Follow us on: [] @TheDailyPioneer 🚮 facebook.com/dailypioneer RNI No. TELENG/2018/76469 Established 1864 **SPORTS 12** ANALYSIS 7 **Published From** MONEY 8 HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW PRESERVATION OF THE INDIA ASKS STATE REFINERS TO **BABAR TON TRUMPS BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH** LOTIC ECOSYSTEM IN INDIA **REVIEW OIL IMPORT CONTRACTS ...** VAN DER DUSSEN'S BHUBANESWAR RANCH DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA *LATE CITY VOL. 3 ISSUE 161 HYDERABAD, SATURDAY APRIL 3, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable the pioneer **'THERE IS NO** STOPPING WHEN IT COMES TO MY WORK'

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TENDULKAR TESTS +VE, IN HOSPITAL AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE

ormer India captain and batting icon Sachin Tendulkar has been hospitalised as a precautionary measure, six days after he tested positive for COVID-19. The 47-year-old took to twitter to announce the development on Friday. "Thank you for your wishes and prayers. As a matter of abundant precaution under medical advice, I have been hospitalised. I hope to be back home in a few days. Take care and stay safe everyone," Tendulkar wrote. Tendulkar had tested

positive for the dreaded infection on March 27 and was in home isolation ever since. "He is doing fine and has been admitted for normal (course of) treatment," a source close to Tendulkar said.

ARMBAND RONALDO THREW AWAY SOLD AT AUCTION FOR \$75,000

he captain's armband that Cristiano Ronaldo angrily threw to the ground during Portugal's World Cup qualifier in Belgrade last week has been sold to an unidentified bidder for 64,000 euros (75,000) at a charity auction, Serbian state TV reported on Friday. A Serbian humanitarian group put the blue armband up for online bidding to raise money for medical treatment for a 6-month-old boy suffering with spinal muscular atrophy. The

ASSAM MINISTER THREATENS TO 'VANISH' SCRIBE; CONG SEEKS ACTION

n Assam minister allegedly threatened to "vanish" two journalists of separate news A vanish two journalists of separate and channels for reporting a controversial poll speech of his wife, prompting the Congress to demand that his candidature for the assembly election be cancelled. A complaint has been filed by one of the journalists at Jagiroad police station in Morigaon district against Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Pijush Hazarika, but an FIR is yet to be registered, police said. In an audio clip telecast by Assamese news channel Pratidin Time, Hazarika was heard talking to journalist Nazrul Islam and, during the conversation, the minister threatened him and another scribe, Tulsi, to drag them out of their homes and "vanish" them.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

For the first time, TDP

boycotts Parishad polls

The main opposition TDP on Friday decided to boycott polls to the Zilla and Mandal Territorial

Constituencies for which the State Election Commission had issued notification on Thursday.

PRIYANKA SELF ISOLATES AFTER ROBERT VADRA TESTS COVID +VE

ongress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday self isolated after her husband Robert Vadra tested positive for COVID-19. In a video message, she said she has been exposed to coronavirus and is accordingly self-isolating. She also announced the cancellation of her poll campaign in Assam on Friday, in Tamil Nadu on Saturday and in Kerala on Sunday. Priyanka Gandhi has been campaigning for the Congress and party candidates in the states of Assam, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, though she has not campaigned in West Bengal

Sunil Nayak's death gives

Oppn fresh ammunition

to corner TRS, slam KCR

Ruling party exudes confidence

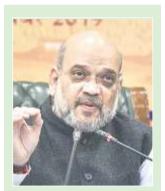
to retain Nagarjuna Sagar seat



Page 11

From import substitution to import-replacement





Shah claims Mamata has clearly lost the poll battle in Bengal



CM for a nodal agency to nurture civic bodies

three-day auction didn't pass without controversy as some

participants tried to disrupt the process by putting up

unrealistically huge sums.

Integrated development of municipalities in Ranga Reddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri districts

ML MELLY MAITREYI HYDERABAD

> Chief Minister K.Chandrasekhar Rao has decided to set up a nodal agency for ensuring the integrated development of Ranga Reddy, Medchal and Malkajgiri districts that are closely linked to Hyderabad --the state's growth engine.

The nodal agency, to be headed by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, while working for the integrated development of these districts, will examine people's requirements, and find a permanent solution to all their problems. In this context, KCR directed the Chief Secretary to hold a meeting with the Minsters, MLAs,

In poll-bound Kerala, **PM Modi mentions** 'seven deadly sins'

PNS KONNI (KERALA)

With Good Friday being observed in poll-bound Kerala, Prime Minister Narendra Modi used a Biblical ence for targeting th ruling CPI(M)-led LDF and Congress-headed UDF, saying the two fronts have committed the 'seven deadly sins' including greed and lust for power. "You all have heard of the seven deadly sins.UDF and LDF have committed their own seven deadly sins in Kerala," Modi said at an election rally here on Friday, attacking the two fronts which have been ruling Kerala alternatively over the years. The first sin is pride and arrogance.UDF and LDF feel that they can never be defeated. This has made their leaders very arrogant and disconnected from their roots, while the second sin is their greed for money," he said,



MLCs and other people's representatives of these districts as well as officials of various departments to evolve an action plan for providing



The TDP has taken the decision to boycott the polls after a marathon meeting of the party's highest decision-making body, The Chief Minister held the Politburo, on Friday morning. a high-level meeting at Incidentally, the TDP had faced back-to-back humiliating defeats Pragathi Bhavan on

and developing amenities in the con-

stituencies and municipalities of

these two districts.

in the recently held rural and

urban local body polls. TDP national president and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday announced that for the first time in over 39 years, the TDP has taken a tough, drastic decision to boycott the ZPTC and MPTC elections due to lack of trust in the AP State Election Commission and its unilateral decisions taken over the past two days.



Rulers should have merit to understand Constitution, abide by it: Eatela Rajender

PNS HYDERABAD

Raising eyebrows within TRS once again, Medical and Health Minister Etela Rajender has said that without not get seat i and therefore those who rule also should have merit. "Merit lies in understanding our Constitution comprehensively," he observed, while speaking at a meeting of the BC Employees Association at Ravindra Bharathi here on Friday. "The farmers agitating in Delhi would come to your door step too; and, when people launch move-ments, one would have to become part of their voice", he said. As a citizen of the country and as an average man, one would have to respond to the issues being raised, he said. Rajender also said: "We would swear by our Constitution from the ramparts of the Red Fort. Dr. Ambedkar dreamt that disparities on the basis of caste and community would disappear once we attained



The Health Minister said people were electing their representatives through votes and rulers should give

PNS HYDERABAD The death of Boda Sunil Nayak The death of Boda Sunii Nayak (frustrated jobless youth who recently consumed pesticide) may upset the applecart for the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi, which is in the thick of campaigning for the upcoming Nagarjuana Sagar bygedection

bye-election. Till the other day, TRS was dominating the campaign scene by recounting the work it had done so far: be it filling of 1.34 lakh government jobs, providing drinking water and irrigation facilities, sanctioning additional lift irrigation schemes for the Nagarjuna Sagar constituency and schemes for the uplift of backward communities.

Although the undivided Nalgonda did not even have drinking water and irrigation facilities for tail-end areas in several decadeslong Congress rule,

H



Sebi orders attachment of bank accounts of Alchemist, 3 others



TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Magha & Shukla Paksha Panchangam Tithi : Saptami: 04:12 am (Next Day) Nakshatram: Mula: 02:38 am (Next Day) Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work) **Rahukalam:** 09:16 am – 10:47 am **Yamagandam:** 01:51 pm - 03:22 pm Varjyam: 11:22 am - 12:53 pm, 12:00 am -02:38 am

Gulika: 06:12 am - 07:44 am Good Time: (to start any important work) Amritakalam: 08:32 pm – 10:03 pm Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:54 am - 12:43 pm



Forecast: Partly cloudy Temp: 39/23 Humidity: 23% Sunrise: 06:09 am Sunset: 06:29 pm Current Weather Conditions Updated april 02, 2021 5:00 PM



Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao drinks Mission Baghiradha water after launching the new tap connections and inaugurating 2BHK Dignity Houses at Tekulapally in Khammam. Reports on Page 4 Independence. But even today we are talking about categorization of reservations as 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' groups. The essence of Ambedkar's philosophy was development with equal distribution, but his ideas and the Constitution's spirit are not being implemented" The government had taken sevup policies opposed by people and take decisions in tune with their aspirations

eral progressive steps creating wealth, but that wealth today was getting centralized. That was the reason for poverty in the country. "If the wealth of Ambani alone would increase, poverty would not be alleviated", he remarked.

People were electing their representatives through votes and rulers should give up policies opposed by people and take decisions in tune with their aspirations. Decisions that would create unrest among people should not be taken. Governments should be peoplecentric and people-oriented, he said.

Highways construction touches record 37 km per day: Nitin Gadkari

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said that the pace of highways construction in the country has touched a record 37 km per day in financial year 2020-21.

He said the achievement was remarkable as it was achieved despite constraints posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministry of road transport and highways has constructed 13,394 km of highways in fiscal year 2020-21.

Tremendous progress has been achieved in building national highways across the country... We have achieved a road building pace of 37 km of highways a day," Gadkari said.

Gadkari said these "achievements are unprecedented and have no parallel in any other country in the world". He said over the past seven years, length of national highways has gone up by 50 per cent from 91,287 km (as of April 2014) to 1,37,625 km (as on March 20, 2021).

"Cumulative cost of ongoing project works has increased by 54 per cent at the end of the financial



year 2020-21, compared to the financial year 2019-20 (as on March 31)," the minister said.

Total budgetary outlay increased by 5.5 times, from Rs 33,414 crore in the financial year 2015 to Rs 1,83,101 crore for the financial year 2022. Sanctioned amount has increased by 126 per cent in financial year 2020-21,

6 of a family drown in Godavari river

PNS HYDERABAD

Six people drowned in the Godavari river at a village in Nizamabad district of Telangana on Friday.

The incident occurred at the VIP Pushkar Ghat at Pochampahad in the district when a group of about 25 people, all relatives, gathered at Pochampadu in the district for a family-related religious event and seven of them ventured into the river for a bath, the police officials said. None



of them knew how to swim and they moved into the deeper part of the river, the police said. Locals saved a boy from drowning while the remaining six met a watery grave. The deceased were identified as B. Srinivas

(40), his sons Sreekar (14) and Siddharth (16), Raju (24) and Yogesh (16). Search was on for another teenager Suresh. Devotees in large numbers throng the place every Friday for religious rituals and to take holy bath.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao said that he was saddened that the victims who got into water to take bath met with watery grave. He expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased.

green corridor set up, patient flown to Hyd PNS THANE

Thane-Mumbai

A green corridor was on Friday operationalised between Kashimira area of Thane district and Vile Parle in Mumbai to help airlift a critical patient to Hyderabad, a police official said. 2

Pollutants posing risks to Hyderabadis

PNS HYDERABAD

Startling amount of harmful dust particles and allergens, measuring more than 20 microns but invisible to the naked eye, were found in Hyderabad homes, despite thorough cleaning routine involving traditional means, according to a study carried out by FICCI Research and Analysis Centre (FRAC) and commissioned by Dyson.

Dust particles for the sample were collected from various homes in metro cities and analysed in labs. For the study, dust particles were collected from sofas sets, beds, carpets, cars and



Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Delhi. As part of the survey,

ed and studied scientifically. Residents of the twin cities have been cautioned as the dust particles collected from Hyderabad homes measured more than 20 microns.

On the basis of the results, Dyson has highlighted how traditional means may not be enough, especially in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, to stay healthy.

The dust particles can cause heart- and lung-related ailments. In Hyderabad, the sample was collected from Attapur, Somajiguda, New Malakpet, Sumukhi Orbit in Madhapur, Gandhi Nagar and other areas.





other equipment in 227 houses in 11 types of pollutants were collect-

hyderabad 02

shows path dependency.

Detroit, which started with

milling flour, then moved to

mill machine repair and

marine machine manufac-

ture, spawning an entire jun-

gle of suppliers of parts and

ed was at hand in the city.

Thus, when Henry Ford turned up in 1905 to make the Model-T, everything he need-

Jacobs believed that the best

For the first time, TDP

boycotts Parishad polls

way to achieve such sustainable

economies is to examine what

tools.



received

own region.

value chain.

Constantinople, and export

these cheaper replacements to other backward cities in its

These cities in turn fed

Venice with their raw mater-

ial exports only for them to

eventually replace their

Venice-imports in turn, forc-

ing Venice further up the

This started a virtuous cycle

old work created new work,

to produce exports other

backward cities could not yet

If Venice had remained in

The gap between them was

Constantinople's orbit, it

simply too large to be bridged,

would not have developed.

manage, and so on.

Post-colonialism, several nations relied on import substitution industrialization (ISI) as the dominant policy for development. India also followed this policy from the 1950s to the 1970s.

A major shortcoming of the ISI policies, as brought out by the National Commission on Urbanization (1988), was that these policies disregarded the spatial context or the way villages and towns were distributed over space.

The challenge; therefore, is to include the spatial context in ISI policies by transiting to what is called "import-replacement", an idea made famous by the well-known urbanist Jane Jacobs.

According to Jacobs, the engine of economic life is "import-replacement". Let us look at how to import replacement worked in the case of the city of Venice. Venice started its life as a supply region for the much more advanced, imperial capital of Constantinople (present-day

Istanbul) exporting salt and

timber and importing manu-The challenge; therefore, is to include the factured goods. Slowly, Venice started to act like the spatial context in ISI policies by transiting to Constantinople of its own what is called 'import-replacement', an idea region and began to replace made famous by the well-known urbanist cheaply at first - the imports Jane Jacobs. from

> other upwards by trading with showing that advanced-backwards trade is a dead-end. each other.

According to Jacob, 'backward cities need each other'. Tokyo repeated this pattern internally for Japanese cities while Hong Kong did the same and became 'the Venice of the Pacific Rim' taken over by China's Shenzhen and other cities of the South East.

Thus, import-replacement differs from ISI in one crucial way - it recognizes that cities are the places where importreplacement happens. Furthermore, as we have seen in the case of Venice, networks of backward cities pull each

In other words, networks of backward cities form complementarities by competing with each other in their respective import-replacement processes. In India, complementary relationships between net-works of backward cities did not develop as the ISI ignored the spatial context and main-

ly focused on subsidizing prominent industries, encouraging nationalization and protectionist trade policies. As a result, the original four metropolitan cities continued to dominate the urban land-



From import substitution to import replacement

scape without spawning even one Venice in their backyards.

This began to change once the ISI policies had run out of steam and import-replacement processes started in cities, such as Bengaluru, Gurugram and Hyderabad. Hyderabad, for example, grew out of the influence of big cities (e.g. Chennai) due to the

confluence of several factors. By the late 1980s, Hyderabad already had a well-developed eco-system of public sector units and small and medium industries. Hyderabad was also richly endowed with vacant land all

around the city for developers/builders to construct facilities to receive outsourced services from the west. Furthermore, higher education in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh was deregulated during the 1990s.

is being imported into a region and develop the conditions to As a result, large numbers of private engineering colleges were established, which proproduce those goods from local resources with local labour. duced thousands of engineers She referred to this process as "import replacing". In import-replacement, the within a short period of time. Thus, Hyderabad was well prepared to move up the value chain when outsourcing of services started during the 1990s

Continued from page 1 He said there were instances when AIADMK chief J

Jayalalithaa resorted to such

Like Hyderabad, importreplacement in Detroit also strategy having importreplacement as its goal.

The first step is to examine what is now being imported into a region and developing conditions to produce these goods from local resources with local labour. Of course, there would be exports and imports with other regions, but the core would be to the capacity to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of the people of the region from within the region, not in a spirit of isolationism but in a spirit of selfdetermination.

This would have a domino effect and over time other regions would achieve similarly high levels of economic selfreliance.

city becomes the central orga (Author has a PhD from nizing geography around which USA and a DLitt from Kanchi economies are structured. Thus, the present-day University. The article is based imperative is to build a regionon his research and practice al economic development and views are personal)

India's biggest floating solar power plant coming up in TS

PNS HYDERABAD

India's biggest floating solar power plant with a capacity of 100 megawatt is expected to become operational in Telangana next month.

The project has been set up by the energy conglomerate National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in the reservoir of its thermal power plant at Ramagundam, Peddapalli district.

The solar photo-voltaic project, spread over 450 acres, will have 4.5 lakh photovoltaic panels and it can be expanded in the future

According to CV Anand, Executive Director, NTPC Southern Region, this will be the largest floating solar plant in the country in a single location as of now.



The project has been set up at a cost of Rs 423 crore. The Maharatna company

plans to set up solar projects across all thermal power plants in the country. The NTPC plans solar power plants of the total capacity of 450 MW in the southern region. Of this, 217 MW plants would be floating

The corporation is also setting up 92 MW floating unit at

Kayamkulam gas plant in Kerala and a 25 MW unit at Simhadri power plant in Visakhapatnam. The NTPC embarked on setting up large floating solar

plants after successfully completing pilot projects at Kayamkulam (100 KWH) in

Kerala and Kawas (1 MW) in Gujarat. Officials say the solar powers project are in line with the country's commitment to attain the target of 175 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2022 including 100 GW of solar installed capacity. The upcoming floating solar plants in South India are likely to be commissioned in next few months. The Covid-19 pandemic has

led to the delay in construction of the new projects.

Under the floating plants, the photovoltaic panels are deployed on the surface of water bodies. They are considered as a viable alternative to land-based solar arrays.

NTPC officials explain that setting up floating solar units on water bodies and huge reservoirs help them in cutting down on the costs. Floating solar units prove to be cost effective when compared to ground-mounted plant.

As South India has a large number of major reservoirs, NTPC Southern Region plans to focus on floating solar plants. The company officials say they prefer solar floating plants due to their advantages. As five acres of land is required for setting up one MW solar photo-voltaic plant on ground and given the challenges in land acquisitions, the authorities are going for floating method. There are other advantages of the floating plants. As water bodies exert a cooling effect, this improves the perfor-

mance of solar photovoltaic panels by 5 to 10 per cent. This means a significant cost saving for the plant owners.

Legislature. next two days. ty to register his strong objection to the State Election Commissioner

Sawhney's action of releasing the poll notification without consulting all the political parties. "The Supreme Court has laid clear guidelines for taking the opinion of the respective parties in the State before issuing such poll noti-fications but the new SEC has

dared to conveniently violate the court's orders," the TDP supremo said. machine. The ministry has taken several initiatives to

Addressing a press confer-ence here, he said that his party had lost all faith in the State Election Commission considering the fact that

Nilam

Nilam Sawhney did not even under the "atrocious Jaganmohan Reddy regime try to follow the court direction that the model code was pathetic and hopeless" in should be re-imposed four view of its degraded politics. weeks before the notified date "Fighting ruthless elections of polling. "But now, the SEC issued notification on April 1

is nothing new to the TDP. But what is new to us is the fight with the criminal elements and rowdies who have no faith in democracy. It is new to us to fight with the police who are conniving with and abetting the election offences being committed by the YSRCP. Yet we will continue our legal fight and we have filed a petition in the High Court against the SEC's latest notification," Naidu said.

In poll-bound Kerala, PM Modi mentions...

Continued from page 1

itive corruption. They are jeal-

on water bodies.

Highways construction touches... continued from page 1 way building, including termi- machine. The ministry l

Over the financial year 2019-20 despite Covid-related impact, the minister said adding that the sanctioned length in kilometres sed 9 ner cent in

nation of projects worth Rs 40,000 crore, resulted in fasttracking of the road building. The government envisages building 34,800 km of highways at a cost of about Rs 5.35 lakh

increase the pace of construction. A new India is in the making with infrastructure which will

be no less than that in the US

drastic steps in not just in the local body elections but also in the by-elections to the Even Jyothi Basu boycotted elections, though under different circumstances, Naidu said. However, the TDP filed a petition against the SEC notification now which would come up for hearing in the Naidu took the opportuni-

giving just over a week for the

polling scheduled for April 8

with the results to be

announced on April 10. With

a premeditated plan, the SEC

has taken this decision only to

favour the ruling YSRCP lead-

ers," Naidu alleged. He assert-

ed that the TDP has never

known to step back from the fight in any election but the

existing situation in the State

Referring to the gold, dollar and solar cases, which has tainted the two fronts.

The gold smuggling case is about the seizure of 30 kg of gold worth Rs 14.82 crore from a diplomatic baggage at the Thiruvananthapuram airport in July last year and the dollar case pertains to alleged smuggling of USD 1,90,000 (equivalent to Rs 1.3 crore by a former finance head of UAE consulate)

The Solar panel scandal, which hit the previous UDF government of Oommen Chandy, relates to a couple cheating people of crores of rupees by promising to instal solar panels and offering franchise and jobs.

Modi claimed the two fronts were envious, jealous and want to outdo each other in committing wrongs. "They suffer from compet-



a paisa more than the other," the prime minister said at the rally at the stadium which was

overflowing with people. The lust for power has made the two fronts to enter into alliances with communal, criminal and repressive elements of society, he alleged.

"What was the stand of the Indian Union Muslim League on Triple Talaq? What are the social policies of PFI and its political arm SDPI. Can their regressive politics be supported? No," he said. The two fronts were promoting dynasty politics and everything else is a side issue, Modi said.

During an election rally in Palakkad district on March 30, Modi had targeted the LDF over the gold smuggling scam, saying the CPI(M)-led government "betrayed" the people of the state just as Judas did to

Jesus for a few pieces of silver.

FY21 over FY20. Average annual project award

(annual average award length) during the financial year 2015 to the financial year 2021 increased 85 per cent, compared to FY10 to FY14, as per the Ministry.

Average annual construction (average annual construction length) during FY2015 to FY2021 has increased by 83 per cent compared to FY2010 to FY2014, the Ministry added.

The minister said that when he took over the charge of the ministry of highways, there were 406 stalled projects entailing an investment of Rs 3.85 lakh crore.

It was a slew of steps that km. saved Indian banks from Rs 3 lakh crore of non-performing assets (NPAs), he said.

Gadkari said massive initiatives to resolve the deadlocks and accelerate the pace of high-

crore under the ambitious Bharatmala Pariyojna.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), he said, has also made a world record by laying down 12,500 cubic metres of concrete on a stretch of 2.54 km. NHAI contractor Patel Infrastructure had created a world record by laying the highest quantity of concrete on a four-lane highway in 24 hours recently. The feat by contractor Patel Infrastructure Ltd was recognised by the India Book of Records and the Golden Book of World Records.

and Europe in five years, Gadkari said. A solid foundation has already been laid with over Rs 17 lakh crore worth of projects in the last five-year period, he added.

"In five years, I can guarantee that India's infrastructure will change... It will be no less than the US or European countries... A new India is emerging," Gadkari said.

He said a network of green expressway corridors is being laid, including the Rs 1-lakh crore Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, and added that the 30-km It had laid a four-lane highway Dwarka Expressway, being built at a cost of Rs 10,000 crore, is an of 2,580 metres length within 24 hours totalling about 10.32 lane engineering marvel and would result in a Singapore-like place on Delhi's borders.

The highway is part of the greenfield Delhi-Vadodara-He also said border roads are being augmented and about 90 Mumbai 8-lane Expressway per cent work has been completproject and was carried out by the world's largest fully automated on the Kailash Mansarovar ic ultra-modern concrete paver route project via Pithoragarh.

Pollutants posing risks to Hyderabadis

Continued from page 1

A study of the pollutants indicated that there is danger lurking in some of the habitations in Hyderabad. The sample contained bacteria, fungus, worms as well as pollutants from pets like cats and dogs and also from cockroach. These pollutants can cause breathing, heart and skin-related ailments. Pollution is being caused also by cockroaches, other worms and their excreta. Experts say the risk is very high for children from these pollutants, which can also cause eye, throat and nose-related ailments.

According to global asth-ma report, 6% of children and 2% of adults have been suffering from asthma -- the disease which has affected at least 15-20 lakh people in the country.

Thane-Mumbai... Continued from page 1

The no-obstruction traffic corridor of 23 kilometres was set up after a request came in from a local hospital at 7am, and the ambulance carrying the patient covered the distance in 35 minutes between 9:10am and 9:45am, the MBVV) police official said. "The flight carrying the

patient, who needed an urgent liver operation, took off from a Pawan Hans facility in Vile Parle at 10:05am and it reached Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad in Telangana at 11:40am," he said.

Sunil Nayak's death gives...

Continued from page 1

Today every village and town has all basic amenities. Farmers and BCs and Dalits are happy with the welfare programmes and livelihood opportunities provided under various schemes to promote hereditary professions," reiterate Ministers Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Jagadish Reddy and Mohammed Mahmood Ali and other battery of MLAs and party leaders.

Fresh from the success of MLC elections, where the TRS leaders gave an effective counter to the challenges from BJP and Congress, it appeared till yesterday that the cam-paign is one-sided. The rising prices of LPG, petrol and diesel and the BJP government's decision to drop ITIR, Bayyaram and Kazipet coach factories have put the State BJP leaders in a defensive position.

The Congress, on the other hand, is being depicted as a party that has lost its relevance at the national and State levels. According to TRS leaders, Jana Reddy's defeat is imminent, despite PCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy's assertion that this bye-election would be a turning point in the State's political scenario. Notwithstanding the confi-

dent posturing by the TRS, it is evident that the ruling party has not taken the bye-election lightly. It is a different matter that the deceased MLA Nomula Narasimaiah had earned a lot of goodwill as a long-standing public figure during his association with CPI(M) before joining TRS.

The party is confident that left-leaning voters would transfer that goodwill to his son and TRS candidate Nomula Bhagat Kumar, hailing from the predominant Yadava community in the constituency.

For the TRS, the trump card is the party president and Minister Chief Chandrasekhar Rao himself and his vision that brought recognition to Telangana in irrigation, rural development, rise in ground water table, Aasara pensions, and Mission Bhagiratha to give piped drinking water to every household. TRS working president K.T.Rama Rao too made his mark as IT, Industry Minister and lakhs of employment opportunities were created in IT sector and industries that were attracted under TSiPASS.

The only hurdle now is the impact of sentiment following the death of Sunil Nayak. Sunil's death will give the Opposition a handle to corner the TRS and hold KCR morally responsible for the plight of unemployed youth, who had played a significant part in helping TRS achieve Telangana State. The 25-yearold ST youth, apparently dejected that the State government did not issue notifications for filling all the vacant posts even seven years after the formation of TS, attempted suicide six days ago.

Sunil Nayak, who had appeared for the police recruitment in 2016, could not clear the physical fitness test and had been preparing for competitive examinations.

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CM for a nodal agency to... cation, health and medical facilities should be provided

Continued from page 1

He wanted the action plan to ensure measures for integrated veg and non veg markets, construction of town halls, roads, provision of power, drinking water, ĥygiene, drainage, sewerage, repairs of nalas, monitoring flood water, inundation, traffic and the like.

The Chief Minister held a high-level meeting at Pragathi Bhavan on Friday to unveil a uniform policy, after assessing future requirements and addressing problems in Ranga Reddy and Medchal and Malkajgiri districts. He said that for people living in Ranga Reddy and Medchal districts; edu-

extensively on par with Hyderabad. The MLAs should prepare a project report on deficiencies and problems in their respective constituencies and prepare plans in association with officials of various departments concerned for development of basic infrastructure and make an assessment of the outlays involved.

The Chief Minister said that people's representatives should meet once a month without fail, with the Chief Secretary and the Nodal Officer reviewing works regularly. The government was ready to provide required funds, he said.

solution should be found for revenue and registration issues in these districts so that they too could develop satellite townships and compete with Hyderabad for enhancing their brand image. Measures would be taken to develop municipalities like Shadnagar, Pedda-Amberpet, Ibrahimpatnam, Jalpalli, Shamshabad, Turkayamjal, Manikonda, Narsingi, Adibhatla, Shankarpalli, Tukkuguda, Amangal and municipal corporations like Badangpet, Bandlaguda Jagir,

Meerpet and Jillelaguda. In Medchal district, steps would be taken to develop municipal corporations likeBoduppal, Peerjadiguda,

KCR said that a permanent Jawaharnagar, Nizampet and municipalities like Medchal, Dammayiguda, Nagaram, Pocharam, Ghatkesar, GundlaPochampalli, Tumkunta, Kompally and Dundigal.

All the above areas were almost merged with Hyderabad and people coming from various areas, including Telangana, in search of livelihood and jobs were settling here. So, appro-priate developmental plans should be formulated, he said. He instructed the Chief Secretary to hold a meeting soon with all people's repre-Collectors of respective dis-

sentatives and officials of core departments and

hyderabad 03



Beautification, re-laying works for ORR to begin after 12 years

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) is planning to start beautification and re-laying works for the Outer Ring Road (ORR). The entire 158 km stretch of the ORR will be relaid after 12 years in phases. For the works HMDA officials had floated tenders worth Rs 63.71crore for repair works between Shamshabad and Gachibowli. Officials are planning to start the re-laying works in this 25-km stretch.

The condition of the road near Shamshabad-Gachibowli was in a bad condition. Though the stretch is severely damaged, this part of the ORR between Shamshabad and Gachibowli is the busiest in the total 158km stretch of the ORR. This stretch is the most convenient route to travel, with millions of vehicles plying daily from IT corridor,



Banjara Hills, Kukattpalli, Patamcheru, Miyapur and some other places in the city. HMDA officials are planning to lay fresh bitumen roads after conducting a

"falling weight deflectometer" test for the road in phases. Indeed the ORR has a capacity of 120km per hour, but at present only 100 km per hour was allowed due to some

damages in the road.

During this restoration phase to facilitate free flow of traffic in the four-lane ORR, two lanes would be kept open for the vehicles. This work will

be completed in a period of three months as per the plan.

Apart from this, another Rs 45-crore tender for automatic drip irrigation system for watering plants on medians and avenue along the 158-km stretch was also floated.

At present the saplings on the medians are watered by using slow moving water tankers resulting in several road accidents due to water on roads. Hence, officials decided to set up this drip irrigation system for watering the saplings. It will be installed in three rows along the median and three rows on the shoulder on either side, totaling nine rows on the main carriageway of the ORR. Through drip irrigation, the HMDĂ would save about Rs

35crore in seven years. The HMDA has been spending about Rs 30crore a month for watering the saplings via use of water tankers

Covid count nears 1K-mark

been admitted to the hospital.

Sciences in Gachibowli. An official of

stands at 0.55 per cent but still

With less number of recov-

eries than the new cases, the

number of active cases jumped

to 6,159, including 2,622 who

are in home or institutional

isolation. A total of 312 people

recovered during the last 24

hours, taking the cumulative

The recovery rate dropped

lower than the national aver-

age of 1.3 per cent.

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana's daily Covid count reached close to 1,000 mark as the surge continued in most parts of the state in the last 24 hours. In the biggest single-day jump in more than four months, there were 965 new cases, pushing the state's cumulative tally to 3,09,741. Greater Hyderabad continued to be the worst-hit with the

total bed strength of 300. While daily count mounting to 254. Medchal Malkajgiri and treated in Gandhi Hospital, other Rangareddy districts bordering Hyderabad reported 110 and cases with no co-morbidities are being referred to Government Hospital at King Kothi and the Telangana Institute of Medical

97 cases, respectively. Other districts also saw spike in cases during the last 24 hou-rs that ended 8 p.m. Thursday. Nizamabad reported 64 new cases while 56 new infections were detected in Nirmal. Jagtiyal saw 35 new cases followed by Karimnagar (29), Sangareddy (29), Nalgonda (24), Khammam (22), Warangal (19), Adilabad (18) and Mahbubnagar (18). Five more person suc-

cumbed to the virus, taking the death toll to 1,706. According to the daily

recoveries to 3,01,876. media bulletin released by the director of public health and further to 97.46 per cent but still better than national averfamily welfare, the fatality rate

Gandhi sees rise in virus cases HYDERABAD : The Covid cases in Gandhi Hospital who wished to Gandhi Hospital are increasing with remain anonymous remarked that the second wave of the virus surfacthere is a remarkable increase in ing in the state. In fact, 136 persons Covid cases and also deaths as part who tested positive for the virus have of the second wave Meanwhile, the Gandhi Hospital authorities have started an exclusive The ground floor and second and third floors of the Gandhi Hospital mortuary for Covid patients and it has an ICU for Covid-19 patients with became operational from Wednesday onwards. The bio-medical wastage emergency Covid cases are being treatment plant adjacent to the existing mortuary has been converted into an exclusive mortuary for Covid patients

age of 93.7 per cent.

Admissions into hospitals treating Covid patients in the state continued to increase. The number of patients undergoing treatment in government-run and private hospitals has gone up to 3,537 from 3,345 the previous day.

A total of 62 government hospitals had 939 patients while the number of patients undergoing treatment in 228 private hospitals mounted to 2,598

CITY LIGHTS 10,84,429 individuals receive first dose of vaccine in state

total of 31,214 individuals in Athe age group of 45 years and 59 years irrespective of their comorbid conditions have received the first dose of Covid vaccine across the State on Thursday. According to the vaccination bulletin, so far about 7,40,778 persons in the priority age group of over 60 years and those between



45 years and 59 years (with and without comorbidities) have received the Covid vaccine in Telangana since the launch of the vaccine drive. Overall, including healthcare workers, frontline workers, senior citizens above 60 years, persons between 45 years and 59 years, about 10,84,429 have received the first dose of the vaccine. About 2,42,178 individuals in all the categories including healthcare workers, frontline workers, senior citizens and individuals between 45 years and 59 years have received the second dose of the Covid vaccine. According to health officials, 2,42,178 individuals have so far completed the entire cycle, comprising two doses.

Passport applicants told to identify PS before applying

he Cyberabad Police has urged passport applicants to identify their police station before submitting their passport applications. For passport applications, Cyberabad Police has categorized into four units: Cyberabad 1, Cyberabad 2, Cyberabad 3 and Cyberabad 4.



AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The city police have taken up awareness campaign on the need for wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing in view of the Covid pandemic. Police officials have started booking cases against persons who were found violating the face mask rule. "The special drive was conducted following the orders of higher officers and cases were booked against the violators. Similarly, we are also organizing awareness programs at public places," said an official

2 arrested for beating minor boys on suspicion of stealing mangoes

PNS HYDERABAD

Two people, suspecting that two boys had entered into an orchard to steal mangoes, allegedly beat them up and





Gas leak, fire from chemical factory triggers panic in Hyd PNS HYDERABAD "The chemical company had Due to the presence

A reactor in a chemical man- Of chemicals and

reactors which contained acidic substances and other chemicals. One suc

Class 4 student found dead at her residence PNS HYDERABAD vaccine, went off to sleep.

Police suspect that Manasvini while playing with her moth-er's sari accidentally died. "She was playing alone in another room by making a A 10-year-old girl was found dead under suspicious circumstances in her house at Baba Nagar in Nacharam here swing with a sari. The sari is

late on Thursday. The victim was identified as Manasvini, a Class Four student, who lived with her parents Ramesh and Kavitha and a younger brother.

According to the Nacharam police, both parents go to work everyday leaving the children under the care of Ramesh's mother Umarani. Even on Thursday, the couple went to work and Umarani, who returned home from the hospital after taking her Covid

> Moving car catches fire PNS HYDERABAD

A moving car caught fire near

the Tarnaka metro station

here on Friday afternoon.

No casualties were reported

suspected to have got entan-

gled around her neck and she

was suffocated to death. Her

parents who returned home

found her dead," police said.

Nacharam police booked a

case of suspicious death and

no foul play and believe it

could be an accident, the

police are probing all possible

Though the family suspects

took up investigation.

angles.

Based on a complaint, the

The users must submit their

applications accordingly on the official website (click here). The passport applicants may also call at 040-27853414. The police stations which come under Cyberabad 1 are; Amangal, Chandanagar, Chivarla, Chadarguda, Gacchbowli, Kadthal, Peshampeth, Kandarg, Kattur, Madhavpur, Mailardevpally, Miyapur, Nandigama, Moinabad, Narsinghi, RGIA, Raidurgam, Rajindernagar, Shahbad, Shadnagar, Shamshabad, Shamkarpalli, and Tallakondapally. The police stations which are under Cyberabad 2 are Aluwal, Bacchupally, Balanagar, Dandigal, Jagatgirikatta, Jedimetla, KPHB, Kokatpally, Medchal, Bashirabad, and Shahmirpeth. Sanath Nagar comes under Cyberabad 3 and Ramachandrapuram comes under Cyberabad 4.

Heat wave likely across parts of Telangana in next 48 hours: Met

eat wave conditions are likely to occur at isolated pockets in the districts Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, Suryapet, Nalgonda, Nagarkurnool and Mababubnagar during the next 48 hours, Meteorological Centre said on Friday. It said that the maximum temperatures are likely to be above

normal by 2 to 3 degree celsius at isolated places in Telangana on April 4 and 5. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam during the next five days. Thunderstorm with gusty winds of speeds 40-50 kmph along with lightning is likely to occur at isolated places in the same area on April 3 to 6. The maximum temperatures are likely to be above normal by 2 to 3 degree Celsius in Rayalaseema during the next five days. Dry weather is likely to prevail in Telangana, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next five days. Heat wave conditions prevailed at isolated places in Khammam the district of Telangana during the last 24 hours.

police said on Friday.

The assailants were arrested in connection with the incident which happened in Mahabubabad district of Telangana on Thursday, the police said.

The minor boys entered the orchard while going on some work when the two persons in-charge of security of the orchard, allegedly tied the boys with a rope, beat them up and put dung into their

mouths, they said. Two other persons shot a

Two booked for

chain snatching

The police recovered 30

The accused were identi-

fied as Rupesh Singh, 45, and

Lakshmikanth Modhani, 56.

grams of gold from them.

PNS HYDERABAD

video of this and it has gone viral, they said.

Following a complaint from the mother of one of the boys, a case was registered, the police said.

Efforts were on to nab the two others who shot the video and abetted the incident, they added.

acidic substances in aged, triggering a fire that sent out pungent gases at Maruthi Nagar in Golnaka in Amberpet area here on Friday. Officials said a technical glitch was suspected to have led to the fire.

It was around noon that local residents sensed a pungent smell emanating from the Deccan Chemicals factory, which is surrounded by residential colonies. They immediately alerted the police and fire department. According to the police, on receiving infor-

the unit, a pungent odour spread in surrounding areas, triggering panic

among the residents

mation, a fire engine was rushed to the spot and a team from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation also investigating. Meanwhile, the GHMC officials have seized reached the spot. They brought the situation under control within an hour. the unit.

as the driver escaped was damaged resulting in the gas leakage," officials said.

Due to the presence of

chemicals and acidic sub-

stances in the unit, a pungent

odour spread in the sur-

rounding areas, triggering

The Amberpet police are

panic among the residents.

ing flames from the engine. The car was proceeding from the Mettuguda side There were a few people on the premises at the time of the towards Uppal when the incimishap, but all were safe, police dent occurred. A fire engine

rushed to the spot and the fire was doused immediately. The car was gutted in the fire.

City observes Good Friday amid Covid norms

PNS HYDERABAD

Christians in Telangana, observed Good Friday by fast-The police officials nabbed ing and attending special two persons who were involved in a chain snatching case reported at Nallakunta. prayers at various churches. With Covid cases continu-

ously rising, churches made special arrangements for social distancing norms to be followed strictly and asked worshippers to don masks when visiting churches.

The duo snatched away a Many churches telecasted gold chain from a woman at Adikmet and escaped from the services live on various the place. The Nallakunta platforms to avoid huge police had registered a case crowds. Apart from special mass and meditation, churches including St Joseph's Cathedral organised Passion Plays - a recreation of the trial and crucifixion of Christ, which also includes the Way of the Cross with persons carrying wooden crosses.

Several people attended the event. The onlookers were seen wearing masks and maintaining social distance. Elaborate arrangements for

the day, including meditating on the last seven words spoken by Christ, were also made. After Good Friday, the rising of Christ will be celebrated as Easter on Sunday.

cities of Andhra Pradesh, special În view of Covid restrictions,

apart from restricting the num bers of visitors, some churches organised online masses, as well. The devout were seen lining up in orderly fashion, their faces covered with masks, and maintaining social distance.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao tweeted on Friday, "Humanity should follow Christ's path of love, kindness, patience, peace and sacrifice and emulate his ideal of forgiving and loving even the enemy. Urge the Christian brethren to offer #GoodFriday prayers duly following #COVID19 guidelines."

Realty boom in Ranga Reddy despite the pandemic

and arrested the accused.

PNS HYDERABAD

The offices of sub-registrar have registered 1,68,372 property documents during April 2020 and March 2021 and earned a revenue of Rs 1,545 crore to the state government, according to Ranga Reddy District Registrar Stita Pragna.

This signifies how the realty sector is able to withstand the onslaught of coronavirus, which affected the lives of workers and middle class people. It may be recalled that the registration of properties remained suspended three months during the last year



because of the pandemic. erty transactions have taken However, the registration of place. After a gap of three properties commenced from months, when the registra-January this year. tions resumed in January this In this process, several propyear, the month of January

30,947 property documents netting a revenue of Rs 290.47 crore to the government. In February also, the same trend prevailed. Through registering 27,096 documents, the department earned Rs 256.35 crore to the government. In March this year, the government earned a revenue of Rs 276.60 crore by way of registering 28,503 documents.

The realty sector in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal districts appeared to be in full bloom if the number of transactions taking place was any indication. The apartment

accounted for registration of culture has increased on city outskirts. The builders have been building apartments upon securing all permissions. Thus the intending buyers are also concerned about buying only those properties which have all permissions. Moreover, loans are available to these properties from banks. That is why, the registration

of property documents is increasing manifold, according to district authorities.

Moreover, the government of Telangana's simplifying the property registration process also accounts for increasing registration of documents.

Amazon directed to pay Rs 18,499 to a consumer for deficiency in services

ANUSHA PUPPALA HYDERABAD

The District Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum has directed Amazon to pay Rs 18,499 compensation to a con-sumer for the mental agony.

The complainant Dilip Kumar Das has booked Usha Mixer Grinder on September 7, 2019 and paid an amount of Rs 3,499 to the opposite party. The opposite party assured to delivery the item on September 9. The complainant received a

Later, the complainant received another message in which it was mentioned that the item will be delivered at 9 pm on September 12. However, the complainant did not receive the item. He complained the same. The opposite party assured the complainant that they will investigate the matter. He sent a mail on September 24 stating that the item was not delivered. Dilip approached the forum as there was no response from

the opposite party. The opposite party filed written version by denying all the allegations leveled against it in the complaint. After the submissions and listenings from both the sides, the forum directed the opposite party to refund the amount of Rs 3,499 paid by the complainant towards the cost of Mixer Grinder with 12 per cent interest and directed them to pay an amount of Rs 10,000 for causing inconvenience and Rs 5,000 towards costs of litigation to the complainant.



said.

In Hyderabad and major prayer services were conducted.

> message that the item was delivered on September 12.



hyderabad 04

IT to be promted in tier-II cities

ML MELLY MAITREYI HYDFRABAD

The government is striving for the decentralisation of development with the objective of providing employment and livelihood for people of all areas, said Minister for IT, Industry and Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao.

As part of his Khammam district tour, along with Ministers Puvvada Ajay Kumar, Vemula Prashanth Reddy, MP Nama Nageswara Rao, KTR laid the foundation stones and inaugurated several development works Khammam on Friday.

He performed Bhumipuja' for the Rs 36 crore IT Hub second phase in Khammam. Speaking on the occasion, KTR said they were developing tier-II cites on par with Hyderabad.

The IT sector in Telangana was developing at double rate than that of IT growth rate at national level

The government was not confining IT sector only to Hyderabad but expanding it to other cities with the objective of providing employment and livelihood opportunities for youth at their home towns.

The IT department was striving to make technolo-gy useful to the common man. After T-Fibre, broad band connection would be given to every household, he said.

Minister for IT, Industry, Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao inaugurating developmental works, including double bed room houses, in Khammam on Friday

KCR's vision helped TS to grow on all fronts: KTR

RTC bus station built at a cost

of Rs 25 crore, along with

Ministers Ajay Kumar and

Vemula Prashanth Reddy,

KTR said that they were

striving to bring the RTC on

to a profitable path through

innovative ideas like cargo

was determined to strength-

en the RTC and provide job

Appreciating the speedy development of Khammam,

he said it was his second

visit in three months and

development and improve-ment. Be it parks, roads,

said.

PNS HYDERABAD

All-round development of the State became possible only after the formation of Telangana and due to the vision of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, said Minister for IT, Industry, Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao.

The Minister, who was in Khammam in connection with laying the foundation stones and inauguration of various development works worth over Rs 400 crore on Friday, gave credit for the fast-paced development of Khammam to Minister for Transport Puvvada Ajay Kumar, local people's repre-sentatives, district administration and officers of various departments.

amenities or beautification, integrated markets, thanks Speaking at a meeting after to the keen interest taken by inaugurating the modern people's representatives and

encouragement given by the Chief Minister, the city was being developed ideally. Drinking water connection was provided to 45,000 houses under the Mission Bhagiratha.

Other people's representatives should learn from the service. The Chief Minister integrated development of Khammam, he said and security to employees. If RTC would do well, modern bus added that he would visit various cities and towns as the stations could be built in Municipal Administration other cities and towns, too, he Minister but every time he visited Khammam, he would learn something new. Several development works were taken up in Khammam in the last seven years. every time he visited the city, he would notice some

Earlier, he inaugurated the double bedroom houses, which were constructed in a gated community, with all facilities like vegetable market, Anganwadi centres and greenery at Tekulapalli in Khammam urban mandal.

Revanth blames govt for KU student's death

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC working president and Malkajgiri MP A Revanth Reddy blamed the govern-ment for the death of Kakatiya University student Sunil Naik. He alleged that Chief Minister K Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and TRS leaders had provoked the students to commit suicides during the Telangana movement. The Chief Minister once again becoming a reason for the suicides of youth by not proving jobs to them, he lamented.

In a statement issued here on Friday, Revanth Reddy questioned KCR to tell as to how long the youth have to commit suicides for the luxuries of the KCR's family. He said that the PRC has mentioned in its report that 1.91 lakh jobs are lying vacant in the State. He demanded that the government grant unemployment allowance to the unemployed youth from April onwards. Otherwise, "I will launch a movement, along with the youth, by announcing an action plan," he warned.



somewhere

6,000.

Covid norms may hit KCR,

Sharmila's public meetings

the Chief Minister has accorded decided to conduct a massive permission to public meeting somewhere Sharmila's in Nagarjuanasagar public meeting constituency to see that allowing a the opponents not get the upper hand in the bypoll. mere 6,000

PNS HYDERABAD

The Covid protocol, which is being implemented by the government, may play spoil-sport with Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's proposed public meeting in Nagarjuanasagar and YS Sharmila's public meeting in Khammam on April 9.

Taking the Nagarjuanasagar by-election as prestigious, the Chief Minister has decided to con-



no meaning in conducting a public meeting in Nagarjuanasagar, TRS party public leader said. However, the TRS is leaving no stone unturned to win the Nagarjuanasagar bypoll. They want to prove that the BJP's victory in the Dubbak by-election and GHMC elections was a fluke duct a massive public meeting by winning the Nagarjuanasagar by-election. in Nagarjuanasagar constituen-Hence, the Chief Minister wants to address a public cy to see that the opponents not get the upper hand in the

bypoll. It may be noted that the police accorded permismeeting at Nagarjuanasagar. On the other hand, political parties like Congress also contemplating conducting another public meeting in sion to Sharmila's public meeting allowing a mere It remains to be seen the Nagarjuanasagar constituency. However, the Covid protocol and the police per-mission may trouble the plans

Couple awarded RI for burglaries

PNS HYDERABAD

A man and his wife were awarded three years of rigorous imprisonment for committing house burglaries. The accused were identified as Kathi Ravi Kumar and his wife Meesam Geethanjali, natives of Tadipatri in Anantapur district, committed a theft at Padmavathi Colony in Ibrahimpatnam police station limits in August 2020. They stole gold ornaments weighing seven tolas and net cash of Rs 90,000. The complainant Thalla plaint with the police stating that as his father-in-law was sick, his family went to see him, when they returned home, they found that their house was burgled. Inspector of Police and Investigating Officer R Saidulu arrested the accused during interrogation they have confessed to committing the crime. According to the police, they have committed six more house burglaries in the police station limits of Manchal, Yacharam, Adibatla and Ibrahimpatnam. They were remanded to judicial custody. After completion of the investigation, the Investigating Officer filed a charge sheet in court. During the trial on Friday, the Hon'ble XXV MM Court At Ibrahimpatnam convicted them for three years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 each on them.



PNS HYDERABAD

Cyber Crime police of Rachakonda arrested a man for harassing a woman by sending obscene messages through the social media platform. The accused was identified as Rohit, a resident of Abdullapurmet. He is addicted to videos and decided to develop intimacy with women through social media platforms. In January 2021, he has created a fake Instagram account in the name of Sravan_685 using his mobile number, e mail ID and started sending vulgar messages and memes in 'Fun Club Group' (Instagram) to com-



National Panchayat Raj award winners are seen with Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao in Hyderabad on Friday after being felicitated

Nagar sarpanch T Amrutha from

Rajanna Sircilla district, Malyala

sarpanch from Siddipet district D

Vajravaa, Vanga Laxmi, sarpanch

of Mittapelli in Siddipet district,

Ruyyadi sarpanch from Adilabad

CM felicitates national PR award winners

PNS HYDERABAD Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar

Karimi

the Chief Minister include M Bharathi, Parlapally sarpanch in sarpanch from Peddapalli district DPO Geetha. Minister from Manager district Minister from Peddapalli district Haridas Dasari Laymi Mohinikunta

Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Daval

whether the police will use the same yardstick while giv-ing permission for the Chief Minister's public meeting or of parties. 'Graduates' unemployment highest in TS'

PNS HYDERABAD

AICC National Spokesperson Sravan Dasoju took Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to task and held his government responsible for the death of unemployed youth. He, along with Youth Congress leaders, including Shiva Sena Reddy, Dayakar and others, paid tributes to the deceased unemployed youth Boda Sunil Naik, who had



plainant and others. During the course of the investigation, the investigation officer collected the technical evidences and after analysing the data, on credible information, the accused was arrested and will be hand-

ed over for judicial custody. P Yadagiri, DCP (crime) and D Srinivas, Additional DCP crime), Harinath, assistant commissioner of police, under the supervision of Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Mahesh M Bhagwat, apprehended the accused.

Rao felicitated Zilla Parishad, Mandal and Panchayat members at Pragathi Bhavan on Friday, who won the prestigious Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikran award instituted by the Union Panchayat Raj Ministry.

district P Potha Reddy, Chakrapur Those who were honoured by sarpanch K Sailaja from



Ballader Gaddar had darshan of Lord Satyanarayana Swamy at Annavaram temple in East Godavari district on Friday

sarpanch from Rajanna Sircilla dis-Secretary (Panchayat Raj) Sandeep Kumar Sultania, trict Kalvakuntla Vanaja, Korutla Commissioner Raghunandan MPP Thota Narayana from Jagtial district, Dharmaram MPP from Rao, deputy commissioner Rama Pedapalli district Mutyala Karuna, Rao were also felicitated by the Sangareddy Zilla Parishad chair-CM with a shawl. Chief Secretary person P Manjushree, Sangareddy ZP CEO Ch Yellaiah, Peddapally Somesh Kumar and others were present.

TS recorded third highest e-transactions

Hyderabad: Telangana has recorded the third highest number of etransactions per capita across the country between 2014 and 2021 while Kerala and Andhra Pradesh were in first and second positions in the number of e-Transactions. All government departments are leveraging technology to improve transparency and accountability, streamline processes in programme delivery and ultimately to enhance citizen experience, according to Telangana Socio-Economic Outlook 2021 said

week ago in Warangal in desperation of not getting the job and he breathed his last while undergoing treatment at NIMS on Friday. Aggrieved Congress leaders burnt the effigy of KCR at Gun Park in protest against the government.

t suicide a

attempted to comm

Koppula Raju and Golla Ganesh also committed suicide for the same reason, he reminded. All of us expected that everyone would get jobs in separate Telangana as one of the three core pillars being jobs along with water and funds. But, the father and son have proved it wrong by sitting idle and not filling up lakhs of vacant government jobs even after seven years of the State formation," he said.

While pointing out the bla-tant failure of KCR and KTR who dumped the prestigious projects such as ITIR, he dared KCR to step down immediately and allow the Congress party to solve all the employ-

tioning the authorities con-

cerned for a solution. Hence, I

have started this campaign on

concerned and department of

textiles of the State and Centre

about my idea. I am also look-

ing for an opportunity to meet

KTR and representatives from

the government to apprise

them of the situation (with pos-

sible data and presentation),

"I shall be writing to officials

Twitter.

ment issues in a week.

"You made TSPSC literally handicapped as it is left only with a single member, who has been made temporary Chairman. It must have 10 members to issue any job notification. There is no quorum at all to do it. But, KCR says that they fill up 50,000 jobs, which is nothing but a lie. It is only to attract the youth to make them vote for TRS in Sagar elections. When the State was bifurcated, there were 4.19 lakh sanctioned jobs in Telangana and that number should have been doubled due to the expansion of new districts. But, they are talking about just 50,000 jobs. Moreover, Telangana is recognised as the State for having the highest rate of graduates' unemployment (25%) while the national average being at 21%," he said.

SCR commissions goods shed at Dichpalli station

PNS HYDERABAD

To facilitate the loading of food grains and fertilisers, the South Central Railway (SCR) has commissioned goods shed at Dichpalli railway station from March 31. This goods shed has been developed as an alternate goods shed to Nizamabad to reduce congestion of loading facilities at Nizamabad railway station.

The freight customers, who offer loading at Dichpalli, have been exempted from terminal charges of Rs 20 per tonne, an SCR release here said on Friday.

The initial rake has been loaded with rice with the tonnage of 2,670 tonnes bound to FCI sidings at Karungapalli and Mulagunnathukavu in Thiruvananthapuram Division

Presently, godowns are available near Dichpalli area with 10,000 tonnes capacity, which have the potential to increase up to 50,000 tonnes soon.

SCR General Manager Gajanan Mallya has complimented the Hyderabad Division team for developing Dichpalli as an alternate goods shed as per the local freigh customers' demand

of Kerala last Wednesday. The loading has been com-

dispatched to the destination on Thursday. Rice Millers Association representatives expressed their satisfaction on fulfilling their long-pending dream of alternate goods shed to Nizamabad. The freight customers have assured to offer around rakes per month for loading, to begin with.

Presently, godowns are available near the Dichpalli area with 10,000 tonnes capacity, which have the potential to increase up to 50,000 tonnes in the future.

SCR General Manager Gajanan Mallya has compli-mented the Hyderabad Division team for developing Dichpalli as an alternate goods shed, as per the local freight customers' demand. He

appealed to the freight cuspleted and the rake has been tomers to avail of this facility.

'Help delivery executives to beat the heat'

Hyderabad-based climate activist demands cotton clothing for them

ANUSHA PUPPALA HYDERABAD

Good Samaritans are a blessing in disguise not only for the poor and needy, but also to those who discharge their duties as employees in private firms.

Meet 29-year-old Akhilesh Reddy, a Hyderabad-based climate activist, who is trying his best to make sustainable clothing available to delivery executives in Telangana, who are delivering food in sultry weath-

Akhilesh believes sustainable clothing is one basic human essential and is a right for every delivery person, also because the major mode of their travel is two-wheeler and they have to be resistant to all weather conditions. It's so painful to see them

wearing black in hot sum-mers, says Akhilesh. He has approached IT Minister KTR and requested him to provide handloom clothing to the delivery executive, who can become door-door handloom campaigners. App- based aggregators should consider this request on humanitarian grounds and provide the delivery executives with dress code on a climate basis, says Akhilesh.

The climate activist said, "With the second-most populous country in the world we have a huge untapped youth potential. The youth started already looking towards creating jobs than just merely depending on seeking employment and with a growing support system, the country has become a hub of start-ups. So, I am glad some of them are

"I shall be writing to officials concerned and department of textiles of the State and Centre about my idea. I am also looking for an opportunity to meet KTR and representatives from the government to apprise them of the situation, which I am sure I will do soon"

growing. But, I am afraid they to raise a voice on their behalf are probably unintentionally and started requesting/queslacking certain basic humanitarian norms without which the whole system would fail to be sustainable. We are reeling

under a heatwave. It is painstaking to travel a small distance in sun even for an emergency job. Then when I came across the plight of delivery boys, I was anguished and asked a couple of them to know their problems, it was very hard to hear. So, I choose

which I am sure I will do soon," he said.

Shaik Salauddin, founder state president-Telangana Gig And Platform Workers Union, said, "We welcome the wonderful thought of Akhilesh as delivery executives suffer a lot under the sun in those jerseys they wear while delivering the food, or courier. The jerseys they wear now are very thick, which are not that comfortable in harsh summers. So, prompting handloom clothing for the delivery executive is a wonderful initiative. Not only Telangana govt, but this initiative should be implemented Pan India as even PM Modi promotes handloom clothing. Like this delivery executives will not only feel comfortable while working, but will also promote handloom door-to-door."

nation 05



PNS BARUIPUR (WB)

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | APRIL 3, 2021

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday claimed that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has clearly lost the poll battle in West Bengal and the Citizenship said Amendment Act will be taken up in the first meeting of the new BJP government which will come to power in the state.

Shah held two roadshows in the state during the day one at Baruipur in South 24 Parganas and another at Arambagh in Hoogly district. The top BJP leader claimed

that going by the feedback he has received the party has already won 50 out of the 60 seats, election to which was held in the first two phases and will bag more than 200 of the total 294 assembly.

"We will definitely win over 200 seats altogether," he told a TV news channel during his roadshow at Baruipur.

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday

questioned the Election

Commission after a BJP

candidate's vehicle was found

transporting a polled EVM in

Assam's Karimganj district and

said if the poll body does not

wake up now and remains

"complicit" it will be fatal for

democracy. Violence broke out in

Karimganj district on Thursday

night after a mob spotted a BJP

transport a polled EVM to the

candidate's vehicle being used to

strong room, forcing the police to



To a question he said The Citizenship Amendment Act will be taken up in the first meeting of the new BJP government which will come to power in West Bengal. The party will give top priority to the safety of women in the

he pioneer

state Asked to comment on Banerjees claim that she will win from Nandigram with a

fire in the air to bring the

The EC suspended four poll

officials and ordered a repoll at

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi

Commission, tweeting in Hindi

that the "EC's car has broken

down, the BJP's intentions are

Congress general secretary and

chief spokesperson Randeep

Surjewala said that the "EVM

fraud" was for everyone to see

bad and the condition of

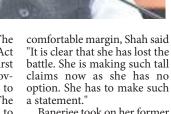
democracy has worsened".

took a swipe at the Election

the booth as a video went viral on

situation under control

social media.



"It is clear that she has lost the battle. She is making such tall claims now as she has no option. She has to make such Banerjee took on her former

If EC doesn't wake up, it'll be fatal for democracy: Cong

the BJP's help to carry EVMs.

"EVM fraud is for everyone to

see. EVMs found in the car of

BJP MLA candidate Krishnedru

Paul after the second phase of

polling in Assam. Does the ECI

need the BJP to carry the EVM's

"If the ECI doesn't wake up even

democracy," he said on Twitter.

Surjewala alleged that the BJP

the Assam Assembly elections

was staring at a decisive defeat in

now and remains mute or

complicit, it is fatal for

and it had "panicked

immeasurably"

and asked whether the EC needed

lieutenant turned BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari in the hotly contested seat, election to which was held in the second phase on April 1.

winning the election from Nandigram, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that she does not need his "suggestion" on contesting from an alternate seat.

The prime minister had on Thursday asked Baneriee to clarify whether there is truth in "rumours" that she would file her nomination for another seat going to the polls in the last phase, maintaining that the TMC chief has admitted defeat in Nandigram. "I want to tell the prime minister to control his home minister first and

"The last desperate measure is

always EVM theft. Will the ECI

reply - Why were EVM recovered

from BJP candidate Krishnendu

in the boot of a luxury car near

Hatipura polling station in Diphu

He posed several questions to the

ECI, asking why were the officials

carrying the EVM in Jamunukh

accompanying them, in violation

of the ECI mandate, and whether

complained of EVM disappearing

without any security official

the voters in Kalaigaon

in Assam," he asked.

Paul's car? Why were EVM found

Mamata hits back at Modi over second seat contest dig

DINHATA/NATABARI/FALAKAT A (WB)

Asserting that she was Bengal polls.

against BJP's Suvendu Adhikari, her former close aide.

then try to control us. We are not your party's members that you will control us," Banerjee said at an election rally in Dinhata in the north Bengal district of Coochbehar. Banerjee had on Friday alleged that Shah was influencing central forces to behave in a partisan manner during the "I am not your party's member that you will suggest I contest

from another seat. I have contested from Nandigram and will win from there," she added. At a rally in Uluberia on Thursday, Modi said that the people of Bengal are prepared if she goes anywhere else to contest, anticipating defeat in Nandigram, where she was up

"What enquiry was held? What

LDF govt tried to 'destabilise' sacred places, says Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday attacked the Left government in Kerala for its action against Ayyappa devotees during Sabarimala protests, saying they tried to 'destabilise" sacred places and that devotees were not criminals. The Ayyappa devotees, who should have been welcomed with flowers, were lathicharged, Modi said bringing up the Sabarimala women entry issue at an election rally at Konni in Pathnamthitta district, near the famous Lord Ayyappa shrine.

The state had witnessed violent protests after the LDF government decided to implement the 2018 Supreme Court verdict allowing women of all ages to offer prayers at the shrine.

Rightwing outfits had staged protests against the government's decision to implement the verdict.

Eshwarappa

issue will be

solved: BJP MP



Continuing his attack on the Left, Modi said: "But what has the LDF done? First they tried to distort the picture and image of Kerala and tried to show the Kerala culture as backward. Then they tried to destabilise sacred places by

Ayyappa, who should have been welcomed with flowers. were welcomed with lathis, he said

"I want to state clearly that the innocent devotees of Swami Ayyappa are not criminals," the prime minister, who is on his second leg of camusing their agents who carried paign tour in the southern state, said.

The devotees of Swami

UP: Dalit youth held captive, tortured by 4 men on suspicion

PNS ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI (UP)

A 22-year-old Dalit man was allegedly held captive and tortured by four people here on the suspicion that he was having an affair with a girl of their family, police said on Friday.

The man's family members had claimed that an iron rod was also inserted in his rectum, but Circle Officer Pradeep Kumar Verma, who is investigating the case, denied the charge, saying the medical examination and probe so far

indicate this is not true.

under treatment at the district hospital. His condition has been stated to be serious,

INDIA CORNER

Ambani security scare probe: NIA auestions club owner

he National Investigation Agency which is probing the case related to a bomb scare near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence here on Friday recorded the statement of the owner of a club, said an official. The agency had conducted searches at the `social club'



located inside a hotel in south Mumbai on Friday. The NIA is probing alleged links of its owner with cricket bookie Naresh Gor and suspended police constable Vinayak Shinde, the official said. The club owner was seen arriving at the NIA office around 11 am and left around 4.50 pm. Gor and Shinde, alleged associates of suspended Mumbai police officer Sachin Waze, have been arrested in the businessman Mansukh Hiran murder case. Waze's former colleagues in the Mumbai crime branch assistant inspectors Riyazuddin Kazi and Prakash Howal also appeared before the NIA. Both have been questioned multiple times. The NIA, which is probing the recovery of an explosives-laden Scorpio near Ambani's residence here on February 25 and the murder of Hiran who had claimed that the vehicle had been stolen from his possession, has already arrested Waze.

Kamal Haasan, a 'super-NOTA': Karti

Congress leader Karti Chidambaram on Friday dubbed Kamal Haasan a "super-NOTA" and said the actorturned-politician's Makkal Neethi Maiam (MNM) will not win a single seat in the Tamil Nadu Assembly polls as it is "not a sustainable political party".

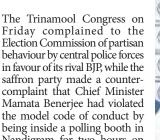
The Congress MP from o slammed

from the booth

PNS NEW DELHI

Friday complained to the Election Commission of partisan behaviour by central police forces in favour of its rival BJP, while the saffron party made a counter-complaint that Chief Minister Mamata Beneriee had violated the model code of conduct by being inside a polling booth in igram f · two polling day. A high level Trinamool Congress delegation, led by Yashwant Sinha, former Cabinet minister and now TMC vice president and state minister Subrata Mukherjee, met the Chief Electoral Officer Aariz Aftab with its complaint alleging central police forces acted with partiality in favour of the BJP at certain polling centers. Soon afterwards, a BJP dele-

TMC complains of `partisan behaviour' by central forces PNS KOLKATA





two phases. There have been incidents of violence and attacks on our party supporters by BJP. We have asked the EC to see to it this was not repeated in the next six phases," Sinha said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday had also accused central forces deployed in Nandigram constituency, where she is locked in battle with her former lieu-Suvendu enant

be resolved within two days,

out mischief.



action was taken," he asked in a PNS MANGALURU The complaint by Minister K S Eshwarappa against Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa allegedly interfering in the affairs of his department will

asked. Surjewala also asked whether 139 polling stations faced serious EVM malfunctioning in the second phase, including in Jagiroad, Nagaon, Hojai, Nilbagan, Lumding, and sought to know what action has been taken.

series of tweets. "Will the ECI reply - Whether some suspicious officials were found inside the strongroom in Dibrugarh, where EVM are kept? What action was taken," he

BJP state president and MP Nalin Kumar Kateel said on Friday

Talking to reporters, the BJP chief said the matter will discussed with be Eshwarappa and it will be resolved in two days.



arrested and the victim is The accused have been police said.

MP: Senior citizen killed by tiger in Pench buffer zone

62-year-old man was killed by a tiger in a field near Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh' Seoni district on Friday, an official said. The incident took place in Ghatkohka buffer area at around 5am and the deceased has been identified as Ghasiram Verma, Pench field director Vikram Singh Parihar



said. "He was collecting mahua seeds. The tiger mauled him to death and then went back into the forest," he said. The area was witnessing tiger movements for the past few days, despite which Verma went there alone, said deputy director SB Sirsaiya. The process of giving compensation of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of the deceased has begun, he added. The people in the area tried to organise a protest but were pacified by forest officials. An official said elephants had been deployed to trace the location of the tiger.

We condemn any use of violence: MEA on situation in Myanmar

s Myanmar's military continued crackdown on Civilians protesting against the February 1 coup, India on Friday condemned any use of violence and said it stood for the restoration of democracy in the country. At a media briefing, Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi said India has



urged for the release of political prisoners and supported any attempts to resolve the current situation, including through the efforts of 10-nation ASEAN. "Let me be very clear. We condemn any use of violence. We believe that the rule of law should prevail. We stand for the restoration of democracy in Myanmar," he said. To a question on whether India will allow people from Myanmar to cross over to the Indian side along the Indo-Myanmar border, Bagchi said it is being dealt with as per law as well as on humanitarian considerations. "As far as border crossings are concerned, we are dealing with it as per our laws and humanitarian considerations, Bagchi said

AIADMK-BJP alliance and said the people of Tamil Nadu do not want a government which has any "stain, scent or shadow" of the BJP as its 'Hindi-Hindutva' agenda "irritates" them.

In an interview with PTI, Karti Chidambaram also claimed that the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-Congress alliance will win over 200 out of the 234 Assembly seats in the

A class 10 student committed

suicide after she was allegedly

abducted and gang-raped

while on her way back from a

tuition class, police said on

The girl belonging to a vil-lage under the Sardhana

Kotwali area consumed poison

after returning home on

Thursday evening, said police

adding she died in the hospi-

single-phase April 6 polls.

"People do not want a government which will not respect Tamil sentiments, Tamil language and Tamil heritage. They do not want a government which has any stain, scent or shadow of the BJP," Karti Chidambaram said.

The 'Hindi-Hindutva' agenda of the BJP "irritates" the Tamil people and they do not want the BJP in any shape or form, he asserted.

tal during the treatment.

Keshav Kumar said four

youths were involved in

have arrested two of the

accused and have launched a

manhunt to nab two others.

In her suicide note, the girl

Rural

Meerut's

gation led BJP leader Sishir

Bajoria and former governor Tathagata Roy told the Chief Electoral Officer that the chief minister's presence inside the booth for two hours disrupted the polling process and was

against the model code of conduct. Sinha told reporters after

meeting Aftab that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are influencing the poll process by passing on instruction from Deĺhi.

We have told them, the role of central forces have been partial in many booths in the first

with the BJP, of helping the saffron party Central police forces function under the home ministry, which is headed by Amit Shah Sinha also said "Union home

minister Amit Shah is doing everything possible to influence people's verdict in favour of BJP by preventing the voters opposed to his party to excercise their franchise. This has to stop."

EC orders repoll in 1 'BJP cannot poach DMK-Assam polling booth led front MLAs

PNS NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Friday ordered a repoll at a polling booth in Ratabari seat of Assam after a controversy broke out over the presiding officer carrying the EVM after polling in a vehicle which belonged to the wife of a BJP candidate contesting from a

neighbouring seat. To pre-vent the polling team from being assaulted in Karimganj by a mob which alleged that the electronic voting machine was being taken for tampering, police had to use force. In a statement, the EC said the presiding officer and three other officials have been placed under suspension.

PNS COIMBATORE None of the MLAs in the DMK-led alliance from Tamil Nadu can be purchased by the alleged power-hungry BJP as was done in many of the States, Opposition Congress Leader in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjuna

Kharge said on Friday. "It was impossible and nobody can buy any MLA from Tamil Nadu," Kharge told reporters while replying to a question after he accused the BJP of encouraging defection and toppling of govern-ments by purchasing MLAs in States like Goa,

Manipur, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. The Punjab government has also been asked to inform it on MLAs in Tamil Nadu priority about the action taken in the matter.

The home ministry also sent copy of the letter to the Union Labour Secretary with the request to issue suitable instructions to all states, especially Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha for creating awareness amongst people to ensure that the poor are not duped by unscrupulous elements by making false promises for better job prospects.

CENTER CALLS OUT PUNJAB 'Mentally challenged working as bonded labourers'

PNS KOLKATA

Friday.

The Centre has informed the Punjab government that 58 mentally challenged people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh were found working as bonded labourers in the border districts of the state and asked it to take appropriate action to deal with the "serious" problem.

In a communication to the chief secretary of Punjab, the Union Home Ministry said the

Border Security Force (BSF) has found these 58 people were brought to Punjab with the promise of good salary but exploited, given drugs and forced to work in inhuman conditions. The home ministry said the

BSF has informed it that these



labourers were rescued from been working as bonded the border areas of Gurdaspur, labourers with farmers in bor-Amritsar, Ferozepur and der villages of Punjab.

The persons apprehended Abohar in Punjab in 2019 and belong to poor family back-2020. "During the course of questioning, it emerged that ground and hail from remote most of them were either menareas of the states of Bihar and tally challenged or were in a Uttar Pradesh," the letter, feeble state of mind and have accessed by PTI, said.

The home ministry said it has been further informed that "human-trafficking syndicates hire such labourers from their native place to work in Punjab on

the promise of a good salary, but after reaching there, they are exploited, paid poorly and meted out inhuman treatment". To make them work in the fields for long hours, these labourers are often given drugs, which adversely affect their physical and mental condition, the letter said.

The BSF has been handing over the rescued persons to the state police for necessary action. "Keeping in view the multidimensional and overwhelming enormity of the problem, which involves human-trafficking, bonded labour and human rights violation, you are request-

ed to look into the matter and take appropriate measures to address this serious problem,' the home ministry told the Punjab government.

are well-educated, highly qualified and fight for social justice; they cannot be purchased, Kharge said.



had named four men, including Lakhan and Vikas from a during the treatment.

Superintendent of Police have been arrested while the police are on the lookout for two others, the SP said. abducting and raping the girl and the police, on the basis of a suicide note left by the girl, After returning home, she narrated her woes to her parents and consumed some

poisonous substance sometime later, prompting her parents to rush her to the SSD Global Hospital in Modipuram, where she died

Gang-raped girl commits suicide neighbouring village, besides two others. Lakahn and Vikas

he pioneer



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Shrewd move

Tikait plans to renew the agitation after May 10 so that the protesting farmers can use the breather

y no measure can one compare the ongoing farmers' crusade with popular movements like the Satyagraha or Quit India that eventually led to India win-ning its Independence from the British. However, there is an uncanny similarity and it is inherent to any movement in general if it aims to survive for long. It seems that the farmer agitation's most prominent face and voice, Rakesh Tikait, has taken a leaf out of India's Independence movement and is adroitly following the strategy that Mahatma Gandhi believed in - Struggle-Truce-Struggle (STS) - as he has announced that the struggle against the Centre over the three contentious farm laws will pick up intensity after May 10. He has also proclaimed that the movement will



continue for at least another eight months. The agitation, which has been going on for four months and reached its peak when a few anti-nationals among the protesters hoisted certain flags on the ramparts of the Red Fort on Republic Day, has now apparently lost steam. Obviously, Tikait, who is striving to make a political career for himself riding on the popular movement, doesn't want the growers' struggle to be lost into oblivion. He is doing whatever he can to inject fresh lifeblood into it but he also seems to be aware that mass movements have an inherent tendency to ebb after reaching a certain point. According to Mahatma Gandhi, the

capacity of the masses to withstand repression, endure sufferings and make sacrifices is not unlimited and there comes a time when breathing space is needed to consolidate, recuperate and gather strength for the next round of the struggle. The truce period would enable the masses to recoup strength to renew the fight.

So, Tikait has said the farmers amassed at Delhi's borders can harvest their wheat crops till May 10 and the movement will now gather speed only after that. He is well aware of the compulsions a grower faces and, himself being a farmer, knows the importance of timing in harvesting and sowing a crop. Despite several rounds of negotiations with the Government, no results have been achieved. The farmers are adamant on their demand for repealing the three laws and a legal guarantee on the MSP while the Government is not ready to concede. On the other hand, Tikait is using the opportunity of becoming a mass leader to the fullest. His visit to the poll-bound West Bengal last month turned out to be an unsuccessful attempt in that direction as he failed to garner much support against the BJP. Whether this movement will survive or succumb to the politics of those spearheading it, only time will tell. However, it is advisable for Tikait to drop all his plans of scoring brownie points in politics by milking the farmers' protest. He'd better seek parleys with the Government and reach an amicable solution. It would be in the interest of both the farmers and the Government. This is not a Satyagraha but just a movement led by the strong lobby of middlemen and greedy politicians who have otherwise failed to make a mark in politics.



Tyranny continues in Myanmar



How India and the world should respond to the murderous atrocities unleashed by the military there on peaceful protesters

the emergency United Nations Security Council (UNSC) meeting on March 31, held at the United Kingdom's initiative, to discuss the situation in Myanmar, has drawn a blank. This is clear from the statement issued after its conclusion by Britain's permanent representative at the UN, Barbara Woodward, that the council would continue to "discuss the next steps". Evidently, no steps were agreed upon, and mainly because of China. According to the Chinese mission at the UN, its permanent representative, Zhang Jun, had said in his statement: "China emphasises that all parties in Myanmar should take up the responsibility of maintaining national stability and development, act in the fundamental interests of the people, find a solution to the crisis within the constitutional and legal framework through dialogue and consultation, and continue to advance the democratic transition in Myanmar."

The rest of the statement carries on in the same vein with a succession of platitudinous exhortations, completely overlooking the fact that it is Myanmar's ruling junta that has unleashed a countrywide wave of murderous repression, while the multitudes demonstrating against the coup on February 1, 2021, have remained completely peaceful. Not surprisingly, his statement did not contain even a single word of condemnation of the junta's actions. If anything, it was an effort to let the junta continue its savage repression while assuming a posture of virtuous neutrality.

One, of course, could not expect anything different from a regime that perpetrated the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 4, 1989, and is seeking to stamp out the cultural identity of the Uighurs of Xinjiang amid unspeakable atrocities. Nor can it be expected to do so in future, given its own autocratic orientaon and the stakes it has

on Myanmar, told the UNSC emergency session, the junta's continuing savagery required a "firm, unified international response". The question is what can countries like the US, Britain, members of the European Union and Australia do? The Biden Administration announced on February 11 the suspension of the 2013 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, meant to boost bilateral business between the US and Myanmar, until the restoration of democracy there. It also imposed sanctions on 10 generals, some of them retired, who led the coup, and three commercial entities. Besides imposing restrictions on strategic exports, it has prevented the generals associated with the junta from improperly accessing the Myanmar Government's funds of over \$1

billion lying in the US. The US Commerce Department placed under suspension on March 4, four military-controlled Ministries and conglomerates and on March

Zealand have also imposed sanctions and travel bans, and frozen assets. Australia had announced, on March7, the suspension of its limited cooperation with the Tatmadaw (as the Myanmarese Army is officially called) and said it would re-direct the aid marked for the Government to aid groups.

Sanctions, however, generally do not deliver much, and the ones imposed on the Tatmadaw earlier, did not. President Biden had perhaps this in mind when he said while announcing the first slew of sanctions in February: "We'll be ready to impose additional measures and we'll continue to work with our international partners to urge other nations to join us in these efforts." Linda Thomas Greenfield, the US ambassador to the UN, articulated the same approach when, after hoping that the Tatmadaw would return to the barracks and allow the democratically-STRUGGLING TO elected Government to take its PREVENT ITS

While affirming its commitment to Myanmar's transition to democracy, it has not condemned the junta. There are doubtless reasons for this. The junta has been closely cooperating with its efforts to counter the ethnic insurgent groups operating along its border with Myanmar. It has emerged as a significant seller of arms to the Tatmadaw and developed strong economic links with Myanmar. Besides, there is the compulsion to counter China's growing influence there.

India, however, cannot remain silent indefinitely about the Tatmadaw's stomach-turning cruelty. Besides, it has, as the world's largest democracy, a moral responsibility to stand by those struggling to prevent its throttling in a neighbouring country. It must now speak out and stand with the other democracies in condemning what is happening next door. Fortunately, the Manipur Government has reversed its place, she said that if it did not inhuman order to deny food and shelter-and even turn back those crossing over to escape the junta's savagery. India must do the opposite, and provide them with all the care it can.

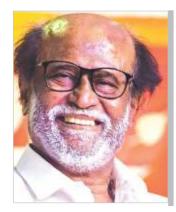
INDIA CANNOT **REMAIN SILENT** INDEFINITELY ABOUT THE TATMADAW'S STOMACH-TURNING CRUELTY. IT HAS, AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY, A MORAL DUTY TO STAND BY THOSE

A devotee carries a wooden cross during a procession on Good Friday, at a church in Amritsar

Award/Reward

The award to actor-legend Rajinikanth in the election season is open to myriad interpretations

t the outset, let it be put on record that nobody has any misgivings about super star and style icon Rajinikanth's claim on India's highest award in cinema, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, winning which is undoubtedly the single biggest honour for anybody related to the cinematic field. If it needs be said, the accolade is rich-



ly deserved by the larger-than-life hero who started his journey to dominating the silver screen from very humble origins, when he was a coolie and, later. a bus conductor. Born Shivaji Rao Gaikwad on December 12, 1950, to a Marathi family in Bengaluru, he put in hard work learning the Tamil language before entering the Tamil film industry. His first film was Apoorva Raagangal (1975, directed by K Balachander) alongside Kamal Haasan. Having acted in over 160 films, he has a massive, hysteric, pan-India appeal since he has worked in almost all South Indian languages, besides Hindi and Bangla.

These details are important to underline and understand that behind all his charisma, manner-

isms and the frenzied global fan following lies a simple, down-to-earth and hardworking man, who has just got his just deserts. By his own admission, he was more aware of his shortcomings than strengths and decided to work within them. So, of course, one can't even think of begrudging him any of the awards and honours he has received. But that begets another question on the other side of the fence. Has every deserving personality related to filmdom has been justly awarded by the Government of the day, and in good time? The answer, one would think, is an emphatic "no". Several luminaries have missed out on the pinnacle of the cinematic world's achievement — SD Burman, his son and protégé RD, Vijay Anand, Rajesh Khanna and Kishore Kumar, to name just a few, and only from Bollywood. It would be easier to understand that his idiosyncrasies and "anti-establishment" behaviour worked against Kishore Kumar and roughly the same can be said about the debonair Dev Anand, who was awarded as late as in 2002 despite being a visionary filmmaker and actor. And, surprise, surprise, Rajinikanth's first co-actor and by then already an established actor, Kamal Haasan, hasn't got it to date! Maybe the Tamil Nadu election or Rajini's exit from politics before entry is a factor, isn't it possible?

acquired in Myanmar. Given its veto, it is unlikely that the UNSC will be able to take any effective step against the junta.

This, needless to say, is unfortunate. As Christine Schraner-Burgener, the UN special envoy

NEED FOR UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

Sir —Despite various amendments and

Supreme Court judgments in the sphere

of property law, there are still certain legal

provisions that are inconsonant with the

precepts of gender equality. The current

form of these laws is attributable to the

unsuccessful codification process of cus-

tomary laws that first began during

British colonialism and was furthered after

Independence by the Nehru-led Congress

Government to specifically 'reform' Hindu

personal laws. The purported objective

furnished by the leaders was to establish

and reality was too large to go unnoticed.

As a consequence of the intense opposi-

tion faced from the northern leaders, the

laws so codified ended up reinforcing gen-

der stereotypes. For example, the Hindu

Succession Act of 1956 solely granted

males the rights over ancestral property.

It was only through the Amendment Act

However, the gap between rhetoric

uniformity and gender equality.

22, the US Department of Treasury imposed sanctions on Myanmar's police chief, a military commander, and two military units for their role in repressing demonstrators. Britain, Canada and New

THROTTLING IN A **NEIGHBOURING** COUNTRY

EDITOR

Dropping the guard is lethal

o so and continued with its attacks on civilian populations, "then we have to look at how we might do more".

It remains to be seen what the US does, and with what effect. Meanwhile, India has also to look at its own role.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views *expressed are personal.*)

This time. the COVID-19 cases are increasing faster than last time but the Delhi

Government has so far not thought

about imposing a lockdown agair in the city.

Delhi CM Arvind Keiriwal



will continue negotiating a ceasefire in an effort to achieve peace in the

conflict-ridden Donbas region.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky

The highest jump in cases was reported in India yesterday. Let's be careful for our own safety and the safety of others



Actress - Raveena Tandon

challenging since we have the Olympics coming up.

Indian woman hockey player — Navjot Kaur

conduct raids on the premises of DMK



effective means towards legal equality is self in the hearts of billions worldwide. enacting a Uniform Civil Code. It will put With lots of respect for him, I congratuan end to gender discrimination by elimlate 'Thalaiva' for achieving the highest inating personal laws and by creating uniaward in Indian cinema. On the other form standards for all communities. hand, the legendary actor shared a thank-Nissim Aggarwal | Chandigarh

you note on Twitter, in which he wrote: 'For all the love, greetings and wishes I've took the time to wish me and my beloved fans across India and all over the world ...

Ramala Kinnera | Hyderabad

Sir — This refers to the editorial 'Plan B?'(April 2). Impartially speaking, the success of Trinamool Congress supremo

give immediate protection while the sense of protection develops much earlier. Many people, after getting inoculated, have stop wearing masks or maintaining social distancing and thus, instead of containing the spread, the virus is spreading like wildfire.

We have to take precautionary steps to contain the virus even after getting vaccinated. Only this will help stop the 'Peltzman effect' coming into play. The number of Coronavirus cases continues to rise as India reported the highest single-day rise of 2021 with 72,330 new infections in 24 hours. With this, the nationwide tally of cases has increased to 1.22.21.665. Among the worst hit States is Maharashtra which has reported the highest daily new cases at 39,544. Further, India has already launched the third phase of COVID-19 vaccination, open for all aged 45 and above. In a bid to exponentially expand the inoculation drive, the Centre has announced that all vaccination centres, both public and private, will remain operational throughout April, including on gazetted holidays

Kavya Shah | Ujjain

Mamata Banerjee's efforts to unite all parties against the formidable BJP with a view to dethroning it from the Centre and simultaneously breaking its winning spree in the States, squarely hinges upon the Grand Old Party's response to the letter the West Bengal Chief Minister has recently dashed off to all party chiefs in this regard.

But in case the Congress develops cold feet over the matter, Didi's 'Plan B' will simply come a cropper, given that any anti-BJP Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) sans the Congress will be skating on thin ice in the country. The flip side of the matter is also that the shelf-life of all the grand alliances that have come into being so far has been very short-lived. Azhar A Khan | Rampur

functionaries Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



bestowed with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award comes as a delight to everyone. Fondly called 'Thalaiva' by his fans, Rajinikanth has made profound contribution in the sphere of cinema not just as an actor, but also as a producer and a

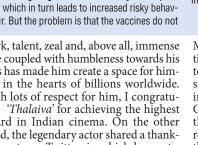


are also the political leaders who became getting vaccinated. Among such people careless after receiving the first dose of the vaccine. This can be explained through the 'Peltzman Effect'. According to this effect, humans tend to engage in risky activities when security measures have been mandated. The vac-

of 2005 and the Supreme Court's verdict cines are giving a sense of security to the peoin Vineeta Sharma vs Rakesh Sharma in ple which in turn leads to increased risky behav-2020 that females became equal iour. But the problem is that the vaccines do not coparceners by birth. Be that as it may, relying on individual amendments and work, talent, zeal and, above all, immense judgments to extend equality is not the love coupled with humbleness towards his way forward. The most expedient and fans has made him create a space for him-

received from eminent political leaders, my film fraternity friends and colleagues, well-wishers, media, every person who

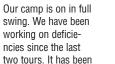
screenwriter. What amuses one is that, **MAMATA BANERJEE IS OVERAMBITIOUS** while his on-the-screen personality is impressive, his off-the-screen personali-



HAIL THE GREAT ACTOR OF INDIAN CINEMA Sir — The news that Raijnikanth has been

Modi reached Madurai last night. He conducted meetings with I-T officials to

My deepest gratitude and thanks."







ty is equally inspiring. His sincerity, hard

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | APRIL 3, 2021



analysis 07

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FIRSTCOLUMN APP INNOVATIONS & USER EXPECTATIONS

Given the heavy competition in the sector, the only means for businesses to stand out is through app innovation



ABHAY PA

s smartphones have become the largest means of accessing the internet, mobile apps are perhaps the most powerful means of Connecting with users. In sheer numbers, it is a marketplace that no business can afford to ignore. With an expanding base of smartphone users and over a billion mobile subscribers, India is one of the fastest growing mobile markets in the world. Given the heavy competition in the sector and high user expectations, the only means to stand out is through app innovation. One of the industries that seized this opportunity was the fitness industry. With innovations in the Internet of Things (IoT) and wearable tech becoming more and more accessible, apps have become more dynamic with each vying for the top spot. As a result, the average user now has easy access to high-quality apps that can provide almost any virtual aid one can think of.

Chatbots: These are not new, but their utilisation in mobile apps is certainly changing the way brands connect and communicate with users. For businesses, chatbots are extremely useful as they improve customer service by collecting detailed feedback, providing precise information and offering an immediate resolution. By cutting human intervention, they



also provide a more cost-effective and efficient solution for routine customer interactions. But from a basic customer feedback service, chatbots are now increasingly being adopted as the primary tool for customer interface. For instance, popular booking apps across the country are planning on introducing these bots for helping their users make hassle-free bookings, payments and reservations.

Wearables: Fitness-oriented platforms today track the user's activity, heart rate and calorie intake along with oxygen monitoring. Some apps now offer a smart weight scale that will help users manage their body weight. But it isn't just physical health that apps can help chart. They can also track one's sleep cycle, emotional and mental health.

Virtual or Augmented Reality: The concept of integrating digital content with the real world may have seemed like science fiction a decade ago, but it is far more common than one may imagine. What was once almost exclusively a gamer industry prop, is today one of the most innovative ideas in fitness apps.

Machine Learning (ML): It is a branch of artificial intelligence where the machine uses data analysis to 'learn'. As a consequence, we have 'smart' machines that improve their functioning as they learn. Apps use the smartphone's own ML capabilities to improve their functionality. Camera apps are using this technology to detect the user's emotions, making adjustments in their environments. Progressive web applications: These are the marriage between web technology and apps stores that was just waiting to happen. Originally proposed in 2015, these apps have gained steady traction with both brands and users. For users, the attraction lies in instant access to the app without always having to install it. *Flipkart* and *BookMyShow* are the two big names with progressive web apps. Fitness apps come backed with sensors such as accelerometer and gyroscope. Others like Bluetooth and equivalent proximity options will very soon make their own appearance Payments: Remembering your PIN for every transaction can become rather tiresome, especially given the multiple platforms where we need passwords. To make the process easy, especially for those juggling multiple passwords, online payment platforms are now exploring transactions via biometrics, face ID, or voice-based systems. App innovations will be the key in leading the industry and expanding its reach as more and more people take advantage of disruptive technologies that are fun and customised for their use.

Preservation of the lotic ecosystem in India



Almost all Indian rivers are under severe despoliation caused by anthropogenic activities; the magnitude varies at various segments all along the rivers' course

ne of the crucial challenges of the 21st century is the restoration of degraded running-water ecosystems — streams, rivers, springs besides preserving those that are still in good condition. The historical scientific databases on lotic ecosystems are generally poor with largely anecdotal or incomplete information. The ecosystem paradigms can serve as tools for evaluating the existing condition of running waters, surmising their likely antecedent condition and developing targets and strategies for their restoration. Because the majority of degraded streams and rivers has changed beyond our ability to return them to their original state, the call for their rehabilitation acquires significance. It often takes the form of returning certain organisms or processes to a condition that addresses societal objectives.

Restoration will dominate in more developed regions where modifications of running water systems and their watersheds have been more extensive. In lesser developed regions, preservation of many of these lotic systems may still be possible, but the distinction between pristine and degraded systems is disappear-ing rapidly. In the context of preserving and rehabilitating streams and rivers, it is important to enlist the best scientific understanding of the structure and function of running-water ecosystems. The regulations gov-erning the protection and width of riparian buffer zone plays a vital role.

Riparian zones depict areas that are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. They are distinguished by gradients in biophysical conditions, ecological processes and biota. They connect surface and subsurface hydrology namely, water bodies with their adjacent uplands. Riparian areas are adjacent to perennial, intermittent and ephemeral streams, lakes and estuarine-marine shorelines. They usually extend from the edges of water bodies to the edges of upland communities and represent a zone of interactions between the aquatic and terrestrial component.

A river is more than a channel carrying water; it transports sediments, harbours various organisms, plants, animal and microbes. Hence it should be conceived as a natural resource comprising biotic and abiotic ingredients essential for management of hydrological and ecological system. Until recently, planning and management of rivers were largely oriented on the channels themselves and it is integrated with catchment management. However, there are many aspects of channel catchment linkages with ecological perspective of riparian zones and these are essential for maintaining the health of the lotic system.

In India, rivers are classified mainly into two types based on their geographical locations and origin -Himalayan rivers and peninsular ones. The former are glacier-fed and perennial, while the latter are altogether monsoon-fed. The perennial Himalayan rivers constitute three major river systems — the Ganga Brahmaputra and Indus - which cover various types of catchments and provide a variety of microhabitats. The Ganga river system (major tributaries -Yamuna, Ghaghara, Gandak, Gomati, Sone and Tons), the Brahmaputra river system (Siang river as a main channel and major tributaries — Dibang, Lohit, Subansiri, Ranganadi, Manas, Kulsi, Dhansiri, Champamati, Sankhosh and Digaru rivers) and the Indus river system (consisting of the Beas and Sutlej as major tributaries in India) are the principal Himalayan rivers; however, a major stretch of the Indus flows in Pakistan, leaving back a small segment of its drainage basin in

AN OBVIOUS DIFFICULTY IS THE INABILITY TO DISTINGUISH THE DIRECT EFFECTS OF MODIFIED FLOW REGIMES FROM THE EFFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH OTHER CHANGES THAT OFTEN ACCOMPANY WATER RESOURCE

DEVELOPMENT. ONE OFTEN ENCOUNTERS RIVER SYSTEMS AFFECTED BY MULTIPLE STRESSORS, MAKING IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO

DEFINITIVELY SEPARATE THE SEPARATE THE EFFECTS OF ALTERED FLOW REGIMES FROM THOSE OF MYRIAD OTHER FACTORS AND INTERACTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH ASSOCIATED WITH

The writer is a

former IFS officer. The views

expressed

are personal.

CLIMATE AND

LAND USE

CHANGES

gorges exhibiting practically vertical to convex valley walls; and slope failures have become very common particu-larly in the belts cut by active faults in their hilly stretch. They provide differ-ent gradient of habitat heterogeneity from its headwater to mouth for colonisation of aquatic fauna. Further, the fragility of geologic formations in the Himalayas and deforestation of riparian catchments, soil erosion in the upper stretch of rivers causes severe sedimentation to downstream and habitat destruction. The ecological conditions of

peninsular rivers depend on hydrological characteristics like water level, current velocity and discharge, which vary from very lean to very high depending on relative rainfall in the respective watershed and catchment areas. Among the peninsular rivers, majority of them are East Coast rivers viz, Mahanadi, Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery. These east-flowing rivers drain into the Bay of Bengal. The West Coast rivers comprising Narmada, Tapi, Sabarmati and Luni flow towards west and drain into the Arabian sea.

al effluents, agricultural runoff, mining wastes, religious ceremonies and navigational operations; indiscriminate destruction of drainage basin because of clearing of riparian zone vegetation; huge load of suspended solid, causing increased magnitude and frequency of flood that changes the level of interaction between land and water and hence affects despoiling input of energy source; river regulation, lift irrigation and water allocation without considering the ecological consequences that have adversely influenced the density, diversity and productivity of aquatic bio-resources. The population of migratory fishes is also adversely affected.

The water accounting study suggests that there is less physical risk of meeting the existing or future water demands and quantity of the supplied water as well. However, water quality is an issue that poses a major threat to the river ecology, risking the livelihoods of people dependent on rivers. The alteration of flow regimes is the most serious contemporary threat to the ecological sustainability of rivers and their associated floodplains. There is es to altered regimes. a growing awareness about the pivotal All peninsular rivers are monsoonrole of the flow regime in maintaining al and display very poor water flow to the ecological integrity of riparian heavy flood, displaying fluctuating ecozones. There is still much to learn about logical and biological conditions. the ecological significance of individ-However, almost all the Indian rivers ual flow events and sequences of are under severe despoliation caused events. by anthropogenic activities; though the There is a small set of overarching magnitude varies at various segments ecological principles that, if employed of the rivers all along their course. for river management, may alleviate Some serious issues arise — river polmany of the difficult flow regulation issues facing resource managers and lution throughout the country caused by untreated urban sewage, industripolicy makers. The following princi-

ples, derived on several spatially broad overviews of river and riparian characteristics, are simple to maintain - The flow regime determines the successional evolution of riparian plant communities and ecological processes; the river serves as a pathway for redistribution of organic and inorganic material that influences plant communities along rivers; every river has a characteristic flow regime and an associated riparian community; riparian zones are topographically unique in occupying nearly the lowest position in the landscape, thereby could be integrated with catchment-scale management.

The major challenge for ripari-an management is to place water resource development within the context of these fundamental ecological principles in order to maintain ecological vitality with long-term planning. Despite growing recogni-tion of the relationships between riparian characteristics and flow regimes, ecologists still struggle to predict and quantify biotic respons-

An obvious difficulty is the inability to distinguish the direct effects of modified flow regimes from the effects associated with other changes that often accompany water resource development. One often encounters river systems affected by multiple stressors, making it nearly impossible to definitively separate the effects of altered flow regimes from those of myriad other factors and interactions associated with climate and land use changes.



(The writer is co-founder and CTO at StepSetGo. The views expressed are personal.)

DIDI, IS THERE ANY TRUTH IN THE RUMOUR THAT YOU ARE GOING TO FILE YOUR NOMINATION FROM ANOTHER CONSTITUENCY? - PRIME MINISTER **NARENDRA MODI**



COUNTERPO

YES MR PRIME MINISTER, SHE WILL. AND IT WILL BE VARANASI! SO. GO GET YOUR ARMOUR ON. -TMC MP **MOHUA MOITRA**

Pressing need for World Government and Global Parliament

A World Government can be established and its Parliament could be elected directly by proportional representation based on population of each member nation

mid ever-increasing A threats facing humanity, it's high time to initiate steps at the governance level to make the world a safer place for mankind. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided impetus to the idea of a global democratic government and underlined the necessity of a world organisation to tackle the dangers facing mankind in a more effective manner. These include - pandemics, stockpiles of nuclear weapons, deadly biological weapons, natural disasters, climate change, loss of control over Artificial Intelligence, terrorism and so on.

It is obvious that these threats cannot be tackled by any country alone and a united action at the local, regional and international levels is required to rid the world of these dangers. Currently, a world body already exists -- the United



JL KOUL JALALI

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and producer.

The views expressed

are personal

wars and to maintain peace all over the world, it was also mandated in broader terms to look after some aspects like economic, social and cultural development. The organisation has been beneficial to mankind in many ways but looking back at its record during the over 75 years of its existence, there is not much to feel proud about. Soon after its formation in 1945, it

Nations (UN). Formed after

had to face the Cold War between the Western Bloc and the Soviet Bloc headed by former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) which lasted till the collapse of the Soviet Block in 1991. It could not prevent local and regional wars in the Korean peninsula, Asia, Africa and even in Europe and Latin America. It could not stop

Chinese aggression against World War II in 1945 to prevent India in 1962 and the Cuban missile crisis between the then and eliminate recurrence of Soviet Union and the US. Mostly because of the Cold War politics and its attitude, it failed to take bold united action. Its response to natural disasters and epidemics at national or international level also fell far short of expectations. Apart from the Cold War politics, other main causes responsible for the failure of the UN to meet expectations have been lack of its full representative character and its failure to reform itself. Also, the organisation has not restructured itself to keep up with the needs of the changing world. Under these circumstances, its attitude towards enormous problems and threats and deviant forces facing mankind has been almost inflexible. Despite repeated calls by many coun-



tries, it has more or less continued with its inequitable representative character. A glaring example of this has been that India, with over 1.38 billion population which constitutes about 18 per cent of the world population, has no permanent representation on its most important decision-making organ — the UN Security Council. Last year in June, out of the 192 votes cast in the UN General Assembly, 184 countries voted in favour of India for two-year non-permanent membership of the UNSC, which started from January this year. The world body has also to change its responses so that the threats facing mankind are attended to promptly.

The idea regarding the deep structural changes to turn the UN into a democratic World Government, will take more time to come somewhat into shape. Moreover, in a world full of diversities and ideological differences, such an institution will have to be free from biases and prejudices and will have to transcend the diversities and differences to acquire a truly representative and independent character. Recently, with advancements in human civilisation and thought, the necessity for such a global institution has been felt immensely at various stages. After deeper restructuring of the existing world body, contours for a

democratic World Government can be established and Parliament of the world body could be elected directly by proportional representation based on population of each member nation.

The challenges facing mankind as also the matters of economic and financial governance can be dealt with in a far better way by a Global Parliament. Such an institution will strengthen democracy, justice and equity throughout the world and help in curbing fundamentalist and the radical ideologies. Proper attention to all threats facing mankind could ensure safety and survival of intelligent life on earth. But for realising it, the member countries will have to shed a few shades of their sovereignty which could democratically authorise and enable such a World Government to prevent

wars at the local, regional or at international levels. At present, there are already scores of organisations in Africa, America, Europe and elsewhere, and some of these are popularly elected. Despite Brexit, the European Union continues to be a best example of such institutions even though at the regional level only. Initially established as an advisory body, it has evolved through decades as an elected representative institution. Just some time before his

deadly nuclear and biological

death, renowned physicist Stephen Hawking pleaded for establishment of some form of World Government as he apprehended that aggressive instincts of humans could lead to destruction of mankind and hoped that such a Government could prevent the impending doom.



Money 08

Wall St closes higher, pushing S&P 500 past 4,000 points for first time

PNS NEW YORK

Wall Street kicked April off with a milestone Thursday, as a tech company rally helped drive the S&P 500 past the 4,000 mark for the first time.

The benchmark index finished 1.2 per cent higher a day ished 1.2 per cent higher a day after closing out the first three months of the year with its fourth straight quarterly gain. Microsoft, Apple, Facebook and Google's parent company were among the winners, along with smaller companies which

with smaller companies, which stand to benefit from a quickly growing economy. Health care, household goods stocks and utilities were the only laggards.

Technology stocks benefited from another drop in bond yields, which have been the driving force for the market for several weeks.

The yield on the 10-year US Treasury note fell to 1.69% from 1.73% the day before. Higher bond yields make stocks seem more expensive by comparison, and tech stocks are among the most expensive after their significant rise last

WALLST EXCH

vear

Amazon.com added 2.2 per cent and Google parent Alphabet closed 3.3 pe rcent higher. What a great way to start

Kinahan, chief strategist with TD Ameritrade. "There's money out there looking to be put to work, and with the quarter ending it looks like people are finding new ways in

nities. The S&P 500 rose 46.98 to 4,019.87. The index's latest alltime high is its second in seven



days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 171.66 points, Microsoft rose 2.8 per cent, Facebook gained 1.4 per cent, or 0.5 per cent, to 33,153.21. The technology-heavy Nasdaq climbed 233.23 points, or 1.8 per cent, to 13,480.11.

Smaller companies continued to notch solid gains. The the second quarter," said J J Russell 2000 index picked up 33.38 points, or 1.5 per cent, to 2,253.90. The rally capped a holidayshortened week for the stock

market. US stock exchanges will be closed in observance of a new quarter to find opportu-Good Friday, though bond trading will be open for half a

day, closing at noon Eastern. Companies that would benefit from greater sales of electric vehicles also rose Thursday, a day after President Joe Biden outlined various measures to support their use as part of his massive infrastructure plan. Part of that plan includes installation of thousands of additional charging stations around the country. Electric vehicle charger operator ChargePoint gained 11.8 per cent.

Investors continue to monitor news about how well the US economy is recovering from the coronavirus pandemic, now that millions of vaccines are being administered daily to Americans as well as around the world.

Consumer sentiment has been improving along with construction spending and other measures. The improving economy is prompting investors to shift more money into companies and sectors that will benefit from people getting back to some semblance of a pre-pandemic normal.

The market has been churning while dealing with that shift as beaten-down sectors like air-

lines and industrial companies start to recover.

"In a way, the churn has reflected health, because more sectors are participating in the moves," said Ross Mayfield, investment strategy analyst at Baird. While investors are opti-

mistic that things will recover soon, there's still a lot of economic pain to go around.

Airlines have been making gains this year as more people bet on a budding recovery for travel, but the industry still faces turbulence ahead. Discount carrier Frontier Airlines underwhelmed on its first day of public trading. The Denver-based airline opened at USD 18.61, below the low end of a USD 19 to USD 21 price target, and closed at USD

18.85 the number of Americans who filed for unemployment benelast week from 658,000 the pre-

ly jobs report on Friday.

The Labor Department said

fits last week rose to 719,000 vious week. That figure was expected to decline. The government will release its monthPakistan's textile industry upset as govt rejects cotton import from India

PNS KARACHI

Pakistan's struggling textile industry has voiced its disappointment after the Imran Khan government rejected a proposal to import cotton from India, the world's biggest producer, saying it is the need of the hour to avoid a massive export decline, a media report said on Friday.

The federal Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Khan on Thursday rejected the proposal of a high-powered com-mittee to import cotton from India, with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi asserting that there can be no normalisation of ties until New Delhi reverses its decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Cabinet's decision has disappointed the textile export industry, the Dawn newspaper quoted Pakistan Apparel Forum chairman Jawed Bilwani as saying.

The textile export sector, which was already under pressure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has been continuously demanding duty-free the Cabinet's decision. import of cotton yarn from all over the world, including



India, to avert any big loss to textile exports.

ation to the proposal.

MONEY MATTERS

allow its import from India. Describing Commerce Adviser Abdul Razak Bilwani said as he feared massive textile export decline if Dawood's recommendation to import of cotton yarn from the allow import of cotton and cotneighbouring country was not ton yarn from India as realisallowed. tic and the need of the hour, In the current year, Pakistan Bilwani said that the Cabinet faced a 40 per cent plunge in must accord serious consider-

cotton production and if it was compared with 15 million bales in 2014-2015, then the The step would send a negdrop was 50 per cent this year, ative message to foreign buyers as cotton yarn was not he said.

varn if it did not want to

available in the country, he Bilwani said sea freights said, adding that prices of cothave already increased by 700 ton yarn have increased after per cent due to the pandemic and the goods now reach their foreign destination in 105 days "The government must ensure availability of cotton instead of 25 days.

PNB plans to hire non-judicial member

PNS NEW DELHI

Punjab National Bank (PNB) is looking to hire a non-judicial member for seeking advice on issues like compromise and write off related to loans.

The public sector lender has invited expression of interest (EoI) from professional or retired personnel based in or around Delhi.

"Punjab National Bank, one of the leading public sector bank in India having its corporate office in Dwarka, New Delhi, invites Expression of Interest from professional/ retired personnel based in or around Delhi, for honorary positions (One Non- Judicial member)," it said in a notice.

non-judicial member will act as a member of the Head Office Committee (HOSAC), which has been constituted by the bank for scrutinising the proposal relating to compromise/write off, the release of guarantors, waivement of legal action among others and for nmendatior



to the competent authority for consideration, according to the EoI.

Delhi-headquartered lender said it is seeking an eminent/reputed person, preferably retired CMD/ED/CGM/GM of a public sector bank.

"The position is honorary. The members of the committee shall, however, be entitled for sitting fee of Rs 15,000 plus conveyance expenses of Rs

1500," the lender said. The committee generally meets once or twice a month (as per requirement) at the corporate office of the bank, it added. As per the EoI, interested candidates can send their application by April 14, 2021.

Sebi orders attachment of bank accounts of Alchemist, 3 others PNS NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has ordered attachment of bank as well as demat accounts of Alchemist Holdings and three individuals to recover investors money to the tune of Rs 444.67 crore.

The recovery proceedings have been initiated against the entities after they failed to refund investors money as directed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

The regulator, in August 2015, had asked Alchemist Holdings and its directors to refund investors money. The company had mobilised Rs

444.67 crore through the issuance of redeemable preference shares to 4.26 lakh people. In an attachment notice on

Thursday, Sebi has asked banks and depositories not to allow any debit from the accounts of Alchemist Holdings and three individuals-- Brij Mohan Mahajan, Vikramaditya Singh and Chadra Shekhar Chauhan. However, credits have been



Further, the regulator has ulator ordered to "attach with directed the banks to attach all immediate effect... all accounts accounts, including lockers, by whatever name, including lockers of the defaulters, held Sebi said there is strong either singly or jointly with any apprehension that the defaultother person, in your bank".

The regulator has also asked ers may dispose of the securities in the Demat accounts or banks and depositories to promutual funds folio and "realivide details of all accounts held by defaulters, including a copy sation of the amount due under the certificate would, in of account statements for the consequence, be delayed or past year. It has also sought obstructed." In a notice to all complete information of all accounts and ad-

Adani signs pact with **MAHAGENCO** PNS NEW DELHI

Adani Enterprises Ltd along with its wholly-owned subsidiary Gare Palma II Collieries Pvt Ltd has signed a pact with Maharashtra State Power Generation Co Ltd (MAHAGENCO) for development and operation of Gare Palma Sector II coal mine.

The coal ministry had allocated the coal mine in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh to MAHAGENCO in 2015, Adani Enterprises said in a fil-

Adani Enterprises Limited located at Koradi, Chandrapur 8- Parli.

3,69,448 units in March Bajaj Auto on Friday said its Btotal sales stood at 3,69,448 company had dispatched

units in March. The Pune-based 2,42,575 units in March 2020, amid COVID-19 led disruptions. The company's total domestic sales last month stood at 1,98,551 units while the same

was at 1,16,541 units in the year-ago period, Bajaj Auto said in a regulatory filing. Bajaj Auto's total two-wheeler sales were at 3,30,133 units last month. It had dispatched 2,10,976 units in March 2020. Overall commercial vehicles sales stood at 39,315 units in March. The company had dispatched 31,599 units in the year-ago period. Bajaj Auto said its total exports last month were at 1,70,897 units. It had shipped 1,26,034 units in March 2020. For the 2020-21 fiscal, the company reported sales of 39,72,914 units, down 14 per cent from 46,15,212 units in 2019-20.

Piaggio opens pre-booking of Aprilia SXR 125



Diaggio on Friday announced opening of prebooking of its SXR range of scooter. nrilia SXR 125 ahead of its launch in the domestic market. Aprilia SXR 125 can now be pre-booked

ing to BSE on Friday. along with its wholly-owned

subsidiary company, Gare Palma II Collieries Pvt Ltd ... has signed a coal mining agreement with... MAHA-GENCO for development and operation of Gare Palma Sector II coal mine," the filing said. The coal block was allotted for development, operation and captive consumption of coal to its end use thermal power plants

came hours after the finance

minister termed Wednesday's

notification as an "oversight".

tinely announces interest rates

for small savings schemes at

the end of every quarter,

Wednesday's decision to cut

interest rates by up to 1.1 per

cent across various small sav-

ings schemes, including Public

Provident Fund (PPF) and

National Savings Certificate

(NSC), had come a day before the second phase of polling in

West Bengal and Assam. The rate of interest on var-

ious small savings schemes for

the first quarter of 2021-22

starting from April 1 and end-

ing on June 30, 2021 would

remain unchanged from those

notified for the fourth quarter

(January 1 to March 31, 2021)

of 2020-21, the finance min-

While the government rou-

Bajaj Auto reports sale of

BRNL inks pact with Cube Highways for sale of stake PNS NEW DELHI

Bharat Road Network Ltd (BRNL) along with its partners has inked a deal with Cube Highways for the sale of the entire stake in Ghaziabad Aligarh Expressway Private Limited.

The proceeds from the sale will be utilised to reduce debt and also capitalise on growth opportunities in the highways sector.

BRNL along with its partners has signed an agreement with Čube Highways, a portfolio company of I Squared Capital, for the complete transfer of ownership in an operating toll road project in Uttar Pradesh, the company said in a statement. BRNL currently holds 39 per cent stake in this project.



PNS NEW DELHI

Jio's aggressive strategy, new JioPhone offers and the impending launch of low-cost smartphones are likely to help regain subscriber momentum, according to a report. Near-term delay in tariff

hike does not de-rail the longterm structural uptrend story in average revenue per user (ARPU), as any consolidation scenario could further boost lio's subscriber addition, said

a recent note by JM Financial. lio's subscriber momentum remained muted in the course of FY21, partly on account of spectrum constraints due to a surge in data usage post-COVID.

...and better execution and positioning of the competition (Bharti) which has enabled it to gain a higher share of



mobile broadband subscribers. However, we believe the subscriber momentum could be bottoming out, given the aggressive strategy of Jio to acquire significant quantities of spectrum in the higher frequency bands to improve capacity," it observed.

Additionally, new "aggressive" Jiophone offers, to be followed by the impending launch of the low-cost smartphones, are likely to help

regain subscriber momentum, it pointed out.

held by them.

It also observed that Jio's net subscriber addition had remained subdued, averaging 2.3 million addition per month against the net subscriber addition of 4.7 million in March 2020, and pointed out that with spectrum constraints now behind, traction in new Jiophone plans are key to revive subscriber addition momentum.

"A successful traction in both the new Jiophone offers and the impending smartphone launch – enabling Jio to increase subscriber addition – would be the key catalyst for an industry-wide tariff hike, which looks likely by the end FY22," the report said. The digital building blocks are in place for Jio, although markets await more traction.

WB contributes highest to small savings schemes

PNS NEW DELHI

West Bengal, which is the midst of a high-pitched assembly election, accounts for the highest collection of about Rs 90,000 crore from small savings schemes such as NSC and PPF among the states and union territories, which is about 15 per cent of the total corpus.

It is followed by Uttar Pradesh, the largest state in terms of population, with gross collection of Rs 69,660.70 crore out of the Rs 5.96 lakh crore garnered during 2017-18 (last updated), as per data collated by the National Savings Institute under the finance ministry.

The government on Thursday revoked a steep interest rate cut on small savings schemes announced the previous night. The ministry's office mem-

istry said in the office memoorandum to roll back cut in randum in suppression of its rates on small savings scheme previous order.



prior to its launch by paying an initial amount of Rs 5,000 through the company's digital retail store or the nearest Piaggio India dealership, a release said. Last December, the Italian premium scooter maker launched Aprilia SXR 160 in the country. "Our distinguished consumers now have the opportunity to pre-book this latest offering, Aprilia SXR 125, offering to Maxify lives, with the new Aprilia experience," said Diego Graffi, CMD, Piaggio India.

IndiGo launches door-to-door baggage transfer service



ndiGo on Friday said it has launched a door-todoor baggage transfer service in Delhi and Hyderabad in which customer luggage gets securely picked and transported from the first to the last destination. In a press release, the airline said it will subsequently launch the facility called

'6EBagport', in partnership with CarterPorter, in Mumbai and Bengaluru. With '6EBagport', customer baggage gets effectively and securely picked and transported with tracking from the first destination to the last one, it said. "The '6EBagPort' service can be availed up to 24 hours prior to the departure of the flight and anytime on arrival," it mentioned. This facility also includes a service insurance of Rs 5,000 per baggage item for the contents and container, it said.

India asks state refiners to review oil import contracts with Saudi terms

PNS NEW DELHI

Amid tensions with Saudi Arabia over oil production cuts, India has asked its state refiners to review contracts they enter into for buying crude oil from the Middle East nation and negotiate more favourable terms, a top official said

(HPCL) to look for oil supplies

from outside the Middle East

region and use collective bar-

gaining power to get favourable

Keen to break producers cartel dictating pricing and contractual terms, the government has told Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd

able to global supply and price shocks. When oil prices started to rise in February, it wanted Saudi Arabia to relax output controls but the Kindgom ignored its calls. This has led to the Indian government now pressing for diversification of the supply base. "Traditionally, Saudi Arabia and other OPEC producers

India imports 85 per cent of

its oil needs and is often vulner

have been our mainstay suppliers of crude oil. But their terms have often been loaded against the buyer," the official with direct knowledge of the discussions said.

For one, Indian firms buy two-third of their purchases on term or fixed annual contracts.



ation to lift all of the contract-These term contracts proed quantity, Saudi and other vide assured supplies of the contracted quantity but the producers have the option to pricing and other terms favour reduce supplies in case OPEC only the supplier, he said. decides to keep production While buyers have an obligartificially lower to boost

prices. Why should the consumer have to pay for decisions of OPEC? If we commit to offtake, they should also supply no matter what," he said.

More importantly, the buyer has to indicate at least six weeks in advance of their intention to lift quantity out of the annual term contract in any month and has to pay an average official price announced by the producer.

"In an ideal market, the pricing should be of the day when the loading is taking place. That way we can get the advantage of any drop in international oil rates. But that is not the case. They (Saudi and other OPEC suppliers) insist on selling at their official selling price only," the official said

To begin with, Indian refiners will look to reduce the quantity they buy through term contracts and instead buy more from the spot or current market.

Buying from the spot market would ensure that India can take advantage of any fall in prices on any day and book quantities.

"It's like stock market. You would want to buy shares on a day or time when the prices are low. So is the case with crude oil - we would want to buy when we see there is a drop. Term contracts devoid us of that flexibility," he said.

Indian refiners have raised spot purchases from 20 per cent a decade back to 30-35 per cent of the total oil bought now.

India contributes USD 300,000 to UN Women



ndia has contributed USD 300,000 to the United Nations agency for gender equality and women empowerment, a contribution lauded by the UN entity. India made the contribution to UN Women, the world

organisation's entity for gender equality and women's empowerment #India contributes USD 300,000 to @UN_Women for 2021," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti tweeted on Thursday. He said India reaffirms its support for gender equality and women empowerment, describing UN Women as a "val ued partner in our progress from women's development to #womenled development." Assistant-Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women Anita Bhatia thanked India for the contribution and its support to UN Women and said in a tweet that "Womenled development envisions women as agents of change driving measurable impact in the lives of women & girls.

Huderbeer bad

G Follow us on @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/ dailypioneer

> Saturday April 3, 2021

He walked into the city to help build the Hyderabad Metro Rail as an L&T engineer. He went on to heal people through his medicine of laughter and then starred in hit films like Goodachari. With his recent release Wild Dog gathering good steam in the theatres, Mayank Parakh talks to The Pioneer's SHIKHA DUGGAL about his love for the city, his initial struggle looking for vegetarian food, and more.

FROM THE TRACKS TO **THE PAPZ!**

times intact!

When Mayank enquired about the city, all he knew was Karachi biscuits or Paradise biryani, but as he

settled deep down in this city, he realised there is utmost *sukoon* here. According to his readings, the locals of Hyderabad have all the time in the world to offer and host you! "I have also lived in Goa and it will be unjust for me to compare both the cities because they are poles apart. Goa was so unruffling! Now, when you look at Hyderabad it has both the facets to tender you with, a metropolitan benefit and three-tier ambience. What's most attractive is the city's *lehza*! The cuisine is as such that — if it has peculiar tandoori dishes or mughlai to present, it has diverse bakery foods too," he adds. Mayank still can't forget from

where he began. Narrating to us his fondest memories of Hyderabad, he recollects that novel occasion when he returned from Mumbai and could see the metro functioning here! The first thing that struck his mind was to take a metro ride and he did just that. He travelled from Paradise station to the Madhapur junction and while in the metro, he couldn't stop reminiscing the struggling days and the loads of hard work that went into the making of the L&T Metro Rail Project. It was like a dream for him as he was part of the mak-

ing! He says that he'll always bear in mind that he was one of the key points in bringing development to the city's landscape being a migrant.

Well, we went on to ask him what Hyderabad means to him and he says with an arresting tone, "Hyderabad is the first of many things that have happened to me — my work, my arrival due to that, my theatre perfor-mance, my gig and then my big break! I am so disposed to the numerous factors of this city now that all my stand-up gigs are around its culture and locals. around its culture and locals. The stand-up comedy scene is slowly growing on to bcome a popular and commercial hub here, while precedence is taken away by the admiration for the stand-up comedian to be honest if he or she is well-known! There is so much to pick up from them as their mannerisms keep altering according to the situations they are into!" He adds, "Sab apne khyalon ke raja hai yahan

and the acceptance that the Telugu film industry has shown can't be beaten at all." Having talked about all the enchanting pointers about Hyderabad, Mavank feels there's great scope in the improvement of traffic sense here and ultimately he's a fan of Irani chai: "Ah, to be able to sit with a friendly group ot

Debunked: Obesity myths to let go of



ccording to numerous studies and reports, more than 1.9 billion FACT: adults are overweight and 650 million are obese globally. In India, over 135 million people are affected by obesity. Obesity presents many medical

and financial challenges for the individual, society and government. The problem of obesity can be solved by creating public awareness about obesity and its health consequences. Misconceptions or myths about obesity can result in stigma and

weight bias. Countering myths with facts and evidence has been proven to be an effective educational tool to increase individuals' knowledge about a certain condition and to reduce stigma, and obesity is no exception.

Below are some of the common myths around Obesity Myth 1: Obesity is a result of poor lifestyle choices

is still a common belief that obesi-ty is a lifestyle choice and that

people become obese because they

eat too much or exercise too little.

This is not entirely true! Some

people are merely susceptible to

ical therapies and lifestyle inter-

ventions, just like other chronic diseases. The interdisciplinary team should consist of health care

professionals, (including dietitians

and physicians) working together

Myth 2: Exercising will fix

Exercise has many health bene-

to deliver optimal treatment.

obesity

amount of weight.

FACT:

gaining weight owing to their genetic disadvantages. Obesity demands a personalised treatment model involving med-

FACT:

Myth 3: Obesity is always hereditary

When it comes to obesity, genetic factors play an important role. However, it doesn't mean that inheriting some traits makes one obese. Obesity rarely shows a clear inheritance pattern when it occurs in families. It seems that in mostcases, obesity is multifactori-al, which is the result of complex interactions among many genes and environmental factors.

Myth 4: Obesity does not affect health

FACT:

FACT:

Obesity has an adverse effect onalmost every part of the body and can hamper a person's quality of life. Obese people are at increased risk for many serious illnesses and health conditions when compared to people with healthy and normal weight. These conditions include type 2 diabetes mellitus, arthropathy, arterial hypertension, dyslipidemia, coro-nary heart disease, cerebral vascu-Obesity is a complex chronic disease with multiple contributing factors such as genetic variables as well as medical conditions. There lopathy, sleep apnea syndrome, etc.



verybody wants to be a multifaceted person but it suits better for are God-gifted. Who knew, that from work-ing as an L&T Engineer for the Hyderabad Metro Rail Project, one would go on to become a known face in the fraternity of stand-up comics and also dabble manifold roles in massive Telugu movies! Mayank Parakh, who you can now watch in theatres nearby in

you were to look at

2021, you'd find the

outdoors gets a big high five. More specifically a holiday

trek is recommended as a way

to not only get fit but it offers a

unique social distancing advan-

tage in the mountains with

breath-taking scenery as a bonus. But then, if you think

you can turn up without ade-quate training and preparation you are in for a shock, although you'd rue the whole thing later

and consider your black toenail and blisters as a badge of hon-

Pioneer to get you prepped with your holiday trek.

You need to begin with your first step (as Confucius says, for

your thousand mile journey of

sorts) and that is to begin walk-

ing. Begin with one hour walks on alternate days and build up

to walking five times a week. With two months to go for your trek, throw in back-to-back long

walks on weekends with a back-

pack that weighs between 5 - 7 kgs and do at least 3 - 4 weekend walks that last six hours. Use inclines, declines and stairs to simulate training for ascents

Typically, ten-day treks will have a relentless schedule of

walking every day for 4 - 6 hours at a stretch and you'll

and descents.

our. Marathon Coach Daniel Vaz shares five tips with The

fitness trends for

the recently released action thriller Wild Dog alongside Nagarjuna Akkineni, is turning out to be a polymath Borr

place to dine outside. Sooner or later, iss shaher ne mujhe samjha and at the moment Hyderabad is going to be my top-most favourite place to reside in, because of its a blend both fame.

try. "I'll term my relationship with this city as very *yaadgaar*, because I got a great chance to express myself. Let me tell you that I was feeling a bit out of place when I arrived in 2013. A fully new place with a new ethnicity, I was taken aback! I am a pure-vege-tarian, varied thoughts lingered in my mind about whether I will be able to live to tell the tale here, in the metropolis widely known for its meat dishes. It was a thorny phase initially, I wasn't finding the right

that migrating as

the anciently known 'south *kos-ala*' also called Chattisgarh, Mayank, a *marwari*, disembarked to the city of Hyderabad in the year 2013 for his job as a civil engineer — until then, he had never been to Hyderabad. Going aboard with drama and arts, stand-up comedy and act-ing — Mayank established a

name for himself, not knowing

Whoever eavesdrops to know more about Hyderabad, certain lingos are are always in the air, be it the 'deccani language', 'musi river', or the fortified monuments that have kept the olden

small-townies and the cream of the crop," shares the *Goodachari*

DERÁBOND

temperament is an experience in itself." peers with no passive-aggressive

squats, leg presses and dead-

Hydrate well. You may face all kinds of weather, from hot afternoons to cold mornings. Your fluid requirements will need to be met because you will lose fluid thru' sweat and water vapour when exhaling. Don't wait to feel thirsty because it would mean that dehydration has already set in. This will impair your ability to keep up because fatigue and / or cramps will set in. Carry a sipper in your backpack and keep sipping all throughout the day. Practice hydration during your training walks to know what your specif-

Ic fluid requirements are. Fuel up. This is similar to staying hydrated. Don't attempt to make your trek into a weight loss sojourn, you will only end up with very low energy levels. The body will burn carbohy-

focus on enjoying the whole experience. One last bit of advice; carry a good deodorant with silver ions technology formulated to kill odour causing bacteria. Camps can be close quarters with several occupants and you'd probably standout as someone not just fresh as a daisy from being fit but also smelling like one.

lifts.

ic fluid requirements are.

drate (stored in the body as glycogen) and these stores are very limited. If you run out of glycogen you could end up with low blood sugar and resulting deep fatigue setting in. Carry

deep fatigue setting in. Carry dry fruits as these are typically calorie dense and light weight. You will probably spend a lot of money registering for your trek and travelling to the loca-tion. It makes good sense to prepare for it by training well so you are in good shape and can focus on enjoying the whole

Myth 5:Eating less will solve the problem of obesity

One main reason for obesity is consumingmore calories than the body requires, over an extended period of time. The most common steps taken towards controlling obesity are lowering calorie intake, increasing physical activity or both. Though diet and exercise are important aspects, several oth-erfactors also play crucialrole in obesity. These factors are inadequate sleep, psychological stress, chronic pain, endocrine (hor-mone) disruptors, and the use of certain medications. It is unfortunate that people often forget about these when thinking of obesity. Obesity is a complex disease

and we still have a lot to learn about it. Due to these gaps in knowledge, people lean towards ideas that simply aren't expert opinion from your doctor to address obesity at an early

fits; however, weight loss isn't real ly one of them. Exercise only helps helps in losing 3% to 5% of the weight. Exercise is important for maintaining weight once you shed a few kilos. correct.Unravelling the facts about obesity from the fiction will help understand and manage the dis-ease better. It is advisable to seek Some forms of strenuous exercise can even be dangerous for obese patients, particularly if started all of a sudden. For some (The writer, Dr R Santosh is a obese people, exercise isn't suit-Consultant Endocrinologist at able until they lose a certain Magna code Hospital)





Tips to trek the mountains better

thank yourself for the hours you rience a breeze.

invest in training. When a few of my runners decided to do Invest in a good pair of shoes. These should be water resistant Everest Base camp and despite training for marathons, I had them climb and descend stairs hiking shoes with ankle support. Buy the shoes in the afternoon when your feet are swollen so you get the proper size for your in their apartment complex with a backpack. They returned sayfeet. Make sure you 'break-into' ing they found the whole expeyour shoes so the shoe upper

moulds itself around your feet and they are snug and comfortable when you wear them on your six hour walks. You'll have to contend with a few blisters during training but better now than later so it saves you the miserv and pain when you camp down for the night.

Build strength and cardiovas-cular capacity. Join a Gym if possible and use the treadmill for 30 – 40 minute cardio sessions, followed by resistance training.

Focus on building leg strength with exercises like weighted walking lunges, barbell





Anshu, Aanshu and Rakshitha



Bhargavi





Sashi Nahata



Shreya Reddy







Anusha



Bindhu and Lakshmi





Lokeswari



VEGGIE TALES

R roducer Nandamuri Vasundhara Devi formally inaugurated Pure O Natural Fruits and Vegetables' 33rd outlet in the Telugu states, at Kokapet on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, she said that fruits and vegetables will work as an elixir in keeping us healthy. "Consuming fruits and vegetable regularly would help in being fit and energetic," she said.

🛑 Karuna

FUN

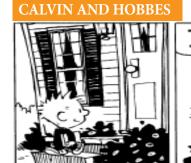
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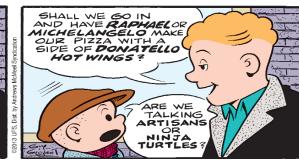


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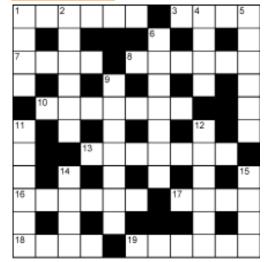
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CROSSWORD



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- 17 Leg joint 18 Decays 19 Dislike very strongly

DOWN

- 1 Finest 2 A prickly plant
- 4 Part of the ear
- 5 Cricket team number



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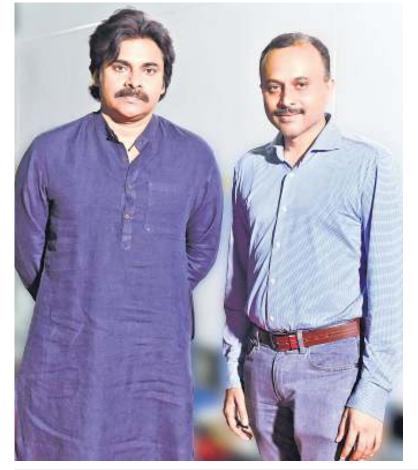






tollywood

STAGE SET FOR INCOMING NEW BREED OF TALENT



he struggle of aspiring actors trying and waiting and failing and finally giving up is a sad reality. We know of many young talented actors coming to the film industry and struggling for opportunities and heading back to differ-ent fields with the frustration of not find-

ent fields with the frustration of not find-ing the right platform for thier talent.

To cater to such artists, Power Star Pawan Kalyan and T.G. Vishwa Prasad of People Media Factory LLP have collabo-rated to offer an opportunity and give them new life.

Pawan Kalyan Creative Works, estab-lished by the *Gabbar Singh* actor with a love for cinema and storytelling, intends to encouraging new writers, storytellers and talent in making movies in multiple languages across different genres. PKCW collaborated with People Media Factory LLP to jointly bankroll 15 films. These 15 include 6 Small scale projects, 6 medium

include 6 Small scale projects, 6 medium scale and 3 large scale ones. "This coming-together of Pawan Kalyan Creative Works and People Media Factory LLP aims at materialising projects as men-tioned below, apart from the exciting pos-sibility of Mr Pawan Kalyan *garu* himself starring in a couple of them," a statement read read.

Harish Pai will play a key role as an executive producer in promoting new talent that can leverage the collaboration to find potential opportunities. More details will be released soon. The representatives said that they would announce further details in due course of time.



MAKERS UNVEIL AJAY DEVGN'S poweRRRful avatar

akers of director SS Rajamouli's RRR, on the occasion of Bollywood his fans to a motion poster of the film revealing his look. Revealing the motion

poster of *Roudram Ranam Rudhiram* on Ajay Devgn's birthday,

film's official handle wrote, nums official handle wrote, "Empowering his people is his defining characteristic. His strength lies in his emo-tion. Presenting the poweRRRful avatar of maiwdowen in #DRDM"

@ajaydevgn in #RRRMovie." Ajay, who turned 52 on Friday, also shared the *RRR* motion poster and wrote, "Load. Aim. Shoot. Thank you @ssrajamouli for envi-

sioning

me in such an exciting and powerful character." Other members of the RRR cast — NTR Jr and Ram Charan Tej too shared the motion poster. It has been reported that Ajay will appear in flashback portions of the film. Earlier, the makers had revealed the first looks of Alia Bhatt as Sita and Ram Charan as Alluri Sitarama Raju on their respective birthdays.

RRR is set in 1920s India and its screenplay has been written by director SS Rajamouli and his father KV Vijayendra Prasad. The film imagines the two famed 'heroes' — Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem — meeting at some point in time. RRR will release in October 2021 and it will clash with another Ajay Devgn starrer Maidaan.

VAISHNAV TEJ NEXT WITH **KETIKA** LAUNCHED



fter the success of *Uppena*, actor Vaishnav Tej has become everyone's favourite both for his alluring looks and his acting skills for a newbie.

It is known that the actor has a couple of projects lined up. The actor's next with *Romantic* girl Ketika Sharma has been launched in the city on Friday.

The film, supposedly a romantic family drama, is being directed by Apparently, Gireesaaya wanted to cast an actress who could resonate with the youth while effortlessly fitting into the family-drama genre. We hear the director chose Ketika after chancing upon her rushes in

Romantic. It surely looks like Ketika and Vaishnav make for a cool pair on screen; their funny conversations and situational comedy in the film seem to add to the lightness of the breezy entertainer. The film is being



get up and 'I should do it," the Julayi actress said.

Ileana made her big-screen debut in 2006 with the Telugu film *Devadasu*. She made a name in Telugu cinema with hits such as *Pokiri, Jalsa, Kick*, and more. It was in 2012, she made her Hindi film debut with Anurag Basu's Barfi!. She then starred in Main Tera Hero, Rustom, Baadshaho and Raid.

"I still feel like there is so much more I could have done and there is so much more that I want to do, and there is no stopping when it comes to my work right now. There is no looking back for me. I can't imagine doing anything else. I am weirdly hungrier now for work than

adds.

Shruti Haasan on working in Covid times: I get tested very often

ctress Shruti Haasan has been juggling between Chennai, Hyderabad and

Mumbai to shoot her with Covid cases continu-ing unabated, and with places like

Mumbai seeing a sharp rise, she says she is being extra cautious. Talking about how she manages her used schedule and being safe, the *Oh My*

Gireesaaya of Adithva Varma, Tamil remake of Arjun Reddy fame.

bankrolled by B.V.S.N. Prasad and will go on floors next month.



"I still feel like there's so much more I could have done and there is so much more that I want to do, and there is no stopping when it comes to my work right now. There is no looking back for me. I can't imagine doing anything else. I am weirdly hungrier now for work than how I was when I started out."

oddly enougl posting about mv workouts motivates me to workout as well. So, it makes me

want

to

all. I do agree on

the motivation

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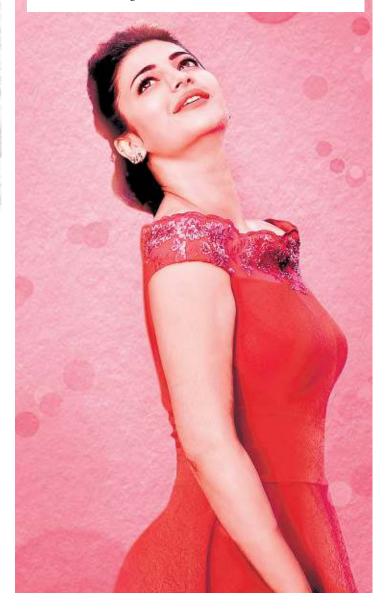
how I was when I started out," Ileana said.

Is there any genre, in particular, she would like to try out? "I think it's an action film. L think I should dabble in something where I am kicking serious butt," the Aata actress said.

Friend actress shares, "I've always been used to travelling for shoots but it's definitely more chaotic during these times of Covid. I get tested often, in order to make sure I'm not a risk to others, and to follow the protocol of each state and, of course, I follow safety precautions." "I don't compromise on loads of sanitisers and masks as well! Everything else comes second," the Yevadu actress

The actress who started the year with the Ravi Teja-starrer *Krack* hitting the bullseye at the box office, has already thrown herself into work for Prabhas' Salaar.

Her film with Vijay Sethupathi, Laabam, is also ready for release. She will also be seen in the Pawan Kalyan-starrer Vakeel Saab, in a guest role.



Raashi roped in as Thank You female lead?



aga Chaitanva, is *Thank You* with Vikram K *Chank You* with Vikram K Kumar of *Manam* fame. The shoot of the film is going on at brisk pace, as it is to release on June 19, 2021. Now, according to the latest update, makers of the film, who are

yet to make a final announcement about the female lead, have roped in Raashi Khanna to be cast opposite Chaitanya.

A final confirmation about the same is yet to be made.

Produced by Dil Raju's banner, the romantic drama will have the two appear as young lovers. The duo ear-lier had played as lovers in director Bobby's *Venky Mama*, which had a decent run at the box office.

Thank You is being produced under Sri Venkateswara Creations banner. The Naga Chaitanya-starrer has cinematography by PC Sriram, B V S Ravi has penned the story, music is scored by S Thaman, and Naveen Nooli is taking care of the editing department. Naga Chaitanya is awaiting the

release of his upcoming film *Love Story* that is being helmed by Sekhar Kammula. It has Sai Pallavi as the female lead, whose song *Saranga*

Dariya has gone viral. Chaitanya will also be debuting in Bollywood where he will play a cru-cial role in Aamir Khan's Laal Singh *Chaddha.* Raashi Khanna, on the other hand, is busy with Gopichand's *Pakka Commercial* and a couple of Tamil films.

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Tamim planning to quit one format to prolong career PNS NEW DELHI

Bangladesh One Day Internationals captain Tamim Iqbal is planning to quit one for-mat of the game to prolong his cricket career, the star opening batsman revealed on Friday.

According to a report in *Cricbuzz*, the opening batsman, who missed three-match T20 Internationals series against New Zealand this week due to personal reasons, didn't specify which format he's planning to quit but added that the upcoming T20 World Cup in India is very much on his mind.

"Of course the T20 World Cup is very much on my mind and this is just six months away and I am not 36 or 37, so why not?," Tamim said on Friday.

T20 is not out of mind. Look how I want to have my cricketing career and how I would like it to shape is in my head. I know which format I want to leave early and which format I want to leave later. I know everything and I don't think that I have to disclose everything to everyone.

"When I feel that I have to let go of this format to prolong the other two, I will not push myself and carry on with that. The message is very clear, I want to play for Bangladesh as long as possible and I want to give my best for the country. I want to leave one format just to make sure I can give my best to the other two formats. It is not that I am tired of Test cricket that I am leaving or I am tired of T20 that I am leaving, it is just to make sure that I can give my best to

other two formats," he said. Even though Tamim made it clear that he plans to go down the road of quitting one of the three formats, he remained tight-lipped about which format it would be that he gives up carly up early

"If I want to play for five to six years then it is very difficult for me to play three formats. Normally if you see the international cricketers around the world you will see they don't retire from all the formats at one go.

"They let go of one format and then they play the other two formats and then they retire. What I want to say is that the same thing is for me if I feel now or say six months or year or after two years ... if I feel that I have to let go of one format, I will let go of one format

"I don't want to indicate anything as I said it can be ODIs, Tests or T20s. I will play those two formats where I can contribute to the team and let go that format where I feel that I have nothing much to give," said Tamim.

Babar ton trumps van der Dussen's

Pakistan go 1-0 up in three-match ODI series after final ball win in 1st ODI

AFP CENTURION

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam Struck his 13th One Day International century as his side narrowly beat South Africa by three wickets off the final ball of the match in the first ODI at Supersport Park on Friday

Asked to bat first by Pakistan, the Proteas found themselves in trouble early on, slumping to 55-4, following the cheap dismissals of Quinton de Kock (20), Aiden Markram (19), Temba Bavuma (1) and Heinrich Klaasen (1).

Rassie van der Dussen and David Miller steadied the ship and patiently batted South Africa back into the contest with a 116-run partnership. Miller fell for 50 but Van der

Dussen kicked on to reach his maiden ODI century with Andile Phehlukwayo adding a valuable 29 down the order before he departed.

Van der Dussen struck a few more big blows as the Proteas posted 273-6 in their 50 overs with the right-hander finishing unbeaten on 123.

Kagiso Rabada made a brilliant start with the ball for the Proteas by bowling Fakhar Zaman for only eight.

Azam, though, joined Imam-ul-Haq in the middle and together the pair batted Pakistan into a commanding position with the captain playing some truly spectacular shots.

Both players surpassed their half-centuries and continued to frustrate the South African bowlers as pressure began to build on the hosts.

Azam went on to his 13th ODI ton before Anrich Nortje finally broke the 177-run partnership with the breakthrough of Azam, who departed for 103.

Nortje led the Proteas fightback with the ball and pressured the Pakistan batsmen with a number of short deliveries, which yielded the further wickets of Imam-ul-Haq (70), Danish Aziz (3) and Asif Ali (2).

All of a sudden Pakistan were in a spot of bother themselves at 203-5, but wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan, brought visitors back into the contest.

Rizwan and Shadab Khan absorbed the pressure and applied themselves with a couple of boundaries. The two batsmen stood firm to bring up a 50run partnership of their own for the



the line. **Boucher looks at positives from IPL bound players missing Pak series**

PTI KARACHI

 $S_{\text{Boucher sought to dwell on the}}^{\text{outh Africa head coach Mark}}$ positives from his IPL-bound players missing the Pakistan series, saying it will help their T20 World Cup preparation in India and also allow him to test his team's bench strength.

Five top South African players including Quinton de Kock, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, David Miller and Anrich Nortje will be available only for the first two ODIs against Pakistan before they fly to India to begin their quarantine period ahead

of the IPL beginning April 9. these players missing matches in this series but we have known this for sometime because the BCCI and CSA have a long standing agreement to release players for IPL and the scheduling didn't quite work out because of the Covid-19 situation," Boucher told

a virtual press conference. The former South African wicketkeeper batsman said one of the pros was that the players will be playing the IPL in India where the World T20 is

scheduled later this year.

"I think their appearances in the "There are pros and cons of IPL going into the World T20 will help us," said Boucher.

– BABAR AZAM

– TEMBA BAVUMA

Phehlukwayo provided a big glim-

Phehlukwayo kept South Africa in

"Playing in a good strong competition against top strong opposition who they are likely to face in the World T20 they are going to get first hand information about the different venues, opposition we expect to meet up in the World event.

"Look at it positively they are not going on holidays and it also gives us an opportunity to have a lookout over other guys in the fray," he added.

H H S

FANS RETURN FOR LEAGUE CUP FINAL LONDON: Wembley is ready to welcome crowds back later this month after being empty for more than a year. Only local workers and residents will be among the 4,000 spectators allowed into the national football stadium for the FA Cup semifinal between Leicester and Southampton. But the League Cup final between Manchester City and Tottenham has been lined up to also have a limited number of fans of the clubs in a crowd of up to 8,000 in the 90,000-capacity venue.

TORREIRA WANTS TO LEAVE EUROPE

MADRID: Arsenal's Uruguay international midfielder Lucas Torreira, who is on Ioan at Atletico Madrid, says he wants to leave Europe and play for Boca Juniors. The 25-year-old said he came to the decision after his mother died of Covid-19 earlier this week. "The night my mother died, I told my representative that I don't want to play in Europe anymore and I want to come to Boca," Torreira told ESPN. "It's not a crazy decision because of my mother. I've always said I want to play for Boca. I'm dying to play for Boca.'

TENDULKAR HOSPITALISED

MUMBAI: Former India captain and batting icon Sachin Tendulkar has been hospitalised as a precautionary measure, six days after he tested positive for Covid-19. The 47-year-old took to Twitter to announce the development on Friday. "Thank you for your wishes and prayers. As a matter of abundant precaution under medical advice, I have been hospitalised. I hope to be back home in a few days. Take care and stay safe everyone," Tendulkar wrote.

BLIND OUT FOR SEASON WITH INJURY

AMSTERDAM: Netherlands defender Daley Blind expects to miss the remainder of the club season because of an ankle injury but he hopes to be fit for the European Championship. Blind was hurt during the second half of his country's 7-0 win over Gibraltar in a World Cup qualifying match on Tuesday. "I assume that my season at Ajax is over," Blind said in a statement by his Dutch club. "I will have an operation next week. If everything goes well during rehabilitation, I hope that I can still make it to the Euros this summer.'

MBAPPE, PSG TRAIN AHEAD OF LILLE CLASH

PARIS: PSG trained in the French capital on Friday, on the eve of a potentially title-deciding encounter with Lille at the Parc des Princes. Both sides have 63 points from 30 games, with only PSG's superior goal difference separating them. The champions will go into the game as favourites though, on the back of their remarkable record against Lille winning 16 of the last 21 meetings between the two sides.

TASHKENT TO HOST 2023 BOXING WORLD'S

New Delhi: The 2023 men's boxing World Championships will be held in Uzbekistan capital Tashkent, the AIBA announced on Friday. AIBA President Umar Kremlev confirmed Tashkent as the host city during a visit to Uzbekistan.

ATHLETIC, SOCIEDAD READY FOR COPA FINAL

SEVILLE: The Basque Country football rivalry is peaking, with Athletic Bilbao and Real Sociedad meeting twice in less than a week. The fierce rivals will play in last season's delayed Copa del Rey final on Saturday before meeting again four days later in La Liga. Both are still in contention for European spots, but Athletic has a chance to make history as it will also play in the 2021 Copa final in a couple of weeks.

RONALDO'S ARMBAND AUCTIONED FOR \$75K

BUDAPEST: The captain's armband that Cristiano Ronaldo angrily threw to the ground during Portugal's World Cup qualifier in Belgrade last week has been sold to an unidentified bidder for 64,000 euros (\$75,000) at a charity auction, Serbian state TV reported on Friday. A Serbian humanitarian group put the blue armband up for online bidding to raise money for medical treatment for a 6-month-old boy suffering

with spinal muscular atrophy.

Indian players want to play in The Hundred, claims Morgan

PTI KOLKATA

 $\mathbf{\Gamma}$ ngland's white ball captain leads Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL, claims that a lot of Indian players are interested in being a part of his country's ambitious The Hundred league as well as other franchise events across the globe. Morgan also urged the game's administrators to have a roadmap for the next 10 years to ensure that top players are not forced to choose a lucrative private league career over International cricket. "Just having conversations out here about The Hundred, I know that there are Indian cricketers out here who would love to play in The Hundred and other competitions around the world," Morgan told Sky Sports during an interaction but did not take any names. "They love travelling and experiencing new conditions and cultures, and they would add huge value to a tournament like that," he added.



Iver to go under the knife on April 8 Mumbai: India batsman Shreyas Thakur.

Iver is set to undergo a surgery on April 8 for his shoulder injury which had ruled him out of the last two ODIs against England and the entire IPL.

The 26-year old Iyer had sufed the injury during the first ODI

Jonny Bairstow off pacer Shardul He looked in tremendous pain

as he left the field clutching his shoulder. "Shreyas will get operated on April 8 for his shoulder injury," a source in the know of things said.

Iyer is likely to be out of action had tweeted last week.

had signed up with Lancashire but now is unlikely to play for the English county side in their one-day tournament starting on July 23.

for a minimum of four months. He

"You know what they say, the greater the setback, the stronger the comeback. I shall be back soon," Iver

The Hundred is a franchise-based 100-ball cricket event that was supposed to tries and some aren't able to

start last year in England. However, the Covid-19 pandemic led to its postponement to this year.

Morgan said the ICC is not doing enough to accommodate the countries which are losing players to private leagues.

'My biggest worry is that the game isn't changing and accommodating the pace at which it is growing.

"It is definitely an area of concern and one that needs improvement going forward because you play against coun-

play their best XIs because they are competing against big leagues around the world," Morgan told former England skipper Nasser Hussain during the chat.

> Morgan cautioned ICC that in a another decade's time, the franchise leagues will take over International cricket.

"Whoever is in charge needs to think about what that looks like in 10 years' time because if they don't manage it,

franchise leagues around the world will become more dom-

Like players, umpires too have form: Nitin Menon

PTI NEW DELHI

Nitin Menon, who showed remarkable accuracy in his debut series as an ICC Elite Panel umpire, feels pressure situations bring the best out of him and like cricketers, he too wants to make most of this purple patch. The 37-year-old from

Indore was inducted into the ICC elite panel of umpires in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic in June last year but had to wait till this February for his first major assignment.

With the pandemic forcing the ICC to appoint local umpires in a bilateral series, Menon officiated in all four Tests between India and England besides three of the



five T20s and three ODIs. By the end of it, he was showered with accolades for his stellar performance.

Speaking about that gru-

Chennai ahead of the IPL said: "The last two months have been great. It gives one great satisfaction when people notice and appreciate your good work. This series was always going to be a very challenging one because of the hype associated with it -aplace in the World Test Championship final at stake, both teams coming back from impressive overseas wins, challenging pitches to officiate on. "As for the white-ball

series, it was between the two top-ranked teams in the

world. Taking all these factors into consideration, I am pleased that we did well as an umpiring team," said only third Indian in the ICC elite panel after S Venkataraghavan

and S Ravi. As world's two top teams fought it out in the middle, Menon was an epitome of calmness. Out of the 40 referrals taken against his decisions during the series, only five were upheld. More importantly, only two decisions were overturned out of 35 referrals taken against his lbw decisions. The DRS, especially the

PTI

umpire's call, once again was a big talking point through out the series.

In a normal scenario, Menon won't get to officiate in back to back games over two months. So, how did he cope up with high pressure scenarios match after match?

"I believe umpiring is all about mental toughness. More

the pressure better is the focus. If we can give our best performances when we are under pressure, that is the true reflection of how strong we are mentally.

Agencies

"It's not new for me to officiate in back-to-back matches, thanks to the amount of domestic cricket organised in India. Even in the IPL, we do around 14-16 games without a break, so all this experience has really helped me in this series. Like players, umpires also have form. I always feel that when in good form, I should do the maximum number of games without any break," said Menon, who played two List A games for Madhya Pradesh and comes from a family of umpires.

Liverpool look to recover lost ground

inant.

Arsenal vs Liverpool ve from 12:30ar **STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**

AFP LIVERPOOL

urgen Klopp has challenged Liverpool to salvage their troubled Premier League season with a late bid to finish in the top four. Klopp's side are languishing in seventh place and sit five points adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League.

The Reds' win over Wolves before the international break was only their fourth Premier League victory since Christmas during a spell in which they lost eight times.

With just nine games remaining — starting with Saturday's trip to Arsenal -Liverpool boss Klopp knows his team have no margin for error. League as well," Klopp said on teams after the international is good."



Roberto Firmino, left, and Fabinho arrive for Liverpool training Firmino/Instagram

"We don't have a lot of Friday. "We will not hesitate, we will hopefully we points to waste any more but we have a tough programme on top just go for it and hopefully we of that, not only in the Premier can do that on Saturday. "It is always a challenge for League but the Champions

Andreescu sets up final against Barty break, with players coming back from their countries having played different systems and different match plans.

"We have one session to bring it all together again and that's a challenge but we are used to it. "We know whatever we want for the rest of the season we can only get it if we win football games, and the first one is at Arsenal.

Klopp has Roberto Firmino back from a knee problem but the form of Diogo Jota, who scored the winner at Wolves and found the net three times in two World Cup qualifiers for Portugal, may keep him out of the side.

"Diogo is in a good moment, he was before he left and showed that again in the international break," Klopp said. "Yes, these are the rare benefits of an international break from a club point of view but it

AFP 📕 MIAMI

 $B^{\rm ianca}_{\rm final\,since\,winning\,the\,2019\,US\,Open}$ title while world No 1 Ashleigh Barty bucked the upset trend at the Miami Open on Thursday to set up a blockbuster clash.

In the men's draw, second seed Stefanos Tsitsipas was stunned by Hurbert Hurkacz while Andrey Rublev rolled on to the semi-finals, ending the giant-killing run of Sebastian Korda.

Australia's Barty fired 27 winners in a 6-3, 6-3 victory over fifth-seeded Ukrainian Elina Svitolina to return to the title match of a tournament she won when it was last held in 2019. Canada's Andreescu won her fourth straight threesetter to beat Greece's Maria Sakkari 7-6 (9/7), 3-6, 7-6 (7/4).

But Greece's Tsitsipas was left trying to explain a "self-explosion" after he squandered a commanding lead in a 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 quarter-final loss to 26th seed Hurkacz of Poland — the latest in a string of upsets that saw men's top seed Daniil Medvedev and No 3 Alexander Zverev bow



Bianca Andreescu acknowledges the crowd after win **AP**

out along with women's No 2 Naomi Osaka.

Tsitsipas admitted it was a crushing outcome in a tournament where the absences of superstars Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer and his own recent solid form seemed to offer him a chance to shine.

"I felt like it was my opportunity," Tsitsipas said. "I feel like there was more space for me to show something greater. It's a very disappointing loss.

"It was there, everything was under control. And suddenly, I don't know, selfexplosion."

In the semis, Hurkacz will face Russian fourth seed Andrey Rublev who won a rain-interrupted quarter-final with a 7-5, 7-6 (9/7) victory over unseeded Sebastian Korda.

The 23-year-old Rublev advanced to his first Masters 1000 semi-final by beating Korda in straight sets in a night match, putting an end to Korda's inspired Miami run by blasting five aces and winning 85 percent of his first serve points in the one hour, 42 minute match.

elling experience, Menon, who is now quarantining in