

ANALYSIS 7

'CABBAGE TACTIC' TO SEIZE WATERS

MONEY 8

FROM RUSSIA'S ROSNEFT TO AIRPORTS, COS QUEUE UP TO TRAIN PERSONNEL

SPORTS 11

CSK SET MI 157-RUN TARGET

VIJAYAWADA, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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NABHA: DIDN'T WANT TO COMPARE MYSELF WITH RADHIKA APTE
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Landslide victory for YSRCP in Parishad polls

Major embarrassment to Naidu as he loses home turf Kuppam and party founder NTR's native villages

Total tally of MPTCs & ZPTCs when reports last came in at up to 8:30pm on Sunday

Total MPTCs	10,047	BJP	25
Elections Held	7,219	Janasena	121
Results Declared	6,766	Congress	3
YSRCP won	5,683 MPTCs + 2371	Others	151
Unanimous = 8,054		Contesting candidates expired	81
TDP won	760	Elections withheld	355

Total ZPTCs	659	TDP won	6
Elections held	515	Others	2
Results declared	421	Contesting candidates expired	11
YSRCP won	413+	Elections withheld	8
Unanimous	126 = 539		

SNV SUDHIR
VIJAYAWADA

The YS Jaganmohan Reddy-led YSRCP's victory march that began in 2019 polls, by bagging 151 out of the 175 Assembly segments and continued in the polls for urban and local bodies, Tirupati Lok Sabha by-poll two years later is complete on Sunday as the ruling party registered a historic and landslide win in the Parishad polls while crushing Opposition TDP and BJP- Jana Sena combine.

While the polls for MPTCs and ZPTCs were held on April 8, the results could not be announced as scheduled on April 10 as counting was stayed by the AP High Court that had heard petitions filed by the leaders of TDP, BJP and Jana Sena. After the nod from a division bench of the State High Court, counting of votes took place on Sunday.

While the counting is still going on as per the latest reports, the YSRCP has won 4,430 seats out of the 4,741 declared seats in MPTCs. Around 248 seats out of the 641 ZPTCs were also bagged by YSRCP.

The resounding victory in the Parishad polls could not have come at any other time for the YSRCP cadre and leaders as they have been facing flak from the Opposition TDP and also a section of media over financial crisis being faced by the State and the alleged mishandling of the situation by the Jaganmohan government. The win is sweeter to YSRCP as Jaganmohan Reddy did not campaign for any of these polls, did not conduct a press conference or did not release any video message seeking votes as he was confident that performance would fetch votes, as it did.

TDP, which has been facing humiliation since the 2019 polls, had once again tasted embarrassment in the Parishad polls as the YSRCP won a majority of the ZPTCs and MPTCs that came under TDP supremo and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu's home constituency Kuppam in Chittoor district.

However, for the record, the TDP announced it had boycotted the Parishad polls a week before they were to be held on April 8.

For the first time in over 39 years, the TDP had taken a drastic decision to boycott the ZPTC and MPTC elections citing a lack of trust in the AP State Election Commission and its unilateral decisions.



A thumping win for governance of Jagan

Two-year governance of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has paved the way for thumping victory in the ZPTC and MPTC polls. We thank the people for their trust in YSRCP and giving yet another big mandate.

— SAJJALA RAMAKRISHNA REDDY
Advisor to Govt of AP

The highest tally of MPTCs of YSRCP was 412 in Anantapur and it is followed by 406 in Kurnool, 376 in Chittoor, 304 in Visakhapatnam, 299 in Krishna, 264 in Nellore, 234 in Guntur, 200 in Prakasam, 146 in Vizianagaram, 98 in West Godavari, 90 in Srikakulam, 66 in Kadapa and seven in East Godavari districts.

"The resounding victory in the Parishad polls is a referendum to YS Jaganmohan Reddy's pro-people governance. Local bodies have significance and importance in the Indian governance system as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi. However, hijacking the rights of

such local bodies though their tenure was over years ago during the previous TDP rule, polls were not held fearing backlash and defeat.

It's a farce that TDP was telling it had boycotted these polls. Party had already faced a humiliating defeat in both Panchayat and urban local bodies polls," said YSRCP MLA Ambati Rambabu.

The process of polls for ZPTCs and MPTCs began in March 2020 and just days before the election, the then State Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh postponed the elections citing Covid-19.



A new notification was issued on April 1, 2021, and elections were held on April 8. On May 21, a Single Judge Bench cancelled the elections, hearing a petition filed by TDP leader Varla Ramaiah that the four-week mandatory period of Model Code of Conduct was not taken into consideration from the date of announcement of election schedule to the conduct of elections on April 8.

However, a division bench of the High Court a few days ago gave the nod for the counting of the votes.

Reacting to the results, TDP State president K Atchannaidu challenged Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy to cancel the Parishad elections and issue a fresh notification to hold the polls in a free and fair manner. "Can the ruling YSRCP leaders face the rising anti-incumbency factor face to face? The Chief Minister has been making a mockery of all constitutional institutions and processes with the elections being no exception," he added.

Out of the total 660 ZPTCs, elec-

23-yr-old Aswini rewrites history in Naidu's bastion

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supremo N Chandrababu Naidu, who is acclaimed as the Chanakya of AP politics, had a bitter experience in his own constituency in the Parishad elections. The Kuppam ZPTC, which was for 30 years by the TDP, has been bagged by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). It was an unexpected success for a 23-year-old YSRCP candidate Aswini. She made history by breaking the TDP's 30-year-old record winning the seat by a majority of 1,073 votes.



tions were conducted for 515 ZPTCs. While 126 ZPTCs were elected unanimously, elections were

withheld in eight constituencies.

2

CM won people's trust by fulfilling his promises

This victory is a vote for good governance which is mainly welfare-oriented. The Chief Minister has won the people's trust by fulfilling his election promises.

— P Ramachandra Reddy,
Minister for PR & Rural Development

People have trusted the good governance of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. TDP has anticipated the results of MPTC and ZPTC elections and thus staged a drama to boycott

— P Anil Kumar Yadav,
Irrigation Minister

YSRCP has received 80% positive vote in the past and now it will go beyond that, as people have welcomed the good governance of YS Jaganmohan Reddy. TDP leader K Atchannaidu's words that their party will vanish have come true.

— Kurasala Kannababu,
Agriculture Minister

2

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Bhadrapada & Shukla Paksha
Panchangam

Tithi : Purnima 29:23

Nakshatram : Purva Bhadrapada 28:02

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

Rahukalam : 7:38 am - 9:08 am

Yamagandam : 10:39 am - 12:09 pm

Varjyam : 10:01 am - 11:39 am

Gulika : 1:39 pm - 3:09 pm

Good Time : (to start any important work)

Amritakalam : 7:50 pm - 9:29 pm

Abhijit Muhurtham : 11:45 am - 12:33 pm

VIJAYAWADA
WEATHER

Forecast: Thunderstorm

Temp: 32/26

Humidity: 74%

Sunrise: 6:04 am

Sunset: 06:13 pm

Current Weather Conditions

Updated SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 5:00 PM

TDP humbled at the hustings

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

For the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which has been facing humiliation since 2019 polls, has once again faced a drubbing in the Parishad polls, counting for which was held on Sunday. It was a total embarrassment for the TDP as the YSRCP has won all the four ZPTCs and 98 percent of the MPTCs that came under TDP supremo and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu's home constituency Kuppam in Chittoor district.

TDP-backed candidates also lost more than 90 percent of the panchayats that came under Kuppam to YSRCP-supported candidates in the polls held for rural local bodies in February.

Most importantly, MPTCs that came under TDP founder NT Rama Rao's native village and in-laws that were adopted by TDP scion Nara Lokesh and his mother Nara Bhuvaneshwari in Krishna district also went to YSRCP.

According to the results

announced on Sunday, YSRCP candidates won Gudipalle, Kuppam, Santhipuram and Ramakuppam ZPTCs.

Out of the 19 MPTCs in Kuppam mandal, YSRCP won 17 and TDP two. In Gudipalle and Ramakuppam mandals, YSRCP bagged all the 12 and 16 MPTCs respectively. In Shanthipuram mandal, YSRCP bagged 17 MPTCs out of 18.

In Naidu's native village Naravaripalle, TDP candidate has lost to YSRCP candidate R Rajaiah who won with 1,000 votes majority.

MPTCs of Nimmakuru adopted by Lokesh where legendary NTR was born and Komaravolu belonging to NTR's in-laws and adopted by Bhuvaneshwari went to YSRCP.

Buoyed by the big win in Panchayat polls in February and successful implementation of meticulous poll strategy, YSRCP immediately has set its sights on Parishad polls in Naidu's home turf Kuppam in Chittoor district.

2

CM thanks people

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has thanked the people of the State for giving a landslide vic-

tory to YSRCP in MPTC and ZPTC elections.

Taking to Twitter on Saturday, the Chief Minister said the mandate given by the State's voters has put

a huge responsibility on him. "By the grace of God and the people's blessings this massive victory has become possible.

2

Centre asks AP for report on unused loans

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The Centre has sought a report from the Andhra Pradesh government on Rs 960 crore received as loans from foreign agencies for various Externally- Aided Projects (EAPs) remaining unutilised.

The departments that are supposed to get these funds for executing the projects have drawn a blank, while payments running into hundreds of crores of Rupees are yet to be made to contractors on works done so far.

The EAPs now remain derailed because the state is unable to draw further loan amounts from the external agencies due to poor



progress of the works and non-clearance of payment (dues).

The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the Union Finance Ministry has taken a strong view and written a letter last week seeking an explanation from the state Finance Department on the issue.

"The overall position of utilisation of advances extended by various authorities is not so encouraging as a very heavy amount of advance is lying in the accounts of Government of Andhra Pradesh.

As on September 7, the amount released as advance is USD 124.65 million, roughly equivalent to Rs 960 crore, the DEA pointed out in its letter to the Principal Finance Secretary.

The DEA also noted that utilisation of the loan amount "is not so high", which indicated a "situation wherein the interest cost is increasing but the project execution is at a slow pace".

Also, officials of the DEA per-

sonally called up top officials of different state departments and "gave us an earful" over the sorry state of affairs, a senior bureaucrat said.

"We are being bombarded with queries on the status of works and utilisation of funds (advanced by foreign agencies), but our report card is filled with only blanks. They gave us money but we can't tell them we actually don't have it, the bureaucrat observed.

On the one hand, the state government has been scampering for loans but, on the other, the loans secured were obviously not being spent for the intended purpose, he told PTI.

2

Monday Mirchi

An accomplished babu or an accomplice?

Over the past week, TS Minister K T Rama Rao has heaped praises on senior IAS officer Jayesh Ranjan using all possible adjectives. KTR has termed Jayesh as 'partner in crime', 'dear friend', and thanked him for his unstinted and lovely support over the last six years. In his public speeches, KTR has said: 'Jayesh is there all time and constantly supporting industry' and 'I can vouch that no matter what it was, Covid or GST issues, Jayesh is I think terrific'.

With big-ticket investments coming into the state, no wonder the principal secretary deserves all the praise. But the profusion of praise has also raised eyebrows in some circles that wonder if there is going to be a change in Jayesh's role.

Break into dance, goli maro protocol

Director of Public Health Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao, who tells the media often that politicians' reckless behaviour can lead to Covid outbreak, took everyone by surprise by his impulsive action during a procession leading to Lord Ganesh's immersion.

Despite being without a mask, he was seen dancing with abandon in public to the beat of drums used during the Ganesh rally.

The video of his dance has gone viral on social media, of course with netizens questioning him about his credentials to highlight Covid norms. No doubt, he is fully vaccinated and has already been infected.

But as he states in all his meetings, a mask is important. So is maintaining distance. They do go for a toss when impulse overrides reason.

Speculation that appeals to babus

The 3-capital formula is a forbidden topic for bureaucrats in Andhra Pradesh. Whenever official discussions veer towards Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy's plan of three capitals, bureaucrats with wis-

dom deftly avoid the topic.

For, they know from the experience of their peers that any comment on the highly sensitive and controversial topic could land them in trouble, considering that pleas relating to it are being heard by the High Court. In fact, babus are so paranoid about it that they don't want to discuss the issue even in private. Still, a majority of the babus love Vizag and, given a chance, they are more than willing to work from there. Any day they prefer Vizag to Vijayawada.

Although dismissive of most speculations, babus have, however, latched on to one recent speculation that seems to be working in their favour: CM 'shifting' his camp office to Vizag! They now say the Chief Minister should fulfil their wishes by at least shifting his camp office to Vizag, lending credibility to 'reasonable suggestions' in this regard.

Giving loyal Das his due

With the naming of senior bureaucrat Sameer Sharma as Andhra Pradesh's next Chief Secretary all speculations about the successor to current Chief Secretary Adityanath Das have ended.

However, the topic of hot discussion in the Velagapudi Secretariat's power corridors is whether Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy will honour or, in other words, give Das his due upon his retirement in the next 10 days.

It appears that Das will get his due. For, there is a talk in official circles at higher levels that he may be appointed as Chief Advisor to look after the irrigation projects in the state and or as a Special Representative in Delhi to handle state-Centre relations related to irrigation and finance.

It would be interesting to see whether Jagan will keep in his ambit Das who has no doubt been a loyal bureaucrat. Moreover, Adityanath Das is an expert in irrigation projects with thorough knowledge of each and every project in both states, and the Polavaram multipurpose project, which is considered the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh.

-Yours truly

A vote for good governance: YSRCP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As YSRCP has continued its winning streak in MPTC and ZPTC elections and the party leaders, as well as the cadre, are of the opinion that the landslide victory in the recent polls reflects the endorsement of people's faith in the governance of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy.

Speaking to the media at his camp office in Tirupati, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy said YSR Congress Party swept MPTC and ZPTC elections and this victory is seen as a vote for good governance which is mainly welfare-oriented and added that the Chief Minister had gained people's trust by fulfilling election promises.

The Minister said TDP, with the help of former SEC, had indulged in several political conspiracies in regard to local body polls and added that



the former SEC had postponed the local body polls citing Covid as a reason only to favour TDP. He said the results of panchayat and municipal polls made it clear that the people are not in support of TDP and Naidu started a new drama to boycott MPTC and ZPTC polls anticipating the humiliating defeat.

He said the people had lost

faith in Naidu as it was clearly evident from TDP confining to two MPTC seats in Kuppam mandal, the home turf of the Opposition leader and reminded that YSRCP sympathisers won 74 of the 89 panchayats in Kuppam in panchayat polls. Meanwhile, speaking at a press conference at the party's central office in Tadepalli, Minister P Anil Kumar Yadav

Landslide victory for YSRCP in...

Continued from Page 1

Since March 2020, 11 candidates for the ZPTC elections have died.

Out of the 10,047 MPTCs, elections were withheld in 375. In the remaining 9,672 MPTCs, 2,371 were elected unanimously and 81 candidates have died since March 2020. Therefore, elections were

held for 7,220 MPTCs.

Though TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu announced a boycott of the elections, candidates of the party remained in the fray as they could not withdraw the nominations.

Parishad polls decimated TDP in home turf Kuppam and party founder NTR's native villages

CM thanks...

Continued from Page 1

This increased my responsibility towards every single person and family in this State for showering all the love and support," he said in the tweet.

"I would once again express my gratitude to everyone in the State through a video message on Monday morning after the final results of MPTC and ZPTC come out," he added.

CM won people's trust by fulfilling...

Continued from Page 1

It is a humiliating defeat for N Chandrababu Naidu as TDP has lost its presence in Kuppam and Chandragiri constituencies. TDP should better shut its shop in the State.

Ambati Rambabu, YSRCP MLA

Can the ruling YSRCP leaders face the rising anti-incumbency factor face to face? The Chief Minister has been making a mockery of all

constitutional institutions and processes with the elections being no exception.

K Atchannaidu, TDP State president

The whole world knows how the ruling YSRCP resorted to threats, intimidation and forced unanimous results at many places. They misused the police and the official machinery without any shame.

Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, Senior TDP leader

TDP humbled at the hustings

Continued from Page 1

YSRCP supremo YS Jaganmohan Reddy, who was successful in implementing a winning social engineering formula in 2019 polls by doing a carefully crafted balancing act of castes, communities and religions, has also used a similar template in Kuppam which is said to have yielded good results in Panchayat polls.

Though Panchayat polls are fought on non-party basis and purely at local level YSRCP leadership especially Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy had taken Kuppam 'seriously' to send a strong message to the electorate across the State.

YSRCP leaders felt that the party was almost close to trouncing Naidu in his bastion in 2019 polls itself like how his son Nara Lokesh had to face a

humiliating defeat in Mangalagiri. However, YSRCP candidate, Dr Krishna Chandramouli, a retired senior bureaucrat, falling seriously ill a month before the polling day in 2019 had jeopardised their expectations and Naidu won.

While Naidu's majority was 47,121 votes in 2014 polls, it dropped to 30,722 votes in 2019. There was a sharp decline of the majority by at least 17,000 votes. Naidu has been winning the Kuppam seat since 1989.

Noticeably, a look at the data about the majority of the votes secured by YSRCP-backed candidates in the February Panchayat polls throws up a surprising realignment in Kuppam.

YSRCP-backed candidates from the total 75 panchayats they won the seats that come under Kuppam's four man-

dals, secured a total majority of 30,929 votes over the rival TDP-supported candidates. The majority of these candidates is more than that Naidu had secured in 2019 polls which should potentially ring alarm bells to TDP.

The ruling party candidates who won 21 panchayats in Kuppam mandal had secured 6,069 majority votes, in 20 panchayats under Santhipuram mandal, YSRCP-backed candidates won with a majority of 7,020 votes. Huge majority was registered in Ramakuppam mandal of 11,043 polls where YSRCP-backed candidates won 20 Panchayats. In Ramakuppam mandal, Naidu polled a majority of 3,105 votes in 2019 polls. In Gudupalle panchayat, the ruling party candidates won 14 panchayats with a combined majority of 6,797 votes.

8 killed in three road accidents

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Eight people were killed in three separate road accidents in Telangana on Sunday, police said.

Two accidents at the same spot in Nalgonda district claimed five lives while three died in another accident in Nagarkurnool district.

Three people, including a couple, were killed when their car rammed into a container truck and then hit a tree near Muthyalamma Gudem in Kattangoor mandal of Nalgonda district. Gopal Reddy, 31, was on his way to Vijayawada, along with his wife Rachana (31), their minor daughter, and his friend Prashanth (24).

Hailing from Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, Reddy was working in the Rajasthan Mines Department in Rajasthan. As he had received a new job offer from South Africa, he had resigned his job in Rajasthan and had returned to Hyderabad. They were on their way from Hyderabad to Vijayawada in a car.

According to police, the car, being driven by Prashanth, rammed into a container truck while over-

taking a lorry and then hit a roadside tree. While Gopal, his wife, and friend died, the minor girl escaped with injuries.

The accident had led to a traffic jam on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway. Meanwhile, a speeding car rammed into a truck which had stopped due to the traffic jam, killing both its occupants.

J Sivaprasad, 23 and R Vinay, 21, were proceeding to Suryapet from Hyderabad to attend a religious programme at an ashram.

In the third accident in Nagarkurnool district, three persons were killed and three others were injured, when a bus of the state-owned Road Transport Corporation hit an auto-rickshaw near Maddamadugu in Pradara mandal.

The deceased included two women of the same family, returning home after attending Kesakhandana (first hair cut ceremony) of a child at a temple in a nearby village.

They were identified as K Jambrunaik, 65, J. Poli, 70, and auto driver J Srinu, 32.

Man dies after eating biryani

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A youth has allegedly died soon after consuming the chicken biryani at a restaurant in Narasapur town in the district on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Boda Prasad, 23, of Boda Thanda of Jalli village of Chennaraopet mandal. He has reportedly started vomiting after coming out of the restaurant and died at the side drain in front of the biryani point. It is said that he had vomited blood too. Locals who noticed the incident informed the police. The body was shifted to the local Community Health Centre (CHC) for the autopsy.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹251
Without Skin	₹271
Broiler at Farm	₹139

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	447
HYDERABAD	398
VISAKHAPATNAM	425
RETAIL PRICE (₹/100)	₹4.47

Centre asks AP for...

Continued from Page 1

Efforts to contact the Principal Finance Secretary for clarification on the subject did not bear fruit.

There are 14 EAPs in execution in AP now, with loans from foreign lenders like World Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, International Fund for Agriculture Development, Asian Development Bank, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Japan International Cooperation Agency, New Development Bank and KfW of Germany.

The DEA, in particular, referred to six of these projects for which ADB, AIIB, IBRD and IFAD have already released a sum of 124.65 million USD in advance.

The AP Rural Roads Project is a classic case.

The 666 million USD project was taken up in November 2018 with 70 per cent loan (455 million USD) from AIIB to provide road connectivity to unconnected habitations with 250-plus population and also reconstruct existing roads in 137 rural Assembly constituencies in 13 districts.

Of the total 6,323 km length of roads proposed under the project, only 865 km has been completed so far.

A recent note presented to the Chief Minister by the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department said

there were no bidders for 169 works though the tender notifications were issued four times. In some cases, the bids were rejected because of excess rates quoted.

The note said Rs 507 crore has been received from AIIB so far and an expenditure of Rs 405 crore has been incurred.

Since September 2020, Rs 341 crore has not been paid to the contractors (on completed works) while bills for another Rs 349 crore worth works (done) have to be raised.

According to the DEA letter, 43.35 million USD (about Rs 316 crore) should be available (with the state) as balance (advance) out of the total disbursement of 71.13 million USD.

Worse is the case of the 468.10 million USD AP Health Systems Strengthening Project, taken up in 2019 with 100 per cent assistance from the World Bank.

The Medical and Health Department as such got zero (money) under the project so far though for the record it is still on track.

"What we are doing under the National Health Mission, we are showing it as done under the World Bank project since most of the works under the two schemes are similar," a top official said.

"It's a different matter that our department is not given even the NHM funds," he lamented.

‘Dancing with Dreams’ bares babus’ humane side

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

When it comes to issues of their respective states, they challenge each other and would not rest until they prove their point. Nevertheless they are friends when it comes to personal matters.

At a time when Telangana has accused Andhra Pradesh of constructing projects on the Krishna River illegally and Andhra Pradesh has sued its counterpart to recover what it claims are 'power dues' from TS, Somesh Kumar, Chief Secretary of the TS government, on Sunday launched a book of poetry written by his AP counterpart Adityanath Das.

Few bureaucrats reveal their creative side as well. 'Dancing with Dreams', a collection of 40 poems penned by Adityanath Das, reveals the



(Left to Right): Padmaja Das, Adityanath Das, Somesh Kumar, Prof N Gopi and Ramprasad.

philosophical, spiritual and humane side of Adityanath Das.

While releasing the book, Somesh Kumar said that the poems not only captivated the reader's mind but also gave subtle hints at the mind of the poet on a journey to explore inside himself.

While welcoming the

guests, publisher and Editor Ramprasad recalled how the whole idea of publishing the poems came last year during the lockdown.

"Poetry is the language to confront the world within and outside. These poems belong to the Bhakts and Sufis, as they take their baby steps from Rumi, Kabir,

rised by the District Collector, calling for Special Meeting for conduct of election of Member (Co-opted), President and Vice-President of Mandal Praja Parishad on or before September 20 and for Silla Praja Parishad on or before September 21. On September 24 after 10 am the scrutiny of nomination will be done and the list of nominated candidates published and administration of oath by 1 pm on the same day. A special meeting for the election of president and vice president of MPP will be held by 3 pm.

The SEC further said that if the election of members (co-opted) is not held on the said date, the special meeting for election of President and Vice-President of Mandal Praja Parishad shall not be convened and the matter shall be reported to State Election Commission immediately and will be held on the next day.

As per the directions of the SEC, notice shall be given by the Gazetted Officer autho-

Two nabbed for bid to abduct minor girl

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Sangareddy Police arrested two youngsters who were caught by locals when they tried taking a minor girl away on their two-wheeler against her wishes on Saturday.

A video on Twitter emerged of a young Muslim girl from Sangareddy clearly disturbed

as she spoke on the phone while her voice and hands shivered. According to Ramana Rao, Superintendent of Police, Sangareddy, the minor girl was taken by the two boys to see the ongoing Ganesh immersions. The families of both the parties were well known to each other. The boys took the girl with them on

their two-wheeler near Sangareddy town.

However, from there, the duo tried to take her to another immersion spot in Shivampet village. The girl, who refused initially, began weeping and cried out for help. Onlookers then intervened, thrashed the duo and rescued the girl.

write poetry. While concluding his speech, he shared a verse of William Shakespeare, "The world is a stage, everyone is an actor, there is an entrance and an exit."

In his acceptance speech, Adityanath Das, AP Chief Secretary, said that many of the poems were written during his college days. Today every form of communication happened through technology, but in olden days all forms of communication had a human element.

Talking about God, he said God was like a pass code that solved all puzzles of life. Through poetry he had tried to look into the eyes of God. He said, the most difficult journey was the one to connect with oneself, far more difficult than connecting with the person next to you or to the world. He concluded with a message, "Whatever life unfolds for you, welcome with a smile."

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Parishad poll results proves people's trust in CM: Sajjala

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Advisor to Government of Andhra Pradesh (Public Affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy has said that the two-year governance of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has paved the way for a thumping victory in the ZPTC and MPTC polls and thanked the people for their trust in YSRCP and giving yet another thumping mandate.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, he said that their responsibility has been increased with the back-to-back victories in local body elections, stating that people have proved once again that good governance will lead to victories. He said that it was a landslide for YSRCP in ZPTC polls by securing over 98 percent of the seats and all these results clearly portray the people's

faith in the YSRCP government.

He said that the party created a history by securing over 62,000 votes in both ZPTC and MPTC polls in TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu's constituency Kuppam and added that Naidu owes an explanation to his people.

He slammed TDP leaders for propagating that they didn't participate in the elections and said that the opposition has been insulting the democratic process which was conducted in a free and fair manner. Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy stated that the TDP leaders have contested, campaigned in the polls and with the defeat at hand they are trying to mock the YSRCP leaders.

Further, he said that YSRCP is capable of winning any election in a fair manner as people have put their trust



in Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy, who took welfare to the doorstep of the beneficiary irrespective of castes, religions or parties.

He was incensed that conspiracies had been hatched to obstruct the democratic process by Opposition leader

Chandrababu Naidu and former SEC Nimmagadda Ramesh.

Sajjala stated that the local body elections were to be held during Chandrababu Naidu's reign in 2018, but fearing defeat Naidu had been postponing the elections and went ahead in making them hard by approaching courts and filing cases against the government for.

He said that the election process, which began in 2020, has come to an end on September 19, 2021, because of conspiracies led by Chandrababu Naidu. Despite all these hurdles YSRCP has bagged massive wins in all the polls as people have refused to believe Naidu. He said that people have blessed YSRCP with over 85 percent vote share in these elections, teaching a lesson to TDP leaders.



KK Ghosh takes over as CSI chief

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Director (Projects), RINL, KK Ghosh, assumed charge as the new Chairman of the Computer Society of India, (CSI) Visakhapatnam chapter. Addressing the members during the 26th Annual General Meeting of the chapter on Sunday Ghosh informed that he would take forward the roadmap for the chapter activities.

He suggested to CSI members to come forward voluntarily to act as mentors for the next generation.

AK Saxena, Director (Operations), RINL assumed as the Vice Chairman-cum-Chairman Elect of the chapter. On the occasion, Saxena shared his views and proposed new initiatives for the new committee.

KC Das, former director RINL, the outgoing Chairman of the Chapter presided over the AGM.

Priority to farming: Kannababu

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Agriculture K Kannababu has said that during the Covid crisis, the State government has purchased agriculture produce worth Rs 6,400 crore from the farmers. The minister was the chief guest at the 65 years of Markfed Foundation Day here on Sunday.

The minister said that the State government, under the leadership of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy, was supporting the farmers in all aspects like agriculture, marketing, cooperative and food processing departments.

Kannababu unveiled a new logo "Raite Raju", brochure and a website on the occasion.

He said that through Markfed many more services will be provided to the farmers and very soon Markfed services will be expanded. The minister reminded that during Covid crisis the government has purchased more than 19 lakh tonnes of farmers produce worth Rs 6,400 crore. The government has supplied 1,21,718 tonnes fertilizers



through Rythu Barosa Kendram (RBK) and 4,30,995 tonnes fertilizers through cooperative societies during 2020-21.

The minister said CM Jaganmohan Reddy had announced a support price to benefit the farmers for six crops like chilli, turmeric, onion, millets, banana and sweet lime that was announced by the central government. For the first time, the state government has introduced a Market Intervention scheme

Agriculture Minister Kurasala Kannababu unveiled a new logo "Raite Raju", a brochure and a website

through Markfed to benefit the tobacco farmers and procured 12.93 million kg of FCV tobacco worth Rs 119 crore. Andhra Pradesh is the only State which buys the farmers produce through RBK at village level, said the minister.

Markfed Chairman P Nagi Reddy, Principal Secretary Madhusudan Reddy, Marketing Commissioner Pradyumna, Agriculture department commissioner Arun Kumar and others were present on the occasion.

First-ever defeat for TDP in Nimmakuru

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The ruling YSRCP is heading towards a massive win in the ZPTC and MPTC election results that were declared on Sunday in Krishna district. Out of the 648 MPTCs results were declared for 648 MPTCs in the district and the ruling YSRCP won 572 seats while the Opposition TDP won 60 seats, Jana Sena Party managed to win nine, BJP and CPI managed to win one each and independents won four seats. Of the 41 ZPTCs, results were declared for 41 and the ruling YSRCP won 40 and the Opposition TDP managed to win one ZPTC.

Out of the 812 MPTCs in Krishna district, notification was issued for 723 while 69 MPTCs were unanimous and six candidates died before the elections and the elections were held for 648 MPTCs. On the other hand, there are 49 ZPTCs in the district and notification was issued for 46 of which two ZPTCs were unanimous and three candidates died even before the elections were held and subsequently elections were held for 41 ZPTCs.

Andhra Pradesh State

Election Commissioner Nilam Sawhney has issued a notification for the resumption of stalled poll procedure to the Mandal Parishad and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTC, ZPTC) in the State. Accordingly, the new SEC has released an election schedule for the conduct of MPTCs and ZPTCs. Polling was held on April 8 from 7 am to 5 am.

In a big setback to the Opposition TDP, the ruling YSRCP candidate won the Nimmakuru MPTC defeating the TDP candidate creating history. Nimmakuru was the Telugu Desam Party



founder NT Rama Rao native village and the YSRCP candidate won the Nimmakuru MPTC in Pammuru mandal in Krishna district. Since the TDP was formed Nimmakuru MPTC was won by the TDP and for the first time YSRCP won creating a record.

On the other hand, former TDP minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao suffered a big loss in his stronghold Gollapudi in the suburb of Vijayawada that was cleanly swept by the YSRCP. All the ten MPTCs were won by the YSRCP candidates.

Atchannaidu dares CM for fresh local body polls

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) State president K Atchannaidu on Sunday termed 'bogus' the results of the local body elections, saying that the ruling party has resorted to violations, attacks and forced unanimous elections in many places.

Atchannaidu challenged Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy to cancel the parishad elections and issue a fresh notification to hold the polls in a free and fair manner. "Can the ruling YSRCP leaders face the rising anti-incumbency factor face to face?"

The Chief Minister has been making a mockery of all consti-



tutional institutions and processes with the elections being no exception.

In a statement here, the TDP leader recalled how CM Jaganmohan Reddy had threatened his ministers and MLAs with

dire consequences including political exile if they failed to win the Parishad elections. As a result, the ruling party leaders resorted to all sorts of harassment, misuse of the government machinery and the electoral violations. The most

The TDP leader recalled how CM Jaganmohan Reddy had threatened his ministers and MLAs with dire consequences including political exile if they failed to win the Parishad elections.

shameful part of all this was that the police and the officials of all the departments concerned became a party to the ruling party's excesses. Atchannaidu said that since day one, the Jaganmohan Reddy regime has been throwing the democratic norms to the wind at each and

every step. The Parishad election results would not reflect the true mandate given by the people, who were totally upset with the atrocious regime. These results would only highlight the extreme levels to which the ruling YSRCP leaders would go in their bid to win the elections.

TDP for 'attempt to murder' case against Jogi

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

TDP former minister Nakka Anand Babu on Sunday demanded that the Jaganmohan Reddy government file an attempt murder case against YSRCP MLA Jogi Ramesh and his co-accused for launching the attack on former CM N Chandrababu Naidu's house.

Anand Babu urged stringent action against all those 100 to 150 hired goondas who came in over 20 cars and created havoc at the TDP chief's house. The false cases filed against the TDP leaders under the atrocities law should be scrapped immediately. While bailable

cases were filed against the culprits, non-bailable cases were registered against the TDP leaders as part of the ongoing political vendetta.

Addressing a press conference here, the TDP leader said that at the DGP office, Guntur Urban SP Ammi Reddy stayed at the main gate and rolled a red carpet to YSRCP MLA Ramakrishna Reddy. The TDP MLAs and former ministers were made to wait outside on the road. This showed how the police were biased in favour of the Reddy leaders. Though such discrimination was being meted out, woman Home Minister was making baseless allegations about the self-

respect of the Dalits. In fact, the CM's Advisors were going to the Dalit HM's constituency and humiliating her by taking part in official programmes without her knowledge.

Anand Babu asserted that if the Dalits got self-respect, it happened during the regime of Chandrababu Naidu. He got the Lok Sabha Speaker post and the AP Assembly Speaker post for the Dalits. The Jagan Reddy regime was giving priority only to those who would commit atrocities, illegalities and who would use abusive and unparliamentary language. TDP Dalit MLA Dola Balaveeranjaneeya Swamy was disrespected at the DGP office.

SP Ammi Reddy used an ASI to file false cases against the TDP delegation.

The TDP leader said that the CM and his partymen were highly frustrated these days since their surveys had indicated a steep drop in their vote share from 50 percent to just 31 percent. No Chief Minister had faced such a fall in public support within two and half years of rule. As a result and left with no alternative, CM Jagan was calling back and falling back on election strategist Prashant Kishor. In the name of advance elections, the YSRCP leaders were getting ready to subject the people to another round of betrayals.

The TDP leader warned that all the erring police officials, who were crossing their limits and doing over action, would be made accountable in the future. Nobody would escape from their responsibility. There was a video footage of how Jogi Ramesh and his gang launched an unprovoked attack and injured TDP leaders. The atrocity cases were filed based on a complaint given by the MLA's car driver. The case was filed against 11 TDP leaders and some others. The ruling party leaders together with the police were hell bent on creating havoc and suppressing people with fear tactics.

Night curfew in AP extended till Sept 30

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government on Saturday issued orders extending night curfew from 11 pm to 6 am across the State till September 30. As per the orders, the government strictly stated that shops and establishments would be allowed to remain open after the curfew timings.

Even during the curfew relaxation hours from 6 am to 11 pm, shops and business establishments have to strictly implement Covid-19 rules and regulations. The order stated that strict action would be taken against those shops if they allowed customers without masks and did not adhere to Covid-19 guidelines.

Restriction orders on weddings and other functions also remain the same, with only 150 persons allowed. Following Covid-appropriate behaviour was a must at all congregations. Any violation will attract action under Sections 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code and other applicable laws.

The State government has advised people to comply with Covid-appropriate behaviour by wearing masks, maintaining social distance and washing hands frequently. The government has ordered imposition of fines on those who do not wear masks in offices, commercial complexes, shopping malls and other public places.

Mobile repair workshop for Volunteers on Sept 21, 22

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

With the increase in the number of complaints on mobile phones of the Ward and Village Volunteers in the district, Vizianagaram administration has arranged a massive mobile repair workshop on September 21 and 22.

The government has provided mobile phones to the volunteers to attend to daily work. The volunteers have saved the residents' numbers in their respective jurisdictions. As a part of their duty, the volunteers also saved the official numbers and reporting every day about their performance.

For the past several months, the volunteers have been lodging complaints that their mobile phones are not working properly. Leaving aside the technical problems of the mobile phones, the officials are pointing out the volunteers. The officials allege that some of the volunteers are deliberately not answering the phones in the name of non-functioning of mobile phones.

In this backdrop, the administration has arranged a two-day mobile repair workshop at Zilla Parishad office premises.

Joint Collector of Vizianagaram district Dr Mahesh Kumar called upon the volunteers to attend the mobile repair workshop.

YSRCP sweeps north coastal AP

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has bagged majority of the ZPTC segments to take over the Zilla Parishad Chairperson seats of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts. The YSRCP has registered stunning results in the ZPTC segments in the three districts and also almost 90 per cent of the MPTC seats.

The counting process of the MPTC and ZPTC elections was started in the morning under tight security arrangements. With the Covid-19 positive cases being reported among the counting agents on Friday night, the officials



allowed the agents into the counting halls after conducting rapid screening tests of Covid-19. The Opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) failed to open its account in the ZPTC segments.

According to the reports,

YSR Congress Party has won the ZPTCs 35 (39) in Visakhapatnam, 24 (38) in Srikakulam and 26 (34) in Vizianagaram districts. In the majority of the segments, the YSR Congress Party contestants are comfortably leading.



One-third of true-up charges to be borne by State government

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Even as the State government has come under fire for collecting true-up charges from the electricity consumers, the AP Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) said keeping in view the financial distress of the DISCOMs, they are permitted to collect the true-up charges in respect of their distribution business for the period 2015 to 2019 to the extent of Rs 3,669 crore.

"The APERC is always trying to balance the interest of consumers and the DISCOMs. Keeping in view the financial distress of the DISCOMs, they are permitted to collect the true-up charges in respect of their distribution business for the

period 2015 to 2019 to the extent of Rs 3,669 crore. The financial distress of the DISCOMs is not good for the State as well as to the consumers," the APERC said.

Out of the total true-up amount permitted to be collected from the consumers, approximately one-third of it, the State government will bear the burden in respect of farmers, eligible SC, ST, MBC, artisans, and other category consumers etc. Thus, out of a total of 1.86 crore consumers, 40 lakh consumers would benefit from the subsidies being provided by the State government, the APERC officials said.

According to APERC officials, the Commission, for the first time, has approved Rs

1,657 crore towards extending benefits directly to the different categories of eligible consumers under Section 65 as promised by the State government through different orders to make the process of passing government promised benefits to the eligible consumers hassle-free in the RST order for FY22.

"Protecting the consumers and strengthening the power utilities are the twin objectives of the Commission and the APERC is making every effort to be true to the regulatory role it has to play in the performance of its statutory functions and duties. As India's power sector is undergoing a noteworthy change, the Commission wants the power utilities to strive to lead the State in the rapid

growth of the power sector," said APERC Chairman Justice C V Nagarajuna Reddy.

With an objective to strengthen the DISCOMS, improve their performance and provide better services to electricity consumers, the APERC has decided to hold a state advisory meeting with newly appointed members.

A senior official of APERC said that the Commission will organise a state advisory committee meeting on Monday and mainly discuss reduction of cost of service (CoS), streamlining the power purchases, improvement of the performance of the DISCOMS, demand-side management and energy conservation and energy efficiency measures etc.



Counting of votes concludes on peaceful note in Prakasam



PNS ■ ONGOLE

The counting process for the ZPTC and MPTC elections concluded on a peaceful note in the district. Superintendent of police Malika Garg monitored the counting process from the command control room and inspected some counting centres.

The counting of votes was taken up in 12 centres in the morning which were connected to the command control room through CCTVs. The SP inspected four counting centres located at the QUIZ engineering college, DRRM municipal school and

PVR municipal high school. She reviewed the security arrangements and instructed the police to be on high alert to ensure that no untoward incident took place. She asked the officials to enforce Section 144 in the city.

Talking to the media, the SP said that the counting process was being monitored continuously by officials from the command control and surveillance and body-worn cameras were installed for the purpose. She also said that she had asked the officials not to permit to take out victory rallies and fire crackers.

YSRCP makes clean sweep

PNS ■ ONGOLE

The ruling YSRCP registered a landslide victory in the ZPTC and MPTC elections in Prakasam district by winning all the 41 ZPTCs and 320 MPTCs out of 368.

Making the predictions true, the YSRCP achieved a tremendous victory in the ZPTC and MPTC elections giving no chance to the Opposition parties including the TDP and Janasena

party.

The YSRCP has won all the 41 ZPTCs. It has also won 320 MPTCs out of the total 368 MPTCs while the TDP has won 33, CPI 1, CPM 1 and Independence 13.

Talking to the media, after counting of votes, Collector Pravin Kumar said that counting of votes was taken up in a transparent manner. The Collector said that the counting of votes was taken up in 12 counting centres

where 109 halls were set up for counting purposes.

The Collector personally inspected some of the counting centres including DRRM municipal high school, quiz engineering college. The Collector interacted with the counting officials and knew how the process was going on. The Collector also monitored the counting process through webcasting. The counting of votes concluded peacefully, officials said.



YSRCP lodges complaint against Ayyanna's remarks

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The ruling YSRCP MLAs and MLC lodged a complaint against former minister and TDP senior leader Ch Ayyannapatrudu for his obnoxious comments against the Chief Minister, Home Minister and other leaders.

YSRCP MLAs Dr. Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy, Bolla Brahma Naidu and MLC Janga Krishna Murthy gave a complaint to Narasaraopet DSP Vijay Bhaskar Rao against Ayyannapatrudu for his absurd and obnoxious com-

ments against Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, and other leaders. The YSRCP MLAs and MLC asked the DSP to arrest Ayyannapatrudu for his nasty and rude comments against the Chief Minister and other leaders.

Talking to the media on the occasion, MLC Krishna Murthy condemned the comments of Ayyannapatrudu. He said that the TDP leader's obnoxious comments against the CM and other ministers were shameful to the society. He made rude comments against not only the Chief Minister but also woman

Home Minister who belonging Dalit community. He also made humiliating remarks against the police officials, he regretted.

MLA Gopinath Reddy said that Ayyannapatrudu hurt the sentiments of 5 crore people by passing rude remarks against Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy. "The TDP leader is trying to create a law and order problem by making inciting statements. Criminal cases, SC/ST (Atrocities) cases should be registered against him. He should also be arrested," the YSRCP MLA demanded.

538 MPTC seats in YSRCP's kitty

PNS ■ KAKINADA

The ruling YSRCP was going to register a massive victory in the ZPTC, MPTC elections in East Godavari district. The counting of votes for 61 ZPTC posts and 999 MPTC seats began at 8 am on Sunday.

As against total 999 seats so far the results of 684 MPTC seats were declared of which major chunk of 538 seats were won by the ruling YSRCP, 72 TDP, Janasena 49, CPM 7, BJP 1, BSP 1, INC 1 while 15 seats went in favour of independents. Similarly of the total 61 ZPTC seats, results of 14 have been declared in which YSRCP has won 13 and TDP 1.

Significantly, When the election officials opened the ballot boxes they were shocked to see that rain water entered into boxes and the ballot papers soaked in water. The ballot boxes were kept in the strong room for about months result-

ing in water entered into boxes spoiling ballot papers.

The ballot boxes were preserved in a strong room and 24 hours security provided. They were monitored through the surveillance cameras round the clock, even though, the officials could not notice rain water entering into the boxes. This incident took place in the Rangaraya medical college. Ballot papers were found damaged probably by termites. The counting officials recorded how many ballot papers soaked in water and how many tottered in the presence of agents.

Interestingly, the officials broke open the strong room as the lock did not open. The officials said that this was the first time taking up counting of votes after six months of polling. Meanwhile, the counting staff went out of centres as they were not provided refreshments and lunch.

YSRCP registers tremendous win in ZPTC, MPTC polls in Guntur

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The ruling YSRCP emerged victorious in the ZPTC and MPTC elections in Guntur district by winning 44 ZPTCs including 8 unanimous and 495 MPTCs including 226 unanimous till 9 pm.

Elections were held for a total number of 571 MPTCs of which results were declared for 570. The YSRCP has won 495, TDP 57, Janasena 10 and CPM 1. Elections were held for a total number of 45 ZPTC of which the YSRCP

has won 44.

Collector Vivek Yadav monitored the counting process. He inspected the counting centres and gave instruction to the officials to maintain law and order at the counting centres. IGP Trivikram Varma, SPs Arif Hafeez and Vishal Gunni made elaborate security arrangements for the smooth conduct of counting. The official's continually monitor the counting process and inspect the centres. The counting process concluded with a peaceful note.



Impressive win for YSRCP in West Godavari district

PNS ■ ELURU

The ruling YSRCP has recorded an impressive win in the ZPTC and MPTC elections in WG district on Sunday.

Elections were held for 781 MPTCs of which results were declared to 735. The YSRCP has won 577, TDP 91, BJP 3,

Janasena 53, INC 3, independents 7 and others 3.

Elections were held for a total number of 45 ZPTCs of which results were declared for 37 seats. The YSRCP has won 35, TDP 1 and Janasena 1. The counting of votes concluded in a peaceful note and no untoward incident took place anywhere, officials said.

SHORT TAKES



44.5 kg ganja seized, 7 held

GUNTUR: The police seized 44.5 KGs of ganja while being transported to Chennai in a car illegally at JKC road here on Sunday. Police said that on a tip off, the police conducted checking of vehicles. They found 44.5 KGs of ganja, packed in 12 bundles, were being transported to Chennai in a car. The police arrested seven persons, seized the ganja, car and two motorcycles. The accused procured the ganja in Narsipatnam and Chintapalli in Visakhapatnam agency areas.

Three drown in canal

GUNTUR: Three persons were drowned in the branch canal at Challagundla village in Nekarikallu mandal and one of the bodies has been fished out. Police said that the deceased entered the canal on Sunday for a bath and drowned. The body of auto rickshaw driver Suresh was fished out. The other two drowned persons were identified as Ullangula Koteswara Rao (35) and Pagadala Ashok (35). A search was launched for the bodies.

Balapur laddu fetches Rs 18.90 L



HYDERABAD: Balapur Ganesh, Hyderabad's most popular 21-kg laddu, was on Sunday auctioned for an all-time record of Rs 18.90 lakh. Ramesh Yadav, a member of the AP Legislative Council, along with Marri Shashan Reddy, a businessman from Nadargul, bought the famous laddu. The bidding

started for Rs 1,116 and within a few minutes it was auctioned for the highest-ever bid amid loud cheers by hundreds of devotees. Yadav termed this as a gift to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Kolanu Ram Reddy, a businessman and an agriculturist who bought the laddu for Rs 17.60 lakh in 2019, also participated in the auction this year along with many others State Education Minister P Sabitha Indra Reddy, former MLA T Krishna Reddy and several other politicians were present to witness the auction.



'Jumbo yatra' on despite intermittent rains in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A mammoth Ganesh immersion procession was underway in Hyderabad on Sunday amid massive security arrangements and despite intermittent rains.

Thousands of devotees were participating in the programmes across the city to bid adieu to Ganesh while about 27,000 security personnel were deployed as part of the elaborate arrangements for smooth and peaceful conduct of the annual rituals.

Amid chanting of slogans, devotees were carrying thousands of idols to Hussain Sagar lake and more than more than 50 other lakes and ponds in and around the city.

'Shoba yatra', as the immersion procession is called, was underway amidst intermittent rains in Hyderabad. Hundreds of trucks were heading towards Hussain Sagar and other lakes amid the rains.

The Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi, the organisers of the procession, set up special platforms at Charminar and Moazzam Jahi Market to welcome idols.

About 27,000 policemen were deployed under the limits of Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda police commissionerates as nearly 40,000 idols will be immersed in Hussain Sagar and other lakes.

Director General of Police M



Mahender Reddy said they were monitoring the processions through use of technology. He said monitoring was being done from police station level to city, district and the state level through CCTV cameras linked to control rooms.

Animal Husbandry Minister T Srinivas Yadav sailed in a boat to see the immersion points and the steps taken to deal with any emergency.

The massive procession with large idols began from Balapur on the outskirts of the city while dozens of processions joined it enroute. The procession moved through communally sensitive old city including historic Charminar, MJ Market and Basheerbagh before reaching Hussain Sagar in the heart of the city.

Idols larger than 10 feet were being immersed from Tank Bund side while smaller idols were diverted to other points around

Hussain Sagar. Hyderabad's tallest idol from Khairatabad reached Hussain Sagar in the afternoon. The 40-feet tall and 23-feet wide idol was brought to NTR Marg, where it was immersed with the help of a huge crane. The last journey of the idol began at 8.18 am. Thousands of devotees turned up for the last puja at the pandal and also at the lake.

"The biggest Ganesh idol, the Khairatabad Ganesh, was finally immersed. What an herculean task executed with absolute precision. Kudos to the organisers, technicians, crane operators and all stakeholder government departments," tweeted Additional Commissioner of Police Shikha Goel.

The mammoth procession has brought the entire city to a halt. GHMC has installed 330 cranes of various capacities at 33 lakes and 25 special ponds created for immersion.



INDIA CORNER Delhi BJP expels 3 councillors for 6 years over 'graft charges'

Cracking the whip over complaints of corruption, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta on Sunday expelled three municipal councillors from the party for six years, and said more heads will roll if they are found involved in financial irregularities. Gupta termed the action, coming months ahead of the three municipal corporations early next year, as BJP's "zero tolerance" policy. "Not just councillors but officers of the municipal corporations (MCDs) will also not be spared if they are found involved in corruption," Gupta told PTI. He said people should make videos if anyone "extorts" money from them in the name of MCDs and provide it to Delhi BJP so that FIR can be registered against them. The councillors who have been removed from the party over graft charges are Sadulajab councillor Sanjay Thakur in South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), New Ashok Nagar councillor Rajni Babloo Pandey in East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) and Mukherjee Nagar councillor Pooja Madan in North Delhi Municipal Corporation, according to the orders issued by Delhi BJP president.



UP govt should answer people's questions: Priyanka Gandhi

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday attacked the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, alleging that it had "failed" on several counts such as giving jobs to people, dues to farmers and in reining in price rise. The Congress general secretary said the Uttar Pradesh government should have answered people's questions on its four-and-a-half years in power, but it is continuing to peddle "lies, lies and more lies". She was referring to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's remarks on Sunday that Uttar Pradesh remained riot-free while the governance saw a total changeover from the past providing benefits of welfare schemes directly to the deserving. In a tweet in Hindi, Gandhi said, "On giving jobs to lakhs and filling up vacant posts, in giving dues on sugarcane, wheat, paddy, potato to the farmers, in reducing electricity prices, in reining in price rise, UP government failed". In another tweet, she alleged, "What did the BJP government make Uttar Pradesh, number 1 in malnutrition, number 1 in crimes against women, number 1 in kidnappings, number 1 in murder cases, number 1 in atrocities against Dalits."



TN govt's preventive measures kept Zika, Nipah virus at bay: Minister

Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian on Sunday said as a result of the stringent preventive measures taken by the government, Zika and Nipah virus were not able to enter the state from neighbouring Kerala. With Kerala reporting Nipah virus cases which resulted in the death of a boy, the government has been monitoring the situation by setting up 13 check-posts in Coimbatore district which is close to Kerala on the directives of Chief Minister, M K Stalin, the minister told reporters here. "The stringent preventive measures taken by the Tamil Nadu government, including setting up of check-posts in the border areas with Kerala ensured that Nipah and Zika virus could not enter the state," he added. Those entering the state from Kerala had to undergo RT-PCR tests and carry vaccination certificates and were sent back if they failed the test and did not carry the certificates, he said, adding despite strict restrictions Kerala was reporting more than 20,000 positive Covid-19 cases each day. Subramanian inaugurated a mega vaccination camp at a government hospital in nearby Pollachi and also opened two oxygen generators-one 1,000 LPM at a cost of Rs one crore with financial support from the Central government and another 660 LPM with CSR Assistance from ACT Grants.



Uttarakhand: Kejriwal promises jobs, dole

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday promised to take big steps to end migration from Uttarakhand, assuring an unemployment allowance and an 80 per cent job quota for people of the state if his party comes to power in the next assembly elections.

Making six promises, Kejriwal said every youth of Uttarakhand would get employment if the AAP is voted to power, and assured a monthly allowance of Rs 5,000 to an individual from every family till they got a job.

He also promised to reserve 80 per cent of both private and government jobs for the people of the state and to create one lakh employment opportunities within six months of coming to power.

A job portal, on the lines of the one in Delhi, will be launched which will provide an interactive platform to job seekers and employers, Kejriwal said, addressing a press conference in Haldwani.

A separate ministry will also be created to address the issues of unemployment and migration, the Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor added.

Kejriwal also accused successive governments of doing nothing but looting Uttarakhand's resources for years.

If voted to power, the AAP will take big steps for large-



scale creation of jobs and prevention of migration from the hills, he said.

Referring to his earlier promises of free electricity to farmers round the clock and 300 units of power to every household at no cost, Kejriwal said all these are meant to be fulfilled.

"Unlike others, we do what we say. We are going to keep all our promises. If we say we will give free power to farmers 24x7 or give 300 units of power for free, we mean it. We have done it in Delhi, and we will do it here," he added.

He asserted that all of what he has said can be done and the only thing needed is good intention.

"Successive governments in Uttarakhand have been devoid of good intentions and have only looted its resources," Kejriwal alleged.

"When we came to power in Delhi in 2015, we were asked from where would we bring the money that was needed to keep the commitments we had made to people. But we turned a deficit budget into one of profit within four years. All we did was wipe out corruption and everything else followed," he said.

Kejriwal said the AAP has run Delhi and it will bring that experience to serve the people of Uttarakhand.

Seventy-three per cent of

people in Delhi are getting free electricity, he said, adding that the Delhi model of development will be adopted in Uttarakhand.

Giving an example of how the Delhi government was saving money on every development project, he said a bridge estimated to be built at a cost of Rs 325 crore was built in Rs 200 crore only.

Given an opportunity, the AAP will help the people of Uttarakhand overcome the misery of 21 years in just 21 months.

If people want all this to happen, they must give AAP's chief ministerial candidate Col Ajay Kothiyal a chance, Kejriwal added.

7 children have succumbed to viral fever in Agra

PNS ■ AGRA

Seven children have died due to viral fever in Uttar Pradesh's Agra district so far in September, a senior officer said on Sunday.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Arun Kumar Srivastav also dismissed reports stating that two children succumbed to dengue in Fatehpur Sikri.

Talking to PTI, Srivastav said seven children have succumbed to viral fever in Agra so far this month.

While a 14-year-old boy died in Chachiha village on Sunday morning, two siblings died in Fatehpur Sikri's Rasoolpur village on Saturday evening, he said.

Two deaths were reported from Giriraj Dham Colony under Itmad-ud-Daulah police station area and one death was reported from Nunhai locality on Thursday. One child died in Khadia village of Khandoli, he added.

"The peculiar thing about this fever is that we are getting very little time for treatment and people are dying quickly," the CMO claimed.

Srivastav dismissed reports claiming that dengue was the cause of the two deaths reported from Rasoolpur and said that the children died due to viral fever. The CMO said Agra has reported 61 dengue cases so far this year. While 41 patients have recovered, 20 are undergoing treatment at government hospitals.

He appealed to people to immediately visit a government hospital or a community health centre in case they experience symptoms like high fever, vomiting and dizziness.



Adityanath releases report card; says UP has seen transformation

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh remained riot-free since 2017 while governance saw a complete transformation from the past with welfare schemes now reaching the deserving and the state emerging as number two in the ease of doing business, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Sunday while making public the report card of his rule of four-and-half years.

The BJP government has fulfilled every promise mentioned in the Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra in 2017, he said and voiced confidence that the party tally will cross 350 seats in the 403-member House in the 2022 assembly polls.

The chief minister also hit out at the opposition, saying they were busy building their houses when they were in power and indulged in corruption for transfer and postings while the state was seen as a laggard in development and its image linked with riots.

Uttar Pradesh is now number one in implementing 44 central schemes be it the PM Awas Yojna or construction of toilets in the households and its image is no longer liked with

riots due to effective and transparent governance, Adityanath said at a press conference while listing the achievements in various fields including development, law and order and handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Unlike them (previous governments), we did not make luxurious houses for ourselves. Our government focused on building houses for the poor," he said, taking a veiled dig at his predecessor Akhilesh Yadav.

"Government bungalows were demolished, and there was a competition to build houses for themselves as well as huge havelis (mansions). But the four-and-half years were dedicated to good governance. And we did not build houses for ourselves, but for 42 lakh poor people of the state," he said. He said criminals were firmly dealt with irrespective of their caste and religion to provide a safe and secure environment in the state.

"UP remained free from any riots during four-and-half years unlike in the past when there used to be communal clashes every 3-4 days," the chief minister said.

He also claimed the govern-

ment displayed sensitivity at every level.

Facing criticism over the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, the chief minister pointed out that the state has the highest number of tests and vaccinations and is among those with the lowest positivity rates.

He said the investors' confidence in the state is growing and UP has emerged as number 2 in the country in terms of ease of doing business. Accusing the previous SP government of shuffling officials frequently, Adityanath said, "Transfer and posting had assumed the shape of an industry in the previous (SP) government. Every post was sold."

"Earlier, the officials were shuffled like a pack of cards. But in the past four-and-half years, no person can level allegations of exchange of money for posting."

A booklet titled 'Vikaas ke lahar, har gaav har shahr' which listed achievements of the UP government was also released on the occasion.

"In the 2022 Assembly elections, BJP will win 350 seats (out of 403 seats), and there should be no doubts on this," the chief minister said.



Mumbaikars bid adieu to Lord Ganesh; over 450 idols immersed

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A total of 466 idols of Lord Ganesh and Goddess Gauri were immersed till Sunday noon in various water bodies in Mumbai as curtains came down on the 10-day Ganapati festival held amid various restrictions imposed for the second year in a row in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, a civic official said.

No untoward incident was reported till now during the immersions, he said.

The festival, which in normal times used to witness large gatherings and long queues on streets outside public mandals which host the celebrations, began on September 10.

This year, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation set up artificial lakes at 173 locations in the city, as well as idol collection centres and mobile immersion sites at various places to avoid crowding in the wake of the pandemic, the BMC official said.

Besides, there were 73 locations of immersion at natural water bodies in the city civic limits and at all these places necessary arrangements were made by the BMC, he said.

Till 12 noon, 17 idols of 'sarvajani' (public) mandals, 444

household Ganesh idols and five idols of Goddess Gauri were immersed in various water bodies here.

Out of these idols, nine of public pandals, 162 household idols and three of Goddess Gauri were immersed in the artificial ponds, the official said.

The BMC also deployed 715 lifeguards at various natural and artificial immersion sites, he said, adding that 587 steel plates were set up at the natural sites so that vehicles coming for immersions could be temporarily removed.

The civic body also arranged 338 Nirmalya kalash (containers to collect offerings like flowers and other items), 182 Nirmalya vehicles, 185 control rooms, 144 first-aid centers, 39 ambulances were arranged.

Also, 145 reception rooms, 84 temporary toilets, 3,707 flood lights, 116 search lights, 48 observation towers and 36 motor boats and 30 German rafts were facilitated at natural immersion sites, besides other electrical arrangements.

The BMC had issued guidelines to public mandals to minimise donation of garlands at the idols installed at their pandals.

Man arrested for duping job aspirants of Rs 2.4 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Economic Offences Wing has arrested a 43-year-old man for allegedly being part of a racket that duped around 40 people on the pretext of getting them jobs in the Railways, officials said on Sunday. Accused Mohammad Raghbi Firoz of Greater Noida holds a post-graduate degree in psychology and a diploma in journalism and mass communication, they said.

He coordinated all activities of the racket, including collection of money from victims, filling of various forms regarding

appointment and training, besides other miscellaneous affairs in the commission of the economic offence, police said.

Two people, Brij Kishore and Sachin Kumar, were arrested in the case earlier, they said.

The police said around 40 job aspirants were cheated to the tune of Rs 2.44 crore by the accused. Most of the victims come from poor families in villages around Agra, Hathras and Patna.

According to the police, one of the accused would pose as an IAS officer and lie to the victims about good acquaintance and liaison with the Railway Board,

while others organised bogus job training sessions for them.

Fake appointment and training letters were issued, fake medical examinations conducted and three months' job training was also organised in Dehradun to earn their trust, said R K Singh, Additional Commissioner of Police (Economic Offences Wing).

Investigations revealed that the victims had no idea about the whereabouts of the accused, except for their phone numbers. They used to meet them at Paharganj hotels and near the Railway Bhawan in Delhi, the senior police officer said.

Treasure hunt at Emar Mutt in Jagannath Temple for lost hoard

PNS ■ PURI

A treasure hunt has started at the Emar Mutt (Monastery), located in the southeastern corner of the 12th Jagannath Mandir, with teams of archeologists armed with metal detectors searching for a lost hoard.

The search started on Thursday is being carried out following a request by the Narayan Ramanuj Das, the Mahant (head) of Uttarparshwa Mutt, who is in charge of Emar Mutt. The Mutt authorities as well as historians suspect that a hoard of valuables is buried inside the premises.

The belief that a stash is buried underground comes from discoveries of two earlier troves. In 2011, the police had stumbled on a treasure trove of 522 silver ingots weighing 18 tonnes inside the Mutt worth about Rs 90 crore.



Earlier in April this year 45 more silver ingots weighing about 35 kg each were found inside the Mutt. Apart from silver ingots, a silver tree and silver flowers, about 16 antique swords, and a bronze cow sculpture were also recovered from the Mutt, established by Ramanujacharya in 1050 when he came to Puri.

A special team of the State Archaeology Department in pres-

ence of officials of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Puri district collector Samarth Verma, Puri SP KV Singh and trust member of the Emar Mutt, began the search inside the premises of the Emar Mutt in the pilgrim town on Thursday to trace hidden valuables.

Puri Sub-Collector, Bhabataran Sahu said: "As of now, no material was detected during Thursday's

4 die in car-truck collision in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Four people were killed when their car collided with a truck in Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan, the police said on Sunday. The incident occurred on the Rawatsar-Hanumangarh Mega highway, Station House officer (SHO), Rawatsar police station, Ashok Bishnoi said. The deceased have been identified as Rajat, Neeraj, Rudraksh and Hemant, all aged between 17-20 years, he said. The bodies have been handed over to family members after post-mortem.

Security forces use pump action guns to kill low-flying drones

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Security forces that guard vital installations, airports and even their own camps have been directed to use rubber bullets bearing pump action guns to neutralise low-flying drones till an appropriate technology is found to thwart such aerial attacks, official sources said.

Also, forces like the Border Security Force (BSF) have recently installed an improvised iron pole mounted light machine gun (LMG) observation post at some of its border deployments against Pakistan to take a 360 degrees aim and shoot down drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) flying at a high altitude, they said.

A latest blueprint prepared by central security agencies to counter the emerging drone threat has been reviewed by PTI and it directs security forces to use PAGs (pump action guns) that are already available in their armoury for "neutralising any low-flying UAV".

Following the directive, the central forces deployed for internal security have begun allocating PAGs to their units vulnerable to drone threats, including those deployed for anti-Naxal operations.

"Till a complete technology solution is found for effectively checking and neutralising a drone attack, the security forces have been asked to use what is available with them, like the PAGs."

"Those who do not have adequate numbers of these non-

lethal weapons have been asked to procure them," a senior Union home ministry officer said.

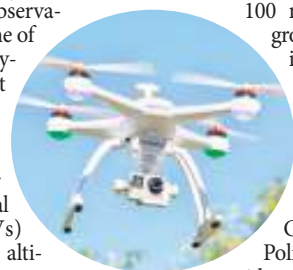
He said the security units deployed for counter-terrorist duties in Kashmir and those guarding airport boundaries have also been asked to provide these arms to their sentries deployed for observation and protection of the camps.

"It has been found that rubber pellets fired by the PAGs can effectively bring down a drone that is flying low at about 60-100 meters from the ground and attempting to either drop bombs or to conduct reconnaissance of the camp area or the installation," an officer from a Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) said.

For example, he said, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) guards a number of airports and facilities in the power and nuclear domain where there are either people living close to the boundary or there is vehicular movement, and hence using a lethal weapon like an INSAS rifle can cause collateral damage and injure a person.

Hence, the officer said it has been advised that if low-flying drones are detected, they should be shot using the PAGs and save larger damage to the facility and those present there.

"Various CAPFs like the CRPF, ITBP, SSB and the CISF have their camps in risk-prone areas and hence they have been advised to use pump action guns to protect their camps from drone bombings or surveillance sorties," a third officer said.



Uncertainty

The Chief Ministers in several States are a harried lot, unsure of their longevity in office

Most Chief Ministers in India today are a harried lot. Captain Amarinder Singh, for instance, felt “humiliated” by the way he was told to go. He resigned as the Punjab Chief Minister but is still with the Congress. Now “they can name as CM anyone they want”, he said, betraying his hurt. He is the first Congress Chief Minister in recent years to be sacked in a machination typical of the party. It is *déjà vu* of the 1980s and 1990s when the Chief Ministers in Congress-ruled States called themselves State guests, certain that the “high command” would any day parachute their replacements. The *modus operandi* has not changed. The only difference today is that the Congress is left with very few Chief Ministers to replace. Three, to be precise. Such is the fear of the parachuting business, even the Chief Ministers with the majority of MLAs supporting them are apprehensive. The Punjab example would surely have stirred some fears in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. The BJP is not far behind when it comes to playing the replacement game. Vijay Rupani, Trivendra Singh Rawat, Tirath Singh Rawat and BS Yediyurappa were asked to resign in Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Karnataka. In Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal was asked to shift to Delhi, giving the job to Himanta Biswa Sarma after the Assembly elections. After Narendra Modi came to power, as many as 22 Chief Ministers were handpicked and sent to the BJP-ruled States, confirming who the Chief Ministers are beholden to.



A Chief Minister’s post, as these incumbents would have realised by now, is not dependent on their abilities to govern or garner the backing of legislators. It entirely depends on the party leadership’s primary intent of winning elections and, thereafter, tackling dissent. Many of these Chief Ministers share certain characteristics. Not all of them are leaders in their own right or have a mass base or caste-based support the party cannot ignore. Many are novices where party politics is concerned. Nearly all of them are of seasonal utility for their leadership. On the other hand, those who have these abilities make Chief Ministers of a different kind. Two kinds, actually. One, like the late YS Rajasekhara Reddy of Andhra Pradesh, the mass-based leader who was not overruled by the “high command” because he wielded the power to singlehandedly deliver the State to the Congress in two successive elections. He made a satrapy of the party in the State, took care of the party’s national coffers and brooked no interference from Delhi. The other kind is the regional satrap, who branched out from a national party only to wipe its presence from a State, introduced a brand of individualised politics and who is her/his own “high command”. These Chief Ministers, whether in Telangana, West Bengal, Odisha or Tamil Nadu, are in a position to eventually introduce the principle of heredity in their States; thus no less powerful or dynastic than their former “high commands”.

PICTALK



Devotees carry idols of Lord Ganesha to immerse them to mark Ganesh Chaturthi, in Ahmedabad

Building defence of peace in mind

Several philosophical ideas have deep roots in Indian soil, and stand dynamically enriched by the great tradition of quest for knowledge



JS RAJPUT

The creation of the UN on October 24, 1945, was an outcome of aspirations of anguished humanity that has suffered WWI and WWII, and gone through unprecedented sufferings, devastation and destruction. Humanity needed a healing touch and a forum for civilised discourse and, above all, articulation of creating a value-based society that would strive to give due dignity to every human being, that would emphasise the equality of all human beings irrespective of race, colour, caste, creed, affiliation, religion, or any other diversity. This could be possible only when an empathetic human community is created globally, one that acknowledges the core human values: Truth, peace, nonviolence, righteous conduct and love. The essence was well articulated in Unesco’s emblem: “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of man that defence of peace must be constructed.” Truth, or the search for truth, is just not possible unless the other four of the five values mentioned above are also accepted and put to practice in daily life.

After over seven decades of the UN’s establishment, the mandate to achieve an attitudinal transformation amongst humanity seems to have been forgotten. It is violence, terrorism, fundamentalism, distrust and a vulgar pursuit of destructive weaponry all around. The human mind has been studied seriously by modern sciences; it has its intuitional comprehensions contained in ancient treatises. Swami Vivekananda was perfectly logical and scientifically accurate when he mentioned: “The true basis of education is the study of the human mind — infant, adolescent and adult. Any system of education founded on theories of academic perfection, which ignores the instrument of study, is more likely to hamper and impair intellectual growth than to produce a perfect and perfectly equipped mind.” Obviously, the damage has been inflicted on generations that have been educated and evaluated on much sought after academic excellence, confined to a curriculum, textbooks and examinations that expect reproduction of the answer as “given in the textbook”. The pragmatic



objectives of education were limited to rote learning and learning for examinations, and marks were the only measure of the level of the learner’s excellence. It has to be replaced by conceptual understanding and critical thinking in a learning environment characterised by nourishing of inherent curiosity and creativity.

The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) in the third decade of the 21st century derives its sustenance from the philosophical ideas that have deep roots in India, and stand dynamically enriched by the great tradition of knowledge quest that evolved in the Gurukul system and led to the creation of institutions like Taxila, Vikramshila and Nalanda. These could set the highest standards of multidisciplinary teaching and research which attracted seekers of knowledge from various countries. Effortlessly, though very clearly and from the beginning, the Indian tradition of education and learning entrenched the importance of man-nature mutuality in the mind of the learner. The rich heritage of ancient and eternal Indian knowledge has been the guiding light for this policy. The pursuit of knowledge (*Jnan*),



THE AIM OF EDUCATION IN ANCIENT INDIA WAS NOT JUST THE ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE AS PREPARATION FOR LIFE IN THIS WORLD, OR LIFE BEYOND SCHOOLING, BUT FOR COMPLETE REALISATION AND LIBERATION OF THE SELF

wisdom (*Pragya*) and truth (*Satya*) was always considered in Indian philosophy as the highest human goal. The aim of education was not just the acquisition of knowledge as preparation for life in this world, or life beyond schooling, but for complete realisation and liberation of the self. The depiction of divinity in nature, a great strength of the Indian tradition and unique to it in several ways, is being viewed with considerable awe by those willing to find solutions to global concerns like pollution, climate change and the impending water crisis. The symphony of the process of education, creation and generation of knowledge and its use were so established that the essence of it reached everybody in society. At the highest level of intellectual effort, the knowledge on trees and plants was created, keeping in view its utility in public welfare. Even today, one can see how people are conscious of such classifications. And all this is found scientifically accurate!

The challenge emerges from the realisation that the traditional knowledge transfer was disturbed for various reasons, coupled with the shameless plundering of natural resources. The globalised world is now

facing its consequences. India accepts the need to relate its education system to homegrown philosophy and practices that, in this specific context, includes “*Aparigraha*”, re-articulated by Mahatma Gandhi as an eternal truth that could save mankind: “Nature has sufficient resources to meet the need of everyone, but not the greed of anyone.”

Wars begin in the minds of human beings; the initiatives for “constructing the defence of peace” must begin in the early years and continue all along. The realisation of this aspect is one of the most outstanding inclusions in NEP-2020. For the first time in contemporary education, the importance of the first eight years in schools beginning from 3+ has been acknowledged, and the entire school system shall be reorganised accordingly. India shall prepare a generation of young persons whose mind “would not be a dustbin to keep anger, hatred and jealousy”. It would be filled with love, nonviolence, empathy, compassion and dharma. That could attract the whole world towards Indian institutions once again.

(The author works in education, social cohesion and religious amity. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COLD SHOULDER TO AN ALLY

Sir — The recent formation of AUKUS, where Australia is thrilled to get strategic technology transfer from the US and UK, has surprised the world and angered France. The trio of Australia, UK and the US is strategically significant for the Indo-Pacific region. But the disregard of France by Australia on the sidelines of AUKUS may develop a rift in the relationship of like-minded countries. Almost all major powerful nations in the world, especially the western, are worried about China’s growing influence.

Australia’s admission into the AUKUS is questionable in geopolitical relevance. France is also one among the major countries who strictly took actions against terrorism, radical Islamist views, expansionist ideology, and bodies that are against free and open Indo-Pacific. The US must rethink which nations must be included and which must be excluded. In the same way, Australia must also negotiate with France with respect to the economically important deals. The world today needs collaboration, not isolation or backstabbing an ally. It is welcoming that new partnerships are being created for international development, but geopolitical rift must also be avoided for sustainable development for all.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

LURES WORTH FALLING FOR?

Sir — It refers to pre-poll announcements about free electricity upto 300 units, cancellation of all pending electricity bills and free electricity for agriculture in Uttar Pradesh and some other States by the Aam Aadmi Party. But in practice, this results in heavy electricity bills for others out of which the worst sufferer is the mute category of honest middle-income taxpayers because any such heavy dose of electricity bill does not affect the affluent section of society. On the contrary, many take different electricity connections in the name of different members of the family to get free electricity in multiples of 300 units. The Election Commission should take such pre-poll announcements as

Rift within consumes the Captain



It is hard to believe that Captain’s position became untenable because a majority of MLAs have turned against him. More than the infighting, it was the high command’s preference for the maverick cricketer-turned-politician, his elevation as the PCC president and freedom given to him to undercut the Chief Minister’s authority that cost Captain the job. Captain preserved his dignity and reputation; he paled visibly at his forced exit; he had reason to feel wronged and hurt, more so when he per-

formed well, even if not outstandingly and prevented anti-incumbency perceptibly setting in; his grievance that he was ‘humiliated’ might win him public sympathy.

The ouster of the Punjab satrap just four months before the election has created a fluid political situation in Punjab. Sidhu’s popularity in electoral terms remains untested so far. How things will pan out with Sukhjinder Randhawa as the next Chief Minister remains to be seen. The BJP has angered farmers by passing the three farm laws so much that it is in no position to take advantage of the present political turmoil. It is hard for the Akali Dal to emerge as a choice for being voted to power when its loss of favour with the electorate is so complete. Perhaps the AAP stands to gain from the turn of events in Punjab; it can now fancy its chances. But then it too is not free from the bane of internal squabbles.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

unfair practice to lure voters.

It is unfair that people with large families take advantage of free medicines in hospitals of Delhi Government while middle-income small families bear additional tax-burden because of such freebies enjoyed by those with large families. Instead, social and religious organisations like the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, Rotary Clubs etc. should be provided space to open shops of generic medicines to be sold at a no-profit, no-loss basis. If the Government is unable to stop such freebies, it is for the Supreme Court to stop such schemes.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal | Delhi

THE SHASTRI SAGA COMES TO AN END

Sir — Hats off to RJ Shastri for his role as India’s chief cricket coach as he helped improve the attitude and performance of Indian players and turned them into a world-class team. He made the likes of R Ashwin work hard in multiple home series with long bowling spells, which helped the

Indian team win most of the home series. And, his overseas performance improved a lot in recent years. He remains unperturbed during tight situations and played his role as a cool coach.

Watching Shastri grow from a lanky left-arm spinner into an allrounder who opened the innings for India in Tests and then crowned as Champion of Champions was a stunning transformation. Ravi Shastri is surely one of the most successful cricketer-cum-coaches who set higher standards for himself and players around him. During Shastri’s tenure, India also recorded T20 series wins in South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and England. In his last assignment in England, his book launch at the time of pandemic and some of his partial acts like dropping Ashwin hastened his exit after a successful stint as a coach.

MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

I hope that Captain Amarinder Singh ji will not take any such step which will harm the Congress party.

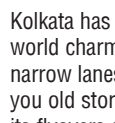


Rajasthan Chief Minister —Ashok Gehlot



I have initiated a dialogue with the Taliban for an inclusive Afghan Govt to include the Tajiks, Hazaras and Uzbeks.

Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan



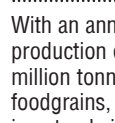
Kolkata has an old-world charm...its narrow lanes tell you old stories, and its flyovers show how modern the city is.

Actor —Yami Gautam



Disappointed waking up to the news of the cancellation of the Pakistan Vs New Zealand series because of security issues.

Former West Indies captain —Darren Sammy



With an annual production of 308 million tonnes of foodgrains, India is not only in the realm of food security, but is also catering to the needs of other countries.

Union Agriculture Minister —Narendra Singh Tomar

Jumping ship

Babul Supriyo joining the TMC is likely to boost the party’s prospects rather than his own

It happened rather suddenly, with nobody even in the BJP’s Bengal unit and political pundits knowing about it. The BJP’s star campaigner and once Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s blue-eyed boy joined the Trinamool Congress. He joined the party in the presence of its national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and sent shockwaves in the Bengal BJP. Though he had withdrawn from “active politics” after being removed from the Environment Ministry, no one anticipated such a move. He had hinted that he would also resign his Parliament seat. This, however, was averted after JP Nadda persuaded him to continue as the Member of Parliament from Asansol. More than anything else, it is going to cause a demoralising effect on the BJP. The TMC hardly gains anything from inducting Babul Supriyo in its ranks. Reason — Babul may have overshot his political expiry. He lost by over 50,000 votes in the recent Bengal elections when he fought on the BJP’s ticket. Nevertheless, the TMC might be thinking of sending him to the Rajya Sabha.



Arpita Ghosh, a Rajya Sabha member of the TMC, has been made to resign by the party. Babul Supriyo might be the new TMC entry into the Rajya Sabha.

After a spectacular victory in the Assembly elections, the TMC’s ambitions are soaring and it is spreading its wings to fly higher. On the one hand, it is trying to make a mark in national politics by courting various national parties and, on the other, it is making inroads into nearby States like Assam and Tripura. Babul Supriyo may not be important for the TMC in the byelections for vote-catching where Mamata Banerjee would be seeking people’s mandate but he can certainly be a trigger for others to leave their party and join the TMC. Four MLAs have already left the BJP and joined the party. It is a huge perception victory and morale booster for the TMC’s workers. It could even boost the party’s prospects in Assam and Tripura, where the TMC wants to fan out. An additional advantage is Babul’s Asansol parliamentary seat which, after his resignation, is going to fall into the lap of the Trinamool Congress. However, this ‘shifting loyalty syndrome’ does no good to the people or the cause of democracy. It shows the leaders in poor light; actually, it is tantamount to cheating and stealing people’s mandate.

FIRST COLUMN

CONSUMERS EASY PREY TO FOOT THE BILL

A reduction in retail fuel prices is possible if additional excise duties are rolled back



AMIYA KUMAR SAHU

Petrol and diesel prices have remained close to Rs. 100 for about 10 weeks since July 8, 2021. The impact of this has been on fuel inflation (Wholesale Price Index) which averaged at more than 25 percent for the last five months.

The international crude oil price, however, reveals a different picture. Brent crude oil prices fell from \$77.16 to \$65.18 between July 5 and Aug 20, a reduction of over 15 percent. In layman's terms, the price of petrol in India could have been decreased to ₹85.

Back in 2017, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were given a free hand to follow dynamic fuel pricing to make their operations more efficient. Why the OMCs have stopped daily price revisions is a mystery. Is it because they are still controlled by the government which has a majority stake in them?



The RBI has also warned that high prices would trigger higher inflation which would affect growth. But it seems the government has decided to continue milking the cash cows — the consumers.

While protection of consumers' interests necessitates government interventions, a reduction of the high prices seems to be far from reality. In May last year, the government imposed additional excise duty on both petrol and diesel, which included road and infrastructure cess - an additional revenue worth ₹1.6 lakh crore. Since the country was forced into a pandemic-induced lockdown, it made commonsense as well as economic sense, then. The fiscal situation was expected to be tight.

However, since May 2020, the total taxes on petrol have crossed ₹50 per litre. It was a paltry ₹9.48 per litre when the BJP government replaced UPA II in 2014. Is the government still expecting the fiscal situation to be similar to last year's? Let's look at the GST data which might give a clue in support of this.

Back in April 2020, when India was under a complete shutdown, the GST revenue collections fell to ₹32,294 crores from ₹97,597 crores. However, from March to August 2021, the GST collected has been ₹6,98,257 crores. This was a jump of more than 50 percent compared to the same period in the previous year.

The USD/INR exchange rate also has been favourable to import bills of crude oil. The exchange rate corrected from a peak of ₹77.10/USD in April 2020 to ₹72.26/ USD in March 2021. It now is ranging between ₹73 to ₹75.

A reduction in retail prices is unquestionably possible. All that needs to be done is to roll back additional excise duties. At present, the total excise duty on petrol exceeds ₹37 per litre. The other alternative is to bring the petroleum products under GST.

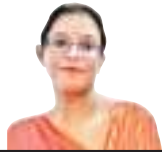
Since the government has remained stubborn after numerous pleas for a reduction in the petrol and diesel prices, a set of new questions arise: Is the government planning to put up a surplus budget in February 2022? Is it anticipating a severe third wave and lockdown similar to last year? Larger subsidy amounts are likely to be given to the poor?

Let's evaluate another argument. Higher prices would reduce consumption of the fossil fuel and help reduce global warming. But we need to reduce dependency on personal vehicles and move to large-scale adoption of public transport. But mass-rapid transport systems are not effective. If the government wants to promote electric vehicles, then we don't have the technology, capacity to produce in large quantities, and required infrastructure for re-charging battery-run vehicles.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Goa Institute of Management, Goa. The views expressed are personal.)

‘Cabbage tactic’ to seize waters

India should be wary of China using the ‘cabbage tactic’ in the Indian Ocean region the same way it tries to grab islands in the South China Sea



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

This week will witness Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting in person with the leaders of Australia and Japan, apart from the US, a move that holds significant importance and may perhaps change India's foreign policy contours. The meeting comes in the backdrop of Australia's alliance with the UK and the US - AUKUS -- which aims to provide nuclear submarines to Canberra.

Quad and AUKUS objectively overlap with India's maritime security interests in the South China Sea (SCS). Almost 50 per cent of India's global trade transits through the SCS region. The governments of Quad focus on the freedom of navigation on high seas as a legitimate right. Beijing has actively adopted a “cabbage tactic”, which is multi-layered, to increase its leverage by capturing the SCS. This vital trade route also happens to be a potential source of natural resources such as hydrocarbons. For this purpose, it builds artificial islands by claiming its “historic rights” and then legislate-unusual domestic laws on it to exercise its “sovereignty” over them. The “cabbage tactic” is used to take control of an island by surrounding it in multiple layers of fishing boats, coast guard ships and Chinese naval and military ships to cut off the island from outside support. The more significant motive, of course, is occupying as much space as possible by threatening other countries.

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) does not have a provision to address the issues regarding construction, maintenance and militarization of artificial islands beyond a state's “territorial waters”. Article 60 (1) of the UNCLOS allow for artificial islands only in the Exclusive Economic Zone. Artificial islands of China beyond its territorial waters are thus farcing.

The International Court of Justice asserted the same in its 2016 arbitration, which Beijing refuted. The Chinese maritime domestic laws conflict with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and sharply violate the maritime rights of the other states. The UNCLOS provides the vital ‘freedom of navigation’ and ‘right to innocent passage’ on the high sea, i.e., area outside internal waters, the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of a state to regulate their maritime trade and movement for peaceful purposes such as helping the other states in distress, scientific exploration, etc.

Chinese intentions can be ascertained by examining its 1992 Law of the PRC. Article 14 emphasized the option of using a “hot pursuit” against a foreign ship if it enters its territorial waters or the contiguous zone. Further, Article 15 insists that baseline of its territorial sea would be “established” by itself, a move



CHINA DEFENDS ITS PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION WITH A LAME EXCUSE OF COUNTERING PIRACY IN THE GULF OF ADEN. WHILE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, IT EXPLICITLY MAINTAINS THAT ALL THE NAVAL VESSELS OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES MUST SEEK PRIOR PERMISSION BEFORE ENTERING THE WATERS

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)



hinting towards its future expansionism.

Later, in 2011, China submitted in the UN a Note Verbale on the SCS speaking about its “indisputable sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea and the adjacent waters”. Nonetheless, the terms “historic rights” and “adjacent waters” do not appear in UNCLOS, and there is no recognition. Further, the use of illegal terms serves the purpose of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) by expanding the scope of its ‘grey zone tactics’ and hence are a distraction to the well-established international norms and principles. China zealously guards the SCS, which was recently evident when China illegally stopped a German warship from entering it.

Accompanied by the regularisation of such words, its mention of phrases like ‘offshore defence’, ‘distant sea defence’ and its ‘interests aboard’ truly reflect its hegemonic behaviour that is set to expand to the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Its nuclear submarines are regularly sighted in the IOR and the Arabian Sea by the Indian Navy. The presence of Chinese submersibles is a clear-cut violation of Article 20 of UNCLOS, which states that “in the territorial sea, submarines and other underwater vehicles are required to navigate on the surface and show their flag”. China may be collecting critical under-sea hydrological data from the IOR to plan action in case of a limited conflict or a full-blown open war with India. Such moves are a detriment to India's core security objectives. China counters its presence by putting forward a lame excuse with its nuclear submarines to counter the piracy in the Gulf of Aden. One can only wonder how a nuclear submarine can counter piracy.

On the contrary, in the SCS, China explicitly maintains that all the naval vessels of the other countries and research ships seek prior permission before they enter the territorial waters of China. The same duplicity has been evident in its recent amendment to China's Maritime Traffic Safety Law. It now includes five types of vessels- ‘submersibles, nuclear-powered vessels, ships carrying radioactive materials, ships carrying bulk oil, chemicals, liquefied gas or other toxic substances’ that need to report minute details to the Chinese authorities. The cargo ships are thus now questionable and more prone to sabotage through “hot pursuits”.

Further, Article 11 of the same law asserts that “Non-military vessels of foreign nationality may not enter the internal waters”. Additionally, the “military vessels of foreign nationality may not enter the territorial waters”. The pertinent question that arises is what are the limits of its “territorial waters”? As per the UNCLOS, it extends upto 12 nautical miles from the baseline of a coastal state. In the case of Beijing, will it start measuring such limits from the artificial islands that it has built in the SCS? Then in such a case, the Spratly and Paracel Islands represent a “sea grab”, similar to a land grab. Does it not then amount to infringing the freedom of navigation of other states? Such illegal occupation affects the trade routes and supply chain lines. Such dual standards need to be exposed and at various regional and multilateral levels.

China's land reclamation activities in Feydhoo Finolhu Island leased out to Beijing by the Maldives in 2016 are China's emerging footprints in the IOR. This comes in addition to its military intelligence and surveillance activities in the Coco Islands and Greater Coco islands of the Eastern Indian Ocean. The existing geostrategic realities of Chinese hegemonic intentions in the IOR are visible through China's OBOR and its attempts to remould the Asian security order in its favour. China's recent outreach to the Taliban in Afghanistan can increase its tactical manoeuvrability on land. On the other hand, Chinese nuclear submarines, illegal fishing, and surveillance activities in the IOR are set to become a significant threat to Indian security interests.

Suppose China would be successful in having land-sea dominance encircling India, in such a case, it will not only threaten India's immediate and long-term security interests, but it will also adversely affect India's economic and cyber security. China might use the “cabbage tactic” in the Indian Ocean Region in the same way as in the South China Sea. In this direction, the nation should appreciate the establishment of the Andaman Nicobar Command and the re-orientation of the battle commands, which will have joint operability of the Army, Navy and the Air Force. In the present circumstances, India's further shift towards QUAD and AUKUS shouldn't be a surprising development and should be welcomed by the nation.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

SIDHU IS AN INCOMPETENT MAN. HE HAS A CONNECTION WITH PAKISTAN. IT WILL BE A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY.
—FORMER PUNJAB CM
CAPTAIN AMARINDER SINGH



SIDHU IS NOT A TRAITOR. IF AMARINDER SINGH CALLS SIDHU A TRAITOR, THEN I WILL OPEN THE WHOLE BOOK.
—ADVISOR TO NAVJOT SIDHU
MOHAMMAD MUSTAFA

Why do we need nurses with disabilities?

Misconceptions about the capacity of students with disabilities to function in the clinical components of nursing education deter such applicants

From this year onwards, B.Sc.(Nursing) admissions will be made through NEET, which were conducted last Sunday. I received a panic call from the father of a young girl who was considering nursing admission but she had three missing fingers in her non-dominant hand and a curvature in her spine. The father was concerned about the National Testing Agency's urgent public notice for B.Sc. (Nursing) course aspirants in NEET 2021, which cited an Indian Nursing Council (INC) letter stating that disability reservation is only allowed for physical disabilities of 40-50 per cent and of the lower extremity. It is strange, because how could this be possible after the enactment of the Rights of



SATENDRA SINGH

(The writer teaches at University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi, and is a disability rights activist. The views expressed are personal.)

Persons with Disabilities Act (RPDA), but INC has published a gazette notice announcing this clause as well as revising its nursing curriculum for the first time since 1947. It will be implemented beginning with the new batch.

Unfortunately, the discriminatory National Medical Commission (NMC) standards for applicants with disabilities were framed by a single, non-disabled expert from this subject from a premier institution in India, who decided the ablest requirement of “both hands intact” as a must-have for MBBS admission. The Delhi High Court will be hearing a case of a girl with an amputated arm who passed the NEET exam last year but was denied MBBS admission to Lady Hardinge Medical



College, causing her to lose an academic year. Thankfully, the Supreme Court and the Goa High Court have already granted MBBS admission to girls with an amputated arm in Gujarat and Goa, respectively.

The INC does not need to repeat NMC's embarrassing gaffes. The INC's new curriculum mentions the keyword “dignity” six times, whereas NMC's patented competency-based Medical Education Curriculum does not. In the

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which India has ratified, and in the preamble of the RPDA, dignity is a key component.

Learning disability is now a specified disability under the new law, and it is included in the 5 per cent reservation in higher education. But where are the dyslexic doctors and nurses in India? In India, you will only see nurses who are “one-legged” or “both legs disabled”. Yes, this is the vocabulary used by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Health to identify, stereotype, and ‘otherize’ us in employment.

After my litigation in the Delhi HC, which pushed NMC to allow persons with disabilities of more than 80 per

cent, INC's counterpart has accepted disabilities other than lower limb and surely those above 50 per cent (INC's benchmark).

In a recent SC decision on reasonable accommodation in the instance of a doctor with dysgraphia, Dr Vikash Kumar v. UPSC, the highest court criticised an earlier order that barred blind and deaf candidates with a disability of more than 50 per cent from becoming judges. The statutory Councils are still unaware of this historical judgment on substantive equality in the RPDA era.

Leslie Neal-Boylan who has written multiple books and journal articles on nurses with disabilities has defied the myth that there are patient safety concerns. The same

myth has been refuted in 2014 by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's white paper which identified outdated admission standards; misconceptions about the capacity of students with disabilities to function effectively in the clinical components of nursing education; and, lack of a comprehensive understanding of issues related to patient safety as barriers that deter applicants with disabilities. The Royal College of Nursing in the UK too also issued a range of employment options for nurses with severe ill health or disabilities in 2020.

We don't need superhuman robots in health care; instead, we need compassionate and caring nurses with disabilities who understand what it is like to live with a chronic

illness or disability. They adapt in unconventional ways, they demonstrate empathy and are brilliant co-workers. We may be rejecting many brilliant applicants who could be outstanding nurses like the renowned Florence Nightingale if we limit our profession to those without disabilities. I hope the INC will look into the representation of health professionals with disabilities which are endorsed by 22 nurses with disabilities from AIIMS New Delhi, Bhopal, Jodhpur, Jhajjar, NIMHANS and Delhi Government hospitals. If INC is serious about implementing the high pedestal ethos of diversity indicated in their new curriculum, they must act and collaborate with nurses with disabilities.



IDBI BANK STRATEGIC SALE

Most merchant bankers indicate 52 weeks' time

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Most of the merchant bankers who had submitted bids for facilitating strategic sale of LIC-controlled IDBI Bank indicated a time-frame of one year to complete the elaborate process, sources said.

During a presentation before the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) held recently, most of the eligible transaction advisers gave a time-frame of 50-52 weeks to undertake several stages of the privatisation process of IDBI Bank, market sources said. However, the government intends to complete the transaction during the current fiscal itself. Thus the merchant banker has to find a buyer in about 26 weeks or six months.

According to market sources, as many as seven bids -- Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, Ernst and Young



LLP, ICICI Securities Ltd, JM Financial Ltd, KPMG, RBSA Capital Advisors LLP and SBI Capital Markets Ltd -- were received.

DIPAM on behalf of Government of India had floated a tender in June inviting bids from transaction advisors from reputed professional consulting firms or investment bankers or merchant bankers or financial institutions for facilitating and assisting strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank. The last date for submission of bids was July 13.

KPMG placed the lowest bid of Re 1, and was selected as the

transaction adviser, market sources said, adding, the firm will assist the government in the sale for Re 1.

The central government and LIC together own more than 94 per cent equity of IDBI Bank. LIC, currently having management control, has 49.24 per cent stake, while the government holds 45.48 per cent. Non-promoter shareholding stands at 5.29 per cent. The transaction advisor would be required to advise and assist the government on modalities of disinvestment and the timing; recommend the need for other intermedi-

aries required for the process of sale/disinvestment and also help in identification and selection of the same with proper Terms of Reference.

The transaction advisor will also assist in preparation of all documents like Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM), organise roadshows to generate interest among the prospective buyers and suggest measures to fetch optimum value. The advisor would also be supporting IDBI Bank in setting up an e-data room and assisting in the smooth conduct of the due diligence process. As per the eligibility criteria outlined in the RFP, the bidders should have advised at least one transaction of strategic disinvestment/strategic sale/M&A activities/private equity investment transaction of the size of Rs 5,000 crore or more during the period from April 2016 to March 2021.

Decision to correct inverted duty structure to cut tax burden

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The decision of the GST Council to correct inverted duty structure on leather footwear from January 1, 2022, would help reduce tax burden of the sector and boost domestic manufacturing of manmade fibre (MMF) fabrics and garments, CLE said on Sunday.

Council for Leather Exports (CLE) Chairman Sanjay Leekha said GST (goods and services tax) on leather footwear worth less than Rs 1,000 is 5 per cent and over that value, the tax is 18 per cent, but the GST on inputs for these footwear ranges up to 18 per cent.

"We have suggested rationalisation of the tax on these footwears," he said.

The GST Council in its meeting on September 17 agreed to correct inverted duty structure on footwear and textiles from January 1, 2022.

Consumer durable makers expect double-digit growth in festive season

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The consumer durable industry is expecting double-digit growth in the festive season sales this year, despite inflationary pressure on inputs that led to price hike twice in the year, shortage of components such as chipsets and a threat of a third wave of the pandemic.

The makers such as Panasonic, LG, Haier, Godrej Appliances and Lloyds are expecting a pent-up demand and good growth in premium products across categories like large-screen TVs, front-load washing machines, and bigger capacity refrigerators.

The companies are keeping their supply chain and inventory ready for the festive season, which starts in the North and other parts from Dussehra and goes up to Diwali and usually accounts for up to 30 per cent of their sales in a month.

Makers have planned to launch new models along with a 360-degree campaign, cash backs, easy finance options as zero down payment and long-term EMI schemes. A good



festive season sales would also help them recover the losses incurred on account of the second wave of the pandemic and lockdowns.

"We are seeing a steady rise in demand for value-proposition appliances such as smart 4K Android TVs, connected range of ACs (HU series), refrigerators, washing machines, microwaves and other lifestyle appliances," Panasonic India President and CEO Manish Sharma told PTI.

He further added that due to the return of demand, the company has seen a growth of 25 per cent in August 2021 as against last year. "We are hoping to maintain the growth

momentum through festive season to make up for losses due to the pandemic."

South Korean electronic major LG had launched a range of flagship products ahead of the festive season.

"Currently, consumer sentiment is quite positive. Work from home and stay at home have created good demand for durables, as leisure travel is restricted so certain section of consumers are spending on upgrading consumer durables," said LG India Vice-President (Corporate Planning) Deepak Bansal. The company is witnessing good growth in premium products across categories, he said.

MONEY MATTERS

Fortune Park Hotels to add 5 hotels in India by Dec 2022

Fortune Park Hotels, a member of ITC's hotel group, will be opening five properties with over 375 rooms in India by the end of next year, as part of its robust expansion plans in the country.

The company has 38 operating hotels with around 2,900 rooms across 34 cities of India.

Apart from opening 5 hotels with over 375 rooms across 4 cities of India from our active pipeline by the end of December 2022, we are also in advanced negotiations for a few more projects, some of which are anticipated to open before the end of next year," Fortune Park Hotels MD Samir MC told PTI. These five hotels will be -- Fortune Resort Benaulum Goa, Fortune Park in Hoshiarpur (Punjab), Fortune Park in Tirupur (Tamil Nadu), Fortune Select in Goa and a Fortune Inn in Haldwani (Uttarakhand), he added. When asked about the business model the company follows, Samir said, "While our primary model is currently on managed hotels, we continue evaluating different operating models including franchise model."



FPIs net buyers at Rs 16K-cr so far in September

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) remained net buyers in Indian markets so far in September by investing a net sum of Rs 16,305 crore. As per

depositories data, overseas investors invested Rs 11,287 crore into equities and Rs 5,018 crore in debt segment on a net basis between September 1-17. During this period, the total net investment stood at Rs 16,305 crore. In August, FPI investment stood at Rs 16,459 crore. Himanshu Srivastava, associate director - research, Morningstar India noted that investment in Indian equities has been volatile for sometime. "However, continuing rally in the Indian stock markets would have been hard for FPIs to ignore and they would have chosen to be a part of it rather than missing out on it," he said. Also, India continues to be an important and competitive investment destination from the long-term perspective, Srivastava added. FPIs have been showing interest in segments like hotels and travel since these segments have started to do well, as per V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.



M-cap of four of top-10 firms jumps Rs 65,464.41 crores

Four of the top-10 most valued companies together added Rs 65,464.41 crore to market valuation last week, with Bharti Airtel and State Bank of India emerging as the biggest gainers.

During the last week, the 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 710 points or 1.21 per cent. Market benchmark Sensex scaled the 59,000-mark for the first time on Thursday. From the top-10 list, Reliance Industries Limited, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever Limited, HDFC, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finance were the laggards, whose cumulative erosion was at Rs 43,746.79 crore. Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India and Bharti Airtel were the winners. The valuation of Bharti Airtel jumped Rs 22,984.14 crore to reach Rs 3,99,901.97 crore. State Bank of India added Rs 19,500.28 crore taking its market capitalisation (m-cap) to Rs 4,05,221.99 crore.



VI claims to record peak 5G speed of 3 gbps during trials

Debt-ridden telecom operator Vodafone Idea on Sunday claimed to have recorded a peak speed of 3.7 gigabit per second (gbps), highest by any operator in India, during 5G trials in Pune. The company also claimed to have recorded 1.5 gbps download speed in the mid-band spectrum in Gandhinagar and Pune. Vi (Vodafone Idea) has been allocated high-frequency bands like 26 gigahertz (GHz) by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), along with the traditional 3.5 GHz spectrum band, for 5G network trials. "In Pune city, Vi has deployed its 5G trial in a lab set-up of an end-to-end captive network of Cloud Core, new generation Transport and Radio Access Network. "In this trial, Vi has achieved a peak speed in excess of 3.7 Gbps with very low latency on the mmWave (millimetre wave) spectrum band," Vi said in the statement. The DoT had approved applications of Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone in May, and MTNL later.



RBI decision to allow NBFCs apply for Aadhaar-e-KYC Authentication

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank's decision to allow NBFCs and payment service providers to apply for obtaining Aadhaar e-KYC Authentication Licence will promote digitisation and check frauds, opined Fintech players.

The RBI has said NBFCs, Payment System Providers and Payment System Participants desirous of obtaining Aadhaar Authentication Licence - KYC User Agency (KUA) License or sub-KUA License, may submit their application to the central bank for onward submission to UIDAI.

The Reserve Bank's initiative will also help in improving trust levels among customers because only licensed entities will be permitted to conduct eKYC, said Ankit Bhatnagar, Head of Product, Msipwe.

"Now with eKYC, non-banking entities offering financial services can improve compliance and also ensure that the popular mechanism of cus-

tomers on-boarding for which they had to depend on third party players can be offered directly through a KUA licence," said Bhatnagar. Manoj Chopra, Head Innovation and Product Development, Infrasoft Technologies Limited, was of the opinion that the move will simplify customer onboarding for NBFCs, NBFC-Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFI), payment system operators and payment system participants.

NBFCs are reliant on offline Aadhaar validation or paper-based authentication mechanisms like PAN verification. Since such methods involved sharing pictures of physical documents, it made the process slightly cumbersome and prone to rejections as the

quality of pictures shared may not be up to the mark, Chopra said.

"Now, by availing Aadhaar Authentication Licence - KYC User Agency (KUA) license or sub-KUA License these NBFCs can directly leverage an online database in Aadhaar and verify the identity including the photograph seamlessly," Chopra said.

Commenting on the RBI's decision, Gurjodhpal Singh, CEO, Tide (India), said it is a welcome move for the fintech ecosystem.

According to Singh, this will promote digitisation, resulting in a forward thinking approach to ensure fast delivery of financial products in the sector and thus improve experience for many customers who had been facing a lot of issues.



SELLER REGISTRATION

Amazon adds 3 more languages

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce major Amazon on Sunday said sellers will now be able to register on the Amazon.in marketplace and manage their online business in three more languages - Malayalam, Telugu and Bengali.

The move comes ahead of the festive season and will benefit thousands of existing Amazon sellers, many potential and new sellers from markets across tiers to run their business on Amazon.in marketplace in a language of their choice and preference, a statement said. With this launch, Amazon.in now allows sellers to manage their online business in eight languages including Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil and English. Using any of the regional languages, sellers can do everything from registering as an Amazon



seller for the first time, to managing orders, inventory and accessing performance metrics - all in the language of their preference, the statement said. This experience has been made available on the Amazon seller Central as well as on the mobile app, it added.

As Amazon works towards its commitment to digitise one crore MSMEs across India by 2025, it is important to address sellers' challenges when they seek to leverage e-commerce to expand their businesses, Amazon India Director (Seller Partner Services) Sumit Sahay said.

Comm min to observe 'Vanijya Saptah' during Sept 20-26

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce and industry ministry on Sunday said it will observe 'Vanijya Saptah' during September 20-26, in which a slew of programmes and events will be organised across the country showcasing India as a rising economic force, and exporter conclave. The DPIIT is organising a soft launch of the National Single Window System and Industrial Park Rating System.

C-DOT to tap all media for broadcasting disaster alerts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi, Sep 19 (PTI) State-run C-DOT is developing technology to intercept all media like television, mobile phones, railway announcements etc for broadcasting disaster alerts in local languages, a senior official said.

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) is developing the system for National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and expects it to be ready in 18 months, CDOT chairman and executive director Rajkumar Upadhyay told PTI.

"We are developing a pan-



India integrated alert system which can send out alerts across all mediums at one go in an emergency situation. It will be deployed by NDMA. Once the system is deployed, the department concerned will have to just mark the area on the map by pen and the alert will go across all mediums in

from paying statutory dues, permission to share scarce airwaves, change in the definition of revenue on which levies are paid and 100 per cent foreign investment through the automatic route.

The measures, aimed at providing relief to companies such as Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) that have to pay thousands of crores in unprovisioned past statutory dues, also include the scrapping of Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC) for airwaves acquired in future spectrum auctions.

that area in the local language," Upadhyay said.

The state-run organisation is indigenously developing the technology for the Integrated Alert System based on International Telecommunication Union (ITU) recommended Common Alerting Protocol (CAP).

From Russia's Rosneft to airports, cos queue up to train personnel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From Russian and French energy giants to airport operators in India, companies are queuing up to train personnel in fire safety and disaster management at state-owned ONGC's premier training institute.

Russia's Rosneft, Total of France, domestic energy majors IOC, GAIL, HPCL and OIL, private firms like Cairn, airport operators GMR and Airports Authority of India (AAI) are among a long list of clients that have at some point of time trained their personnel at the Institute of Petroleum Safety, Health and Environment Management (IPSHM), its head and ONGC Executive Director Atul



Garg said. The Institute, which shut its physical training module after the outbreak of pandemic, is

this month resuming physical training after a gap of one-and-a-half-years.

"We have a backlog of

inhouse personnel who need to be trained in aspects such as sea survival to fire safety. And so to begin with we will impart training to ONGC personnel and later look at meeting industry demand," he said.

From basic fire fighting training and environment management to blowout control and disaster management, the institute offers a wide range of courses. Its vast campus in Goa houses a hostel and real-life equipment. "The Institute is equipped with simulators that are used to recreate real life like events such as fire at oil and gas pipelines, depots and tankers, wellhead blowout and fire on helicopters. Personnel are trained in controlling fire as well as

rescue at various installations in a refinery, oilfield, pipeline and fuel storage depot," he said. From fire safety management to investigating incidents and accidents, from breathing apparatus course for fire personnel to conducting search and rescue in smoke filled rooms, from helicopter landing assistance to survival at sea, the Institute offers comprehensive training.

Specialised courses such as crane operators safety, incident investigation and oil spill management are also offered, he said adding the institute is accredited to leading global bodies.

Started two decades back with the aim to provide Oil and Natural Gas Corp

(ONGC) personnel with statutory disaster management training, IPSHEM has gained popularity not just among energy peers but also in industry where fire training is a must.

"AAI and other airport operators such as one at Mumbai have sent their personnel to train in fire safety. We have requests from a lot of others but because of the pandemic we couldn't train. Now that the Institute is reopening, we will first clear the backlog of ONGC personnel and thereafter intake outside personnel," Garg said.

The Institute earned close to Rs 1 crore in 2019-20 in fee from training outside personnel.

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The story of glory!



SHIKHA DUGGAL

Cinema and sports have been coming together since a really long time, and as we see nowadays, a massive audience is drawn to sports biographies! The recent performance of our sportspersons in the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics has paved the way for our new generation to look at sports in a more professional way. Keeping all this in mind, the director of Ajay Devgn starrer *Maidaan* pays his tribute to someone who has braved the odds, overcame challenges in his life and achieved laurels for not just our city Hyderabad, but also the whole country — none other than Syed Abdul Rahim also known as 'Rahim Saab', an Indian football coach and manager of the Indian National team from 1950 until his death. Ajay Devgn will be seen playing the titular role



of the one who is regarded to be the architect of modern Indian football! We got in touch with director Amit Sharma to learn more imminent details about the film that's going on floors soon

and he had a lot to say. He begins with how ecstatic he is to see that sports based movies are accepted widely by the Indian audiences. The country has indeed woken up to its treasure of cinematic sports!

"The way people love cricket in this country, there are parts of the same nation such as Kolkata, Hyderabad, Goa, Kerela, where they are die-hard fans of football. In my research term, I noticed even the supporters don't remember the football legends. That thrust me to let the public know about the golden era of football too, because why not? Football ruled the country from the 1950s to 1960s! We today see a lot of youngsters following diverse international football groups, but how many of them know their country's contribution to it? That is what I want to show in *Maidaan*. As Boney sir opened up about in the press conference recently, about how Arjun Kapoor is more keen on watching football on the television, we are sure there are many like him, hence, this film will activate that 'power of this play' again!"

Promising to be a ground-breaking film, the director also reveals that Ajay prepared for the part from scratch, right from training in football to the Hyderabad accent, he researched everything and he is no stranger to real-life characters! "As per our investigations, Raheem Saab practiced numerous tricks with his team that was later on picked up by the European coaches and our coach has spoken of a lot in that fraternity. There was no technology or the right guidance back then; he would gain all knowledge about the sport only from the books he used to read. Not to for-

get, as once more mentioned by Boney sir, that the coach was also a psychologist and he knew the psyche of the sport he was playing," adds the director who is fully fervent about making the Deepika-Amitabh starrer *The Intern*.

The director further tells us that, to play Syed Abdul Rahim, Ajay worked on his body language and accent brilliantly.

"He did not compromise on the credibility and authenticity for even one shot. Audiences won't see him as Ajay — the star in *Maidaan*, they will see a football coach who transformed the way football was perceived in our country. Ajay sir will be seen playing real football with real players in *Maidaan*."

Amit says that not just a lot of study, but a lot of time has also been put into writing the film, some of the football players were of great help to the team, he says.

Narrating to us a very heart-felt moment, Amit recalls an interaction with one of the football players who had been coached by Syed Abdul Rahim, who, when Amit asked how the feeling was when the team won a gold medal in football, he instantly went inside and brought the national jersey along with the medals and this is what he had to say to Amit Sharma that brought tears to the director's eyes: "These are the most valuable laurels of my life, only we know how we won it, but you know what keep these with you, it is in reverence for our coach."

The director wavered and replied to the player, "We can't take this, it is your accomplishment. I'll take some pictures and craft similar medals for the film." But, he insisted and said that he is done with it and he wants to offer that for the beloved coach now, for the truest portrayal.

"There was another fascinating moment I noticed while he told us how they would sometimes cuss on the ground — now when he used the same cuss word, he looked up in the sky and said 'Sorry Rahim Saab! This kind of admiration swept me off my feet,' he concludes.



Debunking myths about Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's disease is one of the leading causes of loss of independence in an older adult. Older adults have openly expressed that it is the most dreaded disease they fear.

With Alzheimer's Day tomorrow (Sept. 21), Dr. Prem Narsimhan Naganath, Consultant Geriatric Medicine Specialist in Jaslok Hospitals, in conversation with *The Pioneer* explains myths and facts about Alzheimers.

Myth: Memory Loss is a normal part of ageing.

Fact: As people age, it's normal to have occasional memory problems, such as forgetting the name of a person you've recently met. However, Alzheimer's is more than occasional memory loss. It's a disease that causes brain cells to malfunction and ultimately die. When this happens, one may forget the name of a long-time friend or directions to return to a home they've lived in for decades.

Myth: Alzheimer's Ds and Dementia are same.

Fact: People often use the terms Alzheimer's disease and dementia interchangeably, but there is a difference. Dementia refers to impaired memory, thinking, reasoning, and behaviour, and Alzheimer's is just one type of dementia. The terms are likely confused because Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia and the most well-known. But there are other types of dementia, too.

Myth: If I'm forgetting things then I have Alzheimer's Ds.

Fact: Memory problems are typically one of the first signs of Alzheimer's, but not all memory problems mean a person has the disease. Some forgetfulness is normal as we age.

Myth: If somebody in my fam-

ily has Alzheimer's I will get it too.

Fact: When a parent or a close relative gets the disease one might be worried of getting it when older. A person's chance of developing Alzheimer's is higher if they have certain genetic mutations or variations that can be passed down from a parent. However, just because a biological parent has Alzheimer's does not mean that their children will develop it.

Myth: Memory loss is the only symptom.

Fact: Memory loss is the most recognisable symptom. But other symptoms include challenges in planning or solving problems, not able to complete familiar tasks, confusion about time or place, unable to understand the relationship between space and objects, problems involving writing and speaking, inability to retrace steps, misplacing things, poor judgment, social withdrawal, and general changes in mood, personality, and behaviour.

Myth: Only older adults get it.

Fact: People can get the disease in the 30's, 40's and 50's too. This is called younger-onset Alzheimer's (also referred to as early onset)

Myth: It is not fatal.

Fact: True. Alzheimer's disease destroys brain cells and causes memory changes, erratic behaviours, and loss of body functions. It slowly and painfully takes away a person's identity, ability to connect with others, think, eat, talk, walk and going back home.

Myth: Alzheimer's Ds prevention is possible.

Fact: There are no proven ways to prevent it.

But risk factors can be controlled like lifestyle changes, healthy diet, exercise, staying mentally active and good sleep are important.

Actor Ekavali Khanna takes inspiration from Deepika Padukone's *Padmaavat*!

Veere Di Wedding actress Ekavali Khanna is currently enjoying the love and adulation she received from the masses for her performance in ALTBalaji's recent hit *Hai Taubba 3*. The anthology, which is all about strong women breaking the shackles of society, saw Khanna playing one of the unassailable women. Interestingly, Ekavali went a step ahead for her next. Ekavali ditched her vanity for the show, a bold step for any female actress in the industry. Like Deepika Padukone refrained from working on her eyebrows in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's historical drama *Padmaavat*, Ekavali did the same.

Talking about the riveting anecdote, Ekavali shared, "An interesting aspect of



Sarla's character was the way I was styled and my look was created. I don't know if people will notice but I have not done my eyebrows in the series. Because at that point of time, people were not threading their eyebrows. So it was just a little effort that I made to get into that character's headspace. I also went to wear a saree without a blouse. That was something I was not comfortable with. However, women used to wear sarees like that. So we had to stay true to the era and time. To make myself comfortable, I wore sarees without a blouse at my place. I walked into my house in my cotton sarees without a blouse to get comfortable. It was something that I think the costume and the makeup department really put their best self forward. It helped me completely break out of my own mould and embrace Sarla's look and feel."

On a parting note, Ekavali said, "That is what makes this whole experience very gratifying. *Hai Taubba* was something that I did step out of my comfort zone and it is being acknowledged; it is being accepted."

Aiming it right!



YAMINIKRISHNA BANDLAMUDI

When situation demands, success becomes mandatory. The adage holds true for 9-year-old Dolly Sivani Cherukuri from Vijayawada, who has already established a name for herself with several prestigious world records in archery. In conversation with *The Pioneer*, her parents share how their perseverance made it possible in training their daughter to reach this far. Realising dreams is undoubtedly a tough task, especially ones that demand a great deal of hard work and perseverance. But what does it actually take if the same dream has to be chased, over

and again? Doesn't it sound like a herculean task? Cherukuri Satyanarayana, 60, from Vijayawada, had a lot to say about this.

"Our son Lenin won the Dronacharya award for his outstanding talent as a sports coach, ranked 4th in archery division at an international level, is a certified level 3 coach, and has coached the Indian archery team for almost 18 years. He secured medals for the country at the Asian and World championships — but our happiness was short lived. At the young age of 24, in 2012, he met with a road accident and breathed his last, the year before he planned to secure a gold medal at the Rio Olympics. Though it hit us like a bolt from the blue, we retained our mental strength and with a determination to

carry forward Lenin's and our Volga Training academy's legacy, our couple had planned for a baby through surrogacy and were blessed with Sivani in 2015. I pinned all my hopes onto her. Sivani's mother Krishna Kumari started training her right from her bed — in bow draw, stretching exercises, and field knowledge — all since she was just two months old. Gradually, she picked up all the necessary traits and techniques of archery."

Sivani, who played for the under 9 category of archery, emerged a national champion thrice! She also entered the Asia Book of Records, India Book of Records for four times, and had to her credit, four world records by the very tender age of three.

Her coach Chandra Sekhara Laguri tells us that Sivani created her first Indian and Asian record in 2015 by shooting 5 and 7 meters respectively, in recurve division individual event at the age of 35 months. She adds, "Within a three-month gap in the same year, she created her second record mixed event with five other boys of different age groups and distances."

Sivani, world's youngest archer, was appreciated and called the second 'future Olympian' and 'second



Deepika Kumari Olympian' by World Archery Association and Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and director Karan Johar at the IGT television show. Also, Sivani's documentary was screened at the renowned MOMO theatre during the 60th Film Festival of New York, USA and it telecasted on Germany's popular Galileo, show which got over two million views!

Her mother Krishna Kumari Cherukuri proudly shares that their daughter, by the time she was two and a half, stood as a role model for all the archery kids, and witnessing the young talent, bow manufacturing companies started manufacturing bows even for the under five age group.

Satyanarayana, shouldered the responsibility of Volga Academy of Archery, which is named after Lenin's elder sister, who too had passed away five years before Lenin. He adds that the training centre has produced a

number of talented sportspersons for India, who not only participated in Commonwealth Games, the Olympics and different national and international competitions, but also secured number of prestigious medals for the country.

Cherukuri Dolly Sivani, the young talent, who is now in her 5th standard, is determined to secure a gold medal in the coming Olympics. She says her parents are the pillars of her success and trainers Naveen, Manoj and Purushottam Rao are doing all they can, to hone her archery skills.



CSK SET MI 157-RUN TARGET



Ruturaj Gaikwad of Chennai Super Kings hitting a boundary during match 30 of the Vivo Indian Premier League between Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians held at the Dubai International Stadium in the United Arab Emirates

Gaikwad rescues side with fiery 88

CSK set MI 157-run target as Gaikwad rescues side with fiery 88 Dubai, Sep 19 (PTI) Electing to bat, Chennai Super Kings scored 156 for six against defending champions Mumbai Indians in the first match of the second phase of the Indian Premier League (IPL), here on Sunday. CSK were 44 for 4 at half-way mark after a horrendous start but Ruturaj Gaikwad rescued the side with his blistering unbeaten knock of 88 runs along with Ravindra Jadeja (26) and Dwayne Bravo, who scored 23.

Brief Scores:
Chennai Super Kings: 156 for 6 in 20 overs (R Gaikwad 88 not out, R Jadeja 26, D Bravo 23; A Milne 2/21, J Bumrah 2/33, T Boult 2/35). **PTI**

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS:		
Ruturaj Gaikwad	not out	88
Faf du Plessis	c Milne b Boult	0
Moeen Ali	c Tiwary b Milne	0
Ambati Rayudu	retired hurt	0
Suresh Raina	c Chahar b Boult	4
MS Dhoni	c Boult b Milne	3
Ravindra Jadeja	c Pollard b Bumrah	26
Dwayne Bravo	c Pandya b Bumrah	23
Shardul Thakur	not out	1
Extras:	(LB-3, WD-8)	11
Total (For 6 wickets in 20 overs)		156
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-2, 3-7, 4-24, 5-105, 6-144		
Bowling: Trent Boult 4-1-35-2, Adam Milne 4-0-21-2, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-33-2, Kieron Pollard 2-0-15-0, Rahul Chahar 4-0-22-0, Krunal Pandya 2-0-27-0. More PTI		



Jasprit Bumrah of Mumbai Indians during match 30 of the Vivo Indian Premier League between Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians held at the Dubai International Stadium in the United Arab Emirates

Struggling KKR look to script turnaround against RCB

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Enduring a forgettable outing in the first half of this year's IPL, two-time former champions Kolkata Knight Riders would look for reversal of fortunes when they resume their campaign against Royal Challengers Bangalore in the second phase of T20 league here on Monday.

While Virat Kohli's RCB is third in the eight-team standings with 10 points from seven games, 2012 and 2014 champions KKR are languishing at the seventh spot with just two wins out of seven ties.

And Eoin Morgan-led KKR would be hoping to make a turnaround, just like 2014 edition when they won nine games in a row to claim the title.

KKR chief mentor David Hussey also exuded optimism about scripting a turnaround, despite a nightmarish first half.

"All we have to do is win this ... We have done it before and so we can do it again... I feel we have the squad to do it also. You qualify for the finals and whole competition starts again," the Australian said.

But it would be easier said than done for KKR as they face RCB, a formidable outfit, whose captain Kohli would be gunning for success with the bat after announcing his decision to quit as India's T20 skipper following the T20 World Cup which will be held after the IPL in UAE.

Even though KKR leads in head-to-head record against RCB, winning 18 and losing 13 out of 28 fixtures played between the two sides, the 38-run defeat against Kohli's team in the first half of the event in Chennai would be fresh on their players' minds.

KKR's two wins earlier this year came against two under-



performing sides — Punjab Kings, who are placed just a rung above them, and bottom-placed Sunrisers Hyderabad.

KKR would be relying heavily on the pair of Subhman Gill and Nitin

Rana to deliver the goods in their batting department, even though the duo did not have the best of outings in the first leg.

While Gill scored just 132 runs, Rana managed 201 runs in the first seven games for KKR in this year's IPL, which was postponed in April following multiple COVID-19 cases inside the bio-bubble in India.

Besides, Morgan will need to let his bat do the talking and lead from the front.

Dinesh Karthik, Andre

Russell, Rahul Tripathy and Shakib Al Hasan too need to come good for KKR if the team harbours any hopes of making it to the play-offs.

KKR's bowling department will be on the shoulders of Kiwi Tim Southee, who came in as a replacement for Pat Cummins for the second half.

RCB, on the other hand, are currently placed in a comfortable position and would be hoping for Kohli to play freely and score big runs, especially after taking the big call of relinquishing T20 captaincy.

With Glenn Maxwell (223 runs from 7 games) and AB de Villiers (207 runs from 7) leading the run scorers chart till

now for the team, RCB's batting unit looks ominous.

Kohli (198), by his own standards, has been a little disappointing and Devdutt Padikkal (195) too would be looking for a consistent show.

On the bowling front, Mohammed Siraj and Kiwi Kyle Jamieson would lead the attack which also has Harshal Patel, Navdeep Saini and Yuzvendra Chahal, who would be desperate to answer the selectors after being ignored from India's T20 World Cup squad.

The additions of Sri Lanka duo of Wanindu Hasaranga and Dushmantha Chameera, who replaced Adam Zampa and Kane Richardson, will also hold the team in good stead as they have a good understanding of the UAE conditions.

Teams (from): KKR: Eoin Morgan (capt), Dinesh Karthik, Gurkeerat

Singh Mann, Karun Nair, Nitish Rana, Rahul Tripathy, Shubman Gill, Harbhajan Singh, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kuldeep Yadav, Lockie Ferguson, Pawan Negi, M Prasad Krishna, Sandeep Warrier, Shivam Dube, Tim Southee, Vaibhav Arora, Varun Chakravathy, Andre Russell, Ben Cutting, Shakib Al Hasan, Sunil Narine, Venkatesh Iyer, Sheldon Jackson, Tim Seifert.

RCB: Virat Kohli (capt), Navdeep Saini, Glenn Maxwell, Dan Christian, Rajat Patidar, Dushmantha Chameera, Pavan Deshpande, Mohammed Siraj, Harshal Patel, Mohammed Azharuddeen, Sachin Baby, Wanindu Hasaranga, George Garton, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shahbaz Ahmed, Devdutt Padikkal, Kyle Jamieson, Suyash Prabhudessai, KS Bharat, Tim David, Akash Deep, AB de Villiers. Match starts at 7:30PM IST.



Gracia Raina with kid during match 30 of the Vivo Indian Premier League between Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians held at the Dubai International Stadium in the United Arab Emirates

Gill and Rana are quality players: David Hussey

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the second phase of the IPL 2021, Kolkata Knight Riders' mentor David Hussey believes openers Shubman Gill and Nitish Rana will "shock the world" with their batting in UAE. KKR did not have a successful opening leg of IPL 2021 and the reason was the failure of their opening pair.

Gill scored just 132 in the first seven games. His partner Rana was not a lot better, scoring just 201 runs before the season was declared postponed due to a Covid-19 outbreak in multiple team bio-bubbles.

Hussey pinned his hopes on the duo, calling them the 'next generation of Indian players'. "They both are quality players, they are determined to do very



well for the team and for themselves and they have a taste of international cricket now," Hussey told ESPNcricinfo.

"I think they are about to shock the world that they are the next generation of Indian players,

not just for one or two series but for perhaps a decade, so if they get going look out for them in the IPL." The Kolkata franchise is currently placed seventh in the points table. Hussey, however, believes his team can script a turnaround.

PATEL: WE'LL LOOK TO BUILD ON OUR HAPPY MEMORIES FROM IPL 2020 SEASON

IANs ■ DUBAI

Delhi Capitals all-rounder Axar Patel believes that his team will look to build on its happy memories from the IPL 2020 edition ahead of the second half of the IPL 2021 starting September 19. Patel had taken nine wickets in 15 matches in the 2020 edition of the IPL, where Delhi finished as runners-up.

"When it was announced that the second half of the tournament will be held in the UAE, I thought about our performance the last time we were here. We have happy memories from that tournament as we reached our first-ever IPL final. We are looking to repeat our performance and hopefully, just go one step further in the final this season," said Patel in a release by the franchise on Sunday.



Patel, who was part of the Indian squad for the Test series in England, pointed out the massive difference in weather conditions between UK and UAE.

"It's been a drastic change for us as far as the weather is concerned. It was quite cold in England and now we are getting used to the heat here. When we stood on our balconies during quarantine, we got an idea about the heat, but we got to know the full extent of the weather conditions when we started practicing in the nets. We are looking to get used to the conditions in the next 2-3 days."

When asked about his personal goals for the remainder of the IPL 2021, the 27-year-old said, "My personal goals are always aligned with the team goals. I always think about what the team needs and then set my personal goals accordingly."

India win silver in Asian U18 Girls' Rugby Sevens Championship

IANs ■ MUMBAI

India on Sunday won a silver medal in the Asia Rugby U18 Girls Rugby Sevens Championship 2021, losing 21-17 to the United Arab Emirates in a well-fought final held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

In the final, Nandini top-scored for India with seven points while Aditi Kumari and Tarulata Nair contributed five points each to the Indian score. Both teams scored three tries each. For UAE, Carmela Morrala scored nine points while Hannah Lear added seven, and Lara Botha contributed five.

India had reached the final by beating Kazakhstan 24-7 in

the semi-final with Sapna Kumari top-scoring with 10 points including two tries. Tarulata Naik scored nine points while Arti Kumari added five points.

In the two-day tournament that had five teams — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, UAE, India, and hosts Uzbekistan -- and played in an all-play-all round-robin format, India started with a 12-10 defeat to Kazakhstan on Saturday. The girls came back strongly to blank Kyrgyzstan 63-0 with Vaishnavi Dattatray Patil scoring 15 points from three tries and defeated hosts Uzbekistan 20-5.

On Sunday, they lost to UAE girls 20-12, thus finishing third in the five-team league and qualifying for the semi-finals.

Speaking on the occasion, Rahul Bose, actor, director, philanthropist, and a board member of Rugby India, said, "This is a great moment for Indian Rugby. Both teams (UAE and India) scored three tries in the final. No disgrace losing like that!"

"For our U18 girls' team to perform as well as they did is all the more remarkable because they were 15 years old when the pandemic struck. They have never played a National tournament, leave

alone an international championship.

For them to come so far is a testament to their skill, grit, and fire to make their country proud. Our thanks to the coaching and support staff. Only rugby players know how important they are in this sport. This is a new day for Indian Rugby. We go onward and upward from here," Bose was quoted as saying in a release by Rugby India.

Vikram Ahuja, President, Rugby India said, "Heartiest congratulations to our U18 Girls team, their performance has been sensational - they displayed courage, skill, and mental toughness far beyond their years."

Shocked with Kohli's decision : Lara

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

West Indies cricketing legend Brian Lara is "shocked" with Indian skipper Virat Kohli's decision to step down as the T20 skipper after the ICC T20 World Cup scheduled to be held in the UAE and Oman in October-November this year.

In a statement issued on social media recently, Kohli had said, "Understanding workload is a very important thing and considering my immense workload over the last 8-9 years playing all 3 formats and captaining regularly for last 5-6 years, I feel I need to give myself space to be fully ready to lead the Indian Team in Test



and ODI Cricket."

"I was in shock because I think he's (Kohli) done a tremendous job, played against all the big countries -- South Africa, England, New Zealand, Australia -- beating all of them, and for me he has done a

tremendous job," Lara said during a video interaction with cricket.com on Saturday.

"This is actually his first (T20) World Cup as a captain so this will end his career as a captain after that. It's a big shock. But the kind of intensity that he plays with, I feel that sometimes it might sometimes be good to take a step away, concentrate may be on another format of the game," said Lara, one of the most charismatic cricketers of modern era.

"I have had these issues as well when I was playing? when a couple of times I stepped down as captain as it became very, very stressful," added the West Indian.

McClenaghan to Hafeez: Don't blame players for cancellation



PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand players shouldn't be blamed for the cancellation of the tour of Pakistan as they were just following the advice of their government, said Kiwi pacer Mitchell McClenaghan.

The 35-year-old pacer was reacting to a sarcastic tweet by batsman Mohammed Hafeez on Saturday on eve of the departure of the New Zealand team from Pakistan.

"Come now bro. This has a bad taste to it... Don't blame the players or the organisation... blame our government. They have only acted on the advice they have received. I'm absolutely certain these young men -- all wanting to prove themselves wanted to play. They had no choice," McClenaghan wrote on his twitter handle.

On Saturday, Hafeez had taken a dig at New Zealand Cricket (NZC) for calling off their tour of Pakistan citing security threats.

"Thanks to the security of Pakistan forces to make arrangements to @BLACKCAPS to reach at airport Safe & Sound. Wonder same route & same security but no threat today???", Hafeez had tweeted.

New Zealand had arrived in Pakistan on September 11 for a white-ball series after 18 years and were scheduled to play three ODIs and five T20 Internationals.

Atletico Madrid held by Athletic Club Bilbao in La Liga

IANs ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid went to bed as league leaders in Spain on Saturday night, but Diego Simeone's side will be frustrated after being held to a 0-0 draw by an effective and disciplined Athletic Club Bilbao side that had the best chances to win the match.

Atletico Madrid's best and virtually only chance was a Marcos Llorente shot which bounced off the post in the second half and the visitors would have taken all three points if Inaki Williams, who was making his 200th consecutive league appearance, had been able to finish when one on one with Jan Oblak, or Asier Villalibre had been able to hit the target in injury time with



just Oblak to beat.

Atletico's frustration was compounded when Joao Felix was sent off with 13 minutes left to play after saying "you are crazy, you are crazy" to referee Gil Manzano, while Athletic remain unbeaten and have conceded just once in their first five games.

Pakistan will overcome crisis: PCB chairman after NZ tour pullout

IANs ■ LAHORE

New Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja has emphasised that the country's cricket had gone through experiences similar to the one when the New Zealand team pulled out at the last minute but it had "always moved forward".

Raja posted a video on the PCB website after the New Zealand team pulled out hours before the start of the three-match One-day International series at Pindi Cricket Ground in Rawalpindi on September 17 citing security concerns.

The chief executive of New Zealand Cricket (NZC) David White had said it was simply not possible to continue with

the tour given the advice he was receiving.

"I understand this will be a blow for the PCB, who have been wonderful hosts, but player safety is paramount and we believe this is the only responsible option."

Raja said in a video message to cricket fans that, "Our pain is shared. Whatever happened isn't good for Pakistan cricket."

But one point that needs to be emphasised is that we have gone through such experiences in the past and we always move forward.

"So I urge our fans to stand behind the Pakistan team and be its strength at the (T20) World Cup. To my team, I would like to say take out your

frustrations on the field because that is the only remedy. When you become the world's best team then everyone is queuing up in line to play series in your country. So I want everyone to take this as a lesson and move on and not be disappointed."

The PCB is reportedly planning to take up the issue with the International Cricket Council (ICC) after Raja tweeted following the cancellation of the series that, "Crazy day it has been! Feel so sorry for the fans and our players. Walking out of the tour by taking a unilateral approach on a security threat is very frustrating. Especially when it's not shared!! Which world is NZ living in?? NZ will hear us at ICC."

Indian paddlers shine in ITTF Kazakhstan Open

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Indian TT pairs of Siddhesh Pande and Mudit Dani, and Fidel R Snehit and Sudhanshu Grover ended their campaign with mens doubles bronze medals at the 2021 ITTF Kazakhstan International Open in Karaganda.

Both the pairs displayed a great show throughout the tournament before suffering defeats in their respective semi-finals. Maharashtra duo Mudit and Siddhesh suffered a 0-3 loss against the Saudi Arabian pair of Ali Alkhadrawi and Abdulaziz Bu Shulaybi.

In the second men's doubles last-4 clash, Snehit and Sudhanshu too went down fighting 2-3 against tough

Kazakh pair of Alan Kurmangaliyev and Kirill Gerassimenko.

The Hyderabad paddler Snehit was equally impressive in the singles category as he entered the final after defeating Pavel Platonov of Belarus 4-1 comfortably in the semifinal. The world No. 405 Indian will take on world No. 46 Kirill Gerassimenko of Kazakhstan in the gold medal match.

The pair of Kaushani Nath and Prapti Sen too stormed into the women's doubles final as they outclassed the Uzbek duo of Kamila Khalikova and Mekhrinis Norkulova 3-1 in the last-4 match. They will now face Valeria Kotcyur and Valeria Shcherbatykh of Russia in the final.

Dil Raju's nephew to debut opposite Anupama



Successful producer Dil Raju's nephew Ashish Reddy is making his acting debut with a fresh film titled *Rowdy Boys*. Recently, a single from the movie was released and garnered very good response. Now the latest update is that the teaser of *Rowdy Boys* will be launched on September 20 at 7 pm. A poster for the teaser has Ashish following Anupama



NABHA: DIDN'T WANT TO COMPARE MYSELF WITH RADHIKA APTE

Actor Nabha Natesh says she approached her latest Telugu feature *Maestro* as a fresh film and didn't succumb to the pressure of the black comedy thriller being a remake of the acclaimed Hindi film *Andhadhun*. Natesh stars in the film as Sophie, a role played by Radhika Apte in the 2018 original movie, directed by Sriram Raghavan. *Maestro* features actor Nithiin stepping into the shoes of

Ayushmann Khurrana to play a blind piano player who unwittingly becomes embroiled in a murder. In an interview with a news agency, Natesh said she avoided falling into the trap of comparing how Apte had performed the role to retain freshness in her portrayal. "I didn't want to compare with what she had done in the original film. My take on the character was to (understand) the mindset of a person who falls in love with a visually impaired person. Sophie looks at him as someone so strong, who has a desire for life which is beyond his visual impairment. I thought my character should stand on the zeal of his character and build it accordingly," she said. Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi and produced by Shreshth Movies, *Maestro* is currently streaming on Disney+ Hotstar. The film also stars Tamannaah Bhatia in the role originally essayed by Tabu in the National Award-winning *Andhadhun*. Natesh said in her Telugu film career of three years and of nearly seven movies, *Maestro* was the first remake she worked in. Though she had loved *Andhadhun*, the 25-year-old actor initially didn't know how to "approach" the character. Consequently, she decided the first step would be to not revisit the 2018 film. "The original film had made a huge impact. It proved that people will watch and support a film like *Andhadhun* if it's well made.

Bringing that content to Telugu, which may not have been seen before in the industry, was extremely exciting. My character is nothing like what I had done previously. "But I thought if I watch the film again, I would get into a conflict. I followed what the director was asking me to do. I didn't remember every single frame of the original film, so *Maestro* was a fresh film for me once I went on sets to begin filming." The actor made her Telugu cinema debut in 2018 with the romantic drama *Nannu Dochukunduvate* co-starring Sudheer Babu and found success featuring in movies like Puri Jagannadh's sci-fi actioner *iSmart Shankar* and last year's *Solo Brathuke So Better*. *Maestro* also fit the bill of her experimenting with the choice of projects, she said. "I constantly look forward to doing something different than what I have done before, to not be repetitive. It's embedded in me because I have done theatre, where I was trained to do characters throughout. Whatever opportunities I have been offered, my attempt has been to do something new." Even if the role isn't anything different, she said she tries to play it in a way that the audience doesn't feel they have seen her do that before. "It's probably the variations I offer or my attempt to not bore the audience with the same thing which may have worked for me and I wish to continue that going forward as well," she concluded.

Aamir in town for Chay's Love Story Unplugged

The team of *Love Story* on Sunday, welcomed Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan as the actor arrived in Hyderabad to attend the film's unplugged. The pictures of the same have been doing the rounds on the internet and Naga Chaitanya is seen welcoming Aamir at the airport with a warm hug and presenting a sapling. Aamir seems to share a great rapport with Chay, after having worked together for the upcoming Bollywood film *Laal Singh Chaddha*. The duo has spent some quality time during the shoot and learnt about each other pretty well. Apart from Aamir, even megastar Chiranjeevi joined the unplugged and fans were thrilled

to have so many stars in attendance. *Love Story* is one of the most-awaited films after lockdown to have it hitting the big screens. Directed by Sekhar Kammula, this movie is all set to release on September 24. Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi will be seen playing the lead roles in the film, that also has other brilliant actors playing pivotal roles.



Aamir takes part in GIC

Now meanwhile, the versatile actor participated in the Green India Challenge at the Begumpet Airport. The *3 Idiots* star, along with Naga Chaitanya and Rajya Sabha MP Joginapally Santosh Kumar, the initiator of the challenge, planted saplings on Sunday. While appreciating the efforts of RS MP Joginapally Santosh Kumar in taking forward the Green India Challenge, the Mr Perfectionist asked all the people to come forward for plantation. Aamir Khan said that he has seen many challenges, but Green India Challenge has become key driver for improving the greenery of the nation.

Actor Ram Pothineni is now on board as the new brand ambassador for CMR shopping mall in Andhra Pradesh! Earlier it was Victory Venkatesh but now Ram Pothineni turned to be the new face of the brand. Ram had earlier stayed away from brand promotions and commercial ads for many years. But it is very much evident that the

young hero has changed his track, with regard to movies and as well as brand endorsements. His recent multilingual commercial as the brand ambassador for 'Garnier' proved it and now, RAPO's charm is gonna benefit CMR shopping mall too.

Capturing his market on and off screen, he's even aiming for bigger commercial projects and multilingual releases for his upcoming movies. His upcoming bilingual film *RAPO19* directed by N. Linguswamy is one of the most awaited films in Telugu and Tamil now.



CMR shopping mall signs Ram as brand ambassador



THALAPATHY VIJAY FILES CASE AGAINST HIS PARENTS

Actor Thalapathy Vijay has reportedly filed a case against 11 people, including his mother and father. The news has taken social media by storm and is currently a talking topic among industry people as well. Reportedly, the actor has filed a case seeking an injunction restraining them from using his name or the name of his fan clubs in politics.

To the unversed, Vijay's father and veteran director SA Chandra sekhar started a political party called the All India Thalapaty Vijay Makkal Iyakkam. The political party has SA Chandrasekhar as general secretary, Shoba Chandrasekhar as treasurer, and Padmanabhan as the leader, as filed with the Election Commission of India.

In 2020, there were reports about Vijay joining his father's political party. However, the *Master* actor released a statement clarifying he has no connection with whatever political party or statement his father gave out. The statement also read that he was not bound by his father's political aspirations and he has distanced himself from the same. "I don't have any connection directly or indirectly with the political statements that my father has issued. I'm not bound to follow my father's political aspirations. I request my fans not to join the party that my father has started. If anyone tries to misuse my name, photo, or my fan clubs for their political aspirations, I will take necessary actions against them", Vijay's statement released in November 2020 read.

