**ANALYSIS 7** 

TEXAS CRISIS EXPOSES

PAKISTAN'S TENTACLES

BUDGET SHOULD FOCUS ON BRIDGING WIDENED INEQUALITY IN ECONOMY

**SPORTS 12** RAVI BISHNOI GETS MAIDEN CALL-UP FOR WINDIES SERIES

**BHUBANESWAR RANCH DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA** 

HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW

**BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH** 

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RASHMIKA OVERWHELMED BY **AUDIENCE RESPONSE** TO SAAMI SAAMI

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# HYDERABAD, FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3 ne pioneer

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#### **DELHI LIFTS WEEKEND CURFEW, RESTAURANTS, CINEMAS TO OPEN**

he weekend curfew has been lifted in Delhi, odd-even curbs for markets have been removed and restaurants and cinemas can reopen at 50 per cent capacity, the government said today, as Covid cases continued to drop in the capital. Schools and colleges will remain shut for now. The decision to ease curbs enforced during the Omicron surge was taken at a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), in which the Delhi government and Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal were present. Cinemas, restaurants and bars can operate at 50 per cent capacity.

#### MAHA: WINE CAN NOW BE SOLD IN **SUPERMARKETS, WALK-IN SHOPS**

he sale of wine will be allowed in supermarkets and walk-in stores in Maharashtra, the state cabinet decided on Thursday. Opposition BJP slammed the decision, saying that the government was promoting liquor. The decision was taken to give a boost to fruit-based wineries which provide additional income to farmers, Minister for Skill Development Nawab Malik told reporters. A statement from the Chief Minister's Office said "shelf-in-shop" method will be adopted in supermarkets and walk-in-stores which have area of 100 sq mt or more and which are registered under the Maharashtra Shops and Establishments Act.

#### SPOOKY OBJECT FOUND IN MILKY **WAY 'UNLIKE ANYTHING SEEN'**

ustralian researchers have discovered a strange spinning object in the Milky Way they say is unlike anything Aastronomers have ever seen. The object, first spotted by a university student working on his undergraduate thesis, releases a huge burst of radio energy three times every hour. The pulse comes "every 18.18 minutes, like clockwork," said astrophysicist Natasha Hurley-Walker, who led the investigation after the student's discovery, using a telescope in the Western Australian outback known as the Murchison

#### TWITTER SUSPENDS BOT ACCOUNT **OFFERING SPOILERS FOR 'WORDLE'**

witter suspended a bot account on Wednesday for spoiling the solution to the next day's Wordle, the wildly popular internet word puzzle. The game, which only offers one puzzle per day, has amassed millions of players since it came online last year. But the Twitter profile @wordlinator seemed determined to ruin the fun for participants posting their scores on the social media site. "The account referenced was suspended for violating the Twitter Rules and the Automation Rules around sending unsolicited @mentions," a Twitter spokesperson told AFP

# Karvy stocks fraud pegged at Rs 2,874 crore

## ☐ MD Parthasarathy remanded in 4-day ED custody

PNS HYDERABAD

A special court on Thursday granted to the Enforcement Directorate four days' custody of Comandur Parthasarathy, CMD of Karvy Group, and G Krishna Hari, CFO of Karvy Group, arrested in an alleged multi-crore money laundering case.

The Enforcement Directorate had arrested Parthasarathy and Hari Krishna in the Rs 2,000 crore security scam. The accused were lodged in Central Jail, Bangalore and, on a production warrant of ED Court, produced before the PMLA Special Court MSJ Hyderabad on 20 January. The Court has now remanded the CMD and CFO of the Karvy Group to ED custody from 27 January to 30 January.

Parthasarathy was arrested under the Prevention of Money

laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in a money laundering case connected with the fraud committed through illegal diversion of clients' securities worth Rs 2,873.82 crore by Karvy Stock Broking Ltd and pledging of these securities with banks/NBFCs for seeking loans and subsequent loan default.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation based on a FIR filed by HDFC bank with CCS Hyderabad Police under various sections of IPC for defrauding HDFC bank. Subsequently, more FIRs were filed by other banks and a few investors.

ED had recorded the statements of several employees of the Karvy Group and conducted searches at 9 locations on 22 September 2021.

IT uncovered the complex web of transactions designed by the senior management of the Karvy Group to misuse the securities of their clients and to raise loans fraudulently which were then rotated via multiple related companies and diverted away from the stated purpose.

The shares of clients who did not owe any funds to KSBL were also transferred to the margin/pool account of KSBL and were pledged with the banks/NBFCs. The Power of Attorney (POA) given by clients to KSBL to facilitate exchange settlements was grossly misused by KSBL at the directions of the CMD and senior executives.

ED, in a press release, said: 'Comandur Parthasarathy and G Krishna Hari were the main conspirators who gave instructions to others. Fund trail investigation has shown that the borrowed funds were transferred to other group companies, particularly to one

## ED seizes assets of absconding Hyd firm promoters under FEMA

**NEW DELHI:** Assets worth Rs 3.19 crore of three promoters, including one arrested by the FBI in the US, of a Hyderabad-based firm have been seized for alleged contravention of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said on Thursday. The action has been taken against Karusala Venkat Subba Rao, Tejesh K Kodali and Kadiyala Venkateswara Rao of a firm identified as 3K Technologies Limited. The seized assets are in the form of 15 immovable properties situated in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the federal probe agency said in a statement. Out of the three promoters, the ED gave details about Kodali saying he is presently working in the US. Recently, a news article reported that he was arrested by the FBI in New Jersey for "orchestrating an immigration fraud to fraudulently maintain immigration status and obtain work authorisations for foreign clients through a bogus 'Pay to Stay' New Jersey college.

WoS of KSBL i.e. M/s. Karvy Realty (India) Limited (KRIL) and then to 14 shell companies floated by the Karvy Group. The same have been further diverted by layering done through complex web of transactions from the several accounts of group companies without any financial rationale. Various financial consultants and defunct NBFCs were used to route the funds".



## Bank loan fraud: ED attaches assets of Telangana firm

**NEW DELHI:** Assets worth Rs 43.25 crore of a Hyderabad-based firm have been attached under the anti-money laundering law in connection with an alleged bank loan fraud case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said on Thursday. A provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) has been issued by the agency attaching 15 land properties located in Telangana, in the case against Sheetal Refineries Ltd. and its promoter and managing director Jitender Kumar Agarwal. The ED case of money laundering was filed on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI in Bengaluru against the accused for "causing a total loss of Rs 87 crore" to the State Bank of Hyderabad (now SBI) and the Punjab National Bank (PNB). Probe found, the ED said in a statement, that the accused promoters "availed credit facilities from SBH and PNB Hyderabad, by submitting fabricated financial statements, invoices, etc". "They got letters of credit (LCs) issued from lending banks in the name of related shell entities as if material is being purchased

Regular approval granted

for Covishield, Covaxin

India's drug regulator has granted

regular market approval for

COVID-19 vaccines Covishield and Covaxin for use in the adult

ditions, Health Minister Mansukh

The minister also said that the government's vaccination drive

will continue as it is to provide first

and second doses for all and a precautionary dose for senior citizens

with co-morbidities as well as for

Soon after the approval, highly-

placed sources said the two vac-

cines will now be available in pri-

vate clinics at pre-decided MRP

frontline workers.

Mandaviya said on Thursday.

## **LIC** to list on bourses by March 31: Govt

PNS NEW DELHI

The government will list the country's largest insurer LIC on the stock exchanges by Marcha top official Thursday.

The draft papers for LIC's initial public offering (IPO) is being finalised and will be filed with market regulator Sebi soon for its

approval.
"LIC disinvestment amount will be included in this year's (Budget) because we aim to list it before March 31," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey told PTI.

LIC IPO is crucial for meeting the disinvestment target set for the current fiscal ending March

The Budget for 2021-22 has set a disinvestment target of Rs 1.75 lakh crore, as against Rs 32,835 crore garnered in the last fiscal. Of the Rs 1.75 lakh crore, Rs 1 lakh crore is to come from selling government stake in public sector banks and financial institutions, and Rs 75,000 crore will be CPSE disinvestment receipts. So far this fiscal, Rs 9,330 crore has been mopped up through minority stake sale in



## Air India back under Tatas wings

PNS NEW DELHI

Salt-to-software conglomerate Tata Group on Thursday took over Air India and vowed to turn the loss-making carrier, it had founded but had lost control nearly seven decades back, into a world-class airline.

N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, which in October last year beat a consortium led by rival SpiceJet promoter to win the bid for the national carrier, first called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi before heading to the Air India office where the takeover formalities were completed.

A new board of directors met shortly thereafter, formalising the management takeover.

Both the government and Tatas made separate announcements of

## Govt settles over Rs 61,000 cr Air India debt

The government has settled over Rs 61,000 crore of Air India's legacy debt and other liabilities that were left in AIAHL -- the company holding residual assets and liabilities of the airline -- ahead of the transfer of the national carrier to the Tata Group, a top official said on Thursday. The airline had a total debt of Rs 61,562 crore as of August 31, 2021. Of this, the Tata Group took over Rs 15,300 crore and the rest 75 per cent or around Rs 46,000 crore was transferred to a special purpose vehicle, Al Asset Holding Ltd (AIAHL). AIAHL also held Air India's non-core assets such as stake in Hotel Corp of India (HCIL), paintings and artifacts and immovable properties. In an interview with PTI, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) -- which ran the Air India privatisation process -- said Parliament had last month given nod for spending of Rs 62,057 crore towards equity infusion in AIAHL for repayment of dues and liabilities of Air India.

completion of the transaction -the first privatisation in nearly two decades that will put an end to thousands of crores of taxpayers' money being provided over the ment receiving Rs 2,700 crore from Talace Pvt Ltd, a whollyowned subsidiary of Tata Sons.

Group.

Tatas took over Rs 15,300 crore of debt in Air India and Air India Express Ltd while the remaining Rs 46,262 crore loan plus an outstanding of about Rs 15,000 crore towards unpaid fuel bills were paid off by the government.

India in partnership with AirAsia

The finance ministry in a state-

ment said the Air India strategic

disinvestment transaction has

been completed with the govern-

"It is indeed noteworthy that the disinvestment process of @airindiain has been brought to a successful conclusion in a timebound manner," Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia tweeted.

## Guv saddened by Achampet incident, reacts tagging Centre

added.

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan has reacted to the revolting incident of a pregnant woman being denied admission in Nagarkurnool on Thursday. In a tweet tagging Prime Minister, Home Minister and Union Health Minister, Tamilisai

wrote, "Saddened about the inci-

dent of refusing to admit a preg-

nant tribal woman citing

COVID19 as reason at Achampet hospital in Nagarkurnool district in Telangana. Assured them all the necessary support & assistance through Indian Red Cross" (sic).

and people can buy those, but jabs

can be administered only as per the

prevailing government guidelines.

available in the market at a price

lower than at what it was being sold

earlier at private hospitals, sources

Gradually, the vaccine will be

It may be mentioned here that two doctors were suspended on Wednesday for denying admission to the pregnant woman at CHC Achampet, Nagarkurnool on 25 January,

informal sector is the major thrust

factor. Hence, it is high time the gov-

ernment created a facilitating envi-

ronment for the urban informal sec-

tor in the form of skill up-gradation,

financial linkages, social security to

Month & Paksham: Pausa, Krishna Paksha

**Tithi:** Ekadashi: Jan 28 02:16 AM to Jan 28 11:36 PM Dwadashi : Jan 28 11:36 PM to Jan 29 08:37 PM Nakshatram: Anuradha: Jan 27 08:51 AM to Jan 28 07:10

AM Jyeshta: Jan 28 07:10 AM to Jan 29 05:07 AM

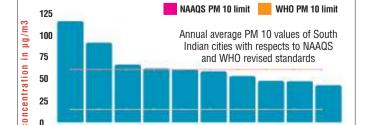
**Rahukalam**: 11:05 AM to 12:29 PM **Yamagandam:** 3:17 PM to 4:41 PM **Varjyam:** 01:22 AM to 02:49 AM

Gulika: 8:16 AM to 9:40 AM Amritakalam: 09:04 PM to 10:32 PM Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:06 PM to 12:51 PM

HYDRABAD WEATHER Forecast: SUNNY **Temp:** 31°

Humidity: 41%

Sunrise: 6:53 AM Sunset: 6:04 PM Updated JANUARY 27, 2021 5:00 PM



An Air quality analysis of 10 cities from South India

## Vizag, Hyd record sharpest rise in pollution levels in south Indian cities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad have recorded the sharpest rise in particulate matter (PM) levels among 10 southern Indian cities. As per a report by Greenpeace,

in comparison, annual PM10 levels in Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad exceeded the prescribed WHO guidelines of15  $\mu$ g/m3 by 6 to 7 times.

## KTR pitches for MGNREGS-like scheme for urban poor **NAVEENA GHANATE**

years to keep the airline afloat.

For Tatas, Air India will be the

third airline. It already operates

Vistara in joint venture with

Singapore Airlines and AirAsia

Telangana IT Minister K T Rama Rao has requested Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to bring MGNREGS-like scheme for urban poor as part of steps to strengthen social security measures.

KTR, in a letter to the Finance Minister, sought introduction of 'National Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (NUEGS)' in the upcoming Budget on the lines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to help urban poor in the country. He requested her to take the upcoming Budget as an occasion to "think big and come out with a policy measure akin to the one in the form of MGNREGA to best protect



KTR said that it was about ensur-

ing something more than a job guar-

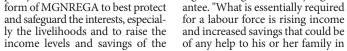
KTR said that it was about ensuring something more than a job quarantee. "What is essentially required for a labour force is rising income and increased savings that could be of any help to his or her family in times of distress".

the labour, etc", he said KTR said, "With the support of the employment guarantee scheme in urban areas, we can provide job cards like in rural areas and take their services in urban environment protection by engaging them in citylevel green action plan (Haritha Haram) and in basic infra works like laying pavements & other repair and maintenance works".

KTR said that he was of the opinion that meeting the needs of India's rising urban population would continue to be a critical strategic policy matter for all the national, states, and city governments,







of the hour," he said "Urban centers/towns have become the growth engines of Indian economy and the urban

times of distress. Hence, a national

policy aimed at increased daily

incomes for urban labour is the need

## SC asks Revanth's advocates to file affidavit on case in High Court

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC chief and Malkajgiri MP A Revanth Reddy's petition relating to the 'vote for note' case was heard in the Supreme Court on Thursday.

Revanth Reddy had filed the petition claiming that the vote for note case did not fall under the purview of the

The SC bench directed Revanth's advocates to file an affidavit on the status of the case in the High Court.

The Supreme Court adjourned the next hearing for two weeks.

## TPCC serves notices to leaders who TSBJP suffers from disunity tive as these coteries, it is playing a 'Peddanna' role to se skipped meet on membership drive

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has served notices to the leaders who skipped the review held at Gandhi Bhavan on January 19 on the ongoing digital membership under the leadership of TPCC chief A Revanth Reddy. The notice sought an explanation from the leaders for their absence, it is learnt.

AICC in-charge secretaries Bose Raju and Srinivasa Krishnan were present at the

This being so, Congress senior leader V Hanumantha



Rao has warned the TPCC stating that he would stage a silent deeksha on Friday (January 28) should the TPCC

fail to keep its word and issue show-cause notice to former MLC and Adilabad leader K Premsagar Rao. VHR said that he had been insulted six times; yet, he went to Mancherial following the directions of Revnath Reddy. However, Premsagar Rao's followers attacked him, apart from using abusive words.

It is understood that many

issues are pending with the Disciplinary Action Committee headed by for-mer Minister Dr G Chinna Reddy.

A leader, requesting anonymity, said that the DAC

been pending and wondered how TPCC could serve notices seeking explanation. He said that it would be better for the party to solve pending complaints before serving new notices to party leaders, though the latest one had come from Revanth Reddy. There was nothing wrong in seeking explanation from leaders if they were found guilty and it would help the party maintain discipline. However, the party was not applying rules uniformly for all leaders. It was not good for all leaders. It was not good for the party to shown partiality towards some leaders, he said.

Telangana BJP has been suffering from disunity now. The old and new leaders are divided between each other and maintaining their coteries. Most of the old-timers have not been digesting the speed of the Telangana BJP Chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar, it is learnt. With Bandi Sanjay's speed, the leaders—Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy, BJP OBC Morcha national chief Dr K Laxman, Madhya Pradesh Party in-charge P Muralidhar Rao have been maintaining their own coteries and are not extending their full cooperation to the young head of the party, it is learnt.

Besides these coteries, there were also coteries in the name of BJP national vice-president DK Aruna, SC Assembly Constituencies Committee chairman AP Jithender Reddy. There were also a few more coteries like Eatala Rajender; however, they are not as effective as these coteries, it is learnt. One of the party leaders has lamented saying that "the party is becoming strong in the state, however, these leaders are applying brakes with their egos.

It is not the time to the leaders whoever it may be to show their egos as the party is emerging as a stronger one. The elections take may place in the state at any time and it is better for them to

refrain from the egos". He said that the opposition parties will try to disturb the party and it is not good for the leaders to fall prey to their egos resulting in benefit for the opponent parties. However, senior-most leader and 'Joinings and Coordination Committee' chairman Nallu Indrasena Reddy has been

that the party not to be suffered from disunity, it is learnt. As part of it, the party high command has entrusted the responsibility to Indrasena Reddy of Karimnagar and

Nizamabad leaders' secret meetings. It is learnt that these issues are pacified

> However, another leader opined that due to the leaders' immature egos, many were in doubt to join the party though they are

in touch with the party. Some Telangana BJP leaders are opposing the joining of some leaders from other parties and others are opposing some others giving doubts to the leaders trying to join from other parties, he said. The Party needs teamwork now to emerge as a strong one further,

## Who sponsored Raja Kumar's Daughter's wedding: Revanth

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC Chief A Revanth Reddy has on Twitter questioned as to "who sponsored the fivestar wedding of Telangana State Special Chief Secretary for Irrigation Rajat Kumar's daughter. Was it done as Quid pro quo," Revanth Reddy won-

In his second tweet,

'95% of India's adult population given 1<sup>st</sup> dose, 74% fully inoculated'

PNS NEW DELHI

95% of India's eligible adult population has been administered the first dose of Covid vaccine while 74% are fully inoculated, the Union health ministry said on Thursday as the total vaccine

Revanth Reddy said, "The documentary evidence collected by a media house clearshows personnel of a big firm made arrangements through a shell company BigWave Infra Pvt Ltd. Will @TelanganaCMO who holds the irrigation portfolio, order a probe on nexus between the contractor and a senior IAS

doses administered has crossed 164.35 crore. Tll 7 pm, 49,69,805 vaccine doses have been administered. As many as 1,03,04,847 precaution doses have been administered to healthcare and

frontline workers and those aged

60 and above with comorbidities.

## Parliamentary Privileges Committee in the eye of storm

PNS HYDERABAD

The functioning of the Parliamentary Privileges Committee raises eyebrows especially over the way in which each case is being treat-

Sources in the TRS pointed out that on one hand the officials in Telangana State were summoned on BJP State president Bandi Sanjay's complaint, but it kept calm on such issues raised by other Parliamentarians. The TRS sources indicate that it would not be a surprise if the Privileges Committee issues summons even for the alleged attack by farmers on MP Dharmapuri Arvind.

It may be mentioned here

that the Lok Sabha Privileges Committee last week summoned Telangana Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Director General of Police M Mahender Reddy and five orders based on a complaint by Karimnagar MP and BJP State president Bandi Sanjay Kumar that he was manhandled by police while arresting him at his camp office in Karimnagar town on January 2 night.

However, there was no progress on the matter of Raghu Ramakrishnam Raju, who had issued a breach of privilege notices against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, AP DGP Gautam Sawang, APCID ADG, APCID SP. The Lok Sabha

responded in June and issued directions to the Union Home Secretary to submit a comprehensive report on custodial torture within 15days. But nothing happened afterwards.

Now BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind on Tuesday said he would lodge a complaint with the Lok Sabha Privileges Committee and explain, what he alleged, an "attack' on him by the ruling party leaders at Issapally village in Nizamabad district on Tuesday.

It may be mentioned here that All Members of Parliament enjoy rights and immunities so that they can 'effectively discharge their

## **Guv saddened** by Achampet incident, reacts tagging...

Continued from page 1

just because she had tested positive for COVID. Nimmala Lalamma delivered the baby on the road.

Later, the Governor appre-

ciated C Ramesh Reddy and his team of the Indian Red Cross Society's unit in Nagarkurnool District of Telangana for donating a pack of hygiene kits & mosquito nets as well as cash worth Rs.5,000 cash to Nimmala Lalamma.

## People may be free to set up standalone energy storage systems: RK Singh

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy R K Singh has indicated that people may be free to set up standalone energy storage systems (ESS) as the government plans de-licensing that under the policy for ESS.

According to a statement issued by the power ministry, Singh interacted with renewable energy developers, industry and various government representatives to discuss the elements of the draft policy on the energy storage system to promote the creation of stor-

age systems on a large scale across the country. The policy aims at the cre-

ation of the technology-agnostic storage system across the value chain of the electricity sector generation, transmission and distribution levels.

In the meeting held on January 25 with representa-tives of the industry, Singh galvanised the industry representatives and called for their active participation in establishing storage systems and associated manufacturing industries domestically within the country.

#### LIC to list on bourses by **March 31: Govt** Continued from page 1

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) earlier this week reported a profit after tax of Rs 1,437 crore for the first half (April-September) of the current financial year, compared to Rs 6.14 crore in the year-ago period.

Its new business premium growth rate stood at 554.1 per cent in H1 FY22, as against 394.76 per cent ear-

September last year appointed 10 merchant bankers, including Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Pvt Ltd, Citigroup Global Markets India Pvt Ltd and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Pvt Ltd, to manage the mega initial public offering of the insurance behemoth.

Other selected bankers include SBI Capital Market Ltd, JM Financial Ltd, Axis Capital Ltd, BofA Securities, J.P. Morgan India Pvt Ltd, ICICI Securities Ltd, and Kotak Mahindra Capital Co Ltd. Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas has been appointed as legal advisor for the IPO.

The government is in the process of deciding the quantum of its stake that will be divested through the IPO.
It is also mulling allowing

foreign investors to pick up stake in LIC. As per Sebi rules, foreign portfolio investors (FPI) are permitted to buy shares in a public offer. However, since the LIC Act has no provision for foreign investments, there is a need to align the LIC IPO with Sebi norms regarding foreign investor participation.



**RETAIL PRICE** 

CHICKEN

#### Vizag, Hyd record sharpest rise in pollution levels in... Continued from page 1 lines for safe air by 2 to 3 times. The primary contributors to

The PM2.5 levels in Visakhapatnam Hyderabad have increased by 7 to 8 times. Apart from that, Visakhapatnam Hyderabad values are 1.5 to 2 times higher than NAAQS prescribed standards and those of the rest of the cities are within the limits.

On other hand, Bengaluru, Mangalore, Amaravati, Chennai and Kochi recorded Amaravati, data that exceeded the limit by 3 to 4 times. Mysore. Coimbatore and Pondicherry recorded PM10 data that exceeded the WHO guide-

Continued from page 1

more particularly when the

true objectives of governance

was caring for the urban

uncertainties impacted the

urban poor more than any

other segment, KTR said: "Ít

is the urban informal sector

propelled by the urban poor

that provided the necessary

thrust to the revival of Indian

Hence, there is a lesson to

protect the urban informal

Stating that lockdown-like

KTR pitches for

MGNREGS-like scheme...

It was found that, despite pandemic-induced lockdowns and subsequent reduction in economic activities, the annual average values of PM2.5 and PM10 exceeded WHO revised standards substantially. In Hyderabad city, there are 6 monitoring stations located by CPCB and TSPCB. The annual average values of PM 2.5 and PM 10 show that at all the locations, the values are higher than WHO revised standards. Apart from that, three stations are higher in PM 2.5 and almost all the stations' PM 10 values are higher than NAAQS standards.

sector from the ravages of any

economic blackouts in

migrant labour - often pan-

Indian - constitute a signifi-

cant proportion of urban

poor providing their distinct

contribution to the urban

economies, away from their

native states, there is a need

for a social security scheme

that could guarantee a min-

imum safety net to the labour

force, irrespective of the fact

whether the beneficiary lives

in his native state or not."

The Minister added: "Since

the worsening air quality are fossil fuel-powered infrastructure development, industries, transport, waste burning, and construction activity. Chronic exposure to air pollution increases the likelihood of asthma, low birth weight, depression, schizophrenia, diabetes, stroke, lung cancer and can cause premature deaths. Avinash Chanchal, Campaign Manager, Greenpeace India, said: "The data shows that lockdown is not a solution to air pollution. Relatively lesser economic activity and vehicles is

## granted for...

Continued from page 1

a source said.

form will be mandatory.

## **Regular approval**

also putting us in a dangerous

"The idea is that those who are keen to get a booster dose can now avail it through private clinics as the vaccine available in private clinics can be used for any purpose, whether it's first dose, second dose or a booster as one wishes, provided that all guidelines including for eligibility of beneficiaries are followed,"

Also, registration of the vaccination on CoWin plat-

#### Govt settles over Rs 61,000 cr Air India debt Of this, broadly about Rs 61,131 crore has been used to repay

Air India back under Tatas wings

the entire debt and other liabilities such as fuel dues to oil

companies, he said. "The interest outgo on the debt and other

debt now." As of August 31, 2021, the airline's total debt stood

at Rs 61,562 crore, out of which around Rs 46,000 crore was

transferred to AIAHL. The airline also had about Rs 15,000

government was around Rs 61,000 crore. "Both excess debt

Pandey said. "Whatever was to be borne by the government

that the government has squared off rather than paying it off

wasn't worthwhile to retain it and pay it off later. "If we take it

to AIAHL and pay it later we have to pay higher rate of interest.

So we have chosen to square it off straight away," he said. Tata

bidder for Air India with a bid amount of Rs 18,000 crore. Tatas

have paid Rs 2,700 crore cash and taken over Rs 15,300 crore

later... we found that it is carrying higher rate of interest. It

Group was in October last year announced as the winning

of the airline's debt. The deal also includes sale of Air India

and excess current liabilities whatever was remaining with the

crore excess liabilities towards unpaid fuel bills and other

operational creditors. So the debt and liabilities with the

government, about Rs 61,131 crore, have been cleared,"

liabilities was very high and it was decided to square off the

Continued from page 1

That proves the government's ability and "the resolve to carry out disinvestment effectively in non-strategic sectors in the

Air India will give Tatas immediate access to valuable flying rights and landing slots and it will also gain control of low-cost, short-haul international carrier Air India Express as well as a 50 per cent stake in a ground handling company with SATS Ltd.

With Rs 20 crore daily loss than halved to less than 10 per cent last year, Tatas have their task cut out as it has to not just repair the shabby customer services at Air India but also deal with highly unionised and surplus manpower as well as an ageing and a mixed fleet of 141 aircraft.

Tatas cannot retrench any employee for at least a year, according to the terms of the

Air India's regional arm, Alliance Air, is not part of the deal.

In a tweet, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the strategic disinvestment transaction of Air India has concluded successfully with transfer of 100 per cent shares of Air India to Talace along

Express and ground handling arm AISATS.

with management control. "A new board, led by the strategic partner, takes charge of Air India," Pandey said after completion of the handover process at the airline's headquarters here.

In October last year, Tatas won the bid for Air India through a competitive bidding for Rs 18,000 crore, including the cash component of Rs 2,700 crore.

"We are excited to have Air India back in the Tata Group and are committed to making this a world-class airline," Tata

Chairman Chandrasekaran said in a statement. "I warmly welcome all the employees of Air India to our Group, and look forward to working together".

Tata Group Founder JRD Tata had originally launched the airline in 1932 as the nation's first carrier, flying mail lines.

vided, British-ruled India and Bombay. It was nationalised in

The Maharaja once shone brightly in Indian skies but competition from the private sector coupled with faulty decisions on aircraft purchases, heterogeneity of fleet and a failed marriage with Indian Airlines led to its downfall.

In 2005-06, the airline placed an order for a new fleet of 111 Boeing aircraft to coincide with the India visit of the then US President George W Bush. Its long haul B7 aircraft had 'vanity first class cabin' that was rarely filled and the airline did not offer direct non-stop flights from major growth centres.

But the biggest undoing was the 2006-07 merger of Air India and Indian Airlines -- the amalgamation was to ensure better synergies of their resources but resources, aircraft, men, material and machines remained divided. And without employee layoffs, problems like excess manpower got magnified.

A decade back, it had some 300 employees per aircraft, which came down to 95 last year (13,500 employees of Air Índia and Air India Express on a fleet of 141 aircraft). This ratio is still higher than private air-

## Karvy stocks fraud pegged at...

Continued from page 1

economy.

ED found that KSBL availed loans from NBFCs to the tune of Rs 400 crore in the name of five such shell companies by pledging shares of clients of KSBL after illegally transferring these shares

to their account. The fraudulently availed loans were used to clear pending loans of related companies, do massive stock transactions which have allegedly turned into complete losses and diverted to personally held family

#### Bank loan fraud: ED attaches... Continued from page 1

"LCs were discounted by the related entities and the money so received was routed back to the promoters of Sheetal Refinery," it said. The company "defaulted" in payment of LCs on due date and the devolvement of LCs caused loss to the banks, it alleged. In total, the ED said, the company owes Rs 146 crore to the banks. "The diverted loan proceeds which are nothing but proceeds of crime were utilised for purchase of properties and to foreclose older loans and were not used for the stated purposes," it said. The agency earlier too had attached assets in this case and with the latest order of attachment of properties worth a purchase value of Rs 43.25 crore, the total now stands at Rs 52.78 crore.

#### ED seizes assets of absconding... Continued from page 1

It is also learnt that Kodali was sentenced to five years in prison and a fine of USD 2.50 lakh imposed on him in a student visa fraud case, it said. The agency said it initiated action in this case "on the basis of" information received from the office of development commissioner, Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which stated that the company reported "abnormal" exports. The probe found "3K Technologies Limited transferred foreign exchange to the tune of USD 1,15,32,000 (equivalent to Rs 52,47,02,935 or over Rs 52.47 crore) to 3K Technologies Inc., USA, in 2010 in the guise of overseas direct investment (ODI)." "3K Technologies Inc. USA was incorporated on 23.02.2007 and Kodali was also the director of the USA company," the agency said. "It is gathered that 3K Technologies Inc., USA, was dissolved on 28.01.2011, within 3 months after receipt of the final ODI tranche, and no shares were issued by the US company and no annual reports were filed with the RBI," it said. After the transfer of the above funds, the three left India and are residing in the US. They are not responding to the summons of the ED and the above funds are still being held outside India in contravention of Section 4 of the FEMA, 1999, the agency said.

## 2 elephants die, 1 injured in Assam

An elephant was killed and another was injured when a goods train knocked them near Palasbari in Kamrup district of Assam, prompting the Northeast Frontier Railway to conduct a "detailed enquiry", officials said on Thursday.

Another elephant was killed due to electrocution at Lanka in Hojai district, officials said.

According to officials of the Palasbari Forest Office, a speeding goods train from Guwahati to New Delhi knocked down the elephants when they were crossing the tracks at Gosaihat Uparpara between Azara and Mirza stations on the Kamakhya-Jogighopa rail line under Rangia Division of the NFR. While one jumbo was killed on the spot, another was injured in the accident during the early hours of Thursday.

The train dragged the ele-

phant for about 200 metres, the forest official said, adding "the injured elephant entered into the deep forest". The railway and forest staff reached the spot after getting intimation of the accident and removed the dead elephant to clear the track.

The dead elephant was buried near the rail line after conducting a post mortem, the Forest Department official said.

The local public urged the railway authority to decrease the speed limit in this area and display a board marking "Elephant Corridor" to save the jumbos as they regularly cross the rail tracks in and around the accident area. The NFR Chief Public Relations Officer Guneet Kaur said that the area where the incident occurred is not a forest declared elephant corridor and no information from forest officials or villagers on the movement of the elephant in the area was received.

"As a preventive measure, Forest Department and railways have dedicated representatives from both sides at the railway's divisional 24 hour working control office, but no information regarding movement of elephant was available with the forest official available at control

"After the incident, information was given by railway officials to the Forest Department," she said in a statement. Due to the accident, several passenger and goods trains were delayed by many hours and were stopped at different stations, Kaur said.

"After the incident of last night, NF Railway has proactively decided to conduct a detailed enquiry of the incident and has imposed caution during train movement and reassessment of notified elephant corridors are also being taken in coordination with Forest Department," she added.

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## Sampark Kranti Express from Telangana is still elusive

The promised Sampark Kranti is still eluding Telangana for the past seven years. In fact, there is only one train available for the people of Telangana to go to Delhi -the Telangana express. Moreover, there are Sampark Kranti Express trains running from all states to Delhi.

Those who want to travel to Delhi have to wait for months together to find a berth in Telangana Express. Annually, railway budgets are presented but there are no new trains introduced. The residents of the state are aspiring that the Union government will introduce more trains in the forthcoming railway budget. The Sampark Kranti

from AP, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala. The train from AP (12708 to 12707) is being run from Tirupati to Nizamuddin. It travels via Kachiguda, but finding a berth is difficult on the train for the people of Telangana. For long, the people of Telangana have been demanding the Centre to run one Sampark Kranti express, which is being run either from pilgrimage centres or state capitals, from Telangana.

The Telangana Express is being run via Nampalli, Kazipet and Balarsha to Delhi. The Telangana Sampark Kranti Express, if at all introduced, should be run from Secunderabad to Delhi via Nizamabad, Karimnagar,



Peddapalli, Balarsha and Dehradun to provide train connectivity to some of the towns and cities in Telangana that have poor train connectivity. Earlier, the Centre announced the Vande Bharat train from Hyderabad. Proposals have been prepared for running 100 such trains in

the country. Currently, Vande Bharat trains are being run between Delhi and Varanasi, Delhi and Vaishnodevi temple. The proposals to run Vande Bharat train, which runs at 130 kmph, between Secunderabad and Delhi, still did not see light at the end of

## **Firm donates Rs 18.72 lakh** worth tablets to cops

PNS MEDCHAL MALAKJGIRI

Intending to support the efforts of Rachakonda Police in fighting the Covid, Concord Hayathnagar has donated tablet strips worth Rs 18,72,000 to Rachakonda Police Commissionerate. Nagireddy, Manoj Kumar Reddy of Concord Drugs Limited have participated in the programme and handed over tablet strips of 6500 LemonCee, 6500 Zincovita and 6500 Vitamin D3 to CP Mahesh M Bhagwat , on Thursday at Neredmet.

CP instructed everyone to avoid crowded places and take vaccination.

# Mayor reviews Langer House lake beautification

Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi held a meeting with the Additional Commissioner (Health) Santosh, Zonal Commissioner Khairatabad (Zone) Ravi Kiran and others on the plan of action on cleaning and beautification of Langar House lake on

Thursday.
On the occasion,
Addl.Commissioner Santosh said that 39 lakes have been identified for removal of hyacinth and maintenance. Work has commenced and completed in 31 lakes.

Mayor said that hyacinth is being accumulated as sewage water is flowing into the lake, is becoming a place for mosquito breeding and the people in the surrounding localities are suffering from mos-



quito menace and foul smell.

Mayor asked officials to get rid of hyacinth using floating devices. Once it is cleared, regular maintenance of the lake is to be taken care by the entomology wing and regular anti larva activities can be taken on the lake and

fogging at nearby houses. Mayor asked about the feasi-

bility of using Barrage Trash Cleaner (BTC) / Floating Trash Collector (FTC) for removing hyacinth from the

On beautification of the lake, Mayor instructed the officials to take up aromatic plantation, mosquito repellent plants on both sides of the

# Notorious house burglar held, property worth Rs 13 lakh seized

PNS MEDCHAL MALAKJGIRI

Meerpet PS of Rachakonda commissionarate police crime team nabbed the notorious house burglar with the coordination of CCS, IT CELL and recovered stolen properties from the accused within 4 hours. Police recovered gold ornaments and silver articles all worth of Rs 13,10,000. The accused is identified as Kodidela Sudhaker (27), Old village, Meerpet, Ranga Rddy district and native of Revella Mandal, Nagarkurnool district. According to the police, accused was earlier arrested in a murder case, house burglary and auto mobile theft cases from Nagarkurnool, Meerpet and LB Nagar police stations. On 7th Jan, he was released from jail and he again started committing

burglary during day time in mother-in-law's



Police officials displaying seized gold ornaments at a press meet in Hyderabad on

the limits of Meerpet, Racha konda Commissionerate. The victim Kattekola Rathnakar Rao, resident of Badangpet, Balapur, R.R.Dist gave a complaint in which he had stated that on Jan 26th, he and his family members went to his brother-in-law's house in the same colony by locking He had committed house their house to attend his

anniversary. When they returned to their house, they noticed unknown offenders gained entry into their house and committed theft.

DI and his team took swift action and arrested the accused. The arrest was made under the guidance of Bhagwat, Commissioner of Police,

## Police arrest house burglary offender, recover Rs 1 lakh

PNS MEDCHAL MALAKJGIRI

The sleuths of CCS LB Nagar team, along with Saroornagar police of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate, apprenhended the professional house burglar and recovered about Rs 1 lakh cash from his possession.

According to police, the accused Ambati Chakravathy (32) who hails from Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh, is a resident of P&T Colony in Dilsukhnagar. When he was at his native village earlier, he involved in 20 cases of house burglary and other property cases and he was arrested by Dachepally police, Pidug uralla police, Narsaraopet, Krosuru police of Guntur district and by Kodada police and Nakarikallu police of Suryapet district.

After getting released from jail in 2021, accused came to Hyderabad and was staying in P&T Colony. He

again committed offence on Jan 26th at the Mee Seva Centre at P&T Colony X road and police received a complaint from Baira Shankar. The police arrested him when the accused was moving under suspicious circumstances during vehicle checking at Saroornagar limits. On questioning, he revealed his name and also confessed that he had committed the burglary. The case was investigated under direct supervision of Mahesh M Bhagwat, Commissioner of Police and G. Sudheer Babu, Addl. Commissioner with the guidance of Sunpreeth Singh, DCP LB Nagar, P. Yadagiri, DCP Crimes and under the supervision of M. Srinivasulu, Addl.DCP Crimes, P.Sreedhar Reddy, ACP LB Nagar and the Inspector,

Detective Inspector, CCS LB

Nagar team, IT Cell &

Inspector LB Nagar PS.

#### CV Anand: Mahesh Bank's negligence led to hack

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand said that the main reason for hacking of Mahesh Bank is problems in the banking server. CP said, " The bank holds the accounts of the public worth several crores. The management should have safeguard-ed public money and seen to it that all necessary safety measures are in place. But it failed. There is no proper safety mechanism for the bank's main server, which was compromised and hacked"

He said, "We will also file a case against the bank for negligence. Online banking segment of the bank does not have proper cyber security". Earlier this week, Mahesh Bank Co-operative Bank

server in Hyderabad has been hacked and a sum of Rs. 12 crore was reportedly

## WTP elects 4 students of MS Creative School as MPs

PNS HYDERABAD

Four students of MS Creative School have been elected as Member of Parliament of World Teen Parliament (WTP) - a UNESCO supported body for teens. These four MS Creative School students are the only MPs of WTP from Telangana state, said Mohammed Moazzam Hussian, senior director MS Education Academy.
The selected students are

Amena Aziz, d/o Mohammed Aziz Ali, Atika Amoodi d/o Shaik Abdul Raheem, Mariya Khalid Saache d/o Khalid Saache and Sumera Ummey Kulsum d/o Mohammed Rafeeq. They are students of class X of MS Creative School, said the senior

They have been selected after a rigorous selection process spread into three

stages. The final result was declared on the 21st of this month.

These students have also received various curricular and extracurricular awards and prizes," he said. The Blubworld, that empowers teens by getting them onstage at the world's most important forums, invited applications for this presti-

gious position.
About 72,000 applicants participated at this competition which held in three rounds and finally 100 students were selected.

Sumera Ummey Kulsum while proposing a suggestion on "How to make life better" said, ``To change the world we need to first change ourselves from

Only then we can bring changes in the world. She suggested to tune oneself in such a way that the outside world cannot affect you.

## Bansilalpet stepwell restoration will be completed by Aug 15: Talasani

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

15, Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav said on Thursday. Special Chief Secretary, Municipal Administration, Arvind Kumar along with Kalpana Ramesh, a volunteer organisation manager, inspected the Nizam era stepwell at Bansilapet. In the past, the well was completely filled with rubbish and waste and after 6 months of hard work, the NGO, GHMC, removed 2,000 metric tonnes of rubbish.

A photo exhibition was set up to illustrate the situation prior to the removal of garbage from the well and a comparison to the current situation.

Speaking on the occasion,



Minister Talasani Yadav and other officials inspecting stepwell at Bansilalpet in city on Thursday

Talsani Srinivas Yadav said that Hyderabad has a special identity as a historic city and has many ancient monuments. Minister Chandrashekar Rao has direct-

ed officials to preserve ancient

monuments that bear witness

to history. It is said that the stepwell was built in the 17th century in Bansilalpet for the needs of the people of the area

at that time. Yadav said steps would be taken to make it more attractive to tourists.

#### Post-card campaign for zero GŠT to handloom sector

PNS HYDERABAD

the All India Padmasali Association's handloom division, a post card campaign will be launched here on Friday demanding zero GST for handloom sector. Over one lakh postcards will be addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman highlighting their demands. MLC L Ramana, MLA Pylla Sekhar Reddy and Padmasali Association leaders will launch the campaign on Friday. The Padmasali Association appealed to people to make the campaign successful.

## Mission Bhagiratha set to quench the thirst of people in tribal habitations

The state government initiated measures to supply protribal people living on hilly regions through Mission Bhagiratha. As the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao directed the officials to supply protected water to the tribal habitations, the officials were able to supply water to the people in the remote tribal areas within two years in Adilabad district. Accordingly, government was able to supply protected drinking water to Adivasi

Gonds settled in remote forest areas of Adilabad district. Up to three years ago, the people of Rajulavarigudem of Bhimpur mandal in the district, with 48 houses (160



population) used to walk ong distance to fetch water from a stream (Vagu). They used to suffer from waterborne diseases like diarrhea. When the canal dries in summer, they were facing water scarcity problems. Due to water shortage, they sold away their cattle. As it was rocky terrain, bore-wells could not be dug.

On knowing the problems of these poor tribal people, state government decided to supply drinking water to Bhagiratha. It was planned to draw water from Madegaon to Rajulavarigudem covering 180 km. Water connection was given to each household and water was supplied.

Government devised a special programme to supply water to tribals settled in hilly regions in the districts of Adilabad, Khammam and Nagarkurnool districts by spending Rs 150 crore. Pumping houses were constructed and pipelines were laid. Water was supplied to the tribals (Adivasis) in the hilly forest region of Adilabad district through Mission Bhagiratha.

#### **Azhar lodges** complaint against HCA ombudsman

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC working president and HCA president Azharuddin lodged a complaint against the ombudsman of the HCA at Begumpet PS in the city on Thursday. In his complaint, Azhar

said that the ombudsmen in the Gymkhana office threatened the HCA current staff. Begumpet Azharuddin's complaint. The ombudsman and Azharuddin have been at loggerheads for several days. The dispute is currently pending in the

Supreme Court.

## SBI local head office celebrates Republic Day

PNS HYDERABAD

Amit Jhingran, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Hyderabad Circle unfurled the tri-colour flag at SBI local Head Office, Koti, Hyderabad to mark the celebrations of the 73rd Republic Day. Staff members participated in the event strictly adhering to Covid protocols. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Jhingran said that we all cherish this memorable day as our nation attained sovereignty by the selfless sacrifices made by our great leaders and freedom fighters. ``Today, we feel proud to be a part of this diverse independent India endowed with rich cultural values and traditions. We salute the armed forces who are maintaining strict vigil and protecting our country from invasions, challenges & threats," he said. SBI has been in the forefront in the fight against Covid -19 by providing uninterrupted banking service despite the challenges. Our Bank is partaking in Covid relief measures by distributing ration/ food to the

## T-Works invites applications for 2022 Fellowship programmes

PNS HYDERABAD

India's largest prototyping centre, T-Works is inviting applications for its 2022 Fellowship programme for creative individuals. The position is based out of Hyderabad and the fellows will get to engage with stakeholders from government, corporate, educational institutions, startups, artists and

The 12-month programme will involve learning about T-Works existing programmes and also conceptualising new ones. In addition, they will also spend time executing proposed plans and can choose to work independently or with the existing teams or take complete ownership of a project or pro-

Candidates with the passion for the maker culture and one or more skills across functions can apply. Whether you like to sketch, design, model, prototype, experiment, cut, weld, drill, or just make things, you can contribute. The last date for submitting the application is February 15 and candidates with a formal education in engineering/arts/design/man agement/operations/or any other field can apply. Having graduation/diploma/certification in respective field of education will be preferred.

Remuneration is being offered at two levels - for fellow with work experience under 10 years, the remuneration is Rs 40,000 per month and for senior fellow with work experience greater than or equal to 10 years the remuneration is Rs 55,000 per month.



### **PMGSY works** progressing as per norms: **Errabelli**

PNS HYDERABAD

Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development stated that the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojna works are being implemented at a brisk pace adhering to quality specifications. The government is not at all compromising on quality, he

He responded thus on Thursday to a video conference addressed by Union Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh and union secretaries.

Besides Dayakar Rao, Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania took part in the video conference. The minister said that the state officials have been inspecting the progress of the works and constantly monitoring the works and told the Union Minister that the works would be completed within the deadline stipulat-

## HMDA razes illegal structures in Nizampet municipality

PNS MEDCHAL MALAKJGIRI

The HMDA teams, along with district Task Force teams, continued demolition of illegal structures in Nizampet Municipal limits on Thursday. They demolished two blocks on an apartment constructed illegally in the municipal lim-

A house owner in survey No. 92/P under Nizampet Municipality obtained house construction permission for constructing G+2 building in his 840 sq.yards plot. However, he constructed three blocks, stilt+5 upper floors. The Task Force teams demolished the unauthorised structures on Thursday. So far, the HMDA and Task Force teams have taken action against 101 unauthorised structures. They

demolished 78 illegal struc-

tures and seized 23 structures. As some of the HMDA officials working in municipalities have been keeping away from duties due to Covid pandemic, the demolition of illegal structures is disrupted to certain extent, the officials said.

However, demolition of illegal structures will be continued and at any cost violators will not be spared, the officials





demolishing illegal structure in Nizampet municipality on Thursday

# Telangana

## Is KCR giving prominence to 'Udhyama Telangana' batch

Going by the activity in the Telangana Rashtra Samiti in the aftermath of the Huzurabad bypoll, it appears that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has been giving prominence to the 'Udhyama Telangana' batch.

For the unversed, the Udhyama Telangana (UT) batch refers to those leaders who have been with TRS party since 2001, while the Bangaru Telangana (BT)' batch signifies those who joined the party after June

The growing discontent among the UT batch over their position vis-à-vis the

Bharatiya Janata Party senior

leader in the state Gudur Narayana Reddy on Thursday

strongly opposed the state

government's proposal to raise

the market values of the lands.

In a media statement here, he

alleged that the government

has been proposing to rise the

market values of the lands to

increase its revenues from registrations. This is an exam-

ple of how the cash-strapped

state government is squeezing

money from all available

Narayana Reddy said that

the government is facing

severe financial problems and

is not in a position even to pay

salaries to the government

employees on the first of every

month. Every month it has

been paying 20 percent of the

revenue as an interest to the

banks. The BJP senior leader

said that to increase its rev-

means, he said.

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

addressed. So, one of the steps in this direction was appointing the UT batch members as TRS district incharges and chairpersons.

Most of the leaders named as district incharges belong to the UT batch. Even during the recent appointments of chairpersons, people who had walked alongside KCR since 2001 were given prominence, including student

These include Laxma Reddy, Jogu Ramana, Balka Suman, Guvvala Balraju, Jeevan Reddy, Padma Devender Reddy, Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar, Aroori Ramesh, Sampath Reddy, Jagadish, and K Vidya Sagar, all of whom were part of the

Gudur Narayana Reddy strongly objects

to hike in market values of lands

Gudur Naryana Reddy

enues from its own sources,

the government has already

been encouraging the rampant

sale of liquor. Now it has been

eying on the income from reg-

istrations. He said that it was

the second time to raise the

market values of the lands in

one year and the government

has been using backdoor

methods to raise the income

He said that raising the market values of the lands



Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao

Telangana agitation. Even though TRS presidents claim that the party is now a political party, and not just an 'Udhyama' avatar; it is apparent that there is now dire

would put house sites out of

reach for the poor people.

Apart from that, the rates of

the lands are going up and up day by day. He said that as the

Urban Land Ceiling Act was repealed in the state, business-

men were purchasing hundreds of acres of land in the

urban areas and raising the rates of the plots indiscriminately. The prices of the lands were under control when ULC was in force in the state. After

its repeal, the real estate busi-

nessmen have turned into a

mafia and raising the rates of

the lands abnormally. He fur-

ther said that the government

would try to show that all is

well as far as the revenue of the

state government is concerned.

With the help of income from

liquor and registrations, the

government would try to show

a big figure as the budget of

the state and would try to

cover up its failure in main-

taining financial discipline.

need for ensuring balance between BT and UT batches.

Differences crop up regularly between members belonging to these two batches. Eatala Rajender, a member of the UT batch, was the first to voice dissent. Even a scheme like Dalit Bandhu could not help TRS defeat

Sources said that the party could not afford to keep the UT batch waiting for Cabinet rank posts and Ministerial berths anymore. It is a different matter that there are not many who can be given positions in the government. Giving the district president post was relatively a better way to calm the restive members who have been travelling along for long.

## All set for auction of Sri Valli Township plots

PNS NALGONDA

The district administration is all set to auction the Sri Valli township open plots in Dasarigudem under Narkatpally mandal in accordance with direction of the State government.District Collector Prashant Jeevan Patil, accompanied by Panchayat Raj Engineering officers, officers of Survey land Records, MPDO, Tahsildar visited the township. He directed the officials  $% \left( \frac{1}{2}\right) =\left( \frac{1}{2}\right) \left( \frac{1}$ to ensure that the plots are demarcated.The township consists of 250 hourse and 574 open plots. The Collector directed the officials to constitute four teams in each of the four blocks

## Guv enquires about 'attack' on Nizamabad MP

PNS Nizamabad

Tamilisai Soundararajan on Thursday reportedly made a telephone call to Nizamabad Lok Sabha member Dharmapuri Arvind enquired about the alleged attack made on him a few days ago. Arvind accused the TRS activists of attacking him and damaging his vehicle too in a broad daylight at Issapally village under Armoor Mandal.

The alleged attack took place while theMP was on his way to Nandipet. Arvind reportedly told the Governor that some knife-wielding goons obstructed his convoy. He alleged that in fact, the local police had led his convoy into the "ambush" at the instance of the TRS party leaders. He also told the Governor that he and his personal assistant had suffered injuries and the windscreen of



Dharmapuri Arvind

his car was damaged.

The MP accused the Commissioner of Police too of turning a blind eye to the incident at the instance of the ruling party and the police had miserably failed to provide security to him. He felt that the attack was pre-planned.

## **'Trounce forces** bent upon

PNS PEDDAPALLY

Singareni collieries.

were protected.

Boggu Gani Karmika Sangham (TBGKS) foundation day, Chandar said the workers had been sweating blood to contribute to the nation-build-

#### **DALIT BANDHU**

## 100 beneficiaries to be selected in each Assembly segment

Finance Minister T Harish Rao stated that 100 beneficiaries will be selected in each Assembly constituency under Dalit Bandhu programme first phase and Rs 10 lakh would be paid into their bank accounts.

The Minister held a review meeting at Aranya Bhavan here on Thursday on the implementation of Dalit Bandhu. He directed the district collectors to select 100 beneficiaries in each Assembly constituency under Dalit Bandhu. Following the directions of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar | Rao, the process of identifying the villages and beneficiaries has to be completed in the first week of February and units have to be grounded by March 5. Separate bank accounts have to be opened for beneficiaries, he said. `The beneficiaries by forming groups of two or three can also start a unit and



Ainister for Finance holding a review meeting on Dalit Bandhu

three units can be started with Rs 10 lakh, he said. The Minister further said that Rs 9.90 lakh will be deposited into the account of the beneficiary. Along with the balance of Rs 10,000, the government will add another Rs 10,000, and with that amount Dalit

Protection fund will be set up. It is a unique programme launched by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao for the welfare of Dalits, he added. Harish Rao, at another review, directed the officials to hand over the completed 2BHK houses to the beneficiaries in the district at the earliest. The details of beneficiaries have to be uploaded online, he said. He also asked the collectors to complete land acquisition for Medak-Siddipet- Elkathurthi highway widening works. MLAs Padma Devender Reddy, Madan Reddy, Chanti Kranti Kiran, Manik Rao, Odithela Satish Kumar, FDC Chairman Vanteru Pratap Reddy, collectors Harish were

## privatising **Singareni Collieries**'

TRS district unit president and Ramagundam MLA Korukanti Chandar on Thursday called upon people to trounce the forces conspiring to privatise the

The Singreni Collieries has achieved profits after the TRS came to power and the interests of the workers

Hoisting a flag on the occasion of Telangana

## Collector unveils The Pioneer calendar

PNS NIZAMABAD

District Collector C Naravana Reddy on Thursday released The Pioneer calendar. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stressed the need to improve reading skills. He also highlighted the importance of English language. He lauded The Pioneer for highlighting the problem being faced by peo-

He suggested that the youth read The Pioneer English daily to improve their reading skills. The Pioneer is playing an important role in imparting knowledge to students, employees and officials, he

The Collector urged the youth



Nizamabad Collector C Narayana Reddy releasing The Pioneer calendar n Nizamabad on Thursday

#### Improve functioning of Anganwadis: Collector

PNS MAHABUBABAD

Mahabubabad District Collector K Shashanka on Thursday directed the improve the functioning of Anganwadis

The Collector reviewed functioning Anganwadis at Collectorate. District Women and Child Welfare Officer attended. On this occasion, the Collector said out 25 Anganwadi have their own buildings. Repairs should be carried to the Anganwadi buildings and also for provision of drinking water. He asked the officials utilize the Gram Panchayat funds for

He directed the officials to give training to Anganwadi teachers and helper in kitchen gardening. He urged the teachers to work hard, organise nutrition day every Friday. The teachers should give counseling to the parents of the children who are malnourished.

## Jyoti Reddy thanks CM for making her district TRS chief

PNS JAYASHANKAR BHUPALAPALLI

from registrations.

Bhupalapalli MLA Gandra Venkataramana Reddy and his spouse Gandra Jyoti Reddy, the latter is also Warangal ZP chairperson, on Thursday called on Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao as a matter of courtesy thanked him for appointing Jyoti Reddy as Bhupalapalli district TRS president.

The couple thanked KCR for the appointment if Gandra Jyoti kept faith in her

abilities and leadership qualities. She along with her spouse told the CM that they would strive to strengthen the party in the district and would spare no effort in this regard.
They also thanked the CM

for releasing funds as and when sought for the development of Bhupalapalli. Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Rytu Bandhu Samiti president and MLC Palla Rajeswar Reddy and others were present on the occasion.



Jayashankar Bhupalapally District Zilla Parishad Chairperson Gandra Jyoti Reddy thanking Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for appointing as party district unit president, in Hyderabad on Thursday

#### **Poor florist** saves every rupee to get damaged Gandhi statue replaced

PNS DUGGONDI

who ekes out a living by selling flowers saved every rupee to replace the damaged idol of the Father of the Nation – Mahatma Gandhi's in Reballe villae of Duggondi mandal of Warangal district. She was identified as Naugari Buchchamma. In fact, the statue was installed by her grandfather in the village in 1965. But, the statue got damaged due to continued

exposure to rain and shine. She sells flowers near the statue. She saved Rs 25,000 to replace the old and worn-out statue with a brand new statue of Gandhi. She herself unveiled the statue in the village on Wednesday. The people of the Mandal felicitated Buchchamma for her gesture. Sarpanch Gatika Mamata, Upa Sarpanch Pakide Minor Babu, and others were pre-

## 'Govt giving priority to cooperative societies'

PNS WARANGAL

Government chief whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar has said that cooperative societies received thrust in the new state of Telangana under the administration of Chief

He was addressing a gathering after presenting certificates to those who have undergone training by the Kakatiya Cooperative Training Institute of undivided Warangal district at a function held in Collectorate here on Thursday. Kakatiya Cooperative training institute principal Rajaiah presided.The CM has been releasing funds to cooperative societies and providing various amenities to them. The Kakatiya Cooperative Training Institute was sanctioned 1300 square yards of site in Warangal. Over 150 received training from the institute during the past five years. Vinay Bhaskar assured the training institute to sanction a hostel to it and take steps to benefit the workers and poor working in organ-



Government Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar at a meeting in Warangal on

ised and unorganised sector through the institute. The cooperative societies have played crucial role in postindependence in the country. These institutions have produced many great leaders, district collector Rajiv Gandhi Hanumantu said. Because of minor reasons, many industries faced closure, he added.

He asked the trainees to implement the lofty ideals as per the training given to them and earn recognition.

Telangana state cooperative union MD B Aruna said that several training programmes are being conducted by the union on women empowerment, leadership qualities and other aspects. TGO district president K Jaganmohan Rao spoke. Later, certificates were given away those who excelled in the training programme. District Cooperative officers Sanjeeva Reddy, Rajeswar Rao and Neeraja and others.

The CM has been releasing funds to cooperative societies and providing various amenities to them.

## Online monitoring of inflows, outflows in TS projects

**MALLEPALLI GOVERDHAN** NAGARKURNOOL

The state government has decided to exploit technology to monitor inflows and outflows into various irrigation projects by linking them online.

The government has launched efforts in this regard so that the online system will be in vogue in the irrigation department by the time the monsoon season arrives this year. The government of Telangana is likely to emerge as a unique state in the country by achieving this feat.

Besides Rivers Krishna and Godavari, several major, medium irrigation projects have been built on these rivers. There are many minor

irrigation schemes in the state. Besides, many tributaries to the main rivers flow across the state, To release water for irrigation from the reservoirs, ayacuts, LI schemes, main canals, tunnels, these will be



brought under an online mechanism for their easy monitoring and to reduce the cost of maintenance of these projects. Moreover, it will make their management

It would enable the author-

ities to monitor the inflows and discharge from the project'smain office at the desired level. There are Srisailam project, Priyadarsini Jurala Project, Nagarjuna Sagar project, Beema project, Mid-Maneru project, Nettempadu

project, Kalwakurthy project, Koil Sagar project, Singuru project, Nizamsagar project, choutupalli Hanumanta Reddy Project, Palamuru-RR LI scheme, Mahatma Gandhi LI scheme, Elimineti Madhava Reddy LI scheme,

scheme, Tummilla scheme, Wyra scheme, Musi project, SLBC project on River Krishna. On river Godavari, the projects built are Kaleswaram, SRSP, Sripada Yellampalli Chokka Rao LI project, Bagareddy Singuru Project, Raja Narsimha Project, Kakatiya- Saraswati Main canals, Sitarama LI scheme, Katyayini Srujala Sravanti project will be linked online.Once the task is completed, the losses due to floods could be minimised. Moreover, the inflows in the reservoirs and outflows can be recorded automatically. The online mechanism will make the management of irrigation projects and supervision veryeasy, experts opine. On the lines of online monitoring of the power production, power tripping and power consumption, low-voltage problems, the online monitoring of the irrigation projects would be implemented.

Rajolibanda Diversion

## Strengthen party: Seethakka to Cong workers

PNS MULUG

Mulugu MLA and All India Mahila Congress general sec-retary Seetakka on Thursday exhorted the party activists to strengthen the party.

Participating as chief guest at a meeting, held to review the membership drive, Seethakka stressed the need for party activists to work in coordination. She urged the activists to take forward the membership drive by motivating the peoto visit households to ensure that more people join the

The meeting was held under the presidentship of V Saraiah. Seethakka said those who enrolled as member would secure Rs 2 insurance cover. It was important to take the message to the mass-Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee leader Ravali Reddy, TPCC organizing secretary Challa Narayana Reddy, ZPTC member and others were present.



Muluqu MLA Seethakka at the Congress membership drive review meeting in Mulugu on Thursday

## CPI opposes move to hike land value

PNS HYDERABAD

CPI State secretary Chada

Venkat Reddy on Thursday said

it was not the right move on the part of the state government to increase the market value of land for the second time in a year. Venkat Reddy said the common people are not in a position to buy house sites with land prices skyrocketing. The middle-class too would be hit hard if the market value of land is further increased. With the repeal of the Urban Land Ceiling Act and the increase in prices of lands in Hyderabad, Warangal, and other major cities, poor and middle-class people were already hit hard. He said land prices were somewhat under control when the Land Ceiling Act was in force. Now that the law had been repealed, land prices had skyrocketed due to the machinations of the real estate mafia in the State

## MP: Five men injured in attacks by leopard at villages of Damoh in MP

Five men were injured in attacks by a leopard in different villages of Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district, prompting the authorities to use drones and set up cages to capture the predator, an official said on Thursday. One leopard was involved in the incidents that took place in Devran, Hinauta, Bhorasa and Abkhedi villages of the district, the official said. Nandram Adivasi (40), Raghavendra Patel (30), Anish Raikwar (22), Arvind

Parihar (26) and his brother Surendra (35) were injured in the attacks and were undergoing treatment at the district hospital, Divisional Forest Officer M S Uikey told PTI. The leopard had strayed into Devran, then to Hinauta, Rhorasa (village) and Abkhedi village before disappearing into the thickets around. creating a panic in the area, he said. Drones have been pressed into service to track the leopard and a team from the Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) has arrived in Damoh to rescue it, the DFO said



## Weekend curfew, odd-even system of opening shops lifted in Delhi: DDMA

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority on Thursday decided to lift weekend curfew and odd-even system of opening non-essential shops in the city besides permitting restaurants and bars to reopen with 50 per cent seating capacity, in view of improving COVID-19 situation. The decision was made at a meeting headed by Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal. He, however, postponed the decision to reopen schools for the next meeting, officials said. The

government offices have also been allowed to reopen with 50 per cent staff, they said Another decision taken at the meeting was to allow marriage ceremonies with maximum 200 quests in open areas and up to 50 per cent capacity at indoor venues. So far, only 20 people were allowed to attend these events at home. The night curfew imposed on weekdays from 10 pm to 5 am will continue. The meeting also decided for strict enforcement and enhancement of Covid appropriate behaviour and other guidelines to check rise in cases, they added.



## **Punjab polls: Rahul Gandhi, Cong can**didates offer prayers at Golden Temple

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi along with party candidates for the Punjab assembly polls paid obeisance at the Golden Temple here on Thursday. In a tweet in Hindi, Gandhi said he along with the Congress candidates prayed for the future of Punjab at Harmandir Sahib. After offering prayers at the sanctum sanctorum of the Golden Temple, Gandhi partook 'langar' along with the party candidates. Gandhi was flanked by Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and party's state unit chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.Kicking off his poll campaign in Punjab,

Gandhi is scheduled to address a virtual rally at Mithapur in Jalandhar. He is visiting the poll-bound state for the first time after the election dates were announced on January 8 by the Election Commission of India.Channi, Sidhu and deputy chief ministers Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and O P Soni earlier received Gandhi at the Amritsar airport on his arrival from Delhi. Gandhi later visited Jallianwala Bagh. He will also visit Durgiana Temple and the Bhagwan Valmiki Tirath Sthal here



## **UP: Next-gen leaders leave party,** Cong struggles to regain lost ground

PNS LUCKNOW

Synonymous with the Congress in Uttar Pradesh for decades, several families are now losing their new generation to rival organisations, making it even more difficult for the party to regain lost ground in the crucial

These are the families of stalwarts like Kamlapati Tripathi (Varanasi), Noor Bano (Rampur), Jitendra Prasad (Shahjahanpur) and Kunwar C P N Śingh (Kushinagar), who were largely unwavering in their loyalty to the Congress.

But their new generation has been looking elsewhere. From these families, Laliteshwar Tripathi, Haider Ali Khan, Jitin Prasada and RPN Singh have switched sides, leaving the already weakened Congress to promote their own political

While Jitin Prasada and R P N Singh went to the BJP,

Collector's File No. G1/2481/2017

social impact assessment



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2. Nipani Yillage Bheempur Mandal

Haider Ali Khan is now the Apna Dal (S) nominee from Suar seat in Rampur and Laliteshwar Tripathi has joined Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool

There is speculation that Laliteshwar Tripathi might be picked as an assembly poll candidate by Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav as has already announced that her TMC would not contest in UP. Instead, it will support the SP.

While the rivals mock the grand old party over its leaders abandoning a "sinking ship", the party has put on a brave face. Primarily, the importance of these leaders was because of the Congress and not the other way round. There could be some impact because of their

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but it cannot be taken as a setback," Congress spokesperson P L Punia told PTI.

On the R P N Singh case, Punia said he got whatever the party could offer him when in power, and was later made incharge of Jharkhand. He got a spot on the decision-making Congress Working Committee and was also named one of the star campaigners for UP.
"What more importance

can be given to any leader?" Punia said.

Laliteshwar Tripathi's greatgrandfather Kamlapati Tripathi had been the chief minister of the state and the railway minister. Noor Bano family scion Haider Ali Khan's departure was dramatic. He rejected the Congress ticket after it was already announced and crossed over to Apna Dal (S), a BJP ally. He will contest from Suar in Rampur, considered the strongKhan. Khan, a 32-year old graduate from a British university, is the son of Nawab Kazim Ali Khan, also known as Naved Mian, who had stints with other political parties but returned to

the parent Congress in 2019. Former minister and popular Congress leader Jitin Prasada's father Jitendra Prasada was a party vice-president. His grandfather Ivoti Prasad too was a party member. Jitendra Prasada was also the political advisor to two prime ministers, Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and P V Narasimha Rao in 1994, and fought the Congress presidential election against Sonia

Gandhi in 2000. The exit of these prominent leaders, and others just ahead of the assembly polls, has made general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's attempt to improve the party's Vidhan Sabha tally in 2022 a difficult

# Guv justifies NHRC panel's 'law of ruler' observation for WB

PNS KOLKATA

Firing a fresh salvo at the Mamata Banerjee government, West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has accused the chief minister of "extreme transgressions" of constitutional prescriptions, claiming that such actions justify the observation of an NHRC panel on post-poll violence that law of ruler and not rule of law prevails in the state.

In a letter to Banerjee, which was written on Tuesday and made public by him only on Thursday, Dhankhar accused the state government of not providing information sought by him and said that it is her constitutional duty to furnish information related to administration of affairs in the state.

"There have been continually and serially extreme transgressions of constitutional prescriptions -justifying NHRC observation that in the state there is 'law of the ruler, not rule of law'," Dhankhar wrote to Banerjee. In his letter, he maintained that no information can be screened from the gover-

nor once he seeks the same, holding that any failure would indicate that the "state government is unable to function according to constitutional provisions".

The letter, written in response to a communication by Banerjee of January 22, said that he is appalled by her assertion in it that there can be "no question of the office of the Hon'ble Governor seeking access to documents and files on a subject matter which is entirely within the domain of the state executive and in respect of which the Governor has no authority of jurisdiction"

Dhankhar said that the CM's

stance contradicted the stipula tion in Article 167 of the Constitution which ordains "it shall be the duty of the Chief Minister to furnish such information relating to the administration of the affairs of the State and proposals for legislation as the Governor may call for".

He said that in an earlier letter, he had called for making available earliest information regarding July 26, 2021 Pegasus enquiry commission notification, pandemic purchase enquiry, Bengal Global Business Summit, Maa canteen among other matters.

#### REVENUE DEPARTMENT Adilabad (FORM-VI) (Preliminary Notification)

(As per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparent Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Settlement Act of 2013 (Section 11 (1) of the Act 30/2013) and state Rule 19 and sub-rule (1)

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Revenue Divisional Additional District Collector Collector Officer, Adilabad

Sd/-

## Kejriwal unfurls 115-feet high tricolour in Timarpur

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday unfurled a 115-ft high tricolour in Timarpur constituency and said such high-mast national flags were installed at 75 loca-75th year of India's Independence. He said he will get it examined if this qualifies for a Guinness world record.

"It is a matter of pride for the country that 75 tricolours on 115-ft high flagpoles have been installed today in Delhi to



mark 75th year of our independence. The target is to install total 500 in the next few months," he said at the ceremony organised near Delhi

Timarpur assembly constituency. "I have been told that in no city, tricolours (national flags) on flagpoles of this height have been installed on such a large scale. We will get it examined if it qualifies for a Kejriwal said.

These high-mast national flags are being set up at public places like parks, big school buildings, market complexes, residential complexes, grounds, road roundabouts, among others.

#### Lata Mangeshkar showing signs of improvement, to remain in ICU: family political decision: Moily

Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar is showing signs of improvement and has been taken off the ventilator "as a trial", her family said on Thursday. The 92-year-

old veteran tested positive for coronavirus with mild symptoms and was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Breach Candy Hospital in south Mumbai on January 8

According to an update shared by the family, Mangeshkar is showing "signs

of improvement but will remain under observation" in the ICU. 'Update from doctor: Lata didi continues to be in the ICU

at Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai under treatment. She has been given a TRIAL of extubation (off the invasive Ventilator)

this morning.
"Presently, she is showing signs of improvement but will remain under observation of the team of doctors head-

ed by Dr Pratit Samdani. We thank each one of you for your prayers and good wishes," the family said in a statement.

## Padma award for Azad a

PNS BENGALURU

Senior Congress leader M Veerappa Moily said on Thursday the Narendra Modi government's decision to confer Padma Bhushan on Ghu lam Nabi Azad was a political one and not based on merit. He said the former I& K CM should not accept the award if he thinks that it harms the interest of the

Congress party.
"Narendra Modi took a political decision," Moily told PTI here. "They have taken a decision politically; not weighing on any merit or otherwise.

## and paraded through streets of Delhi locality, four held

Woman sexually assaulted

A 20-year-old woman was allegedly abducted, sexually assaulted and paraded by her attackers on the streets of east Delhi's Kasturba Nagar with her hair chopped, face blackaround her neck, police said on Thursday. Four people have been arrested.

The incident took place on Wednesday afternoon. The woman was at her husband's home in Anand Vihar when the accused who lived near her mother's place in Kasturba Nagar abducted her, police said, describing the incident as the result of personal enmity.

Preliminary investigations indicate the woman and a boy belonging to the family of the accused were friends.

The boy committed suicide in November last year and his family is now blaming the victim. They have alleged that it was because of her he took the extreme step. To extract revenge from her, they allegedly abducted her. They wanted to teach her a lesson," a senior police officer said.

"We have registered the FIR under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code. We have arrested four accused persons who all are from the same family. The victim was given counselling and medical aid as well," added R. Sathiyasundaram,



DCP (Shahdara).

Condemning the attack on the woman, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said it was really shameful.

"How did the criminals get so much courage? I request the Union Home minister and the LG to direct police to take strict action and pay attention to the law and order situation. Delhiites won't tolerate such heinous crimes and criminals at any cost," he tweeted in Hindi. The Delhi Commission for Women said it has sent a notice to Delhi Police seeking strict action against the accused after several videos of the woman being paraded were circulated on social media plat-

"A 20-year-old woman was gang-raped by illegal liquor sellers who shaved her head garlanded her with slippers and blackened her face.

## 'NAMING' GARDEN AFTER TIPU SULTAN

## Maharashtra Congress, NCP, AIMIM target BJP

PNS MUMBAI

Amid the BJP's opposition to the alleged move of "naming" a renovated garden here after Tipu Sultan, the Maharashtra Congress on Thursday claimed that even President Ram Nath Kovind had praised the 18th century Mysore ruler in the Karnataka Assembly in 2017.

The BJP had on Wednesday held protests, alleging that the renovated garden has been named after Tipu Sultan. It objected to the name, claiming that Sultan had persecuted Hindus and hence his name was unacceptable for a public facility. However, Maharashtra minister Aslam Shaikh who inaugurated new facilities at

the garden in suburban Malvani, had said that it always bore the name of Tipu Sultan, and that there was no fresh nomenclature. Countering BJP's allegations, Maharashtra Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant said, "President Ram Nath Kovind, while addressing the Karnataka assembly in 2017, had mentioned the works of Tipu Sultan. Has BJP forgotten it completely? It is BJP's deformed politics to bring religion to portray historica figures and to spew venom of hatred and polarisation."

He also claimed that the BJP's style of politics of painting everything black and white is a deformed one and such



approach should be rejected completely.

"Sri Mookambika temple in Kollur performs a special 'aarti' in the name of Tipu Sultan everyday at 7.30 in the evening.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, whose hologram was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had called Tipu as a martyr and his Mysore tiger was made part of his Azad Hind Sena's flag as well as figured on its uniform," Sawant said.

Tipu Sultan was 18th century ruler of the then Mysore state and died while fighting a battle against the British.

Minister Shaikh has claimed that the garden was known by the name of Tipu Sultan since the last 15 years. His cabinet colleague and Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray said no such decision (of naming garden after Tipu Sultan) has

taken

by

the

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which is the sole authority to name a public place in the city.

Sawant in his tirade against the BJP said, "When the army of Peshwas attacked Sringeri mutt in Karnataka set up by Shankaracharya - it was redeveloped and later protected by Tipu Sultan only. Mysore Gazette has documented a list of 165 temples, which were

supported by Tipu Sultan." In 2013, BJP corporators had unanimously supported naming a road in M east ward as Shaheed Tipu Sultan road, Sawant claimed, while tweeting a document of the passed resolution from his social media account.

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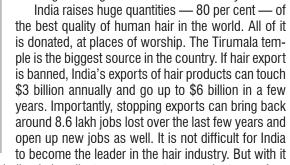
-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Scalping hair**

India exports hair but there's more moolah if it turns to the hair products industry

■ uman hair can cause hair-raising problems and the Indian Government is waking up to the reality. If India has a commodity that can never become scarce, grows for free, and has the most of it in the world, it is human hair. Yet, India gets no benefit from this asset because it is not the leader of the hair products industry. It is merely an exporter. Between April-November last, hair exports stood at \$144.26 million. The pandemic lowered these to \$15.28 million in 2020-21. Exports are also hurt by rampant smuggling. Smugglers hire people to collect raw hair and illegally move it in bulk to some East Asian countries. The allegation is the hair is processed there and sent across to China, which makes wigs and hairpieces and exports them for a tidy profit. Hair products manufacturers and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence could not end smuggling despite best efforts. It is estimated that around 16,000 tonne of human hair are smuggled even now. Finally, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade stepped in this week and placed human hair in the restricted export category. That should help genuine exporters. However, it is time the industry shifted from exporting hair to exporting hair products. There is some talk of improving value addition in export products from

India, like wigs and hairpieces, to increase foreign exchange earnings. It has to turn into reality now.



comes the responsibility that Indian hair collectors, aggregators, product manufacturers and exporters are unaware of. For instance, the collection of hair from nontemple areas like salons and the villages is not organised at all. Planned collection can earn regular employment for rag-pickers. It can reduce the clogging of hair in pipes and sewers — the biggest contributor to rising plumbing costs. India should have expertise in synthetic hair materials and products to be able to compete with countries that lack natural hair. That the production of polymers, used to make synthetic hair products, leads to several environmental problems is another complication on the way. Indian manufacturers need to speed up research into a key area the life cycle of hair products. At present, the products have a short life and are deemed disposable. If these are designed for a circular economy where they can be recycled, reconditioned and remanufactured, they can help reduce the demand for hair.

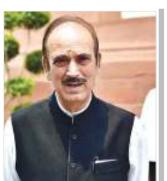


Fishermen row their boats in the Arabian Sea near the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, in Mumbai

## Missing focus

Rather than taking a jibe at Azad, the Congress will do well to get ready for Assembly polls

he announcement of the Padma Bhushan for senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad has set the cat among the pigeons in the 'grand old party'. While several party members — especially those belonging to the so-called G23 have congratulated him for being named for the prestigious award, there understandably is a section that is miffed with the Kashmiri leader for accepting the honour. The prominent Congress leaders from among the G23 who supported Azad include Kapil Sibal and Shashi Tharoor, with Sibal even calling it "ironic that the Congress doesn't need his services when the nation recognises his contributions", but the



party's chief whip in the Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh took a swipe at Azad, hinting that the latter should have refused to accept the honour. Even though the reasons for the upset section's grouse are not being explained openly, it is being speculated that these leaders are not happy with Azad as he has accepted the award from the BJP-led Government. Now, to put matters in the right perspective, even though the honour may have been bestowed upon Azad during the BJP-led Government's rule at the Centre, it can by no stretch of imagination be counted as coming from the Bharatiya Janata Party.

It has simply been announced by the Government of India, by the President who is the executive head of the sovereign Republic. However, the upset colleagues refuse to subscribe to this view and, in this context, are even citing the "example set by" former West Bengal Chief Minister and CPM leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, who has since refused to accept the award. Now Bhattacharjee's reasons and circumstances could be totally different from Azad's who has been for a long time now sidelined within the party and practically forced into oblivion. Had the Congress been treating him fairly, even of late, there was a possibility that the Kashmiri leader might have considered the wishes of the party old guard and high command. But now that he has been left to his own devices, there is no justification in trying to vilify him, especially for something which isn't even his own doing. It's time that the Congress, which is already in a visible state of decline across the country, had a relook at its priorities and kept its focus on Assembly election in the five States that are going to polls within days from now.

# Why Buddhadeb said no to Padma Bhushan



It could have been an opportunity to re-enter the mainstream of politics; in India, there is increasing space for politicians of quality

Tt is a pity that Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, West Bengal's former Chief Minister, has refused to accept the Padma Bhushan he was offered this Republic Day by the President of India. The offer was not from the Bharatiya Janata Party Government or the Prime Minister. Even his refusal was confused; no one informed him or any member of his family, said Buddhababu, as if that was the reason for declining the honour. The late Jyoti Basu had declined the opportunity of becoming a coalition Prime Minister when Deve Gowda had to resign as the PM. Later, he described it as "a historical blunder". The immediate reason given then was his party, the CPM, did not permit him to accept the post. While one might not question the genuineness of these persons in not accepting the honour/executive post, their refusals certainly do say something.
With the demise of Marxism

as an ideology the world over, these could be the little opportunities to re-enter the mainstream of politics, at the Centre or in States. Why not seize them like floral bouquets? Is there something inherently different about communists? It is true that in Eastern Europe, some of them have managed to creep into the mainstream. However, in Europe, politics has swung towards the Right, especially because of a wave of migrants from Africa and Arabia, more so from Syria. In India, the Left is vacant without any prejudicial obstruction as in Europe. In fact, in our country there has been increasing space for politicians of quality; the Congress continues its decline, which increasingly looks terminal, while no replacement for it as a national Opposition has come up. The communists cannot, it appears, see this widen-

Is this because the commular are not blood relaleaders and not politicians? When their trade unions weaken, they sink with their cadres. In the free world, Margaret Thatcher blew the whistle and best the Left could do in although one must add that it

response to her uncompromising right-wing way of rule was to bring forth Tony Blair, but with the novel label of New Labour, which shunned Leftism during its 10 years in power. The Soviet Union collapsed and scattered into 16 Republics with the advent of the 1990s. The French and Italian communist parties went virtually out of existence just a little

Nor did Leftism revive in the rest of Europe after 1991. China learnt its lesson from the Soviet Union and converted itself into a pseudocapitalist system. The Beijing experiment is a novel one with the Communist Party of China owning the armed forces and controlling, with shares, many or most of China's mega enterprises. This was done perhaps with the objective of thwarting any revolt against the regime. Citizens there aren't allowed to set up a political party to compete for votes. But isn't this a new version of fascism?

tions, and they cannot remain beholden Nevertheless, the Chinese experiment is unique and has been studied by experts,



IN INDIA, THE LEFT IS VACANT WITHOUT ANY PREJUDICIAL OBSTRUCTION. THE CONGRESS **CONTINUES ITS** DECLINE, WHICH **INCREASINGLY** LOOKS TERMINAL. WHILE NO REPLACEMENT FOR IT AS A NATIONAL **OPPOSITION** HAS COME UP

is a work in progress.

Until the 18th century, religion, particularly Christianity, provided the governing ideologies through monarchs. The French Revolution shook up this ide-ological duality and gave birth to a kind of pseudonationalism. To prevent nationalism being used or misused by capitalists, the communists supported by the industrial classes became the antidote to the Soviet Union in the lead. The spectre of communism spreading throughout the continent and engulfing European civilisation was very real, and it was in order to prevent such an eventuality that fascism was born. It first came into being in Italy under Benito Mussolini and was soon adopted by Adolf Hitler in Germany with all its consequences, particularly WWII. Today, both communism and fascism have virtually expired. Some former communists believe that they lost because of their lack of democratic But given the functioning within the party. There can be no denying that parties that spawned and brought this ideology to power acquired dictatorial authority over their respective countries. The result was that the fascist leadership did not obtain any regular feedback

nor authentic information about how people felt, or where their country was headed. Third, people in the world outside also did not come to know as to what was happening in a particular

communist country. Regimes did not change often; it was only when a revolutionary cataclysm took place that everyone, inside and outside the country, became aware of what had been wrong. By the time they did become aware, they found that it was too late; they were swept away by the tide of change. It needs no reiteration that communism as an ideology has no future anywhere in the world. Places like China and North Korea have to use the State's brute muscle to remain in power. For any political future in free countries, former communists have to jettison their hidebound mindset and embrace a democratic way of functioning, beginning with

But given the inherent contradiction between democracy and communism, this does not look like mate rialising.

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

#### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

#### **LEAVE GHULAM NABI AZAD ALONE**

Sir —Those who believe in the adage, "Coming events cast their shadow earlier" were already perking their ears when the Prime Minister got emotional and broke down during Ghulam Nabi Azad's farewell function in February last year due to his long association with the latter. Now, several people, including some of Azad's colleagues, are casting aspersions on him upon being conferred the prestigious Padma Bhushan, though some expressed happiness and extended their greetings. Among the G-23 members, Anand Sharma heaped praise on his friend being awarded the country's third highest hon-our but Kapil Sibal's tweet, "Congratulations bhaijan; ironic that Congress does not need his services when the nation recognises his contributions to the public service", carried a sarcastic touch.

Jairam Ramesh came up with the phrase "Ghulam, not Azad" (enslaved, not free) and simultaneously referred to former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee who refused to accept the honour. Film star-turnedpolitician Raj Babbar, however, felicitated Ghulam Nabi Azad, calling him an elder brother whose immaculate public life and commitment to Gandhian ideals have always been an inspiration. The Congress leadership, meanwhile, has maintained a studied silence. All these scenarios have made public the ideological fissures continuing unabated among the grand old party members.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

#### **DON'T LET THE GUARD DOWN**

Sir —On the one hand, the spirit of people has been just amazing and an example is the way people have been venturing out in large numbers to celebrate festivals and functions. On the other hand, most people have been turning a blind eye to the current COVID status, especially in the wake of the Omicron variant, by not wearing masks. Ignoring such serious yet simple protocols as wearing masks, these people pose a great threat to society. Incidentally, I see numerous

## **Arunachal teen returns home**



t's heartening to know that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has handed over 17year-old Miram Taron from Zido, in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, to the Indian Army. The matter of Miram's kidnapping was first reported by BJP MP Tapir Gao, though the PLA had denied the kidnapping allegation. Instead, it claimed that he "illegally entered Chinese territory... and then was routinely questioned ...and given humanitarian assistance". Kudos to our Army for pur-

people venturing out for their daily needs without wearing masks. Sticking to my own mask, I have been advising to wear masks to many people in my native areas in Tamil Nadu

As for the Omicron threat, it depends on us to keep away these fears. Even though vaccination has been a big hit worldwide, people should come out only after wearing masks. Plus, the Government and all media houses should come forward to churn out daily local feeds about important Corona protocols with a strong message and celebrity voice/word of advice. After all, countries have to look into their economic needs like agriculture activities and industrial operations. For this, the international community must come out of the COVID loop soon.

P Senthil Saravana Durai

Mumbai

**KICKING UP A CONTROVERSY** Sir — This refers to three different issues, with the common agenda to defame Prime Minister Modi, that are hitting the head-

#### safely securing our Miram back home. This is not the first such incident. In March 2020. a 21-year-old was kidnapped by the PLA from the Asaphila area in the same district and was

returned after two weeks.

On September 3, 2020, five youth of Tagin community, engaged as porters for the Indian Army, were captured by the PLA on the McMahon line and returned home after 10 days. The reason for this type of dispute with China and why our citizens are continuously harassed is that Upper Siang district shares the boundary with China. People from Arunachal Pradesh often go into the interiors for hunting and inadvertently cross the border. To stop it permanently, some barbed wire barricade on the border with China or other method should be resorted to. Who knows it may create a major problem for both

the nations one day? Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

lines in media during the last three days. I would like to repudiate these one by one. The first issue pertains to withdrawal of "Abide with me" from the Beating Retreat ceremony. The Scottish-origin tune has been replaced by Lata Mangeshkar's pop-

ular "Ae mere watan ke logo". The second controversy which should be laid to rest is the shifting of Amar Jawan Jyoti to the National War Memorial. The eternal flame at India Gate has still not been extinguished. The third dissent is the refusal to accept the Padma Vibhushan bestowed on former West Bengal Chief Minister Budhadeb Bhattacharjee and its acceptance by Ghulam Nabi Azad, with castigation of the latter by his party colleagues. The corollary of all these uncalled-for situations is that since all this has been done by the Modi dispensation, it is not acceptable to those who hate him ad nauseum.

Sagar Singh | Muzaffarnagar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

It's our sacred national duty to follow the precau tions suggested by our scientists and experts.



President - Ram Nath Kovind



The Afghan girls must return to schools, women to work. Our religion allows it

Afghan ex-President — Hamid Karzai

I feel proud when I watch a patriotic film... Films have the power to evoke that emotion.



- Rakul Preet Singh



normally are part of life when you are in sports. But not these kinds.

Indian women's football coach Thomas Dennerby

I know nothing about this award (Padma). If they've decided to offer it to me, I refuse to accept it.



West Bengal ex-CM

- Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

## **PRE-POLL GUARANTEES FILL UP's HORIZON**

Freebies do represent unfulfilled aspirations and needs of society



VIRENDRA SINGH RAWAT

ith the election fever in Uttar Pradesh gaining momentum, prepoll promises of freebies by major political parties are filling the horizon of the poll-bound state. Samajwadi Party (SP) has taken the lead in promising doles. Congress and comparatively new entrant Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have zealously spiced up the freebie pot as well. These freebies pertain to free electricity, unemployment dole, pension for targetted sections, crop loan waiver, free two-wheelers for girls, etc. Considering there are about 28 million power consumers in UP, of which the domestic connections comprise 24 million, the promise of free power by competing political parties has created the maximum buzz in the media and the public alike. Taking a leaf from its gainful experience in Delhi, where it the ruling party, AAP has announced to provide 300 units of free electricity to domestic consumers if voted to power. It also promised to waive off out-



standing power bills and give free power to farmers if it formed the UP Government. Besides, Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia had also announced to provide ₹5,000 unemployment dole per annum to the beneficiaries. Not to be left behind in the pre-poll math, SP president Akhilesh Yadav also announced to provide free power up to 300 units to all households. Yadav promised ₹25 lakh ex-gratia to the kin of the farmers who died during the recent protest against the central farm laws. Meanwhile, Congress has promised to give smartphones and electric two-wheelers to girls if the grand old party forms the next UP Government after more than three decades of political wilderness in the State. Moreover, the party has talked about increasing pension for widows and senior citizens, increasing honorarium for ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) and Anganwadi workers, free bus travel for women, three free gas cylinders a year, etc.

Interestingly, Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) has promised to double the ex gratia payment under PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana from ₹6,000 to ₹12,000 if it forms the next Government. Meanwhile, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is yet to release its official poll manifesto, which the party calls 'Sankalp Patra'. The party had gained immensely from its pre-poll promise of crop loans waiver in the runup to the 2017 UP elections. After coming to power, the BJP government of Yogi Adityanath, in its first cabinet meeting on April 4, 2017, had approved to waive crop loans worth almost ₹36,000 crore, projected to benefit 8.6 million small and marginal farmers. The flagship crop loan waiver scheme was hailed as a game changer for the party. In its recent Supplementary Budget of nearly ₹8,500 crore for 2021-22, the Yogi Government allocated about ₹4,000 crore for the bottom of the pyramid sections, viz., unorganised workers, including farm labourers, sharecroppers, and street vendors to be distributed as social security payment or doles. Besides, ₹670 crore was allocated for senior citizens and farmers' pension schemes, wherein their payout was increased from ₹500 to ₹1,000 a month. This is estimated to benefit more than 5.6 million elderly persons in the state. The financial grant to the differently-abled was doubled and the honorarium of shikshamitras hiked by ₹2,000 a month. Freebies do represent the unfulfilled aspirations and needs of the society, while on the other, they cast a taint on the tendency of pre-poll allurements to gain advantage at the hustings. A discerning voter is expected to make an informed choice before casting his/her vote to keep the Indian democracy healthy and vibrant beyond the narrow boundary of pre-poll guarantees.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed

# Texas crisis exposes Pakistan's tentacles



There are no US-Nato forces in Afghanistan and rogue elements have the entire country to themselves to train Pak-backed militants, suicide bombers

The Texas hostage crisis at a synagogue that US President Joe Biden called an 'act of terror' has been resolved with the release of four hostages and the death of the hostage-taker but the dreadful situation has brought back the focus on Al Qaeda and its Pakistan connection.

The hostage taker identified by FBI as a British citizen named Malik Faisal Akram demanded for release of a terrorist in the US prison called 'Lady Al Qaeda', who is a Pakistan-born neurosci-entist, Aafa Siddiqui. The case of the socalled Lady Al Qaeda has exposed links of Pakistan government, Al Qaeda and Taliban as Islamabad has joined forces with the terror groups to seek release of Aafia Siddiqui from the US prison.

The hostage-taker, Malik Faisal Akram, who stormed a Texas synagogue on the Sabbath and was holding hostages before he was shot and killed was demanding the release of 'Lady Al Qaeda,' who is serving 86 years in a federal prison less than 30 miles from where the hostage standoff took place for attempting to murder US soldiers in Afghanistan.

Siddiqui was arrested in Afghanistan in 2008 with cyanide and plans to attack the Brooklyn Bridge and Empire State Building. Later she was extradited to the US and convicted in 2010. The demand for her release has brought a number of terror and jihadists groups together along with Pakistan establishment, who have been plotting or negotiating to seek Siddiqui's release. Terror groups in Pakistan, Afghanistan, who have taken US citizens hostage have tried to negotiate with the US Government offering they would free US citizens in return for Siddiqui's

This curious case of Aafia has also exposed how Al Qaeda, Taliban and Pakistan government are operating hand in glove with one another. Their causes are common and they work in collaboration with each other keeping the terror network very much activated.

'Aafia was born in Karachi, Sindh in Pakistan to a Sunni family and later went to the US to study. Aafia returned to Pakistan from America for a time following the 9/11 attacks and again in 2003 during the war in Afghanistan. Khalid Sheikh Muhammad, a Pakistani Islamist militant and the principal architect of the 9/11 attacks, held by the US at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, named Aafia as a courier and financier for Al-Qaeda. She was later placed on the FBI Seeking Information- Terrorism list and remains the only woman to have been featured on this list.

Pakistanis view her as the 'national symbol of honor and victimization' and the Pakistani news media have called her trial a 'farce' and 'politicized' from the start. In July 2019, while visiting Washington DC, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan suggested Siddiqui should be exchanged for



PAKISTAN HAS BEEN DISOWNING TERRORISTS OF PAK ORIGIN WHENEVER THEY ARE ARRESTED IN OTHER COUNTRIES BUT NOT SO IN THE CASE OF AAFIA. IN AUGUST 2009, PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER YUSUF RAZA GILANI MET WITH SIDDIQUI'S SISTER AT HIS RESIDENCE AND ASSURED HER THAT PAKISTAN Shakil Afridi, a Pakistani doctor accused of helping the Americans confirm the identity of Osama bin Laden, in advance of the raid where he was killed.

Earlier, the Pakistan embassy in the US hired a three-person defence team to supplement Al Qaida terrorist Aafia's two existing public defenders during her trial. The Pakistani government paid \$2 million for the services of three lawyers to assist in the defense of Siddiqui during the trial. This is a curious case, where a Government has so openly come out to support an Al Qaeda terrorist exposing its own nefarious designs, how Pakistan harbours Al Qaeda militants and uses them too, all the while giving false assurances to the Americans that it is helping them to finish Al Qaeda, which is very much active and calling shots more after lying low for some time until the Taliban consolidated its takeover of Afghanistan in 2021.

Terror groups carried out a number of attacks to take revenge for Aafia's imprisonment, which Pakistan or Haqqani netwok or IeM; they all are one when it comes to jihad or targeting foreign nationals or people of other religions. They join forces with covert support from Pakistani establishment to target whom they brand as an 'enemy of Islam.' According to a video released by Hakimullah Mehsud, head of the Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) at the time, the 2009 Camp Chapman attack in Afghanistan that killed seven CIA officers was partly in revenge for Aafia's imprisonment. The 2010 Times Square car-bombing attempt

occurred one day after Mehsud released another video promising to avenge Siddiqui. The perpetrator of the attempt was Faisal Shahzad, a recently naturalized Pakistan-born citizen who had contacts with Jaish-e-Muhammad

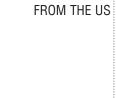
Hakimullah Mehsud. The Taliban threatened to execute US soldier Bowe Bergdahl, whom they had captured in 2009 in retaliation for Lady Al Qaeda Siddiqui's conviction. Bergdahl was later released in 2014 in exchange for five Guantanamo Bay detainees. In September 2010, the Taliban kidnapped Linda Norgrove, a Scottish aid worker in Afghanistan, and Taliban commanders insisted Norgrove would be handed over only in exchange for Siddiqui. But later Norgrove was accidentally killed. In July 2011, then-deputy of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, Waliur Rehman, announced that they wanted to swap Siddiqui for two Swiss citizens abducted in Balochistan. The Swiss couple escaped in March 2012.

În December 2011, al-Qaeda again exposes whether it is Al leader Ayman al-Zawahiri demand-Qaeda, Taliban or Tehreek e Taliban ed the release of Siddiqui in exchange for Warren Weinstein, an American aid worker kidnapped in Pakistan in August 2011.Weinstein was accidentally killed in a drone strike in January 2015.

Al Qaeda, Taliban, TTP and a host of other affiliated outfits have been kidnapping Americans, Europeans to make an exchange offer for Siqqiqui's release and the recent hostage taking in a Texas synagogue is just another incident in the long series of events for several years. Given Pakistan's insistence on release of Siddiqui, now questions are being raised whether all the kidnappings, hostage takings for Siddiqui was at the behest of Pakistan or whether Pakistan gave a tacit approval for the same? Pakistan's role in these terror activities has become more and more suspect.

Pakistan has been disowning terrorists of Pak origin whenever they are arrested in other countries but not so in the case of Aafia. In August 2009, Pakistani Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani met with Siddiqui's sister at his residence and assured her that Pakistan would seek her release from the US. In 2010, President Asif Ali Zardari requested Richard Holbrooke, US Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, that the U.S. considers repatriating Siddiqui to Pakistan under the Pakistan-US Prisoner Exchange Agreement. Siddiqui, who had links to al Qaeda and the banned jihadi group Jaish-e-Muhammad has received support not only from Islamic terror groups but Pakistan Government too and this in itself is a clear sign of hobnobbing between jihadists and Pakistan.

The latest hostage crisis at a Texas synagogue and number of similar incidents in Af-Pak demanding release of Lady Al Qaeda must be taken as a warning; the threat of Al Qaeda remains imminent, Taliban takeover of Afghanistan would only worsen it. Now there are no US- Nato forces in the region to check these rogue elements and they have the entire Afghanistan to themselves to train militants and suicide bombers backed by Pakistan government and ISI; this is a dangerous scenario and the sooner the world takes note



**WOULD SEEK** 

HER RELEASE

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

I REQUEST STUDENTS THAT RAILWAYS IS YOUR PROPERTY, PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY IT. WE WILL SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS. — RAILWAYS MINISTER **ASHWINI VAISHNAW** 





NO AMOUNT OF CONDEMNATION IS ENOUGH FOR THE REPRESSION OF YOUTH ASSOCIATED WITH RRB NTPC AND GROUP D EXAMINATIONS.

—CONGRESS LEADER PRIYANKA GANDHI

## Sardar Patel's rationale for a permanent civil service

## Principles of new public management are needed to make administration facilitatory, rather than regulatory, to private enterprise and capital

ood Governance is necessary for development and citizen's satisfaction. One of the indicators used by the World Bank to measure Governance is its Effectiveness, measured in terms of the quality of the civil service and the degree of its indepen-dence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies. India has improved its Percentile Rank in Governance Effectiveness, but remains low (66.8), much below Denmark and Norway (98), Australia (93.8), New Zealand (93) and even a single-party ruled country like China (72.6). Did our founding fathers err in their vision for the Civil



(Sarwal is Additional

Secretary,NITI. Dudi is anintern at NITI. The views

expressed are personal.)

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had a resolution adopted at conference of Congress Chief Ministers authorising the setting up of two all-India services, the IAS and the IPS, to succeed the ICS (Indian Civil Service). Despite oppositions, Sardar Patel stood his ground for varied reasons - avoid an administrative gap and to retain the steel frame for a diverse republic as India.

As early as October, 1945,

A permanent civil servant isnot bound to any political party or leader, its autonom-ous nature makes it stand unique and therefore work independently for the welfare of society hence, is also accountable to the Constitution of India on which they take oath of allegiance. Patel's public acknowledgment of the patriotism and dedication



of public servants and his expression of trust in them, gave them the self-assurance without which they could not have given their best. The services need to shed

the colonial legacy that makes officers act as the rulers rather than as public servants. Rapid Assessment System (RAS) in which a generic technologyenabled platform is used for seeking real-time citizen feedback on public services have been tried in many countries with success.

A lack of articulated and

between authority and accountability which loosens the scope for fixing responsibility, duplication of roles, absence of a system of strong incentives or disincentives, in-adequate delegation or excessive discretion - all these bring slack in the system. Lean, accountable, empowered work teams with clear responsibilities are likely to deliver better results, as in the case of Elections, Census or disaster relief.

Interference by or collusion with politicians can come in the way of delivery of ser-vices as per rules. Sometimes, cases of transfer and posting receive greater attention that those of public policy. Tenures of officers are one indicator of the flux in the dynamic systems of governance. For example, tenures of Chief Medical Officers range consistent goals, mismatch from eight months to three

years across the States. While political engage-ment and participation in governance is essential for ensuring accountability, trans-parency and garnering citizen's perceptions, the bounds and norms of acceptable conduct are social constructs built over time.

New Public Management (NPM) in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Scandinavian countries represented an attempt to make the public sector more businesslike and in order to increase the performance of government, private sector management principles borrowed. It seeks to borrow from the private sector principles of flexibili-ty, transparency, minimum Government, de-bureaucratisation, decentralisation and market orientation. The main principle of NPM is to emphasise economy, efficiency, and needs reform. This is vital to the effectiveness by downplaying the importance of regulation. It is not surprising that these countries score high on gover-

nance effectiveness index. Today's government is trying to inject more specialists into the bureaucracy through lateral hires at the level of Director and Joint Secretary. Globally, countries like US, Belgium, UK, Australia have in fact institutionalized this practice as a part of their system. Debates around lateral hires have centered around perceived lack of rigour in the selection procedure. It is feared that due to the pressure of a fixed time con-tract, the lateral hires might not express or put forward their views freely and in an unbiased manner.

There is no doubt that India's permanent civil service requirements.

country's progress and development. While the country needs talent and exper-tise to man specialized assignment, Patel's ideals of permanent, unbiased, indepen-dent administrators who can work for the betterment of county with a loyalty to-wards the people and commitment to rule of law should be kept alive. The ideas of the Constitution makers need to be imbibed in the process of lateral hires. In addi-tion, principles of new public management need to be mainstreamed by amending our regulations to make the administration facilitatory, rather than regulatory to private enterprise and capital. This way the administration will be strengthened and made more relevant to current

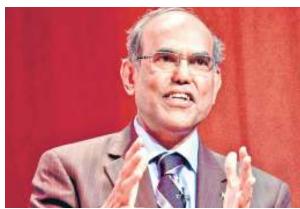
## **Budget should focus on bridging** widened inequality in economy

The upcoming Budget should focus on creating jobs and bridging the widened inequality in the economy besides accelerating growth, former RBI Governor D Subbarao said on Thursday while observing that given the continuing need to raise spending on education, health and infrastructure, there is not much leeway for tax cuts.

Subbarao also opined that experience shows export promotion behind protectionist walls is seldom competitive, so there is a case for reducing the tariffs. "Accelerating growth is the objective of every Budget as it should be of this one. But this Budget should pay special attention to bridging the widened inequality in the economy," he told PTI in an While noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has

caused enormous distress to the low-income segments who operate in the informal economy, Subbarao said the upper income segments have not only been able to protect their incomes but have in fact been able to grow their savings and

Citing the latest World



Inequality Report which had said that India is among the most unequal countries in the world, he said," Such wide inequality is not only morally wrong and politically corrosive, but it will also dent our longterm growth prospects. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget 2022-23 in Parliament on February 1. "We need job intensive growth. If there is a

Budget, it should be jobs," he

The former RBI Governor pointed out that jobs have been lost because of the growth slowdown and also because of the shift in activity from the

There is a case therefore for rolling down the tariffs," he

Asked if there is any scope for reduction in taxes in the upcoming Budget as that will provide some relief to the poor, Subbarao said as per media reports, this year's tax collections will be better than the budgeted target which, he said, will be largely offset by lower privatization proceeds and higher expenditure on food and fertilizer subsidies.

"So, the net positive impact on the fiscal deficit is likely to be marginal," he said.

Also, Subbarao noted that the tax buoyancy the country saw this year will dissipate next year as the informal sector revives. "Besides, given the continuing need to raise spending on education, health and infrastructure, I don't believe there is much leeway for tax cuts," he argued.

Asked whether the government should continue with stimulus measures in order to stimulate growth, Subbarao said in the last Budget, the finance minister committed to a fiscal consolidation path of reducing the fiscal deficit to 4.5 per cent of GDP by 2025/26. "I believe it's important to operate within that space.

## Sensex sinks 581 pts on weak global cue; Nifty below 17,150

Equity benchmark Sensex tumbled 581 points on Thursday, in tandem with a global selloff after the US Federal Reserve signalled policy tightening from March.

The 30-share index ended 581.21 points or 1.00 per cent lower at 57,276.94. Similarly, the NSE Nifty plunged 167.80 points or 0.97 per cent to 17,110.15.

HCL Tech was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding over 4 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra Dr Reddy's, Wipro, TCS, Titan and Infosys

On the other hand, Axis Bank, SBI, Maruti and Kotak Bank were among the gain-

The US Federal Reserve on Wednesday indicated that there is ample room to raise interest rates to fight infla-

Investors fear foreign capital outflows from emerging markets like India after rate hikes in the US.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended sharply lower on the hawk-

## Cylinders used for filling non-toxic gases, liquids to be tamper proof

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has mandated that all high pressure cylinders and cryogenic containers used for filling non-toxic, nonflammable gases and liquids should have a tamper proof marking that will be easily vis-

The move is aimed at promoting industrial and public

The government has inserted a rule in the Gas Cylinders (Amendment) Rules, 2022. A notification has been issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in this regard.

"All the high pressure cylin-

ders and cryogenic containers used for filling of non-toxic, non-flammable gases and liquids shall have permanent and tamper proof marking in form of Bar Code or RFID or QR code or any means of electronic identification number at conspicuous place on cylinders and containers," the notification said. It also said the cylinders manufactured before the publication of these rules (January 20) shall have these markings, before expiry of six months in case of oxygen cylinders and one year in case of other non-toxic and non-flammable gas cylinders. The time frame would be calculated



The DPIIT has implemented several reforms to ensure industrial safety in critical premises such as petroleum installations, explosive manufacturing facilities, cylinder filling and storage premises to enhance public safety as well as create an enabling ecosystem for domestic and international investors.

from the date of publication of

The DPIIT has implemented several reforms to ensure industrial safety in critical premises such as petroleum installations, explosive manufacturing facilities, cylinder filling and storage premises to enhance public safety as well as create an enabling ecosystem for domestic and international investors. The Petroleum and **Explosives Safety Organization** (PESO), an autonomous body under the DPIIT, is in charge of designing and implementing policies and standard operating procedures for the manufacturing, storage, transport and use of explosives, petroleum as well as hazardous chemicals.

### **MONEY MATTERS**

#### **Rupee slumps 30 paise to 75.08 against US dollar**

egistering its third straight session of loss, the Indian rupee on Thursday depreciated by 30 paise to close at 75.08 (provisional) against the US dollar, tracking the strength of the American currency after a hawkish US Fed policy stance. Forex traders said muted domestic equities, sustained foreign fund outflows and firm crude oil prices also weighed on the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 75.18 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 75.07 and a low of 75.31 during the session. The rupee finally settled at 75.08, down by 30 paise over its previous close.

## GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

NIT.NO:58EE-6/CRZ/GHMC/2021-22, 'g'-Procurement Tender Notice Nature of the Work: Desitting Works. Estit Cost (Rs in Lakha): Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: Downlood Start Date: 25.01.2022 © 02.00 PM. Last Date Receipt of Bids: 31.01.2022 © 02.00 PM. Name & Address Officer, Call No. Smt.M.V.RADHKA, EE,Div-6, CRZ, GHMC, Hyderabad, Ph.No: 8008102048. For further details can be seen at e-proculement © www.tender.eprocusement.gov.in. Note: 1% EMD should be obtained after the date of tender notice. Sci. Executive Engineer, Carlle Nos. DIPR.No.20590-PP/CL/Advt/1/2021-22.

 GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PANCHAYATI RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

O\0 THE DISTRICT PANCHAYATH ENGINEER, PIU DIVISION VIKANABAD
E-MAIL: eeprvkb@yahoo.co.in, Contract No.: 9440817345 hort Tender Notice No. T1/84 to 93/2021-22, Date: 25-01-2022

io.of works (10) Wkarabad Division works. Total Estimate Cost Rs.94.00 Lakhs. Schedules issued start Date: 27-01-2022 to Close Date: 05-02-2022. Further details can be had District Panchayati Raj PIU Division Vikarabad.

## NTPC invites bids to set up 3GW energy storage facility in India PNS NEW DELHI

State-run power giant NTPC's arm, NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NREL), has invited bids for selection of developers for inter-state transmission system (ISTS)-connected energy storage facility of 3,000 MW capacity at any location in India to meet round-the-clock requirement of renewable energy.

labour-intensive informal sec-

tor to the capital-intensive for-

mal sector. "Growth is neces-

sary to generate jobs, but not

sufficient," he said, adding that

there is a need for stronger

emphasis on improving the

ease of doing business through

governance reforms so that

investment becomes a promis-

ing option for both domestic

raising the level of exports is

good not just for balance of

payments reasons but also

from a jobs perspective

because export production is

"Experience shows that export

production behind protection-

ist walls is seldom competitive.

Subbarao pointed out that

and foreign investors.

labour intensive.

facility to meet its round-therequirement with a wind/solar generation profile under service model through an ISTSconnected energy storage solutions with capacity of 3000 MWh with 500 MW (minimum) at any location in India, as per the bid document.

As per the document, the capacity shall be installed under a Capex mode through Global Competitive Bidding lowed by reverse auction).

PNS NEW DELHI

Thursday.

Sugar production in India,

the world's second largest pro-

ducing nation after Brazil, is

estimated to increase by 2.90

per cent to 31.9 million tonnes

in the ongoing 2021-22 mar-

keting year, according to the first estimate released by the

trade body AISTA on

With estimated production

of 31.9 million tonnes plus

opening stock of 8.3 million

tonnes with mills, the total

availability of sugar in the

country is expected to be 40.2

million tonnes in the current

marketing year, slightly lower

than the previous year, it said.

However, the supply of

India's 2021-22 sugar

production to rise 2.90 pc



The power generated by any of the RE projects of NTPC/NREL shall be used for the charging of the Energy Storage Service (ESS) project and NREL shall utilize this energy storage facility, on an its requirements during the with 500 MW (min) capacity. Varde said.

sugar in the country would be

sufficient to meet the domes-

tic consumption, which is esti-

mated to be at 27 million

tonnes in the 2021-22 market-

from October to September.

India Sugar Trade Association

(AISTA) said the outbound

shipments are estimated to be

lower at 6 million tonnes in

the current 2021-22 marketing

year, as against 7.2 million

"The actual exports

tonnes in the previous year.

in 2021-22, would depend upon the level of domestic

sugar prices vis-a-vis interna-

tional sugar prices," the trade

body noted.

Sugar marketing year runs

In case of exports, the All

ing year, it added.

peak and off-peak hours to meets its round-the-clock requirement of renewable of minimum 600 MWhr with 100 MW (min) capacity.

nations like manner 600 MWh with 100 MW (min) capacity or 1200 MWh with 200 MW (min) capacity or 1800 MWh with 300 MW (min) capacity or 2400 MWh with 400 MW

## Roche Diagnostics launches self-testing kit

PNS NEW DELHI

Roche Diagnostics India on Thursday said it has launched a COVID-19 'at-home' detection kit.

The company said it has introduced the COVID-19 At-Home Test, an over-thecounter test for detection of SARS CoV-2 infection in individuals with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 and is approved by ICMR.

COVID-19 At-Home Test can successfully detect SARS-CoV-2 virus including the Omicron variant, it added.

"Roche has been at the forefront of reliable and benchmark diagnostic solutions for 125 years. COVID-19 At-Home Test is the newest addition to Roche's comprehensive COVID-19 test solutions and allows convenient anytime, anywhere access to testing," Roche Diagnostics India & Neighbouring Markets



As the third wave sets in, accessibility to such simple, convenient, fast and instrument-free self-test can contribute significantly to help better manage lives and health during the ongoing pandemic, he added. The self-test kit includes a test cassette, a sterile swab, a tube with liquid and nozzle cap, along with a step-by-step self-test guide and QR code to access the instruction video.Roche Diagnostics has already launched a wide range of COVID-19 testing solutions in the country, including the RT-PCR test, a lab-based antigen test and Rapid Antiger tests for professional use.

#### ABB's HVAC solution helps JW Marriott Hotel cut down energy

PNS NEW DELHI

ABB India on Thursday said the company's HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) solution has helped JW Marriott Hotel in Pune cut down energy losses by 35 per cent annually.

"ABB's HVAC solution helps JW Marriott Hotel to cut down energy losses by 35 per cent," the company said in a statement.HVAC consumes an average of about 50 per cent of the energy in buildings, it added.By installing ABB's cooling tower direct drive solution in its hotel, JW Marriott Pune, an iconic landmark in Pune, has set new benchmarks in energy effi-ciency, saving about 35 per cent energy annually, it said. Energy saved in a day with ABB's direct drive solution run for about 1,500 km.

## GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE

onder telangana gov.in.
PR Na.887-8912. Agency NBV11, 1921-22, 01:21-81-2925 SSF- Superintending Engineer (PM, UNT-I, TUFOC Naty

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT DISTRICT COLLECTOR, JANGAON FORM-VII DECLARATION (Under Rule 25(1) Section -19(1) of the Act-30/2013) Dist. Gazette No.LA/JN/04/2022 Collector, Jgn. File No.G1/992/2018 Spl.Dpty,Collector, Jr.,File:No.A1/110/2020 Date: 28-12-2021

tion o **30ft Bye-pass Road to Textle Park, Kallern** under Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited under the Government of Telangana, Collector langaon District, as per L.A.Act. 30/2013. Therefore the "DECLARATION" is hereby made that a siece of land measuring more or less Ac.3.23 gts viz. under acquisition for the above said project in the limits of Callern. Where, of Lincalaphanour Mandal, in Jangaon

Where as it appears to the Government of Telangana

flector. Jangaon that a total land to an extent o

Ac.3.23gts is required in Kallem Village of Linguis granpur Mandal of Jangaon District for public purpose for excava-

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parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the cristruction phase of the project for

he purpose of which the land is being acquired, or not needed.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land

equisition Officer & Special Deputy Collector, LA-R&R, Unit-1

Collector,

District Collector,

igation Project, Jangson on any working day.

Sd/-

Special Deputy Collector, LA, R&R Unit-I,

#### NTPC Renewable Energy intends to avail energy storage After the conclusion of the bidding process, NREL shall clock renewable energy

enter into an energy storage service agreement on an annual fixed charge basis with the selected bidders for a period of 25 years.

energy. The project size will be The bidders can quote capacities in different combi-

## **Deutsche Bank sees biggest annual profit**

PNS FRANKFURT

Deutsche Bank reaped its best annual profit in 10 years and said it had put most of its wrenching, years-long restructuring behind it. The bank underlined its progress by announcing a dividend for 2021 and a 300-million euro share buyback to return money to shareholders.

Germany's largest bank said in a statement Thursday that it had already accounted for 97 per cent of its restructuring costs anticipated through end of 2022. That would be 3 1/2 years

since CEO Christian Sewing in July 2019 announced a 7.4 billion-euro (USD 8.3 billion) restructuring that involved cutting overhead costs and



thousands of jobs in an attempt to end years of uneven profits and large losses from run-ins with regulatory authorities.

The bank had just under 83,000 employees at year-end 2021, down from 91,737 at the

end of 2018.

Sewing's plan involved shedding billions in risky investments, leaving less profitable lines of business where the bank was not a dominant competitor. The capital release unit charged with running down holdings no longer seen as parts of the bank's core activities had shrunk to 28 billion euros, down from 34 billion in 2020 and remained ahead of its 2022 goal.

Costs for restructuring such as severance for employees being let go continued to weigh on earnings into the last months of the year, hitting fourth-quarter earnings with charges of USD 456 million.

Full-year net profit rose fourfold from the year before to 2.5 billion euros, the highest since 2011. Revenues rose 6 per cent to 25.4 billion euros.

For the fourth quarter, the bank managed to turn in a net quarterly profit of 82 million euros despite higher remaining restructuring expenses including employee severance.

## India's renewable energy sector can employ 1 mn

PNS NEW DELHI

India's renewable energy sector has the potential to employ around one million people by 2030, and most of the new jobs would be generated by smallscale renewable energy projects, according to a study.

India's renewable energy sector could potentially employ around one million people by 2030, which would be ten times more than the existing workforce of an estimated 1.1 lakh employed by the sector, according to an independent study released on Thursday by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Skill Council for Green Jobs (SCGI)

The study "India's Expanding Clean Energy Workforce" highlighted that most of the new jobs would be generated by small-



scale renewable energy projects such as rooftop solar and mini and micro-grid systems compared to utility or large-scale pro-

jects like solar parks.
The CEEW-NRDC-SCGJ analysis also highlighted the adverse impact of the pandemic

on employment in the renewable energy sector.

In comparison to 12,400 new workers employed in the sector in FY19, only 5,200 new workers were employed in FY20 and 6400 were employed in FY21, it

In FY21, a majority of the new workers were employed in the rooftop solar segment where annual capacity additions grew by nine per cent over FY20 and accounted for 1.4 GW capacity, it added

The study further noted that India has successfully trained 78,000 people under the Suryamitra training program, between 2015 and 2017, to improve the availability of skilled workers for clean energy pro-

"The upcoming Union Budget must especially focus on scaling up rooftop solar, mini and micro grid systems, and domestic solar manufacturing to maximise the employment opportunities in the sector," Dr Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, CEEW said.

## **Wockhardt Q3** consolidated net profit Rs 1.77 cr

PNS NEW DELHI

Drug maker Wockhardt on Thursday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 1.77 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2021.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 32.4 crore in the same period of 2020-21 fiscal.

Income from continuing operations rose to Rs 853.89 crore in the third quarter as against Rs 764.02 crore in the October-December period of the previous fiscal, Wockhardt said in a

regulatory filing. The company said it plans to bring in a rights issue to raise upto Rs 1,000

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Friday January 28, 2022

# Dibyendu Bhattacharya looks forward to better days

SHREYA SRIKONDA

ibyendu Bhattacharya, who you've previously seen in *Delhi Crime*, *Undekhi*, *B.A Pass* and many more as a supporting character, now weaves his magic again in the much-awaited *Rocky Boys* that's soon to hit OTT screens. He talks about his excitement for the show's release on February 4, saying, "Everyone has worked really hard on the show. I'm very emotionally attached to the series as well and I'm glad that it's finally seeing the light of day."

The show has been repeatedly postponed because of the

The show has been repeatedly postponed because of the Pandemic, but it's finally going to be streaming on SonyLIV as another one of its original projects after the extraordinary success of *Scam 1992*.

"Rocket Boys was the ideal set for me. A filmmaking set is like a playground, there's openness and attention to detail — you read and re-read before shooting and then improvise during the shoot-there's a give and take with all the people on set and it was very fun to work on this particular set. A lot of my favourite actors and filmmakers were involved in this project, so it was a wonderful experience," the actor says.

Rocket Boys is based on life events, the series is a story of Homi J Bhaba and Vikram Sarabhai, the men behind India's nuclear energy and space programs. The trailer of the show went viral recently. Dibyendu plays the role of Raza Mehdi, a scientist. He mentions that though the show is based on events that took place in real life, Raza Mehdi is a completely fictional character.

He explains, "Raza is the rep-

for sustainable architecture have been

expressed by experts, architects have been working tirelessly to help fit extremely utilitar-

ian buildings while expressing the need to have carbon-neutral structures. We, as archi-

tects, are constantly looking to upgrade sys-

tems and functions, so it is fulfilling for us to deliver highly concise designs," says Manish.

principal architect at Cityspace '82 Architects

Meanwhile, Sumit Dhawan, the founder and

a very important character as he plays a role in propelling the story forward. In filmmaking, you have to take creative liberties for the overall flow of story-

telling."
"I am an actor who enjoys every sort of role. If you see my body of work, you'll see that I've worked in every kind of genre. By the grace of God, no one's ever given me a role I didn't enjoy. I've had fun with all of them so far. But I do find every role difficult. To identify with a character who is a completely different person

lenge- and I love the challenge," he says, before talking about how the pandemic stalled many of his projects, but 2022 seems to have a lot in store. He goes on to talk about how he's looking forward to a better world. "I'm really looking forward to the better days. We could freely meet people, go around town, shoot without fear — those were better times."

from me, is always a chal-

He says that
OTT is exciting
with the huge
amount of choice
it presents it's
viewers with.

"It's not like the movies where you can only get a ticket for something and have to sit through the whole movie there's truly something for everyone in OTT and frankly speaking I really enjoy it. Along with the Audie, there's more things for filmmakers to play with. There's more topics to work on, and more formats that are exciting. This has brought in a lot of new actors and directors and everyone is busy! Earlier, directors had to spend lots of time getting everything together to make a movie but now — everyone's always at work! It's wonderful," he signs off on a positive

GG

Rocket Boys was the ideal set for me. A filmmaking set is like a playground, there's openness and attention to detail — you read and re-read before shooting and then improvise during the shoot-there's a give and take with all the people on set and it was very fun to work on this particular set. A lot of my favourite actors and filmmakers were involved in this project, so it was a wonderful experience.

area with poor ventilation and lack of windows will impact the productivity of employ-

ees as they will not be able to focus on their

work. With the help of new technology and new materials being discovered every day, this

office conundrum can easily be solved with proper glass facades that allow ventilation and

an HVAC system that will eventually help air

equation and working on it so that it is better

circulation. Taking one element out of the





# Do not pass off abdominal pain!

micron can affect your gut apart from the upper respiratory tract and the abdominal symptoms are becoming common in people infected with the new strain. Some of the new symptoms of Covid-19 include nausea, abdominal ache, yomiting, loss of

ache, vomiting, loss of appetite and diarrhoea.

"People may initially present with abdominal symptoms without any respiratory complaints. The presenting complaints could be back ache, abdominal ache, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite and diarrhoea. This could be due to Omicron infecting the gut mucosa and the resulting inflammation," says Dr Manoj Goel, Director, Pulmonology, Fortis Memorial Research Institute.

The doctor also says that even though double-vaccinated people are also coming forward with complaints of abdominal issues, these symptoms are not adverse and not of much concern.

"Do not pass off abdominal pain, nausea and loss of appetite as a normal flu, if you have symptoms, isolate yourself. Avoid self-medication including so-called safe Ayurvedic treatment without consulting your doctor. Try and maintain good hydration, eat frequent, small, wholesome and light meals including nuts. Avoid spicy food and alcohol. Symptoms if mild might not be of concern," says Dr Goel, adding, "One should test for Covid if you have abdominal complaints even without respiratory symptoms or fever as this could be due to Omicron infection."



## what's brewing?



# Spiced coffee for chilly evenings

Pumpkin puree: 3 tsp
• Honey: 15 ml Nutmeg (pinch of) Cinnamon: 1 stick

#### How to make:

• In a pan take almond milk. honey, pumpkin puree. cinnamon stick and nutmeg and boil it in medium heat.

Once the milk starts boiling, remove it from the fire and also remove the cinnamon stick. Pour milk mixture into a French press and just push and pull the plunger 6-8 times to get nice silky and smooth texture

## **Spice Latte**

This simple diet-friendly latte is flavourful, easy to make, and with an amazing aroma.

#### What you need:

- French press coffee: 200ml Pinch of freshly grated nutmeg
- Cloves: 3 Small cinnamon stick: 3
- Water: 60 ml Demerara Sugar for sweetness Milk: 200 ml Whipped cream:

#### optional **How to make:**

- Combine the water and spices in a saucepan, cover and simmer for 3-4 minutes.
- Add the demerara, milk and

bring to the boil. Remove from the heat and stir in the coffee. Strain to remove the spices and pour the coffee into a coffee mug or glass.

For more creamer options, add a swirl of whipped cream on the top, sprinkle some demerara and cinnamon.



#### Spicy Mexican Mocha



#### How to make: This coffee is the perfect combination of strong,

freshly brewed coffee,

love the sweetness of

What you need:

chocolate, and spices. You'll

chocolate and spice flavours

of cinnamon and cayenne

pepper with the richness of

whipped cream on the top.

• French press coffee: 200

Pinch of cayenne pepper200 ml half-and-half

(simply a mixture of equal parts whole milk and cream).

• Chocolate syrup: 15 ml

Demerara: 2 sachet

Vanilla syrup:10ml

whipped cream, choco-

late shavings, optional,

Cinnamon sticks,

garnish

• Pinch of cinnamon.

- Add the coffee grounds and cinnamon together while brewing in a french
- While the coffee is brewing, bring the half-and-half, chocolate syrup, and demerara to a gentle simmer in a small saucepan. Make sure to cook on low heat so you
- don't burn the mixture. Remove from the heat
- and add the brewed coffee to the milk mixture. Whisk in the vanilla extract/ flavour.
- Pour the coffee into Mug and top with whipped cream and garnish with a sprinkle of cinnamon or chocolate shavings, and add a cinnamon stick, if desired. Enjoy immediately.

A vegan and healthier option for one of the most famed recipes which you should try making at home this winter season. It's a tasty, delicious and very simple recipe to give a festive feeling.

#### What you need:

- Espresso (also can try Moka pot coffee): 30 ml
- Almond milk: 200 ml
- Take a shot of espresso or Moka pot coffee into a serving mug, pour the milk with foam over espresso.
- Make sure you get a thick layer of milk foam top, if you can't manage to get it by pouring then just scoop it with a help of spoon.
- For garnish, add whipped cream on the top and sprinkle some freshly grat-

#### **ARCHIE**

have restricted

this winter indul

gence. Considering your

L<u>avazz</u>a training

spicy, hot & easy

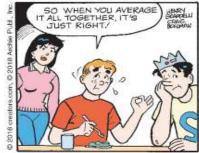
recipes for winte

caffeine needs

centre shares



















#### GARFIELD



WE'VE GOT "THE KARDASHIANS,"
"HONEY BOO BOO" AND
"TEEN MOM" --- WHEN

"TEEN MOM"--- WHEI WE *USED TO* HAVE...

GINGER MEGGS

AND THEN, JESUS

WAS NAILED TO THE

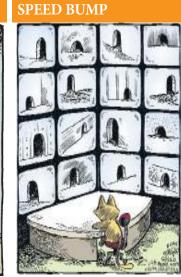






#### REALITY CHECK





#### **SUDOKU**

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- The sum of all numbers in
- any row or column must

#### **CROSSWORD**



ACROSS 6 Words that ask you politely to come

- 8 Arm joint
- 10 The head of a city council
- 13 Very tall city buildings

give evidence in court

2 The scene from a window 3 Do damage to 4 Very small

A round handle

5 Took clothes off

DOWN

- 14 From Ireland 17 These birds honk
- 19 A person who has seen something happen and can
- 17 Firearms west

15 A thought

7 Sweated

18 The direction opposite

12 Rub with a towel

9 A desert green place 11 This fruit has pips

16 This grows on heads











# tollywood

## Saad Khan to make directorial debut in Telugu!



on the stage as a play-writer but this is going to be the first time that I'll showcase it on big screens. I am dwelling all my energies in moving out from political satires now and adorn the urban comedy mood. I had been working on this script for a really long time and the screenplay has come out so

Wondering who the lead pair is? He continues, "We are yet to start the casting process, I'll be locking my lead pair by mid February! Earlier, I was conceptually involved with a romantic genre with a little bit of drama but comedy will be new to me. This time, the lead pair will be going through a free-flowing urban romance that's going to catch hold of Teluguites. The male protagonist will spot his lady love at a friend's Sangeeth and then you can imagine the plot! Even though I am going regional these days, I make it a point to keep the concept well urbanised because that's how I like it as a director. I am sure Sangeeth will not just be a hit in Hyderabad, but in cities like Bangalore and Bombay too."

he advent of OTT is taking the entertainment industry by storm.

Many biggies have already made their OTT debut. The latest to join is the famed producer Dil Raju along with director Harish Shankar. The duo has joined hands for a web series, a thrilling heist in the city of Hyderabad titled ATM. Director

Harish Shankar turned producer for this drama. The thriller will be aired on Zee5 soon. Apart from pro-

ducing ATM, Harish Shankar is also providing the story, and the web drama will be helmed by Chandra Mohan. Dil Raju's daughter Hanshitha Reddy and nephew Harshith Reddy are bankrolling it along with Harish

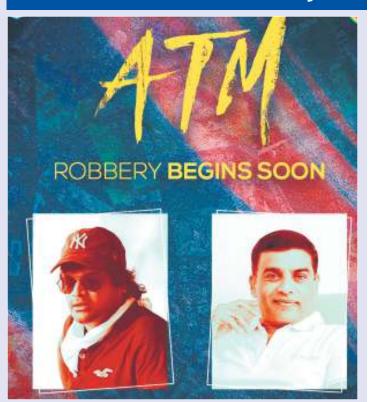
Shankar. Speaking about their association and the project, Dil Raju shares, "After being a successful distributor, I was thinking 'what's next?'. Then, I started my journey as a producer in 2003 with the film Dil. From there, I have been making new-age movies like Arva. Bommarillu. Munna, introducing many new directors. Many directors have worked hard to sustain themselves in this industry. After being a successful producer, I started to think. 'What's next?'. Now Dil Raju Productions is all set to make an entry in Bollywood. When Harish Shankar called me and told me about this story, I was impressed. We immediately decid-

Further, about the series, he says, "This series will have all elements. We made ATM with many new elements. We look forward to seeing you with our brand

ed to do a web

series called ATM."

# ATM will have many new elements: DII Raju



## Rambha living her dream

Telugu cinema's most popular actresses Rambha, who is now happily settled with her family in Canada, has announced that she is fed up with gym exercises and is going to take a break.

Tamil and

Taking to Instagram, the yesteryear actress, who

was at one time one of the top actresses of the Tamil film industry, said: "Training off this week. I suggest you follow your heart. Got fed up with gym exercises, dieting, beauty tips, yoga, cooking healthy food etc. Thinking of the above makes me depressed, scared and sad! I decided to follow my heart and keep myself happy by just enjoying

nature, my love and my kids! I am going to live my life the way I wanted and dreamed about. I am living my dream."

snowmobile along with the post. Rambha married Indrakumar, a Canada-based Sri Lankan Tamil busi-



## Rashmika overwhelmed by audience response to Saami Saami



al sensation, and has even been trending across all social media platforms. It had clocked over ten million views in less than 24

hours of its release. Expressing gratitude, Rashmika Mandanna said, "The amount of love I have received for my song Saami Saami is overwhelming. I would like to thank all my fans for making the song so successful and loving me in it. I had great time shooting for Saami and I remember rehearsing for it for long hours to give my best to the peppy number. In the past few days, I've been seeing so many of you doing the hook step on social media, which

takes me back

to the

shooting days of *Pushpa*. All the love I have received from people all over the world iust makes the song super special and memorable!"

The actress was praised for pulling off the choreography in her signature style with hundreds of fans and social media users recreating the steps from the popular song that's become a mass sensation.

With the massive success of Pushpa: The Rise, Rashmika has achieved waves of appreciation and praises from all across, and is rightfully touted as 'The Next Big Thing' in Bollywood'. She will be making her big ticket Bollywood debut with Mission Majnu and Goodbye.

## **Nikhil worried** about his films

fter many ups and downs, actor Nikhil Siddarth finally seemed to be getting back in form until Covid hit us. Like many others even Nikhil

is now worried about his films that are taking a backseat. Nikhil, who is becoming increasingly concerned and conflicted about his films, expressed his feelings in a video shared by him on his social media.

The actor said, "It's heartbreaking to learn that the pandemic is affecting careers at this level. Following the sucess of #*AriunSuri* 

signed four films... four fantastic scripts in which I have complete confidence. However, all of the release dates have gone awry. I'm praying to God that everything works out and that the movies are released flawlessly."

On the work front, Nikhil is now working on a variety of projects, including *Karthikeya* 2, a sequel to his popular film Karthikeya, directed by Chandoo Mondeti, and 18 Pages, directed by Palnati Surya Pratap. He is currently starring in a spy thriller directed by Gary. He also has BH, as well as Traitraim, directed by newcomer Ravikumar





## RAVI BISHNOI GETS MAIDEN CALL-UP FOR WINDIES SERIES

oung leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi was on Wednesday rewarded with a maiden India call-up for the upcoming Twenty20 series against the West Indies, while senior wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav also returned to the white-ball setup after a knee

Skipper Rohit Sharma on the day cleared his fitness test and as reported by PTI on January 17, was back incharge for the series that starts with ODIs in Ahmedabad from February

Among senior players, Ravichandran Ashwin has been dropped from the white-ball team, while Washington Sundar, who missed the South Africa series due to COVID-19, was back in the squad. "Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Sĥami have been rested from the series,"

BCCI secetary Jay Shah was quoted as saying in a press release.

While Ashwin is believed to be injured and out for six weeks, BCCI statement didn't mention his injury status so it can be concluded that even if he is fit, he wouldn't have been picked after an indifferent white-ball series in South Africa.

The other notable comeback has

been Baroda batter Deepak Hooda, who had changed states and did wonderfully well for Rajasthan in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy as well as Vijay Hazare Trophy. Hooda is being looked as a potential finisher in shorter formats and for now in the ODI team. He was part of

the Nidahas Trophy squad in Sri Lanka four seasons back but didn't get "If you go and look at Hooda's performances in white-ball cricket this season, most of his runs have come when the team has been in trouble. That shows he can take pressure. The selectors would like to see more of M

Shahrukh Khan, who is a good talent.

There are a lot of matches and if he

has a good IPL, who knows, he will

"Ravindra Jadeia is undergoing his final stage of recovery post his knee injury and will not be available for the ODIs and T20Is. **Axar Patel will be** available for the **T20Is,**"

be right there," a BCCI source informed PTI on condition of anonymity.

Shah added

However it is understood that Himachal Pradesh captain Rishi Dhawan wasn't in consideration as his bowling is friendly medium pace and can't be seen as a finisher in

It is also learnt that vice-captain KL Rahul will be available from the second ODI onwards as he is set to miss the first 50-over game due to personal reasons.

"Ravindra Jadeja is undergoing his final stage of recovery post his knee injury and will not be available for the ODIs and T20Is. Axar Patel will be available for the T20Is," Shah added.

Bishnoi has been one of the finds of the Indian Premier League for the Punjab outfit and has been picked up by new franchise Lucknow Super Giants from the drafts for the next IPL. In 42 T20 games, he has 49 wickets at a great economy rate of 6.63. In 17 List A games, he has 24 wickets and an economy rate of 5.48.

He primarily bowls googlies which is his stock delivery and occasionally

bowls leg-breaks. With Kuldeep, Yuzvendra Chahal and Bishnoi, India is again going back to the trust-ed formula of wrist spin which gave them lot of success between 2017

Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been dropped from the ODI squad but retained for the T20Is while former skipper Virat Kohli featured in both

the teams. It is understood that Kuldeep, who had lost his mojo in the Kohli-Ravi Shastri era, has been called back as the current team management and selectors feel that he has the X-factor to contribute to the team's cause.

He underwent a knee surgery in September last year.

Avesh Khan and Harshal Patel, who were part of the New Zealand T20 Internationals are predictably back as reported by PTI.

The six-match series against the West Indies will feature three ODIs starting in Ahmedabad from February 6, followed by as many T20 Internationals in Kolkata.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, the BCCI has curtailed the number of

## Roach returns to West Indies squad



PTI ■ ST JOHN'S (ANTIGUA)

Seasoned pacer Kemar Roach and young all-rounder Nkrumah Bonner have been recalled to the West Indies ODI squad for the three-match series in India beginning February 6. Roach, who has not played any List A cricket since his last ODI in 2019, has made the return with West Indies great Desmond Haynes picking him in his first squad selection since taking over as lead selector. Six additions have been made to the squad, to be led by Kieron Pollard, that lost to India will be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on February 6, 9 and 11.

The T20Is will be played at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on February 16, 18 and 20 and the Caribbean squad for that is expected to be announced on Friday. Besides the experienced Roach, the 22-year-old Bonner, a middle-order batter whose last ODI appearance was exactly a year ago, and Brandon King, an opener, have been recalled to the squad.

The 27-year-old King's last one-day outing in national colours was back in 2020. Roach has so far played 92 ODIs with 124 wicketsBonner made his ODI debut in Bangladesh a year ago and has so King has appeared in four matches tion for the 2023 World Cup.

in this format.

"Kemar Roach is one of our leading fast bowlers and we believe we need bowlers upfront to get early wicket, and Kemar, with an economy rate of five, is certainly good enough to play. "Over the last few years, Nkrumah Bonner's cricket has come on leaps and bounds and we believe he should be given an opportunity to play in the 50-over format," said Haynes in a statement."

The series will be part of the ICC ODI Super League and the West Indies will have the opportunity to win points to be one of the far played three matches, while India, to gain automatic qualifica-

## Powell's 107 leads West Indies over England by 20 runs



**AP** ■ BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

 $R^{\rm ovman}$  Powell hit 10 sixes among his 107 runs from 53 balls to lead West Indies to a 20-run victory over England and a 2-1 lead in the fivematch Twenty20 series.

Powell, brought in for Odean Smith, formed the backbone of the home side's 224 for five, with Nicholas Pooran clubbing 70 off 43 deliveries. England finished at 202-9. Tom Banton gave England hope of pulling off

its third-highest chase ever with a 39-ball 73 but

his dismissal left the tourists needing 96 from 45 deliveries before Phil Salt kept its flickering hopes Salt, one of three T20 debutants alongside George Garton and Harry Brook, brought the equation down to 36 in an over, flaying the first

two deliveries for six en route to a 22-ball 50 before being bowled. England was captained by Moeen Ali because

a slight awad injury to F

The final two matches are on Saturday and Sunday, also in Bridgetown.

## NZC moves all games against Indian women to Queenstown

PTI AUCKLAND

The Indian women's team will play all its six upcoming matches against New Zealand in Queenstown as NZC on Thursday announced a revised schedule to reduce chances of a COVID-19 out-The Indian women's

team, which is already in New Zealand, is now scheduled to play all five ODIs and a T20I, starting February 9 at John Davies Oval in Queenstown. The bilateral series, which

is key for India ahead of the World Cup in March-April, was earlier scheduled to begin with with the one-off T20I at McLean Park in Napier followed by the first ODI at the same venue two days later.

The Saxton Oval in Nelson was to host the second and third ODIs on February 14 and 16, with the final two ODIs to be played in Queenstown on February 22

Other changes in the schedule announced by NZC include the South Africa men's side remaining in Christchurch for the entire both its scheduled Tests at Hagley Oval rather than

decamping to Wellington for the second match, as initially

Australia's three T20s against the New Zealand men's side will now be hosted in Napier (subject to MIQ availability), and the Netherlands men's tour is set

to be split between Mount Maunganui (one T20 and one ODI) and Hamilton (two ODIs). All matches have been kept on originally-scheduled days. The changes in the venues is aimed to cut down on domestic travel and the increased likelihood of exposure to the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

"These risk mitigations

are based on avoiding known Covid-19 hotspots, and include limiting air travel, limiting accommodation transfers and, essentially, operating in safer environments," NZC chief executive David White said in a statement.

"We know the more domestic flights we have, and the more movement there is between hotels, the greater the chance of a match or even a series being put at risk," he White added the intent is

to explore the concept of allowing multiple pods, each tors, in venues in accordance with government guidelines.

## Tough road awaits Kuldeep, Harbhajan wants Team India to 'stick by'

When Kuldeep Yadav had gone for a skier during a Kolkata Knight Riders practice session in the UAE last September, little did he know that within seconds his world would come crashing down with a twisted knee.

Those present at the Dubai training facility were horrified seeing his condition as he lay there writhing in pain, waiting to

be stretchered out. In a week's time, he underwent a major knee surgery in Mumbai, which cast doubts on how long it would take for him to get fit for competitive cricket. He visited Mathura with his family on Thursday to offer

prayers on his comeback, for Kuldeep really needed some divine intervention to make his way back into the Indian team.

Otherwise, all that he could have done was to wait at home to hear from the BCCI if it would hold the now-postponed Ranji Trophy, where he was supposed to lead Uttar Pradesh. "It will be a very tough road

ahead for Kuldeep. He hasn't had any proper domestic games under his belt and it's not easy to make an international comeback just like that," one of India's greatest spinners, Harbhajan Singh, told PTI when asked about his expectations.

"He wasn't playing regularly before surgery and when you are making a comeback in white



ball, the first thing that's at the back of your mind is 'I don't want

"So it's like striking a balance as you are naturally dealing with a lot of insecurities. It's a test of mental fortitude," said Harbhajan, who saw Kuldeep

from close quarters at KKR nets. But Kuldeep has the skills and the 'Turbanator' expects that he can get a few early wickets and make it a different ball-game.

"Let me make it clear. If he gets a couple of early wickets, he will be a different bowler but things may not go as per plan. It might take some time for him to

get back the rhythm. "My only suggestion would be that stick with him since you have shown conviction based on

his past performances and give him enough time and confidence. He is a man who can deliver the goods for India, said the holder of 700-plus international wickets.

The national selectors made an exception for him as he is one of the rare cricketers who is coming back without having to prove his match-fitness as there is no domestic cricket at the moment.

The rub of green finally seems to be going Kuldeep's way after enduring rough times as his exclusion from the playing XI wasn't always a cricketing one during the earlier regime of Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri.

Call it India's bare spin cupboard and injuries or poor form of some elite spinners.

## ICC unveils NFT in partnership with 'FanCraze'

PTI DUBAI

The International Cricket Council on Thursday 📘 released 'ICC Crictos', the official range of digital (NFT) collectibles, in partnership with FanCraze.

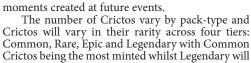
Crictos enables fans to collect and trade their own slice of cricket history from a range of ICC events. Featuring 75 unforgettable moments from the 2015 and 2019 editions of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, fans can start their Crictos collection with one of three packs: a Base Pack, a Booster Pack and a Hotshots Pack.

Fans that have reserved a pack will be the first to have the chance to own NFTs of some of the most talked-about shots, catches and wickets in interna-

tional cricket The roster of collectibles will continue to grow and will include

classic plays from past ICC Men's and Women's

events as well as iconic



be the rarest. Finn Bradshaw, ICC Head of Digital said: "We are so excited to drop our first packs of Crictos today which is a unique opportunity for fans to own and be part of historic moments in cricket. Crictos will be a digital record of those moments cricket fans love, and enable them to collect these legendary video highlights. "This Beta launch is our first step into the cricket metaverse and those lucky enough to be part of it can start their Crictos collection today and shortly start growing it by trading on the peer-to-peer marketplace through our partners FanCraze before we move to a full launch in the near future.'

Some of the digital collectibles include Glenn Maxwell whipping one over square leg for a boundary against Sri Lanka, Hardik Pandya smashing Mohammad Amir through the covers at Old Trafford in 2019 and Joe Root drilling one over long-on in the World Cup 2019.

Alongside MS Dhoni and Steve Smith moments, a Lasith Malinga yorker from the ICC Men's World Cup 2019 can be found.

Other NFT products of 2019 edition include David Warner executing a checked lofted drive down the ground for six at the 2019, KL Rahul lofting Akhila Dhananjaya over long-off for a six and AB de Villiers showing his 360-degree range against Andre Russell.

## England first team to reach U-19 World Cup semifinals moving into double figures in the tenth

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

▼acob Bethell's blistering batting display helped England advance to the semifinals of the ICC U-19 World Cup with

a six-wicket win over South Africa here. Bethell was one of the bowlers to restrict South Africa to 209 all out before hitting 88 to see England set up a clash with either Sri Lanka or Afghanistan.

South Africa endured a slow start having won the toss and chosen to bat, their first boundary came off the final ball of the fourth over, before Joshua Boyden dismissed Valentine Kitime off the next delivery.

Boyden would claim his 12th wicket of the tournament to send the other opener Ethan-John Cunningham back to the hutch and reduce South Africa to

Dewald Brevis and Gerhardus Maree combined to steady the South African ship, adding 55 runs to the total before Bethell dismissed Maree.

Brevis remained a familiar stronghold for South Africa as he brought up his fourth fifty-plus score in a row even-



tually falling just short of a century on

His dismissal brought about a batting collapse for South Africa as three wickets fell for one run as the batters went in search of boundaries, but only found the grateful hands of fielders with

Rehan Ahmed claiming figures of four

The final-wicket partnership of Matthew Boast and Asakhe Tsaka frustrated England adding 40?runs as South Africa ended on 209 all out.

England's chase, hitting the fourth fastest half-century of U19 World Cup history, reaching fifty off just 20 balls, as the Young Lions went at over 10 an

George Thomas was a delighted Bethell came out all guns blazing in onlooker at the non-striker's end only

over, before smacking a six to bring up England's hundred. South Africa finally struck as Bethell

went for one heave too many but not before he had put on 88 from 42 deliveries to place England as overwhelming favourites. That tag was backed up by good

partnerships in the top order, before William Luxton came in at five to strike 47 from 41 balls and get England into the semi-finals with a six. Zimbabwe, West Indies win in the

Plate competition Matthew Welch's 78 helped Zimbabwe set Scotland a tricky chase of 249 in their Plate quarterfinal.

Scotland were unable to build partnerships as they slumped to 140 all out to see Zimbabwe advance to meet Ireland. They will be joined in the semifinals by hosts West Indies who were too good for Papua New Guinea in a 169run win. The West Indies will now face the United Arab Emirates, while Papua New Guinea are set to take on Uganda in the Plate play-offs.