SHADOW OVER QUAD?



Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable **KEERTHY** SURESH'S MOM TO PLAY A CAMEO? Page 12

VIJAYAWADA DELHI LUCKNOW

BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN HYDERABAD

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GUJ: RIJIJU INAUGURATES COUNTRY'S FIRST SPORTS ARBITRATION CENTRE

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

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

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

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

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

ROWDY CELEBRATIONS ACROSS NORWAY WITH END OF COVID MEASURES

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

You must shout & demand 50% quota in judiciary: CJI to women lawyers

PNS NEW DELHI

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

"I don't want you to cry but with anger, you have to shout and demand that we need 50

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

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

Speaking at a felicitation function organised by Lady Advocates of Supreme Court for the nine newly appointed judges, including three women judges, CJI Ramana said he has modified Karl Marx's "Workers of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chain" quote for the occasion and added: "Women of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chain." The CJI said, You all are laughing.







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

VKL GAYATRI

■ VISAKHAPATNAM/SRIKAKULAM

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

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

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

Manchineellapeta village, purchased a fishing boat two days ago and ventured into the sea. While three of them reached the shore safely late on Sunday evening, two others died while trying to swim ashore. The whereabouts of another fisherman are yet to be known.

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



ECoR cancels, diverts trains

2 fishermen dead, 1 missing, 3 swim to safety

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

In view of the Gulab cyclone severity, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) cancelled, diverted and rescheduled several trains.
Leaving originating station on
September 26, Train 08445
Bhubaneswar Jagdalpur special,
Train 02097 Bhubaneswar Junagadh Road special and Train 08127 Rourkela Gunupur special

Leaving the originating station on September 27, Train 08446 Jagdalpur-Bhubaneswar special, Train 02098 Junagarh Road Bhubaneswar special, Train 08128 Gunupur Rourkela special also cancelled.

The East Coast Railway also diverted several trains for the safety of the passengers. Also, several trains were rescheduled due to the impact of the Gulab

Pawan Kalyan comes under fire from YSRCP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Janasena chief Pawan Kalvan has come under intense attack from YSRCP and its ministers on Sunday for his remarks against Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy for his government's move to introduce an online ticketing system for movie tickets, at a movie pre-release event on Saturday.

Transport, Information, and Public Relations Minister Perni Venkatramaiah (Nani) came down heavily on Pawan Kalyan over the online tickets issue and for alleging that the state government has been troubling cinema theatres in Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking to media at party central office here on Sunday, the Minister said the film industry has been requesting the State government for online ticketing since 2003 and added that Telugu Film of Commerce Honorary Secretary Damodar Prasad had given a petition to the government seeking online ticketing on December 24, 2016, and again on December 1,



2018, honorary secretary Ramdas has submitted a representation seeking online ticketing.

Later, Chiranjeevi and other

Tollywood representatives met Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy in June, 2020 and submitted a petition under the name of Narayanadas Kishan Das Narang seeking the same.

The Minister said the state government will run only an online portal and the theater staff will sell the tickets online.



Tollywood not fiefdom of Power Star'



Parishad poll results may trigger new political alignments in State

SNV SUDHIR

Amidst frenzy of the ruling YSRCP sweeping all the ZPTCs and MPTCs with the results of Parishad polls being declared last week, the State has witnessed two important political developments. Firstly, the TDP bagged a few MPPs in both Godavari districts and one in Krishna district with the support of old friend Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena.

Secondtly, Jana Sena's Political Affairs Committee (PAC) chairman, Nadendla Manohar, who is considered number two in the party,

in solidarity with the agitating workers of Visakhapatnam Steel

Plant (VSP). After the 2019 polls, both Jana Sena and BJP had announced electoral understanding and together they fought the polls thereafter, be it polls for urban and local bodies, Parishad polls or Tirupati Lok Sabha bypoll.

This means if the indications are to be believed Pawan Kalyan will directly take part in the agitation taken up against its alliance partner BJP- led Centre's decision to privatise VSP. These two developments may appear to be two isolated entities. But, the political pundits and analysts are pointing out that they may act as pointers to how the political landscape may change in the coming days even as Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has been gaining strength with each passing day despite the Opposition onslaught. A glance at the election data of 2019 polls reveals that in almost 40 Assembly segments and a few Lok Sabha segments, Jana Sena has marred the prospects of

India disappointed over China's reluctance to permit stranded Indians return

PTI ■ BEIJING

India has expressed disappointment over China's reluctance to permit the return of thousands of stranded Indian students, employees and their families due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Över 23,000 Indian students, hundreds of Indian businessmen and workers have been stranded in India as China has suspended the visa process as well as flights from India citing the COVID-19

JSP symbol 'tumbler' tumbles out of CEC gazette notification

PNS VIJAYAWADA

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

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

The CEC has reserved symbols to three regional parties in Andhra Pradesh and finalized the symbols for eight national parties. Earlier on



May 23, the CEC had issued a gazette notification allocating

reserved symbols to only three of the recognised regional parties in the state. In AP, the ceiling fan symbol was reserved for the ruling YSRCP, the bicycle symbol for the opposition TDP. While the reserved symbols for BJP, Congress, CPM, CPI, Trinamool Congress, BSP, NCP and National People's Party under the national party status. However, the CEC has recently issued a notification in the Free Symbols category stating the glass and glass symbol allotted to the Janasena party in the last



CLAP – JAGANANNA SWACH SANKALPAM

1()I)AY

Month & Paksham:

Panchangam

Tithi: Shashthi 15:42 Nakshatram: Rohini 17:41 Time to Avoid: Time to Avoid (Bad

Bhadrapada & Krishna Paksha

time to start any important work) Rahukalam: 7:38 am - 9:08 am **Yamagandam :** 10:37 am - 12:06 pm Varjyam: 8:38 am - 10:27 am,

12:00 am - 1:48 am **Gulika:** 1:36 pm - 3:05 pm **Good Time:** (to start any important work) Amritakalam: 2:04 pm - 3:53 pm

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:43 am - 12:30 pm VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: ScatteredThunderstorm **Temp:** 29 Humidity: 83% Sunrise: 6:05 am Sunset: 06:8 pm Updated SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 5:00 PM

CM to flag off 2,600 garbage vehicles on Gandhi Jayanti PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy will flag off 2,600 garbage collecting vehicles marking Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary on October 2. The government will launch an innovative programme called 'Clean Andhra Pradesh (CLAP) - Jagananna Swachha Sankalpam' with the aim of providing safer and better sanitation facilities and services in both rural and urban areas. Jaganmohan Reddy will formally launch the programme by flagging off 2,600 garbage collecting vehicles at Benz Circle, Vijayawada marking Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. Through this program, the government is taking steps to provide clean and healthy conditions to every citizen living in the state with the aim of raising living standards under the slogan Clean Villages, Clean Cities,

Swachch Andhra Pradesh, Swachha

JAGANANNA SWACHA SANKALPAM

The 'CLAP - Jagananna Swatch Sankalpam' programme's goal is to make the State a litter-free, open defecation-free, and urination-free state, with the participation of citizens in the programme by distributing three dustbins of blue, green, and red colours per household to collect 100 percent segregated garbage. In addition, the government encourages people to compost garbage at home.

Also, wet garbage, dry garbage, and hazardous waste collected from every household are trans-

ported to Garbage Transfer Centers by garbage tippers. The wet waste and dry waste from the garbage transfer centres are collected by separate vehicles for the treatment projects. Then compost manure or biogas is made from wet garbage. In addition to disposing of the harmful waste in dry waste, 'CLAP - Jagananna Swatch Sankalpam' is

making efforts to bring recyclable materials into use and thus working completely in purifying the waste generated from cities in the state. As part of the programme, the government is giving high priority to garbage collection, transportation, treatment, revenue generation and visual cleanliness of the environment. As part of this program, the Government is moving forward with formulating specific

Most of the buildings were not properly maintained or rendered useless. Four staff members were hired to manage each centre and their salaries were paid to them and

action plans.

all necessary steps were taken to maintain the centre and restore it to run smoothly.

Along with the existing solid wealth processing centres, 4,171 centres are going to be constructed, making all the centres functional by providing necessary infrastructure machinery and sanitation workforce.

About 14,000 tricycles will be distributed to Gram Panchayats in the State for garbage transportation. As part of the drive, to further improve garbage collection and transportation, 1,000 autos will be distributed to 10,000 above-population villages and villages nearby urban local bodies.

The government will also distribute 6,417 incinerator devices to dispose of wastes such as masks and sanitary pads by burning them at high temperatures and incinerating them to make them environment-

Herbal drug Fifatrol can help check dengue: Expert

PNS NEW DELHI

Assembly elections.

Amid a rise in dengue, influenza and viral fever cases in different parts of India, experts claim that herbal drugs like Fifatrol can help in boosting immunity and hasten recovery from these diseases. Professor K N Dwivedi of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) said in Ayurveda, there are some herbs and concoctions which can prevent the progression of infections due to seasonal flu and vectors such as mosquitoes and eliminate them gradually.

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

Monday Mirchi

Sajjanar fighting a losing battle?

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

Cops 'working hard' to bare govt!

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

WhatsApp'Guru' Mahesh **Bhagwat does it again!**

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

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

Elevation of outgoing CS Adityanath Das

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

SEC fights for his own voting right

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

CMO babu cut to size

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

- Yours truly

Government over GST and

taxes on Movies and ques-

tioned if he has dared to do so.

Minister YS Jaganmohan

Reddy had clearly said that

reservations to Kapu com-

munity is not possible and Rs

10,000 crore will be allotted

for their welfare and ques-

tioned what he did for the

welfare of Kapu and Balija

Minister, P Anil Kumar

Yadav too came down heav-

ily on Pawan Kalyan.

Elsewhere, Irrigation

communities.

The minister said Chief

AP among 14 States selected under Rs 7,270 cr scheme for road safety

PNS AMARAVATI

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

The centrally-sponsored sixyear programme will be implemented in 14 states that are now contributing to 85 per cent of the total road fatalities in the country.
While MoRTH will lend a

budgetary support of Rs 3,635 crore, an amount of Rs 1,818 crore will be secured as loan each from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Of the total cost, Rs 6,725 crore will be disbursed to the

mance while MoRTH will use Rs 545 crore for capacity building activities. The scheme will incentivise state governments to drive road safety interventions at the grassroots level with the main

objective of curbing road acci-

dents and achieving a reduc-

14 states based on their perfor-

said in a concept note circulated to the target states.

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

"This is an output and outcome-driven scheme wherein the performance of the states will be assessed on 11 mandatory and three elective indicators (road safety interventions). The grants will be distributed to the states based on Key Performance Indicators, top official sources

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

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

India reported about 1.51 lakh road deaths in 4.49 lakh accidents in the year 2019. Of the total deaths, the 14 identified states accounted for

The number of fatalities remained consistent over the last five years.

In 2020, 1.32 lakh road deaths were recorded across the country, with the Covid-19-induced lockdown resulting in the reduction in number.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The grant of Rs 7,270 crore will only meet partial fund requirement for the scheme. States are expected to make their own budgetary allocations and also implement projects in Public-Private Partnership mode," MoRTH told the states.

Independent Verification Agencies will scrutinise the states' achievements, based on which the Central grant will be

JSP symbol...

Continued from Page 1

The Central Election Commission (CEC) has put a restriction on the use of four symbols by the political parties or independent candidates in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Meanwhile, in the latest notification issued by the CEC, the glass symbol allotted to the Janasena Party in the last assembly elections was included in the Free Symbols category. That is, the relevant symbol can be assigned by the Returning Officers as per the rules to the various registered candidates contesting in their constituency as well as to those contesting as independent candidates.

The State Election Commission (SEC) has also brought to notice that in the recent Tirupati Lok Sabha by-elections, the glass tumbler symbol was allotted to an independent candidate. It may be recalled that the Jana Sena Party lost its allotment to it in the GHMC elections held last year, for failing to contest at least 10 percent of the total 150 wards in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

'Tollywood not fiefdom of Power star'

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botsa Satyanarayana has strongly objected to the statements of Janasena Party president Pawan Kalyan. Responding to Saturday's

harsh comments on Ministers and YSR Congress leaders by the Janasena chief, the MA &UD Minister took exception to his language and attitude. Addressing the media on Sunday, the minister said that no government would be spared if it places a burden on the people. "Why will the government be silent, if they wish

to hike the movie ticket prices? As there is no control on the movie ticket prices, the government, only after consultation with the people in the film industry, has decided to introduce an online ticketing booking system. In fact, the distributors have urged the government to introduce the online ticket booking system. Even the distributors have welcomed the government's decision. What is Pawan Kalyan's stand?" Botsa Satyanarayana

Talking about Pawan Kalyan's language, the minister also said that in the name of freedom of speech, if he speaks anything against any-

body, no one will spare Pawan Kalyan. "Telugu film industry is not the fiefdom of Pawan Kalyan. There are several seniors and experienced artistes, producers and distributors. If they have any grievances, seniors like Chiranjeevi and Mohan Babu can represent the industry in talks with the government. It is not fair on the part of Pawan Kalyan to talk in the manner he did," Botsa Satyanarayana countered.

Talking about the Cabinet reshuffle, the senior minister said that it is completely the Chief Minister's prerogative and everyone should accept

1,184 new Covid-19 cases,11 deaths in AP

PNS AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh added 1,184 fresh coronavirus cases to its tally that now touched 20,46,841 on Sunday.

The latest bulletin said 1,333 patients had recovered from the infection in 24 hours ending 9 am on Sunday while 11 others succumbed.

The gross recoveries now increased to 20,19,657 and toll to 14,136. The number of active cases is now

În 24 hours, East Godavari reported the highest 218 and Kurnool the lowest three new cases. Six districts added

between 110 and 170 while five others registered between 10 and 60 fresh cases. Chittoor district saw three fresh fatalities, Guntur and Krishna two each,

Prakasam, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and West Godavari one each in a day.

Srikakulam bears the brunt as 'Gulab' begins to...

Continued from Page 1

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

30 nm th the missing fishermen Y Papa Rao, V Chiranjeevi and K Bhi marao reached the shore safely near Akkupalli village of Kali ngapatnam. They informed that V Nayakarao and B Mohanrao had died at the sea and the whereabouts of P Hemarao are yet to be ascer-

Meanwhile, the officials have evacuated over 200 people from the coastal villages to the Cyclone Relief Centres Command and Naval and also distributed food to Officers-in-Charge Odisha

The APEPDCL has set up control rooms to restore power lines and police. Meanwhile, incidents were

reported from Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts. However, rain lashed both the districts throughout the

the Eastern Nav

Area have carried out preparatory activities to combat the effects of Cyclone and are in constant liaison with the State administrations for rendering assistance as required.

As part of the preparedness, flood relief teams and diving teams are prepositioned at Odisha and are ready at Visakhapatnam to render immediate assistance. Two Naval ships are at sea with

humanitarian assistance and disaster relief material and medical teams to render assistance in the most affected areas. Naval aircraft are kept ready at Naval Air Stations, INS Dega, Visakhapatnam and INS Rajali near Chennai to undertake an aerial survey of the most affected areas. casualty evacuation drop of relief material as

You must shout & demand...

Continued from Page 1

Yes, I don't want you to cry but with anger, you have to shout and demand that we need 50 per cent reservation. It's not a small issue but an issue of thousands of years of suppression. It is high time we have 50 per cent representation of women in the judiciary. You are entitled (to it), it's a matter of right. It is not a matter a charity. It is unfortunate that some things are realised "very happy" whenever the goal

will be realised. "All my sisters and all of you have carved out exceptions for people in the society and women of the society and for that matter youngsters whether male or female are all waiting and looking at you as if you are role models. Your success stories will make them more impulsive and we expect more women will join the profession and we will

very late." He said he will be achieve the goal of 50 per cent shortly. I wholeheartedly support all initiatives taken by you and so long as I am here I will support all of your causes," he said. The Chief Justice of India said that he believes in mixing with people, knowing about their ideas so that he understands what is the problem the society is facing, but added these days he is visiting lots of places and has got bored of giving speeches.

CM to flag off 2,600 garbage vehicles on Gandhi Jayanti

Continued from Page 1

Also, 10,731 High-Pressure Toilet Cleaners are allocated for the cleanliness of community toilets. During the monsoon season, 10,628 thermal fogging machines are being distributed to control mosquitoes, which are common during the out-break of diseases like dengue and malaria.

Comprehensive Liquid Waste Management will be undertaken in 135 major

On the other hand, in 10,645 gram panchayats, the Jagananna government will also manage vermi-compost and transfer non-recyclable waste to nearby cement factories and waste-to-energy

India expresses disappointment...

Continued from Page 1

The amount collected through

the portal will be transferred

to the theatre owners through

Reserve Bank gateway the

next day, he said and slammed

Pawan Kalyan for his remarks

without prior knowledge. He criticised Pawan Kalyan

for claiming that the State

government had been plan-

ning to take loans through an

online ticketing system and

said the amount is a pittance

to run the State. He reminded

that the State government has

Continued from Page 1

Indian Ambassador to China Vikram Misri referred to the woes of these stranded Indians at the 4th High-level Track-II Dialogue on China-India Relations held virtually on September 23.



VISAKHAPATNAM 470

428

CHICKEN

HYDERABAD

RETAIL PRICE

Parishad poll results may trigger new political alignments... Continued from Page 1

Pawan Kalyan comes under fire from YSRCP

been spending Rs 60,000 crore

every year for implementing

The Minister slammed

Pawan Kalyan for his remarks

on price of tickets and said it

was Chief Minister YS

Jaganmohan Reddy who has

given a 40 percent hike to

movie tickets after eight years

and added that it was an utter

lie that the Chief Minister

was crushing the film indus-

He said Pawan Kalyan

should question the Prime

Minister and Central

welfare of the people.

Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan himself lost in two segments due to the presence of TDP candidate in a triangular fight. It indicates that Jana Sena and TDP ate into each other's votes in the 2019 polls.

Though due to the 'Jagan wave, TDP might not have overcome the anti- incumbency but could have managed to escape the humiliation of facing its worst ever-defeat by bagging just only 23 seats by improving its tally that would have helped keep the morale of the party cadre intact.

Though it did not field candidates in the 2014 polls, Jana Sena had fought polls in alliance with BJP and TDP. Pawan Kalyan canvassed extensively for the alliance in 2014 polls. By the 2019 polls, Pawan Kalyan had snapped ties with both BJP and TDP and joined hands with

Left parties and fielded Janasena candidates.

In Achanta mandal of West Godavari, TDP grabbed the MPP post with the help of Janasena. Out of the 17 MPTCs, the TDP has won seven as against six by the YSRCP. Jana Sena won four MPTC seats. Now, with the support of Jana Sena, TDP could bag the Maldal Parishad. As part of the agreement, the TDP got the Mandal Parishad president post, while Jana Sena was given the vicepresident post in Achanta.

Similarly, TDP bagged the Duggirala Mandal Parishad where the Opposition party won nine MPTCs, YSRCP eight, and Jana Sena one. Here too, Jana Sena lent its support to TDP. In other mandals like Kadiyam, Mallipuram and Razole in East Godavari district and Mopidevi in Krishna district, TDP and Janasena reached an agreement to grab the Mandal Parishads.

TDP insiders pointed out that the latest developments are welcoming as during the 2019 polls both Jana Sena and TDP had to face electoral losses as they contested separately. Now, a section of TDP leaders wish to firm up an alliance with Janasena for the 2024 polls. In 2014, the TDP-BJP com-

bine secured a vote share of 46.79 percent and YSRCP got just 2 percent less votes. Coming back to the 2019 polls, the margin of vote share between YSRCP and TDP was almost 10 percent

While the Congress could get 1.17 percent vote share, BJP mustered 0.84 percent, CPI, CPM and BSP, which contested in alliance with Janasena secured 0.11, 0.32 and 0.28 percent vote share respectively. Janasena contested in 137 Assembly segments and managed to get close to 7 percent votes.

Janasena, TDP marred each other's chances in 2019

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In the 2019 polls when Janasena

candidates lost deposits in many segments, TDP leaders believed the votes polled to Pawan Kalyan's would have changed the equations in their favour as they had lost by slender margins. For instance, TDP's six-time MLA Dhulipalla Narendra Kumar lost by around 1.100 votes. In Narendra's constituency Janasena's Parvathi Boni got around 12.000 votes. In Vijayawada Central, YSRCP's candidate Malladi Vishnu won by a margin of just 25 votes. The Janasena-backed CPM candidate Chigurupati Babu Rao secured 29,333 votes and played a spoilsport for TDP candidate

Bonda Umamaheswar Rao. In Mangalagiri, TDP supremo Nara Chandrababu Naidu's son Nara Lokesh had to face embarrassment in his poll debut. Lokesh lost in a triangular fight with YSRCP's Alla Ramakrishna Reddy and Janasena supported Left party candidate Muppalla Nageswara Rao.

Lokesh lost by a margin of 5,200 votes and Nageswara Rao secured 10,000 votes. In Bhimavaram, Pawan Kalyan lost by a margin of over 8,000 votes to YSRCP's Grandhi Srinivas and TDP's Puliparthi Ramanjaneyulu, who stood third, securing close to 54,000 votes.

"Similar parallels can be drawn in Gajuwaka Assembly segment and Visakhapatnam Lok Sabha.

TDP's presence spoiled the chances of Pawan Kalyan in Gajuwaka and Janasena candidate former CBI joint director, VV Lakshminarayana in Visakhapatnam Lok Sabha segment. Even if Janasena and TDP jointly contested in 2019 such an alliance would have not helped stop the Jagan juggernaut. However, there would have been a face-saving scenario for both TDP and Janasena. It's never late. Even now, if the Janasena, TDP and BJP join hands and start working towards the 2024 polls from now they can give some good fight to YSRCP, which is in a solid, comfortable and formidable position at present," observed a political analyst.

can help check ...

Continued from Page 1

Herbal drug Fifatrol

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

According to sources, during a trial on dengue patients at AIIMS, Bhopal, Fifatrol was found to have increased blood platelet count significantly. Professor Dwivedi explained that there are four types of dengue -- serotypes one to four -- at play, and the prevalence of serotype-two, which is more severe than other types, has been growing very fast across states.

In serotype-two dengue infection, platelet count drops rapidly, and the body's immune response becomes hyper active leading to a cytokine storm that can damage the organs.

This variant of dengue also impacts the kidneys, he said.

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'Gulab': Power utilities under watch

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In view of cyclonic storm 'Gulab' that may affect north districts Jisakhapatnam, Vizianagaram Srikakulam, and Energy Secretary, Srikant Nagulapalli is monitoring the preparedness for facing the cyclone and has issued instructions to the APEPDCL to be fully ready and make arrangements in their respective districts.

The Energy Secretary has conducted a review with APEPDCL CMD K Santhosha Rao and asked the officials of APEDPCL, Visakhaptnam to be on high alert to face any eventuality and to take up restoration works in case of damage to power infrastructure due to the cyclone.

He directed the EPDCL CMD to make foolproof arrangements to restore power supply to the areas which may get affected within a short period.

PNS NEW DELHI

tricts in the state.

The Digital Infrastructure

Providers Association (DIPA)

has sought urgent support

from the Andhra Pradesh gov-

ernment to ensure unrestrict-

ed connectivity of telecom

services even during the time

cyclone "Gulab" hits some dis-

In a letter to state Chief

Secretary Aditya Nath Das, it

has urged the state govern-ment to allow Cell on Wheels

(CoWs) for installation with-

out any permission require-

ment, if the situation arises, for

providing continuous telecom

services in the affected areas.

infrastructure functions with-

out any interruptions, the

association has sought unre-

stricted access of telecom per-

sonnel for accessing telecom

sites. In this regard, it has been

said that enforcement agencies like the police should allow

smooth access to representatives of telecom infrastructure

Also, to ensure that telecom

Telcos for State govt

support for connectivity

situation.

He directed the APEPDCL to make ready the necessary material and transport to the cyclone prone districts. He also asked it to procure small generators to be used for emergency situations for stand-by purposes and make available the required number of de-watering pumps also for emergency purpose.

He also asked to ensure

proper switching of feeders in case of gales and downpours to avoid electrocution-related accidents.

APEPDCL CMD has apprised the Secretary that men and material were kept ready to restore the power supply in case of any damage. All the engineers and staff working in Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, and Vizianagram were told to be on high alert in view of the cyclone, he said.

In view of the 'Gulab' cyclonic warning from September 25 to 27 the control Rooms are established at cyclone-affected districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram &

providers for attending to

faults, routine maintenance,

diesel filling etc. as the telecom

for power, it has been suggest-

ed that discoms in the state to

ensure power availability for

telecom tower operations, spe-

cially in the affected districts

DIPA is the apex industry

body of telecom infrastructure

providers with members

including ATC Telecom, Indus

Towers, Tower Vision, Ascend

Telecom, Summit Digitel,

Sterlite Technologies, Space

Tele Infra, Suyog Telematics,

V-Con, iBus Infrastructure as

well as energy solution com-

panies like Applied Solar Technologies, and Coslight

during this period.

Directors were nominated as overall Nodal officers for each District. The senior officers from Corporate office were assigned the duties duly coordinating with the executing Officers and Staff in the field, he said.

As many as 27 mandals in V i s a k h a p a t n a m, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam and 20,438 33 of kV poles, 1,55,577 of 11 kV poles and 27254 of DTRs are likely to be affected. As many as 3,540 workers and the required number of generators, JCBs, cranes, power saws, and pole drilling machines are kept ready, he said.
The EPDCL CMD also

said that each team will be headed by one Line Inspector and contains 20 workers and one supervisor along with vehicles. In every division, teams would be equipped with power saws and gas cutters for tree clearing works and for iron material fabrica-



SCR cancels 12 trains in view of cyclone 'Gulab'

PNS HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway operations need to be run on (SCR) has cancelled 12 trains 24*7 basis even in an emergent and short terminated, divert-DIPA has also asked the ed or rescheduled few other state government to reach out trains in view of cyclonic storm 'Gulab' which is set to cross Andhra-Odisha coast on to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and oil companies to ensure the availably of diesel on 24*7 basis. Similarly,

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

The authorities also announced cancellation of Bhubaneswar-KSR Bengaluru City, KSR Bengaluru City -Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar -Yesvantpur and Yesvantpur -Bhubaneswar trains.

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

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

Yesvantpur - Budge Budge train was diverted via Vizianagaram-TitlagarhAsansol, and Kanniyakumari-Howrah train Vizianagaram- Titlagarh-Jharsuguda-Kharagpur.

Chennai Central - Howrah was diverted via Vizianagaram-Titlagarh- Jharsuguda -Kharagpur.

Guntur-Rayagada train, which commenced journey on Saturday, was short terminated at Visakhapatnam and partially cancelled between isakhapatnam and Rayagada.

Bhubaneswar - Mumbai CSMT and Puri - Tirupati trains have been rescheduled.

They authorities also announced regulation of 10 trains in South Eastern Railway, Central Railway and South Central Railway as per



ganja peddling charges against son

Samineni trashes

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Government Whip and Jaggayyapet MLA Samineni Udayabhanu strongly condemned the allegations against his son on social media platforms. He said that

some people, unable to face him politically, are stooping to such false propaganda against his Venkata Krishna Prasad who is a businessman.

He said that 'good for nothing people' are involved in ganja peddling.

Baseless reports are being posted on social media plat-forms against Venkata Krishna Prasad, and a cyber case will be registered against the person who posted the fake news, he said. He will take the issue seriously, teach a lesson for posting false posts and see that stern action is taken against the culprits who are trying to defame him and his son.

He said that his son had worked as an IT professional in the UK and is presently into logistic and trading business. He further said that, he along with the party leaders, was busy with ZP chairperson election in Machilipatnam on Saturday and condemned the false posts on social media

that he had been to the Chief Minister's Office to ensure that no case is filed against his son Venkata Krishna Prasad by Telangana police.

He said that political opponents can confront him if he does illegal, anti-public activities and warned them not to drag his family members into politics by

posting false news. Venkata Krishna Prasad on Sunday said that it was very strange to find some posts on social media that he was involved in ganja peddling and the Telangana police had arrested him in Hyderabad. He rubbished the allegations and informed them that he would lodge a complaint against the people who had posted false news on social media plat-

Kidnapped baby rescued in less than a day, restored to parents immediately lodged a com-

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Krishna district police cracked a case involving the kidnap of a five-day-old infant in less than 22 hours. On receiving the complaint of kidnap, the police sprang into action and rescued the baby girl from the clutches of the kidnapper M Mary from Munipeda village of Kruthivennu mandal in Krishna district and handed over the baby girl to the par-

According to the police, around 1.30 pm on Saturday, S Esabu and Induja's fiveday-old baby girl was kidnapped from Machilipatnam government hospital. They

plaint, acting on the com-plaint, district SP Siddharth Kaushal alerted Bandar DSP Masum Basha, CCS DSP Murali Krishna. They formed 12 teams and started searching for the baby and alerted the check-posts apart from carrying out vehicle checks and studying CCTV footage. The police also alerted the 'mahila' police, police whatsapp groups, volunteers groups and others. The police released video footage of sus-

Seerisha, a volunteer in Kruthivennu mandal of the district, identified the kidnapper through a whatsapp informed the 'mahila' police in the mandal. Immediately, Kruthivennu SI rescued the baby from the clutches of the

kidnapper. SP Siddharth Kaushal spoke about the kidnap case on Sunday and said that they have taken the case as a challenge and formed 12 teams without wasting time on receiving the complaint and rescued the baby in 22 hours. He appreciated the police personnel involved in rescuing the baby and announced a cash reward

and certificate to them. The parents of the toddler thanked the district SP and the police for rescuing their baby.

Jagananna Colonies to set an example for other States

With the objective of making YSR Jagananna Colonies bustle with 'Quality Life', both Housing and Energy departments have prepared an ambitious roadmap and are also racing ahead in implementing it.

The power utilities would be spending around Rs 7,080 crore in the coming few years to pro-vide both overhead and underground electrification in the colonies and high quality electrification to 28.30 lakh houses.

During a review meeting conducted by the Housing department with the Energy department, the Special Chief Secretary for Housing, Ajay Jain said that Andhra Pradesh would set an example to the entire country by constructing YSR Jagananna colonies by providing social infrastructure, including secretariats, health centres, veterinary hospitals, schools, colleges, libraries, shopping complexes, parks, commu-



nity halls, banks, stadiums, religious buildings, dumping yards

and burial grounds etc. The government is also providing physical infrastructure like 20 to 60 feet Concrete Cement (CC) roads with median, open and underground drains, water, electrification and internet connection etc. The government is spending around Rs 34,109 crore for providing infrastructure alone which is highest in the country in the area of housing programme for poor/economically weaker

Ajay Jain said that several government departments, including power sector have prepared the detailed project reports (DPRs) and the government has set a deadline to complete the works by December 31, 2022.

The housing scheme covers 28.30 lakh houses in two phases with 17,005 layouts in all 13 districts. The State government spent Rs. 23,535 crore on land acquisition to acquire an extent

'Anti-farmer' policies hit agricultural growth: TDP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

TDP senior leader Yanamala Ramakrishnudu on Sunday held the Jaganmohan Reddy government's 'anti-farmer' poli-cies responsible for the deepening crisis and steep fall in agricultural growth rate in the State. Ramakrishnudu expressed concern that both agriculture and its allied sectors were caught in a steep crisis. As a result, the percentage of the population dependent on agriculture fell from 70 percent to 50 percent, which was an alarming fall of -20 percent. All-round problems have made the lives of cultivators very difficult to lead in Andhra Pradesh. They were getting stuck in debts and losses. The growth rate also went down by over -4.9 percent under the Jaganmohan Reddy rule.

In a statement here, Ramakrishnudu, said that the agriculture and allied sectors recorded double digit growth under the Chandrababu regime and it fell to just 4.4 percent under the Jaganmohan Reddy rule, a fall by -6.9 percent.

There was no growth even in the animal husbandry develop-

prices to the crops at the end of the season. The farmers were not getting returns for their hard work, sweat, and blood. As a result, the production of food grain came down drastically in AP, which fell by 3 percent in 2020-'21 when compared to 2019-`20.

The TDP leader deplored that the fixing of meters on agricultural motors would amount to hanging a noose around the necks of farmers. Payments were not being made in time to the crops purchased from the farmers. The farmers were stuck

AP police dancing to tunes of YSRCP leaders: Lokesh

PNS VIJAYAWADA

TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh on Sunday slammed the Jaganmohan Reddy government for turning Andhra Pradesh into a den of drug smuggling' by joining hands with international mafia gangs involved in smuggling of heroin and other drugs. Lokesh demanded that the AP

government

explain to the peo-

ple of the State the links of Tadepalli palace in Andhra Pradesh with the Taliban drugs in remote Afghanistan. Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy began his mafia activities with liquor and sand to rob the people of their sweat and blood. Now, he had turned the whole AP into a hub of 'heroin smuggling and

over how the country's highest investigation agencies suspicion towards Andhra atrocities cases.

drug abuse'.

in debts as their payments were kept pending for six to nine months. Food inflation was recorded at an alarming 12.5 percent. The farmers were declaring crop holidays all over the State due to the indifferent policies of the Government and rising costs of cultivation. Export of agriculture allied secPradesh. The national agencies were cautioning neighbouring States to remain on high alert about AP. What was once a destination for investments and industries had now turned into a haven for gangsters, criminals and smugglers. The current untoward happenings were destroying all present

and future opportunities of the young generation in the

Lokesh termed it as 'deplorable' that the AP DGP was not doing his duty and covering up everything in order to please

the Chief Minister. When the national agencies were warning other States about the happenings in AP, the DGP was just busy satisfying the political bosses. From the beginning, the AP police has been dancing to the tunes In a statement here, Nara of the ruling party leaders at a party to the ongoing political vendetta and filing of false were pointing their finger of cases including fabricated



STANCE ON FARM LAWS

tor produce came down steeply.

Telugu CMs take U-turn

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

Taking U turn by political parties more, particularly in both Telugu states, has become the order of the day. The ruling parties in both Telugu states the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and YSR Congress in Andhra Pradesh have taken Uturn on farm laws brought by the Central government led by BJP. But the stand of TRS and YSR Congress on farm laws is quite opposite. While TRS opposed the farm bills in the Parliament now it is supporting farm laws, the YSR Congress has supported the farm bills in the parliament but now opposing the farm laws. The YSR Congress has extended its support to Bharath Bandh on 27th September proposed by opposi-

tion parties. Transport Minister Perni Venkataramaiah officially announced this. In Andhra Pradesh, the main Opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) also has taken U turn on farm laws. Just like ruling YSR Congress the Telugu Desam party also sup-ported the farm bills in the parliament and now opposing the farm laws and extended the support to Bharat Bandh on Monday. Both YSR Congress





and TDP have taken U-turn on farm laws but surprisingly the Andhra Pradesh TDP President K Atchennaidu criticised the ruling YSR Congress stand on this issue. Defending the TDP decision on this issue Atchannaidu has raised strange argument and said, "The TDP has supported the farm bills in the parliament by moving some amend-ments, but YSR Congress without moving any amendments it has supported the farm bills in the parliament.

Meanwhile in Telangana, the ruling TRS totally opposed the

farm bills in the parliament. But whatever the reasons within three months the TRS has changed its stand on farm laws. In the month of September in 2020, the TRS opposed the farm bills on the Parliament and in the month of December, the

Minister Chief Chandrasekhar Rao held highlevel meeting on agriculture with the officials. In that meeting, the CM KCR has changed his tune on farm laws. In that meeting the CM KCR said that as per the new farm laws the state government will close the crop purchasing centres in the State, enabling the farmers to sell their products anywhere in the country. Earlier, the officials told the CM KCR that after the formation of separate Telangana Statehood the State government has incurred heavy losses to the tune of Rs 7,5000 crore due to the purchase of agriculture products and Rs 3,9350 crores for the procurement of paddy alone.

After this, the TRS has changed its stand on farm laws which was supported the farmer's protest against these laws and also joined in the protests. The TRS did not extend its support to Bharath Bandh proposed on Monday by opposition parties across the country.

ENC chief lauds tech fraternity for standards

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The Indian Navy's Mid-Year Refit Review (MYRR) and Mid-Year Infrastructure Review (MYIR) conference concluded Saturday night at the Eastern Naval Command (ENC). The conference was inaugurated by Chief of ENC Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur and chaired by Chief of Materiel (COM), Integrated Headquarters Ministry of Defence (Navy) Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani to assess the progress of refits of ships and submarines and Infrastructure projects.
The conference was attended

by a high-level delegation from Naval Headquarters, ENC, Andaman and Nicobar Command, Naval Dockyards, Repair Yards and Material

Organisations from Visakhapatnam and Port Blair. Delivering the inaugural address, Chief of ENC lauded the efforts of the technical fraternity towards ensuring a high standard of maintenance and readiness of IN platforms and emphasised on exploring new technology tools for maintenance,

upskilling of Yard workers to retain core expertise and optimisation of infrastructure costs. On the occasion, Vice

Admiral Naithani emphasised on the need to bolster publicprivate partnership in the defence sector and focus on indigenisation. Deliberations upon the refit plans for ships based at ENC and ANC, discussions on the existing maintenance policies and review of infrastructure augmentation for meeting the growing require-ments of the Navy were the main agenda for the review.





Cabinet rejig: Speculation rife over berths for EG dist leaders

PNS KAKINADA

The comments of Minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy created commotion in the YSRCP leaders in the EG district and they started guessing who will be in and who will be out of the state Cabinet after the reshuffle which is likely to be taken place next month.

Balineni Srinivasa Reddy made it clear openly that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is going to replace all the ministers with new faces. Three MLAs-Kurasala Kanna Babu, P Viswarup and Pilli SubuashChandra Bose- were taken into the Cabinet from the EG district.

However, later Pilli Subash Chandra Bose was elected to the Rajya Sabha, and in his place, Ch Srinivas Venugopla Krishna was inducted into the Cabinet. At present three MLAs of EG district were accommodated in

With the statement of Minister Balineni, the MLAs in

the district have begun lobbying to find place in the Cabinet. The followers of Minister Venugopal Krishna optimistic that he would not be dropped from the Cabinet as he was inducted

only a year ago.
YSRCP leaders said that Rajanagaram MLA Jakkampudi Raja, Tuni MLA Dadishetti Raja, Kothapeta MLA Chirla Jaggireddy, Mummidivaram MLA Ponnada Satish, Pithapuram MLA P Dorababu and MLC Thota Trimurtulu are in the race in forefront for the Cabinet berth. Chirla Jaggareddy and Dadishetti Raja

Energy Minister Balineni made it clear openly that CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is going to replace all the ministers with new faces.

were given Whip posts. Dadishetti Raja might be considered to be inducted into the Cabinet, his followers said.

Interestingly, Rajanagam MLA Jakkampudi Raja is said to be very close to the Jagan Mohan Reddy's family and would definitely be taken to the Cabinet, a YSRCP senior leader opined. However, Jakkampudi Raja has been at loggerheads with MP Margani Bharat for the last few months. The followers of MLA Raja afraid that the MP will play spoilsport in Raja getting ministerial berth. "If MLA Raja is not given Cabinet berth,

another Kapu community leader Thota Trimurulu will be taken into the Cabinet", a YSRCP leader opined.

If present minister Venugopal is dropped, another BC community leader and Mummidivaram MLA Ponnada Satish would be inducted into the Cabinet, YSRCP leaders predicted. Mr.Satish is the second time MLA.

Present minister P Viswarupe belonged to the SC community. If he is a large of the second community of ty. If he is dropped, there is no senior leader belonging to the same community in the EG district. The chances to take Anaparti MLA Chirla Jaggireddy into the Cabinet are bleak as there are many senior leaders in Reddy community.

If present minister P Pushpa

Vani is dropped, Rampachodavaram MLA Dhanalakshmi, who belonging to the ST community will be taken. The MLAs of the EG district have started efforts to get a ministerial berth and are lobbying for the same.



Youth killed in bee attack

PNS KAKINADA

In bizarre of incident, a youth was fatally stung by a swarm at the famous tourist place Jalatarangini in Maredumilli

mandal on Sunday.

Police said that a group of tourists went to the place. Suddenly, honey bees went amuck and attacked on the tourists.

Hundreds of honey bees stung Mohammad Abdul Khan (21). He was admitted to the Maredumilli PHC. When he was being shifted the area hospital in Ramachodavaram for better treatment he died on the way.

Two others were also stung by the swarm and they were undergoing treatment. The police were trying to find out the details of the deceased



in the Bharat bandh tomorrow, the BJP state president slammed that it is unethical and

observed on September 27.

Sunday, BJP state president

Somu Veerraju alleged that the

Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy head-

ed government had announced

its support to the Bharat bandh

only to divert the attention of

ty on the farmers' welfare.

improper to the AP government to announce support to Bharat bandh when the state was stuck in a deep financial crisis. The AP government is joining hands with the Left partice which work corrections. people from the deteriorated financial position of the state.

The BJP leader found fault with the Left parties and some Farmers unions for giving a call for Bharat bandh demanding ties which work opportunism as an agenda, he lashed out. the repeal of three agriculture Mr.Somu Veerraju described laws, stating that though the Union government invited the the farmers agitations as an artileaders for negotiations on the ficial agitation, being carried agriculture laws they had given out with the support of vested a call for bharat bandh. Those interests. who were opposing the three The BJP state president said

agriculture laws lacked knowlthat the Narendra Modi headedge and they had no sinceried Union government is creating MSP, e-marketing to the Referring to the announcefarmers and the new laws ment of I&PR minister Perni would provide an opportunity Venkatramaiah that the AP to the farmers to sell their progovernment would participate duce anywhere in the country

laws would also provide protection to the farmers from being deceived by the mediators, he claimed.

Some elements are trying to destabilize the Modi headed Union government. There is a big conspiracy behind calling for Bharat bandh. The people of the country should understand the conspiracy and support the Union government", he appealed.

The BJP senior leader also flayed the Telugu Desam party for extending support to Bharat bandh. He defended the Union government's decision of priva-tizing the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) which has been earning huge losses for the last few years and stated that the TDP has no moral right to object to the move.

The Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy headed government is ruining the cooperative system in AP, and at the same time, it is opposing the privatizing of VSP, he criticised. The BJP state president called upon people not to participate in the Bharat bandh.

Farmers' wing

backs Bharat

Bandh today

YSRCP farmers' wing State president MVS Nagi Reddy has extended support to the

nationwide bandh on

Monday, expressing solidar-

ity with the farmers' associ-

PNS VIJAYAWADA

of YSRCP

TIOTHI I ODICE

Six thieves arrested, Rs 7.5 L recovered

PNS ■ ONGOLE

The police arrested six thieves, who were committing thefts in aqua forms and recovered Rs.7.5 lakh cash, one lorry, one motorcycle and 10 fishing nets from them.

DSP Nagaraju told the media here on Sunday that complaints were received on the thefts at the agua forms at Ongole, Sigarayakonda and The police formed a special team led by CI M Laskhman

to nab the thieves. The police team conducted toll plaza.

the lorry tried to flee after seeing the police. The police chased and apprehended

them. The police seized Rs.7,50,000 cash, the lorry, one motorcycle, 10 fishing nets altogether worth operandi of the gang that they used to steal prawns and other materials at the aqua forms

during nights.

Police rescue 3 children from

KAKINADA: The police found three kids begging alms on the streets in Pithapuram town on Sunday and freed them. Police said that a person

took the notice to Superintendent of police M Ravindranath through

social media that three kids were begging on the streets in Pithapuram

Responding to the appeal, the SP directed the police officials concerned

selled by the ICDS officials and sent them to their village. The police officials warned the parents not to force their children to beg on the streets.

to save the kids from begging profession. The police found the three

sibling kids Pamarru Kirthi (5), Pamarru Meenakshi (6) and Pamarru Krishna (7) on the street. The brought their parents and they were coun-

begging, counsel parents

and appealed him to take steps to free the kids from begging.

checking of vehicles last night at Tanguturu toll plaza. The police inspected a lorry at the

The six thieves who were in

Swift action of SP saves a woman, two toddlers

PNS ONGOLE

The swift action taken by Superintendent of police Malika Garg resolved a prob-lem of a housewife.

The SP said that on Saturday, Chikkalla Amulya a

resident of Vijayanagara Colony here sent a text message to SP Malika Garg complaining that her husband Pratap Kumar, working as an SBI networks operator, torturing her physically and mentally every day without giving the household expenses.

On Saturday, her husband had beaten her and gone out. After that, her father-in-law Roosevelt tortured her and kicked her out of the house. She said she has a five-year-

old child suffering from autism and three-year-old twins. She said her father-inlaw thrown her and her children out of house without showing any kindness and sent a message to Prakasam district SP as she could not go to the police station with his three children during this Covid situation.

The SP immediately responded and directed the Central Compliant Cell incharge and SB-2 Inspector N. Srikanth Babu to find out the details and to take appropriate action. The Disha CI sent Disha staff ASI Bhaskara Rao and Woman PC Kranti to the victim's house.

They took the compliant from her and warned her in -

laws and explained them the consequences of taking legal action. After that, she and her three toddlers were allowed into home.

The staff then came to the Disha police station and handed over the report taken at the victim's house to Disha CI Murali Krishna and he registered a criminal case (Crime No. 118/2021) against her husband and in-laws.

On Sunday, the CI summoned her husband, in-laws and complainant Amulya to the Disha police station and counselled them. The complainant thanked the Prakasam district SP for sending police officers to her house and doing justice for her by responding to



Minister promised all help: Film Chamber

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce, has said that Information Minister Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani) has promised to address various issues faced by the film fra-

Narayandas Kishandas said that they expressed their concerns to the Minister about various issues being faced by Telugu Film Industry. He said that they are immensely grateful to the AP Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister, YS Chief Minister, YS Jaganmohan Reddy for patiently understanding and positively responding to all the concerns and assuring that all the concerns will be favorably addressed in the near future.

He said that due to the current situation in the Industry that has suffered the onslaught of the division of the states, the pandemic and other issues, the industry is at the worst possible

situation. Various individuals have expressed their Narayandas Kishandas views, opinions and anguish These are not the voices of the Industry as a whole. 'We wish to reiterate that the Apex body of our Industry is the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce in both the Telugu States. We have always been supported by our Governments over the years. Without their support we will not be able to survive," he said.

He further said that thousands of people and their families who are dependent on the film industry have been suffering since March 2020. At this juncture we require the support of our Leaders & Governments to be large hearted and extend their continued support to us. The Telugu States of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana are the two eyes of the film industry and both the Chief Ministers have been proactive and always extended their

encouragement and support

to us, he added.

Speaking to the media here on Sunday, he said that the demands that farmers have been raising at the Centre are already being implemented in the State, especially providing MSP to the crops. The State government had purchased Rs 35,000 crops by giving MSP in the last two years. He said that Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy had always prioritised the agriculture sector and farmers' wel-

also paying the insurance premium for the crops. On the occasion, he said that the government would try to resolve any issue spective of the party or association they belong to.

fare, where the government is

providing free electricity for

nine hours during a day and

Like no other State government in the country, the YSRCP government had spent Rs 51,500 crore towards agriculture and allied sectors in the last two years, he added.

"We hope the issue will be solved amicably very soon. Our party believes that if the farmer prospers, the State and nation will prosper and ours is a farmer-friendly government," Nagireddy added.



RINL CMD opens 50 MT park near Blast Furnace

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

RINL CMD Atul Bhatt and Director (Operations) A K Saxena inaugurated a 50 MT park near Blast Furnace 1 (BF-1) complex on Sunday. Senior officers, union leaders and employees witnessed the milestone achievement of 50 mil-

lion hot metal production of Godavari BF-1 since inception which was commissioned in 1990. On the occasion, the CMD congratulated RINL collective and the employees of BF-1 for achieving the historic milestone of 50 MT of hot metal production.

Godavari BF-1 was commis-

sioned in 1990 by B Kannayya, the then senior-most employee of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

The furnace was put down in October 2013 for up-gradation and modernisation and its second campaign started in July 2014 and produced 12.26

WG police launch Jagruthi to reform bootleggers

PNS ■ ELURU

The West Godavari police headed by Superintendent of police Rahul Dev Sharma have launched 'Jagruthi programme' especially to reform those who were indulging in brewing illicit liquor.

The SP with an objective of reforming the families, who depended on distilling illicit liquor for eking out livelihood in Jangareddygudem division, launched Jagruthi programme in which the police would impart training in electrical works, welding works, tailoring, handicrafts, bumbling and photo frame works in a bid to reform the illicit-liquor brewers.

A programme was organised Dandamuri the Kalyanamandapam on Sunday at Jangareddygudem on the occasion. As many as 100 persons, who were resorting in distilling

The police counselled the illicit liquor brewers and sellers and assured them to extend the required help, if they give up the illicit activities and start leading a respectable life.

illicit liquor in the division would be imparted training in various professions. The police also counselled the illicit liquor brewers and sellers and assured them to extend the required help, if they give up the illicit activities and start leading a respectable

Speaking on the occasion, the SP said that no body born criminal. Addicting to vices and making friendship with criminalmined people convert people into criminals. The police have taken an initiative to metamor-

phose those who were in illicit brewing of country-made liquor profession.

"We are taking all steps and proving the illicit liquor brewers the needed help to make them to lead a respectable life in the society. We are also creating awareness among them on laws and counselling them in a bid to reform them", the SP said. At the same time, the SP warned of stringent action, if anybody resorted to illegal activities like distilling of country-made liquor and selling them.

Talking to the media i the pro gramme, Madhu said that he used to distill country-made liquor and he was arrested. Cases were registered against him and the court sentenced him to 3 years jail term which disintegrated his family. "Had there been such programme like Jagruthi previously, I would not have resorted to such crimes. I will strive to reform others also", he said.

A woman said that her husband was sent to prison in a criminal case and her family had lost breadwinner. Her family experienced many difficulties and they were now realized their mistakes. She promised that they would not resort to illicit activities and lead a respectable life. Special Enforcement Bureau SP C Jaga Rama Raju, Kovvuru DSPs B S Srinadh, Dr.Ravikiran and CI Gowry Shankar were among those who present.



SP makes surprise visits to Maoist-affected areas KAKINADA: Superintendent of police M Ravindranath Babu paid surprise visits to some of the Maoists affected areas in

Rampachodavaram and Chintoor sub-divisions on Sunday. He inspected the CRPF camp and sentry outpost and interacted with the CRPF officials and knew the security arrangements there. The SP held review meeting with the police officials and reviewed the security arrangements at the police stations in Maoist affected areas. The SP directed the officials to take stringent steps and enhance checking of vehicles to contain the illegal transport of ganja. He asked the officials to strengthen the intelligent network and augment the vigil on the Maoist activities. The SP directed the officials to ensure that the tribal people get the welfare schemes, being implanted by the government, so that they would not fall in the trap of Maoists. In-charge OSD Karanam Kumar and Rampachodavaram ASP Krishnakanth accompanied the SP.

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

he Congress on Sunday asked all its workers, state unit chiefs and heads of frontal organizations to take part in the 'Bharat Bandh' called by farmer unions on September 27 to protest the Centre's three agri laws. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha, the umbrella body of over 40 farm unions spearheading the farmers' agitation, had earlier appealed to the people to join the bandh. Congress general secretary



(organization), K C Venugopal, said the Congress and its workers will extend our full support to the peaceful 'Bharat Bandh' called by farmer unions on Monday. "We believe in the right of our farmers and we will stand by them in their fight against the black farm laws," he said in a tweet. "All PCC Presidents, Chiefs of Frontal Organizations are requested to go out in front with our Annadatas in their peaceful Bharat Bandh across the country," Venugopal said. The government and farmer unions have held 11 rounds of talks so far, the last being on January 22, to break the deadlock and end the farmers' protest.

New AIIMS will correct regional imbalance, says Nitin Gadkari

The new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences built in the country are destined to correct the longstanding regional imbalance in the health sector, according to Union minister Nitin Gadkari, who also said doubling the number of AIIMS will better serve people's aspirations. The minister of road transport and highways was speaking at a digital event to mark the 3rd Foundation Day of AIIMS, Nagpur. The programme was also attended by Bharati Pravin Pawar, the Minister of State for Health among others, a health ministry



statement said. "Keeping in view the requirements of the Vidarbha region, with the establishment of an institute of repute like AIIMS, Nagpur, at Nagpur, the patients of all the bordering states of Central India will have access to affordable and modern medical facilities. "However, we have to ensure that the benefits of these facilities reach not only to the cities but also to the people of the remote villages of our region." Gadkari was guoted as saving in the

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was given a warm welcome by BJP leaders, including party chief JP Nadda, after his arrival from the US at the Palam airport here on Sunday. Modi, who walked for nearly two kilometres meeting party workers and the people lined up along the road outside the airport, thanked them for welcoming him. Lavishing praise on the prime minister upon his arrival in the country from the United States, Nadda hailed him as a



"global leader" who has made India a "global player". Citing Modi's meetings with US President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris, besides his participation in the Quad meet and address at the . UNGA, the BJP president said the prime minister put across strongly and frankly global issues and also India's views over threats like terrorism and expansionism. Folk artistes from different states in their traditional costumes greeted the prime minister playing different kinds of drums and musical instruments, Delhi BJP vice-president Virendra Sachdeva said.

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Asserting that every Indian

Based on the foundations laid down in the form of Jan

Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile

(JAM) trinity and other digi-

tal initiatives of the govern-

ment, PM-DHM will create a

seamless online platform

through the provision of a wide-range of data, informa-

tion and infrastructure ser-

vices, duly leveraging open,

digital systems while ensuring

the security, confidentiality and privacy of health-related

personal information, the

access and exchange of longi-

tudinal health records of citi-

zens with their consent, it said.

PM-DHM include a health ID

for every citizen that will also

work as their health account,

to which personal health

records can be linked and

viewed with the help of a

mobile application, a

Healthcare Professionals

Registry (HPR) and

The key components of

The mission will enable

PMO said.

has an important role in the fight against the pandmeic, Modi said not only one should get the vaccine administered

when his or her turn comes,

but they should also ensure

that no one is left out of this

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

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

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

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

PM maintains busy schedule to keep fatigue at bay: Officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Centre plans to intensify operations against Naxals

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

Action against frontal organisations of the Maoists, filling up the security vacuum, concerted action by the Enforcement Directorate, the National Investigation Agency and the state police were other vital issues discussed during the nearly three-hour-long meeting. The chief ministers who attended the meeting were Naveen Patnaik (Odisha), Chandrashekar Rao

(Telangana), Nitish Kumar (Bihar), Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh), Uddhav Thackeray (Maharashtra) and Hemant

Soren (Jharkhand), official Focused investigation and sources said. West Bengal prosecution of cases, action Chief Minister Mamata against front organisations, Banerjee, Bhupesh Baghel of coordination amongst states. capacity building of state intel-Chhattisgarh, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh and ligence branches and special Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan forces of the states, construcdid not attend the meeting. tion of fortified police stations

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

were other issues discussed at

PM to launch Digital Health Mission today

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



SC students asked to wash utensils, keep them separate

Principal suspended, cooks sacked after plaints

PNS MANIPURI

"circle of safety"

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

Chief Development Officer was taken after village prad-

han Manju Devi's husband Saheb Singh filed a complaint Saturday, alleging SC students were being discriminated against at the government primary school in Dodapur in Bewar block. said in the co

plaint that the SC students, around 80 in all, unlike others were made to clean their utensils after eating the meal Vinod Kumar said the action and asked to keep them sep-

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

VP Naidu arrives in Jaisalmer on five-day Raj visit

PNS JAISALMER

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu arrived here on Sunday on a five-day visit of Rajasthan. Governor Kalraj Mishra received Naidu. Rajasthan Energy Minister B D Kalla, Rajya Sabha member Rajendra Gehlot and Jaisalmer MLA Naidu.

The vice president will visit Tanot Mata temple, Longewala war museum and Sam sand dunes in Jaisalmer on Sunday.

Owaisi factor creates ripple among parties

PNS LUCKNOW

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

Their states were represented

by senior officials. According

to sources, intensifying oper-

ations against the Naxals, fill-

ing up the security vacuum,

choking the flow of funds to

extremists and concerted

action by the ED, the NIA and

the state police were discussed

threadbare in the meeting.

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

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

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

early next year.
The Hyderabad MP launched his poll campaign

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

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

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

Srinagar air show makes a comesback

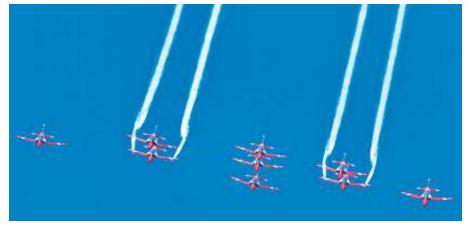
PNS SRINAGAR

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

the Air Force Station, Srinagar and the government is part of the ongoing 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, officials said.

The IAF's Akash Ganga skydiving and Suryakiran Aerobatic Display teams took part in it. The main aim of the show,

under the theme of 'Give Wings to Your Dream', was to raise awareness among the youth of the Kashmir Valley and motivate them to join the Indian Air Force and to pro-



mote tourism in the region, they said.

The event was witnessed by hundreds of school children and people from across the valley at the Sher-eKashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) overlooking the Dal Lake here. It was flagged off by J-K Lieutenant Governor

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

Punjab CM carries out India's Mars probe completes 7 years in orbit first cabinet expansion

PNS CHANDIGARH

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

Rana Gurjit Singh has made a comeback after resigning in 2018 from the Amrinder Singh Ministry.

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

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

PNS BENGALURU

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

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

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

first attempt.

MOM is primarily a technology demonstration venture and all the mission objectives were successfully met, according to officials of Bengaluruheadquartered India's national space agency. The main lessons learnt were

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



ISRO has been continuous-

and its five scientific instruly monitoring the spacecraft ments, and officials said scien-

tific analysis of the data being received from MOM spacecraft

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

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

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

On some criticism in some quarters that scientific output of the MOM was "low" Annadurai said it was more of a technology-demonstration facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

The influencer

Modi has had a good trip to the US, with markers among UNGA, Quad and magnates

rime Minister Narendra Modi is back in India, having wound up his three-day visit to the US, after attending the first in-person Quad Summit, meeting other world leaders and addressing the UN General Assembly as its first speaker. It is in stark contrast to his earlier visits that were marked by hype, festivities and fanfare. This time round, the political dispensation in the US has changed from the much-friendly Trump Administration. Modi met US Vice-President Kamala Harris, Australian counterpart Scott Morrison, Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga and the CEOs of five multinational companies. The Australian and Japanese PMs are in the US for the Quad Summit (A virtual Summit was held in March this year). This diplomatic and military arrangement is widely viewed as a response to increased Chinese economic and military power. Addressing the Summit, Modi said Quad would act as a "force for global good" and "will establish peace and



prosperity in the world", he added. The culmination of the visit was, of course, the Prime Minister's speech at the UN General Assembly that was high on rhetoric but piercingly aimed at China and Pakistan, Modi also addressed the Afghanistan situation and, without naming Pakistan, cautioned it against using Afghanistan for fomenting trouble. Modi said "regressive mindsets were giving terrorism a political meaning"; a statement that may be interpreted as "don't use terrorism as a tool of diplomacy and changing the geopolitics of the region". For good effect, he underlined the need to be alert against any country using

Afghanistan's vulnerability for "selfish interests".

The context was that Pakistan PM Imran Khan had made direct and scathing attacks on India, insisting that the two nuclear powers have to "behave, else the consequences would be grave". Modi, without naming either China or Pakistan, hinted that terrorism as a State policy was not a good idea and the countries should refrain from doing so. He also mentioned the accomplishment of the Indian presidency at the UN Security Council last month. Modi also referred to the issue of the "origins of the COVID virus" and the cancellation of the World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business Index", both of which have been laid at China's door for a lack of transparency by the global institutions. He also emphasised the need for cooperation, saying he represented India as the "mother of all democracies". Earlier, at a meeting with Kamala Harris, both sides emphasised safeguarding democratic values and upholding human rights in respective countries. Modi also offered condolences to the pandemic victims. Overall, it was a well-crafted speech and well delivered though his "chaiwala" reference is better avoided as it has become rather clichéd. Though Modi also had a meeting with President Joe Biden, it was more to do with protocol than anything else. The personal chemistry between them was clearly missing.

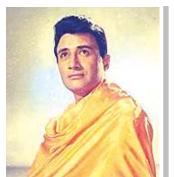


Goddess Durga's idols being readied ahead of the Durga Puja, in Hyderabad

Evergreen

Dev is the quintessential romantic ever since he graced the screen, to this day and forever

■he Peter Pan of Indian cinema may have faded away 10 years ago, but not before leaving an indelible imprint on the hearts, minds and romantic doctrines of millions. He kept in thrall at least three swooning generations, who swore by his charisma, never-say-die spirit and debonair style. The soigne star — part of the unassailable troika comprising thespian Dilip Kumar and simpleton Raj Kapoor, who ruled



the silver screen for over three decades - is best remembered for essaying Raju's character in Guide. The 1965 movie, which was Dev's first outing in colour and simultaneously shot in Hindi and English, was arguably a better show than even the muchhyped Sholay: The thinking masses adored it; it was much ahead of the times for addressing an issue like extramarital affair; and the one point that everyone claims worked for Sholay — that the characterisation was so good the audience still remembers each character — holds good for Guide too. After all, who

doesn't remember the voluble and exploitative Raju, the beautiful Rosie, the jealous-repentant-revengeful Marco, Raju's friend Gafoor

and even the bit players? His magnetism was such that youngsters took to puffing on cigarettes after watching him lip-sync Main zindagi ka saath nibhata chala gaya (Hum Dono). The number was voted the "best inspirational film song" in a survey by one of the top two national dailies a few years back. Since the time Gregory Peck influenced his mannerisms to developing an inimitable style of his own, Dev had had many an infatuation. His first famous affair was with Suraiyya, who was elder to him, but her grandmother forbade the alliance. Suraiyya never got married. With his swaying walk and impeccable dressing sense, it was no surprise that girls swooned over him. The Mayor of Bombay had to issue an appeal against the star appearing in public wearing a black suit after a girl fainted and fell from a multi-storey in the melee to catch a glimpse of the star. Dev looked so dashing that even Madhubala had to be content with the No. 2 slot in terms of grabbing eyeballs in Kala Paani (1958). Dev didn't just spend his life, he lived. And loved. As the penultimate scene of Guide shows, after all the excesses, it all boils down to: "Na deen hai, na duniya, sirf main hoon .. Main hoon... Sirf main...". Long live, Dev saab!

S Lanka looks at empty plates as hunger gnaws



From a carefree, merry-making and well-fed nation, our neighbour has run out of foreign exchange, having overborrowed from China

ince 1964, I have been in touch with Sri Lanka intermittently. At the time, I was told that the butter and ice-cream they ate came from New Zealand. Many vegetables were also imported, including from India. A few days ago, I read that Colombo has declared a national "food emergency". What their people eat as a habitual diet will now be from ship to mouth. The country has run out of foreign exchange; its Government overspent on development by borrowing from China, a greedy lender. The takeover of Hambantota port by the lender was a signal that what Sri Lanka could not pay back China in cash, it is having to fork out in kind, namely real estate at the cost of its sovereignty.

Two characteristics of the Singhala people I have noted are (One) they love life and enjoy themselves when the going is good. Two, they are a little suspicious of Indians, because of the Tamils. They fear that someday situation may arise whereby India may take over Sri Lanka. Given identical lending terms by India and China, they would prefer the latter. The presumption is that the yellow giant is far away whereas India is next door along with its Tamils. The food emergency is the result of the focus on today, tomorrow and the day after will take care of themselves".

Truly, Sri Lanka has good guns but no bread. Right after its independence, Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) has not insisted on growing its staple food on a sufficient scale. In the early days and for years, the country concentrated on tending its tea gardens, rubber and copra trees. The foreign exchange earnings were so plentiful that there used to be a picnic of imported goods. The first painful pinch was felt in 1964 when NM Pereira was the Finance Minister and he went to Parliament to pass very stringent laws. After working a whole career, on retirement, foreigners were henceforth allowed to remit only ₹75,000 for Indians and ₹2,50,000 for others. The discrimination was severe. Had the Indian High Commissioner not been very helpful, my father-in-



Although I must confess, the management at New Delhi was no better. In 1990, the Indian treasury had run out of foreign exchange. In order not to fail commitments overseas, the Government sent many crates of gold to banks in London. Fortunately, in 1991, India was gifted with a decisive Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao who liberalised and globalised Indian economy. He thus brought about an economic revolution.

A small country is vulnerable both economically as well as politically. Its Government must play very cautiously. Sri Lanka liberalised before India and recovered from the cave-in of 1964 that is described above. But any significant decline in foreign exchange earnings should be taken seriously. Otherwise, trouble can surround the economy before giving the Government a chance to draw in the reins. The picture of tea industry has been rather sad



A SMALL **COUNTRY IS VULNERABLE BOTH ECONOMICALLY** AS WELL AS POLITICALLY. ITS **GOVERNMENT** MUST PLAY VERY CAUTIOUSLY. SRI LANKA LIBERALISED **BEFORE INDIA** AND RECOVERED FROM THE CAVE-IN OF 1964

everywhere, be it Sri Lanka or South India. But to Sri Lanka, it makes a big difference. The price of a plain to medium tea was ₹2/kg (though earlier the weight was in pounds) in 1939. By now it should have been in step with the inflation, ₹600 to 800. But it is only the equivalent of ₹200 (Indian).

Garments are another Śri Lankan activity. When there is prosperity, it can earn good foreign exchange. On the other hand, when there is a crisis like the current one caused by COVID, there can be a slump in demand. People, short of money, can do without buying clothes for, say, a year or more. These are the kind of things that look like having brought trouble for Sri Lanka. More so, because the country has borrowings to return. Tourism is another cause of the crisis. It was the largest single foreign exchange earner for Sri Lanka. Due to COVID, it is substantially down.

virtually ignored India, probably embarrassed by its passionate affair with China. After the yellow giant claimed Hambantota, perhaps things changed somewhat. The current Indo-Sri Lanka ties have improved. India may offer food grains, wheat, rice and all else available. And India may consider swap loans whose return would be in Sri Lanka rupees. India can buy only Sri Lanka goods with the returned money against the swap loan. Sri Lanka has described traditionally as the Emerald Isle. It is indeed a beautiful country with sea on its periphery.

People, especially from the Western world, find it irresistibly attractive. The beaches are out of this world and monuments of Buddhism are also engaging, whether Anirudh-apuram, Pollanaruha or Sigiria. The Emerald Isle also has a charisma which few other equally beautiful places have. Its infrastructure for the keen tourists is praiseworthy with its many five-star hotels, its transportation et al.

(This is the first part of a series on India making multi-In the interim, Sri Lanka dimensional advancement across nations and spheres).

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A STRONG MESSAGE FROM THE UNGA Sir — Calling India the mother of all democracies, PM Narendra Modi hails a clear message to the world that all those who want to tarnish India's image by calling it an anti-secular State must watch their mouth. Also, the timely use of 'Right to Reply' by Indian diplomat Sneha Dubey to slam Pakistan for its attempt to propagate abhorrence against India on a global platform is equally commendable. India categorically highlighted strategic issues of geopolitics, inter-government, terrorism, UNSC Reforms, climate change and neighbours' expansionism. India clearly messaged that it has no space for friendship with terror supporters.

Pakistan, who has blamed India many times at the UN General Assembly, must introspect where it stands against India. We do not need to remind Pakistan that it still remains in the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Thus, for peaceful inter-regional relations with India, it should cooperate rather than blaming. Also, Prime Minister Modi must bring forward the view-point of India, and showcase a glimpse of what India's geopolitics and diplomacy will be in the years to come. India is and will be firm against all those forces who spread scorn in society.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

SNOOPING FOR NATIONAL SECURITY?

Sir — Pegasus is back in the news, thanks to the Supreme Court of India. It is claimed that this zero-click digital snooping spyware of the Israeli tech firm NSO Group, upon installation, follows the attacker's command and controls servers to receive instructions and sends back the target's private data, including passwords, contact lists, calendar events, text messages, and live voice calls. The attacker can control the phone's camera and microphone as well. The spyware is designed to evade forensic analysis, avoid detection by antivirus software and can be deactivated and removed by the attacker. In short, the spyware is designed to invade people's privacy.

No more false claims



n a significant ruling, the Supreme Court has stated that caretakers/ servants of a specific property can no longer claim ownership in that property irrespective of their long possession. This shows that the ownership of the property does not pass on to them merely because they enjoyed staying there for a long time. Therefore, the property should be vacated upon being asked by the owner. In Karnataka, during the Devaraj

It is comforting the Supreme Court viewed the statement of the Solicitor General, Tushar Mehta, in the court that "Filing (an affidavit) and making it a public discourse (whether the Indian Government uses Pegasus) is not possible as it will affect national security" as an attempt to stonewall the queries about the illegal invasion into citizens' privacy using the bogey of national security. That certainly was not a eulogy to the precepts of democracy either. The Court's decision to appoint a committee to probe the spyware scandal has come as a sigh of relief. Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

INEXPENSIVE OR CHEAP? Sir — There is a flood of SMSes on mobile phones offering a complete package of so many blood-tests at just ₹599 or less, that too, with home sample collection facility. But these SMSes do not give details and addresses of laboratories where those blood-tests are conducted. Such messages are available on Facebook as well. Either such offers do not come from recognised Urs regime as the Chief Minister, tiller of the land was made its owner through a legislative action. Because of this obnoxious law,

many owners lost their properties. The order of a trial court and the High Court, which had refused to allow a plea of an owner for not proceeding on a suit filed by a caretaker seeking that he should not be vacated from the premises, has been set aside by the Supreme Court. The Bench, headed by Justice Ajay Rastogi, has come to the rescue of the owners who acquired the property with their hard-earned money. Had this judgment not come, and if the trial court order and High Court had come to stay, the plight of owners would have come to a sorry pass. The Supreme Court has observed that the trial court has committed a manifest error. This ruling in unambiguous terms has definitely come as a whiff of fresh

air to the owners of the properties. KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

and Government-approved labs, or just some random pathological laboratories are looting the public. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should probe into the matter. Those offering such cheap packages should be directed to give details of their labs in the SMSes along with their website details.

Any consumer who gives samples for tests should be given a unique ID and a changeable password whereby a complete record of his/her tests may be accessed from the website of the concerned laboratory. A reputed pathological laboratory of Delhi which also covers other cities has dual pricing for medical-tests. Charges for ordinary patients are much higher than those under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS). At least such dual pricing must not be allowed in health-services including for pathological and biochemical tests.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

We need to scale up our banking. There is a need for at least four-five more SBI-sized



We have a chance

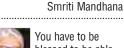


to stop climate change's worst effects, but we have to act right now. We must pass our 'Build Back Better' Agenda.

> —US President Joe Biden

Playing in overseas leagues gives you a lot of experience, especially in the T20 format. And, of

course, you get to learn a lot





blessed to be able to get a chance to make a film and that's why I cling on

—India batter

to the studio -Filmmaker

Sanjay Leela Bhansali

The BJP Government does not have a single logical reason for why it is against the



-RJD leader

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FIRST COLUMN TIGRAY: SPARTA IN AFRICA

Tigray's army has already covered about a third of the distance to Ethiopia's Capital



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

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

Seven million Tigrayans defeating the army of a country of 110 million people may seem odd, but Ethiopia is a patchwork quilt of dif-



ferent ethnic groups, languages and religions that was held together in the past by a centralised monarchy or dictatorship backed by ruthless military force. Until quite recently, it was Tigray that pro-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Does AUKUS cast a shadow over Quad?



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

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

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

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

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

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



BRITISH AND AMERICAN SUBMERSIBLES AND ANTI-SHIP **MISSILES WOULD DETER** CHINA FROM THREATENING NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. IN CASE OF SEVERE PROVOCATIONS, THE AUKUS

CAN PROVIDE TACTICAL **COVER-UP FOR ESSENTIAL SEA ROUTES IN THE** INDIAN OCEAN APART FROM THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

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

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

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

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

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

ty arrangements. The scope of an expanded Quad can include joint technical cooperation and military exercises to increase the interoperability of the forces between themselves andwithin their forcesto counter the military challenges before them. As states have security and have an essential role to play in the economic convergences, an understanding can be built to 'strategi-

guessing on multiple fronts. In essence, the Quad then remains the strategic linchpinof navigational freedoms marked by a "free, open, transparent and inclusive Indo-Pacific region" apart from focussing on other new and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligenceapart from climate change.India and Japan thus will have a more significant role from here onwards.

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

Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are

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





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

Two sides of the cooperation argument

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

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

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



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

(The writer is a senior

Panwar Group of

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views expressed are

iournalist and Chairman

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

tion ministry and the amend- are the cooperatives in the finance, sugar and dairy seg-

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

Modi. He challenged certain

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

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

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

470 infra projects show cost overrun of Rs 4.3 lakh crore

PNS NEW DELHI

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

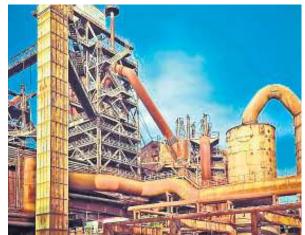
according to a report.

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

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

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

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



47.49 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects.

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

Further, for 871 projects neither the year of commissioning nor the tentative gestation period has been report-

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

The average time overrun in

these 560 delayed projects is

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

Delay in tie-up for project financing, delay in finalisation of detailed engineering, change in scope, delay in tendering, ordering and equipment sup-ply, and law and order prob-lems are among the other rea-

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

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

Diesel price hiked again

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

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

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

Many districts lack bank branches despite high economic activity: FM

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

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

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

It can be noted that policy-

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

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

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

branch or an outpost.

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

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

MONEY MATTERS

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

he top 10 valued firms added a total Rs 1,56,317.17 crore to their helped by across the board rally which catapulted the benchmark index Sensex to the record 60,000 mark for the first time. During the last week,



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

Importer-exporter code not updated to be de-activated

he Commerce Ministry has decided to deactivate all importer-exporter codes (IECs) that have not been updated after January 2005 with effect from October 6 this year, a move which would help in knowing the



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

Inter-co managerial services to attract 18 per cent GST

services by corporate office to its group companies/construction sites registered in different states would attract 18 per cent GST, Maharashtra bench of AAR has ruled. B G Shirke Construction Technology Pvt Ltd had



approached the Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) seeking to know whether the managerial and leadership services provided by the registered/corporate office to its group companies would be considered as 'supply of service'. Also, whether the lump sum amount charged by the registered/corporate office on its group companies would be liable to Goods and Services Tax (GST). Passing its ruling, the Maharashtra AAR held that managerial and leadership services by corporate office to its group companies and other construction sites registered in different States is "supply of service" and would be taxable under GST.

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

indal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) aims to start mining at Kasia iron ore block within a month, its Managing Director V R Sharma said. The integrated steelmaker on Thursday announced bagging of the block, which has total reserves of 278 million tonnes (MT).



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

Stocks may face volatility amid rich valuations

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said that the market is bound to track global cues for direction in a relatively quiet week for domestic economic data releases. The manufacturing PMI

index for September which is to be released this week will help in forming a view on business activities during the month," he said. The PMI data for the manufacturing sector is scheduled on Friday. According to Samco Research, "The volatility seen in the markets last week may seep into the forthcoming week as well given the monthly expiry towards the latter half. Considering the increased concerns around chip shortage and the resultant dampened sales prospects, monthly sales numbers of the automobile sector are sure to grab eyeballs to determine a future trend in

Fuel supply by CIL to power sector rises

Fuel supply by state-owned Coal India Ltd to the power sector rose by 11.4 per cent to 38.61 million tonnes last month, official data showed.

The development assumes significance in the wake of thermal power plants in the country grappling with coal shortage. CIL which accounts for 80 per cent of the country's coal output had supplied 34.64 MT of coal in August last fiscal, according to official data.

Fuel supply by CIL in the April-August period of the current fiscal increased by 27.2 per cent to 205.90 MT over 161.87 MT in the year-ago period, it said. The supply of coal by SCCL in August increased by 73.2 per cent to 4.08 MT over 2.36 MT of coal supplied in August last fiscal, it said.

SCCL supplies to the power sector in the April-August period increased by 84.2 per cent to 22.16 MT from 12.03 MT a year ago. CIL has been writing to power generating companies since October last year urging them not to regulate the intake of coal and build up stock at their end, so that the electricity production does not suffer during summer and monsoon seasons, according to official sources.

Coal India had earlier said that it had launched a multipronged effort to help build up coal stocks at power plants, and stressed that supply to the electricity units carrying stock of zero to six days had been prioritised by preparing a contingency supply plan to increase their stock.

FPIs net buyers at Rs 21,875 cr so far

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

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

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

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

However, higher valuations and US Fed signalling revers-



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

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

million, respectively, he added.

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

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

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

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

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

that the government may end up holding a "sizable" chunk

interactions across various (estimates varied from 26 perat the end of moratorium period, if the telco opts to pay cumulative interest or annual instalments by way of equi-

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

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

Sugarmills in Muzaffarnagar asked to start ops by Oct-end PNS MUZAFFARNAGAR

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

Audi pitches for lower import duties on EVs

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

With a certain scale, the company can then try to convince its global headquarters to re-invest in the country for setting up local

manufacturing for models

which are currently being

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

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

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

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

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



ernment had sought from Cairn.

Sources with direct knowledge of the matter said the finance ministry is framing rules that will lead to withdrawal of the retrospective tax demand on Cairn and 16 other companies, including Vodafone Group of UK. These rules require the companies to withdraw all litigations against the government in return for being refunded any money that was collected to force the retrospective tax demand.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The Parties have conferred

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

what's brewing?

uring the weekend, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav

The theatres which had briefly resumed earlier this year with 50% capacity were shut down in April when the nation started

by the second wave of the pandemic. As soon as the government announced the reopening of theatres, filmmaker Rohit

Shetty announced that his longdelayed film Sooryavanshi will hit the theatres on Diwali. The

film stars Akshay Kumar and Katrina Kaif with cameo roles by Ajay Devgn and Ranveer Singh. Akshay Kumar also took to his social media han-

dles to announce

He also

shared a

the release of

Soorvavanshi.

behind-the-

sets of the

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scenes pic-ture from the

In the film,

Shamshera, Jayeshbhai Jordaar, Prithviraj get release dates





he much-awaited films — Shamshera, Jayeshbhai Jordaar, Prithviraj, and Bunty Aur Babli 2 — now have release dates. On Sunday, Yash Raj Films announced the theatrical release of their upcoming four films. Bunty Aur Babli 2, which brings back the superhit onscreen jodi of Saif Ali Khan, Rani Mukerji along with Siddhant Chaturvedi, and debutant Sharvari, will release on November 19 this year. The film, directed by Varun V Sharma, is touted to be a hilarious out and out family enter-

Next up for release is Akshay Kumar's *Prithviraj*. The YRF's big-budget film will have a worldwide release on January 21 next year. The film will see Akshay in the role of Prithviraj Chauhan. He will be seen shar-

> TS opened Global Citizen's special 24-hour live event

with a thrilling

performance of their single,
Permission To Dance, which

raged through the Billboard's Top 100 this summer.

Starting on September 25, the philanthropic organisa-tion Global Citizen began its

24-hour worldwide event

Global Citizen Live, during

which artists from all over

the world take the stage in

various cities across six conti-

nents. The event is intended

to raise awareness and urge global unity in fighting

against poverty, climate

change, and international vaccine inequity.

Apart from BTS, the star-

studded lineup for the mostly

live broadcast included Ed Sheeran, the Weeknd, Lorde,



ing the screen space with Manushi Chhillar, who marks her Bollywood debut with this magnum opus film. The Chandraprakash Dwivedi directorial will also star Sanjay Dutt and Sonu Sood in pivotal

One of the most anticipated films, Jayeshbhai Jordaar is all



set to knock the doors of the theaters near you on February 25, 2022. The film stars superstar Ranveer Singh and marks

The Divyang Thakkar directorial is touted to be a family entertainer set in Gujarat in which Ranveer will be seen

the Bollywood debut of Arjun *Reddy* fame Shalini Pandey.



playing a Gujarati man, who becomes an unlikely hero.

Last but not the least is YRF's much-anticipated Shamshera. Starring Ranbir Kapoor, Shamshera is being called an "adrenaline-pumping entertainer", which is set to release on March 18, 2022. The film will also star Vaani Kapoor in the lead role, while Saniav Dutt plays the merciless nemesis in this visual extravaganza, which has been directed by Karan Malhotra.

Meanwhile, the makers of '83, which is a biopic on cricketer Kapil Dev. announced that their film is all set to hit theatres for Christmas. Bollywood sure has a lot coming up!



Akshay Kumar clarifies error pointed out by cop

engrossed in a conversation with Rohit Shetty, Ajay Devgn, and Ranveer Singh. The actors are seen dressed as police officers.

IPS officer RK Vij who has a

verified account on Twitter made a comment on the photo.

He wrote in Hindi, "The Inspector is sitting while the SP is standing, this does not hap-

Responding to the observation made by DGP Vij, Akshay Kumar clarified, "Janab ye toh Behind the Scenes photo hai. Hum Kalakaar logon ke liye jaise hi camera on hua, ekdum protocoal waapas. (Sir, this is Behind-thescenes photo. For us artists, as soon as the camera is turned on, protocol returns.) Regards forever to our great police forces. Hope you like the film when you

The officer thanked Akshay for his response and said that his comment was in a "lighter vein" and that he will definitely watch the film. Sooryavanshi belongs to the cop universe of Rohit Shetty which also comprises the characters of Singham (played by Ajay Devgn) and Simmba (played by Ranveer Singh).

Akshay Kumar will be essaying the role of Veer Sooryavanshi.

Shang-Chi becomes the highest-grossing film of 2021



s expected, Disney-Marvel's Shang-Chi And The Legend Of

Ten Rings is raging through the box office, and is standing ground after minting 3.6 million dollars on Friday, which is a feat in itself, as it makes the Destin Daniel Cretton-directed film the highest grossing title during the pandemic ahead of Black Widow with a 186 mil-

lion dollars. It doesn't end there, as Shang-Chi is expected to gross around 12.8 million through the next three days and a running total of 196 million dollars.

This is seen as a landmark for the movie theater business, as it was released solely in theaters with 45 days of exclusivity, as compared to Black Widow and

many other new releases, which have opted for a hybrid model,

with ensuing controversies.
This weekend, *Shang-Chi* is predicted to top the domestic box office charts for the fourth week end straight, adding an expected 12 million to 14 million dollars. In all probability, the film would end the weekend just shy of the 200 million dollar mark.

Shang-Chi's reign has left other films behind, including Dear Evan Hansen, which is struggling to come second with 7.3 million from 3,364 theatres, according to Variety.

The musical feature starring Ben Platt as an isolated teenage boy who is trying to find himself in the new digital era, took in 3.2 million on Friday. Ryan Reynold's Free Guy is expected to move to the third spot, while Candyman and Clint Eastwood's Cry Macho are predicted to slide down to the fourth and fifth places respectively.

BTS opens Global Citizen's live with Permission To Dance



Billie Eilish, Shawn Mendes, Camila Cabello, Metallica, Doja Cat, Lizzo, Coldplay, Usher, Jennifer Lopez, the Black Eved Peas, Elton John, Stevie Wonder, Demi Lovato,

Adam Lambert, Duran Duran, Keith Urban, Andrea Bocelli, Green Day, H.E.R., Alessia Cara, Ricky Martin, Kylie Minogue, DJ Snake,

BTS, comprising RM, Jin, Jungkook, Suga, J-Hope, V, and Jimin, performed *Permission To Dance* at Seoul's Sungnyemun Gate. Clad in suave outfits and wearing their trademark smiles, they kicked off the live event with the song that was intended to reimagine the end of the Covid-19 pandemic. Recently, the septet released their collaboration My Universe with Coldplay, which is steadily climbing the charts. Bollywood actor Priyanka Chopra attended the event in Paris, and shared videos, photos on her Instagram account.

ARCHIE











REALITY CHECK

WERE DATING

GARY REGRETTED GIVING BARB A

SECOND CHANCE AFTER SHE RAN AWAY WITH THE DISH WHEN THEY

ASKED FOR SOME PLACE SETTINGS WHICH I THOUGHT



SPEED BUMP

IN NOT SAYING THEY'RE

GOSSIPERS, BUT THEY DO SNIFF

A LOT OF SCUTTLEBUTTS.





GARFIELD

NANCY

GINGER MEGGS







FREE WEIGHTS

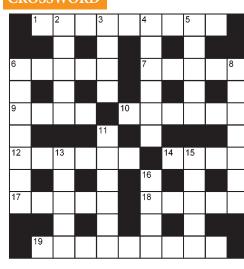


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CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 The largest land animals
- 6 A small rock
- 7 Move slowly and quietly 9 A flower with thorns on its stem
- 10 An extinct animal or plant that has turned to rock 12 Film stars
- 14 A sound bouncing back to you
- 17 A cloth for drying yourself
- 18 People who make meals 19 The leader of the USA

DOWN

2 Large wild cats

3 A writer of verse 4 A ship's heavy metal hook

TEASPOON

5 Large plants in a forest

6 A housemaid or butler

8 Headrests on beds

11 Tools for making holes

13 A tall, narrow building

15 A circus funny person

will burn your skin

16 This liquid chemical

DO YOUR FAMILY GO TO CHURCH?

I'D LIKE WORKING OUT, BUT I



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Monday September 27, 2021

SUNNY KAUSHAL GOES

BEYOND LOVE FOR HIS NEXT!

tion to that person and doesn't

ing and not doing anything else. That becomes your per-

sonal responsibility, not

allowing things to distract

allow his mind to wander. If he is working, then he is only work-

SHIKHA DUGGAL

t is one thing to be in love, and another to go the farthest you can, for that love! Sunny Kaushal's upcoming movie *Shiddat* will make you resalise that being in love is a great feeling, going by the trailer. New-fangled love or an already conventional one, they all exist in different shades and volumes but the 'connection' that thrives within those relationships is ultimately something else that you will witness in *Shiddat*. People are found telling the actor that *Shiddat* looks like that intense love story that is an out-and-out love story!
"The music has caught on quite a bit.

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

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

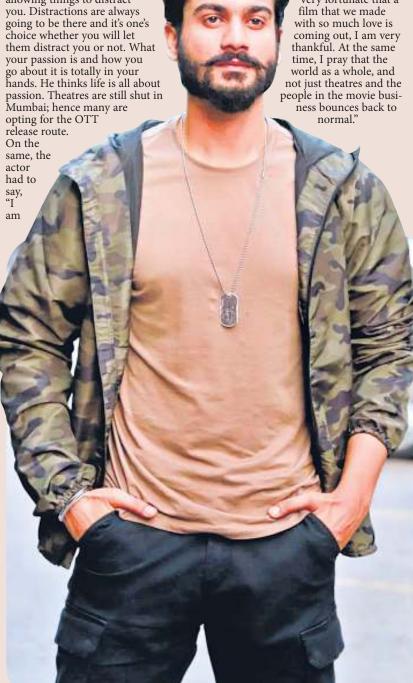
He's not one of those guys who give up easily, especially when it comes to relationships. There is always an aspect of Sunny Kaushal, big or small, in every character that he has played so far. Whatever life experiences you have had will invariably find their way into the part that you are playing, consciously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

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

that kind of person any day."

The actor thinks life is all about pasemotional and romantic about the movies, per se. But I am also very pracsion! Everything that you do stems from passion. He has always believed that tical, and I know that in the times we are in, releasing a film on OTT is both a safe and a viable option. We are still in the middle of the pandemic. The idea of whatever you do in the moment, give it your hundred percent. Even if he is reading a book, he puts his whole energy and attention into it. When he meets making any kind of entertainment is for people to see it. Theatres haven't opened someone, he makes sure he pays atten-

in many parts of the country and wherever they have opened, people are still scared to go to theatres. It's our responsibility to ensure that our film reaches people. I feel very fortunate that a film that we made with so much love is coming out, I am very thankful. At the same time, I pray that the world as a whole, and not just theatres and the people in the movie busi-





What is pregnancy

SHIKHA DUGGAL

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

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



Soumya B Hegde

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



AISHWARYA D

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

thus far.

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

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

Sky is the limit for Aakash

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

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

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

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

Aakash has been dancing since his childhood

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

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

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

you doomscroll often?

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

Become aware of your information con-

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

With Soumya.'

spring, etc.



nature of information you would like to consume.

Become media literate

The information we to our interests, our perhistories. It's therefore ed by lots more of the same information as we have viewed. Therefore, become cognisant of the

of choice. Stick to a few verified



receive is now customised spectives, and our search inevitable to get bombardmanner in which technology is designed to capture our attention so that you're able to retain your power

sources of information the internet is abounding with

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

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

another activity.

Minimise screen time

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

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

Spread positivity online

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

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

including liver and auto-immune diseases," shares the owner of 'BFIT **Preventive measures** to be taken:

that anemic pregnant women are at high risk of delivery like preterm delivery, postpartum maternal infec-

1) Check with your doctor dur-The expert also goes on to share

ing routine checkups. 2) Check haemoglobin levels more often through blood reports especially during the third

tions, low birth weight, postpartum depression, iron-deficient babies with trimester 3) Take the right amount of iron tablets, folic acid tablets, vitamin b12, prenatal vitamins as predelayed growth and development, abnormal behavior, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure in off-

scribed by the gynaecologist.

4) Eat dark green leafy vegeta-

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

5) Eat more raisins, prunes, dried figs, apples, grapes, and watermelons 6) Vitamin C-rich citrus fruits help in Iron absorption. So eat more oranges, grapefruit, amla, lime juice, strawberries, raspber-

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

RCB post 165 against MI



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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

wicket. Bharath for good mea-sure swept Rahul Chahar

against the turn for two sixes

while Kohli also imperiously

pulled Bumrah for a six over deep mid-wicket. PTI

After another defeat, SRH mulling bringing in Jason Roy

IANS ■ SHARJAH

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) head coach Trevor Bayliss has said that England batsman Jason Roy could be in the playing XI in the next match against Rajasthan Royals on Monday after the team suffered its eighth defeat in IPL 2021 this time against Punjab Kings by five runs on Saturday — to lose any hope of qualifying for the play-offs.

Australian opener David Warner was again dismissed cheaply even as the dependable New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson too saw his woodwork being displaced by bowler

PBKS pace bow Mohammed Shami for 1. For long, there has been a discussion on whether Jason

Roy - who replaced the

injured Mitchell Marsh — should get a look-in ahead of Warner to turn the fortunes of SRH, and Baylis said that it is something "that will be discussed in the team meeting".

"Yes. Obviously, he (Jason Roy) is our spare overseas batter. I'm sure the management will get together and discuss to pick a team. So, I'm not going to select a team right now. We'll sleep on that and think about it and have a selection meeting on Sunday," Bayliss said

Bayliss also said his batters were low on confidence. "Yeah, look I do not think that our batters are playing with confidence obviously. We have lost five games under 10 runs and most of them batting second. So, yeah, we made a lot of mistakes.

Dubai: India captain Virat Kohli goes past 10,000 runs in T20 cricket coveted milestone of 10,000run mark in all forms of T20 cricket (international, domestic and franchise) during his

Mumbai Indians here.

Playing in his 314 T20 match, Kohli pulled his India team-mate Jasprit Bumrah for sent in to bat.

Kohli, who is set to step down from RCB captaincy at the end of this season, had side Royal Challengers a six to get the milestone in the come into the match with 13

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

Sunrisers Hyderabad

Rajasthan Royals

IPL 2021 Sept 27

Jadeja cameo helps CSK beat KKR by 2-wickets

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

R avindra Jadeja won a close match for Chennai Super Kings for the umpteenth time as his back-end pyrotechnics ensured a twowicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in an Indian Premier

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Earlier, former skipper Dinesh Karthik's late cameo and Nitish Rana's steady long handle took Kolkata Knight Riders to a par-score of 171

against Chennai Super Kings in an Indian Premier League encounter on Sunday. Seamer Shardul Thakur (2/20 in 4 overs) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/21 in 4 overs) performed impressively to keep KKR under leash till the 13th over when they were 93 for 4.

However, the last seven overs yielded 78 runs and KKR were able to put on a more than fighting score largely due to Sam Curran (0/56 in 4overs) leaking runs at the back end. Even Josh Hazlewood (2/40 in 4 overs) got a bit of stick helping KKR's cause. The platform was laid by Rahul Tripathi (45)

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

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

One-down Tripathi and in-form

Venkatesh Iyer (18) tried to resurrect the innings but the southpaw was unable to convert his start after he nicked one to Mahendra Singh Dhoni off Thakur.

Tripathi, who fetched his first boundary, an imperious pull shot over mid-wicket, also got a 'life' after the ball on which he had nicked, was adjudged as a 'no-ball'. Off the very next one, he smashed his first maximum over deep extra

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

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

Then it was the Rana and Karthik show that took them past 170.

only after a diving catch from substitute fielder Molly Strano. Sutherland doubled her

stumps, leaving Mithali and No.7 Deepti Sharma needing a run a ball from the last 10 overs. Sutherland struck once again, in her next over, snaring the India skipper, who was bowled for 16.

Rana got a lifeline when she was dropped by Nicola Carey on 11 on the last ball of the 44th over. The equation came down to India requiring 33 runs from the last five overs,

Sunrisers Hyderabad Total IPL matches played: 133 Von 57 Lost 56 Highest total: 231/2 Rajasthan Royals Total IPL matches played: 170 Highest total: 226/6 Head-to-Head in IPL Matches played: 14 Highest total

Mandhana, Deepti signed up by WBBL champions **Sydney Thunder**

IANS MACKAY

Defending Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) champions Sydney Thunder on Sunday signed up India batter Smriti Mandhana and leading all-rounder Deepti Sharma as they look to start their title defence next month.

The pair will replace the English duo of Heather Knight and Tammy Beaumont who have declared their inability to participate in the tournament.

Sydney Thunder coach, Trevor Griffin, said his team's title defence "had received an extra edge with Indian superstars Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma signing on for the club's WBBL-7 campaign".

"The pair, who are in Queensland with India's national team for the ODI series and Test match against Australia, were identified by Thunder as quality players with the ability to make an explosive impact on the T20 competition," a Sydney Thunder statement said on

Mandhana starred for India in Friday night's final-ball loss to Australia in Mackay. Her innings of 86 from 94 balls was highlighted by 11 boundaries, and it helped set up India's competitive total of 274 runs.

Sharma made her presence felt in the ODI match described as one of the most thrilling played in Australia, with a knock of 23 runs and by capturing Tahlia McGrath's

Sania wins first title of 2021 season in Ostrava

IANS MACKAY

ended Australia's

unbeaten ODI

streak of 26

line reading 4-2.

Sunday. However, Australia

won the ODI series 2-1, with

The third and final ODI in

the multi-format series' score-

matches

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

The second seeded Indo-Chinese duo defeated the third

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

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

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

Tridia finished the ODI leg of India finish ODI series on a high

high with a brilliant two-wick- but this time India held their et win — fashioned by a col- nerves as they sealed a thrilling lective team effort — which two-wicket win with just three balls to spare. Tall India

WIN VS AUSTRALIA

Jhulan Goswami
hit the winning runs, lofting it straight for a

Chasing a target of 265, India showed poise and power in their response, with the open-Mackay went down to the wire ing pair of Shafali Verma and



will become world champ in future

Anand hopes one of talented Indian youngsters

They have been travelling

around playing tourna-ments, they have the

Smriti Mandhana putting on 59 for the first wicket. Negotiating the new-ball partnership of Perry and McGrath, Mandhana fell to the off-spin of Gardner for 22 (25), with Annabel Sutherland taking a catch running back from mid-off.

Young Yastika Bhatia continued her fine start to international cricket, ticking things along with Verma, bringing up a 100-run stand in just 19 overs.

determination. Hopefully

one of them cracks the

among the young Indians could go on to become a

world champion in

champion was participating in an online inter-

action 'Chat with Vishy -

Viswanathan Anand'

with the participants of

the training programme

The five-time world

code," Anand said. He was responding to a question on who

arm orthodox spin of Sophie Molineux for 56, while wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh was dismissed an over later, with Sutherland taking her first wicket. Bhatia continued her press with captain Mithali Raj, with only a piece of inspired fielder ending her stay at the crease. Top-edging a short ball, Bhatia became Stella Campbell's first

At 160/1 after 29 overs and

needing just 105, India looked in

prime position, before a double

once again. Verma fell to the left-

with four wickets in hand. victim in international cricket, Sports Minister announces month-long

nationwide Clean India Drive from Oct 1

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

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

realize dream of plastic free India."

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

too much. Now I've

step," Federer said.

just got to take it step by

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

IANS **■** BOSTON

PTI ■ CHENNAI

on in future.

Chess legend Viswanathan Anand

on Sunday said the coun-

try has many immensely

talented players at the junior level and one of them can "hopefully" become a world champi-

people with a lot of

promise at junior level. R

Praggnanandhaa, Nihal

Sarin, D Gukesh, they're

very good and motivated.

There are many

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

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

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

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

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

been wonderful. I'm really happy I made the trip," the winner of 20 majors was quoted as saying by atptour.com.
On why he opted for a third surgery, the tennis ace said, "I was just nowhere near where I wanted to be to play at the top, top level. But I tried my best and at the end... too much is

Gold eludes India yet again at world c'ships



PTI YANKTON

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

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

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

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

Earlier on Friday, Jyothi was a member of the Indian women's and mixed pair compound archery teams which paign with three silver medals.

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

India were in pursuit of their first ever gold medal at the world event. For a country that doesn't

climbed the most podiums at the event -11 —, appearing in nine finals and leaving with silver each time. Jyothi dished out a consistent display shooting 28, 29 and 29 in her first three ends, but

the Colombian top seed opened up a two-point lead at the halfway mark, drilling in seven perfect 10s with two X (closest to the centre) from nine arrows. The sixth seeded Indian shot three 10s from three

arrows in the final end but that was not enough as Sara wrapped up the gold medal match by two points.

Jyothi, however, upgraded the bronze medal she had won two years ago, as the Andhra archer concluded her cam-

tollywood

NANI THANKS PK, APPEALS TO AP GOVERNMENT



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

ask YSRCP leaders for stopping the-atres from functioning normally. Nani responded to Pawan comments

through Twitter saying, "Keeping aside the political differences between Pawan Kalyan sir and AP Government. The film industry issues addressed are genuine and needs immediate attention. Thank you @PawanKalyan sir. As a member of film fraternity I humbly request @ysjagan gaaru and concerned Ministers to look in to it before it gets too late for the cinema to revive.

Pawan Kalyan took a dig at the YSRCP government describing how the latter had been playing at its whims and fancies by procrastinating talks with the delegation of the industry. "When the investment is being poured by private play-



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

the cause has been garnering, only time will tell if the Jagan-led government will resolve the issues of the film indus-

that was launched by



MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELOR'S release postponed by a week

ooja Hegde and Akhil ooja Hegde and Akhil Akkineni's upcoming film Most Eligible Bachelor has been postponed again. According to the latest update, Most Eligible Bachelor will be released in theatres on October 15. Directed by Bommarillu Baskar, Most Eligible Bachelor is a romantic drama.

Akhil Akkineni took to Twitter to share a new poster of *Most*Eligible Bachelor to announce the new release date.

Sharing the poster, he wrote, "In theatres from 15th October. See you soon everyone. #AlluAravind @hegdepooja @GopiSundarOffl #PradeeshMVarma #BunnyVas

#VasuVarma @GA2Official

@adityamusic (sic)."

Most Eligible Bachelor is Akhil Akkineni's fifth film as a hero. While his four films were average-grossers, Akhil is waiting to score a massive hit. He is banking on *Most Eligible Bachelor* to give him the much-needed break. Director Bommarillu Bhaskar is making a comeback after a long time with this film.

The ensemble cast of *Most* Eligible Bachelor includes Eesha Rebba, Aamani, Murali Sharma, Vennela Kishore, Jayaprakash, Pragathi, and Amit Tiwari. Cinematographer Pradeesh Varma, editor Marthand K Venkatesh, and composer Gopi Sundar form the technical crew

PRABHAS SENDS KAREENA BIRYANI, **ACTRESS ENJOYS** 'INSANE' MEAL

ollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan binged on some biryani, which was sent over by Prabhas. Bebo took to Instagram and

shared a photo of her dinner. "When Bahubali sends you biryani it's gotta be the best. Thank you Prabhas for this insane meal," she

wrote and added the

Adipurush hashtag. Prabhas and Kareena's husband, actor Saif Ali Khan are working together in Adipurush, an adaptation of Hindu epic, Ramayana. In Adipurush, Baahubali star Prabhas plays a character inspired by Lord Ram, Kriti Sanon plays Sita while Sunny Singh essays the role

of Laxman. Saif plays the

antagonist Lankesh, which



About working with Saif for the first time, Prabhas had said in a statement, "I am excited about working with a talented actor like Saif Ali Khan. To be featuring alongside such a great actor on the big screen is a

The release date of the



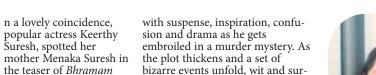


uperstar Mahesh Babu is all praise for Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi's latest release Love Story, which is conquering theaters in south Indian states ever since its release. The film, directed by Sekhar Kammula, released on September 24 and has been doing great over the weekend. Mahesh Babu took to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

his review of the film. In a series

of tweets, Mahesh Babu mentioned how Sekhar Kammula has delivered a "knockout film", how the film will be a game-changer for Naga Chaitanya. He seemed blown away by Sai Pallavi's performance.

"#LoveStory @sekharkammula pulls all the right strings... delivers a knockout film! @chay_akkineni comes of age as an actor, a game-changer for him... What a performance!" Mahesh wrote.



Keerthy Suresh's mom to play a cameo?

score composed by Jakes Bejoy.
Directed by Ravi K Chandran, who is also the cinematographer for the film, the Malayalam rendition/remake is produced under the banner of AP International and Viacom18 Studios. Bhramam will premiere exclusively on Amazon Prime Video

in India on October 7.

vival create the fabric of the film coupled with the stellar backgroun







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

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

testing times."

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

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