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VIJAYAWADA, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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‘Gulab’: Rescue & relief ops in full swing

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Even as cyclone ‘Gulab’ has left a trail of destruction in North Coastal AP, the Andhra Pradesh government intensified its rescue and relief operations in Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts on Monday. All relief teams, including SDRF, NDRF and State government agencies, are participating in the relief operations.

According to APEPDCL, 350 electric poles were uprooted and the work is going on to replace them in all three districts.

In a swift action, APEPDCL officials restored power in the entire North Coastal AP by Monday evening. As some transformers were severely damaged, the officials are on the job to restore them.

Severe damage was caused to horticulture crops. Paddy crop was submerged in rainwater at several places in the region. The field-level assessment would be done from Tuesday onwards.

With the help of the local youth in all mandals of the three districts, the administration has started taking steps to clear the hurdles for communication, road traffic and also for power restoration.

The ministers, MLAs, MPs and other political representatives have swung into action to help the ‘Gulab’-affected families.



CM reviews situation, announces Rs 5L ex gratia to kin of deceased

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Monday held a video conference with the District Collectors and other officials over the impact of the Gulab cyclone and directed them to expedite relief measures in affected areas besides announcing an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the families of the deceased.

During the meeting held at the camp office here, the Chief Minister instructed the authorities to restore power as soon as the rains subside and suggested to keep monitoring the situation

every 30 minutes.

He announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the families of the deceased and said that Rs 1,000 should be given to each family while returning home from relief camps.

The CM directed the authorities to be empathetic towards the public in the cyclone-affected areas and provide basic food supplies for the affected people and ensure quality food is being given to those taking shelter in the relief camps along with proper medical care and safe drinking water.



Second cyclone to hit AP in September

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After nearly 16 years, a cyclone struck Andhra Pradesh in the month of September.

The last cyclonic storm to hit Andhra Pradesh in September was in 2005 when Cyclone ‘Pyaar’ made landfall about 20 km north-east of Kalingapatnam. Incidentally, Cyclone Gulab also made landfall at almost the exact spot after 16 years.

Cyclone Gulab made landfall on the coastline of Srikakulam district

with a speed of about 80 kmph and gusting to 95km ph.

Thus, Cyclone Gulab became the third cyclone in this century to strike the east coast in September along with Cyclone Pyaar and Cyclone Daye that hit Odisha near Gopalpur on September 21, 2018.

According to Skymet weather, “The post-monsoon stormy season commences from October and goes on till December for the Indian seas, both Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.

Reservoirs up to brim in 3 districts

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Thanks to the ‘Gulab’ cyclonic storm, all water bodies in the three districts have received adequate water in Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts. All reservoirs, including Thadipudi, Meghadrigedda, are up to the brim as they have been receiving heavy inflows from Vamsadhara and Nagavali rivers in Srikakulam districts.

As the catchments areas in Odisha are witnessing heavy rainfall, there is a flood threat to Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts.

Meanwhile, after 48 hours of continuous rain in the region, all drains, canals and other water bodies have been completely filled. As last reports came in at 9 pm on Monday, heavy rain is being experiencing in the Agency areas of Paderu, Sitampeta and Parwathipuram of the North Coastal Andhra Region.

The hilly areas of Visakhapatnam city also received good water reserves so much so that waterfalls were activated at the Simhachalam stairway, Madhavadhara and Gangadhara.

88 low-lying areas inundated

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

All the three North Coastal districts of AP – Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam – have received copious rain, thanks to ‘Gulab’ cyclone. Visakhapatnam district has recorded 28 cm rainfall in six mandals while in Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts recorded 20 cm of rainfall.

The Pendurty, Pedagantyada, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam rural and Madhurawada mandals have received 28 cm of rainfall during the past 24 hours, according to Visakhapatnam Collector Dr. A Mallikharjuna.

As many as 2,100 persons were evacuated and after normalcy was restored, most of them returned home. As many as 88 low-lying areas have been inundated in Visakhapatnam district including the city. The NDRF and SDRF teams have swung into action and arranged the high-speed HP motors to flush out the floodwaters.

Meanwhile, at all rescue centres in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts, the officials have arranged food and other cyclone relief materials for the affected people.

With the impact of the ‘Gulab’ Cyclone, all the low-lying areas in Visakhapatnam city including at Pendurty, Old Town, Arilova and other areas, the people suffered a lot on Sunday night.



District Collector Dr. G. Mallikharjuna Rao on Monday inspecting the Visakhapatnam Airport after it was inundated due to the ‘Gulab’-induced downpour.

Vizag Int’l Airport flooded

VISAKHAPATNAM: As all water bodies including Meghadrigedda reservoir in the city have reached their full capacity, the officials opened the gates. With this, for the first time in 10 years, the floodwaters entered the Visakhapatnam International Airport. However, there is no interruption for flight operations. “After the Meghadrigedda reservoir gates were opened, the airport started receiving

the floodwaters. However, there was no disturbance to the flight operations. On Monday, as per schedule all the 15 take-offs and landings of aircraft were operated safely, K Srinivasa Rao, Director, Visakhapatnam International Airport told The Pioneer. Inconvenience was caused due to floodwaters entering the airport but it was overcome,” Rao added.

Politicians-police nexus a new trend: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Terming alleged nexus between politicians in power and the police officers as the new trend in the country, the Supreme Court Monday orally questioned as to why it should protect such police officers in criminal cases after the regime change.

The observations of the bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana

came on an appeal of Gurjinder Pal Singh, suspended Director of Chhattisgarh Police Academy, who has rushed to the top court seeking protection from coercive action after the Congress-led state government lodged the third FIR against him for an incident that had taken place in 2016.

The bench, which sought response of the state government

and protected him from any coercive action concerning the third FIR for three weeks, took note of the submissions of senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the suspended police officer, and said the proximity with the power leads to a situation, being faced by the petitioner when others come at the helm.

Naidu calls upon TDP cadre to help Gulab-hit families in N Coastal AP

SNV SUDHIR
■ VIJAYAWADA

Energy Minister Balineni Srinivas Reddy's recent remarks on the impending Cabinet reshuffle have increased the anxiety of aspirants for a berth in YS Jaganmohan Reddy Cabinet.

Since indications are that Jagan plans to replace the entire Cabinet with new faces, hopes of the MLAs who have missed the berth in the first half of the Cabinet term are now increasing. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister is said to be working on caste, regional, gender and other political equations to finalise his new Cabinet.

Until now, speculations were rife that senior ministers like Botsa



Satyanarayana, Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy and those who are good at their responsibilities like Buggana Rajendranath,

Mekapati Goutham Reddy and Kurasala Kannababu will retain their seats. However, Balineni Srinivas Reddy's remark that the

Cabinet will be fully revamped by Dasara has changed the equation.

It has also dashed the hopes of some Ministers who had hoped that Jagan would consider the Covid period and allow them to continue in their post at least for one more year.

As things stand now, the Ministers who will be dropped from the Cabinet will be utilised by the party to campaign for the 2024 polls.

It may be mentioned here that the Chief Minister, at the time of the swearing-in of the Cabinet in June 2019, had announced his intention to replace the Ministers after two-and-a-half years for the second half of his term.

‘Bharat Bandh’ gets good response in AP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Despite rain, the 10-hour ‘Bharat Bandh’ observed in Andhra Pradesh in protest against the three farm laws on Monday was peaceful. All parties except the BJP and its alliance partners extended support to the nationwide bandh. The parties took part in the 10-hour strike in response to the call given by farmers protesting against the Union government's three farm laws under the aegis of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM).

In AP, the YSRCP government extended support to the bandh and suspended RTC bus services and declared a holiday for schools and educational institutions in the State on Monday.

With the RTC buses confining to the depots across the State, the bus stations wore a deserted look and life was paralysed. People in emergency had to opt for alternate means of transport to reach their destination.

The Left parties, along with the main Opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) also and Congress supported the bandh. However, due to the downpour, activities planned for the strike could not be carried out successfully. Despite rain, the Left party leaders, farmer associations and TDP activists carried out rallies raising slogans, displaying placards and carrying huge banners against the Central government's three agri laws till 3 pm.



Pawan to take part in ‘Srama Danam’ on Oct 2

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Actor-turned-politician and Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan will take part in ‘Srama Danam’ programme at two places - Dowleswaram in East Godavari district and Kothachervuru in Anantapur district on Gandhi Jayanti (October 2).

According to JSP office sources here on Monday, the party chief would reach Vijayawada on September 30.

Earlier, the meeting with the party key leaders was scheduled to be held on September 28 and 29. Later, it was postponed to September 30 when party chief Pawan Kalyan will hold a meeting with party activists and on October 1, a meeting will be held with important party leaders during field-level visits to every constituency in the State for Srama Danam programme.

On October 2, Pawan Kalyan will take part in Srama Danam (road repair work) at two various places in the State. At 10 am, he will participate in the road repair work on the Cotton barrage road that was badly damaged in Dowleswaram.

Earlier in 2018, Pawan Kalyan took part in a rally on the same



road.

Later on the same day at 2 pm, he will participate in the Srama Danam programme in Puttaparthi - Dharmavaram road in Kothacheruvu panchayat in Anantapur district.

On September 2, 3 and 4, Jana Sena party chief Pawan Kalyan called for the Srama Danam programme and Jana Sainiks and Veera Mahilas along with activists and leaders to post photos of bad roads on social media through #JSPFORAP_ROADS. Lakhs of people tweeted from Ichapuram to Anantapur and the plight of the bad road condition reached millions of people through the digital movement.

2 fishermen ‘feared dead’ return home

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In a dramatic end to confusing reports, two fishermen V Nayakarao and B Mohanarao belonging to Manchineellapeta in Srikakulam district, who were feared dead after their boat was caught in the cyclone on Sunday night, reached the shore in the wee hours of Monday. However, another fisherman P.Hemmarao (19) is still missing.

A six-member team of the fishing community rushed to Odisha to purchase a new fishing boat and later returned to Manchineellapeta of Srikakulam district in the morning hours of Sunday.

Then they ventured into the sea in the new boat which capsized in the sea. While three persons reached home safely, three others were reported missing. Two of the three missing fishermen were reported dead by their teammates who returned home.

The same was officially announced on Sunday night. However, they both safely reached the shore in Srikakulam.



CM launches platform for art, culture & health

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Monday virtually launched “Dharmapatham”, a platform for art, culture and health, at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy temple in Vijayawada. Later, TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy and Executive Officer K S Jawahar Reddy have invited Chief

Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy to attend Sri Venkateswara Swami Bhrahmostavm of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) in Tirumala. Endowments Minister Vellampalli Srinivas, Revenue Principal Secretary (Endowments) G Vani Mohan were present on the occasion.

Modi utilised the UNGA forum to tell the world of the greatness of India, again

The greatness of my country is that a tea vendor is standing in front of you to address this august gathering, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the UN General Assembly on Saturday.

India, which he described as 'mother of all democracies', has proven that unity in diversity is possible, Modi said. The only country home to people speaking several languages, different lifestyles and food habits is India, he said, adding that diversity brings recognition to India.

For a tea vendor to continue in power for 20 years without interruption – 13 years as Chief Minister of Gujarat and seven years as the Prime Minister– and addressing the UN General Assembly four times is a wonder of democracy, he said.

His speech in Hindi has made every Indian feel

proud. Whenever Modi addresses the global fora, he never fails to praise India.

He cites achievements of Indian intelligentsia and touches upon valuable preaching of poets and philosophers to highlight the greatness of the country.

Addressing the 76th UNGA as the first speaker, his 22-minutes-long speech was punctuated with mention of the greatness of India. He stressed on the inseparable link India has with the rest of the world by saying that the world develops only if India develops and winds of transformation blow across the globe only if they sweep across India.

Successes achieved by India in science and technology are useful to the world, he declared, saying that the country, in spite of having limited resources, developed the first DNA vaccine that is administered to all those

Modi took part in the first face-to-face meeting of Quad countries. Leaders of these countries held crucial deliberations on the issues raised by India's Prime Minister in UNGA, including China's expansionist moves and developments taking place in Afghanistan.

over 12 years of age. The country achieved major success in this regard, he said.

Modi highlighted the successes of India while assailing the countries that encourage terrorism.

He called upon all nations to stand against the countries that are likely to exploit the sensitive situation in Afghanistan to their selfish advantage. He called for safeguarding the seas – which is the lifeline of international trade – so that they are not against using them for their expansionist ideas.

The whole world is aware

of the countries Modi referred to.

If suitable action is not taken at an appropriate time, time will ensure the actions fail, Modi said, quoting Chanakya's teachings from 375 BC.

The UN should also improve its efficiency and credibility, he announced.

"If one were to forge ahead to cross hurdles in the way of good deeds, the hurdles will get removed automatically," he said quoting Ravindranath Tagore.

The three-day US tour of Modi proceeded in tune with



Y SATYA KUMAR
BJP National Secretary

his set objectives.

With the US withdrawing its troops from Afghan soil, the world is keenly observing the situation there. The world is seeing Pakistan's efforts to promote terrorism in Afghanistan to meet its selfish goals. The superpowers did not pay attention earlier to India's contention to brand Pakistan as a terrorist nation. But, the world can-

not forget the mayhem created by terrorists in the USA on September 11, 20 years ago.

Even Pakistani journalists were critical of the attempts by their country's premier Imran Khan to portray terrorists in J&K as freedom fighters.

Imran Khan's contention that former US President Ronald Reagan invited Mujahedeen to the White House reduced him to a laughing stock.

India dismissed Imran Khan's speech as worthless. A 25-year-old woman Sneha Dube who is working as first secretary in UNO, representing India, tore apart the speech point by point.

She cornered Imran by saying: "Imranji, stop spreading falsehoods about India, which is home to mil-

lions of minorities who live safely in the country.

First you better vacate the areas in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir."

Humiliating Pakistan in front of the world with the help of a young woman diplomat is part of India's strategy.

During his three-day tour, Modi held fruitful talks with US President Joe Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris, Australia Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japan's Premier Yoshiga Suge.

He took part in the first face-to-face meeting of Quad countries.

Leaders of these countries held crucial deliberations on the issues raised by Modi in UNGA, including China's expansionist moves and developments taking place in Afghanistan.

The priority India got at

this meeting was not ordinary. Partnering with India on issues like terrorism, expansionist ideas, drugs and so on stands as an example the priority India gets in international issues.

Joe Biden declared that the US would support India's bid for permanent member status in the UN Security Council and its entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group. He praised Modi for extending strong leadership to the Security Council in August last.

It's clear that Modi at the age of 71 years, never tires as he reviewed development works like construction of new Parliament House after returning home from his 65-hour whirlwind tour.

Untiring Modi's leadership and his friendship with several top leaders of the world is indeed a matter of pride for the people of the country.

India's Covid vax coverage crosses 86 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The cumulative number of Covid vaccine doses administered in the country crossed 86 crore on Monday, the Union health ministry said.

More than 88 lakh (88,98,560) vaccine doses have been administered till 7 pm, it said.

The daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late night , the ministry said.

The vaccination exercise as a tool to protect the most vulnerable population groups in the country from COVID-19 continues to be regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level, it said.

The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with health-care workers getting inoculated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers started from February 2.

The next phase of COVID-19 vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions.

The country launched vaccination for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1.

The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1.

2 fishermen 'feared dead' return...

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Naval teams and other rescue personnel are searching for another person who is still missing.

Meanwhile, an 8-year-old boy and a woman died due to 'Gulab' cyclone in Visakhapatnam city.

According to information, the boy was electrocuted in the Vepagunta area after he came in contact with the power lines.

In another incident, in Pendurty area, a 48-year-old woman died on the spot in a landslide.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
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Without Skin	₹274
Broiler at Farm	₹141
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VIJAYAWADA	447
HYDERABAD	428
VISAKHAPATNAM	470
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.47

IAS officers in AP, TS have cake, eat it too

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

IAS officers, especially the ones serving as Chief Secretaries, are as blue-eyed boys of the Chief Ministers in both Telugu states.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu set a new tradition by giving posts to retired IAS officers, and this trend is being followed by YS Jaganmohan Reddy.

While KCR appointed Rajiv Sharma and SK Joshi as Advisors after their retirement as Chief Secretaries, Jagan appointed Nilam Sawhney as State Election

commissioner (SEC) after her superannuation.

Now, incumbent Chief Secretary Aditya Nath Das has been appointed Government Advisor even before his retirement. Das will retire by the end of this month and after he demits office as Chief Secretary, he will be stationed at Delhi as Advisor to Andhra Pradesh with Cabinet rank.

Compared to IPS officers, IAS officers are much more in demand after their retirement. Several Chief Secretaries in both Telugu states have been appointed as Advisors, but very few DGPs have been thus honoured.

At present, over ten IAS officers have been given new

posts after their retirement in both the Telugu States. Not only new posts, Chief Secretaries are given extension of service ranging from three to six months in their post, with the permission of the Union government, and later given new assignments. This obviously does not apply to all Chief Secretaries - only those in the good books of Chief Ministers are bestowed such an honour.

When asked why the governments give new assignments to IAS officers after their retirement and not to IPS officers, a senior IAS officer said that the IAS officers have a more 'better grip' on administration than their IPS counterparts.

CM reviews situation, announces Rs 5L ex gratia to kin of...

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He instructed the authorities to set up more relief camps in the places necessary and told them to set up medical camps in flood prone areas to help affected families and supply clean drinking water through tankers as water sources could be contaminated due to rains.

He asked the officials to clear water from inundated areas of Visakhapatnam city through pumping system.

The CM directed the officials to prepare the report on the enumeration of crop damage in a generous manner and provide immediate relief to farmers. Also, the officials were told to be on high alert as Odisha is also experiencing heavy rains,

which could lead to flash floods.

He ordered the authorities to move those residing in the riverside areas of Vamsadhara and Nagavali to relief camps and monitor the water levels in the reservoirs. He said that by the grace of God, the Gulab cyclone was not as severe as Hudhud or Titli.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary Adityanath Das, who was monitoring the situation from Visakhapatnam, explained that in some areas the winds were blowing at a speed of 80-90 km/hr. Trees were uprooted in some places but were cleared immediately. Also, all highways are clear. He said that people were evacuated to safer areas and relief measures are in full swing in Visakhapatnam city.

Second cyclone...

Continued from Page 1

Accordingly, very few storms form in September, the fag end of the southwest monsoon season.

In that, striking Andhra Pradesh coastline is rarer, as the storms normally head for the Odisha coast".

From 2015 to 2017, no storm hit Andhra Pradesh and Odisha coast. However, the next two successive years, 2018 and 2019, powerful cyclones lashed the east coast. In 2018, very severe cyclonic storm Titli hit near Palasa in Srikakulam district on October 11.

Cyclone Gulab has since weakened to a deep depression and was heading westwards on Monday. It is likely to weaken further and move across Odisha, Telangana and Maharashtra.

Skymet weather predicted that heavy rains will gradually leave Andhra Pradesh and shift to over Telangana, Vidarbha and Marathwada.

Politicians-police nexus a new trend: SC...

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This is what happens when you are so close to the government and do these things...you have to pay back one day with the interest. When you are good with the government, you extract money, when another government comes you have to pay back.

This is too much, why should we grant protection to such officers. This is a new trend in the country. He should go to jail, why should the court protect these kinds of officers, the bench said.

You are responsible for all this nonsense. You go, surrender and get the regular bail, said the bench, which also comprised justices,Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, at the outset.

The senior advocate said the officers, who are honest and upright and have outstanding service records, needed to be protected and Singh is one of

them against whom as many as three FIRs have been lodged by the government.

The fresh plea has been filed seeking protection from coercive action in an FIR lodged on July 28 this year for offences of extortion, criminal intimidation under the IPC on the complaint of one Kamal Kumar Sen concerning an alleged incident of 2016.

The court has now posted the plea of Singh for further hearing in the first week of October and directed the apex court registry to list his earlier two pleas as well together for hearing.

Gurjinder Pal Singh, the 1994-batch IPS officer who had served as the IG of Raipur, Durg, and Bilaspur during the earlier BJP rule, has been facing probe in as many as three criminal cases.

The top court, on August 26 this year, had granted Singh the protection from two crim-

inal cases of sedition and amassing of disproportionate assets.

It had termed as a disturbing trend the filing of sedition cases in the country against political opponents after the regime change.

Singh was initially booked in the disproportionate assets case following raids at his premises by the state's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and Economic Offences Wing (EOW).

Another case of sedition was invoked against him later on the grounds of his alleged involvement in promoting enmity and hatching a conspiracy against the government.

The state government is represented by lawyer Sumeer Sodhi.

According to the police, the documents recovered during the ACB/EOW raids revealed that Singh was allegedly involved in promoting enmi-

ty and hatching a conspiracy against the established government and public representatives and was booked under sedition charges.

Singh was booked under IPC sections 124-A (sedition) and 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc) of the IPC at Raipur's City Kotwali Police Station.

He has sought the case be handed over to the CBI or other independent agencies to ensure a fair probe.

The director of the state police academy was suspended on July 5 after the ACB/EOW, on June 29, registered an FIR under the Prevention of Corruption Act in connection with the disproportionate assets he had allegedly amassed.

The ACB/EOW, which carried a three-day search at around 15 locations linked to

‘Bharat Bandh’... Continued from Page 1

Congress State president Dr S Sailajanath here on Monday said that the BJP was implementing anti farmers, workers and anti-people policies and demanded that the Central government cancel all the three 'anti-farmer' laws.

The Gulab cyclone has helped the Bharat Bandh called by the Left parties in the north coastal districts. As all the political parties, including YSRCP, supported the bandh and continuous heavy rain, caused by Gulab Cyclone, life came to a standstill in the entire North Coastal region. Except in a very few areas, auto-rickshaws also completely went off the roads in the region. Pan shops, restaurants, street vendors, tea shops, hotels and major business establishments remained closed till evening.

Due to continuous downpour till evening, traders shut down operations. All city and route buses were confined to the depots and as Covid-19 restrictions are still in force in the night time, the Transport department has made arrangements for limited services on Monday.

CM launches platform for art, culture...

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Endowments Minister Vellampalli Srinivas, along with Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam EO D Bramaramba have met Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy at his camp office and invited him to offer traditional silk robes to Goddess Durga on behalf of the government during the dasara festival.

Jagan was also invited to attend Dasara celebrations at Sri Bhramaramba Malliakarjuna Swamy Devasthanam in Srisaillam.

Rain, cyclone alerts force BCCI to delay domestic season

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The start of India's domestic season has been delayed by two days with the Under-19 events for boys and girls pushed back to September 30 due to a cyclone alert in south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coasts.

The U19 Boys Vinoo Mankad Trophy and U19 Girls One-Day tournament was scheduled to begin on Tuesday across seven venues.

Heavy rain is expected in Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar, that are among host cities for the matches along with Indore, Vizag, Surat, Rajkot and Nagpur.

"Owing to the incessant rain and the cyclone alert issued by MET, the BCCI is compelled to postpone the start of the group stage from 28.09.2021 to 30.09.2021," wrote Dhiraj Malhotra, BCCI General Manager -- Game

Vizag Int'l Airport flooded

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Deploying special teams, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) has intensified the rescue operations to pump the floodwaters from the low-lying areas, particularly in the Old City. All senior officials, MLAs, Ministers, MPs and other newly-elected local body representatives monitored the rescue and rehabilitation works in their respective areas.

Pawan to take part in ‘Srama Danam’...

Continued from Page 1

Pawan Kalyan asked the State government to repair the roads to some extent and if the government does not respond on October 2, on the occasion of Gandhi

Cabinet aspirants anxious as CM...

Continued from Page 1

This period would be completed by November this year and aspirants are now getting eager for an elevation. There are also many 'loyal' leaders who were ignored in the first half of the five-year term and have been patiently biding their time.

The list of aspirants include, Tamminei Sitaram and Dharmana Prasad Rao from Srikakulam, Kolagatla Veerabhadra Swamy and P Rajanan Dora from Vizianagaram, Gudivada Amarnath, Karanam Dharmasri and Budi Mutyala Naidu from Vizag, Dadisetty Raja, Ponnada Venkata Satish and Nagulapalli Dhana Lakshmi from East Godavari, Mudunuri Prasad Raju, Kottu Satyanarayana, Grandhi Srinivas from West Godavari,

Kolusu Parthasarathy, Jogi Ramesh, Vasantha Krishna Prasad, Samineni Udaya Bhanu and Meka Venkata Pratap Rao from Krishna district, Ambati Rambabu, Kona Raghupathi, Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy and Mohammed Mustafa from Guntur district, Nallapureddy Prasanna Kumar Reddy, Kakani Govardhan Reddy, Anam Ramanarayan Reddy and Kiliveti Sanjeevaiah from Nellore, Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy and RK Roja from Chittoor, Korumutla Sreenivasulu, Gadikota Srikantha Reddy and C Ramachandraiah from Kadapa, Anantha Venkataram Reddy, Thopudurthy Prakash Reddy and Usha Sree Charan from Anantapur as well as Silpa Chakrapani Reddy from Kurnool.

It would be interesting to see who makes it to the final list.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT B. PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE	
1)Tender Notice No: 15E/2021-22, Dt:24-09-2021 (Second call), 2) Name of Work: Construction of additional in fall regulator with 3 vents to accommodate 15,000 cfs capacity including approach channel and leading channel for GBR. 3) Approximate Estimate cost: Rs.22.39.04,168/- 4) Date of issue of Tender: 27-09-2021 at 3.00 PM onwards. 5) Last Date of receipt of Tender: 11-10-2021 on 5.00 PM. 6) PQ/Technical Qualification stage Date & Time: 12-10-2021 at 11-00 AM. 7) Commercial stage & time: 22-10-2021 at 11.00 AM. 8) E-Auction Date & Time: 22.10.2021 @ 2.00 PM. 9) Address of the officer concerned: Sri S.Kabir Bhasia, Superintending Engineer, SRBC Circle No.1, Nandyal (P.O), Kumool Dist., A.P. Phone No. 0985030391 E Mail: selarabandari@gmail.com. For further details can be seen @e-procurement market place @ https://searbc.approcurement.gov.in.	SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SRBC CIRCLE NO.1, NANDYAL
OPPR/O. No. - 1724/CUM/VI/2021-22 Dt: 27.09.21	

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Bharat Bandh evokes good response, ends peacefully

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Bharat bandh call given by the Samyuktha Kishan Sangh and supported by the all opposition parties demanding the Union government to repeal the three controversial agricultural laws, evoked good response in the coastal AP and Rayalaseema districts on Monday as the bandh was a success, total and passed off peacefully.

In Kakinada, all the commercial establishments, educational institutions, petrol filling stations remained closed while all business activists came to halt in Kakinada and Rajahmundry cities and also in other towns. The APSRTC buses went off the road as the state government announced its support to the bandh. The CPI, CPI (M), Congress, CITUC, CITU and AITUC leaders participated in the bandh appealing to the post office, banks and other Central government offices to participate in the bandh. All the main thoroughfares wore a

deserted look. The bandh went off peacefully without any untoward incident anywhere, police said.

In Guntur, the bandh was complete and peaceful. Barring the rain, the Left party activists led by their leaders enforced the bandh. All Central and state government offices, commercial establishments, mirch yard and banks remained closed. The Left party activists took out a massive rally from Shankar Vilas centre to Lodge centre in which former MLA M A Gafhur, MLC K S Lakshmana Rao and CPI state deputy secretary Muppalla Nageswara Rao participated.

In Kurnool district, the bandh was complete and peaceful. All business activities came to an end as all commercial establishments and educational institutions remained closed while the APSRTC buses were off the road. The farmers supported by leaders of various political parties took out a rally with bullock carts at Kodumur village and the activists took out a two-wheeler rally in Kurnool

enforcing the bandh. The Left party leaders organised darnas in Nandyala at Gandhi chowk and Srinivasa centres enforcing the bandh.

In Anantapur, all shopping complexes and commercial establishments' voluntarily closed while educational institutions declared a holiday today. The petrol filling stations did not function while government officials were also closed. Protest demonstrations were organised against the three farm laws on Kadiri national highway. Similar protests were organised in Dharmavaram also in the district.

In Nellore, the bandh was a success and peaceful as normal life was thrown out of gear as all activities came to a halt due to bandh. Telugu Desam party activists took out a motorcycle rally extending support to the farmers. The rally began at Nartaki centre and reached the Atmakur bus stand centre. A rally with bullock carts was also organised in Udayagiri. The agitators took out a rally in Atmakur enforcing the bandh.

The organisers demanded the Centre to repeal the laws.

The Bharat Bandh evoked contrasting responses in the Chittoor district on Monday. The bandh was a success and passed off peacefully. There was mild tension at Tirupati railway station as the CPM and CPI protestors squatted on the tracks. Holding flags of their respective organizations, the protestors reached the railway station for rail rook where the police arrested them.

The Government offices in the district remained closed and APSRTC buses restricted to bus depots. However, no emergency service was stalled during the bandh. All commercial establishments and educational institutions remained closed. Leaders and workers of non BJP parties, trade unions and people's organizations staged protests in support of the demand of farmers. They organized rail rook, road blockade and took out rallies. The bandh was also a success and peaceful in West Godavari and Prakasam district.

CM asks officials to implement best practices in temples across the State

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has directed the officials to implement the best practices in temples across the State, from online system to preparation of quality 'prasadam', being enforced in TTD, in other temples as well.

During a review meeting held on endowments department at camp office here on Monday, the Chief Minister instructed the officials to ensure no scope for corruption in the department and said it can be achieved by introducing online system in temples.

He said donors can contribute to any of the temples online and added to display boards with details of methods and procedures of online system. He instructed the officials to ensure that donations are used for the development of temples and not diverted for other causes. He said the system in other temples should be similar to that of TTD.

The Chief Minister said revenue from temples should be spent on development of temple ensuring no corruption and added to focus on regular maintenance of temples. For the first time, the state government has been spending nearly Rs 70 crore for development works at Kanaka Durga temple.

He instructed the officials to focus on quality of accommodation and prasadam at temples. He instructed the officials to introduce the process of making laddus in Tirumala to other temples also. He said to complete the formation of committees in temples so that monitoring of temples could be increased.

He said to prepare master plans for all temples and added to prepare action plans for

60.3 mm 333 mm to rainfall recorded in 6 districts of AP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The port city Visakhapatnam received rainfall of about 30 cm during the last 24 hours under the cyclone Gulab impact on Monday. According to IMD data, rainfall ranging from 60.3 mm to 333 mm was recorded in over 450 places spread over Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna districts in the last 24 hours. Guntur and Prakasam districts received up to 7.5 mm rainfall while SPS Nellore and the four Rayalaseema districts received up to 2.4 mm of rain, according to the State Disaster Management Authority. In Vizianagaram district, agricultural crops in 13,122 hectares and horticultural crops in 291 hectares were damaged, according to the Collector A Surya Kumari. On the other hand, several mandals, including Vijayawada, received heavy to extremely heavy rainfall under the influence of cyclone storm Gulab. Krishna

district has been receiving heavy rainfall since the wee hours of Monday. Several areas and roads were waterlogged for hours and normal life has been hit by the downpour. Several mandals, including Vijayawada, received heavy to extremely heavy rainfall. According to the India Meteorological Department, the Vijayawada-Gannavaram station recorded 108 mm rainfall until 8.30 am on Monday. During the same period, G Konduru mandal recorded 178 mm rainfall, according to the rainfall data by the district administration. Bapulapadu mandal recorded 103.2 mm rainfall and Veerulapadu mandal received 92.6 mm rainfall. Gampalagudem, Nuzvid, Ibrahimpatnam, Vatsavai, Reddigudem and Mandavalli mandals recorded more than 70 mm rainfall. Vijayawada rural and urban mandals recorded around 35mm rainfall. The district received an average of 44.4mm rainfall at 8.30 am on Monday. A holiday has been declared for schools due to the bandh.



development of other major temples including Srisailem.

The chief minister instructed the officials to create awareness and provide training to temples Executive Officers on TTD maintenance practices and said quality standards should be followed in maintenance of temples and added to

identify infrastructure problems and changes to be brought in temples and focus on them.

He said auditing in temples should be transparent and directed the officials to take help of TTD for digitization process like online booking, kiosks,

QR code payments, online room booking system etc. He instructed the officials to conduct survey and geo tag for temple lands to protect them.

He said the State government had installed over 47,000 CCTV cameras in about 18,000 temples for security and instructed the officials to install CCTVs at all temples. He instructed the officials to appoint an SP level officer for vigilance and security in the endowments department.

He said the state government has quashed retirement of hereditary priests and it will be implemented to the rest as well and added that the salaries of the priests were also increased. He directed the officials to focus on allotting house sites to the priests.

'Many institutions came forward to give up grant-in-aid status'

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Assuring that no injustice will be done to the contract lecturers, Minister for Education Adimulapu Suresh said that a good number of grant-in-aid educational institutions have come forward to give up their grant-in-aid status by handing over the staff and a few institutions have agreed to give their assets along with the staff.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, the minister stated that the government's intention is to provide quality education to the students without laying any burden on their families. Although the welfare schemes like Amma Vodi, Vidya Deevena, Vasati Deevena are being provided even to those studying in grant-in-aid institutions, the enrollment was not increased and failed to deliver the results.

In regard to this, the government had set up a committee to study the situation and had given its report to the government. Based on the report, to address the issue Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has given three options to those



CM has given three options to institutions either to voluntarily withdraw from grant-in-aid benefits or hand over the assets to the govt or run them as private institutions.

institutions either to voluntarily withdraw from grant-in-aid benefits or hand over the assets to the government or run them as private institutions. With this, out of the 133 degree colleges, 125 managements, almost 93 percent have come forward to hand over their grant-in-aid status and assign staff to the government. Additionally, 5-7 insti-

tutions have voluntarily agreed to give their assets to the government along with the staff.

Similarly, out of 122 junior colleges, 103 colleges have come forward to hand over their grant-in-aid status and five institutions have voluntarily agreed to give their assets to the government along with the staff. As far as grant-in-aid schools are concerned, 1276 schools have agreed to give up their status and 100 schools have agreed to give the assets and staff to the government. The minister said that if anyone can't run their institution, the department will run it as a government school and assured that no school will be shut.

Further, he stated that the problems of contract lecturers were ignored by the previous government, but the current government will take steps to provide job security to contract lecturers and thus constituted a committee to study the possibilities. Contract lecturers need not have to worry about their jobs, as the government is committed to strengthening the government institutions, unlike the previous government.

APNGO leader to be appointed as Govt Advisor

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In an interesting development, the YS Jaganmohan Reddy government has moved a proposal to appoint a former president of AP Non-Gazetted Officers' Association, N Chandrasekhar Reddy, as government advisor on employees services matters.

He has recently retired from service upon superannuation. The Chief Minister's Office on Monday wrote a letter to the principal secretary (political) in the General Administration Department seeking to appoint Chandrasekhar Reddy as the advisor to the government on employees' service matters.

Necessary proposals would be circulated to the CMO for issuance of orders appointing Chandrasekhar Reddy as the advisor in a day or two, the CMO note said. With this appointment Chandrasekhar Reddy will join the long list of advisors the government has appointed after YSRCP came to power in June 2019.

Naidu calls upon TDP cadre to help Gulab-hit families in N Coastal AP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Leader of the Opposition N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday stressed the need for extending immediate help to the people who were affected in the latest heavy rains under the impact of cyclone Gulab in the State.

Naidu said that North Andhra and many places in South Coastal districts were inundated with rainwater. Thousands of people became homeless. Heavy rains were still lashing some areas. Crops were damaged badly due to strong, gusty winds under the influence of the cyclone.

In a statement here, the TDP



chief called upon the party cadre and leaders to come to the rescue of the displaced and affected people in the cyclonic rains. They should provide essential commodities to needy families. Wherever necessary, the affected families in low-lying and inundated localities should be shifted to safer places. Help and

The cadre should provide essential commodities to needy families. Wherever necessary, the affected families in low-lying and inundated localities should be shifted to safer places.

assistance should be extended to the cyclone-hit families in every way possible.

Chandrababu Naidu said that the government should remain alert and initiate timely measures in view of the damage caused by the Gulab cyclone.

Steps should be initiated to

rescue the people residing in the low-lying areas in Vizianagaram, Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts. Immediate measures should be taken to ensure an uninterrupted supply of power. Advance steps should be taken to prevent losses and damage to the people.

Capital city farmers' stir crossed 650 days

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

TDP former MP Konakalla Narayana on Monday strongly criticised Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy for not changing his stand on Amaravati even though the farmers, coolies, women and youth were continuing their agitation for the past 650 days.

Konakalla Narayana asserted that the farmers sacrificed their ancestral lands only for the sake of giving their help to the noble cause of building a great Capital city for the betrayed people of residual Andhra Pradesh. CM Jagan Reddy should remember how he gave his total approval for Amaravati by making a statement in the House in his capacity as the opposition leader at that time. After coming to power, the CM changed his stand only to promote his selfish interests.

Addressing a press conference here, the TDP leader said that ultimately, the YSRCP Government would have to bend its neck and bow before the relentless agitation of the Amaravati farmers. Never before in the history of any country, the farmers came forward to give 34,000 acres for a Capital city project. The ruling YSRCP leaders should wake up from their dreams and realise that it would not be possible to destroy Amaravati. Even the Supreme Court had ruled out the insider trading allegations in the Capital city project.

Konakalla Narayana said that the Supreme Court had clearly said that just 128 acres transactions took place prior to the announcement of the location of Amaravati Capital city. This was a minuscule thing when compared to a massive project like constructing a Capital city. At least



now, the Chief Minister should take a relook at his policies and start thinking along logical terms. The 3 Capitals decision was undoubtedly a destructive plan, which had already disrupted the overall development of the State. Without a strong Capital city, AP would have no future.

The TDP leader recalled how the Amaravati protesters have been agitating night and day for the past 650 days. Their fighting spirit was unmatched in that they were braving persecution, false cases, fake arrests and lathi

charges. Women protesters were put through lots of humiliation and harassment. CM Jagan should not forget that the AP people had to come back to their home place with nothing in their hands and with no Capital city. At such a critical time, the TDP regime came out with a visionary plan to build a Capital that would be the AP people's pride.

The former MP said that if the Chandrababu plans were continued, over 15 lakh jobs would have been created in AP by now. The industrialists and investors had no trust and no respect for the present Chief Minister of AP. As a result, it was the people who suffered badly but not the ruling YSRCP leaders. CM Jagan was only thinking along selfish lines of promoting his own and his party leaders' interests while the people were made to lead uncertain and difficult lives.

Close shave for 40 bus passengers

PNS ■ ELURU

As many as 40 bus passengers, travelling in a private luxury bus, had a miraculous escape when it overturned at Y Junction at Badampudi village in Unguturu mandal on National Highway on the night of Sunday.

The private bus was going to Srikakulam from Vijayawada when the mishap occurred. The driver of the bus was

unable to control the vehicle while taking a turn resulting in the bus overturned on the road. As many as 20 bus passengers suffered minor injuries. Since it was raining when the accident took place, the bus passengers stood on the road drenching in the rain. Ambulances from Tadepalligudem and Unguturu rushed to the accident site and provided treatment to the injured.

Margani-Jakkampudi turf war reaches Tadepalli

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As the turf war between Rajahmundry MP Margani Bharath and Rajanagaram MLA, Kapu Corporation Chairman, Jakkampudi Raja has reached a crescendo and both started airing their opinions against each other openly YSRCP central leadership has summoned them to Tadepalli.

It is reliably learnt that TTD Chairman and party incharge for East Godavari district YV Subba Reddy is expected to talk and discuss

with both Bharath and Raja on the ongoing tussle and try for truce.

Both Bharath and Raja are considered important for YSRCP with their caste background in the politically sensitive area like both Godavari districts. While Bharath belongs to BCs, that forms major chunk of votes, Raja comes from a strong and influential Kapu community.

Tussle between them has turned a headache for party leadership. While the party leadership would want to tread cautiously on the issue without



harming anyone's interests it would be interesting to see how the issue will be resolved.

Most importantly both are seen as youth icons in their



respective communities even as the party and politics as a whole is transitioning to a new generation. Raja comes from a strong political family and

been associated with chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy since long. Raja's father was very close to Jagan's late father YS Rajasekhara Reddy and also served as a minister in his cabinet.

Jagan, while putting aside several other BC candidates, picked Bharath, as he is a young leader to contest from Rajahmundry Lok Sabha segment in 2019 polls.

It is learnt that both Bharath and Raja were indulged in high intensity turf war for dominance on Rajahmundry town.

The issue had gone to such an extent that Bharath believed to have went and consoled a family of a lecture, a TDP sympathiser who was attacked by a group reportedly affiliated to Raja. In a retort Raja has openly accused Bharath of working with TDP against the interests of YSRCP.

These charges Bharath denied in a press conference recently. Amidst such a charged atmosphere YSRCP central leadership has swung into action so that things don't slip out of hands and the issue don't escalate.

Heavy rain batters EG, WG districts

PNS ■ ELURU

The heavy downpour, under the influence of the cyclonic storm Gulab, wreaked havoc in West Godavari and East Godavari districts on Monday. The downpour began in the early hours on Monday and continued for about four hours disrupting normal life badly in the West Godavari, East Godavari and Krishna districts. Several residential localities inundated in knee deep water while crops in thousands of acres submerged in the water.

According to official sources, about 96 mm rainfall was recorded in 20 mandals in WG district. Heavy downpour lashed Eluru, Palakollu, Narasapuram, Polavaram, Buttayagudem and Koyyalagudem mandals. Many streams, canals and nalas received heavy inflows due to heavy rains in the catchment areas.

Paddy and groundnut crops submerged in rainwater. Tress and electrical poles were uprooted at several places due to winds resulting in several villages being plunged into darkness due to power failures.

Since the road at Aadamilli village was damaged due to overflowing of water, the road connectivity to several villages in Kamarkota mandal was cut off. The Suddhivagu, Jaihind canal, Jalleru stream, Ashwaraopet stream and Regulakuta kalva were in spate with heavy inflow and the flood water was overflowing on road disrupting vehicular traffic from Jangareddygudem to some agency villages. The Tammileru and Yerrakalva rivulets were receiving heavy inflows.

The Tammileru reservoir at Jangareddygudem was receiving 600 cusecs of water and the officials lifted three crust



gates to release the flood water to the downstream.

District Collector Kartikeya Mishra reviewed the situation with the RDOs and other officials virtually.

He said that a toll free number 18002331077 was set up in the collectorate. He directed the officials to be on high alert in the wake of the heavy rains that occurred in the district under the influence of cyclone.

The Collector directed them to set up relief camps to shift the people living low lying areas and set up medical camps to provide medical treatment to the victims. He asked the officials to ensure that power supply is restored at the earliest. Mr.Mishra asked the officials to monitor the situation from time to time.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister

Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy reviewed the situation with district Collector Kartikeya Mishra who informed the Chief Minister that 95.8 mm of rainfall was recorded in WG district. He informed the Chief Minister that the entire government machinery was put on high alert.

In East Godavari district, the heavy rain battered 34 mandals inundating several

Toll free number 18002331077 was set up in the WG collectorate. Mishra directed the officials to be on high alert in the wake of the heavy rains that occurred in the district under the influence of Cyclone Gulab.

residential areas and submerging crops in a large extent of land.

According to official sources, as per the preliminary reports, standing paddy crops in about 10 thousand acres were damaged. The damage of crops and property would be assessed after flood water is receded.

Officials informed that the average rainfall in EG district was 137.2 mm.

The Kakinada smart city is under knee deep water. Several residential areas inundated in knee deep water in Kakinada and Rajahmundry.

Special control rooms were set up in the Tahasildar and RTO offices which the officials would monitor round the clock till normalcy returned.

The officials asked the fishermen not to venture into the sea for fishing as the influence of depression still continues. Hundreds of villages are still dark as power supply is yet to be restored, official sources said

Malika Garg promises to resolve Spandana grievances at earliest

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Prakasam District SP Malika Garg convened a Spandana program at the district police office and personally received complaints from the victims here on Monday.

The SP directed the police officers to be ready in knowing the problems of the public and take legal action to resolve the problem received in Spandana program expeditiously and ensure justice for the victims.

"The Spandana programme is being conducted by strictly following the Covid norms. The complainants suffering from various problems across the district came with their grievances and submitted in written form" she said.

The SP spoke face to face with the complainants and enquired about their grievances and thoroughly examined them. The SP assured them that she would thoroughly look into their complaints to ensure speedy justice to them. The SP ordered offi-



cers to submit a report on the action taken on the Spandana complaints.

The SP said that in order to receive complaints from victims who have serious complaints; the police officers should receive the complaints with a smile and talk to them wholeheartedly so that they can feel their problem would be solved. As a result their negative perspective towards the

police department can be removed and they can complain boldly about any problem.

Additional SP B. Ravi Chandra, OSD K.Chowdeshwari, DSB DSP B. Mariyadasu, SC, ST DSP N. Suresh, SB-II Inspector N.Srikanth Babu, Panel Advocate BV Sivaramakrishna, Spandana SIs and other staff have participated in this event.

Resolve grievances swiftly, officials told

PNS ■ KAKINADA

Superintendent of police M Ravindranath Babu asked the police officials to take steps to resolve the grievances of people received during the Spandana programmes in a speedy manner. The SP received grievances from the people during the Spandana programme here on Monday.

The SP personally listened to the grievances of people during the programme.

Interestingly, people were seen coming to the SP's office



drenching in the rain to submit their memorandum on their grievances. The SP after listening to the problems of people spoke with the police officials concerned and direct-

ed them to take steps to resolve the problems. The SP asked the officials to resolve the grievances in such a speedy manner that they would get appreciation from the people.

Land survey for Mumbai-Hyd bullet train project commences

PNS ■ THANE

Villagers from Thane district of Maharashtra were on Monday informed about the proposed Mumbai Hyderabad High-Speed Rail or bullet train project, the feasibility of which is currently being surveyed.

If given nod, the high-speed rail line will connect Mumbai, Pune and Hyderabad through 11 stations in Maharashtra and Telangana, a National High-Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRC) official said.

NHSRC deputy general manager N K Patil made a detailed presenta-

tion on the project in the presence of Thane Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition) Prashant Suryavanshi and other officials.

He told the meeting that the entire 649.76 km route will be a green corridor. The work of preparation of the DPR (Detailed Project Report) is presently underway. The bullet train will reduce the travel time between Mumbai and Hyderabad from the present 14 hours to just three

hours, he said.

A total of ten stations including Thane, Navi Mumbai, Lonavala, Pune, Baramati, Pandharpur, Solapur, Gulbarga, Vikarabad and Hyderabad are included in the proposed project. The rail line will cover four districts of Thane, Raigad, Pune and Solapur.

A total of 1200 hectares of land will be required in the Thane district.

The proposed rail corridor is planned to run along major expressways, national highways, greenfield areas, and may pass through arterial roads of the intermediate city road network for high-speed rail connectivity between different cities along the corridor. Drones are being used for the survey of the land required for the project, officials said.

TTD sounds caution on ad for devotees

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) that governs the shrine of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala Hills, near here, on Monday cautioned devotees on an advertisement in the social media saying they can go on a chartered helicopter trip to the shrine from Chennai, Coimbatore and Bengaluru on payment of Rs 1.11 lakh per head and they can have VIP darshan of the Lord and also of His consort Padmavati in Tiruchanur nearby. An official of the temple told PTI that legal action would be taken against the private travel agency for posting the advertisement. This could mislead devotees keen on visiting the shrine on Saturdays during the auspicious month of 'Purattasi'.

Collector reviews development, welfare

PNS ■ ONGOLE

District Collector Pravin Kumar expressed displeasure on the indifference of some of the officials in resolving land related problems of people.

The Collector here on Monday held a review meeting with the officials on development and welfare schemes. Speaking on the occasion, he expressed dissatisfaction over the way in which some offi-

cials were responding to resolve the land related disputes of the general public.

"What are you doing when the people are forced to go to pillar to post to resolve their land related grievances. It is not proper to you to be instructed many times", the Collector said, responding on the unsolved land related issues of farmers in Naguluppalapadu mandal.

"I will consider the officials

as they are working efficiently, only when they resolved the land related issues of farmers", the Collector said.

Mr.Pravin Kumar instructed the officials concerned to complete the process government lands auditing. He asked them to create awareness among people that the Poramboku lands could not be regularized, and directed them to ensure that there

would be no delay in conducting resurvey of lands. The Collector directed the officials to allocate alternative sites, if there is a problem in land acquisition for the construction of buildings for secretariats, Rythu Bharosa Kendras and YSR Health Clinics.

He directed the mandal level officials to take steps to check the outbreak of seasonal diseases like Dengue, Malaria and other such fevers.



Oppn turning out to be TRS govt's brand ambassadors: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Opposition leaders on their padayatra have indirectly become brand ambassadors of TRS government, quipped IT Minister KT Rama Rao on Monday.

Making this observation in lighter vein during a short discussion in the Assembly, KTR said the through videos of their padayatra posted on social media, the opposition leaders were showing tanks and ponds brimming with water, green fields, good roads, drinking water supplied to every household, tanks full of fish etc., to the public.

These videos reflect the development and welfare programmes being implemented by Chief Minister K Chandrababai Naidu, he said. "I can't help but thank them indirectly for being brand ambassadors of the State government's work wherever they go," KTR said.

In another instance, the Minister said that AIMIM member Akbaruddin Owaisi and BJP member Raja Singh, who normally do not agree on anything, shared a similar view about the progress of the IT

sector in Telangana.

He was referring to their remarks earlier on discussion on IT and Industry in the Assembly and said everyone in Telangana across the political spectrum, has become a part and parcel of IT progress in the State.

In another instance, he took pot shots against one opposition leader's call for 'Nirudhyoga Garjana' and another leader's call for 'Million March by the unemployed', and recounted the number of vacancies filled in the government sector and lakhs of jobs generated in the Industry and IT sectors over the last seven years.

KTR made it clear that for any government, be it Congress or BJP, it would not be possible to provide government jobs to all the youth. The only way to generate lakhs of direct and indirect jobs was through attracting private investment in industrial and IT sectors, the Minister said.

He said the Chief Minister's focus on IT or industrial or any policy would be centred around people and he would always ask how a particular policy would benefit people, farmers and youth.

Secretariat staff asked to make entries in service registers

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Chittoor District Collector M Hinarayana instructed the Ward/Village Secretariat staff to enter their service activities and data in the registers regularly and instructed them to hold the 'Spandana' programme every day from 3 pm to 5 pm. The Collector participated in the 'Spandana' programme organised at the District Collectorate on Monday.

Addressing the officials, the Collector said the biometric system must be followed in the Ward/Village Secretariats and the staff must enter the details of service activities in the official



records. The petitioners thronged the Collectorate to present petitions wearing face mask.

The District Collector has made it mandatory for the petitioners to strictly wear face masks for submitting the petitions and instructed the officials to solve the petitioners'

issues within a week.

Joint Collector P Rajababu (Revenue), V Veera Brahmam (Development), Venkateswarlu (Housing) and Rajasekhara (welfare) besides District Revenue Officer N Murali and other officials were present at the Spandana.

‘Salakatla Brahmotsavams’ sans pilgrim participation

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is gearing up for the nine-day annual festival of 'Sri Venkateswara Swamy Salakatla Brahmotsavams' scheduled to be conducted between October 7 and 15.

This year too, the TTD has decided to conduct the nine-day religious festival on a silent note, with no pilgrim participation due to the prevailing Covid pandemic.

The annual festival will commence with 'Dhwajaroohanam' (hoisting of the celestial temple flag), marking the commencement of the Brahmotsavams will be conducted in Meena Lagnam between 5.10 pm and 5.30 pm on October 7. As part of the 'Brahmotsavams', 'Vahana Sevam' will be held daily in the morning from 9 am to 10 am and in the evening between 7 pm and 9 pm within the temple premises.

The details of other Vahana

Sevas are Chinna Sesha and Hamsa (October 8), 'Simha and Muthyapu Pandiri' (October 9), 'Kalpa Vruksha and Sarva Bhupala' (October 10), 'Mohini Avataram', 'Garuda Seva' (October 11), 'Hanumantha', 'Gaja' (October 12), 'Surya Prabha' and 'Chandra Prabha' (October 13), 'Sarva Bhupala' in place of 'Rathotsavam' which will not be held due to Covid restrictions and 'Aswa' (14). On the concluding day, 'Pallaki Utsavam' and 'Tiruchi Utsavam' will be held from 8 am

to 11 am followed by 'Chakra Snanam' at 'Ayina Maha' in the shrine, marking the end of the nine-day 'Utsavam' with 'Dhwajaroohanam' later in the night. 'Snapanam Thirumanjanam' to the processional deities will be performed on selective days during the 'Brahmotsavams'.

The TTD authorities said that the participation in this mega religious fete is limited only to the temple staff and temple priests this year too in wake of the Covid pandemic.



INDIA CORNER Cong's Rajani Patil set to enter RS unopposed from Maha

Senior Congress leader Rajani Patil is set to be declared elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra after the opposition BJP on Monday withdrew its candidate from the next month's bypoll. The by-election was necessitated due to the death of sitting Congress MP Rajeev Satav in May. His term in the Upper House of Parliament was till April 2, 2026. Monday (September 27) was the last day of withdrawal of nomination papers for the October 4 by-election. The BJP had fielded Sanjay Upadhyay for the bypoll and he has now withdrawn from the race, paving the way for Patil (62) to get elected unopposed. Patil and Upadhyay were the only candidates in the fray. Talking to reporters here, Upadhyay said Congress leaders in the state had appealed to the BJP to withdraw its candidate so that the Congress nominee gets elected unopposed. "I have withdrawn my nomination on the party's directives," he said. "The decision to withdraw my candidature was taken in a meeting of the state BJP core committee," Upadhyay said. Last week, Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole and his party colleague and minister Balasaheb Thorat had met Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Devendra Fadnis of the BJP and urged him to facilitate unopposed election of Patil.

Maha CM calls for providing high-quality service to tourists

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday said tourists should be provided high-quality facilities so that they will become brand ambassadors of the state. He also said if tourists become brand ambassadors there will be no need to appoint a separate brand ambassador for Maharashtra. "Atithi Devo Bhava" (Guest is God) is our culture and hence, if we make all the facilities available to them even foreign tourists will recommend others to visit Maharashtra," Thackeray said while addressing a function commemorating the World Tourism Day. He said the tourism department remained neglected earlier. "We are now paying attention to tourism as we have understood its importance," he said, adding that tourism is the mainstay of revenue for many states and countries. Thackeray's son Aaditya Thackeray heads the Tourism department in the Shiv Sena-led MVA government. The chief minister said the state cabinet will hold a meeting on Deccan Odyssey, a luxury tourist train. Maharashtra tourism secretary Valsa Nair had requested the CM to conduct such a meeting with a view that tourism in the Konkan belt will get a boost.

Vaccination key for revival of tourism sector: Union Minister

Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy on Monday said his ministry is talking to various stakeholders for the recovery of the tourism sector affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, while stressing that vaccination is key for its revival. On the occasion of World Tourism Day, the Union tourism ministry organised a conference on 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth' here. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla was the chief guest at the event. Speaking on the occasion, Reddy noted that the tourism sector was the worst-hit during the pandemic. "The government has taken various measures for its revival and recovery, including five lakh free VISAs for foreign tourists," he said. The minister said the Centre has also announced various packages and relaxations for the sector in the aftermath of the pandemic. Asking all the stakeholders in the tourism sector to focus on health and safety issues in the wake of the pandemic, he said, "Vaccination is key for the revival of the tourism sector and India has already vaccinated more than 85 crore people." Asserting that the country has an immense potential for tourism, Reddy said his ministry has been organising various events for promoting tourism in far-flung and unexplored areas of the country.

PIL petitioners must do HW, can't ask for everything: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday said those filing public interest litigations (PILs) must do their homework and bear in mind that they cannot just ask for everything under the sun.

The burden is on the PIL petitioner to show any shortcoming in a matter of policy and it should be backed with some data and examples, the apex court said.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna refused to entertain a PIL seeking direction for implementation of the National Health Policy-2017, besides other prayers including livelihood for the dependents of COVID-19 victims, and asked the petitioner to file a fresh pleas backed by data and examples. At the outset, the bench said, "You see, the problem with these kinds of petitions is that you have too many prayers. If you seek just one prayer, we may deal with it, but you claim to seek everything under the sun."

The petitioner cannot just leave everything to the court or the State and has to point out specific examples or data showing the shortcomings in the



implementation of policy, the bench added.

Advocate Shruvan Kumar, appearing for petitioner C Anji Reddy, said that he has given the example of one Ramesh from Andhra Pradesh who has, due to non-availability of free and affordable health facilities to the poor and middle class people, spent lakhs of rupees for hospitalization during COVID-19 pandemic.

The bench said, "You must come with proper petition and proper prayers before the court. We are willing to issue notice in the matter and not dismissing it but you should show something with some

data. We cannot issue an all India direction on the basis of one Ramesh Kumar of Andhra Pradesh. What is the source of information about him?"

Shruvan said he has attached some data which shows that for non filling of vacancies for doctors in government hospitals, people are forced to move to private hospitals.

The bench said that besides a report of National Health Mission giving data, there is nothing in the petition and the petitioner must do some more homework.

"You cannot just annex a report and expect the court to take charge. These are policy

matters. You cannot just say implement the health policy. You cannot just simply say implement the budget of 2021. You have to specify the short-fall and indicate how there has been failure in compliance. You are not bereft of the burden of pleadings just because this is a PIL," it said.

It further told Shruvan that the petitioner has to do his homework, give the specific examples, collect the data and indicate the critical areas as per him, so that the court can issue notice to the concerned authority or government.

The counsel said it would be difficult to procure the data for the petitioner.

"If it is difficult, then tell your client to rest in peace. Obviously, it is difficult and why should it not be difficult? This is not a case of a prisoner writing his individual grievance on a postcard, where we would intervene immediately. You are raising a policy issue which may have nationwide ramification, so have to bear the burden," the bench said.

The top court allowed the petitioner to withdraw the petition and granted liberty to file another petition with specific data and examples.

Man sets himself on fire near Stalin's house over poll paper

PNS ■ CHENNAI

A man whose nomination to contest the rural civic poll in Tuticorin District was rejected, set himself on fire near Chief Minister M K Stalin's residence here on Monday, creating a flutter. Identified later as A Vetrimaran, he got close to the house of Stalin on Chittaranjan Salai and took the extreme step to press his claim for acceptance of his nomination to contest for the post of village panchayat president, a release said.

Police personnel in the

vicinity doused the fire and rushed him to the Government Kilpaik Medical College Hospital, where Health Minister Ma Subramanian visited him.

Rural civic polls are set to be held on October 6 and 9 in Tamil Nadu. The 'ordinary' civic polls cover nine reconstituted districts in addition to polls to fill vacancies (casual election) in 28 other districts.

Belonging to Jameen Thevar Kulam village in Kovilpatti taluk of Tuticorin district, Vetrimaran alleged (in a representation addressed to Stalin)

that the nomination papers filed by him and his wife were rejected by an official and sought immediate acceptance of their papers.

This is to contest for the post of village panchayat president, reserved for Scheduled Castes. He also named a few persons and alleged threat from them to kill him and sought action.

In a video clip made available to the media, the Minister was heard assuring the man in the hospital that his grievance would be addressed and advised him to get treated for his wounds.

CBI interrogates TMC MLA in I-Core scam

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The CBI on Monday interrogated TMC MLA Madan Mitra in connection with the multi-crore I-Core ponzi scam, officials said.

Mitra, a former minister in the Mamata Banerjee government, appeared before the CBI's Economic Offences Wing at the CGO complex in Salt Lake, they said.

The agency had also summoned his son Swarup in connection with the same case on Monday. But, officials said, he will appear on Tuesday instead.

TMC workers carrying out 'state-sponsored' violence: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday lashed out at the Trinamool Congress over the alleged attack on its senior West Bengal leader Dilip Ghosh, accusing TMC workers of carrying out "state-sponsored" violence. BJP chief spokesperson Anil Baluni said the conduct of the TMC since the party's third straight win in the assembly polls recently has 'ashamed' democracy.

Referring to the alleged manhandling of Ghosh by TMC workers, he said, "This is all visible on the television, and it is very distressing. What has happened has denigrated democracy." "The TMC is not allowing its rivals level-playing field. Our leaders are not being allowed to even campaign as TMC goons are engaged in state-sponsored violence."

When a leader like Ghosh, who has been given security, has to face such attacks, then the fate of the common man can be imagined, Baluni, also a Rajya Sabha MP, said.

Charges against Amazon serious, can't be ignored, points out Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after RSS-linked weekly "Panchjanya" dubbed Amazon as "East India Company 2.0", the Congress on Monday said whatever the Sangh says is irrelevant as it does not say anything in national interest, but in the interest of the ruling BJP.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara, however, said the allegations against the US e-commerce giant are serious and cannot be ignored.

"The issue of Amazon is a serious one and it merits everybody's attention. The allegations against Amazon are very serious and they cannot be ignored," he said.

Asked about the comments of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Khara said, "What the RSS says about Amazon is irrelevant because there is a duet going on between the RSS and the BJP."

"We have seen that duet and they stand exposed in the farmers' agitation. We have seen the dubious role played by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh as it has



not come in support of the farmers even for one day in the last 10 months."

The Congress leader said "nobody takes what the RSS says seriously anymore, because they do not speak the language in national interest, they talk in the interest of the BJP." Amazon was dubbed as "East India Company 2.0" by "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, the RSS-linked

weekly 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.

Claiming that Amazon wants to establish its monopoly in the Indian market, it says, "For doing so, it has started taking initiatives for seizing the economic, political and personal freedom of the Indian citizens."

Congress asks Modi to talk to agitating farmers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As farmers across the country held protests as part of the Bharat Bandh, the Congress on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to talk to agitating farmers and listen to their legitimate grievances.

The Congress also alleged that instead of redressing the grievances of farmers, the government is trying to paint them as enemies of the country and that is why the farmers are protesting on the roads. The Bharat Bandh was called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of 40 farm unions, to demand repeal of three agri laws enacted by the Centre.

Expressing support for protesting farmers, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the farmers' non-violent 'satyagraha' is still resolute but the "exploitative" government does



not like this and that is why a 'Bharat Bandh' has been called.

Posting rhyming lines in Hindi on Twitter, Gandhi said, "Kisano ka ahimsak satyagraha aaj bhi akhand hai, lekin shoshankar sarkar ko ye nahi pasand hai, isliye aaj Bharat Bandh hai (Farmers' non-violent satyagraha is resolute even today, but the exploitative government does not like this and that's why it is Bharat Bandh today)."

Congress spokesperson

prime minister."

"You have to listen to your country and when 60 per cent of your country speaks, please speak to them," he said.

"You have a strange confidence and a strange belief in your diversionary tactics and you are very confident that come elections and you will be able to distract the attention of the country again from the basic fundamental critical issues that the farmers face today. But, I am sorry this would not happen again," the Congress leader claimed.

He alleged that the government has imposed GST on agri equipment and as if this was not enough, it went ahead without due process of consultations with stakeholders and "bulldozed all democratic norms and parliamentary practices" and brought these three "black" laws, which the farmers are protesting against.

No major impact of cyclone Gulab, says Odisha govt

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government on Monday said cyclone Gulab did not have much impact on the state following its landfall in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh but road connectivity was partially affected due to landslides and uprooting of trees in some places of Gajapati, Koraput and Malkangiri districts.

Relief Commissioner P K Jena said administrations of seven cyclone-hit districts - Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur - have been asked to submit damage assessment reports in the next five days.

The East Coast Railway said 16 trains have been cancelled in view of waterlogging on

tracks in the Visakhapatnam-Vizianagaram-Rayagada section.

Cyclone Gulab made landfall at a place in Andhra Pradesh, about 95 kilometres from Gopalpur in Odisha where a large number of people have been evacuated as a precautionary measure.

Jena said the state government has so far evacuated 46,075 people, including 1,533 pregnant women, to safe places, where the district administrations have made arrangements to provide dry and cooked food to them.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into westcentral and northwest Bay of Bengal and along and off Andhra Pradesh and adjoining Odisha coasts in the next 12 hours, the IMD said in a bulletin on Monday morning.



25 trains affected due to Bharat Bandh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

About 25 trains have been affected due to the Bharat Bandh called by farm unions on Monday to protest the Centre's three agri laws, officials said.

"More than 20 locations are being blocked in Delhi, Ambala, and Firozpur divisions. About 25 trains are affected due to this," a spokesperson for the Northern Railway said. Officials said the Delhi-Amritsar Shan-e-Punjab, New Delhi-Moga

Express, Old Delhi-Pathankot Express, Vande Bharat Express from New Delhi to Katra, and Amritsar Shatabdi are some of the trains that have been affected.

The bandh started at 6 am and will continue till 4 pm. In the North-Western Railway zone, rail traffic on the Rewari-Bhiwani, Bhiwani-Rohtak, Bhiwani-Hisar and Hanuamgarh-Sadulpur-Sriganganagar-Fatui sections has been affected due to the farmers' agitation.



Delhi's historic Coronation Park turns into 'swampland'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Overgrown vegetation, lawns and pathways around the iconic Coronation Pillar and Rajera statues flooded with rain water -- the sight at a historic park here, where 'New Delhi' was born in 1911, is anything but visitor-friendly.

The place holds great historical significance as the third Delhi Durbar was held on this very site, where King George V and Queen Mary were coronated as the emperor and the empress of India on December 12, 1911, and the British monarch had also announced the shifting of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi.

On World Tourism Day on Monday, the towering obelisk

with a flight of stone steps lay surrounded with thick overgrown vegetation and stagnated rain water, turning the once verdant lawns into practically a swampland.

The marble-made grand statues of King George V and of the four Viceroys, Lord Hardinge, Lord Willingdon, Lord Irwin and 9/27/2021 4:49:51 PMLord Chelmsford, stood stoically amid a mess created by the monsoon rains, which on few days in the recent past had caused massive waterlogging in various parts of Delhi with record rainfall.

To make matters worse, heritage enthusiasts and other people visiting the historic Coronation Park in north west Delhi's Burari area, were not

allowed to enter the park on Sunday by security guards, who cited "lodging of paramilitary personnel" on its premises as the reason.

The massive heritage site falling under the Delhi Development Authority, sits next to Burari grounds, also owned by the DDA, where a large number of farmers protesting against the new farm laws, had earlier camped amid heavy security deployment. The main farmer protests are happening at Delhi border areas. The security guards on duty at the Coronation Park said that visitors are not being allowed for a long time as paramilitary personnel are lodged in a building on its premises.

However, a senior official of

the DDA, when contacted, said, "No such official order has been issued. The park is open to public."

On December 15 last year, PTI had reported a similar hardship faced by visitors who were turned away by guards citing the same reason.

"The lawns of the park are open to the public. It is a public park and meant for them only. We will convey it to the ground staff, to not stop anyone from entering the park. There should be no confusion," a senior DDA official had then said.

Delhi-based heritage enthusiast Astha Khanna, 25, went to the park on Sunday but returned with an unpleasant experience.



FIRST COLUMN

CHILD ADVERSITY AND CHRONIC PAIN

It is necessary to understand what links early life adversity to poor adult health



TIM HALE

There is a widely held belief that our health is largely preordained by the genes we inherit from our parents. Indeed, this lottery of inheritance plays an instrumental role in some health outcomes. Early onset diabetes is an example of an inherited disease which, although debilitating, is relatively uncommon with only three new cases per 100,000 children in India. Late onset diabetes is much more common afflicting 12 per cent in urban populations and, like most predominant diseases, lacks a clear pattern of inheritance. The evidence suggests a greater role for nurture (environment) rather than nature (genes) in maintaining well being. That is good news because we can improve the environment. Chronic pain (pain that lasts longer than three months) is another debilitating con-



dition that lacks clear genetic origins. It is much more common than all forms of diabetes, estimated to affect approximately 20 per cent of adults in India. A report this year reveals that pain of the lower back and extremities afflicted 83 per cent of an adult population in rural Gadchiroli in Maharashtra in a period of one year, leading to 11 lost workdays per study participant.

In addition to unquantifiable personal suffering, the estimated economic costs of lost work and medication are staggering; each person with pain lost 4.9 per cent of the annual per capita regional income. Even a small reduction in the prevalence of chronic pain would be exceptionally beneficial. Unfortunately, pain treatment options have limited efficacy and for many recurring chronic pain becomes a way of life. However, not all adults living in similar circumstances are vulnerable to chronic pain. Some are remarkably resilient. If this is not because of genetics, then why are some vulnerable and others resilient? The answer may lie in exposure to childhood adversity. Adverse childhood experiences include physical or emotional abuse, neglect and domestic violence. The World Health Organisation describes adverse childhood experiences as the most common and intense childhood stressors. Many of us experience at least one and children exposed to several adverse events are likely to have more frequent and severe health problems later in life, including chronic pain. Furthermore, childhood adversity is emerging as a leading contributor to health disparities, disproportionately affecting the poorest in society. There is a strong relationship between exposure to childhood adversities and social deprivation. However, there is a lack of screening for exposure to childhood adversity, which might otherwise enable targeted health interventions. Reasons for this include inconsistent screening methods and poor understanding of factors that may contribute to vulnerabilities following exposure. The Consortium Against Pain Inequality (CAPE), led by the University of Dundee, seeks to overcome these deficiencies in understanding. CAPE will develop a comprehensive tool for screening exposure and establish mechanisms linking early life adversity to chronic pain in adulthood. By understanding what links early life adversity to poor adult health, we hope to address pain inequality by identifying those at greatest risk and providing tailored interventions. By raising awareness of the long-term impact of childhood adversity we will promote efforts to improve childhood and adult well being.

(The writer is Professor of Anaesthesia and Principal Investigator of the Consortium Against Pain Inequalities at the University of Dundee, UK. The views expressed are personal.)

Banks' bailout — Make it transparent

The proposed 'bad bank' scheme by the Government is merely an attempt at using taxpayers' money for bailing out NPA-afflicted banks



UTTAM GUPTA

In the Union Budget for 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had proposed setting up of a bad bank. Crafted as National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), it will bundle up all the non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks and sell them to investors such as private equity funds, alternative investment funds (AIFs) and so on, by putting a turnaround plan in place. On September 16, 2021, she announced the broad contours of the action plan.

Under it, the NARCL will purchase NPAs from banks under 15:85 structure, wherein it will pay up to 15 per cent of the agreed or discounted value of the loans in cash and issue Security Receipts (SRs) for the rest. The Government will provide sovereign guarantee - valid for a period of 5 years - for the SRs issued by NARCL. The guarantee would be invoked to cover the loss being the difference between the realized value (resolution/liquidation) and face value of SRs. A provision of ₹30,600 crore has been made for this purpose.

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has already started the process with incorporation of the NARCL and applied to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a license as an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) with a capital base of ₹6,000-crore. The public sector banks (PSBs) will have 51 per cent ownership in the NARCL. The remaining shareholding will vest in 16 entities including private banks and non-bank finance companies.

The NARCL is intended to resolve stressed loan assets above ₹500 crore each amounting to about ₹200,000 crore. In phase I, it will take over fully provisioned assets of about ₹90,000 crore while the remaining assets would be transferred in phase II.

High NPAs have been haunting the Modi Government ever since it took charge in 2014. In 2016, it enacted the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), an overarching law that gives lenders and banks the power to drag defaulting borrowers to a judicial authority. It also amended the Banking Regulation Act giving RBI powers to force banks to act within strict timelines.

As per RBI circular dated February 12, 2018, for accounts with aggregate exposure of over ₹2,000 crore, as soon as there was a default in the account with any lender, all lenders - singly or jointly - shall initiate steps to cure the default by preparing a resolution plan. The plan had to be readied within 6 months from the default date. If not, proceedings under IBC would be initiated by referring the case to National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) which would give six months to resolve.

According to a statement in parliament by Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad, PSBs alone have



THE NON-PERFORMING ASSETS HAVE BEEN HAUNTING THE MODI GOVERNMENT SINCE 2014. IN 2016, IT ENACTED THE INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE (IBC) THAT ENABLES LENDERS AND BANKS TO DRAG DEFAULTING BORROWERS TO A JUDICIAL AUTHORITY. IT ALSO AMENDED THE BANKING REGULATION ACT, GIVING THE RBI THE POWERS TO FORCE BANKS TO ACT WITHIN STRICT TIMELINES

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



recovered over ₹500,000 crore. The NPAs ought to have gone down by this much but the decline is only about ₹200,000 crore and the difference of ₹300,000 crore is due to fresh slippages. This figure excludes the Covid period — March 1, 2020 to March 24, 2021 — during which banks were not allowed to recognize bad loans. On their inclusion, we could get back to March 31, 2018 level.

Much lower yield than expected from the IBC mechanism has a lot to do with a revised RBI circular dated June 7, 2019 — issued under Supreme Court orders - which took away powers from the banking regulator and gave too much of flexibility to the latter in working out the resolution plan. Effectively, it rendered the IBC process dysfunctional.

Now, the Government wants the 'bad bank' do the trick. Look at the first lot of ₹90,000 crore. These loans being in default for over 3 years, the banks have already made a full provision and captured in the profit and loss figures. There is no compulsion on them to recover this money. They will not object to NARCL paying a very low price.

However, what prevents other asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) from bidding for a higher price. Indeed, the proposed mechanism requires NARCL to go for the "Swiss Challenge" auction wherein other ARCs will be invited to better the offer made by it.

However, in the present case, this will not work as the bank would play safe by giving asset to NARCL whose SRs enjoy sovereign guarantee.

As for the remaining ₹110,000 crore for which a lower provision has been made and the chances of recovery are better, the bank could have reason to offer lower discount on the face value. This is provided transfer happens fast. If, this is delayed and default period increases even exceeding three years, the fate of these loans too will be no different from those in the first lot.

In short, the entire bad loan book on offer (read: ₹200,000 crore) would be available to the 'bad bank' at heavy discount to the face value. What if this is fixed at say 18 per cent?

In absolute terms, this works out to ₹36,000 crore. Of this, NARCL pays 15 per cent or ₹5400 crore in cash to the banks and for the balance ₹30,600 crore, it will issue SRs. To redeem them, the former must realize at least ₹30,600 crore from selling the NPAs to investors. If, the NARCL does not realize even one rupee, then also it need not worry as SRs valued up to ₹30,600 crore being guaranteed by the Union Government, the latter will pay for it in full.

Short of jargon and high-sounding phraseology, the proposed 'bad bank' is merely an attempt to use tax payers' money

for bailing out NPAs afflicted banks. Put simply, of the ₹200,000 crore, the Union Government will give ₹30,600 crore by way of sovereign guarantee and the rest (sans a tiny sum of ₹5400 crore) as direct budgetary support.

The Government should stop taking recourse to disingenuous methods. Instead of following a circuitous route, making things non-transparent, setting up new institutions, adding to administrative and overhead costs and so on, it should candidly accept the dire need to inject that much capital in to the banks and give it from the Budget. During the last four years, it gave them ₹300,000 crore to deal with their NPAs; it can give a further ₹200,000 crore.

At the same time, to recover bad loans and stem their proliferation, first, it should revitalise the IBC mechanism by restoring the February 12, 2018 circular and strengthening the NCLT; secondly, expeditious disposal of challenges to NCLT orders in High Courts and SC; thirdly, stepping up 'tracking' and 'surveillance' within banks for early detection of bad loans including frauds (at present, it takes years for them to report) and lastly, stem corruption and nepotism.

Sans these harsh steps, the tide of NPAs will not stop forcing the Government to repeatedly bail them out.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE BJP DID NOT LET DIDI ATTEND THE ROME PEACE MEETING AS SHE IS MORE POPULAR THAN MODI.
—TMC GENERAL SECRETARY ABHISHEK BANERJEE



NO POLITICAL LEADER IN THE COUNTRY, LET ALONE DIDI, MATCHES PM MODI. ABHISHEK SHOULD WAIT FOR 2024.
—BJP LEADER SUWENDU ADHIKARI

US corp pledge elusive; bad bank is expensive

Economic development is a complex matter. The Government alone cannot make it happen but needs the involvement of all — businesses and the public

The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US has tried to kindle hopes in an economy that needs investment but the American companies have not yet given any firm commitment to him. He held meetings with five global CEOs for potential investments.

India has taken many steps to bring in reforms through an asset reconstruction construction company (ARC) or the bad bank, lower interest rates, networked businesses and chain of roads. Companies like Qualcomm have investments in wireless modem, digital media networking, dairy transportation and defence. Now Modi has suggested to them to invest in hi-tech sectors and



SHIVAJI SARKAR

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

in measures to strengthen innovation ecosystem. General Atomics, which opened its first office in India in 2018, is making significant contributions to deepen India-US defence and security cooperation. It is working with both governments to provide India with the latest defence systems.

Investments in real estate too are always lucrative. Blackstone has so far invested \$15 billion in real estate, private equity, real estate, education, fashion, packaging and housing finance. It would continue to do so as per the assurance of its CEO Stephen Schwarzman.

Blackstone Real Estate Fund is said to be the largest owner of commercial real estate in India. The company



played a key role in launching India's first real estate investment trust (REIT) along with its partner Embassy Group in 2019 and has since then launched two REITs in the country.

The Quad is a symbolic multilateral body. It provides a platform to seek cooperation from like-minded countries on issues like ensuring respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes. Quad leaders agreed to scale up collective

strategic cooperation.

There may be gains in the future. As of now, there are only expectations amid not-a-so-good domestic economic situation. The country's non-performing assets have increased. Steps like taming inflation, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Act, Real Estate Regulatory Act, and GST did not add to the desired growth. These have shaken the system and market confidence. The rules are more stringent and do not help the people. The foreign investors though keen to invest may also have apprehensions, which the scrapping of the retrospective taxation may partially help resolve.

Corporate tax rates were cut but it ignored the pivot the individual. His taxes peaked during 2019. It hit the basic

capacity of the individual to ride through a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic situation. At 42 per cent plus various cesses, India has the highest tax rates. The gestures by foreign countries would not be enough to bring that confidence back. It would be welcome even now to cut the income tax rates. It would boost the individual's capabilities and benefit the whole economy as the individual consumes more.

The lower interest rate is playing havoc along with tax deductions on deposit hedging against inflation that interest accrual does. It affects the developmental process. To accelerate development, the interest rates must be lowered. Economic development is a complex matter. The govern-

ment on its own cannot make it happen. It needs the involvement of all — businesses and the public in their various spheres of activity. The country needs to ponder how the entire system is revamped.

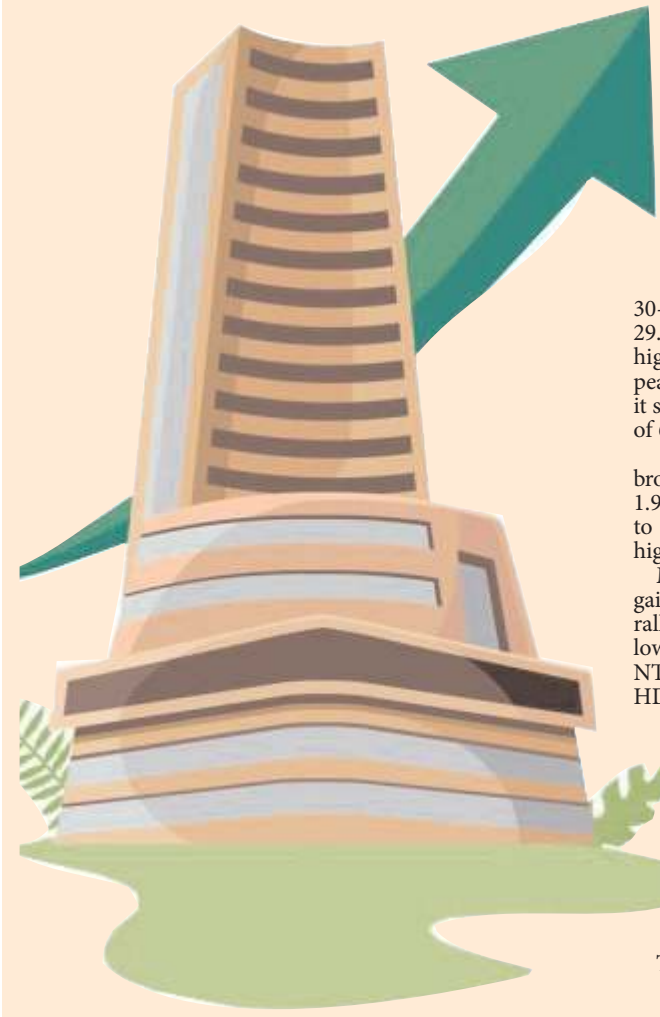
The new ARC or the bad bank with the limited government guarantee will remove ₹22.14 lakh crore (\$30 billion) of NPAs from the system. Since now it will be now under one entity resolution would be easier, it is being said. Bad bank is not all virtue.

The world experience with bad banks is that they have excessive and hidden fees, bouncing cheques, expensive debits, big banking errors and failure to honour promises. It can create a new kind of market in dealing with stressed loans but there

are apprehensions that asset buyers may resort to harsh unethical methods.

In a difficult situation, new methods are inevitably tried out but it has to be remembered that all Euro-US models of capital market should not be copied as the financial literacy is poor here. Moreover, Indian society is far more complex and heterogeneous. A complicated system may not be a proper solution. Hiving off bad assets may be practical but settling or reselling those for realization of dues is not easy and would have many complications as each of the cases are different. True, the nation will chart out its course. Setting the new course is not easy and none as of now has a clear idea how it would function.

Sensex, Nifty tick higher to fresh records; auto stocks in top gear



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices pared most of their early gains but managed to close at fresh lifetime highs on Monday as robust buying in RIL and auto stocks offset profit booking in the IT pack. Rising for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 29.41 points or 0.05 per cent higher at its new closing peak of 60,077.88. Intra-day, it soared to an all-time high of 60,412.32.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty inched up 1.90 points or 0.01 per cent to end at its fresh lifetime high of 17,855.10. Maruti Suzuki was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 6.53 per cent, followed by M&M, Bajaj Auto, NTPC, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and UltraTech Cement. On the other hand, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, Infosys, L&T, Nestle India and HUL were among the main laggards, shedding up to 4.58 per cent. The market breadth was

negative, with 17 of the 30 Sensex components ending in the red, while 13 mustered gains.

"Domestic equities traded range-bound amid positive cues from global equities. Heavy profit-booking in IT and pharma nullified the impact of sharp recovery in auto stocks," said Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Auto stocks witnessed strong rebound as continued underperformance for last couple of months, expectations of improvement in demand scenario from October and positive commentary from select companies about semiconductor issue made investors buy quality names in OEMs, he noted. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "Due to profit booking in IT, Pharma and FMCG, domestic markets failed to uphold its winning streak to close flat in a volatile session."

"Really stocks continued its rally on positive developments in the sector while the sentiments in the auto sector were lifted on expectation of better sales numbers for September. The market is also awaiting the release of August's core

sector output data and September's manufacturing PMI data this week," he added.

Sectorally, BSE auto, realty, energy, oil and gas, bankex and utilities indices rallied as much as 3.11 per cent, while IT, tech, healthcare and FMCG indices closed lower.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices ended on a flat note.

Asian markets were mixed after China's central bank announced fresh liquidity measures amid the continuing debt crisis at real estate giant Evergrande. Bourses in Hong Kong and Seoul ended with gains, while Shanghai and Tokyo were in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a positive note, led by German shares after federal election results showed that the hard-left Linke party did not get the requisite votes to enter parliament.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.32 per cent to USD 78.25 per barrel.

The rupee weakened by 15 paise to close at 73.83 against the US dollar on Monday as a stronger greenback against key rivals and rising crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiment.

Fraudsters shift their focus to logistics and online dating

PNS ■ MUMBAI

With the restart of economic activity, fraudsters have shifted their focus to target unsuspecting people from travel and leisure, communities (online forums) and logistics sectors, a report said on Monday.

Digital fraud attempts from India grew 269 per cent in the travel and leisure segment, 267 per cent in communities which also includes online dating and 94 per cent in logistics over the same in the year-ago period, the report by credit information company Transunion said.

Transunion monitors digital fraud attempts after analysing data from over 40,000 websites and apps contained in its fraud analytics offering to come up with the trends.

"This quarter (April-June), as countries began to open up more from their COVID-19 lockdowns and travel and other leisure activities became more mainstream, fraudsters



clearly made this industry a top target," its senior vice president Shai Cohen at the global fraud solutions unit said.

The pandemic accelerated community (i.e. online dating) and online retail transactions which require logistics, and fraudsters have recognized this, Cohen said.

"In India post the unlocks, travel and leisure has increasingly become a target as the industry recovers and fraudsters are looking to capitalise as more transactions return to this industry," Cohen said.

The top type of fraud in the

travel and leisure segment pertains to credit cards while under the communities head which also includes dating, it is profile misrepresentation that is used the most, the report said, adding it is shipping fraud in the logistics sector which is a favourite with the fraudsters.

Some industries also saw a decline in fraud attempts, the study said, pointing to cases such as telecommunication (down 96 per cent), retail (down 24.88 per cent) and gambling (down 31.53 per cent).

India to showcase its achievements and cultural diversity at Dubai Expo

PNS ■ DUBAI

India will showcase its major achievements while simultaneously exhibiting the beauty of Indian art, culture and cuisine at the Expo 2020 Dubai that kicks off here on October 1, the Indian embassy said.

The 183-day event, which would culminate on March 31, 2022 will also make the world experience India's cultural diversity, ancient treasures, business achievements and leading opportunities with cutting-edge technologies at the Indian pavilion.

The India Pavilion is one of the largest pavilions at the Expo 2020 Dubai and will feature an innovative kinetic facade made up of 600 individual colourful blocks.

"The world will experience the country's cultural diversity, ancient treasures, business achievements, and leading



opportunities with cutting-edge technologies at the pavilion. It will showcase a modern India, high on technology while simultaneously exhibiting the beauty of Indian art, culture and cuisine during the 183 days that the event will run....," the statement said. According to the agenda, 11

key themes will be represented at the pavilion, including climate and biodiversity, space, urban and rural development, tolerance and inclusivity, golden jubilee, knowledge and learning, travel and connectivity, global goals, health and wellness, food agriculture and livelihoods and water.

Paradeep Phosphates gets Sebi's go-ahead to float IPO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leading fertilizer company Paradeep Phosphates has received Sebi's go-ahead to mop up funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO comprises fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 1,255 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 12,00,35,800 shares by its existing shareholders and promoters, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Under the OFS, Zuari Maroc Phosphates Pvt Ltd (ZMPPL) will offer up to 75,46,800 shares and up to 11,24,89,000 equity shares will be offered by Government of India.

Paradeep Phosphates, which filed preliminary IPO papers with the regulator in August, obtained its observations on September 22, an update with the Securities and

Exchange Board of India (Sebi) showed on Monday.

In Sebi parlance, issuance of observations implies its go-ahead to float IPO.

Currently, ZMPPL holds 80.45 per cent and Government of India own 19.55 per cent stake in the company.

Proceeds of fresh issue will be used to partly finance the acquisition of the fertiliser manufacturing facility in Goa, for payment of debt and general corporate purposes.

Paradeep Phosphates is primarily engaged in manufacturing, trading, distribution and sales of a variety of complex fertilizers such as di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and NPK fertilizers.

Its fertilizers are marketed under brands like 'Jai Kisaan - Navratna' and 'Navratna'.

IL&FS Fin Services plans to sell 62 NPAs accounts

PNS ■ MUMBAI

IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN), wholly-owned subsidiary of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services, on Monday placed 62 non-performing asset (NPA) accounts worth Rs 4,297 crore on sale.

The lender said the sale of NPAs will be done through the 'Swiss Challenge' route.

Under the Swiss Challenge method, the highest bid in the first round of bidding becomes the base price for bidders, including for the highest bidder, to place counter-bids in the second round of bidding. The asset goes to the highest bidder in the second round.

"Applications are invited from eligible entities for the purchase of identified loans provided by IFIN to third party borrowers (i.e. entities that do not form part of IL&FS Group) that are categorised as non-performing assets," IFIN said in a public announcement.

The sale asset book comprises 62 accounts with a total outstanding principal of Rs 4,297 crore. The eligible applicants will have to submit a binding bid for purchasing the entire sale asset book comprising all 62 accounts, it said.

IFIN also said it has received a binding offer from an initial bidder for the asset book.

Sebi cancels registration certificates of two brokers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has cancelled registration certificates of Joindre Commodities Ltd and Pragya Commodity Brokers Pvt Ltd for failing to fulfill the "fit and proper" criteria by allowing their clients to trade in illegal contracts on National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL).

The brokers were members of NSEL and had facilitated trading in paired contracts on the NSEL platform.

In September 2009, NSEL introduced the concept of "paired contracts" on its platform, which involved buying and selling the same commodity through two different contracts at two different prices wherein investors could buy a short duration settlement contract and sell a long duration



settlement contract and vice versa, with the same counterparty at the same time, the regulator noted in separate orders passed on Friday.

Such contracts were "ex facie illegal" and NSEL was in effect running a financing transaction assuring a fixed rate of returns under the garb of paired contracts.

Conditional exemption was granted from the provisions Forward Contracts Act, 1952

for forward contracts of one-day duration for sale and purchase of commodities traded on NSEL and the conditions placed an absolute bar on short sales and stipulated that all outstanding positions at the end of the day, must result in delivery of commodities.

However, Forward Markets Commission found that 55 contracts offered for trade on NSEL were with settlement periods exceeding 11 days and all such contracts traded on NSEL were in violation of FCRA and the condition that no short sale by members of the exchange shall be allowed was not being met by NSEL.

Since Joindre and Pragya Commodities were members of the NSEL and had participated in / facilitated trading in paired contracts on the NSEL platform, Sebi initiated enquiry

proceedings against them and appointed a designated authority to enquire into whether they were 'fit and proper' to continue to hold the certificate of registration as Trading and Clearing Member.

Designated authority concluded that they were not "fit and proper" in terms of stock broker regulations and intermediaries regulations and that the registration granted to them as commodities derivatives broker be cancelled.

"The Noticee by allowing its clients to trade paired contracts which were ex facie illegal, as noted above, and that too for a period of over two years, has failed in conducting its business in conformity with the standards expected to be maintained by registered securities market intermediaries," Sebi said.

Jaipur, Goa most booked leisure destinations among Indians

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Jaipur and Goa have emerged as the top booked leisure destinations as several states have eased COVID-19 related restrictions for travellers to boost the tourism and hospitality sector, as per a report.

In India, Goa, Jaipur, Manali, Ooty and Mysore are the top-ranked leisure destinations among domestic travellers, according to Indian hospitality startup OYO's Unlocking Travel Report 2021.

Unlocking Travel Report 2021 is based on actual bookings on OYO platform during August - September 2021 and advance bookings from October 2021-January 2022, across different geographies. According to the report,



most Indians are preferring long weekends for leisure destinations, as there was a spike

in bookings during Janmashtami and Ganesh Chaturthi.

For the upcoming long weekends of Dussehra and Guru Nanak Jayanti, the OYO

data shows that travellers are opting for holidays across India's leisure destinations - with Jaipur topping the list, followed by the beautiful beaches of Goa, it added.

Meanwhile, the report also revealed that in the UK, there is a high preference for travel on short weekend breaks, followed by school holidays and business trips.

In the UK, OYO's booking trends for September reveal that the British are heading to London, followed by Bath, a well-being destination, mainly known for its beautiful ancient Roman Baths, it stated.

As per advance booking trends in the UK, Christmas, New Year, Black Friday, and Boxing Day are the most

sought-after long weekends for travel, it added.

Meanwhile, in the US, big cities and coastlines dominate travel preferences for Americans as travel opens up across the country, the report said.

Americans are heading to New York, Hawaii (3 islands), Las Vegas, Orlando and Key West, indicating that travellers have a strong preference for lively nightlife, amusement parks, entertainment hotspots and beaches, according to the report.

Based on OYO's advance booking data between October and December 2021, Americans are looking forward to travelling on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve long weekends.

UK suspends competition law to cut petrol station queues

The UK government on Monday temporarily suspended rules under its Competition Act to allow fuel companies to address a supply crisis, which has led to long queues at several petrol stations across the country. Known as the Downstream Oil Protocol, the step will allow the government to work with fuel producers, suppliers, hauliers and retailers to ensure that disruption is minimised as far as possible. The measure will make it easier for the fuel industry to share information so that they can more easily prioritise the delivery of fuel to the parts of the country and strategic locations that are most in need. "We have long-standing contingency plans in place to work with industry so that fuel supplies can be maintained and deliveries can still be made in the event of a serious disruption," said UK Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng.



Rupee ends 15 paise lower at 73.83 against US dollar

The rupee weakened by 15 paise to close at 73.83 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday as a stronger greenback against key rivals and rising crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiment. Besides, multiple bouts of volatility on domestic equities front and mixed cues from global financial markets brought the rupee more under pressure, analysts observed. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened on a weak note at 73.70 and slid to the day's lowest level at 73.84 a dollar towards the fag-end of the session. For a brief period, it ventured into positive territory and touched a high of 73.60. The domestic unit finally settled the day at 73.83 a dollar, showing a drop of 15 paise over its previous close. On Friday, the currency had closed 4 paise down at 73.68 against the US dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose by 0.11 per cent to 93.42.



Irrfan Khan's son Babil to star in YRF web series



After having entertained the audiences for decades on the big screen, Yash Raj Films is all set to step into the digital world. It was earlier reported that Aditya Chopra is launching a separate digital division under his YRF banner to produce content specifically for OTT platforms. Now, the banner is all set to start the journey on the web.

Reportedly, Yash Raj Films' first web series will be an investigative thriller. The series will be led by Irrfan Khan's son Babil Khan. The show is said to be set in Bhopal and will go on floors in November. Shiv Rawail will be making his directorial debut with the series. He is the son of Rahul Rawail and grandson of H.S. Rawail. The streaming platform for this mini-series is yet to be finalised. Shiv Rawail was initially supposed to make his digital debut with YRF's big-scale superhero film starring Ajay Devgn, Ahaan Pandey, and Manushi Chhillar. However, reports state that the film has been pushed indefinitely as the budget does not seem feasible in the current scenario. Meanwhile, Babil Khan will be making his screen debut with the *Netflix* film *Qala* produced by Anushka Sharma. Apart from the above-mentioned web series, the production house is also working on a web series that will be directed by *Mardaani 2* fame Gopi Puthran.



Akshay's Raksha Bandhan all set to hit big screens on August 11

Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar star-rer *Raksha Bandhan* to release on August 11, 2022

It's raining announcements for the Hindi film industry! A day after the state government of Maharashtra announced their decision to reopen theatres on October 22, filmmakers of the Hindi film industry have been announcing the release dates of their films. Akshay Kumar, who possibly has the highest number of films in his kitty, announced the release date of some of his upcoming films over the weekend including *Sooryavanshi*, *Bachchan Pandey*, *Prithviraj*, and *Ram Setu*. Later in the day, the makers of *Raksha Bandhan* starring Akshay Kumar also locked the release date of their film.

Raksha Bandhan will be released on August 11, 2022 for the Independence Day weekend. Directed by Aanand L Rai, the film also stars Bhumi Pednekar. Written by Himanshu Sharma and Kanika Dhillon, the film is produced by Colour Yellow Productions and Cape Of Good Films in association with Zee Studios.



The film had gone on floors in June this year in Mumbai where they had created a set to look like Delhi's Chandni Chowk. Currently, they are shooting in Delhi. The film also stars Saheem Kaur, Deepika Khanna, Sadia Khateeb, and Smriti Srikanth, who play Kumar's sisters in the film. The movie revolves

around the brother-sister bond. Akshay Kumar had said, "*Raksha Bandhan* is a special film for all of us, rarely are such pure and simple films made. Can't wait to begin filming for this one!"

The makers were aiming for a November 2021 release. However, owing to the pandemic, the film got delayed. Meanwhile, the film's release will be clashing with *Prabhas' Adipurush*. It is to be seen who scores higher.

Actress Sophie Ellis talks about being raped at the age of 17

Sophie Ellis-Bextor has spoken out about being raped at the age of 17 by an older musician.

Writing in her new memoir, *Spinning Plates*, the singer says she lost her virginity in the incident at the apartment of a guitarist, who was 29.

"I heard myself saying 'No' and 'I don't want to,' she writes, "but it didn't make any difference."

"He had sex with me and I felt so ashamed. It was how I lost my virginity and I felt stupid."

She continued: "I felt grubby, but also unsure about my own feelings as I had no other experience to compare it with."

In the book, which is being serialised in the *Mail* on Sunday, Ellis-Bextor describes how she met the musician — who she calls Jim — at a gig where she was

studying for her A-Levels.

He invited her back to his flat to see his history books "and before I knew it we were on his bed and he took off my knickers."

The singer, who is now 42, says she was left confused following the incident as the public perception of rape in the 1990s "was to not to do with consent" but rather "something you associated with aggression."

"But no one had pinned me down or shouted at me to make me comply," she says, adding that "the things I saw and read and the way sex was discussed [at the time] made me believe I didn't have a case."

According to Rape Crisis England and Wales, this perception still persists - with many victims believing they have no case if there are no physical signs of struggle or assault.

The charity says there "are many reasons why someone might not scream or strug-

gle". In fact, it says, "quietness and stillness might suggest a lack of those crucial elements of freedom and capacity".

Misconceptions like these can make it difficult for survivors to seek help, with many fearing they will not be believed, it adds.

"Not listened to"

Ellis-Bextor says she had decided to share her own experience to help people understand "where the line between right and wrong lies".

"My experience was not violent," she writes in her memoir. "All that happened was I wasn't listened to. Of the two people there, one said yes, the other said no, and the yes person did it anyway. The older I've become, the more stark that 29-year-old man ignoring 17-year-old me has seemed."

As the mother of five sons, Ellis-Bextor says she had

been careful to introduce them to the concept of consent.

"I want to raise considerate, kind people who can take other people's feelings into account," she writes.

"I want them to actively want the other person to be happy, too, rather than just stopping because they have to," she concluded.



Lena Dunham, musician Luis Felber are married



Actor-writer Lena Dunham tied the knot with her musician boyfriend Luis Felber. According to *US Weekly*, the duo got married over the weekend.

Dunham, 35, first confirmed she was dating the English-Peruvian musician in an interview with *The*

New York Times in April this year.

"It's been a few months. I feel really lucky. He's the greatest person I've ever met," she said at the time.

Felber, 35, known professionally as Attawapla, made his first public appearance with the *Girls* creator in August at the Sundance Film Festival in London.

FUN

ARCHIE



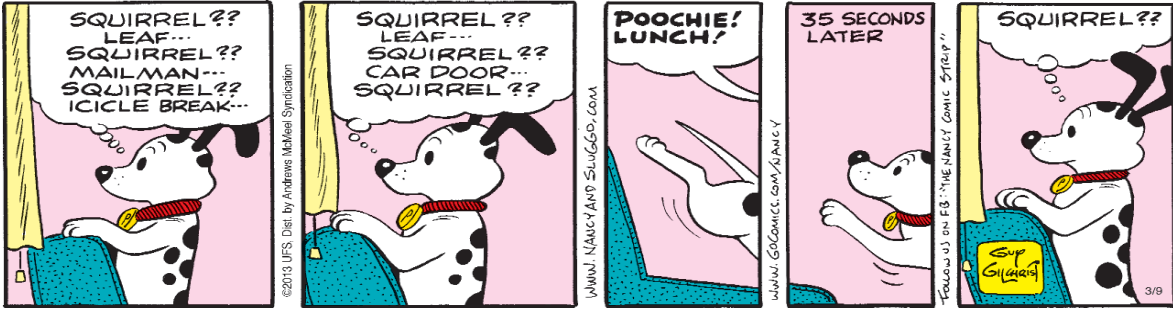
CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



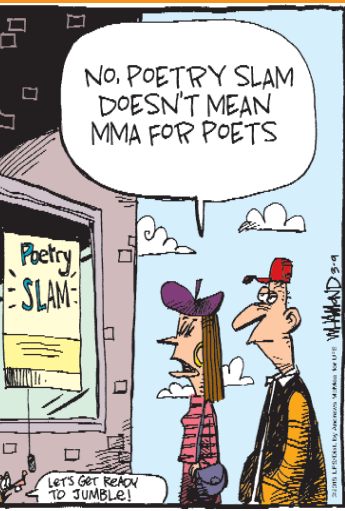
NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



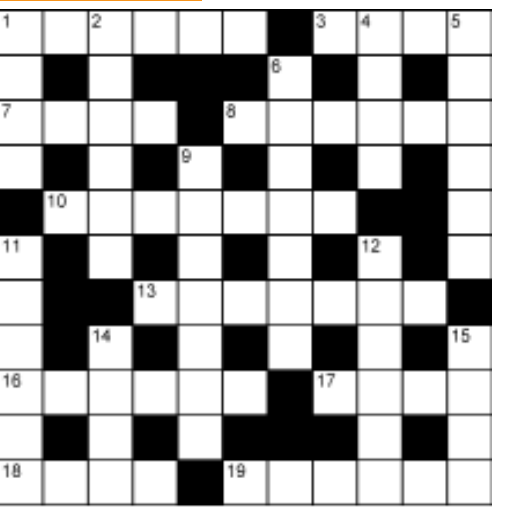
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Opposite of brother
- A fairy's magic stick
- A bird's bill
- To stay
- Ripping
- A deer's horns
- Weapons with long blades
- A tube in the body which carries blood
- Seven days
- A paper handkerchief

DOWN

- Cries with big gasps
- Frightened
- A camel rider in the desert
- An animal like a small horse with big ears

- Houses for dogs
- A small bomb made for throwing
- A puzzle with lots of pieces
- Welcomes
- Stopped sleeping
- One time





FREEING RURAL WOMEN FROM DRUDGERY

SHIKHA DUGGAL

As one of the biggest industries in the world, it's surprising to learn that the way fashion operates today is something explicable to look at! Who would have thought that by the time we approach 2021, our clothing will be made with the help of renewable energy resources!

With this, we have deftly approached the 'insta-age' of technology so much that one couldn't have imagined India's first 'Solar-Vastra' clothing coming our way. We got in touch with the founder of 'Greenwear', Abhishek Pathak who is all about bringing the traditional concept of 'Khadi' with the absolute amalgamation of weaving it with the help of solar panels!

Talking about the unique concept that he has applied into the forces, he says, "Usually to craft khadi wear, the yarns are spun on the 'charkhas' as everyone knows, however, we make use of solar energy! Many want to know why I took this drastic step of blending sustainable fashion into technology. Let me clear the air, lately, I realised that spinning is not something that all of us have inherited from our ancestors, rather it is more of drudgery. I decided to free the rural women from this menial work. It's of no use where there is less produce and source of income, it's a waste of your energy right? What we began as a pilot project in Bihar, today is coming into so much use!"

Yarns are spun on solar charkhas, fabrics are woven on solar looms and garments are stitched on solar sewing machines — this is how the chain of these solar-vastras work. The mission 'Solar-charkha' by



Greenwear, backed by Powering Livelihoods programme jointly run by CEEW and Villgro Innovation Foundation, addresses three pressing issues: pollution, poverty and women empowerment! The textile designer continues, "I envision ushering a world where tradition and technology are infused together to optimally serve the nature and mankind with same attention. As a textile designer, I know the intricacies of Khadi wear, however, when it comes to the consumers, apprehensions begins. There are so many myths

wear is the onset of 'barter system', it still persists. With the initiative of 'go local for vocal, jhadi is glamourised all over again."

This is how he's pushing the textile boundaries in terms of solar fibres! It's like khadi has now got a new super power. The idea behind this 'solar-vastra' was to have zero harmful effects on the environment!

The textile designer picked up pace and is becoming more responsive to market needs and will be the likely winner in this fast-changing modern environment. "We are still not completely there dominating the sustainable fashion trend, it's a vast vast concept. It seems to be a huge millennial trend, but it still confuses me (he laughs). I see it in a mechanised term! I am all for influencing people to be environmentally conscious, but I keep that space open for interpretation for my consumers. My sole aim is to bring the much-needed change to the fashion industry, that's it."

This concept of solar-vastra has become part of the physical high street experience in India now. Inspired by the sustainable fashion scene, Abhishek is celebrating the artisanal textiles leading the way for new creatives to follow.

attached to it that it makes the concept feel so unfair. Khadi has still not lost its charm! Another important aspect of khadi-



Have a happy, healthy heart

As we're inching closer to World Heart Day (September 29), it's high time we realise and raise awareness around Cardiovascular disease (CVD), including heart disease and stroke which are steadily on the rise globally. CVD remains the world's number one killer, resulting in 18.6 million deaths a year and is the leading cause of mortality in India as well. This year, in sync with the current healthcare crisis that the world is facing the theme of World Heart Day is 'Use heart to connect'. Centered on this theme, the aim is to harness the power of the digital medium to improve awareness across people and prevent and better manage CVD globally.

Here are a few tips for a healthy heart:

1. Stop smoking — no ifs, ands, or (cigarette) butts.
2. Focus on the middle — smaller waist line.
3. Play between the sheets. Yep, having sex can be heart healthy

4. Knit a scarf. For the 'uncrafty' lot who don't do needles, a jigsaw puzzle works great too!
5. Power up your salsa. A good salsa rich in antioxidants is a great snacking choice when paired with low-fat chips or fresh veggies, adding soluble fiber (such as that found in beans and other legumes) into your diet helps lower bad (LDL) cholesterol
6. Let the music move you.
7. Go fish.
8. LOL, laugh out loud.
9. Stretch it out.
10. Raise a glass. Red wine offers more benefits than other alcoholic beverages. Moderation is key here, and you should talk to your doctor about potential benefits and risks.
11. Shun the salt.
12. Move it, move it, move it.
13. Know your numbers. Keeping your blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and triglycerides in check are important for good heart health. Learn the optimal levels, and don't skip your regular physical exams.
14. Eat chocolate.
15. Let your housework work for you.
16. Go nuts. Almonds, walnuts, pecans, and other tree nuts deliver a powerful punch for lowering your risk of cardiovascular and coronary heart disease.
17. Consider pet therapy. Our pets give

18. Start and stop. And start again. During aerobic workouts, interval training (varying your speed and intensity in short bursts) will boost your calorie burn.
19. Take the scenic route home, eliminating stress while driving will help lower your blood pressure, which your cardiovascular system will appreciate.
20. Make time for breakfast. This is the one meal you shouldn't skip. The good-for-you benefits of eating a healthy breakfast are numerous. What is included in a healthy breakfast? Whole grains (whole grain rolls, cereals, etc.), low-fat protein (i.e. hard-boiled egg, turkey bacon), low-fat dairy (skim milk, low-fat yogurt or cheese), and fruits and vegetables.
21. Fake your fitness. Park on the far side of the parking lot, take the stairs, walk and talk with a friend instead of e-mailing, play with your kids at the park. It all adds up to better health.
22. Brew up a heart healthy potion. Sip on green or black tea, drinking tea can improve arterial health.
23. Smile and say, "How does my heart look?" Good dental hygiene does more than keep your pearly whites glistening. It may affect your overall health.
24. Walk it off. A five-minute walk will do wonders for clearing your head and lowering your stress levels.
25. Pump some iron. Aerobic activities, effect on weight control is awesome—more muscle mass means burning more calories.
26. Find your happy place. A sunny outlook is good for your heart, those who are happy tend to have lower levels of the potentially harmful hormone cortisol and other stress-inducing chemicals.

(The author, Dr Subhash Shiwtarkar is a Consultant at the Department of Cardiology, Jaslok Hospital & Research Center.)





TAAPSEE RACING TO THE FINISH LINE

Année Screwvala's RSVP and Mango People Media are all set to bring you an edge-of-the-seat, sports drama, *Rashmi Rocket* headlined by the incredibly talented Taapsee Pannu. Directed by Akarsh Khurana, the highly anticipated film will premiere on ZEE5 and promises a unique storytelling experience with their unparalleled content.

Set in the salt marshes of Kutch, the film is about a young girl from a small village, blessed with a gift.

She's an incredibly fast runner who dreams of crossing the finish line. In the journey to fulfilling her dreams, she soon realises that the race to the finish line is peppered with many hurdles, and what seems like an athletic contest turns into her personal battle for respect, honour, and even her very identity.

Always the one to take on hard-hitting and socially relevant subjects, Taapsee Pannu says, "This film is very differently special. I've always been approached when either the script or the director is ready to make the film but one line of this story fell in my lap in Chennai and then from there to it becoming a full fledged film has been a feeling I haven't experienced with any other film before. Everyone was just so sure about the story from day 1 that it was never a tough job to convince any of the stakeholders to join hands and give their best for this film. Hence the result of this film will affect me a lot more than my other films. Also, I'm extremely proud of it."

Living up to the movie title, the trailer of *Rashmi Rocket* showcases an inspiring narrative of its lead protagonist and her journey to become *Rashmi Rocket*. It's full of impactful dialogues, emotions, and a lot of drama with Taapsee Pannu's acting prowess taking centre stage. The versatile actress appears strong and sensitive in equal parts which balances the palpable energy of the film. Giving her a thrust is the impeccable and talented supporting cast. Don't miss the moment with Taapsee holding India's flag that will surely give you goosebumps and the belief that the trailer was worth the wait!

Says filmmaker Akarsh

Khurana, "When Pranjal and Taapsee got Nanda's story idea to me, I was instantly hooked because while it is a film that covers a lot of ground, it is essentially about the triumph of the human spirit. It also offered the opportunity to tackle some serious issues, while still being emotional and gripping. I couldn't wait to sink my teeth into it. And now I can't wait for people to see the final outcome."

Produced by Ronnie Screwvala, Neha Anand and Pranjal Khandhdiya, the film is written by Nanda Periyasamy, Aniruddha Guha and Kanika Dhillon and also stars Supriya Pathak, Abhishek Banerjee, Priyanshu Painyuli and Supriya Pilgaonkar.

Adds producer Ronnie Screwvala, "So many immensely talented youth do not reach their full potential or even have opportunities owing to the obstacles the system and society throw at them. *Rashmi Rocket* is one such example of someone who overcame those hurdles and faced those obstacles head on. It's a story of resilience, determination and above all the fighting human spirit."



Samson's 82 take RR to 164

PTI ■ DUBAI

Skipper Sanju Samson produced a well-calculated 82-run knock on a sluggish track to help Rajasthan Royals reach 164 for five in their Indian Premier League match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, here on Monday.

It is second consecutive fifty for Samson after conjuring up an unbeaten 70 against Delhi Capitals on Saturday.

The captain sent the ball seven times to the fence and three times over it in his impressive 57-ball innings, with which he became the leading run-scorer (433) of the season, surpassing Delhi Capitals' Shikhar Dhawan (430).

Yashasvi Jaiswal (36) and Mahipal Lomror (29 not out), who was dropped twice (23 and

29), were the other two batters to provide valuable contributions on a wicket where the ball did not come on to the bat easily for a major part of Royals innings.

Asked to bowl, pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/28) bowled a splendid length ball, on leg stump which worked perfectly for SRH as the dangerous Evin Lewis (6) hit straight to Abdul Samad at deep backward square leg in the second over.

Despite snaring Lewis' wicket early, the Sunrisers bowlers were guilty of bowling wide and short and Jaiswal took the opportunity to counterattack. The youngster, who smashed four boundaries and a six, played some splendid shots with skipper Samson also slowly finding his feet as the two collected 46 runs in the

Powerplay.

The duo went on to share a 56-run stand before Sandeep Sharma (1/30) got rid of Jaiswal, who had hit a stunning six just a ball earlier.

To keep the pressure on the Royals, SRH skipper Kane Williamson brought in star Afghan leg-spinner Rashid Khan (1/31) back into the attack and a mis-hit by Liam Livingstone (4) meant the move was met with the desired result.

With Lomror playing second fiddle to perfection, Samson took over the proceedings. But Siddharth Kaul (2/36) bowled a great last over, dismissing Samson and Riyan Parag (0) to restrict the Royals to 164 after being hit for 20 runs in his third over.

Rajasthan Royals:

Evin Lewis c A Samad
b B Kumar 6
Yashasvi Jaiswal
b S Sharma 36
Sanju Samson c J Holder
b S Kaul 82
Liam Livingstone c A Samad b R Khan 4
Mahipal Lomror not out 29
Riyan Parag c Roy
b S Kaul 0
Rahul Tewatia not out 0
Extras:(B-1, LB-3, NB-3) 7
Total (For 5 wickets in 20 overs) 164
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-67, 3-77, 4-161, 5-162.
Bowling: Sandeep Sharma 3-0-30-1, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-1-28-1, Jason Holder 4-0-27-0, Siddharth Kaul 4-0-36-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-31-1, Abhishek Sharma 1-0-8-0.

Match: 41	IPL 2021	Sept 28	3:30 pm
Kolkata Knight Riders	VS	Delhi Capitals	
Sherjah Cricket Stadium, Sharjah			
Kolkata Knight Riders			
Total IPL matches played: 202			
Won: 103 Lost: 99			
Highest total: 245/6			
Delhi Capitals			
Total IPL matches played: 204			
Won: 94 Lost: 108			
Highest total: 231/4 No results: 2			
Head-to-Head in IPL			
Matches played: 26			
KKR Won: 14 DC Won: 12			
Highest total: 210/8 Highest total: 228/4			
KBR Sports Graphics			

Match: 42	IPL 2021	Sept 28	7:30 pm
Mumbai Indians	VS	Punjab Kings	
Zayed Cricket Stadium, Abu Dhabi			
Mumbai Indians			
Total IPL matches played: 213			
Won: 124 Lost: 89			
Highest total: 223/6			
Punjab Kings			
Total IPL matches played: 200			
Won: 92 Lost: 108			
Highest total: 232/2			
Head-to-Head in IPL			
Matches played: 26			
MI Won: 14 PBKS Won: 12			
Highest total: 223/6 Highest total: 230/3			
KBR Sports Graphics			

TEAM	PLD	NET RR	PTS
1 CSK	10	+1.069	16
2 DC	10	+0.711	16
3 RCB	10	-0.359	12
4 KKR	10	+0.322	8
5 PBKS	10	-0.271	8
6 RR	9	-0.319	8
7 MI	10	-0.551	8
8 SRH	9	-0.637	2

'Content' Moeen Ali retires from Test cricket

PTI ■ LONDON

England's spin bowling all-rounder Moeen Ali on Monday announced retirement from Test cricket to prolong his career in white-ball formats, saying he is "content" despite the widespread belief that he could have achieved a lot more.

The 34-year-old leaves the Test arena with 2,914 runs in 64 matches at an average of 28.29.

Besides his five centuries with the bat, Ali has taken 195 wickets with his off-spin bowling at an average of 36.66 since his Test debut in 2014.

"I'm 34 now and I want to play for as long as I can and I just want to enjoy my cricket," Ali said.

"Test cricket is amazing, when you're having a good day it's better than any other format by far, it's more rewarding and you feel like you've really earned it."

Ali had already informed his England captain Joe Root and head coach Chris Silverwood of his decision.

will miss just walking out there with the lads, playing against best in the world with that feeling of nerves but also from a bowling point of view, knowing with my best ball I could get anyone out.

"I've enjoyed Test cricket but that intensity can be too much sometimes and I feel like I've done enough of it and I'm happy and content with how I've done."

Ali, who has not played a lot of Test cricket since the 2019 Ashes, was recalled for the recent home series against India. He was apparently not comfortable with the thought of staying away from family for extended periods.

He had made up his mind even before the COVID-19 protocols were shared with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for the Ashes tour to Australia.

According to a press release issued by England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Ali hopes that his Test career will inspire and open the door for other British Muslims to play for England.



Shafali Verm, Radha Yadav sign up for Sydney Sixers in WBBL



FIANS ■ SYDNEY

Two-time Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) champions Sydney Sixers have signed up Indian youngsters Shafali Verma and Radha Yadav ahead of seventh season of the tournament.

The announcement of Shafali and Radha signing up with the Sixers comes a day after the duo of Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma were announced to join defending champions Sydney Thunder.

On Sunday, Shafali scored 56, her maiden half-century in ODIs as India ended Australia's 26-match winning streak. She

is expected to open the batting alongside Australia's Alyssa Healy. Radha, the left-arm spinner, is a part of India's squad for the T20I series against Australia in October.

Shafali and Radha will join Healy, Ellyse Perry, Ashleigh Gardner, Stella Campbell, Erin Burns and former Australia batter Nicole Bolton. "This is a very good opportunity for me and my goal is to just enjoy myself, to make some new friends and have fun. I want to play WBBL and back myself and just believe in myself," said Shafali in a statement by the club on Monday.

Stop cursing India for Kiwis, England pullouts, BCCI official to Pakistan

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has recently faced a severe blow after New Zealand and England cancelled their respective tours. The Kiwis cited security as a reason whereas England stated the 'mental and physical well-being' of the players was an issue. The cancellation of the tours has affected Pakistan financially and 'morally' as well. The newly appointed chairman of PCB Ramiz Raja lambasted the two nations for abandoning their respective series.

However, now some of the Pakistan Ministers and former cricketers have started 'dragging India's' name in their statements. They are also allegedly blaming BCCI for the cancellation of their tours.

To this, a senior BCCI official told FIANS that Pakistan has an old habit of 'using' India's

name in all their 'big or small news' that too without any proof. "We wish Ramiz Raja good luck...Pakistan cricket reaches new heights under him. We want to clear one thing that the BCCI has no role in the cancellation of England and New Zealand tours to Pakistan."

"We don't have time for all this...And also, I don't know why some ex-Pakistan players are cursing the IPL (Indian Premier League) for no reason? I read somewhere that Raja said that the Aussie players have even changed their DNA for the sake of the money they make by playing in the IPL. He accused Aussies of playing happily against India without their usual aggressive approach. "Now from where the IPL came here? What kind of frustration is that? We understand you are feeling bad but there is no need to drag India everywhere," official added.

Heavy rain, cyclone alert forces BCCI to delay start of domestic season

New Delhi: The start of India's domestic season has been delayed by two days with the Under-19 events for boys and girls pushed back to September 30 due to a cyclone alert in south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coasts.

The U19 Boys Vinoo Mankad Trophy

and U19 Girls One-Day tournament was scheduled to begin on Tuesday across seven venues. Heavy rain is expected in Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar, that are among host cities for the matches along with Indore, Vizag, Surat, Rajkot and Nagpur.

"Owing to the incessant rain and the

cyclone alert issued by MET, the BCCI is compelled to postpone the start of the group stage from 28.09.2021 to 30.09.2021," wrote Dhiraj Malhotra, BCCI General Manager — Game Development — in his letter to the seven host associations.

PTI

Mumbai City FC sign goalkeeper Mohammad Nawaz

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC have signed up goalkeeper Mohammad Nawaz on a three-year contract until May 2024, the franchise announced on Monday. The 21-year-old, a product of AIF Elite Academy, joins the defending ISL champions from FC Goa.

Nawaz secured a move to FC Goa in 2018, where he featured for the club's reserve team in the I-League 2nd Division and was later handed his first team debut during the 2018-19 campaign, the club informed in a release on Monday. Having played an instrumental role in the FC Goa's successful campaigns in 2018-19 and 2019-20,



winning the Super Cup and the League Winners' Shield, the 21-year-old custodian became a pivotal member of Gaurs' set up. He recorded as many as nine clean sheets in 33 appearances in his first two seasons with the Goan side.

Mohammad Nawaz said: "I would like to thank Mumbai City FC for showing faith in me and giving me the opportunity to play at a club that wants to win games and win trophies. I had a chance to speak to many of my friends who are now my teammates and they spoke highly of the great culture at the club. I'm looking forward to getting started on this exciting journey with my new family and achieve great things along the way."

Arsenal humiliates Spurs, seasons head in opposite direction

AP ■ LONDON

However bad things have seemed for Arsenal over the last decade, beating Tottenham at the Emirates Stadium can usually be relied on.

Just not usually as emphatically as Sunday's north London derby triumph — a 3-1 victory helping to clear the early-season gloom for Mikel Arteta's side.

Never before in the Premier League has Arsenal scored three goals as quickly in a derby. The goals inside the opening 34 minutes from Emile Smith Rowe, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Bukayo Saka rattled Tottenham and gave Arsenal fans an afternoon of gloating in the late September sun.

"It's quite easy when you have boys like this — they always listen, always ready to learn," Aubameyang said. "They feel free when they play. That's why they're doing amazing."

It was a month ago as August was drawing to a close that Arsenal had opened the season with three losses — including at defending champion Manchester City — without scoring while Tottenham was top with a perfect start.



Arsenal's Bukayo Saka, centre, celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur at the Emirates stadium in London, Sunday

The captain wanted to put things right.

After the game after City, we needed to have a chat between players," Aubameyang said. "We're doing really well right now." The only thing consistent this month for Tottenham has been losing all three games and conceding

three in each. Arsenal, meanwhile, has won all three games since the international break.

But in a sign of recent inferiority for the neighbors, they aren't challenging at the top but midtable with Arsenal 10th on goal difference and Tottenham 11th in the standings.

Spurs haven't won at Arsenal in the league since 2010, and they did everything to ensure that dismal run wouldn't end.

Just look at how much space was gifted to Arsenal to launch the attack that ended in the opening goal in the 12th minute.

Smith Rowe wasn't tracked by the visitors as he found space in the penalty area to get on the end of Saka's cross, evading a futile late tackle by Davinson Sanchez to net.

"I've always wanted to score against Tottenham in a derby," the 21-year-old academy graduate said. "It's just the best feeling ever." Arteta will be feeling relieved.

"He just tells us to keep calm," Smith Rowe said, "and he encourages us."

A couple of months into the job, Tottenham manager Nuno Espirito Santo was unable to have any impact in preventing this humiliation.

"I am very honest," he said. "If the game plan didn't work out the way you wanted, it's because you didn't decide it well."

Not even Harry Kane, stopped from joining Manchester City, could come to the rescue.

In fact, the striker managed

to give away the ball inside Tottenham's half to Thomas Partey that led to Arsenal scoring again on the break.

Kane did try to recover the situation as Arsenal advanced, but his tackle on Saka could not prevent him from getting the shot away to add the third.

Although Son Heung-min turned in a cross from Sergio Reguilon in the 79th, there would be no late Tottenham comeback. Especially not after Lucas Moura had a strike tipped onto the crossbar by goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale.

"It is one of the nicest things I have experienced in this stadium," said Arteta, who has finished eighth in both of his seasons in charge of Arsenal.

It was at Arsenal in November 2020 that Raúl Jiménez suffered a head injury from a clash with David Luiz that might have ended the Wolverhampton striker's career.

He's back this season and now scoring again. It was a moment of magic that clinched a 1-0 victory over winless Southampton.

Wearing protective head gear, the Mexican breezed through the defense in the 61st minute before striking past goalkeeper Alex McCarthy.

AIBA WORLD BOXING C'SHIPS TO ALLOW SPECTATORS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Spectators will be allowed at next month's men's world boxing championships in Serbia, the International Boxing Association (AIBA) announced on Monday, making it the first major event in the sport to welcome back fans since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AIBA, in a statement, said that tickets have gone on sale for the October 24 to November 6 showpiece, where India will be represented by a full-strength 13-strong squad featuring Asian medal-winners like Deepak Kumar (51kg), Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) and Sanjeet (92kg).

"Spectators are allowed at the 2021 AIBA men's World Boxing Championships at Stark Arena in Belgrade, Serbia. Tickets for the main AIBA event went on sale via official tickets partner eSfinity on the website eSfinity.RS, the AIBA said.

AIBA President Umar Kremlev said he is eager to see fans back in the arena after COVID-19 health safety protocols forced many sporting events to become made for television in the last year and half.

"We are waiting for boxing fans from Serbia and around the



CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE	
October 24:	Opening Ceremony
October 25-November 2:	Preliminaries
November 3:	Rest Day
November 4:	Semi-finals
November 5-6:	Finals

globe to attend AIBA World Boxing Championships," Kremlev said.

"For us, it will be the first major event with spectators after the start of the pandemic. We are happy to welcome everyone in Belgrade at Stark Arena. I expect tough fights, beautiful victories and bright emotions from the tournament. Our boxers will deliver a great show for everyone," he added.

For the first time in AIBA's 75-year history, the medal winners at the championships will be rewarded with significant prize money.

The prize money fund has been set at USD 2.6 million.

The prize for first place is USD 100,000. The silver-medallists will receive USD 50,000 and both bronzes in each weight category will walk away with USD 25,000.

Boxing legend

MIKE TYSON joins
Vijay Deverakonda's *Liger*

Boxing legend Mike Tyson is set to make his debut in Indian cinema with the upcoming sports drama feature *Liger*, starring Vijay Deverakonda. Making the announcement, Vijay took to Twitter and said, "We promised you Madness! We are just getting started :) For the first time on Indian Screens. Joining our mass spectacle — #LIGER The Baddest Man on the Planet The God of Boxing The Legend, the Beast, the Greatest of all Time! IRON MIKE TYSON"

Liger is directed by Puri Jagannath who is also backing the film via his banner Puri Connects along with Karan Johar's Dharma Productions.

Dharma Productions made Tyson's casting announcement on its offi-



cial Twitter page. "Introducing the master of the ring to the Indian screens! Kicked to announce that the dynamite @MikeTyson has joined the cast of #Liger!" the tweet read.

While details of Tyson's role are yet to be revealed, as per the teaser video it appears he will face off with Deverakonda's character in the boxing ring.

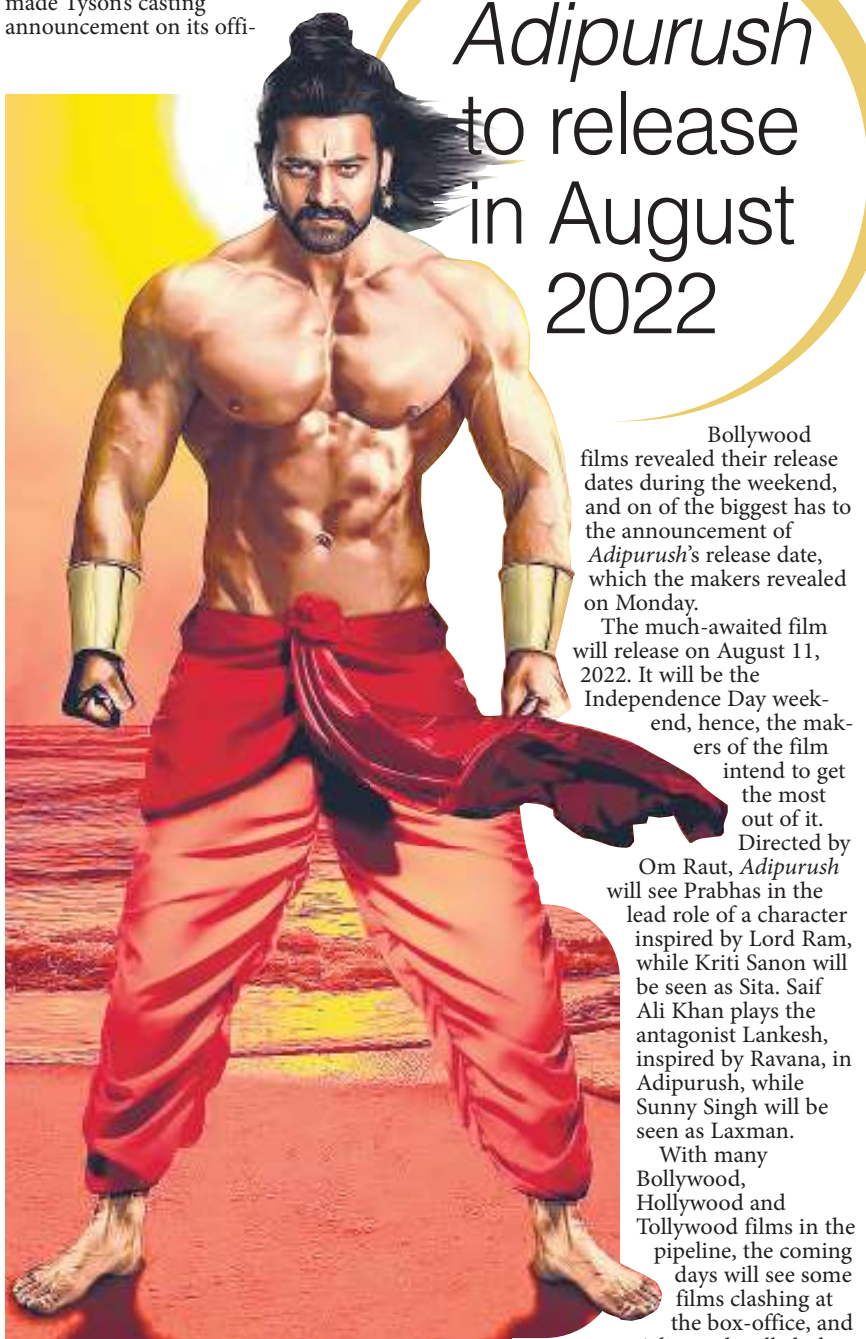
Considered to be one of the greatest heavyweight boxers of all time, Tyson most famously played a fiction-

alised version of himself in the 2009 Hollywood hit film *The Hangover* and its 2011 sequel *The Hangover Part II*.

He has also starred in *Ip Man 3*, the 2015 film in the popular Hong Kong martial arts film series.

Also featuring Ananya Panday, *Liger* will be released theatrically in five languages — Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.

The makers are yet to announce the release date.



The reopening of cinemas in many parts of the country, especially Maharashtra, has rekindled hope in the entertainment industry for their upcoming releases. Several

Adipurush
to release
in August
2022

Bollywood films revealed their release dates during the weekend, and on of the biggest has to the announcement of *Adipurush*'s release date, which the makers revealed on Monday.

The much-awaited film will release on August 11, 2022. It will be the Independence Day weekend, hence, the makers of the film intend to get the most out of it.

Directed by Om Raut, *Adipurush* will see Prabhas in the lead role of a character inspired by Lord Ram, while Kriti Sanon will be seen as Sita. Saif Ali Khan plays the antagonist Lankesh, inspired by Ravana, in *Adipurush*, while Sunny Singh will be seen as Laxman.

With many Bollywood, Hollywood and Tollywood films in the pipeline, the coming days will see some films clashing at the box-office, and so *Adipurush* will clash with Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar's *Raksha Bandhan*. Directed by Aanand L. Rai, the film will also drop on August 11, 2022 and that makes it one of the biggest box-office clashes.



AWARDS MOTIVATING
ME TO DO
BETTER: POOJA

SHIKHA DUGGAL

When an actress wins an award, it sometimes becomes a difficult feeling to express it, however, actress Pooja Hegde couldn't have stopped herself from conveying the feeling of winning an award on a momentous occasion like SIIMA that holds so much regard for the Tollywood industry! The accomplished actress has won two awards back to back, latest being for the 'Best Actress in a Leading Role' at SIIMA. A vast honor for her, according to sources, she was deeply venerated by the Telugu film fraternity for the recognition of her work in the cinema busi-

ness. In all high esteem, she shares with *The Pioneer*, "I have been travelling, shooting and dubbing without any breaks since the past few weeks, so when I received two awards for being the best actress consecutively, I was just so overwhelmed. And I had this whole new motivation at work to push myself even more, because it just hits you that there are people out there who are really appreciating you and your work."

While the *Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo*... fame is super busy hopping from city to city for her country-wide lineup of films, she made it a point to take out time for the prestigious award function too!

Acknowledging the immense hard work of the other contenders, Pooja Hegde is all about believing in herself. Talking about the character for

which she bagged the best actress title, the artist tells us, "*Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo* is one of the most special films of my career and it will always remain so. I also feel really blessed to have all these amazing and lovely fans who keep showering me with so much of their precious love."

As far as she believes, all are truly winners and none of the other actresses is in any way less efficient than the other.

Meanwhile, on the work-front, her lineup includes films like *Bhaijaan* opposite Salman Khan, *Cirkus* with Ranveer Singh, *Most Eligible Bachelor* with Akkineni Akhil, that is releasing soon.

She also has the pan-India romantic drama *Radhe Shyam* with Prabhas, *Acharyaa* with Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan, *Beast* with Thalapaty Vijay and *SSMB28* with Mahesh Babu. She's sure on a roll!

PUSHPA MAKERS TEASE FANS
AHEAD OF SECOND SONG RELEASE



The last leg of Allu Arjun's *Pushpa*, which is directed by Sukumar, is currently happening at a brisk pace. The entire crew of the film has jetted off to the picturesque location to shoot a song, according to reports. So, the second lyrical single will be released soon. Mythri Movie Makers, the makers of *Pushpa* took to Twitter to share a picture from the location. The film's team, artists and caravans which can be surrounded by a beautiful lake was seen in the picture. Sharing the picture, the makers wrote, "A song from #PushpaTheRise was shot at a beautiful and picturesque location a few days back. Update about the most awaited Second Single soon #Pushpa #ThaggedheLe."

The film has been shot in various beautiful locations and looks like a promising action thriller. Other than Allu Arjun, the film also stars Rashmika Mandanna, Fahadh Faasil, Jagapathi Babu, Prakash Raj, Dhananjay, Sunil, Harish Uthaman, Vennela Kishore, Anansuya Bhardwaj and Gritej in pivotal roles. Devi Sri Prasad is composing the music for the film. Bankrolled by Mythri Movie Makers and Muttamsetty Media, *Pushpa-The Rise* will release on December 25, 2021.

Sesh defeats
dengue, says he's
"recovering"

Major star Adivi Sesh who has been hospitalised due to dengue finally returned home all healthy and is currently recuperating after the illness.

Adivi Sesh was admitted to AIG Hospital on September 18 after experiencing a fall in platelet count. In the first conversation with his fans after the illness, Sesh tweeted on Monday: "Back home. Rest & Recuperation."

He also took to Instagram to share the update and wrote: "Thank you for all the good energy sent my way."

The actor has been advised rest for a few days before jumping back into work.

Sesh will soon be seen in bilingual film *Major*. He has also started shooting of *Hit 2*, produced by Nani.

Besides these two, Sesh has *Goodachari 2* lined up, the much anticipated sequel of his 2018 film by the same name.



Konda Polam
trailer raises hopes

Known to make critically acclaimed films with commercial elements, director Krish is all set to enthrall with his upcoming flick *Konda Polam* starring Vaishnav Tej and Rakul Preet Singh. As the release date is fast approaching, the makers are opting for vigorous promotions.

On Monday, the makers released the theatrical trailer that uncovers what the film is all about and the kind of breath-takingly courageous journey we are going to experience in theatres. The trailer begins with showing Vaishnav Tej facing embarrassment in the city during his interviews. He returns to his village as a failure and he gets an opportunity to prove his calibre. He, along with his father, take their sheep to the hill place, as the village suffers

water problems. The trailer also captures the beautiful romance between Vaishnav Tej and Rakul Preet Singh.

Vaishnav faces the obstacle of tigers and robbers in the forest. How he protects the sheep forms the crux of the movie. The trailer is highly impressive with all the emotions incorporated in it.

Krish's making, Gnana Shekar VS's beautiful camera work, MM Keeravani's magical BGM, coupled with wonderful performances of Vaishnav Tej and Rakul Preet Singh are the major highlights of *Konda Polam* trailer.

The story is adapted from novel written by Sannapureddy Venkata Rami Reddy. Produced by Saibabu Jagarlamudi and Rajeev Reddy under First Frame Entertainments, *Konda Polam* will hit the screens on October 8.



NEW
VENTURE

Tanishk Reddy presents AV Creative Arts productions' "Production No.1" was launched in the city on Monday. The film will feature Tanishk himself and actress Ankita Sahu in lead roles. The film is being directed by Madhav Murthy and produced by Richa Bhatnagar and Vijayalaxmi. The project took off with a puja ceremony at the Ramanaidu Studios. Chief guest Venkat Yadav (Praveen) kickstarted the movie with the first clap, while Jyotsna turned on the camera.

