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## WINDOWS



Dozens of skaters took to the frozen surface of Amsterdam's historic Prinsengracht canal at Amsterdam in Netherlands as the deep freeze gripping Europe briefly made it possible to skate on a small section of the canal for the first time since 2018. People skated and walked on a small stretch of ice between two bridges close to the landmark Westerkerk before growing cracks in the ice forced all but the most daring off the ice

## 19 more Covid vaccines in pipeline

NEW DELHI: Nearly 19 coronavirus vaccine candidates are in different clinical trial stages and may be available in the coming months, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Monday. Addressing the media, Vardhan said that in the next 2-3 weeks, vaccination against Covid-19 will be started for people above 50 years of age. "About 18-19 vaccine candidates against Covid-19 are in the pipeline and are in preclinical, clinical and advanced stages. We are hopeful that we will be able to offer newer vaccines to India in the coming months," Vardhan said.

## NTPC to pay ₹20 lakh to kin of Tapovan victims

JOSHIMATH: State-run power giant NTPC on Monday said it would pay a compensation of Rs 20 lakh each to the families of labourers who died in the recent flash flood at its Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project in Uttarakhand. A workforce has been set up at the plant to coordinate with the administration and gather all required information about every missing worker, NTPC's spokesman RP Jayada said. He said rescue work is underway on a war-footing at Tapovan-Vishnugad project site by multiple agencies to reach people believed to be trapped inside the tunnel. Real-time information is being shared with the agencies involved in the exercise to expedite it, Jayada said.

## BUSINESS



## Centre may put 4 banks on sale



# SC slaps notice on WhatsApp, FB

## WhatsApp may be worth \$2-3 tn, people value privacy more, says the apex court

NEW DELHI: THE Supreme Court issued notices to popular social media platforms WhatsApp and Facebook on a plea against its new privacy policy here on Monday. The apex court said people had grave apprehensions on loss of privacy, making it clear that it was the court's duty to protect this right as it heard an application against WhatsApp's new privacy policy.

The observation came as senior advocate Shyam Divan, representing petitioner Karmanya Singh Sareen, sought direction to restrain WhatsApp from implementing its new privacy policy in



India. "They have come up with new differentiating privacy policy for the Europeans and different set of rules applicable to Indians," Divan argued. He added that till the time new data protection law came into force in India, WhatsApp should not bring its new privacy policy.

At this, Chief Justice SA Bobde replied, "We will issue notice in the matter."

A bench, headed by the Chief Justice and comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, told the counsel for WhatsApp, "People have grave apprehensions about loss of privacy.

You may be 2 or 3 trillion-dollar company, but people value their privacy more than your money. We have to protect people's privacy." Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Arvind Datar, appearing for WhatsApp, strongly contested Divan's argument, saying that the Delhi High Court is already seized of the matter. Sibal said that Europe had a different set of data privacy laws, and WhatsApp's new privacy policy for India is similar to policy applicable in the US, Australia and other countries. "The fact is that this policy was applicable to the rest of the world except Europe.

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## Film showcasing TRS rule to hit screens on KCR's birthday

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE TRS has found a new way to resurrect the entire movement for Telangana State and showcase various schemes and welfare measures it had taken up during its rule since formation of the State in the form of a documentary film.



According to party sources, a 30-minute short film made in 3E technology on the life of TRS president K Chandrasekhara Reddy is ready and would hit the small screen and social media on Wednesday at Jalavihar on the occasion of birthday celebrations of KCR. The party feels that this could help stir the sentiment factor and could help the party in the MLC elections as well as the by-election to the Nagarjuna Sagar Assembly constituency.

The film is directed by popular director Bandook Lakshman. The first view of this short film will be presented at a public meeting

to be held at Jalavihar on giant LCD screens.

The documentary starts with the birth of KCR and will show in detail the agitation for separate Telangana, the scenes during the passage of Telangana Bill in Rajya Sabha and celebrations in the State. The documentary also showcases various developmental schemes implemented by the TRS government during the last six years.

Apart from the documentary, the party leaders are releasing five songs. The songs are sung by popular folk and playback singers, including Satyavathi Rathod who is popularly known as Mangli, Madhu

Priya and Rahul Sipligunj. The full songs would be released on the same day, said Cinematography Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav.

MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha will offer a sari of gold weighing 2.5 kg (with some donations by the devotees) to Goddess Balkampet Yellamma. Special prayers and pujas would be organised at Ujjaini Mahankali temple in Secunderabad and Bangaru Maisamma temple in Parsigutta and saris would be distributed to women. Abhishekam and Ganapati Kalyanam at Ganesh temple in Secunderabad will also be performed.

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## Centre releases GST payout of ₹1,703.56 for Telangana

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD: The Finance Ministry on Monday released 16th weekly instalment of Rs 5,000 crore to the States to meet the GST compensation shortfall, taking the total amount released so far to Rs 95,000 crore. Till now, 86 per cent of the total estimated GST compensation shortfall has been released to the States and Union Territories (UTs) with legislative assembly. Further, additional borrowing permission of over Rs 1.06 lakh crore was granted to the States. As part of that amount raised through special window passed on to Andhra Pradesh is Rs 2,167.20 crore and Rs 1,703.56 for Telangana. The Centre set up a special borrowing window in October 2020 to meet the estimated shortfall of Rs1.10-lakh crore in revenue due to GST implementation.

# MLC candidates hunt for jobless graduates

PATAN AFZAL BABU HYDERABAD

THERE is a sudden demand for unemployed graduate voters in the two poll-bound graduates constituencies Hyderabad - Rangareddy- Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda, Warangal-Khammam graduates' constituencies.

With the stage set for issuing of notification for the two MLC seats undergraduate constituencies, all po-



litical parties are busy identifying the unemployed graduate voters in those constituencies. This is followed by identifying private teachers who lost their jobs in the corona pandemic in villages.

The idea is to lure the voters by offering financial help and other benefits. It is being said that these potential voters are being offered anything up to Rs 10,000. Not just that in some cases the MLAs were

recommending benefits under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the needy.

Meanwhile, the TRS party has asked the respective MLAs from the poll-bound areas to ensure victory of the party candidate. Other parties have also asked their leaders to see that no stone was left unturned.

Of the total number of 5 lakh voters, nearly 30 per cent of them are said to be unemployed youth. It is be-

lieving said that local leaders will give half of the amount first and the second half will be given on the day of polling.

According to rough estimates all parties put together are likely to spend nearly Rs 50 crore as part of poll expenses.

The main contests in the field are TRS MLC P Rajeshwar Reddy, Gujjula Premendar Reddy BJP and - Telangana Jana Samithi leader Prof M Kodan-

daram. The prominent candidates for Hyderabad - Rangareddy- Mahbubnagar are BJP MLC N Ramchander Rao, G Chinna Reddy Congress and Prof K Nageshwar. The TRS may not field any candidate, according to sources.

The total number of graduate voters in the constituency were 5,17,888 which has been doubled compared to the last council elections.

## PM to address experts for effective implementation of budget

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will address a webinar on Tuesday for consultation on the roadmap for effective implementation of the Union Budget 2021-22 in the infrastructure sector. The

webinar will see the participation of more than 200 panelists, including representatives of major financial institutions and funds, concessionaires and contractors, consultants and subject matter experts, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

## Govt eases curbs on geospatial data for map-making

NEW DELHI

IN sweeping changes in the country's mapping policy, the government on Monday announced liberalisation of norms governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data, a move that will help in boosting innovation in the sector and create a level-playing field for public and private entities.

Under the new guidelines, the sector will be deregulated and aspects such as prior approvals for surveying, mapping and for building applications based on that have been done away with, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Ashutosh Sharma said. For Indian entities, there will be complete deregulation with no prior approvals, security clearances, licenses, for acquisition and production of geospatial data and geospatial data services, including

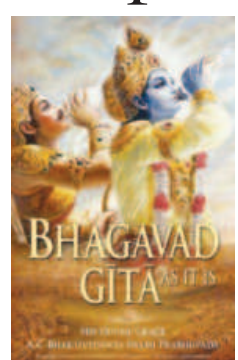
maps, he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the liberalisation of policies governing the acquisition and production of geospatial data is a "massive step in government's vision for an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'". The reform will benefit the country's farmers, start-ups, private sector, public sector and research institutions to drive innovations and build scalable solutions, he said.

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# Nanosatellite to carry Bhagavad Gita, PM Modi's photograph into space

NEW DELHI

A nanosatellite is all set to take a photograph of PM Narendra Modi and a copy of religious book, the Bhagavad Gita to space. In addition to these, names of 25,000 individuals were also carried by the Satish Dhawan Satellite (SD SAT) that is due of be launched by the end of this month from the space centre at Sriharikota. The nanosatellite has been developed by a private firm



SpaceKidz, reported a national daily. "We have also added the



name and photograph of the prime minister on the top panel with the words

Atmanirbhar mission. This satellite has been completely developed and fabricated in India, including the electronics and circuitry," Dr Srimathy Kesan, founder and CEO of SpaceKidz India revealed to the daily Hindustan Times. The names of Dr K Sivan, Chairperson ISRO and Dr R Umamaheswaran, ISRO's Scientific Secretary have also been etched at the bottom panel of the nanosatellite.

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