an unscientific approach with regard to several problems currently being faced by Indian students, businessmen, marine crew and exporters, to name a few," the ambassador said.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg	
Dressed/With Skin	₹254
Without Skin	₹274
Broiler at Farm	₹141

EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	428
VISAKHAPATNAM	470
VIJAYAWADA	441
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹4.28

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

RTC to shift few city bus services to outskirts to improve revenue

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a bid to curtail its losses, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has decided to run its fleet on the outskirts of the city in a radius of 50 kilometers from city reducing the city bus services in the main city. The RTC officials feel that it will increase occupancy ratio.

Increase in use of private vehicles manifold, Hyderabad Metro Rail, private cab services like Uber and Ola and Rapido have dented the revenue of the RTC.

Currently, the RTC is studying the transport needs of people in the outskirts in a radius of 50 km.

Even Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao has made a special mention of the financial losses to the RTC due to operation of the city buses.

On an average, city buses travel up to a distance of 250 kilometers at a speed of 15 kilometers per hour. Traffic jams, cancellation of trips, operation of buses on limited routes, not reopening of schools and college at full scale has greatly curtailed the distance of the operation of the city buses.

Earlier, the city buses used to run from Hayathnagar to Patancheru. However, currently the distance was curtailed to LB Nagar from Hayathnagar because of the Hyderabad Metro Rail is operating its services from LB Nagar to Miyapur.

At the same time, the district-level buses have been operating up to a distance of 400-500 km at a speed of 25 to 30 kmph.

As the RTC withdrew over 800 buses from operation, the city buses are currently running up to a cumulative distance of 7 lakh as against the earlier 9 lakh. Earlier, over 3,850 buses were operated.

Instead of running short trips on routes like Secunderabad-Koti, Nampalli-Mehdipatnam because of the low occupancy ratio and not able to operate these services up to a distance of 250 km, the RTC has plans to increase trips on Choutuppal-MGBS, Bhongir-Secunderabad, Chevella-Mehdipatnam reducing trips on short distance routes.

The changes will enable the RTC to operate its services from 250 to 400 km daily.

Currently, the RTC losses are put at Rs 1 crore per day. The RTC earns Rs 36 per km as against the expenses of Rs 85.

The RTC spends Rs 20 per kilometer to buy diesel. The RTC's daily income is put at Rs 2.5 crore, but the operational costs are put at Rs 3.5 crore.

The RTC is confident of increasing its revenue per km from Rs 36 to 50 through operation of buses to far off places like Chevella, Sankarpally, Rayagiri and Bhongir.

To get closer to the commuter, the RTC has been asking the commuters to send their problem to WhatsApp numbers for resolution of the



Will not privatise RTC: Chairman Goverdhan

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) chairman Bajireddy Goverdhan Reddy stated that the state government will not privatise the corporation. He said that the officials of RTC have discussed with the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao over the hike in bus fares, to run the RTC on benefits. Goverdhan Reddy, who went to his hometown on Sunday for the first time after becoming the RTC chairman received an arousing welcome from the leaders in the constituency. Speaking to the media after

TSRTC to operate bus services even though the Opposition parties of Telangana announced Bharat Bandh on Monday

conducting a review meeting with officials at his camp office, Goverdhan Reddy said that the Chief Minister has been taking steps to run the RTC on the path of benefits. Explaining that the corporation used to get Rs 14 crore revenue before the pandemic, he said that they are striving had to overcome the losses now. Meanwhile, the RTC has announced that it will continue to operate the city and inter-state buses as usual on 27 September, irrespective of the 'Bharat Bandh' call given by the 19 opposition parties.

problems. The help centre at Koti can be accessed by contacting

99592 26160, while the one at Rathifile help centre on 83339 04531.

Chief Secretary alerts districts over impact of cyclone 'Gulab'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Sunday put all districts on alert in view of the heavy rains forecast for the state under the impact of cyclonic storm 'Gulab'.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar held a teleconference from New Delhi with the district Collectors in the wake of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warning of heavy rains in the state for the coming two days.

He directed all the Collectors to keep vigil on 'Gulab' which may show its impact in the entire state from Sunday evening for the next two days, and set up special control rooms in all the districts to monitor the flood situation.

The IMD has issued red alert for north Telangana and orange alert for south Telangana districts.

Somesh Kumar asked the Collectors to work in coordination with police and other line departments. The district officials were directed to be on alert with regard to low-lying areas, keep a vigil and take necessary measures on the tanks likely to breach.

They were told to take services of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), if necessary.

The Chief Secretary advised them to keep a vigil on such places where people are likely to cross over to other side during overflow of the streams. He asked them to appoint special officers in

GHMC monsoon teams deployed

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has pressed into service its monsoon teams and the Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams to clear rain related complaints following the heavy rains that lashed the city on late Saturday. Mayor G Vijaya Laxmi instructed the monsoon action teams to be on alert and asked the engineers in the civic body to monitor the situation on ground and take immediate measures. Meanwhile, GHMC's Enforcement Vigilance & Disaster Management director, Vishwajit Kampati on Twitter asked the people to Dial 040-29555500 for Disaster Response Force assistance. The teams are on the job round the clock to bring back normalcy in localities that were inundated. The teams cleared waterlogging, removed tangled wires and uprooted trees and branches. Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board workers are attending the issues pertaining to drainage overflow. At least three teams are making efforts to track him down. The trenches lead to the Neknampur tank located at Rajendarnagar.



every mandal to avoid any human and asset loss.

He said the officers and staff of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) should be alert in the wake of rising water levels in Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar reservoirs. He wanted officials to monitor the rising water levels constantly and also keep vigil and monitor the rising levels of all

the tanks in the state.

Special Chief Secretary, Roads and Buildings, Sunil Sharma, Principal Secretary, Disaster Management, Rahul Bojja, Secretary Panchayat Raj and Power, Sandeep Kumar Sultanika, and GHMC Commissioner, Lokesh Kumar participated in the teleconference from Hyderabad along with all district Collectors.

Man murders wife suspecting fidelity

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A software engineer allegedly murdered his wife suspecting her fidelity at their house in Bachupally on Sunday.

The deceased woman was identified as Errolla Sudharani, 28, a software engineer by profession. According to the police, Sudharani had fallen in love with Errolla Kiran Kumar, 28, who is also a software engineer. The couple got married with their parents approval a few months ago and were residing at Sri Sai Dwaraka apartments of Pragathi Nagar under Bachupally Police Station limits.

The police said that the woman's body was found in a pool of blood with a slit across the throat. Neighbours who noticed the body through the window, informed the police who rushed to the spot. The body was sent for post mortem. Preliminary investigation revealed that a blade was used to murder the woman.

State pays tributes to Chakali Ilamma

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rich tributes were paid to Chakali Ilamma, an icon of Telangana armed struggle, on the occasion of her 126th birth anniversary, on Sunday.

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao recalled the democratic fighting spirit of Ilamma, describing her the symbol of women consciousness and self-respect of the Telangana artisan communities.

The CM said that Ilamma who was born in the most backward classes community gave inspiration to the Telangana Bahujan communities. She was a great democrat who fought for her rights during the armed struggle days, within the framework of law and in the courts for justice.

Chandrasekhar Rao said that Ilamma's democratic

fighting spirit was very much imbibed in the Telangana statehood movement. He pointed out that Chitayala Ilamma's birth and death anniversaries are being organised officially by the government. He said programmes would be conducted to make future generations remember the great service rendered by her.

Minister for backward classes G a n g u l a Kamalakara paid tributes to Ailamma and unveiled her statue at a programme held at Huzurabad.

He claimed that the KCR government of Telangana was the first government to recognize the services of the valiant fighter by organising programmes on her birth and death anniversaries. Finance minister Harish Rao and BC Commission Chairman V Krishna Mohan Rao also paid tributes to Ilamma.



LIFE OF BUDDHA

The prestigious Sriparvatarama or Buddhavanam project at Nagarjuna Sagar, which has been beautifully themed, crafted and arranged to showcase a glimpse of the glorious, yet humble, life of Gautam Buddha, is all set to be thrown open to the public. An Amaravati-style replica of Mahastupa with sculptural embellishments will be the main attraction at the park.



SCR cancels 12 trains in view of cyclone 'Gulab'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway (SCR) has cancelled 12 trains and short terminated, diverted or rescheduled few other trains in view of cyclonic storm 'Gulab' which is set to cross Andhra-Odisha coast on Sunday.

Bhubaneswar - Secunderabad, Bhubaneswar - Tirupati, Tirupati - Bhubaneswar, Puri - Chennai Central, Chennai Central - Puri, Sambalpur - HS Nanded, HS Nanded - Rayagada - Guntur trains, scheduled to commence journey on Sunday and Monday, have been cancelled.

The authorities also announced cancellation of Bhubaneswar-KSR Bengaluru City, KSR Bengaluru City - Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar -

Yesvantpur and Yesvantpur - Bhubaneswar trains.

They also announced diversion of the Puri-Okha train via Khurda - Raod - Angul - Sambalpur - Titagarh - Lakholi - Balharshah.

New Tinsukia - KSR Bengaluru City, which commenced journey on Friday, was diverted via Kharagpur - Jharsuguda - Balharshah. Howrah - Chennai Central - Vasco-da-Gama were also diverted via Kharagpur - Jharsuguda - Balharshah.

Yesvantpur - Budge Budge train was diverted via Vizianagaram - Titagarh - Asansol, and Kanniyakumari - Howrah train via Vizianagaram - Titagarh - Jharsuguda - Kharagpur. Chennai Central - Howrah was diverted via Vizianagaram - Titagarh - Jharsuguda - Kharagpur.



TS urged to delete 'Islamophobic' content from Class VIII textbooks

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Following demand from the Students Islamic Organisation of India (SIO) to delete 'Islamophobic' content in a school book in Telangana, the state authorities on Sunday assured appropriate action while the publisher has apologised and decided to delete the objectionable photograph.

The director of school education clarified that the objectionable photograph was not published in the government prescribed text book of 8th class but in the Question Bank prepared and published by VGS Brilliant Series publication, a private firm. SIO had strong exception to the picture



The picture of a 'terrorist' shows him holding a rocket launcher in his right hand and carrying holy Quran in his left hand. It was published in the chapter 'National movement - the last phase 1919-1947'.

of a 'terrorist' showing him holding a rocket launcher in his right hand and carrying holy Quran in his left hand. It was published in the chapter 'National movement - the last phase 1919 -1947'. Dr Talha Faiyazuddin, president, SIO

Telangana condemned the publication of 'Islamophobic' content and urged the state's education minister P. Sabita Indra Reddy to initiate action against the publisher.

He said such content will prejudice students' minds. "It is

creating and propagating stereotypical, hateful and Islamophobic view towards Muslim community, by showing a person holding a gun in his right hand and the holy Quran in left hand. It is a discriminatory and hateful content which destroys the harmony, unity and integrity of the society," he said.

Meanwhile, VGS Publishers has apologised for carrying the picture.

The Vijayawada-based publisher in a statement expressed regrets. "It was not at all intentional. We do not intend to hurt anybody's sentiments. However, we have decided to delete the picture and reprint the books," it said.

NITI Aayog CEO takes part in GIC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Sunday participated in Green India Challenge of TRS Rajya Sabha member Joginapally Santosh Kumar.

Amitabh Kant planted saplings along with Santosh Kumar and Lok Sabha MP Venkatesh Netha at his residence in New Delhi.

Santosh Kumar, a leader of TRS, also presented a book "Vriska Vedam" to him.

The NITI Aayog CEO appreciating the efforts of Santosh Kumar for the Green India Challenge programme and the book. He said every village needs to take up this programme. "If we move forward in the same way, we can surely succeed in climate change," he said. Amitabh Kant said he would soon nominate three more for Green

World Rivers Day celebrated

Forum for a Better Hyderabad, a city-based environmental protection organisation, took part in the Green India Challenge (GIC) on Sunday. Celebrating the World Rivers Day, Forum chairperson Manikonda Vedakumar led a riverfront walk by the Musi and planted saplings along the walkway near Salar Jung Museum. Accompanying him were students from All Saints High School, St. Sai Vidya Niketan High School, Government schools, in addition to GIC's co-founder S. Raghava. The event also included an exhibition of several old photos of river Musi and after Vedakumar planted the first sapling, others joined in, planting 50 saplings overall. "The fourth Sunday of September is observed as World Rivers Day globally and we are doing it for the first time in the city, celebrating Musi. I was nominated by my former student Dr. Chetana, to take up the Green India Challenge and we took it up," said Vedakumar who also nominated Shanta Sinha, National Child Rights Commission chairperson, Harpreet Singh, IAS, Waqf Board Deputy CEO Mohammad Safi Ullah among others to take up the challenge.

India Challenge. Celebrities like Amitabh Bacchan, Aamir Khan, Sachin Tendulkar, Sanjay Dutt, Ajay Devgn, Shruti Haasan, Shradha Kapoor, Chiranjeevi,

Nagarjuna, Prabhas, Krishna, Pawan Kalyan, Mahesh Babu, Rajamouli, Samanta, Pulela Gopichand, PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and Sania Mirza have participated in the challenge.

TADJAC to support 'Bharat bandh' today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Auto Drivers Joint Action Committee (TADJAC) has appealed to the working class particularly the auto, taxi and lorry drivers to participate in the proposed Barath Bandh on Monday in support of the farmers demands and make it a success.

Meanwhile, a rally of auto, taxi and lorry drivers will be organised on Monday upto LB

Nagar Cross roads and a Rasta Rokho programme will be conducted at 11.30 am.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, convener of TADJAC, Mohammed Amanullah Khan alleged that there is rampant corruption in the police department has announced his decision to undertake 'fast till death' from October 2 (Gandhi Jayanti Day) demanding the government to deal corruption with an iron hand.

Thousands of Hyderabadis had perfect Funday this Sunday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After a week's gap, the Sunday Funday at Tank Bund resumed on Sunday and it was bigger and better than the previous weeks.

The smell of freshly popped corn mixed with the spices that only the street vendors have access to, different food stalls, sapling distribution stalls, the setting sun framing the majestic Buddha statue along with thousands of Hyderabadis

made up for a perfect Sunday Funday.

Like the previous Sundays, there were a lot of children on skates, rollerblades, scooters and skateboards zipping past the casual strollers on the road. A lot of pets were also spotted, with the furry friends getting a chance to enjoy the pleasant September evening outside.

Couples took selfies and groups posed for pictures right on the middle of the road, making memories that weren't

possible before the Sunday Funday was introduced. Stilt walkers, street magicians, street musicians, fortune tellers and more brought in a carnivalesque charm to the evening.

The Women's Safety Wing of Hyderabad police added to the fun of the evening with a zumba session followed by an interactive awareness program about She Teams' functioning. Fire works and music band added to the fun on the Sunday evening.



Monkey menace, inadequate labour may foil govt's crop rotation plan

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

The state government of Telangana, which has been extensively spreading awareness among the farmers to shift their focus from cultivating paddy to traditional crops including millets, pulses and cereals may see a setback with the monkey menace, which is rampant in across the districts of Telangana.

Shortage of agriculture labourers in several districts add to the woes of farmers.

However, The TRS public representatives have already started awareness programmes to educate the farmers over crop rotations in Rythu Vedikas across the state.

The state government has taken up this initiative after the Centre made it clear that it will not procure the paddy as it has enough stocks in godowns, which are sufficient for five years. It may be remembered here that the state of Telangana had become a rice bowl in the country, with record production of paddy this year.



Raising the issue over monkey menace in the awareness programmes, several farmers said that they have been cultivating paddy only because they are scared of monkey menace and shortage of agricultural labour.

The farmers explain that monkeys also attack on paddy fields, but the trouble is less compared to other traditional crops. However, there is no answer from the officials on monkey menace.

Over the period of time, the

population of monkeys has also increased manifold. Officials attribute several reasons for the increase of the monkey population.

Several farmers in Telangana, who used to cultivate jowar, maize, bajra, ground

nut, cotton and castor crops previously, shifted to paddy due to the availability of water in Telangana now.

Experts attribute destruction of hills for the sake of granites is the reason for the monkey menace in Telangana. The hills are natural accommodation for the monkeys, but now they are entering into the fields and villages, as they don't have natural habitats.

A farmer, G Krishna Reddy from Karimnagar district who has been cultivating paddy, lamented that shifting to commercial and traditional crops may not be so easy due to the shortage of agricultural labour and monkey menace.

Opining that it is not proper on the part of the state government to ask farmers to cultivate commercial and traditional crops suddenly, the farmer urged the state government to initiate steps to solve their issues including monkey menace and agriculture labor problems as they have not yet habituated to cultivate commercial and traditional crops.

Cops step up efforts to wean adivasis away from Maoists

SRINIVAS KARENGALA
■ JAYASHANKAR
BHUPALAPALLY

In order to wean away tribals and adivasis from the influence of the Maoists in tribal areas, the police officials have been implementing many measures, including welfare measures, in Agency areas and villages on the fringes of forests in Mahadevapur circle as there is possibility of the Maoists crossing over into Telangana through land and river to escape combing and exchange of fire in that state.

The police have launched measures to build confidence to get closer to the tribals in the light of heavy repression on the Maoists in Chattisgarh. Sometimes, the exchange of fire is causing heavy loss of life on either side.

The police department has been trying to ensure that the Maoists get zero support from the tribals here in case they step on Telangana soil.

The police are not hesitating to extend any help to the tribals living in erstwhile strongholds in Agency areas like Pankena, Palimela, Sarvaipeta,



Dammuru, Mukunuru and Annaram village located in the thick forest areas along the Telangana-Chattisgarh border areas.

The police have been conducting cordon and search operations in remote and inaccessible villages since morning. They are searching each and every house thoroughly. They make people assemble at the village square and asking them against taking part in anti-social activities.

Free health camps are being conducted for tribals and adivasis and distributing medicines among them. The police also sensitise the villagers on nutrition. The police also explain them to contact police control room dialing 100 in emergencies.

Besides, the police distribute rugs, mosquito nets, sports kits for youth. Additional SP Srinivasulu, Kataram DSP Bonala Kishan are supervising the measures to build bridges with the tribals in Maoist affected areas while keeping an on the movements of the Maoists in the areas.

In view of the Maoists celebrating Maoist Week, the police have stepped up combing, search and cordon in the areas in villages in Godavai catchment areas. Mahadevapur CI Kiran along with policemen and CRPF personnel have been holding meetings with villagers and urging them to pass on information about movement of suspects and anti-social elements, if any, in the villages.

Waging fights for rights natural for son of T'gana soil: Puvvada

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Minister for Transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar has said that the boldness of Chakali Ilamma aroused consciousness among women of Telangana region. He hailed her as a great democrat who had fought for justice and to achieve for her rights in courts within the ambit of the laws prevailed then apart from taking part in armed revolution.

He garlanded her statue in the city and paid rich tributes to her on Sunday on the occasion of her birth anniversary. "She used her words as bullets and cannon balls to strike terror in the hearts of landlords and kindled the spirit of farmers to revolt. Her life will serve as a great source of inspiration for posterity. Bahujans of Telangana will derive inspiration from Ilamma, who was



born into a Dobhi's family," said Puvvada Ajay adding that paying tributes to her would mean Telangana government celebrating her birth anniversary and observing death anniversary annually officially.

Waging fights for rights is one of the inherent qualities of the Telangana soil, he said.

Deriving inspiration from her, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao designed welfare schemes to benefit all

sections of the society, he said adding that over 1,000 free power connections were given to dobhis and barbers in the city to help them pursue their caste-based vocations under government's free power scheme for them.

City Mayor P Neeraja, District Collector VP Gautam, police commissioner Vishnu S warrior and various government officials, people's representatives were present on the occasion.

State resolving problems one after the other: Srinivas Goud

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Excise Minister Dr V Srinivas Goud has called upon people to keep surroundings clean and plant saplings in vacant spaces.

He was addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for CC roads and drainage works in 9 and 20 wards of the town on Sunday. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 50 lakh. The government has been going ahead resolving the problems one after the other in the town, he said asking the people in the district to keep their surroundings clean and plant saplings in vacant spaces under Haritha Haram. The proposed airport coming at Manyamkonda has been named as Venkateswara Airport.

Ilamma, an icon for down-trodden: Minister

PNS ■ WANAPARTHI

Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy on Sunday paid rich tributes to Chakali Ilamma and hailed her as the icon of self-respect for down-trodden sections of the society.

Describing her as a brave woman who sent shivers down the spine of land lords during the Telangana Armed Struggle, fought for land, for food and against exploitation.

Her bravery and her ideals serve as a great source of inspi-



ration for the people of the state, he said.

Niranjan Reddy described

her as a brave lady, who laid the foundation for the modern society in Telangana by revolt-

ing against the exploitative landlords and raised her voice against them saying, "This land belongs to me and also the crop cultivated in it. Who is Dora to seize my crop?"

District Collector Shaik Yasmin Basha hailed Ailamma's perseverance and fighting spirit.

Earlier, Niranjan Reddy and district Collector garlanded statue of Ailamma and paid rich tributes to her by garlanding statue of her in the town and a portrait of her at Collectorate.

Folk, classical dances delight tourists at Ramappa temple

PNS ■ MULUGU

Folk, as well as classical Kuchipudi dances performed at the UNESCO heritage site Ramappa temple at Palampet of Mulugu district, delighted tourists on Sunday. A day ahead of World Tourism Day, the district administration conducted a Heritage Walk and other programmes at the famous temple.

Dance performances by the disciples of Tanduru Renuku were a feast to the eyes of the visitors. Sub-Registrar Taslima Mohammad, Palampeta Village sarpanch Rajita, Ramappa Temple Executive Officer (EO) and other officials participated in the event. District Tourism Officer, erstwhile Warangal, Shivaji coordinated the programme, while Venkatapur SI Ramesh looked after the security arrange-



ments.

Shivaji said that the number of tourists has increased many folds since UNESCO conferred the World Heritage Site tag to the Ramappa temple in July this year. According to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) officials, six trained security guards have already been

deployed at the temple for security besides urging the State government to step up police protection to all archaeological sites. The ASI is going to beef up security by deploying more armed guards and by setting up increased surveillance of the area with CCTV cameras.

MUSHAMPALLI RAPE

Uttam demands Rs 50L exgratia to kin of victim

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Condolences continued to pour in for the family of a 54-year-old rape and murder victim at Mushampally in Nalgonda.

Visiting the bereaved family and assuring them of support, leaders of various parties took potshots at the state government policies and said they are 'contributing factors' for the crime.

Nalgonda MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy has demanded that the state government to declare an ex-gratia of Rs 50 lakh to the family of the Mushampally victim.

Uttam Kumar Reddy was speaking to the reporters after visiting the victim's family in Mushampally here on Sunday. The Congress MP along with other leaders demanded complete control over belt shops and drug abuse in Telangana districts.

Accusing the government of failing to control crime in the state, Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the crime rate in the state is increasing only due to the illegal sale of alcohol and marijuana. There is no protection to women in the state, he added. Assuring to support the family members of the victim, Uttam Kumar handed over a cheque of Rs 1 to them on Sunday.

'Take up audit of Covid deaths'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AICC spokesperson Dasoju Sravan demanded Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to immediately take up a comprehensive audit of Covid deaths in TS and issue factual death certificates according to ICMR guidelines, indicating the specific reasons of death,

so as to enable the deceased families to obtain compensation of Rs 50,000 being provided by Central government. Dr Dasoju Sravan, who has been tirelessly raising the issue of gross underreporting of Covid deaths by government to camouflage its failures, has once again raised the issue, in the wake of Centre's decision to

provide ex-gratia to the kin of deceased, after Supreme Court's intervention. Dr Sravan wrote a letter to KCR on Sunday, stressing on the need for a fresh audit of Covid deaths during first and second waves and providing financial and social security to the children orphaned by the dreaded virus.

Harish: Will install bronze statue of Ilamma

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Finance Minister T Harish Rao on Sunday said the government will install a life-size bronze statue of Chakali Ilamma in Siddipet town soon.

Addressing the gathering after garlanding the bust of Chakali Ilamma at Housing Board Colony here, Harish

Rao said the story of Ilamma continues to inspire the younger generation. "Ilamma is a symbol of self-respect and consciousness among women in Telangana," he said.

Pointing out that she had fought bravely against feudalism, the Minister said the State government will celebrate the birth and death anniversaries

of Ailamma officially as a tribute to her bravery that is an inspiration for the modern women.

Elaborating various works the administration has taken up for the welfare of Chakali community in Telangana, the Minister said that they would grant loans for washermen community through MBC

Corporation.

Stating that they have set up ultramodern Dhobi Ghat in Siddipet town for the benefit of the Chakali Community, Rao said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has been extending great support to revive the caste-based professions in the State since Telangana was created.

Foundation stone laid for SE office

PNS ■ GADWAL

Local legislator Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy laid the foundation stone for the office of the Superintending Engineer of the Electricity Department here on Sunday.

Allampur MLA Dr Abraham, ZP Chairperson Sarita were also present on the occasion. Unlike earlier times, when there were power cuts in Telangana, there is 24x7 power supply to agriculture sector, he said adding that there was no need for the farmer to conduct agricultural operations at night. He thanked the electricity department for their support to the farmer.

NGOs safeguard 12th century temples in Nagarkurnool

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Nature and Indian Culture Foundation in association with Pleach India Foundation rescued 12th century Heritage structures at Nandivaddeman village in Bijinapally mandal, Nagarkurnool district on Sunday on the eve of World Tourism Day in tune with this year's theme 'Inclusive Tourism Development', said Dr E Sivanagi Reddy, Sthapati, Archaeologist and CEO, Pleach India Foundation and Patnam Krishnam Raju, President of Nature and Indian Culture Foundation.

Jumped into action and cleared the wild growth of vegetation on five temples viz., Bhadrakali Temple located



amidst paddy fields, triple shrines locally known as Trimurti temples abutting the huge mud fort wall and Nandishwara temple where a very huge bull sculpture carved out of black granite stone, located two km away from the village as part of the awareness programme called 'Preserve Heritage for Posterity'.

Nearly 30 activists from

Nature and Indian Culture Trust and 10 volunteers from Pleach India Foundation and 10 members of the local youth led by Vanga Sudarsan Goud, Sarpanch Nandivaddeman worked the entire day and made the much neglected

monuments presentable to the local visitors and tourists.

Dr Sivanagi Reddy said that the monuments spruced up were built in typical Kakatiya style by Gona Buddha Reddy (author of Ranganatha Ramayanam), Ganna Reddy and Vittala Reddy, ruled from Vardhamanpura as the subordinate chiefs of the Kakatiyas in 12th and 13th centuries AD.

Dr Sivanagi Reddy sensitised the village Sarpanch and local youth on the archaeological and historical significance of the temples, sculptures and inscriptions and the need to preserve them for future generations and appealed to the state government of Telangana to safeguard the priceless Heritage properties.

Historian hunts for fossils on the eve of Tourism Day

PNS ■ WARANGAL

History researcher Ratnakar Reddy on Sunday searched for fossils in Guruvu a village on the banks of River Godavari and villages in its vicinity on the occasion of September 27 is celebrated as the World Tourism Day. The search was done in Lakshimpuram, Devadula, Buttayigudem and so on as the region is a gold-



mine for investigators of fossils. He came across fossils in Gerra region of Guruvu village of Kannayigudem of

Mulugu district in an area over 10 acres. In fact, it would take at least 10,000 years for the skeletons of animals and plat residues to become fossils.

But in Gerra region, the historian found several plant species undergoing transformation into fossils. Researchers Janardhanachary, Ravinder and Goutamchary also participated in the research.

INDIA CORNER

Cong asks workers to join 'Bharat Bandh' on Sept 27

The Congress on Sunday asked all its workers, state unit chiefs and heads of frontal organizations to take part in the 'Bharat Bandh' called by farmer unions on September 27 to protest the Centre's three agri laws. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha, the umbrella body of over 40 farm unions spearheading the farmers' agitation, had earlier appealed to the people to join the bandh. Congress general secretary (organization), K C Venugopal, said the Congress and its workers will extend our full support to the peaceful 'Bharat Bandh' called by farmer unions on Monday. "We believe in the right of our farmers and we will stand by them in their fight against the black farm laws," he said in a tweet. "All PCC Presidents, Chiefs of Frontal Organizations are requested to go out in front with our Annadatas in their peaceful Bharat Bandh across the country," Venugopal said. The government and farmer unions have held 11 rounds of talks so far, the last being on January 22, to break the deadlock and end the farmers' protest.



New AIIMS will correct regional imbalance, says Nitin Gadkari

The new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences built in the country are destined to correct the longstanding regional imbalance in the health sector, according to Union minister Nitin Gadkari, who also said doubling the number of AIIMS will better serve people's aspirations. The minister of road transport and highways was speaking at a digital event to mark the 3rd Foundation Day of AIIMS, Nagpur. The programme was also attended by Bharati Pravin Pawar, the Minister of State for Health among others, a health ministry statement said. "Keeping in view the requirements of the Vidarbha region, with the establishment of an institute of repute like AIIMS, Nagpur, at Nagpur, the patients of all the bordering states of Central India will have access to affordable and modern medical facilities. "However, we have to ensure that the benefits of these facilities reach not only to the cities but also to the people of the remote villages of our region," Gadkari was quoted as saying in the statement.



Warm welcome for PM Modi at Palam airport on return from US

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was given a warm welcome by BJP leaders, including party chief JP Nadda, after his arrival from the US at the Palam airport here on Sunday. Modi, who walked for nearly two kilometres meeting party workers and the people lined up along the road outside the airport, thanked them for welcoming him. Lavishing praise on the prime minister upon his arrival in the country from the United States, Nadda hailed him as a "global leader" who has made India a "global player". Citing Modi's meetings with US President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris, besides his participation in the Quad meet and address at the UNGA, the BJP president said the prime minister put across strongly and frankly global issues and also India's views over threats like terrorism and expansionism. Folk artistes from different states in their traditional costumes greeted the prime minister playing different kinds of drums and musical instruments, Delhi BJP vice-president Virendra Sachdeva said.



PM urges people to ensure no one is left out of vaccination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the festival season, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to keep following Covid protocol and ensure that no one is left out of vaccination's "circle of safety".

In his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast, the prime minister also said that common people are getting connected to digital transactions through fin-tech Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and its prevalence is increasing.

Noting that the festival season is approaching, Modi said when the whole country will celebrate 'Maryada Purshottam' Shri Ram's victory over untruth, people should also remember the fight against Covid. "Team India is making new records everyday in this fight. With regards to vaccination, the country has made



many such records which are being talked about the world over," the prime minister said in the radio broadcast that was recorded before he left for the United States for an official visit. Asserting that every Indian

"Those around you who have not gotten vaccinated also have to be taken to the vaccine centre. Even after getting vaccinated, the necessary protocol has to be followed," he said, urging the people to continue taking precautions.

"I hope that once again Team India will keep the flag flying high in this fight...Wishing you all, every person in the country, the best for the forthcoming festivals," Modi said.

The prime minister's word of caution comes as the festival season is round the corner with Durga Puja, Dussehra and Diwali celebrations approaching.

In his remarks, Modi also stressed on the resolve for "economic cleanliness", asserting that the way building of toilets enhanced the dignity of poor, similarly economic cleanliness ensures their rights.

PM maintains busy schedule to keep fatigue at bay: Officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ability to maintain a high level of energy while keeping a busy schedule on his trips abroad has drawn curious enquiries from admirers and sceptics alike. Official sources say that one of his tricks is to pack his hours with back-to-back engagements so that it doesn't let the mind think much about any fatigue.

"When he used to visit the US in the 1990s, an airline at that time used to give a monthly travel pass at heavily discounted rates. To make the most of it, Modi would always travel in the night as this ensured that he could visit most places while not having to spend a penny on hotels. His night would be invariably spent at the airport and in the plane," a source said.

Centre plans to intensify operations against Naxals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Intensifying operations against the Naxals and choking the flow of funds to them were the two key issues discussed at a high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and attended by six chief ministers and top officials of four other states here on Sunday, sources said.

Action against frontal organisations of the Maoists, filling up the security vacuum, concerted action by the Enforcement Directorate, the National Investigation Agency and the state police were other vital issues discussed during the nearly three-hour-long meeting. The chief ministers who attended the meeting were Naveen Patnaik (Odisha), K Chandrashekar Rao (Telangana), Nitish Kumar (Bihar), Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh), Uddhav Thackeray (Maharashtra) and Hemant



Soren (Jharkhand), official sources said. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bhupesh Baghel of Chhattisgarh, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan did not attend the meeting. Their states were represented by senior officials. According to sources, intensifying operations against the Naxals, filling up the security vacuum, choking the flow of funds to extremists and concerted action by the ED, the NIA and the state police were discussed threadbare in the meeting.

Focused investigation and prosecution of cases, action against front organisations, coordination amongst states, capacity building of state intelligence branches and special forces of the states, construction of fortified police stations were other issues discussed at the meeting.

The home minister reviewed with the chief ministers and officials the security situation and ongoing operations against Maoists and development projects being carried out in the Naxalism-affected areas, the sources said.

PM to launch Digital Health Mission today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission on Monday via video conference, his office said.

The pilot project of National Digital Health Mission had been announced by the prime minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15, 2020. Currently, the Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM) is being implemented in pilot phase in six Union Territories.

In a historic initiative, Prime Minister Modi will launch the PM-DHM on September 27, 2021 at 11 AM via video conferencing, which will be followed by his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

The nationwide rollout of PM-DHM coincides with National Health Authority (NHA) celebrating the third anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), the statement said. Union Health Minister Mansukh Madaviya will be present on the occasion.



Based on the foundations laid down in the form of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM) trinity and other digital initiatives of the government, PM-DHM will create a seamless online platform through the provision of a wide-range of data, information and infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems while ensuring the security, confidentiality and privacy of health-related personal information, the PMO said.

The mission will enable access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent, it said.

The key components of PM-DHM include a health ID for every citizen that will also work as their health account, to which personal health records can be linked and viewed with the help of a mobile application, a Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) and Healthcare Facilities Registries (HFR) that will act as a repository of all healthcare providers across both modern and traditional systems of medicine.

SC students asked to wash utensils, keep them separate

Principal suspended, cooks sacked after complaints

PNS ■ MANIPURI

A school principal here was suspended and two cooks terminated over complaints that scheduled caste students were asked to wash their mid-day meal utensils themselves and keep them separate, a senior official said Sunday.

Chief Development Officer Vinod Kumar said the action was taken after village pradhan

Man Hanju Devi's husband Saheb Singh filed a complaint Saturday, alleging SC students were being discriminated against at the government primary school in Dodapur in Bepar block.

Singh said in the complaint that the SC students, around 80 in all, unlike others were made to clean their utensils after eating the meal and asked to keep them separate.

Upon receiving the complaint, the CDO, along with Basic Shiksha Adhikari Kamal Singh and project director KK Singh, inspected the school and its kitchen, and found the allegations true, the officer said. Taking cognisance of the matter, the CDO terminated the services of the cooks on the spot and suspended principal Garima Singh Rajput on the charges of dereliction of duty, he said.

Srinagar air show makes a comeback

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

The skies over Srinagar roared on Sunday morning with fighter jets and Chinook helicopters exhibiting adrenaline-pumping manoeuvres at an air show conducted after 14 years here.

The air show organised by the Air Force Station, Srinagar and the government is part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, officials said.

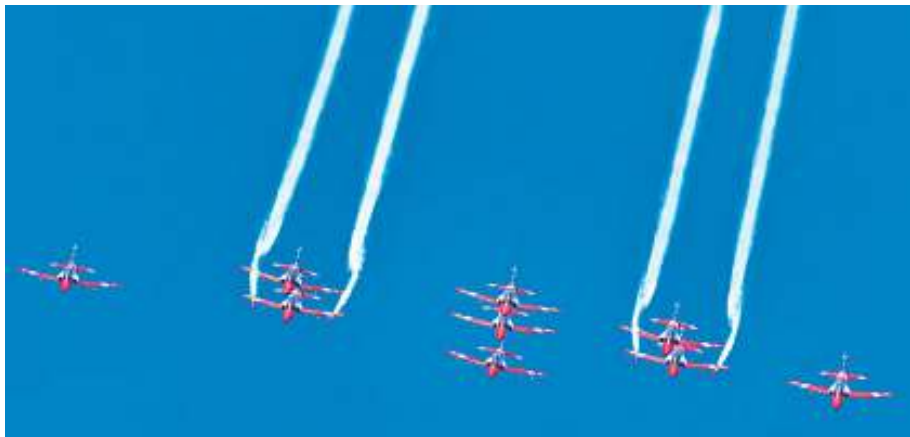
The IAF's Akash Ganga skydiving and Suryakiran Aerobatic Display teams took part in it.

The main aim of the show, under the theme of 'Give Wings to Your Dream', was to raise awareness among the youth of the Kashmir Valley and motivate them to join the Indian Air Force and to promote tourism in the region, they said.

The event was witnessed by hundreds of school children and people from across the valley at the Sher-e-

Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) overlooking the Dal Lake here. It was flagged off by J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The event started with the oldest fighter jets of the IAF -- MiG 21s -- flying over the famous Dal Lake and past the enthusiastic audience at SKICC.



Owaisi factor creates ripple among parties

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, which is going to contest next year's Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls on the promise of creating leadership among Muslims, has created unease in the political parties that so far considered the members of the minority community as their core "vote bank".

Different castes, including Jatavs, Yadavs, Rajbharas and Nishads, which constitute a relatively small part of the population of Uttar Pradesh, more or less have their own leadership, but Muslims, who account for more than 19 per cent of the people in the state, do not see any united leadership. So the AIMIM, led by Owaisi, wants to end the "slavery" of Muslims in the hands of the Samajwadi Party (SP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Congress, which had been using them as their "vote bank", according to the leaders of the party.

There are 82 Assembly segments in the state where Muslim voters are in a position to make or mar the political fortunes of the candidates.

Buoyed by winning five seats in last year's Bihar polls from the Muslim-dominated Seemanchal region, which gave jitters to the RJD and the Congress, Owaisi has already announced that his party will field candidates in 100 of the 403 seats in the Uttar Pradesh election expected to be held early next year.

The Hyderabad MP launched his poll campaign



from Ayodhya earlier this month and since then, has been addressing public meetings at different places.

AIMIM national spokesperson Syed Asim Waqar told PTI on Sunday that the main goal of the party is to create a political narrative and leadership among Muslims for the progress of the community and a better future.

"Even the so-called secular parties, which were getting the votes of the Muslims, never allowed a Muslim leadership to emerge. The report of the Sachar Committee has made out the condition in which the parties have pushed them to," he said. The opinions of experts differ on whether Muslims, after the rise of Hindutva politics, have become aware enough to create their own acceptable leadership. The SP and the BSP have accused Owaisi of serving the interest of the ruling BJP by trying to divide Muslim votes and dismissed any possibility of the AIMIM having any impact in the country's political heartland.

Punjab CM carries out first cabinet expansion

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi carried out his first cabinet expansion on Sunday, inducting 15 Cabinet Ministers which included seven new entrants. The new faces in the Channi Ministry are Randeep Singh Nabha, Raj Kumar Verka, Sangat Singh Gilzian, Pargat Singh, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and Gurkirat Singh Kotli.

Rana Gurjit Singh has made a comeback after resigning in

2018 from the Amrinder Singh Ministry.

Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office and secrecy to the legislators.

Brahm Mohindra, Manpreet Singh Badal, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Aruna Chaudhary, Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, Razia Sultana, Vijay Inder Singla and Bharat Bhushan Ashu, who were ministers in the previous Amarinder Singh led cabinet, were retained as Cabinet Ministers.

India's Mars probe completes 7 years in orbit

PNS ■ BENGALURU

India's Mars Orbiter spacecraft has completed seven years in its orbit, well beyond its designed mission life of six months.

"Indeed, a satisfying feeling," K Radhakrishnan who as the then Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) led the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) team told PTI on the milestone.

MOM is the maiden interplanetary mission of ISRO. Launched on November 5, 2013, the probe was successfully inserted into Martian orbit on September 24, 2014 in its

first attempt. MOM is primarily a technology demonstration venture and all the mission objectives were successfully met, according to officials of Bengaluru-headquartered India's national space agency.

The main lessons learnt were in the field of design and realisation of systems and subsystems, launch for interplanetary mission, insertion into other planet's orbit, operation of the spacecraft and scientific instruments around Mars orbit, they said. The lessons learnt have raised the confidence of ISRO scientists for taking up future interplanetary missions.



ISRO has been continuously monitoring the spacecraft

and its five scientific instruments, and officials said scien-

tific analysis of the data being received from MOM spacecraft is in progress.

On the health of the spacecraft, M Annadurai, who was the Programme Director of MOM, said the spacecraft's "moving elements are facing some issues and some of the redundancies we have to switch over." "The spacecraft's health is reasonably good considering that we are in the seventh year," Annadurai told PTI. He expects the spacecraft to have a mission life of probably another one year.


On the reasons for the long mission life, Annadurai said ISRO had done corrections

after learning lessons from the Chandrayaan-1 venture, in terms of reconfiguring the spacecraft and optimisation of fuel management, among others. Noting that Earth remote-sensing satellites typically have a mission life of seven to nine years, he said it was a very satisfying moment that India could establish that around Mars also, a spacecraft can be in operation for such a long period.

On some criticism in some quarters that scientific output of the MOM was "low", Annadurai said it was more of a technology-demonstration mission.

FIRST COLUMN

TIGRAY: SPARTA IN AFRICA



GWYNNE DYER

We have to deal with anyone who's still shooting," said Getachew Reda, spokesman for the Tigrayan forces, last month. "If it takes marching to Addis to silence the guns, we will." In fact, Tigray's army has already covered about a third of the distance to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, since it took back its own provincial capital, Mekelle, in late June.

The fighting has been bloody, for the Ethiopian army is much larger, but the Tigrayan army is more professional and determined. Not only has it liberated all of Tigray except the far west, but it has also seized around one-third of neighbouring Amhara.

Seven million Tigrayans defeating the army of a country of 110 million people may seem odd, but Ethiopia is a patchwork quilt of different ethnic groups, languages and religions that was held together in the past by a centralised monarchy or dictatorship backed by ruthless military force. Until quite recently, it was Tigray that provided that force.

The Tigrayans earned that job by being the most effective guerrilla force in the long struggle to overthrow the former Communist regime, the Derg. They parlayed that role into an ethnic dictatorship that lasted from 1991 until just a few years ago. But the other ethnic groups then united to instal a new prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, who started to dismantle that corrupt autocracy.

He did it, but the Tigrayan military elite withdrew to their own homeland and sulked. It was a well-armed sulk, for almost half the Ethiopian army was based in Tigray, and it consisted largely of ethnic Tigrayans. When it became clear that Abiy's project to destroy the old ethnic pecking order was not negotiable, they rebelled.

This was all pretty inevitable, but then the Ethiopian prime minister decided to invade Tigray and end the problem for good. The Tigrayan army pulled out of the province's cities for a while, and by last November Abiy Ahmed declared the war over. But the Tigrayan leaders were just mobilising their forces, and in June they counter-attacked. The Ethiopian forces broke and ran, and most of Tigray was liberated without a fight.

If it had stopped there, some sort of Ethiopian state would have survived, albeit with a semi-detached Tigray, but Abiy then made the serious mistake of resorting to a blockade to starve the Tigrayans out. By now many people in landlocked Tigray are close to famine, but their leaders have countered with an invasion of Amhara province.

They are now within striking distance of the roads that carry 95 per cent of the Ethiopia's import and export traffic between Addis Ababa and the port of Djibouti. Their success has also emboldened the Oromo Liberation Army, a rebel army seeking autonomy or even independence for Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, to make an alliance with the Tigrayans.


If Abiy makes a quick deal with the Tigrayans that ends the blockade and recognises their independence and borders, he may have enough troops and credibility left to suppress the Oromos and other ethnic insurgents who will soon come out into the open. If not, Ethiopia probably splinters, and it's Yugoslavia all over again.

And what would the Tigrayans do next? Some of them are confident enough to dream of invading Eritrea and taking down President Isaias Afwerki, who sent troops to help Abiy invade Tigray.

Some of the Tigrayan elite may even be speculating about uniting the two countries. After all, half the Eritrean population speaks the same Tigrinya language, and joining the two together would give Tigray access to the sea, which sometimes comes in handy.

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

Does AUKUS cast a shadow over Quad?



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

With a vision of deterring China and ensuring free international waters, there should not be any doubt that AUKUS will cast a shadow over Quad

The decision to form AUKUS came two weeks of the US withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. It displays the geopolitical resolve that the US has to counter the Chinese threat in the Indo-Pacific region, which is increasing with each passing day. Many experts now think that AUKUS might strategically and tactically sideline Quad. That is not the case. The objectives, either stated explicitly or otherwise, are the same. Chinese expansionism has driven this new military alliance, but both Quad and AUKUS complement each other if seen strategically.

With India and Japan, there are essential constraints that make them more susceptible to the Chinese threat. Apart from the common factor of geographical proximity to China, both aspire to become permanent members of the UNSC. An upfront, direct military alignment against China might adversely affect those aspirations. Individually, India has also to deal with an unholy alliance of China, Pakistan, and the Taliban. Apart from this, it is concerned about Russia's shifting foreign policy priorities towards a Sino-Pak alliance. On the other hand, Japan faces issues such as the dependence on raw materials and food supplies and ageing workforce apart from its Article 9 clause that prohibits the re-armament of Tokyo.

The emerging arrangement seems to present before the world a ring of defence, paving the way for future multilateral alliances against Chinese expansionism. A very look at the map of the oceans will give us a common understanding that the South China Sea, Pacific Ocean, and the Indian Ocean taken together are very difficult for either of the powers to defend by themselves. There have to be multiple security arrangements for a strong defence. In the present circumstances, if India and Japan decide to institutionalise a military alliance with the help of the US, Beijing might resort to increasing its aggressiveness either in the SCS or on the Indo-China border, a purpose which then might be self-defeating.

Thus, strategic manoeuvrability is probably a part of the solution. India and Japan together can possibly hold back China on account of their non-participation in any military bloc while simultaneously keeping up the ante against its hegemonic diplomacy. For this reason, India's joint battle commands need to be operationalised soon. The absence of any institutionalisation will also give time for both India and Japan to modernise their maritime assets. India, in particular, needs to speed up on the interoperability within its forces. France then plays an essential role for India and Japan, apart from other European countries, followed by Israel.

Concerning Japan, it has to gradually move beyond its circumstantial clause that led Tokyo to adopt a 'peace constitution'. From 'self-defence', it has to evolve a 'maritime defence' force to handle

BRITISH AND AMERICAN SUBMERSIBLES AND ANTI-SHIP MISSILES WOULD DETER CHINA FROM THREATENING NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. IN CASE OF SEVERE PROVOCATIONS, THE AUKUS CAN PROVIDE TACTICAL COVER-UP FOR ESSENTIAL SEA ROUTES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN APART FROM THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

Beijing. The move might instigate some powers like South Korea to put forward their anti-Tokyo stance. However, time demands that those countries that are not compatible with each other bridge their strategic differences and work for a common cause, especially when they have a shared substantial threat and are covered under the US security umbrella. Thus, an expansionist China allows them to resolve their differences and work for a common goal.

British and American submersibles, anti-ship missiles and other striking capabilities would deter China from threatening the countries. In case of severe provocations and open hostilities, the second layer, the AUKUS, can be a deterrent and a defender at the same time by providing a tactical cover-up for essential sea routes in the Southern and Eastern Indian Ocean apart from the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea. It then might try to divert attention to the Malacca Straits against India or Japan, but the Indian Navy would present a formidable force there, thus making its 'Malacca Dilemma' a reality. Additionally, the 'five eyes' intelligence sharing mechanism also increases the concerns for China.

Nevertheless, without any institutionalised alignment, it might be difficult for China to go in for the first move against a non-militarily aligned country such as India and Japan and create more complexities. In case of severe threats and imminent attacks, the two might not hesitate to join AUKUS formally. Joint sea denial strategies then have an essential role to play in the upcoming multilateral security

arrangements. Thus, it would not be wrong to envision a consortium of powers guarding the entire Indo-Pacific region, with each player understanding its role and responsibilities well. It is for this reason that both India and Japan have together welcomed the new alliance AUKUS.

One can easily recall that in 2010, Yang Jiechi, China's then foreign minister, on his trip to the ASEAN summit in Hanoi, commented, "China is a big country, and you are small countries, and that is a fact". Today, the time is ripe to reverse the 'big fish-small fish' syndrome. China has reiterated that the Quad will find no support within the Asia Pacific countries. Beijing perhaps fears the expansion of Quad to include other democratic, "like-minded countries" such as Vietnam, the Philippines, South Korea, and Taiwan. All of them have coastlines and have been harassed by China for long. Other pertinent issues such as Chinese illegal fishing, climate change and natural disasters also underline the need for security overlaps with the other countries. Hence, Quad +4 can be envisioned. The small countries with the support of various extra-regional powers have to make formations via unwritten multilateral security arrangements.

The scope of an expanded Quad can include joint technical cooperation and military exercises to increase the interoperability of the forces between themselves and within their force to counter the military challenges before them. As states have security and economic convergences, an understanding can be built to 'strategically encircle' China and keep it guessing on multiple fronts. In essence, the Quad then remains the strategic linchpin of navigational freedoms marked by a 'free, open, transparent and inclusive Indo-Pacific region' apart from focussing on other new and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence apart from climate change. India and Japan thus will have a more significant role from here onwards.

Developments in Afghanistan, China-Pakistan's unconditional support to Taliban and the shifting sands of alliances in the Asian region strongly indicate that the time for multilateral re-alignments and acknowledgement of the reality has arrived. AUKUS fulfils this purpose and consequently occupies the space of an 'institutionalised security alliance' having a formalised treaty, ready for action either as a deterrent or more if the situation demands. The 'friendly' nuclear submarines will detect and intercept the Chinese nuclear submarines collecting essential data of the Indo-Pacific Ocean. In this direction, Quad and AUKUS are entirely complementary to each other. Having a joint shared vision of freedom of the high seas and a common challenge of deterring China, there should not be any doubt that AUKUS will cast a shadow over Quad. Apprehensions concerning this new approach should not be viewed from the prism of China. Instead, it should be taken as a part of comprehensive diplomacy not only for deterrence against China's compulsive 'cabbage policy' but also for the peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE KHELA (GAME) WILL START FROM BHOWANIPUR AND WILL FINISH AFTER WE WIN IN THE ENTIRE NATION. —BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE



MANY WOMEN WERE RAPED AND MANY OF OUR ACTIVISTS WERE KILLED IN BENGAL. THIS IS WHAT THE TMC MEANS BY KHELA HOBE? —UNION MINISTER SMRITI IRANI

Two sides of the cooperation argument

Considering the high stakes involved, the tussle to control the cooperative sector has become the core of politics in Gujarat and Maharashtra

The recent decision of the BJP Government to constitute a new Ministry of Cooperation under the charge of Union Home Minister Amit Shah had mixed reactions. It was hailed by Government supporters as "the new entity which would help cooperatives across states progress as a true people-based movement reaching the grassroots". On the other hand, the opposition camp termed it as a "sinister move to hijack the cooperative movement for political gains".

After formation of the Ministry, the first ambitious move was to come out with a national framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country but the Supreme Court on July 20 said that cooperatives is a

State subject and States have exclusive power to legislate on topics reserved for them. The SC upheld an eight-year-old Gujarat High Court verdict limiting the Centre's say in cooperative sector. This had put spanner in the path of the Government because if it wanted to create a "national framework", permission had to be sought from 28 States which include opposition-ruled ones.

Now, the onus of finding a way out is on Amit Shah who is not new to the field of cooperatives who started his political journey as the Chairman of Ahmedabad Cooperative Bank and later helped in turning around the Madhepura Mercantile Cooperative Bank. By 2016, he helped in edging out the Congress from all 33 cooperative banks in Gujarat.

The success of BJP in the politics of Gujarat passes through the route of dairy cooperatives. The dairies including Amul are a huge part of Gujarat's economy.

The opposition is apprehensive about the government's intention of exporting the "Gujarat model" of cooperatives to other states. This is apparent from the reaction of the former agriculture minister Sharad Pawar who conveyed his concern about the "formation of the coopera-

tion ministry and the amendment to the Banking Regulation Act" and calling it an encroachment in federalism and powers of the state.

It is pertinent at this stage to understand the significance and structure of cooperatives in the Indian context. The dairy cooperatives were initiated by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as grassroots organizations to harness the power of collective bargaining for a common goal. Later, with the pooled resources of farmers and other workers, the cooperatives found their way into agriculture, sugar, textiles and other sectors.

The financial clout of cooperative sector can be gauged from the fact that at present, the biggest beneficiaries of state funds and subsidies

are the cooperatives in the finance, sugar and dairy segments.

Considering the high stakes involved, the tussle to control the cooperative sector has become the core of politics in Gujarat and Maharashtra. With its strong network of around 225,000 cooperative bodies controlling sugar, dairy and finance, Maharashtra is the prime example. The Congress and NCP have controlled it for decades, and the BJP has been trying to break the monopoly. Incidentally, what the present Government is trying to do through the newly formed Ministry of Cooperation was opposed in 2013 by present Prime Minister and then Chief Minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi. He challenged certain

provisions of the 97th constitutional amendment that empowered the Centre to design a framework for the cooperative sector. However, the way out of the impasse was crafted by the NDA-I government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee by passing a law in 2002 allowing multi-state cooperative societies (MSCS) to help cooperatives diversify and operate outside their home state.

Some experts in cooperative affairs find justification in the formation of a separate Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India monitoring on the grounds that in the absence of regulations, there have been allegations of scams in several cooperatives. Money was siphoned off to fund businesses of politicians, bureaucrats and cooperative leaders. The

Rs 6,500 crore Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank scam in 2019 is a case in point. Acting swiftly, in September last year, the government amended the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and gave the RBI powers to regulate operations of urban and multi-state cooperative banks. The RBI put a check on politicalisation of the cooperatives by debarbing the elected politicians from holding full-time positions as CEOs and Directors. The initiative of forming a national cooperative framework finds favour with the experts who feel that it has the potential of creating more entrepreneurial opportunities, get better value of their produce to the farmers and also reduce the exploitation of farmers by middlemen.

470 infra projects show cost overrun of Rs 4.3 lakh crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 470 infrastructure projects, each worth Rs 150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns totalling more than Rs 4.37 lakh crore, according to a report.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitors infrastructure projects worth Rs 150 crore and above.

Of the 1,718 such projects, 470 reported cost overruns and 560 were delayed.

"Total original cost of implementation of the 1,718 projects was Rs 21,99,181.52 crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be Rs 26,36,710.50 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of Rs 4,37,528.98 crore (19.90 per cent of original cost)," the ministry's latest report for August 2021 said.

According to the report, the expenditure incurred on these projects till August 2021 is Rs 12,52,298.40 crore, which is



47.49 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects.

However, the report said the number of delayed projects decreases to 373 if delay is calculated on the basis of the latest schedule of completion.

Further, for 871 projects neither the year of commissioning nor the tentative ges-

tation period has been reported.

Out of the 560 delayed projects, 96 have overall delay in the range of 1-12 months, 128 have been delayed for 13-24 months, 210 for 25-60 months and 126 projects have delays of 61 months and above.

The average time overrun in

these 560 delayed projects is 46.94 months.

Reasons for time overruns as reported by various project implementing agencies include delay in land acquisition, delay in obtaining forest and environment clearances, and lack of infrastructure support and linkages.

Delay in tie-up for project financing, delay in finalisation of detailed engineering, change in scope, delay in tendering, ordering and equipment supply, and law and order problems are among the other reasons.

The report also cited state-wide lockdowns due to COVID-19 as a reason for the delay in implementation of these projects.

It has also been observed that project agencies are not reporting revised cost estimates and commissioning schedules for many projects, which suggests that time/cost overrun figures are underreported, it added.

Diesel price hiked again

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Diesel price on Sunday was hiked by 25 paise per litre - the second increase in rates after the state-owned oil firms ended a three-week hiatus in rates following international oil prices surging to their highest since 2018.

Price of diesel was hiked to Rs 89.07 per litre in Delhi and to Rs 96.68 in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Petrol price was not changed. It costs Rs 101.19 a litre in Delhi and Rs 107.26 in Mumbai. State-owned IOC, BPCL and HPCL had on September 24 resumed daily price revision, ending the pause in rates hit since September 5. On September 24, diesel rates were hiked by 20 paise a litre. On that day too petrol price had remained unchanged. Global benchmark Brent crude has risen to USD 77.50 a barrel as crude inventories shrunk from Europe to the US. Oil rates are up 2 per cent for the week and this is the fifth weekly gain.

Many districts lack bank branches despite high economic activity: FM

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said despite the huge thrust on financial inclusion and high economic activity, there are districts in the country not having any banking presence at all.

She asked the lenders to get their act together and open either a full-fledged brick-and-mortar branch or an out-post rendering banking services, wondering how banking presence eludes even pockets which have high economic activity.

It can be noted that policy-makers have been focusing on financial inclusion for over a decade and also had set a target of ensuring banking presence in every village with a population of over 2,000 people. A few years ago, the RBI had liberalised branch opening norms for banks.

"Even today, there are very many districts in which even big panchayats don't have a physical bank...there are very



many districts in which not even one banking institution is physically present," Sitharaman said, speaking at the 74th annual general meeting (AGM) of the industry lobby group Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

She exhorted the IBA members to digitally map all the districts to see the areas having low coverage for themselves and accordingly make provisions for either a physical branch or an outpost.

"You should be able to see

the centres of economic activity. Be it a completely rural pocket but if the economic activity is strong there, wouldn't you think there should be some kind of presence?," she asked.

Making it clear that she is not against digitisation, which has paid tremendous cost benefits to lenders in terms of outreach, Sitharaman wondered how there can be parts of country which do not have even a single brick-and-mortar branch.

MONEY MATTERS

Mcap of top-10 valued firms jumps over Rs 1.56 lakh cr

The top 10 valued firms added a total Rs 1,56,317.17 crore to their market valuation last week, helped by across the board rally which catapulted the benchmark index Sensex to the record 60,000 mark for the first time. During the last week, the 30-share BSE benchmark rallied 1,032.58 points or 1.74 per cent. The BSE Sensex made history on Friday by reaching the 60,000-mark for the first time ever. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Reliance Industries zoomed Rs 58,671.55 crore to reach Rs 15,74,052.03 crore. The m-cap of RIL went past Rs 16 lakh crore mark in intra-day trade on Thursday following a rally in its share price. The valuation of Infosys jumped Rs 30,605.08 crore to Rs 7,48,032.17 crore. Bajaj Finance added Rs 22,173.04 crore to its market valuation to Rs 4,70,465.58 crore and Tata Consultancy Services Rs 15,110.63 crore to Rs 14,32,013.76 crore. HDFC Bank's market capitalisation rallied Rs 10,142 crore to Rs 8,86,739.86 crore.



Importer-exporter code not updated to be de-activated

The Commerce Ministry has decided to deactivate all importer-exporter codes (IECs) that have not been updated after January 2005 with effect from October 6 this year, a move which would help in knowing the actual number of real traders in the country. The Importer -Exporter Code (IEC) is a key business identification number that is mandatory for exports or imports. No person shall make any import or export except under an IEC number granted by the DGFT. On August 8 this year, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) was mandated all IEC holders to ensure that details in their IEC are updated electronically every year during the April-June period. "All IECs which have not been updated after January 1, 2005, shall be deactivated with effect from October 6, 2021," according to a trade notice of the DGFT. It stated that the concerned IEC holders are provided one final opportunity to update their IEC in this interim period till October 5, failing which the given code would be de-activated from October 6.



Inter-co managerial services to attract 18 per cent GST

Managerial and leadership services by corporate office to its group companies/construction sites registered in different states would attract 18 per cent GST, Maharashtra bench of AAR has ruled. B G Shirke Construction Technology Pvt Ltd had approached the Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) seeking to know whether the managerial and leadership services provided by the registered/corporate office to its group companies would be considered as 'supply of service'. Also, whether the lump sum amount charged by the registered/corporate office on its group companies would be liable to Goods and Services Tax (GST). Passing its ruling, the Maharashtra AAR held that managerial and leadership services by corporate office to its group companies and other construction sites registered in different States is 'supply of service' and would be taxable under GST.



JSPL to start mining at Kasia mine within month, says MD

Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) aims to start mining at Kasia iron ore block within a month, its Managing Director V R Sharma said. The integrated steelmaker on Thursday announced bagging of the block, which has total reserves of 278 million tonnes (MT). Speaking with PTI, Sharma elaborated on the company's plans with respect to starting operations at the Kasia iron ore mine, located about 17 km from JSPL's pellet plant in Barbil. "It is already an operational mine, we can start mining within a month once all statutory approvals are there," the MD said. He said JSPL will also put up a slurry pipeline from the pithead to its steel plant in Angul. This will help the company with 5-6 million tonnes of iron ore per year. The e-auction for the Kasia iron and dolomite mineral block was held on September 18, 2021. It was earlier owned and operated by Essel Mining and Industries. JSPL has been declared as the preferred bidder for the mine at a premium of 118.10 per cent.



Stocks may face volatility amid rich valuations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity markets would track global cues for further direction this week and may face volatility amid monthly derivatives expiry and rich valuations, analysts said.

The BSE Sensex made history on Friday by reaching the 60,000-mark for the first time ever.

It took just eight months for the BSE benchmark to cover the journey from 50,000 in January this year to scale the unprecedented 60,000 mark for the first time on Friday. The Sensex has traversed from 1,000 points to the historic 60,000 level in a little over 31 years.

"The roaring bull market is continued in the Indian market with climbing all walls of worries where Sensex has crossed the new milestone of 60,000. We are in a classical



bull market like the 2003-2007 phase where this bull run is likely to continue for the next 2-3 years," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investment.

However, he put a word of caution after a parabolic move in last few days because short-term correction cannot be ruled out in coming days.

Sharing similar sentiments, Motilal Oswal, the MD & CEO of Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited said, "Given rich valuations, one cannot ignore intermittent volatility - however we expect the positive momentum to continue on the back of improving economic activity and recovery in corporate earnings."

FPIs net buyers at Rs 21,875 cr so far

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Remaining positive about the long-term outlook of Indian markets, foreign portfolio investors (FPI) were net buyers so far in September with an investment of Rs 21,875 crore.

According to data from depositories, FPIs pumped in Rs 13,536 crore into equities and Rs 8,339 crore into the debt segment during September 1-23, taking the total net investment to Rs 21,875 crore.

"Rally in the Indian equity markets, positive long-term outlook, the expectation of economic rebound and improvement in corporate earnings has led foreign investors to re-invest in Indian equities," said Himanshu Srivastava, associate director (research), Morningstar India.

Besides, he added that the turmoil in China has also benefited India, making it an attractive investment destination among foreign investors from a long-term perspective.

However, higher valuations and US Fed signalling revers-



ing of pandemic stimulus programmes in November did limit the flow of assets to some extent, he noted.

"The renewed FPI interest in India is partly because of Nifty's impressive outperformance vis-a-vis MSCI World Index and MSCI EM Index this year," said V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services. With respect to other emerging markets, Shrikant Chouhan, executive vice-president (equity technical research) at Kotak Securities, said Taiwan reported a total FPI inflow of USD 1,482 million. FPI inflows in South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines during the period under review stood at USD 1,223 million, USD 358 million, USD 268 million and USD 38 million, respectively, he added.

Govt has no interest in acquiring any telecom company: VIL CEO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has given an option to telcos to pay back interest on dues through equity and also conveyed that it has no interest in acquiring any telecom company, a top official of debt-ridden Vodafone Idea has said.

Vodafone Idea Ltd Managing Director Ravinder Takkar in an interview to PTI said it is clear that the government wants the company to compete in the market and there should be at least three private service providers in the telecom sector. "I have had many many

interactions across various parts of the government leading up to this announcement (telecom reforms). In all my conversations, it is absolutely clear that the government has no interest in owning or acquiring or running any other telecom company," Takkar said.

The government is already managing loss-making telecom firms BSNL and MTNL which are yet to post profit after a relief package of around Rs 69,000 crore granted to them in October 2019.

Some experts contended that the government may end up holding a "sizable" chunk

(estimates varied from 26 per cent to majority stake) in VIL at the end of moratorium period, if the telco opts to pay cumulative interest or annual instalments by way of equity.

"They (government) have absolutely made it clear that they want three private players to remain. They want us to compete in the market. They want us to operate in a competitive manner," Takkar said.

VIL had total gross debt of Rs 1.91 lakh crore, excluding lease liabilities and including interest accrued but not due, as of June 30, 2021.

Sugarmills in Muzaffarnagar asked to start ops by Oct-end

PNS ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR

Sugarmills here have been asked to start their crushing operations in time and complete their preparation up to the third week of October. He added that the sugarmills should complete their preparation up to the third week of October. Kanojiya, who is the nodal officer has visited the mills in Khatauli and Mansurpur in the Muzaffarnagar district and reviewed the preparation for starting crushing season.

Audi pitches for lower import duties on EVs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

German luxury carmaker Audi has termed high taxation on imported cars in India an impediment for growth of the electric segment while noting that even some relief in terms of duties could help it sell more vehicles and convince its head-

quarters to re-invest in the country for local manufacturing of such models.

The company, which now sells five electric cars in the country, noted that lower taxes would help in lowering the price tag of the imported models which would help it in achieving a certain minimum volumes in the market.

With a certain scale, the company can then try to convince its global headquarters to re-invest in the country for setting up local manufacturing for models which are currently being imported.

In an interaction with PTI, Audi India Head Balbir Singh Dhillion noted that the com-

pany has been able to sell the first set of electric vehicles it imported into the country for sale. "The first set of e-trons brought into the country are all sold off. It gives us confidence that people are ready, India is ready for electric mobility. All this is helping us to introduce more and more such cars," he noted.

NY court pauses tax suit to allow Cairn to settle dispute with India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A New York court has paused Cairn Energy's pursuit of US assets of Air India for the recovery of USD 1.2 billion arbitral award, so as to allow the British firm to reach a settlement with the Indian government on the long drawn dispute.

The New York district court delayed the tax suit to November 18, according to court documents reviewed by PTI. This follows Cairn Energy and Air India jointly asking the court to stay further proceedings in view of the fresh government enacting a fresh law to scrap retrospective taxation in the country.

The new law will result in withdrawal of the Rs 10,247 crore tax demand that the gov-



ernment had sought from Cairn.

Sources with direct knowledge of the matter said the finance ministry is framing rules that will lead to withdrawal of the retrospective tax demand on Cairn and 16 other companies, including Vodafone Group of UK. These rules require the companies to with-

draw all litigations against the government in return for being refunded any money that was collected to force the retrospective tax demand.

A format for the undertaking that the companies will have to furnish committing to withdraw litigations is under finalisation and should be released in coming days, they

said. Companies will have to use that format to give an undertaking, post which the money will be refunded.

In all the government has to return about Rs 8,100 crore, of which Rs 7,900 crore is due only to Cairn.

The British company had won an international arbitration award against levy of such taxes and sought to take over Air India assets when the government refused to honour the award and refund USD 1.2 billion-plus interest and penalty. Cairn has indicated that the refund, without interest and penalty, was acceptable to it — opening an avenue to settle the seven-year-old dispute.

Cairn and Air India in a joint request to US District Judge Paul Gardephe on September 13 stated that a stay

on proceedings would give them "additional time to evaluate the effects and implications" of legislation that repealed the retroactive tax.

In return for the Rs 7,900 crore, Cairn would drop lawsuits threatening court-ordered seizures of Indian government property abroad. One of those suits was filed in May against state-owned Air India Ltd, which Cairn has said should be considered the alter ego of the Indian government.

"The implementing regulations are in the rulemaking process and will take some time," the two had said in the petition seeking extension of the October 21 deadline for the presentation of case papers and initial pretrial conference on October 28. They had requested the court to "stay any

further proceedings in this matter through October 31, 2021, and reschedule the initial pretrial conference and, respectively, the deadline for the parties to submit their Joint Pretrial Letter and Proposed Case Management Plan, for new dates in November 2021."

"The Parties have conferred and agreed that the stay will facilitate the efficient resolution of the dispute, conserve the Court's and Parties' resources, and is not intended to obstruct or delay," they added. Cairn had on May 14 brought a lawsuit in the New York district court to hold Air India liable as the alter ego of the Republic of India for the obligations the government owes under a foreign arbitral award.

SUNNY KAUSHAL GOES BEYOND LOVE FOR HIS NEXT!

SHIKHA DUGGAL

It is one thing to be in love, and another to go the farthest you can, for that love! Sunny Kaushal's upcoming movie *Shiddat* will make you realise that being in love is a great feeling, going by the trailer. New-fangled love or an already conventional one, they all exist in different shades and volumes but the 'connection' that thrives within those relationships is ultimately something else that you will witness in *Shiddat*. People are found telling the actor that *Shiddat* looks like that intense love story that is an out-and-out love story!

"The music has caught on quite a bit. I am really happy about that, because I truly love the music from the film. Also, the audience is talking about how good Radhika and I look together. Overall, there is unanimous positivity around the film. Things are looking good," Sunny shares.

Talking more about his role, we learn that *The Forgotten Army* fame is totally like the character Jaggi, in real life. He is very emotional when it comes to relationships, and also very vulnerable. Jaggi's intensity is his core, it defines him completely. He is willing to go to any lengths to have Kartika essayed by Radhika Madan in his life. He believes that if he has her, he doesn't need anything else in life. He is aware that 'zindagi mein utaar chadhaav toh hote rehte hain' (life has its ups and downs), but love should give you the strength to get through that together.

He's not one of those guys who give up easily, especially when it comes to relationships. There is always an aspect of Sunny Kaushal, big or small, in every character that he has played so far. Whatever life experiences you have had will invariably find their way into the part that you are playing, consciously or subconsciously, feels Sunny. If he doesn't find anything in common with a character, then that becomes an experiment for him and he plays around with the character. It could be in the way he talks or walks or anything. But he always looks for a common thread in order to transition into the character easily.

"In the long run, I would like to believe that being vulnerable or intense in a romantic relationship has done me better than bad. Even at that moment, if it had done me harm, in retrospect, I believe that I have only gained from my experiences. At the end of the day, all relationships are about communication. When you are happy, you share it with your partner, when you are sad, you share it with her or him. If that makes me vulnerable, it's okay, because that also means you are comfortable with your partner. And I would choose to be

that kind of person any day."

The actor thinks life is all about passion! Everything that you do stems from passion. He has always believed that whatever you do in the moment, give it your hundred percent. Even if he is reading a book, he puts his whole energy and attention into it. When he meets someone, he makes sure he pays attention to that person and doesn't allow his mind to wander. If he is working, then he is only working and not doing anything else. That becomes your personal responsibility, not allowing things to distract you. Distractions are always going to be there and it's one's choice whether you will let them distract you or not. What your passion is and how you go about it is totally in your hands. He thinks life is all about passion. Theatres are still shut in Mumbai; hence many are opting for the OTT release route. On the same, the actor had to say, "I am

emotional and romantic about the movies, per se. But I am also very practical, and I know that in the times we are in, releasing a film on OTT is both a safe and a viable option. We are still in the middle of the pandemic. The idea of making any kind of entertainment is for people to see it. Theatres haven't opened in many parts of the country and wherever they have opened, people are still scared to go to theatres.

It's our responsibility to ensure that our film reaches people. I feel very fortunate that a film that we made with so much love is coming out, I am very thankful. At the same time, I pray that the world as a whole, and not just theatres and the people in the movie business bounces back to normal."



AISHWARYA D

Dancer and well-known actor Aakash Gaharwar, who was recently seen in the television show *Dance with Me season 2*, wowed audiences with his splendid performance. His latest was a tribute to his uncle, who is none other than the 90s legendary icon of Bollywood Govinda. In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*, Aakash shares the details of his journey

thus far.

"I joined this dance show to entertain people. I performed Govinda's style because it's one that's filled with fun and enjoyment. I felt people would feel happy and entertained by this". When asked what his favourite dance forms are, he says, "The first is Bollywood, then contemporary and then comes break".

To perfect an entire song Aakash says he didn't have to practice long because he danced from the "bottom of my heart". He continues, "Even if I

Sky is the limit for Aakash

don't prepare or practice much, I can still dance but on an average, I practice for about 4-6 hours for a performance." He enjoys dancing solo.

He says there aren't really any challenges he faces during the shoot: "Because I faced the camera many times, and had done movies, I'm extremely comfortable. The only thing I had in my mind at that moment was to perform to perfection. I was very happy to perform in front of Shakti and Mukti ma'am. I was eager to see their response to my performance, and my joy knew no bounds after listening to them." An elated Aakash tells us why: "I was overjoyed when Mukti ma'am appreciated my dialogues and Shakti ma'am said 'Wow' for my dance."

Explaining why Aakash chose this particular dance show to show and hone his talent, he says, "This dance show had something special in it, you have no restrictions, it was very comfortable and freeing, compared to other dance shows".

Aakash shares his experience about having an advantage of Govinda being his uncle, "People recognise me easily, I personally feel if you are related to someone well known, people interact easily and feel comfortable".

Aakash has been dancing since his childhood

and his greatest inspiration has always been his father R.J. Singh. "My dad has inspired, motivated and always encouraged me to join acting and dance programmes. From the very start, he has always supported me". Aakash wishes to be part of a film by director Imtiaz Ali, "He is my favourite director and I really like his work and films. I would love to have a chance to work with him".

Kaun Mera Kaun Tera, as many know, is not Aakash's debut movie. His first film, for some reason, couldn't release. He says, "*Kaun Mera Kaun Tera* was my second film. A lot of things were new to me while making this film, I learned about camera sense, why they take multiple shots for one scene, you think you did your best but there might be some technical or camera issue, I experienced these things and the most important thing I learned is 'Our best isn't best, film making is a teamwork and when the whole team does best, that's when it's best'".

Initially, *Kaun Mera Kaun Tera* was named *Jhamele pe Jhamele* and was changed because "when the shooting started, after the registration, there were a lot of incidents and problems happening, and with Govinda sir's suggestions, we changed the name and everything went well".

Do you doomscroll often?

Today, when we are glued to our cellphones, a common response to unpleasant news is to go online and read more and more information about it — a phenomenon so prevalent that it's now referred to as 'doom scrolling'. While it is natural, and even adaptive, to want to know more about a situation of concern, the manner and extent to which people are now engaging in such behaviour can have a detrimental impact on one's mental health and well-being. While this phenomenon existed before as well, nowhere has it been seen more prominently than with the pandemic. Here are a few things to keep in mind that can help:

Become aware of your information consumption

At the slightest hint of boredom, we've developed a tendency to pick up our phones and start scrolling — whether it's social media or news websites. Take a few days to reflect on the amount of time you are spending consuming information, as well as the extent to which it is repetitive. Be more self-aware in terms of how you choose



to spend your time and the nature of information you would like to consume.

Become media literate

The information we receive is now customised to our interests, our perspectives, and our search histories. It's therefore inevitable to get bombarded by lots more of the same information as we have viewed. Therefore, become cognisant of the manner in which technology is designed to capture our attention so that you're able to retain your power of choice.

Stick to a few verified

sources of information the internet is abounding with information, with multiple platforms vying for our limited attention. To minimise doom scrolling, stick to a few news channels, papers, or websites that you trust.

Look for alternate ways to cope with bad news seeking information or answers to a difficult situation is a strategy people may utilise to cope with stress. Consider using other strategies when experiencing distress — it could be speaking to someone, or actively disengaged from that situation by involving yourself in

another activity.

Minimise screen time

We spend more time on our screens now more than ever. Given how reliant we have now become on gadgets for our work, try to stay away from your devices during breaks. Engage in other activities and hobbies that give you a break from your screen. At the same time, it's not just about the amount of time you spend on your devices but how you use them that matters as well.

Pick a video or telephone call with a loved one over texting or liking their posts on social media.

Spread positivity online

Rather than focusing on everything that's going wrong, take some time to deliberately look for stories of hope and joy. Similarly, when sharing a post, reflect on its validity, as well as the impact that it may have on the receiver. Think about whether it will spread positivity or add more distress to the reader.

When it comes to social media, we are all creators of information — let's be responsible and conscientious in the content we create and spread.

What is pregnancy ANAEMIA?

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Our country has been focusing on 'Poshan Abhiyaan' for a very long time now, to improve nutritional outcomes for pregnant women by leveraging technology and the applied knowledge of nutritionists. We have Soumya B Hegde, a nutritionist and fitness expert, who tells *The Pioneer* exclusively something fresh about maternal nutrition anemia!

"Maternal anaemia happens mainly due to deficiency of iron, folate acid and Vitamin B12 and Vitamin A. This happens mainly in the third trimester! Anaemia in pregnancy happens due to the increased demand for iron for the growing fetus or placenta. Some



Soumya B Hegde

other causes also include hypothyroidism, chronic kidney disease during childbearing ages. Parasitic infections like hookworm, ringworm, bacterial, viral infections

including liver and auto-immune diseases," shares the owner of 'BFIIT With Soumya'.

The expert also goes on to share that anemic pregnant women are at high risk of delivery like preterm delivery, postpartum maternal infections, low birth weight, postpartum depression, iron-deficient babies with delayed growth and development, abnormal behavior, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure in offspring, etc.

Preventive measures to be taken:

- 1) Check with your doctor during routine checkups.
- 2) Check haemoglobin levels more often through blood reports especially during the third trimester
- 3) Take the right amount of iron tablets, folic acid tablets, vitamin b12, prenatal vitamins as prescribed by the gynaecologist.
- 4) Eat dark green leafy vegetables,

beans, dried beans, legumes, pulses, raw vegetables, tofu, beetroot, and fortified grains that are rich in iron.

5) Eat more raisins, prunes, dried figs, apples, grapes, and watermelons

6) Vitamin C-rich citrus fruits help in Iron absorption. So eat more oranges, grapefruit, amla, lime juice, strawberries, raspberries.

7) Eat iron-rich foods like fish, eggs, meat, chicken if you are a nonvegetarian!

NANI THANKS PK, APPEALS TO AP GOVERNMENT



Natural star Nani responded to Pawan Kalyan's fiery speech on the issues faced by the film industry on Saturday. On Sunday, he thanked Pawan and requested Jagan to resolve the issues. For the uninitiated, Pawan Kalyan attended the pre-release function of Sai Dharam Tej's *Republic* movie and spoke a few words in support of Nani. Nani has recently released his *Tuck Jagadish* movie on an OTT platform and faced ire from the theatre owners for this decision. Pawan came to the support of Nani and told that there is nothing wrong with Nani's decision and if theatre owners have guts, they should go and

ask YSRCP leaders for stopping theatres from functioning normally. Nani responded to Pawan comments through Twitter saying, "Keeping aside the political differences between Pawan Kalyan sir and AP Government. The film industry issues addressed are genuine and needs immediate attention. Thank you @PawanKalyan sir. As a member of film fraternity I humbly request @ysjagan gaaru and concerned Ministers to look in to it before it gets too late for the cinema to revive." Pawan Kalyan took a dig at the YSRCP government describing how the latter had been playing at its whims and fancies by procrastinating talks with the delegation of the industry. "When the investment is being poured by private players to produce a

movie, how can the government dictate terms? It's an Indian Republic, people will revolt if it's "YSRCP republic". Cinema doesn't have caste and religion, the industry has numerous problems. Stop screening my movies in AP, if you have a problem with me," he said, adding that all celebrity families would unite to fight against the injustice. He further urged yesteryear star and YSRCP leader Mohan Babu to hold talks with the AP state government over the prevailing problems in the film industry. "The State government is trying to make money from selling tickets. It would seek loans from banks by showing the revenue that is obtained from selling tickets," he alleged. With Nani's tweet and the support the cause has been garnering, only time will tell if the Jagan-led government will resolve the issues of the film industry.



MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELOR'S release postponed by a week

Pooja Hegde and Akhil Akkineni's upcoming film *Most Eligible Bachelor* has been postponed again. According to the latest update, *Most Eligible Bachelor* will be released in theatres on October 15. Directed by Bommarillu Baskar, *Most Eligible Bachelor* is a romantic drama. Akhil Akkineni took to Twitter to share a new poster of *Most Eligible Bachelor* to announce the new release date. Sharing the poster, he wrote, "In theatres from 15th October. See you soon everyone. #AlluAravind @hegdepooja @GopiSundarOffl #PradeeshMVarma #BunnyVas

#VasuVarma @GA2Official @adityamusic (sic)" *Most Eligible Bachelor* is Akhil Akkineni's fifth film as a hero. While his four films were average-grossers, Akhil is waiting to score a massive hit. He is banking on *Most Eligible Bachelor* to give him the much-needed break. Director Bommarillu Bhaskar is making a comeback after a long time with this film. The ensemble cast of *Most Eligible Bachelor* includes Eesha Rebba, Aamani, Murali Sharma, Vennela Kishore, Jayaprakash, Pragathi, and Amit Tiwari. Cinematographer Pradeesh Varma, editor Marthand K Venkatesh, and composer Gopi Sundar form the technical crew.

PRABHAS SENDS KAREENA BIRYANI, ACTRESS ENJOYS 'INSANE' MEAL

Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan binged on some biryani, which was sent over by Prabhas. Bebo took to Instagram and shared a photo of her dinner.



"When Bahubali sends you biryani it's gotta be the best. Thank you Prabhas for this insane meal," she wrote and added the *Adipurush* hashtag. Prabhas and Kareena's husband, actor Saif Ali Khan are working together in *Adipurush*, an adaptation of Hindu epic, Ramayana. In *Adipurush*, *Baahubali* star Prabhas plays a character inspired by Lord Ram, Kriti Sanon plays Sita while Sunny Singh essays the role of Laxman. Saif plays the antagonist Lankesh, which is expected to be inspired by the demon king of Lanka, Ravana.

About working with Saif for the first time, Prabhas had said in a statement, "I am excited about working with a talented actor like Saif Ali Khan. To be featuring alongside such a great actor on the big screen is a matter of pride for me." The release date of the movie is yet to be announced.



Keerthy Suresh's mom to play a cameo?

In a lovely coincidence, popular actress Keerthy Suresh, spotted her mother Menaka Suresh in the teaser of *Bhramam* that was launched by Amazon Prime Video yesterday. Keerthy pointed out the fact with a screenshot of her mother in one of the scenes from the *Bhramam* teaser. She tagged her mother Menaka Suresh asking her how did she end up in the movie! For those not in the know, *Bhramam* highlights the life of a pianist who pretends to be blind. His musical journey gets interlaced

with suspense, inspiration, confusion and drama as he gets embroiled in a murder mystery. As the plot thickens and a set of bizarre events unfold, wit and survival create the fabric of the film coupled with the stellar background score composed by Jakes Bejoy. Directed by Ravi K Chandran, who is also the cinematographer for the film, the Malayalam rendition/remake is produced under the banner of AP International and Viacom18 Studios. *Bhramam* will premiere exclusively on Amazon Prime Video in India on October 7.



Mahesh lauds *Love Story*, calls it a 'game changer' for Chay

"Sai Pallavi - Sensational as always... does the lady have any bones??? Haven't seen anyone dance like this ever on screen!!! Moves like a dream," he continued. Mahesh also showered praise on music composer Pawan and said AR Rahman will be proud of him. "You'll be hearing a lot more of him... what a music score... Just sensational! Heard he's a disciple of @arrahman... Rahman sir, you'll be proud of him," the tweet read. And finally, Mahesh congratulated the producers for "delivering a much needed blockbuster in these testing times."

Love Story is being received well at the theaters. On the release day, Sai Pallavi tweeted a video showing how the audience was celebrating the film at the theater. "Today has been quite an emotional one for me and my #LoveStory team. Artists, Directors, Producers n Technicians from various industries prayed for the success of the film n just like that it wasn't 'our' film anymore. Here's proof that art n it's audience are inseparable," she wrote. At a recent media interaction, Naga Chaitanya shared about *Love Story*, "Director Sekhar Kammula has touched

upon two important layers - caste discrimination and gender issues. People are wary about addressing these elements openly in society. When we address these issues through cinema, the reach is much more. The film is a realistic love drama, and it revolves around a lower caste boy who comes to a city from a village." The actor will be making his Bollywood debut with Aamir Khan's *Laal Singh Chaddha*. He will also be seen in *Thank You and Bangaraju*. In both films, Chaitanya will share screen space with his father and actor Nagarjuna.

Superstar Mahesh Babu is all praise for Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi's latest release *Love Story*, which is conquering theaters in south Indian states ever since its release. The film, directed by Sekhar Kammula, released on September 24 and has been doing great over the weekend. Mahesh Babu took to Twitter and shared his review of the film. In a series

of tweets, Mahesh Babu mentioned how Sekhar Kammula has delivered a "knockout film", how the film will be a game-changer for Naga Chaitanya. He seemed blown away by Sai Pallavi's performance. "#LoveStory @sekharkammula pulls all the right strings... delivers a knockout film! @chay_akkineni comes of age as an actor, a game-changer for him... What a performance!" Mahesh wrote.

RCB post 165 against MI



Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli at the toss during match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians

Dubai: Glenn Maxwell finally came good with an attacking 56 after skipper Virat Kohli's second consecutive half-century, taking Royal Challengers Bangalore to a par-score of 165/6 against Mumbai Indians in the IPL here on Sunday.

Kohli, who completed 10,000 runs in T20 cricket,

scored 51 off 42 balls with three fours and three sixes but it was Maxwell who justified his expensive price tag with a 37-ball blitzkrieg before Jasprit Bumrah brought MI back in the game.

Maxwell's innings had six fours and three sixes as he showed true destructive potential with switch hits, lap shots



Jasprit Bumrah of Mumbai Indians celebrates the wicket of Devdutt Padikkal of RCB

and flicks during the final overs when he launched into MI pacers Adam Milne (1/48 in 4 overs) and Bumrah (3/26 in 4 overs) with utter disdain.

Such was the ferocity of Maxwell's hits that even the normally calm MI skipper Rohit Sharma looked helpless before Bumrah removed both Maxwell and AB de Villiers (11 off successive deliveries which at least helped them save 20 to 25 runs in the final two overs.

At the onset, Kohli hit the very second ball of the match from Trent Boult (1/17 in 4 overs) for a six. It was an inswinger which the RCB skip-

per flicked and Rahul Chahar at deep mid-wicket got his palms but couldn't latch on to it. The normally dependable Devdutt Padikkal (0) had an off-day as Bumrah bowled a beauty which pitched on length and moved away taking the outside edge into Quinton de Kock's gloves. Kohli found a confident partner in Bharat (32 off 24 balls) as they quickly added 68 runs for the second wicket. Bharath for good measure swept Rahul Chahar against the turn for two sixes while Kohli also imperiously pulled Bumrah for a six over deep mid-wicket.

PTI

Dubai: India captain Virat Kohli on Sunday reached a coveted milestone of 10,000-run mark in all forms of T20 cricket (international, domestic and franchise) during his side Royal Challengers Bangalore's IPL match against

Mumbai Indians here. Playing in his 314 T20 match, Kohli pulled his India team-mate Jasprit Bumrah for a six to get the milestone in the fourth over after RCB were

sent in to bat. Kohli, who is set to step down from RCB captaincy at the end of this season, had come into the match with 13 short of 10,000 runs.

The 32-year-old has played 298 innings before Sunday's match and has scored runs at an average of 41.61 with the help of five hundreds and 73 fifties.

PTI

Jadeja cameo helps CSK beat KKR by 2-wickets

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Ravindra Jadeja won a close match for as his back-end pyrotechnics ensured a two-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in an Indian Premier League thriller here on Sunday.

Jadeja (22 off 8 balls) launched into pacer Prasidh Krishna, who bowled the 19th over, where the pacer lost his length completely under the Saurashtra all-rounder's onslaught with CSK reaching the target of 172 in exactly 20 overs.

Instead of bowling yorkers, Krishna repeatedly bowled length balls as Jadeja hit two sixes and two boundaries to make it a cakewalk in the final over. Krishna conceded 22 runs in the penultimate over to leave CSK with four runs to get in the final over.

But there was more drama in store as Sam Curran and Jadeja were snuffed out by Sunil Narine before Deepak Chahar ended the match with a single.

However, KKR skipper Eoin Morgan's captaincy left a lot to be desired as the decision to bring in Krishna in the 19th over would be debated. Morgan in his defence could sight Anre Russell's injury being the reason but Narine in the 19th over could have posed more challenge for a rampaging Jadeja.

The win also meant that CSK remained unbeaten after the IPL resumed and once again were back at the top in the pecking order, with 16 points. In pursuit of a challenging 172, CSK were down and out at 142/6 before Jadeja took the onus on himself.

KKR had posted 171/6, as they rode on late flourish by former skipper Dinesh Karthik and Nitish Rana after the foundation was laid by Rahul Tripathi (45).

CSK wasn't able to capitalise on the aggressive 74-run opening start given by Ruturaj Gaikwad (40 off 28 balls; 2 fours and 3 sixes) and South African Faf du Plessis (43; seven fours).

KKR pegged CSK by sending both the openers back in quick succession. CSK then suffered a middle-order collapse. Spinner Varun Chakravarthy had got KKR back into the game by dismissing Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Earlier, former skipper Dinesh Karthik's late cameo and Nitish Rana's steady long handle took Kolkata Knight Riders to a par-score of 171 against Chennai Super Kings in an Indian Premier League encounter on Sunday.

Seamer Shardul Thakur (2/20 in 4 overs) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/21 in 4 overs) performed impressively to keep KKR under leash till the 13th over when they were 93 for 4.

However, the last seven overs yielded 78 runs and KKR were able to put on a more than fighting score largely due to Sam Curran (0/56 in 4overs) leaking runs at the back end. Even Josh Hazlewood (2/40 in 4 overs) got a bit of stick helping KKR's cause.

The platform was laid by Rahul Tripathi (45 off 33), who hit four boundaries and one six but it was the CSK bowlers, who kept making inroads and did not allow the KKR batsmen to either free their arms or settle down.

Opting to bat, Kolkata lost opener Shubman Gill (9) in the first over after a horrible mix-up with Venkatesh Iyer.

One-down Tripathi and in-form Venkatesh Iyer (18) tried to resurrect the innings but the southpaw was unable to convert his start after he nicked one to Mahendra Singh Dhoni off Thakur. Tripathi, who fetched his first boundary, an imperious pull shot over mid-wicket, also got a 'life' after the ball on which he had nicked, was adjudged as a 'no-ball'. Off the very next one, he smashed his first maximum over deep extra cover.

Skipper Eoin Morgan (8) also fell cheaply as he holed to Du Plessis off Josh Hazlewood as KKR was in spot of bother at 70/3. Tripathi also fell in the 13th over, as he was cleaned up by left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja as KKR slipped to 89/4.

Then Andre Russell (20) took on Sam Curran in the 15th over, smacking two fours and a monstrous six, as KKR fetched 14 runs. But Shardul Thakur forced Russell to drag one back onto his stumps. Then it was the Rana and Karthik show that took them past 170.



	TEAM	PLD	NET RR	PTS
1	CSK	10	+1.069	16
2	DC	10	+0.711	16
3	RCB	9	-0.720	10
4	KKR	10	+0.322	8
5	PBKS	10	-0.271	8
6	MI	9	-0.310	8
7	RR	9	-0.319	8
8	SRH	9	-0.637	2

IANIS ■ MACKAY

India finished the ODI leg of the multi-format series on a high with a brilliant two-wicket win — fashioned by a collective team effort — which ended Australia's unbeaten ODI streak of 26 matches on Sunday. However, Australia won the ODI series 2-1, with the multi-format series' scoreline reading 4-2.

The third and final ODI in Mackay went down to the wire

but this time India held their nerves as they sealed a thrilling two-wicket win with just three balls to spare. Tall India pacer Jhulan Goswami hit the winning runs, lofting it straight for a four.

Chasing a target of 265, India showed poise and power in their response, with the opening pair of Shafali Verma and



India finish ODI series on a high

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Chess legend Viswanathan Anand on Sunday said the country has many immensely talented players at the junior level and one of them can "hopefully" become a world champion in future.

"There are many people with a lot of promise at junior level. R Praggnanandhaa, Nihal Sarin, D Gukesh, they're very good and motivated.



They have been travelling around playing tournaments, they have the

determination. Hopefully one of them cracks the code," Anand said. He was responding to a question on who among the young Indians could go on to become a world champion in future.

The five-time world champion was participating in an online interaction 'Chat with Vishy - Viswanathan Anand' with the participants of the training programme he conducts.

Sports Minister announces month-long nationwide Clean India Drive from Oct 1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Sunday announced a month-long nationwide Clean India Drive from October 1 to get rid of single use plastic and other waste.

Announcing this in a tweet, Thakur said: "Cleanliness is next to Godliness! As we celebrate AmritMahotsav of 75 years of Independence, I urge everybody to join Clean India Drive from 1st-31st October to realize dream of plastic free India."

Thakur said it will be the largest cleanliness drive in the world in which more than 75 lakh tonnes of waste, primarily plastic waste, from different parts of the country will be collected and further processed in a 'Waste to Wealth' model.

Gold eludes India yet again at world c'ships



PTI ■ YANKTON

Indian archer Jyothi Surekha Vennam lost a nerve-wracking final to Colombian heavyweight Sara Lopez to clinch a silver in the compound women's individual section at the World Championships here on Saturday.

The 25-year-old Indian was at her best and shot a perfect final end but the five-time World Cup champion Sara was superior to clinch the issue by two points (146-144).

For Jyothi, this was her second silver medal at the World Championships as she became the only Indian archer to have four podium finishes at the showpiece biennial competition.

Jyothi had bagged a silver (Mexico 2017) and a bronze (Den Bosch 2019) in the team events at previous World Championships.

Earlier on Friday, Jyothi was a member of the Indian women's and mixed pair compound archery teams which

signed off with silver medals after lop-sided losses to Colombia here.

India were in pursuit of their first ever gold medal at the world event.

For a country that doesn't have a gold yet, India have climbed the most podiums at the event — 11 —, appearing in nine finals and leaving with silver each time.

Jyothi dished out a consistent display shooting 28, 29 and 29 in her first three ends, but the Colombian top seed opened up a two-point lead at the halfway mark, drilling in seven perfect 10s with two X (closest to the centre) from nine arrows.

The sixth seeded Indian shot three 10s from three arrows in the final end but that was not enough as Sara wrapped up the gold medal match by two points.

Jyothi, however, upgraded the bronze medal she had won two years ago, as the Andhra archer concluded her campaign with three silver medals.



Sania wins first title of 2021 season in Ostrava

PTI ■ OSTRAVA

Star Indian tennis player Sania Mirza won her first title of the season as she and her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang beat the pair of Kaitlyn Christian and Erin Routliffe in the women's doubles final of the Ostrava Open here on Sunday.

The second seeded Indo-Chinese duo defeated the third seeded pair of American

Christian and New Zealander Routliffe 6-3 6-2 in the summit clash in one hour and four minutes.

The 34-year-old Sania and Zhang had defeated the Japanese pair 6-2 7-5 in the semifinals of the WTA 500 event.

It was Sania's second final of the season, following a runner-up finish at the WTA 250 Cleveland event in the USA last month with Chirstina Mchale.

Post knee surgery, Federer hoping to return at 'next year'

IANIS ■ BOSTON

Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer, who is recovering from a right-knee surgery he underwent last month, said on Sunday that it was a difficult process to decide whether to undergo a third right-knee surgery after having two last year. But following Wimbledon, where he was "really unhappy" with his performance in reaching the quarterfinals, Federer opted to go through with it.

Federer, who made a late decision to attend this year's Laver Cup in Boston -- a tournament held between teams from Europe

and the rest of the world — said on the sidelines of the event that the recovery and rehabilitation are "going to take me a few more months and then we'll see how things are at some point next year."

"The reception I've received, everybody is so upbeat that I'm here. They wish me all the best and they don't even see the crutches. They just want me to be good again and enjoy the weekend," Federer said in an interview for the event with former world No. 1 Jim Courier.

"I've seen some incredible tennis, some great matches and it's

been wonderful. I'm really happy I made the trip," the winner of 20 majors was quoted as saying by aptour.com.

On why he opted for a third surgery, the tennis ace said, "I was just nowhere near where I wanted to be to play at the top, top level. But I tried my best and at the end... too much is too much. Now I've just got to take it step by step," Federer said.

