

**NATION 5**  
'INDIA MUST  
ELIMINATE POVERTY'

**MONEY 6**  
ARCELORMITTAL INITIATES  
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**SPECIAL 7**  
MASTER  
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VIJAYAWADA, SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3

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## KERALA TO LOOK INTO AP DISHA ACT FOR SAFETY OF WOMEN

Kerala Minister on Saturday made it clear that they have no issues in looking into the recently passed Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (Amendment) 2019 Bill, christened 'AP Disha Act' and the Andhra Pradesh Special Court for Specified Offences against Women and Children. Kerala Minister for Health and Social Welfare K.K. Shailaja told media that they have no problems to look into the new law passed by Andhra Pradesh. "What must be noted is that, in Kerala, now itself the laws are very tough and its only a question of implementation. Continued on Page 3



## HUMAN TEETH USED AS PENDANTS IN TURKEY 8,500 YEARS AGO

Researchers have discovered two 8,500-year-old human teeth, which were used as pendants in a necklace or bracelet. At a prehistoric archaeological site in Turkey. The rarity of the find suggests that the human teeth were imbued with profound symbolic meaning for the people who wore them, said archaeologists from University of Copenhagen. During excavations at the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük in Turkey between 2013 and 2015, researchers found three 8,500-year-old-teeth that appeared to have been intentionally drilled to be worn as beads in a necklace or bracelet.



## UK, US ISSUE TRAVEL ADVISORIES AMID NORTHEAST VIOLENCE ON CAA

The US, the UK, France and Israel have issued travel advisories following violent protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in parts of the northeast, advising their citizens either not to travel to the region or to exercise caution. The US, in an advisory posted on the website of its mission in New Delhi, asked American citizens in the northeastern states to exercise caution following the protests and violence in response to the CAA.



## GOVT TO APPLY DISHA ACT TO GUNTUR RAPE CASE

AP Mahila Commission Chairperson Vasireddy A Padma has gone on record saying that the Disha Act will be implemented in the five-year-old girl's sexual assault in Guntur. The accused will be punished sternly as per the provisions of the Act. When AP Mahila Commission Chairperson Vasireddy Padma went to the Guntur Government Hospital, protesters did not allow her to meet the victim and raised slogans against the government and Padma.



## Owaisi urges SC to clear nexus between CAA, NRC

NEW DELHI: The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) appeared to have an unholy nexus with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise, said Asaduddin Owaisi, Lok Sabha member from the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), in a petition challenging the Act in the Supreme Court. According to Owaisi, the NRC is aimed at identifying "illegal migrants" residing in India.

## JNU VC says students tried to attack him

NEW DELHI: JNU Vice-Chancellor Mamidala Jagadeesh Kumar on Saturday claimed a group of 15-20 students tried to attack him on the campus but university security staff saved him. "I had gone to School of Arts and Aesthetics to see how the exams were going on. When I was returning to the administration block, 15-20 students surrounded me, abused me and tried to attack me. However, I was rescued by university security personnel and policemen in plain clothes," Kumar said.

## Charge sheet filed in Samatha case

HYDERABAD: A charge sheet has been filed in a court here in connection with the gang rape and murder of a Dalit woman in Kumram Bheem-Asifabad district of Telanganalast month, police said on Saturday. It was filed within 20 days of the incident after completion of investigation along with all relevant evidence with forensic reports and 44 witnesses have been cited, Kumram Bheem Asifabad district Superintendent of Police M Malla Reddy told reporters.

# 'My name is Rahul Gandhi, not Rahul Savarkar'

Says 'I will die, but will never apologise'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said he "will die but never apologise" for speaking the "truth" as he is a Gandhi and not a Savarkar, and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his assistant Amit Shah instead to apologise for "destroying" the economy of the country.



**"I will die, but I will not apologise for speaking the truth and nor will any Congressman do so. It is Narendra Modi and his assistant Amit Shah who have to apologise to the country for destroying India's economy"**

—RAHUL GANDHI, Congress leader

Addressing the Congress' mega "Bharat Bachao Rally" at Ramilila grounds here, he took a dig at the BJP for demanding an apology for his "rape in India" remark and said, "The BJP asked me to apologise. My name is not Rahul Savarkar, it is Rahul Gandhi, and I will never apologise for speaking the truth."

"I will die, but I will not apologise for speaking the truth and nor will any Congressman do so. It is Narendra Modi and his assistant Amit Shah who have to apologise to the country for destroying India's economy," he asserted. Accusing Prime Minister

Modi of single-handedly "destroying" the country's economy, he said, "All of India's enemies wanted that its economy, which is its strength, should be destroyed."

"That work (of destroying the economy) has not been done by the enemies, but by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself. And, (he) still calls himself a patriot," he added.

Training his guns on the prime minister, a charged Rahul Gandhi said Modi only thinks about one thing - whether he has the power. Continued on Page 3

## Rahul Jinnah 'more appropriate' name: BJP

NEW DELHI: Hitting back at Rahul Gandhi for his Savarkar jibe at the BJP, the ruling party on Saturday said a "more appropriate" name for the Congress leader is "Rahul Jinnah" as his "Muslim appeasement" politics makes him a worthy legate of the Pakistan's founder. Veer Savarkar is revered as Hindutva icon for the BJP but is accused by its rivals of tendering apologies to the British government to secure released from jail when India was under the colonial rule. Targeting Gandhi, BJP spokesperson G V L Narasimha Rao said, "The more appropriate name for you Rahul Gandhi is RAHUL JINNAH. Your Muslim appeasement politics and mindset makes you a worthy legate of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, not Savarkar."

## CBI conducts re-postmortem of Ayesha Meera's remains

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A team of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) exhumed the mortal remains of Ayesha Meera at Chenchupet in Tenali and conducted re-postmortem on Saturday. Later, they collected the DNA samples from the remains of her hair, bones and nails.



A team of eight officials drawn from the revenue and police departments initially arrived at 6 am at the burial ground to exhume the mortal remains but owing to poor visibility due to foggy weather, officials had to wait till 9 am to conduct the operation. The team engaged the services of the workers, who were involved in the burial of Ayesha 12 years ago.

Officials included CBI SP Vimala Aditya, forensic experts from Hyderabad and from the Revenue Department

The mortal remains were exhumed in the presence of Tenali tahsildar Ravi Babu after the team obtained the permission of Ayesha parents. Later, they conducted re-postmortem

Officials included CBI SP Vimala Aditya, forensic experts from Hyderabad and those from the Revenue Department. Continued on Page 3

## Farooq Abdullah's detention extended

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

The detention of Farooq Abdullah, a three-term chief minister of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, was extended on Saturday by three months and he would continue to remain at his residence that has been declared a sub-jail, officials said here.



The case of Abdullah, also a five-term parliamentarian, was reviewed by the advisory board of the Home Department of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir which recommended extension of his detention under the PSA, they said. His house, located at Gupkar Road, has been declared a sub-jail by the union territory's Home Department.

The 82-year-old Abdullah, who became the first chief minister against whom the stringent public safety law was invoked, has a heart pacemaker implanted and had undergone a kidney trans-

plant a few years ago. Abdullah was among a host of leaders and activists who were detained on August 5 when the centre abrogated Article 370 and divided the state into two union territories -- Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

The PSA has two sections - 'public order' and 'threat to security of the state'. The former allows detention without trial for three to one year and the latter for two years. The PSA is applicable only in Jammu and Kashmir. Elsewhere in the country, the equivalent law is the National Security Act (NSA).

## Kejriwal ropes in Prashant Kishor

NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has inked a deal with Indian Political Action Committee (IPAC) for image makeover, the party chief Arvind Kejriwal announced on Saturday. The AAP had secured 67 out of 70 assembly seats in Delhi in the last assembly elections in 2014. Continued on Page 3

## Ayesha's father calls laws bogus

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Murder victim Ayesha Meera's father Iqbal on Saturday made startling allegations on the murder trial of his daughter and dismissed all the laws of the land as bogus.

He alleged that the political leaders have been staging dramas and sought justice to his daughter from the CBI.

Addressing the media on the context of re-post-mortem on the mortal remains of his daughter by the CBI, he said that the CBI officials took samples of Ayesha's body but he claims that he did not see the CBI collecting the samples.

Moreover, he said that the CBI officials did not speak to him. The CBI officials are collecting samples after 12 years of an incident that had taken place in 2007, he said wondering their utility at all.

He demanded manual probe into the Ayesha case to identify the culprits easily. He alleged that all evidence in the case was destroyed. Continued on Page 3

## Minor raped in Guntur on the day AP passed Disha Act

PNS ■ GUNTUR

On the day the Government of AP passed Disha Act to ensure speedy justice to the accused in rape cases, a five-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by a 19-year-old youth, who is her tenant, when her mother was away at work and the girl was alone at residence.

The victim has been admitted to the government hospital here for medical examination. The Opposition parties and women's groups are on their toes demanding that the government punish the guilty.

Demanding that Home Minister Mekatoti Sucharita immediate visit the victim in the hospital and render justice to the latter, the women's groups and opposition leaders staged a protest in front of the Labour Ward of the Guntur Government Hospital on Saturday. They demanded that the government apply the Disha Act to the victim and punish the guilty. Spate of protests on Friday



TDP national general secretary Lokesh Naidu condemned the incident and expressed concern over such incident taking place in Guntur in spite of the relevant legislation being given teeth

Encounters not solution to problem: MRPS

under the Disha Act, the protesters urged advocates not to take up the case on behalf of the accused.

A woman, who works as a nurse in a hospital, lives along with her five-year-old daughter under the limits of Nagarampalem in the city, while her husband works at a different place. Her son lives with her husband.

The victim is a student of UKG in a government school near her place of residence. The accused Lakshma Reddy, 19, lives in the ground floor portion of the house where the victim lives. Continued on Page 3



## 5 empty trains set on fire in Bengal amid protests over CAA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Five empty trains were set on fire at the Lalgola railway station in West Bengal's Murshidabad district this evening as protesters continued to block road and disrupt rail services in different parts of the state over the amended Citizenship Act, which has seen violent protests in the Northeast, particularly Assam where two people were killed in police firing after thousands descended on the streets in defiance of a curfew. Situation in the Northeastern states, however, largely remained peaceful with restrictions imposed in sensitive areas being briefly relaxed.

Hundreds of people blocked roads in and around the Sankrail railway station in Howrah this morning and set a portion of a railway station complex on fire. They also set a few shops on fire. "Later in the afternoon, they entered the station complex and set the ticket counter on fire. When RPF and railway personnel tried to stop them, they were beaten up," a Railway Protection Force official said.

Protesters squatted on the railway tracks at Poradanga, Jangipur and Farakka stations in Murshidabad district and Bauria and Nalpur stations disrupting rail services in the South Eastern Railway in Howrah district.

## Cong stoking violence over CAA: Amit Shah

PNS ■ GIRIDIH/BAGHMARA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday hit out at the Congress, accusing it of stoking violence over the amended Citizenship Act.

Shah, addressing election rallies at Giridih and Baghmara Assembly seats, said the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill has caused a "stomach ache" to the opposition party. "We have brought the amended Citizenship Act and the Congress got a stomach ache and is fanning violence against it," he said.

The BJP president assured the people of the Northeast that their culture, language, social identity and political rights will be not be affected by the Act.

"I assure the people of Assam and other northeastern states that your culture, social identity, language and political rights will not be touched and the Narendra Modi government will protect them," he said.



## Trainee IPS officer suspended for cheating wife

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Orders were issued from the Home Ministry to suspend the trainee IPS officer, who was earlier booked by the Rachakonda police, for cheating his wife. The victim, Kakkanti Bhavana, a resident of Hyderabad, lodged a complaint against her IPS trainee husband, Kakkanti Venkata Maheshwar Reddy, with the Jawahar Nagar police for allegedly cheating her. In her complaint, she stated, he had threatened to eliminate her. The suspension order said,



"The competent authority has considered the issue and in view of the fact that the aforesaid case is pending for investigation against you (referring to KV Maheshwar Reddy). It has been decided to suspend the officer till further orders."

Kakkanti Bhavana, a resident of Hyderabad, lodged a complaint against her IPS trainee husband, Kakkanti Venkata Maheshwar Reddy, with the Jawahar Nagar police for allegedly cheating her. In her complaint, she stated, he had threatened to eliminate her.

The ministry has also said the suspension orders will be reviewed once he gets clearance from criminal charges.

According to the complaint, the couple has been in a relationship since 2009. The duo had registered their marriage in 2018. However, their happy

story was cut short when disputes arose between them after Venkata Maheshwar Reddy cleared the UPSC. The 28-year-old Bhavana had stated that her husband, an IPS probationer, refused to accept her as she belongs to a different caste. Continued on Page 3

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Margashirsha & Krishna Paksha Panchangam  
Tithi: Tritiya: 07:18 am, Chaturthi: 04:34 am (Next Day)  
Nakshatram: Pushya: 04:01 am (Next Day)  
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)  
Rahukalam: 04:17 pm- 05:40 pm  
Yamagandam: 12:11 pm - 01:33 pm  
Varjyam: 12:43 pm- 02:15 pm  
Gulika: 02:55 pm - 04:17 pm  
Good Times: (to start any important work)  
Amritkalam: 09:54 pm - 11:26 pm  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:49 am - 12:33 pm

**VIJAYAWADA WEATHER**  
Forecast: Partly Cloudy  
Temp: 31/20  
Humidity: 73%  
Sunrise: 06:38  
Sunset: 05:44  
Current Weather Conditions  
Updated December 14, 2019 5:00 PM

**CAPSULE**



**Man rapes paramour's minor daughter**

**VIJAYAWADA:** In a bizarre incident, a woman sending her minor daughter to her paramour's house has created a flutter in Krishna district. This incident took place at Paritala village in Kanchikacherla mandal in the district on Saturday. According to sources, one Marthamma has sent her minor daughter to her paramour Rambabu where he sexually assaulted her. The incident came to light when the girl disclosed the incident to her grandmother. Shocked over the incident, minor's grandmother, along with the victims, approached the police station. Based on a complaint, police registered a case under the POCSO Act and took the accused into their custody. Further investigation is on.

**Woman dumps newborn in drain**

**VIJAYAWADA:** In a ghastly incident, a newborn body was found in the drain at Katakoteswaram village in Nidadavole mandal of West Godavari district. According to police, an 18-year-old unmarried woman, who hails from Katakoteswaram, has thrown her baby in the drain. She reportedly gave birth to a baby girl on Thursday night.



**CONFERENCE ON TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE BEGINS**

**'Theories propounded by Immanuel Kant still relevant'**



(Right) Vice-Chancellor of DSNLU Prof S Surya Prakash Rao delivers welcome address at a two-day international conference on 'Immanuel Kant and Transformative Justice' in Visakhapatnam on Saturday (left) Gathering at the conference

**PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM**

A two-day international conference on 'Immanuel Kant and Transformative Justice' began at Damoodram Sanjivayya National Law University here on Saturday. Prof Mool Chand Sharma, Former Member, Law Commission of India, Prof A Lakshminath, Former Chancellor, DSNLU, Visakhapatnam, Prof JS Patil, Vice-Chancellor, NLUJA, and Prof Mukesh Srivastava, NLIU Bhopal, and Prof Tapan Mohanty, NLIU, Bhopal, are the prominent speakers of the two-day conference.

Prof S Surya Prakash Rao, Vice-Chancellor of DSNLU, in his welcome address said the conference was unequivocally the first of its kind in the country relating to the work of Kant and the university made a humble beginning and took initiation to conduct the first conference on philosophy of Immanuel Kant. The concepts and theories propounded by Immanuel Kant are still relevant in the contemporary world.

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Prof A Lakshminath, former Chancellor of DSNLU, said the idea of moral values is reflected speaking about the concept of Kantian ideology where he linked Indian mythology with Kantian ideology. He quoted the dialogue between Krishna and Arjuna during 'Kurukshetra' was the idea of consequential sensitivity. He further stated that the idea of transformative justice was started during the reign of Asoka.

Prof Mukesh Srivastava, the professor of NLIU Bhopal, spoke about the response of Kant to the question of what is enlightenment, along with what would be implications of justice. Prof Tapan Mohanty, NLIU Bhopal, spoke about Kant's contribution to the methodical point of view.

The first day of the seminar took place in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor, DSNLU, Prof S Surya Prakash, Registrar, DSNLU, Prof CM Rao, faculty, participants from across the country and students of DSNLU.

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**NTPC Simhadri bags national awards**

**PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM**

The NTPC Simhadri has bagged two awards at the All India Public Relations conference in Hyderabad, which was held on December 13.

This has been conferred in the important categories of 'Best PSU Organisation Implementing CSR' and 'Best e-Newsletter'.

"This selection has been made among a large number of entries received from public and private sector organisations across the nation. The unique CSR efforts of the NTPC Simhadri for biodiversity preservation through the conservation of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles have achieved national recognition." The organisation has invested Rs 4.6 crore towards preservation of the marine ecosystem and environment protection. The NTPC Simhadri's CSR portfolio is acknowledged for its innovative relevance and meaningful contribution. The internal communication tool of e-Newsletter has also been lauded for its holistic coverage, precision in design and inclusiveness of content.

The NTPC is proudly one of the organisations receiving multiple awards across categories and locations, garnering national accreditation. This honour was received at the All India Public Relations conference in Hyderabad on December 13.

The chief guest was Home Minister of Telangana Mohammed Ali. The award



NTPC Simhadri officials receiving awards in Hyderabad

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was handed over in the presence of Executive Director (HR) of NTPC AN Verma and National President of PRSI Ajit Pathak.

**CAA, NRC, assault on Constitution, says HRF**

**PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM**

"The politics of Hindutva are an affront to the nation's constitutional vision. Hindutva is fundamentally incompatible with secularism and undermines the very idea of India," said Prof J Apoorvanand of Delhi University.

He was speaking at a two-day conference (AP and TS) of Human Rights Forum at the Kshatriya Kalyana Mandapam in Amalapuram on Saturday. Criticising the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) he said: "It contradicts India's rich history of pluralism, which guarantees equality before law irrespective of faith. He said in conjunction with National Register of Citizens (NRC), which the BJP proposes to make a nationwide process, this government is creating a religious test for citizenship that would exclude millions of Muslims. This Act was brazenly dis-



and whose best values are enshrined in our Constitution are under sustained attack by the forces of Hindutva."

E Manohar Swaraj Abhiyan, who spoke on the rights of minorities, diversity and sexual preferences have to be acknowledged and respected as a right. Recently The Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Act, 2019, which was passed recently, is a flawed and regressive piece of legislation. The Act betrays a basic lack of comprehension about gender and its complexity. It doesn't address the concerns of those it is intended for."

Among those who spoke at the meeting were Praveen Donthi, journalist with The Caravan magazine, who dwelt on the situation in Kashmir and the role of the media. Social Rights activist M Pavan Kumar spoke on rights of physically challenged persons. HRF will be holding its general body of both the States on Sunday.

criminary as it singles out a particular community for hostile treatment. Termining the CAA and NRC as an assault on the Indian constitution, he said, "It is violative of Articles 13 to 16 and Article 21 and most therefore be rejected out rightly." Apoorvanand said, "Though the objective is to provide refuge to persecuted is welcome, but the use of religion for bestowing Indian citizenship is abhorrent. The idea of India that emerged from our freedom struggle



Pinnamaneni Foundation Chairman Dr Chandralawada Nageswara Rao addresses a press conference in Vijayawada on Saturday

**Pinnamaneni awards for Sindhutai, Ramakrishna**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Renowned social activist Sindhutai Sapkal, fondly called 'Mother of Orphans', and Sanskrit Pandit

Dr D Ramakrishna have been chosen for the Pinnamaneni Award-2019. The decision was announced at a press conference organised by Dr Pinnamaneni and Smt Seetadevi Foundation here on Saturday.

The award will be presented

to Sapkal and Ramakrishna during the 29th anniversary celebrations of the Foundation in Vijayawada on December 16. Sindhutai has bagged over 750 awards in appreciation of her services to destitute children. D Ramakrishna, who is presently teaching Sanskrit at Maris Stella College in Vijayawada, has done extensive research on Advaita philosophy in Srimadbhagavatam. He was also a recipient of the State-level 'Best Teacher' award.

**Take up Sanatana Dharma propagation in a big way: TTD EO**

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal urged officials to take up Sanatana Dharma propagation in a big way in rural areas.

Addressing a review meeting at the TTD administrative building, he said the TTD had taken up Managudi programme four times a year to spread the message of values of Sanatana Hindu dharma and significance of Hindu temples.

He said Srivari Sevaku and trained priests played a major role in that task. The EO instructed officials to ensure imparting extended training in 'Puja vidhanam' in second and third phases of archaka training and also take up distribution of books on deities in villages.

He said the institutions like ISKCON and Ramakrishna Mission should be involved in

the Shubhpradam programme in which thousands of students are being imparted knowledge of dharma and Hindu traditions since 2012.

He also directed the SVBC to telecast the content for the annual Sanatana Dharma exams in which thousands of students participated during summer vacation.

He also asked the TTD Joint executive officer P Basant Kumar to take steps to provide one year free subscription of Saptagiri magazine for meritorious students who excelled in annual Geeta Jayanti essay writing competitions.

He said the Sri Venkateswara Rathayatra campaign in rural areas should also comprise Bhakti Sangeet, mythological films to enthuse students in schools. Earlier, HDPP secretary Acharya Rajagopalan made a PowerPoint presentation on activities and projections of HDPP.

**Sajjanar visits Lepakshi temple en route Hubli**

After the encounter death of the accused in the Disha case, Sajjanar's name has become a household name across the nation. Learning that the top cop was on a visit to the historic Lepakshi temple, besides devotees several locals gathered at the temple to catch a glimpse of him. He greeted them with a broad smile on his face

**PNS ■ LEPAKSHI**

Cyberabad Police Commissioner Sajjanar on Saturday performed special pujas at Lepakshi temple, along with family members. The temple priests presented him a portrait of the deity, prasadam and a shawl to the top police official.

En route to his native place in Hubli, Sajjanar visited Lepakshi temple. After the encounter death of the accused in the Disha case, Sajjanar's name has become a household name across the nation. Learning that the top cop was on a visit to the historic Lepakshi temple, besides devotees several locals gathered at the temple to catch a glimpse of him. He greeted them with a broad smile on his face.

The Cyberabad Commissioner of Police was on two-day leave and visiting his home town Hubli. After performing the special puja, he left for his home town.

The 1996 batch IPS officer hails from Asuti village in Gadag district of neighbouring Karnataka. The people of his native village greeted each other distributing sweets soon after the encounter death of the Disha's killers.

His family members termed him as a strict police officer and also very disciplined. Besides rendering justice to the victims, they rate him as a family man.

As popular sentiment would have it, politicians visiting the Lepakshi temple are likely to get demoted, while bureaucrats visiting the temple are likely to get promoted. Does Sajjanar know this secret?

**'Physical illness ups suicide risk in men, not women'**

**PNS ■ NEW YORK**

When it comes to identify, who is more at suicide risk, scientists have found that physical illness and injury raises the risk of suicide in men but not women, along with a plethora of other insights into the complex factors that may increase a person's risk of suicide.

The study led by Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) and published in JAMA Psychiatry is the first to use data from the population of an entire country (Denmark) and parse it with a Machine Learning (ML) system to identify suicide risk factors.

"Suicide is incredibly challenging to predict because every suicide death is the result



of multiple interacting risk factors in one's life," said lead study author Dr Jaimie Gradus, associate professor of epidemi-

**Researchers also found new potential risk patterns, including that diagnoses and prescriptions four years before a suicide were more important to prediction than diagnoses and prescriptions six months before, and that physical health diagnoses were particularly important to men's suicide prediction but not women's**

ology at BUSPH. Dr Gradus and her colleagues looked at thousands of factors in the health histories of 14,103 individuals, who died from suicide in the country from 1995 through 2015, and health histories of 265,183 other Danes in the same peri-

including that diagnoses and prescriptions four years before a suicide were more important to prediction than diagnoses and prescriptions six months before, and that physical health diagnoses were particularly important to men's suicide prediction but not women's.

"The findings of this study do not create a model for perfectly predicting suicide", said Dr Gradus, in part because medical records rarely include the more immediate experiences - such as the loss of a job or relationship - that combine with these longer-term factors to precipitate suicide. The findings, however, point to new factors to examine in working to prevent this persistent public health issue.

od, using a Machine Learning system to look for patterns. Many of the study's findings confirmed previously-identified risk factors such as psychiatric disorders and related prescriptions. Researchers also found new potential risk patterns,

**VIJAYAWADA BULLION RATES**

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VISAKHAPATNAM 470  
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# There is always a price to pay for extra-judicial killings

**T**here is always a price to pay for extra-judicial killings and it is only a question of zeroing in on the perpetrators and deciding the quantum of punishment.

The 'encounter' killing of Sohrabuddin Sheikh in Gujarat tormented the high and mighty of the Gujarat government during the mid-2000s. The law does not give anyone the power to serve as judge, jury and executioner.

It was mentioned in this column last week that the 'encounter' deaths of four youth suspected of gang-raping and killing veterinary doctor Disha had brought temporary relief to the Government by mollifying an angry public and by deflecting attention from failures of the police but that it would create new headaches.

This is exactly what happened after the Supreme Court

constituted a high-level inquiry commission even as Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's cheerleaders, including Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, showered him with encomiums. The fact, however, remains that the appointment of a commission with two distinguished ex-judges and ace investigator DR Karthikeyan is beyond what the Telangana police may have anticipated.

This is not another commission that will throw up its hands in despair if the State authorities do not extend cooperation like the Bhargava Commission did. Mr. Karthikeyan has a reputation to defend after cracking the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, tracing the killers, and ensuring they were killed or jailed.

Here is how the trouble for the authorities begins. It must answer a host of disturbing

**Here is how the trouble for the authorities begins. It must answer a host of disturbing questions starting from the genuineness of the encounter, questions that got drowned in the din preceding and following the shoot-out at Chatanpally**

questions starting from the genuineness of the encounter, questions that got drowned in the din preceding and following the shoot-out at Chatanpally.

Chief Justice of India S A Bobde observed, after the Hyderabad shoot-out, that justice can never be instant and loses its character if it becomes revenge. What is troubling in dispensing instant justice is the question whether some more criminals could have been involved and whether, as the TS police suggest, the four



**S NAGESH KUMAR**  
Former Resident Editor, The Hindu

People even brought flexis recalling the earlier 'encounter' in Warangal, where three youth were shot dead in similar circumstances in 2008 after they were accused of throwing acid at two girl students. Against this backdrop, it has to be watched how the inquiry commission views his role and the State apparatus as

a whole in the entire episode. The impatience of mobs demanding instant justice stems from the unacceptable delays in disposing of rape cases and handing out punishment to convicts. The frustration of Nirbhaya's parents and public over the long rope given to the paramedic's killers by entertaining endless review petitions and mercy petitions has eroded people's confidence in the judiciary.

When tempers run high, logic runs low. Mr. Jaganmohan Reddy doffed his hat to KCR for the elimination of Disha's killers. He did not leave it at that. What purpose, he asked, would be served by the legal machinery if the accused were set free after lengthy trials in courts of law? KCR had resolved this dilemma instantly.

Jagan was perhaps reminiscing about his late father, YS Rajasekhara Reddy, who was

the chief minister when the Warangal 'encounter' happened. Jagan got the Assembly to pass the Disha Bill prescribing death penalty for extreme cases of rape and delivery of judgment within 21 working days - seven for investigation and 14 for the trial.

Such pieces of legislation are the result of either administrative inexperience or inadequate homework. The Delhi High Court in 2014 denounced a trial court for examining 22 of 24 witnesses in a day in a case of murder of a 14-year-old-boy. As the super-fast procedure led to the 'conviction' and award of the sentence of life imprisonment to two innocent men, the Court observed, "Justice hurried is justice buried".

While it may be possible to complete a trial in 14 days, it beats one's imagination how the police can gather, collate and analyse evidence in seven

days in cases where issues are complex or multi-dimensional.

Section 25 of the Evidence Act lays down that a disclosure by an accused to the investigation officer is inadmissible as evidence. The evidence against Disha's killers was largely based on their disclosure. Police had to painstakingly link various other pieces of evidence like the tyre puncture, mechanic's statement, proof of purchase of petrol, video footage and present them in court. The 'exchange of fire' saved them this trouble.

After the 'encounter', the police and KCR must have felt relieved that public anger had subsided. But, for the Telangana police the headache has just begun as the Commission will keep it busy for the next six months. Every action, as they say, has an equal and opposite reaction.

**CAPSULE**

**Mentally unsound minor raped in Prakasam dist**

**VIJAYAWADA:** Barely 24 hours after the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act was passed in the Assembly on Friday amid much fanfare, a minor girl was allegedly raped at Rajupalem village in Tripuranthakam mandal of Prakasam district in the early hours of Saturday. According to police, the accused, Karunakara Reddy (25), who also belongs to the same village, committed the crime while the mentally unsound girl was fast asleep in her house. The girl was sent to the Markapuram government hospital for medical examination. When contacted, Tripuranthaka S Chandravati said the incident took place after 11 pm when the girl was sleeping in her house. A case was registered against Karunakara Reddy following a complaint lodged by the girl's parents. Investigation into the case is being conducted under the supervision of Yagondapalem CI Maruthi Krishna, she added.

**Govt declares holidays for Sankranti, Xmas**

**AMARAVATI:** The Government of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday ordered closure of all schools in the state from January 10 to 20 on account of the Sankranti festival. However, the Christian Mission schools will remain closed from December 24 to January 1 for Christmas. The school education department declared holidays as part of its academic calendar for X-mas and Sankranti. The Board of Intermediate Education said in its annual plan that the junior colleges will remain closed from January 11 to 19 on account of Sankranti festival.

**Gurudwara member on hunger strike**

**VISAKHAPATNAM:** Former secretary and a senior member of Gurudwara Sadh Sangat Satthinder Singh Sethi announced that he would sit on a hunger strike on three Sundays beginning this Sunday to demand annual financial report and alleged misuse of the funds by the management. Sethi was secretary on two occasions in the past and alleged that the elections held for the last three terms were not conducted as per the rules of Gurudwara Sadh Sangat. He also alleged that the funds of the Sadh Sangat were being misused by the present management. Though he went on an indefinite fast in July this year, his demands were not met.

**CAPITAL BLUES**

## 'Clear picture after panel submits report'

**PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM**

Minister Botsa Satyanarayana has said that the government appointed a committee on Amaravati to have a clear picture on the new State capital. The committee's report will reveal everything.

Addressing the media here on Saturday, he assured to come to the rescue of farmers of the Amaravati region in all respects.

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has ordered the completion of buildings in various phases of construction in Amaravati.

He alleged that the TDP leaders are getting the Assembly proceedings stalled by foul mouthing.



He accused the previous TDP regime of encouraging corruption on a large scale in the State.

On Visakhapatnam Metro Rail service, he said that the government would be implemented in two phases. The government has plans to order re-tendering of the Bhogapuram airport works, he said.

**Jagan sidelined SCS due to CBI cases: TDP MP**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Telugu Desam Party Lok Sabha MP Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar has accused the YSRCP of sidelining the issue of the Special status for Andhra Pradesh and attributed it the CBI cases against Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy.

Addressing the media here on Saturday, the MP reiterated that the CM sacrificed State's interests because of his corruption cases.

He demanded Jaganmohan Reddy and YSRCP Rajya Sabha member Vijaya Sai Reddy to prove that their hands are clean and they are corruption-free.

He demanded that the Centre bring a special legislation like Disha Act to provide its sincerity towards women.

Andhra Pradesh suffered severe loss during the six-month rule of YS Jaganmohan Reddy and called the administration in Andhra Pradesh as "reverse administration".

## Onus on teachers to impart values to students: Guv

**PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA**

Governor Biswa Bushan Harichandan has said that teachers play an important role in imparting values among children.

Addressing a book release function organised by the Pavan Seva Samithi at the Durbar Hall at the Raj Bhavan on Saturday, he advised the teachers to sensitise students to ethics in epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Stating that both teachers and students were playing a great role in upholding values in society, he said the Bhagavadgita had been incorporated in the syllabi of academic courses even in foreign countries.

The Governor said Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi had dreamt of establishing a 'Rama Rajya' in the country after the Independence. "How can we achieve this without knowing about the Ramayana?" he sought to know.

He appreciated the Pavan



TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy giving a picture of Lord Venkateswara Swamy to Governor Biswa Bushan Harichandan at Raj Bhavan in Vijayawada on Saturday

Seva Samithi's efforts in bringing out publications on Hindu scriptural works like the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Bhagavadgita.

The Governor recalled writing a book entitled 'Abhi Saptakarna' on the role of Karna in the Mahabharata. He disclosed that his brother Dr Neelad Bhusan Harichandan had written several books on the history of the Mahabharata while he was teaching at Santi Niketan.

TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy said the books brought

**Ambati defends govt over IRS officer's suspension**

**PNS ■ AMARAVATI**

YSRCP MLA Ambati Rambabu has criticised Opposition leader N Chandrababu Naidu and a section of the media for carrying out a false propaganda over suspension of IRS officer J Krishna Kishore. He also alleged that Naidu had used abusive words against the Chief Marshal in the Legislative Assembly.

Speaking to the media here on Saturday, he said that the Opposition leader was unnecessarily highlighting the suspension of IRS officer. He said the government had suspended Krishna Kishore as he was facing corruption allegations and based on the report given by Industries Department.

"It is quite common that the government would suspend any official, who faces allegations and orders for an inquiry. Despite these normal procedures Chandrababu Naidu is highlighting the issue with the help of his friendly media and saying that the suspension was illegal," he said.

## Trainee IPS officer suspended for cheating on wife

*Continued from Page 1*

Bhavana Birudala, a resident of ECIL, vented her emotions on a social blogging site. She said, "My husband is currently undergoing training at LBSNAA, and he is cheating on me with another woman. He is being offered a huge dowry from the marriage proposal."

Bhavana, now a government employee, met Venkata way back in 2009 when they were pursuing engineering from

Osmania University in Hyderabad. They have been a couple since then.

Recalling her ordeal, she said, "Venkata and I have been in a relationship for nine years before we tied the nuptial knot on February 9, 2018. We first met at the university. Our association was started when he wanted to be friends with me. Gradually, he

liked me, and later, he said he loved me and promised to marry me."

Bhavana added that he had even said that he couldn't live without her. "However, now, he says that he got another match and they are offering him a huge dowry. I did everything possible to support him during his UPSC exam, but

now he suddenly changed after he turned an IPS trainee."

She approached the Jawaharnagar police station, earlier in October. However, police advised the couple to sort out their issues amicably and directed them for counselling. But, their relationship remained disturbed. A month later, the woman approached the police station and registered a case under 498-A, 323, 506 IPC & Sec 3(1)(r)(s), 3(2)(Va) of SC and ST (POA) Act.



## Kerala to look into AP Disha Act for safety of women

*Continued from Page 1*

But now that Andhra Pradesh has passed a new one, we have no issues in looking that up and see what it offers. It will be done and then will see," said Shailaja. It was early this week, that Andhra came out with the new law, which states that anyone convicted in a rape case could be

hanged, and the judgement should be made within 21 days if clinching evidences are there.

Women activists in Kerala time and again, whenever cases of attack on women and children are reported, have demanded that laws have to be spruced up here and also pointed out that the trial in the case have to be speeded up, so that justice is delivered to the victims.



## Kejriwal ropes in Prashant Kishor

*Continued from Page 1*

The date of assembly election in Delhi is to be announced soon as the poll needs to be completed by February 14, 2020.

Political strategist and currently an influential leader of the Janata Dal (United), Prashant Kishor runs advocacy group IPAC.

The advocacy group also declared on Saturday they have inked a deal with Kejriwal's party.

On social media platforms, Kejriwal said: "Happy to share that IPAC is coming on-board with us. Welcome aboard!"

The advocacy group also

said: "After Punjab results, we acknowledged you as the toughest opponent that we have ever faced. Happy to join forces now with Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party."

Kishore worked with the Congress in 2017 for Punjab and Uttar Pradesh assembly elections.

His wrote a successful story in Punjab in helping the Congress come back to power after two successive electoral losses.

Currently, Kishor is national vice-president of the JD(U) led by Nitish Kumar. JD(U) is an ally of the BJP at Centre as well in Bihar.

## Ayesha's father calls laws bogus

*Continued from Page 1*

Claiming to be speaking as a teacher, he resigned to the fate that no justice could be done to his daughter even if the government were to pass any number of laws. However, he offered to cooperate with the CBI fully in the investigation. "Anyhow, I am not going to get back my daughter. We are fighting for the sake of society," he said. "If justice is done in the case of our daughter, justice will also be done to the victims in similar cases," he said.

## Minor raped in Guntur on the day...

*Continued from Page 1*

On Thursday last, mother left her home for hospital around 2 pm. After an hour, the victim's grand mother went to Rythu Bazaar. After a while, the girl returned home. Taking advantage of her loneliness, Lakshma Reddy sexually assaulted her wooing her to his room. He threatened the victim against revealing it to anyone.

The girl cried complaining about abdominal pain to her mother upon her return from work. When the mother enquired the baby, she revealed everything. She immediately rushed the girl to the



Nagarampalem police station and lodged a complaint. The police registered a complaint under Section 376 of the IPC, POCSO Act and ST and ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act. The

girl was sent to Guntur Government Hospital for medical examination.

The accused was taken into custody. Though he is studying Intermediate, the police fixed his

age as 19 years.

TDP national general secretary Lokesh Naidu condemned the incident and expressed concern over such incident taking place in Guntur in spite of the relevant legislations are being given sharper teeth.

MRPS president Manda Krishna Madiga protesting against the sexual assault countered the CMs of AP and Telangana - Jaganmohan Reddy and K Chandrasekhar Rao - whether they could deliver instant justice by getting Reddy community persons killed in an encounter if Reddy's outrage modesty of Dalit and tribal women.

## 'My name is Rahul Gandhi, not Rahul Savarkar'

*Continued from Page 1*



you but on the very soul of India. This country is being scared and suppressed, but no Congressmen have any kind of fear. I am telling those people in institutions not to fear from anything. The

Congress party is standing with them. We will together end this atmosphere of fear in the country," he said. The Congress leader alleged that the BJP and PM Modi have set the entire north

east region on fire and states like Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura are burning.

"He (Modi) has burnt all these places. He divides people and works towards weakening the country, while you people, who have come here, don't divide India and work with your sweat and blood for taking the country forward. "Your own country is being weakened and divided and our economy is being destroyed. The reason is that Narendra Modi sees only one thing whether the power is in his hand. He (Modi) only works for being in power. He will destroy everything to achieve power," he said.

Gandhi said PM Modi only "wants to be seen on television all the time" and the people whom he has benefitted by giving them the money "snatched from people", are the ones funding him for marketing himself on the TV.

He said it is only the PM and no other opposition leader who can be seen on television.

The former Congress chief said the country cannot progress as long as there is no money in the pockets of the poor, farmers, labourers and youths. He also recalled that MNREGA was brought as the Congress knew this country could not progress without labourers.

## Re-postmortem of Ayesha's remains

*Continued from Page 1*

The mortal remains were exhumed in the presence of Tenali tahsildar Ravi Babu after the team obtained the permission of Ayesha parents.

The State government handed over the case to the CBI after the AP High Court in 2018 said it would have no objection if it took such a decision.

Ayesha was found murdered in a gruesome manner in her hostel room on December 27 in 2007 creating a sensation in the State as well as the country. People's

Organisations and Student Unions staged protests across the State demanding that the State government immediately identify the accused and take action against them.

The case took several twists and turns in 12 long years but the police have no clue as to who were involved in it. The State police were said to be under severe pressure from political bigwigs in carrying out the investigation in a free and fair manner. They later named Satyambabu as the accused in the case. While the trial court handed him life

imprisonment, the High Court acquitted him in the case as the prosecution had failed to produce clinching evidence against him.

With this, investigation had come back to square one and the State government handed over the case to the CBI one year ago. Meanwhile, Ayesha's parents said they had confidence in the CBI investigation and hoped that the case would be cracked soon. Ayesha's mother Shamshad Begum said the AP government should take up the Ayesha case under the AP Disha Act.

# PM chairs meeting of Ganga council in Kanpur

PNS ■ KANPUR (UP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Saturday chaired the first meeting of the National Ganga Council and reviewed the ambitious Namami Gange project.

The prime minister was received by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other dignitaries at the Chakeri airport.

The PM chaired the meeting of the council at Chandra Shekhar Azad Agriculture University.

He reviewed the works completed under the project so far and exchanged notes on cleaning the Ganga with dignitaries, officials said.

The meeting chaired by the PM was attended by UP and Uttarakhand chief ministers Yogi Adityanath and Trivendra Singh Rawat, respectively.

Union ministers Prakash Javadekar, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Dr Harshvardhan,



The Prime Minister's Office had earlier tweeted that Modi will chair the first meeting of the National Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga Council in Kanpur. The Kanpur stretch of the river is regarded as the most polluted

RK Singh, Prahlad Patel, Mansukh Mandavia and Hardeep Singh Puri attended the meeting along with several officers from the Centre and the states. The PM also visited a Namami Gange Mission exhibition, showcasing the works done for the cleanliness of the river.

Later, accompanied by the chief ministers and other dig-

nitaries, Modi visited Atal Ghat near the Ganga barrage to assess works done under the project.

In a cruise for half-an-hour, PM Modi waved at people standing on the river bank.

The Prime Minister's Office had earlier tweeted that Modi will chair the first meeting of the National Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of

River Ganga Council in Kanpur. The Kanpur stretch of the river is regarded as the most polluted.

After the launch of the Namami Gange project to clean and rejuvenate the river, 13 out of 16 major drains in Kanpur have been completely tapped and the sewage and industrial effluent has been diverted to treatment plants.

# BJP EXPECTS GAINS FROM CITIZENSHIP LAW

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Major protests in Assam and some other parts of the northeast against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act have taken many in the BJP by surprise but they believe that the gains for the party will be more than any loss from implementing the contentious law.

With the BJP in power in Assam and the rest of the northeast, either on its own or as a junior partner to a regional ally, party leaders are of the view that they are in a position to contain the situation but remain wary of its political fallout, especially in Assam.

A Hindu consolidation in the state long hit by illegal immigration from Bangladesh had propelled the party to power for the first time in 2016.

The ongoing protests fuelled by identity concerns of ethnic Assamese has the potential to change the existing political equation.

However, it is upbeat about its prospects in West Bengal, where the intended beneficiaries of the new law live in



large numbers.

BJP's state chief Dilip Ghosh claimed that their numbers could be nearly two crore and accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is also the Trinamool Congress president, of stoking unrest in the state against the bill as she "fears" losing power.

Both West Bengal and Assam will go to the assembly polls in April-May of 2021 along with Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

According to the new Act, people from Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who

have come to India till December 31, 2014 from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan owing to their religious persecution there will not be treated as illegal immigrants and will be given Indian citizenship.

Dubbed by the BJP as refugees unlike the Muslim immigrants who have been painted as "termites" by the party, they live mostly in either Assam or West Bengal. A senior Assam BJP leader said the recent protests in the state have been triggered by people's decades-long anxiety over being swamped by "outsiders".



## Railway station complex in Howrah set on fire by protesters

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Portion of a railway station complex in West Bengal's Howrah district was set on fire on Saturday by a mob which also thrashed security personnel guarding it, officials said.

Hundreds of people protesting against the amended Citizenship Act since morning had blocked roads in and around the Sankrail railway station and had set a few shops on fire, police sources said.

"Later in the afternoon, they entered the station complex and set the ticket counter on fire. When RPF and railway personnel tried to stop them, they were beaten up," a senior Railway Protection Force official said. Train services have been affected.

# Tea growers feel pinch of Assam protests

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Tea growers in Assam have started feeling the pinch of the ongoing protests with partial disruption in production at many gardens and sale of the crop at the Guwahati auction centre being hampered, industry insiders said on Saturday.

Transportation of the produce has also been affected due to the ongoing stir, they said. "Though winter months are not the peak season, plucking and manufacturing operations in many gardens across the state have been affected amid widespread protest," North Eastern Tea Association adviser Bidyananda Barkakoty told PTI.

Compared to last few years, the weather condition was favourable during this December and the growers were able to produce relatively better quality tea but operations at several estates have been adversely affected by the protests, he added.

"During Tuesday's shutdown, gardens were mostly closed. Plucking activities took place on Friday but not in a full-fledged scale as many workers could not come due to lack of transport," All Assam Small Tea Growers' Association general secretary Karuna Mahnata told PTI.

The legislation has put the state on boil as people fear that it may exacerbate the problem of illegal immigration.

Violent protests broke out in the state earlier this week with agitators engaging in pitched battles with the police, forcing the administration to impose curfew in several places.

Planters also said the Tea

FEAR DIP IN PRODUCTION, SALES



Board has extended the plucking time till December 19 on account of shortage and non-availability of workers.

The board had earlier asked them to shut plucking and manufacturing operations by mid-December to prevent production of inferior quality tea, according to growers.

Suspension of internet services has also affected their business.

"Due to the internet suspension and violent protests, several tea growers are apprehending that they may face difficulties to pay wages to workers as banking services might be affected. Usually, payments to labourers are made either on Friday or Saturday," Barkakoty said. Sales of tea at the Guwahati auction centre have also been disrupted.

"Every week, around 40-45 lakh kgs of tea is sold. But, only 15 lakh kg has been sold so far this week," Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers' Association Secretary Dinesh Bihani said. Barkakoty said planters are also apprehending that if the ongoing protests continue for a prolonged period, the pruning activities and other agricul-

**"During Tuesday's shutdown, gardens were mostly closed. Plucking activities took place on Friday but not in a full-fledged scale as many workers could not come due to lack of transport," All Assam Small Tea Growers' Association general secretary Karuna Mahnata told**

tural processes which usually happen during the winters might get disrupted.

"Several agricultural processes, including pruning, are done during the winters to ensure quality of tea for the upcoming season. These are time-bound activities. If the protests continue longer and such cold-weather agricultural activities are affected, the industry will face severe impact next season," he added.

## SHORT READS



**Maha CM rejections some portfolios of NCP's Patil and Bhujbal**

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday rearranged some portfolios which were allotted to NCP ministers Jayant Patil and Chhagan Bhujbal on Thursday. On December 12, Patil was allocated Finance and Planning, Housing, Public Health, Co-operation, Food & Civil Supplies, Labour and Minority Welfare ministries. Bhujbal was entrusted with Irrigation, Rural Development, Social Justice, Excise, Skill Development, Food and Drug Administration portfolios. As per new arrangement, Irrigation department was shifted to Patil while Bhujbal got Food, Civil supplies and Consumer Protection and Minority Welfare ministries, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said. Thackeray, who heads the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, had taken oath as chief minister on November 28 alongside six ministers -- two each from the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress. On December 12, the Sena was allotted crucial portfolios of Home, Industries, Urban Development. The NCP landed Finance and the Congress the Revenue. The expansion of the Cabinet is likely to take place after the winter session of the state legislature ends on December 21.

**10 pc conviction rate in corruption cases in Himachal: CM**

DHARAMSHALA: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday said the conviction rate in cases registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in the state is 10.71 per cent. On the last day of the winter session of the state assembly here, the chief minister also informed the House that a total of 30,814 cognisable cases were registered in the state from January 2018 to July 2019. Thakur, who also holds the home portfolio, said the conviction rate in the cognisable cases was 43.48 per cent.

**Moushumi Chatterjee's daughter passes away**

MUMBAI: Yesteryear actor Moushumi Chatterjee's daughter Payal has passed away. She was 45. According to family sources, Payal breathed her last on Thursday at the city-based Hinduja Hospital in Khar. Payal was in coma for the past two years due to juvenile diabetes. She married businessman Dicky Sinha in 2010 and was in and out of hospital since April 2017. Chatterjee and her husband Jayanta Mukherjee in 2018 moved the Bombay High Court requesting they be appointed the guardians of their daughter over Payal's deteriorating health.

# Women from Kashmir to Kanyakumari hurt by Rahul's rape remark: BJP leader

PNS ■ JAMMU

Senior BJP leader and former minister Priya Sethi on Saturday said the women from Kashmir to Kanyakumari are hurt by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's rape remark, and demanded his resignation from Parliament.

Sethi, who is also BJP spokesperson and in-charge of 'Mahila Morcha', alleged that the Congress leader is using crimes against women as a political tool.

She said the country is waiting for the action from Congress



president Sonia Gandhi on the remarks of her son and party MP.

"The comments of Rahul, who is a Lok Sabha member from Kerala's Wayanad, have hurt the

Rahul Gandhi clarified his rape statement that triggered protests by the BJP, saying he has simply made a point that PM Modi has been talking about 'Made in India' but it has now become 'rape in India' as incidents of rapes are being reported in newspapers across the country

women of entire country. Women from Kashmir to Kanyakumari have been hurt by his statement," the BJP leader said in a statement here. Gandhi clarified his rape statement that triggered protests by the BJP, saying

he has simply made a point that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been talking about 'Made in India' but it has now become 'rape in India' as incidents of rapes are being reported in newspapers across the country.

# Chopper, ropeway service suspended at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine

PNS ■ JAMMU

The helicopter and ropeway service at the famous cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir remained suspended for the second day on Saturday due to inclement weather, Chief Executive Officer of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) Ramesh Kumar said.

However, he said the pilgrimage is going on smoothly despite heavy snowfall and all necessary arrangements have been put in place to facilitate the devotees who are thronging the cave shrine atop Trikuta hills from across the country.

The shrine along with adjoining areas witnessed first snowfall of the season on Thursday and Friday, forcing suspension of the helicopter and ropeway service.

Over one feet of snow had accumulated in the shrine



area, including Bhawan and Bahiron Ghati, Sanjichhat and Himkoti.

"Barring suspension of chopper and ropeway service due to inclement weather, the track is open and the pilgrimage is going on smoothly," the CEO of SMVDSB told PTI.

He said while 8,500 pilgrims visited the cave shrine on Friday amid snowfall, 8,000 had left the base camp Katra for the shrine by foot till this afternoon to pay their obeisance at the shrine.

Kumar said the resumption

of the helicopter and the ropeway service to the shrine depends on the improvement of the weather. "Once the weather allows, both the suspended services will be resumed."

He said the shrine board had made all necessary arrangements for the pilgrims.

"The power supply is normal, heating arrangements have been made at different places while there is also sufficient stock of blankets and adequate accommodation for the pilgrims," he said.

# 'There is chasm between ideals and implementation of JJ Act'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There is a "chasm" between ideals and implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act and an approach focussed on deprivation and poverty was necessary to address the problem of juvenile delinquency as unfortunate circumstances push minors into substance abuse and violence, a Supreme Court Judge said on Saturday.

Justice D Y Chandrachud, who was speaking at the National Juvenile Justice Consultation programme held at the Supreme Court here, said it was imperative to acknowledge that children in conflict with law are not just offenders but in many cases are in need of care and protection.

"We have amazing legislations but there is a chasm between ideals and implementation of the law... Children often inherit crime. They are born into unfortunate circumstances which push them into substance abuse and violence," he said.

While speaking on 'Child Care Reform: Towards Strengthening Accountability for Children', Justice Chandrachud



said the subject was a personal one for him as he and his spouse were foster parents to two physically-disabled young girls who grew up in a village in Uttarakhand.

"It was personal for me to be in such setting as I and my spouse provide foster care to two young girls and they are children who grew up in a small village in Uttarakhand. They are physically challenged but amazingly bright and vibrant mentally," he said.

The judge further said that maintenance of standards was

**"It was personal for me to be in such setting as I and my spouse provide foster care to two young girls and they are children who grew up in a small village in Uttarakhand. They are physically challenged but amazingly bright and vibrant mentally," Justice Chandrachud said**

crucial where institutions are concerned and gave examples of Muzaffarpur and Panvel shelter homes' cases where minor girls were allegedly sexually abused.

"The maintenance of standards is crucial where institutions are concerned because whether it is the context of the Muzaffarpur home case in Bihar or the Panvel shelter homes case in Mumbai which I dealt with when I was a judge of the Bombay High Court, the problem is the absence of standards and the enforcement of standards despite the establishment of structures of governance," he said.

Talking about children involved in the drug trade, Justice

Chandrachud said children who are seen as offenders were indeed victims of the trade.

"Given the deplorable living conditions of many children in India, it is imperative to acknowledge that children in conflict with law are not just offenders but in many cases are children in need of care and protection.

"If you look at the drug trade for instance, children who are otherwise treated as offenders are indeed the victims of the drug trade because they are essentially drawn into the net by being exposed to petty drugs and then they become carriers and then become offenders," he said.

Justice Chandrachud said statistics indicate that there is a

strong correlation between deprivation of economic resources and juvenile delinquency.

"In India, children often inherit crime. They are born into unfortunate circumstances which push them into substance abuse and violence. Our statistics today indicate that there is a strong correlation between deprivation of economic resources and juvenile delinquency," he said.

The apex court judge further said that according to recent National Crime Research Bureau (NCRB) data, in 2015, 42.39 per cent of children in conflict of law belong to families with incomes of Rs 25,000, 28 per cent belong to families with incomes between Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000 and 2-3 per cent belong to families with incomes in the higher bracket of Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh.

"It is thus evident that children covered under the ambit of the JJ Act need economic support and planned attention. Thus, a more holistic approach focussed on deprivation and poverty is necessary to address the problem of juvenile delinquency," said Justice Chandrachud.

SHORT READS

Four sentenced to 30 years' jail for raping minor

**BILASPUR:** A court in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district sentenced four men to 30 years' imprisonment for repeatedly raping a 14-year-old girl. Third additional district and sessions judge Sanjeev Kumar Tamak on Friday convicted Charan Singh (30), Ishwar Dhurv (31), Nageshwar Rajak (26) and Manoj Wadekar (35), the victim's lawyer Priyanka Shukla said. The court sentenced the accused to 30 years in jail and imposed a fine of Rs 21,000 on Singh, and Rs 50,000 each on the other three convicts, she said. On February 20, 2017, the victim, a resident of Torwa here, had lodged a complaint against the accused for allegedly raping her repeatedly since 2015, Shukla said. The accused, who are residents of Devrikhurd area, had recorded an obscene video of the victim and sexually assaulted her after threatening to make the video public, she said.

Manipur CM's brother kidnapped, rescued in Kolkata; five held

**KOLKATA:** Five men pretending to be CBI officers went to the apartment of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh's brother Tongbram Lukhohi Singh here and kidnapped him, police said on Saturday. However, the police rescued him within hours and arrested the five accused, two of whom were from Manipur. The incident happened on Friday when the accused carrying toy guns entered Singh's rented accommodation in New Town area here and kidnapped him and one of his associates, the police said adding that they later called up Singh's wife and demanded a ransom of Rs 15 lakh. Following a complaint lodged by Singh's wife, the police swung into action and rescued the two on Friday evening and arrested the five accused from Beniapukur area in central Kolkata, a senior police officer said.

Fadnavis' 'Varsha night club gang' plotted against BJP

**MUMBAI:** Former BJP MLA Anil Gote has accused the then Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and his "coterie" of conspiring against mass leaders like Eknath Khadse and Pankaja Munde. Gote, who recently joined the NCP, dubbed the then CM's official residence, where "conspiracies" were planned according to him, as "Varsha night club". Gote alleged that a group of BJP leaders, including the then minister Girish Mahajan, would meet Fadnavis at his official residence in Mumbai every night and hatch plots on strengthening the local opponents of these mass leaders. Gote said he joined the Sharad Pawar-led party as he was "fed up" with the conspiracies of this "Varsha night club". His statement on December 12 came on a day when disgruntled BJP leaders Pankaja Munde and Eknath Khadse virtually raised a banner of revolt against Fadnavis, without taking his name. Khadse had blamed certain BJP leaders for the defeat of his daughter Rohini from Jalgaon district and that of Pankaja Munde.

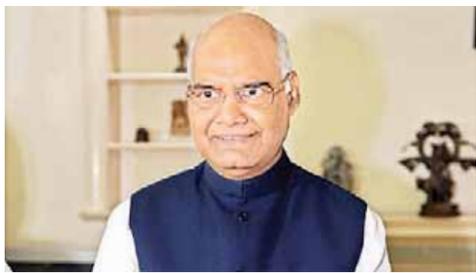
'India must eliminate poverty, become middle-income country'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has set itself for sustainable development as it strives to eliminate poverty and become a middle-income country, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Saturday.

The president hosted a conference of 46 heads of central universities and institutes of higher learning in the fields of agriculture, pharmaceuticals, aviation, footwear-design, fashion, petroleum and energy, maritime studies, planning and architecture and information technology.

"India has set itself for sustainable development as it strives to eliminate poverty and become a middle-income country. Each of these institutes will be instrumental to the realisation of our socio-economic goals. The central agricultural universities can support our national goal of promoting sustainable agriculture, productivity and supporting our farmers with useful research," Kovind said in



**Each of these institutes will be instrumental to the realisation of our socio-economic goals. The central agricultural universities can support our national goal of promoting sustainable agriculture, productivity and supporting our farmers with useful research," Kovind said in Rashtrapati Bhavan**

Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"The same is true of all other institutes linked to different areas be it pharmaceutical, aviation, oceanography, petroleum and energy, IT, Design, Architecture and others. Each of them is doing well

but we need to raise the bar further. As our economy grows we need to acquire the scale and efficiency that is greater and better than the best in the world," he added.

The president said while developing their specialisa-

tions, these institutes should collaborate and learn from each other.

"This is possible for institutes in the same field. It is also possible across categories. For example, advances in information technology can aid architects and town planners to design smart cities that minimise use of energy. All of them should set up systems that can scout for and support cross-category collaborations which might hold creative promises to solve many of our problems," Kovind said.

"Great institutes of learning are different due to the leadership they nurture and build. The heads of leading higher education institutes must discharge their key role as leadership mentors for the next generation of academic-administrators. This would ensure that we have a ready talent pool of directors, deans and administrators who can conceive, establish and administer our institutes of higher education," he said.

Cong out to regain lost ground in Ladakh via 'divisive politics'

PNS ■ JAMMU

A senior BJP leader from Ladakh on Saturday accused Congress of trying to regain the lost ground in the Union Territory through "divisive politics" by provoking the youth on "false pretext".

Leh district president of BJP Dorje Angchuk claimed that Congress Rajya Sabha member Ambika Soni is trying to create a scare among the Ladakhis by predicting threat to their resources and rich cultural identity.

Cautioning that situation in Ladakh may turn alarming, Soni on Friday demanded inclusion of the Union Territory in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to protect its resources and rich cultural identity.

"Till now Congress has been relying on the false promise of UT to lure the voters but failed to fulfil the promise despite being in power for decades and now that the BJP has met the aspiration of the people of Ladakh by making it a UT, which Congress opposed in the Parliament, it is now trying to divide the people by creating fear in their minds,"

**He said, "the fear, apprehension and disenchantment among Ladakhis as claimed by Soni is a product of her sinister mind to provoke the people of Ladakh by creating an issue in the form of sixth schedule"**

Dorje said reacting to her statement in the Rajya Sabha.

He said, "the fear, apprehension and disenchantment among Ladakhis as claimed by Soni is a product of her sinister mind to provoke the people of Ladakh by creating an issue in the form of sixth schedule".

Dorje said while sixth schedule permits creation of separate administrative councils for protecting the tribal rights of the identified tribes of the four north eastern states, the people of Ladakh already have two highly empowered Autonomous District Hill Councils for Leh



and Kargil.

"We have full faith in these Councils which have been given additional powers lately to safeguard the interests of the people and develop the area," he said.

Allaying the apprehensions of the people, Dorje assured them that Para 58 (2) of Part IV of J&K Reorganisation Act of 2019 clearly states, "The President may make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the Union territory of Ladakh under article 240 of the Constitution of India."

"Any law needed to safeguard their interest will be made," he said.

ATTACK ON HOME GUARD JAWANS

Fourth accused has criminal background

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The fourth accused held for firing at two home guard jawans in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu has a criminal background, police said.

Main accused Shubham Panwar, alias Shivu (23), was arrested on Friday evening from Aleo where he had been hiding at his friends' place, Kullu SP Gaurav Singh said on Saturday.

Shivu's two friends -- Vikash Rana (26) of Kangra district and Priti (24) of Bihar -- have also been arrested for harbouring the offender under



Section 212 of IPC, he added. A resident of Uttarakhand's Dehradun, Shivu had fled after

attacking the home guard jawans in Kullu district on Thursday.

His antecedents have been verified and he has been found of having a criminal background as a theft case was registered against him in Dehradun's Vikas Nagar police station, he added.

The SP Vikas and Priti hid Shiva in a locked room and misinformed police when enquired about his whereabouts.

The weapon of offence is yet to be recovered, he added.

Four men had allegedly attacked the home guard jawans with a country-made pistol and a stick in the early hours of Thursday.

Modi made false promises to people, misled them 6 yrs ago: Manmohan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Zon Saturday alleged that his successor Narendra Modi misled the people by making "lofty promises" which he "failed" to fulfil.

Addressing a mega 'Bharat Bachao' (Save India) rally at the Ramlika grounds here, the Congress leader said Modi had promised to take the country's economy to USD 5 trillion by 2024, double farmers' income and provide two crore new jobs every year for youths.

"Six years ago, Narendra Modi showed lofty promises to people. Now it has been proved that all these promises were false and he has failed in fulfilling all the promises made and the people of the country were misled," he said.

The rally was attended among others by top Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, besides Congress chief ministers Kamal Nath, Ashok Gehlot, Bhupesh Baghel. However, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh was conspicuous by his absence. In his brief address,



**"It is our duty to strengthen the Congress party and strengthen the hands of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, so that we can take the country forward in the real sense" he noted.**

Manmohan Singh urged the people to strengthen the Congress party and the hands of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in order "to take the country forward in the right direction".

"It is our duty to strengthen the Congress party and strengthen the hands of Sonia

Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, so that we can take the country forward in the real sense" he noted.

He also urged Congress workers present at the rally in large numbers to take the message of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to every nook and corner of the country.

Girl sexually assaulted in school toilet

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A seven-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by an unidentified man inside the toilet of her school in suburban Malvani, police said on Saturday.

The incident occurred on Friday, they said.

"As per the complaint lodged by the victim's mother, her daughter was sexually assaulted inside the toilet of her school during the day on Friday," an official said.

"On returning home, the victim told her mother about the incident. She then took her daughter to a doctor, who suspected that a crayon or a pencil could have been used for the assault," he said.

Malvani police have registered a case under IPC section 376 (rape) and sections 4 and 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, he said.

Police are going through the footages of the CCTV cameras installed in the school, but as of now nothing suspicious has been found, the official said, adding that a probe is on.

CBI books ex-Sangeet Natak Akademi chairperson Leela

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked ace Bharatnatyam dancer and former Chairperson of Sangeet Natak Akademi Leela Samson for alleged "unfruitful expenditure" in Rs 7.02-crore renovation project of Koothambalam auditorium of Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, officials said Saturday.

Samson, a Padma Shri awardee and also a former chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification, has been booked along with the then officers of the Foundation: Chief Accounts Officer TS Murthi, Accounts Officer S Ramachandran, Engineering officer V Srinivasan and proprietor of CARD and Chennai Engineers, they said.

The CBI also conducted searches on the residential premises of the accused.

In a complaint to the CBI, the Chief Vigilance Officer of the Culture Ministry has alleged that the officials of the Foundation awarded the contract for the renovation work to consultant architect CARD



Leela Samson

**The CBI also conducted searches on the residential premises of the accused.**

in violation of General Finance Rules (GFR), they said.

After conducting an inquiry in 2016, the Culture Ministry alleged that the 84-year old Foundation had spent Rs 62.20 lakh more than the estimated amount on the Rs 7.02-crore project.

VP recalls Mahatma's 'view' to shut Cong platform

PNS ■ ANAND (GUJ)

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday invoked Mahatma Gandhi's "suggestion" to disband the "Congress as a platform" after India attained independence from the British in 1947.

Naidu also said everybody celebrated the Supreme Court's unanimous verdict on the Ayodhya dispute, clearing the decks for the construction of a Ram temple.

The vice president was speaking as the chief guest to mark the 40th Foundation Day of the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) on the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) campus.

"Mahatma Gandhi gave two suggestions after Independence. First, he asked for the closure of the Congress as a platform. I am telling you for your information that the Congress was primarily a movement of people of different ideologies," he said.

CAA stir: Jamia announces vacation till Jan 5, exams cancelled

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Jamia Millia Islamia on Saturday declared vacation till January 5 and cancelled all exams in view of the tense situation in the university due to students' protest against the amended citizenship act.

"All exams postponed. New dates to be announced in due course of time. Vacation declared from December 16 to January 5. University will reopen on January 6, 2020," a



senior university official said. The university turned into a virtual battlefield on Friday when students and policemen clashed with each other as students tried to march to

Parliament in protest against the legislation.

Earlier in the day, the university administration had announced postponement of exam scheduled on Saturday.

The students had called for a university lockdown on Saturday and had planned to boycott the exams to protest against the amended citizenship act and also against the Friday's violence following clashes with police during their march.

Violent protests continue in Bengal; buses, rly stations torched

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Violent agitations continued to rock parts of West Bengal for second consecutive day on Saturday as people protesting against the amended Citizenship Act set several buses on fire and torched portions of a railway station complex, officials said.

Incidents of violence were reported from Murshidabad and North 24 Paraganas districts, and rural Howrah, police said.

Angry protestors torched around 15 buses, both public and private, and blocked traffic on the arterial Kona Expressway in Howrah that connect both NH6 (Mumbai Road) and NH2 (Delhi Road) to Kolkata, the police said.

Traffic movement along the expressway came to a standstill, they said.



The National Highway 34, one of the main roads that connect north and south Bengal, was blocked in Murshidabad. Buses were also set on fire there, the police said.

Several other roads in the district were also blocked, they said.

In Howrah district's Domjur area, the National Highway 6

was blocked as protestors set tyres ablaze and ransacked several vehicles, the police said.

A huge police contingent was at the spot to control the situation, they said.

Since last night, 20 shops have been set on fire in Bagan area of Rural Howrah, an official said.

Child marriage, teenage pregnancy cause of great concern for govt: Union health minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Increasing teenage pregnancy and other health issues in that age group are of great concern for the government, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Saturday and stressed on the need for making adolescents healthy to harness the country's demographic dividend.

At the inauguration of a workshop -- 'Investing in Adolescent Health: Harnessing the Demographic Dividend' -- he said adolescence is a critical phase in developing potential in a person and making investments in this age group will be the best way to leverage India's advantage of having a young population.

The ongoing levels of teenage pregnancies and child marriages in certain pockets across the country is a cause for



Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan

great concern, and taking sexual and reproductive health services out of the clinics to India's adolescent population will be the way forward," the Union minister said.

Vardhan addressed the work-

**With 253 million adolescents, India comprises a high proportion of individuals in a transient phase of life that requires nutrition, education, counselling and guidance to ensure their proper development.**

With 253 million adolescents, India comprises a high proportion of individuals in a transient phase of life that requires nutrition, education, counselling and guidance to ensure their proper development.

This group is also susceptible to various avoidable health problems such as early and unintended pregnancy, unsafe sex leading to STI/HIV/AIDS, nutritional disorders like malnutrition, anemia, obesity mental health concerns and others.

The other speakers at the inaugural session included UNICEF India Representative Yasmin Ali Haque, WHO Representative to India Henk Bekedam and Hisham Mundol, Executive Director, India and Child Protection, Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

At the workshop it was emphasised that in addition to its inherent value, promoting and protecting adolescent health will lead to public health, economic and demographic benefits.

CAPSULE



**SpiceJet grounds 3 aircraft citing defects**

**MUMBAI:** SpiceJet has informed the exchanges that it has grounded three of its B737 freighter aircraft. The low cost carrier on Friday said that the step was taken "on the advice of the Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI), which converted these aircraft to freighters". According to the statement by the company: "During an internal examination of IAI's manufacturing facilities, a potential defect was discovered in the process used to manufacture the 9G rigid barrier installed on these aircraft." These aircraft will return to operations after regulatory clearance," it added.



**Zuari Agro CFO Samrat Sen resigns**

**NEW DELHI:** Zuari Agro Chemicals on Saturday said its Chief Financial Officer Samrat Sen has resigned. The company has accepted Sen's resignation and December 14 is his last day in the service, it said in a BSE filing. "Samrat Sen, Chief Financial Officer, designated as a key managerial personnel of the company, has resigned. His resignation has been accepted and his last day of service in the company is December 14, 2019," it said.



**EESL commissions first EV charging station in south Delhi**

**NEW DELHI:** In a bid to build a robust EV charging infrastructure, state-run Energy Efficiency Service Ltd (EESL) and South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Saturday inaugurated the first electric vehicle public charging station in south Delhi. The inauguration coincides with the National Energy Conservation Day being celebrated across the country, EESL said in a statement. The charging station has been installed in the SDMC parking area of Greater Kailash-1 N Block market. EESL has installed the charging station after the signing an agreement with SDMC. This is the first of the 75 charging stations to be installed across SDMC areas as per the agreement. The installation of public charging stations would help in increasing the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in the city. With increasing penetration of EVs, the local emission of pollutants is also expected to reduce, leading to cleaner air providing several health benefits to the public.

**Wipro, IISc tie up to make 3D printer**

**BENGALURU:** Wipro 3D and renowned Indian Institute of Science (IISc) are collaborating to build the country's first industrial grade metal 3D printer, the software major said on Saturday. "The country's first 3D printing machine works on selective electron beam melting technology and offers higher build rate, better thermal management, higher density and superior mechanical properties," said the city-based company in a statement here. Wipro 3D, the additive manufacturing business of Wipro Infrastructure Engineering and IISc have developed the industrial grade additive manufacturing machine. Commenting on the 3D printing facility undergoing benchmarking currently, Ajay Parikh, Wipro 3D business head said the facility symbolises Wipro's effort to indigenise and industrialise metal additive printing technology.

# ArcelorMittal initiates Rs 42K cr payment for Essar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Global steel giant ArcelorMittal has initiated payment for acquisition of debt-ridden Essar Steel for Rs 42,000 crore, sources said on Friday.

The decks for acquisition of Essar Steel by L N Mittal-led company was cleared by the Supreme Court last month.

According to banking sources, "Payment from ArcelorMittal has started flowing and entire payment is expected to be cleared in a day or two."

Another source privy to the development said ArcelorMittal has arranged the entire fund and is likely to transfer the amount by Monday.

"ArcelorMittal has arranged the entire amount of Rs 42,000 crore which is likely to be transferred to State Bank of India, the lead banker to take control of Essar Steel under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code," one of the sources said.

When contacted, ArcelorMittal refused to comment on the issue. After the payment to the lenders, this will be the single-biggest recovery under the IBC. While ArcelorMittal had kept the entire Rs 42,000 crore amount to be repaid in an escrow account, it did not immediately release it to the lenders after the November 15 Supreme Court order, sources said.



**When contacted, ArcelorMittal refused to comment on the issue. After the payment to the lenders, this will be the single-biggest recovery under the IBC**

As per the plans approved by the committee of creditors (CoC), upheld by the Supreme Court in its November 15 ruling, SBI will receive the largest chunk at about Rs 12,161 crore, the sources said. Besides, Canara Bank will get Rs 3,493 crore and ICICI Bank Rs 2,110 crore, the sources said.

Following the Supreme Court verdict, ArcelorMittal last month said it expects to complete the acquisition by the end of this year.

ArcelorMittal India Private Ltd's (AMITL) resolution plan for Essar Steel India Ltd (ESIL) has been unconditionally approved by the Supreme Court and the approval of AMITL's resolution plan is the final procedural step in ESIL's corporate insolvency process, the company had said in a

statement.

"Completion of the transaction is now expected before the end of the year. After completion, ArcelorMittal will jointly own and operate ESIL in partnership with Nippon Steel Corporation, Japan's largest steel producer and the third largest steel producer in the world, in line with the joint venture formation agreement signed by the two companies," it had said.

The Supreme Court paved the way for ArcelorMittal's takeover of Essar Steel for Rs 42,000 crore and set aside the July 4 National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order giving equal status to financial creditors and operational creditors.

The bench had clarified that financial creditors enjoy primacy over operational creditors and the adjudicating authority cannot interfere with the decision approved by the committee of creditors.

The top court said the adjudicating authority can send back the resolution plan to the CoC for the implementation in accordance with the guidelines but cannot change the commercial decision taken by the CoC.

# Jaipur Foot plans to scale up ops to go global

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

The iconic Jaipur Foot is planning to scale up its operations to provide artificial limb free of cost to physically challenged people both in India and across the world. For this, its parent body Bhagwan Mahaveer Sahayata Samiti is working on a plan to use modern information technologies and latest advancement in medical field to bring artificial limbs to the doorsteps of Divyang or physically challenged individuals.

"Our leadership team, including founder and chief patron D R Mehta is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aspiration of a healthy India, of which Ayushman Bharat is a core component," Jaipur Foot USA chairman Prem Bhandari told PTI in an interview.

In Washington for a day on Friday to meet Indian Ambassador to the US, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, New York-based Bhandari said that early this month a physically challenged woman in Philippine, a sister of an embassy driver, has sent pictures over WhatsApp of her leg which she lost in an accident.



**Based on the pictures, doctors at Jaipur Foot, which has an office in Manila, manufactured artificial limb for her**

Based on the pictures, doctors at Jaipur Foot, which has an office in Manila, manufactured artificial limb for her.

"In less than a week's time she was mobile," he said, adding that a similar help was provided to a physically challenged individual in Germany. For privacy reason, he did not disclose names of the beneficiaries.

Jaipur Foot traditionally holds camps within the country and now with the financial grant from the External Affairs Ministry has been organising camps in various parts of the world, in particularly in the third-world country to provide artificial limbs to the needy.

While in the market, it costs somewhere between USD7,000 to USD15,000, Jaipur Foot, a non-profit body provides its free of cost. It receives corporate grants and donations to meet its expenses.

Inspired by the two recent cases of Philippines and Germany, Bhandari said the leadership team of Jaipur Foot is exploring the possibility of making it accessible at mass level.

# Govt to allot 6 coal mines soon

PNS ■ ISLAMABAD

After poor show of investors in the previous rounds of coal auctions, government is now finally considering allotment of six mines soon.

The Ministry of Coal had initiated the auction process for 27 coal mines under tranches 8, 9 and 10 for non-regulated sector and the allotment process for 15 coal mines under tranches 6, 7, 8 and 9 for various specified end-uses such as power, iron & steel.

In the auction process, the successful bidders for all the mines except Gare Palma IV-1 have been recommended by the Central Government, an official statement said. Accordingly, allotment process of Bikram mine in Madhya Pradesh to Birla corporation has been initiated. The company quoted a price of Rs 154 per tonne of coal that would provide state government a revenue of Rs 166.32 crore for 30 years.

The Jamkhani block in Odisha is being allotted to Vedanta that quoted a coal price of Rs 1674 per tonne giving a revenue of Rs 13,057 crore to the state.

# Pak, WB sign pact for financing Khyber Pass Economic Corridor

PNS ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and the World Bank has signed a project agreement worth USD 406.6 million for financing the Khyber Pass Economic Corridor (KPEC) project with an aim to promote economic development.

The signing ceremony was held on Friday at the Economic Affairs Division, Islamabad, The Express Tribune reported.

The project is aimed at constructing a 48km four-lane, dual carriageway, high-speed and access-controlled motorway from Peshawar to Torkham border point with Afghanistan in a bid to promote economic development and ensure uplift of the areas adjoining the expressway and falling in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

The project envisages public-private partnership and private financing for developing clusters of economic activity, economic zones and expressways. The connecting transport infrastructure and economic zones would provide a strong foundation for the private business to invest in these zones.

The global integration of South and Central Asia is intertwined with the Khyber Pass, which has served as the key node



**The project envisages public-private partnership and private financing for developing clusters of economic activity, economic zones and expressways**

in trade for hundreds of years. The expressway between Peshawar and Kabul through the Khyber Pass represents a section of Corridors 5 and 6 of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (Carec) Corridor 5, which runs

through Pakistan, has the potential to provide the shortest link between the landlocked countries of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Arabian Sea. Corridor 6 provides access to Europe, the Middle East and Russia.

The KPEC will finance the Peshawar-Torkham expressway portion of the Corridor 5.

The Peshawar-Torkham expressway will reduce transit time and costs for regional and international trade, transiting the Khyber Pass and extend till Karachi-Lahore-Islamabad-Peshawar Trans-Pakistan Expressway system.

It will be developed as an integral part of the planned Peshawar-Kabul-Dushanbe motorway.

# PVR cinemas to welcome New Year with a classics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

PVR Cinemas, the largest and the most premium film exhibition company celebrates the year-end with an opportunity for its patrons to walk down the memory lane with classics from Bollywood and Hollywood film library. The first of its kind initiative, 'The Nostalgic Show' will open with the screening of Casablanca on 15th December 2019 across 4 cities.

PVR in its endeavor to offer unique experiences is introducing this creative property to enable the movie aficionados to experience and enjoy their iconic favorites on the big screen once again. This is the exhibitor's latest initiative towards increasing accessibility to quality content and enhancing out-of-home experience that has been at the heart of the brand's creative offerings.

Mr. Gautam Dutta, CEO, PVR Cinemas said, "It gives us immense happiness to see the excitement amongst movie



enthusiasts for new and niche content. The film industry globally and in India is huge with a plethora of celebrated content. Being in the entertainment, exhibition and distribution industry, we believe it is our responsibility to build avenues for our audience to experience the best of both worlds, new and old."

# Congressional committee 'eyeing' India, Japan and S Korea

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

With an eye on China, and as part of its effort to maintain peace and rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region, a top Congressional committee has sought to bring three democratic countries of the region - India, Japan and South Korea - at par with its 'Five Eyes' for intelligence sharing.

The 'Five Eyes' is an alliance comprising of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Great Britain and the US. It is an international agreement under which this five countries cooperates and share signals intelligence, military intelligence, and human intelligence.

Congressman Adam Schiff, who chairs the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, in a report to the House of Representatives on Thursday argued the case for India, Japan and South Korea be brought along with the 'Five Eyes' so as to maintain peace and rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region.

# Bangladesh withdraws import curbs on 9 items from India through two Tripura land ports

PNS ■ AGARTALA

The Bangladesh government has withdrawn its restrictions on importing nine items from India through two land ports in Tripura, in a boost to traders of the region, officials said on Saturday.

Bangladesh had exported various items amounting to Rs 522.42 crore in 2018-19 while



imports of goods through seven land ports in Tripura to the neighbouring country were

around Rs 14.66 crore, they said.

"The trade imbalance is due to restrictions imposed by Dhaka on various items. Bangladesh has withdrawn its restrictions on importing nine items through Akhaura land port and Srimantapur land custom station," state industries and commerce department's additional director Swapna Debnath said.

The nine items on which the restriction was removed from December 1 included cashew nut, paper, sugar, generator, broken glass, chocolate, baby wipes, confectionary and bitumen, she said. Currently, five other land customs stations-Muhurighat, Khowaighat, Dhalaighat, Manughat and Puran Raghna-are operational along Indo-Bangla border in Tripura.

# Adani Transmission gets Lol for project in Maha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Transmission Ltd (ATL) on Saturday said it has received a Letter of Intent for a power transmission project in Maharashtra.

The Letter of Intent (LoI) to ATL has been awarded under a tariff based competitive bidding model from Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd (MSETCL).

"ATL has received the LoI from MSETCL to build, own, operate and maintain a transmission project in Maharashtra for a period of 35 years," a company statement said.

The project 'Kharghar Vikhroli Transmission Pvt Ltd' comprises approximately 34 km of 400 kV and 220 kV transmission lines along with 400kV GIS (Gas Insulated



Switchgear) Substation at Vikhroli in Mumbai.

According to the statement, this will be the first ever 400 kV substation facility in Mumbai.

The project is critical to Mumbai as the existing capacity of transmission corridor is not sufficient to carry further power into the city. It would enable additional power to be brought into the city, thus helping in meeting the future demand of Mumbai.

# More Indians visiting Nevada, look beyond Las Vegas

PNS ■ LAS VEGAS

Las Vegas may be Nevada's twinkling desert jewel and a mecca for pleasure-seekers, but the western US state is seeing a steady rise in the number of visitors to its other tourist attractions.

The number of Indian tourists to the Silver State has been rising each year, Travel Nevada officials said.

Many Indian visitors come looking for Nevada's natural wonders, like Lake Tahoe's crystal waters and forested peaks and the expanses of Highway 50, dubbed as the 'Loneliest Road in America.'

"Last year there were 53,600 Indian tourists in Nevada. If one looks at the figures of the last five years, there has been a steady rise each year in the numbers of Indians visiting the state," said Tracie Barnhouse, Public Relations Specialist for Nevada Division of Tourism.



The following are the year-wise numbers of Indian tourists to Nevada: 2013: 42,200, 2014: 46,100, 2015: 47,900, 2016: 49,400 and 2017: 51,100.

While Las Vegas is where almost three-quarters of the state's population resides, the focus for many tourists now is also on interesting spots in rest of the state, Barnhouse told PTI. "People often view Las Vegas as just the iconic neon-lit Strip,"

Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak said.

On the Strip - the 4.02-km-long central section of Las Vegas Boulevard, one can take in entertainment spots like Caesars Palace and the MGM Grand, The Venetian and New York-New York, which make up the city's famous skyline.

"But Nevada is much more than that. There are so many more things to offer," he said at

# Many Indian visitors come looking for Nevada's natural wonders, like Lake Tahoe's crystal waters and forested peaks and the expanses of Highway 50, dubbed as the 'Loneliest Road in America.'

the recent Governor's Global Tourism Summit at the Plaza Hotel in Downtown Las Vegas.

The purpose of the three-day event was to convey the message to global travel and tourism industry that there is a lot more to Nevada as a destination than gaming and shows.

"Whether you are talking about our rural areas, the great outdoors, Red Rock, or the Valley of Fire, we want the world to know you can come here. There is a lot more you can experience, and Nevada's got a lot to offer," he said.

There are other experiences one can have, whether it is see-

ing petroglyphs (a rock carving, especially a prehistoric one) or rock climbing, Sisolak said.

"Millennials are more interested in an experience than they are in a purchase. They want to have memories. Nevada can create memories, and it is where memories happen," he said.

"This millennial generation is more interested in experiences. They don't want to accumulate things. They want to accumulate memories. And that is the idea we are trying to get across that you can have a great memory when you are here," he said.

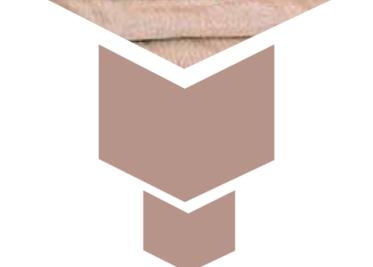




I think that people should absolutely be allowed to do whatever they want with their bodies and to live the life they want to lead  
— Elisabeth Moss



Our textiles are our communiqué. These bear imprints of diverse cultures and their traditions. There is deep history and heritage attached to what we wear and re-create over and over again, writes SAYALI GOYAL as she shares her impressions from



## TEXTILE JOURNEY THROUGH BENGAL

When talking about Bengal, one must start the narrative from a weaving cluster village as the textile heritage of the region boasts of some of the finest weaving traditions of the country. Upon reaching Bengal, about four hours north of Kolkata, lies Shantipur, a village of Jamdani weavers, who migrated from Bangladesh during partition. Traditionally, these weavers made *dhotis*, a drape worn by Bengali men, now reduced to occasional wear. Which is why they mostly weave saris for the local women.

A master weaver, who hosted us at his workshop, shared with us how weaving involves the critical labour of his family members — his wife and his brother's family weave for nearly six to eight hours a day. Sometimes it takes up to a week to make one sari which they sell for ₹1500. An average of ₹10,000 is what a weaver makes per month, which is slightly above the minimum wage. The information is enough to make you sit up and wonder: what is the fair price for a traditional craft? Where does the difference lie between a skilled labourer and an artisan? Our host explained that they visit the *melas* organised by the ministry that provide a platform to sell directly to customers; at other times, boutiques from the city commission them pieces. He shared that for him, this is the best job as he can stay close to his artisanal tradition and family. Working in the city, he said, that would require him to live alone.

It was pleasing to see the community spirit in the weavers and that women held an equal position in the trade. There are 50,000 weavers in Shantipur who mostly work on handlooms, but the market demand has been in the hold of power looms as well. He talked about the use of natural dye only on request or when the weavers are specifically provided with naturally dyed yarns by the boutique. Chemical dyes are cheaper to produce, thus making it a competitive product. The community has now formed a weavers' society to bring more structure to the craft village where they try to solve issues of daily business. They hope for bigger, more concrete support from larger organisations in buying more looms and raw materials like threads. For the weavers, the biggest challenge is the money circulation, as they are only paid at the end of the month; most of their cash is invested in raw materials by that time. A common complaint is that the larger buyers work on consignments and refuse to pay for raw materials in advance, which for them is a big risk.

My rendezvous with the weavers in Shantipur and interactions with the master craftsmen left with me questions but also ideas. My visit to Mahamaya, a third generation Kantha artist and a National Award winner proved insightful. Some of her masterpieces include scenes from the

Ramayana with Kantha stitch work.

"Illustrations make for a *naksha* on Kantha which is the stitched layered fabric", explained Mahamaya. Kantha stitch is typically a long running stitch; however, there is innovation today and Herringbone, Satin, and Button stitches are also used. Browsing through her pile, I came across one that her grandmother had made, a 70 year old piece with natural colours.

Kantha is a way of storytelling through geometric patterns, figurative narratives, and floral illustrations. Mahamaya talks about her process and shares that she like to draw first on the fabric and then go by her instinct to fill colours into the piece of work. "Some of these works take years to make. Sometime I do the border and then another artisan fills the space inside. Reds and black were traditionally used but now there are more options in colours. I look for inspiration in other forms of art as well as in books and museums. During my mother's time, they used to pull out threads from old saris to embroider but now I use anchor thread. I also collaborate with other artisans like Kashmiri, who I have worked with for sixteen years. She is in the craft for tradition and it is a skill that gets her money as well".

Mahamaya has trained artists and taught them to preserve the art. Speaking of innovation, Mahamaya likes to experiment with the base fabric like cottons and tussars. There is a lot of scope where the artist could bring themselves in the work with experimentation within the technique. Some of her new projects include graphic inspiration and also a mix of techniques like applique. A new series is being developed under her, which is inspired from the panels of *Kamasutra*. Mahamaya shares that most of the works are commissioned art pieces such as the ones recently sold to Reliance Foundation at the Swadeshi Bazaar, but a lot of orders in the form of wearable art such as *dupattas* or bed linen keep the workshop running.

The textile documentation trip to Kolkata would be incomplete without a meeting with Namrata, Founder of Biome Conscious Textiles. Her story of entrepreneurship came together as she was looking out of the window of life for inspiration to make her financially independent while also staying true to her values. She was at that time questioning consumerism. So, there she was, with no prior experience in business other than having some entrepreneurial DNA by virtue of belonging to the Rajasthani Marwari community. Then, she encountered someone who was invested in herbal dyeing process for almost a decade. Naturally, it was the opportunity she was waiting for, to work in a social impact space through the world of clothing and fashion that she understood very well ever since her childhood. She finally found a product in her hands that was in harmony with nature and did not promote consumerism.

### Au Naturelle

Indigo process that Biome follows and shares at workshops:

Take 2 parts of refined lime powder and mix some warm water and stir for almost 10 minutes. Now add 1 part of indigo sweetened powder and mix slowly and cover, removing all oxygen supply and light exposure for 3-4 hours. Open and check if the top is metallic purple and bottom is green. If yes, your indigo is active, alive and ready to go. Dilute if needed and put your fabric inside. Let it soak the dye, and as you bring it out, it magically comes out green turning blue on exposure to sun's light and oxygen. In time, it's bright blue. Wash it after it's dry with a mild soap and rinse in vinegar water and dry again. Ready to wear!

"I am but a tool in the hands of this movement," she said. "I like to think, and question, and that is what makes me act the way I do. I love clothes but not the indulgence".

Namrata believes that clothes are a symbol of need, comfort, artistic expression, dignity, celebration, attraction, and more but they must not become the reason for environmental degradation and human exploitation. Her organisation represents the idea of a communiqué — of a clean present and a cleaner future that is invested in the welfare of everyone involved in the process.

Working with bio-degradable products is what keeps her going ahead in her journey. Endorsing, embracing and collaborating with other like-minded people are her sources of joy. Biome makes natural-dyed fabrics and customised garments. It identifies with the movement of integrating with nature. As part of that process, Biome also sells natural dyes and Namrata travels with natural dyeing workshops throughout the country.

She believes that work should not be for one person's fancy but instead should be collaborative and transcend differences. "In the end, work should unite, not divide". Revolution starts with an individual but it must expand to the community as we are parts of one big whole. Nature is the intelligent system that has prevailed ever since life started, we can only grow and survive in harmony with it.

Namrata realised that we as humans need to engage our senses to relate to our physical presence in life. And only listening or reading are incomplete ways of sharing, understanding and experience the beauty of natural dyes. Through workshops, Biome facilitates spaces and guidance to dye your own fabrics, engage with the look, smell and feel of the dyes, and know how real and alive it is. Just like us.

Biome is interested to adopt 'grow local, buy and sell local and decentralise'. Hence, they have been exploring work with the strong weaving heritage of Bengal and introduce natural dyeing to the weavers. Also, instead of thinking of 'export', the focus is on spreading awareness amongst Indians, who form a significant hub of consumers and can afford the best fabrics. Biome also concentrates on natural fibres, sustainable man-made fibres, and hand woven fabrics along with naturally dyed threads and fabrics. Natural dye is the boundary that does not limit, but instead creates a balance between environment and our need for colours.

Namrata makes it a point to collaborate with

other sustainable field workers when she is touring for her workshops, especially with those who are working in education, food, lifestyle, and the like.

A piece of textile is a symbol of creation. So much has been created, imagined with warp and weft and has been an expression of art and design. Our textiles are our communiqué, our language various cultures marked it with their sense of aesthetics and there is deep history and heritage with what we wear and re-create over and over again. Design has been evolved in textiles in rhythmic dance with our lifestyle, socio-economic conditions, geography of a place and now it marks globalisation. Another important driver has been 'fashion' and it has both pros and cons as anything in excess can result in.

Biome has always loved and learnt from collaboration and sharing. That's been the constant motivation and satisfaction. "This one time, we happened to meet this bright, young student from Sriшти School of Design and we came in touch with her work on flora and fauna, and a very imaginative expression of human mating a flower and the resultant evolution of life. When we interacted with her more, we discovered that she loves trees, can communicate with them and sketching plants alive is her passion. We took a look at her sketches and decided to convert them on our clothes through batik and herbal dyes. Thus started this experimental project of batik and painting with herbal paste. On board was the batik artist, Sushanto and Ghana, an artist from Chennai who was with us for that period. We released a collection and it was like a dream come true", Namrata reminisces.

Paramita Kar Choudhury is a batik and block printing artist who also dabbles in shibori and clamp techniques. She started her journey with synthetic dyes but soon found the calling for natural dyes. She took her training from an experienced practitioner from Shantiniketan. Then she opened her unit and heart to embrace Biome as a collaborating partner to use our herbal dyes and process orders together in batik, block printing, and dyeing.

As I traversed through the landscape of Bengal, it was heartening to see skilled craftsmen dedicating their time to keep the age-old traditions alive. So many ideas bubbled inside my mind after all the interesting conversations, but for the moment I treated myself to a naturally dyed blue and white Jamdani.

The writer is the founder and cultural curator at [www.cocoaandjasmine.com](http://www.cocoaandjasmine.com)



ARNOLD BENNETT, THE AUTHOR OF *THE OLD WIVES' TALE* AND *CLAYHANGER*, HAS AN OMELETTE NAMED AFTER HIM. THE OMELETTE WAS INVENTED AT LONDON'S SAVOY HOTEL WHERE BENNETT OFTEN STAYED

With his keen understanding of the region, the author traces the roots of the deep-seated Baloch alienation to the forced accession of the princely state of Kalat to Pakistan in 1948, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

# The unending struggle of the Baloch

The statement by General Rawat, Chief of Staff of the Indian Army, that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) is controlled by terrorists and Gilgit-Baltistan and POK have been under illegal occupation of Pakistan is to be noted seriously. A perusal of history shows that many such provinces in the North West region as well as North East region of the country were part of India and the country was forced to surrender the rights over them as part of a ploy by the British rulers.

One such independent country that existed during the colonial rule of the British and enjoyed the status of a sovereign nation was Balochistan. Ironically, nothing much has been written or taught in India about Balochistan, its glorious past and communal amity (which is in stark contrast to that of Pakistan). One of the TV news channels in Kerala had telecast a programme about Hinglaj Mata Temple in Balochistan which is being preserved with utmost care by the tribal community. Every year, the Mandir draws thousands of Indian devotees to this country and the pilgrims are treated with respect by the tribal communities. In modern times, the term Balochistan was heard in the Indian narrative for the first time in 2009 when the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured his Pakistani counterpart Yusuf Raza Gilani that India was doing nothing in Balochistan. "Indeed nor should it be doing anything there," the economist-turned-politician is reported to have said in the joint statement with Gilani issued on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement meeting held in Egypt.

An attempt has been made to unravel the hitherto untold and unpublished details about Balochistan. "*Pakistan: The Balochistan Conundrum*" authored by Tilak Devasher, a former senior official of the Cabinet Secretariat. Devasher is an authority on Pakistani politics which could be understood from his first book "*Pakistan At The Helm*", published by HarperCollins. His lucid style and articulation are the reasons why readers prefer his works. Devasher tells the required facts in a straightforward manner. His intentions are clear because he wants people to get enlightened and educated. The style is as elegant as Devasher himself.

The author takes the readers straight to Balochistan and gives us



some important facts which would kindle passion in the mind to know more about the subject. The population of Pakistan is 21 crore while that of Balochistan is 1.23 crore. Balochistan constitutes 44 per cent of Pakistan's landmass. This is just one of the reasons behind Pakistan's avarice for this once sovereign country. Balochistan is a treasure house of minerals and energy resources. "Had there been no Balochistan, there would not have been any Pakistan," felt the British rulers who had manipulated the geo-politics of the region before they lowered the Union Jack and gave way to the national flags.

The British colonialists wanted to manipulate and influence the sub-continent by remote controlling from London. They had a fear that the ever increasing influence of the then Soviet Union was detrimental to their political, commercial and other strategic

interests. Hence they felt the need to have a region, a long strip from the Gilgit to Balochistan administered directly by the Britain. This was what suggested by a British army officer R C Money in charge of strategic planning in India during the period.

"However by 1947, the British felt that instead of locating a base in a weak Balochistan, such a base could be established in Pakistan that was more than willing to accommodate the British. Hence it was in British interests to ensure that Balochistan was kept within Pakistan and did not become an independent entity," writes Devasher (Page 85).

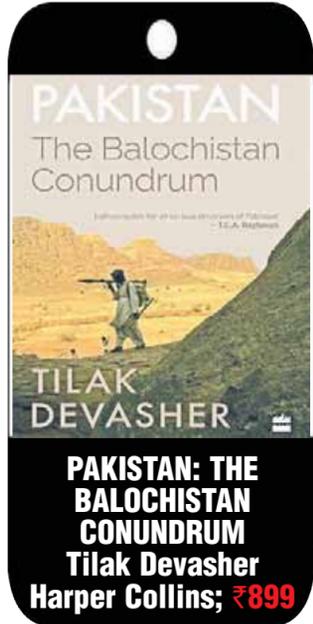
As per various treaties entered into by the then rulers of the princely State of Balochistan (the Khans of Kalat) with the British government, the former had been assured by the colonial masters that Balochistan would remain a

sovereign country with no obligation of any kind either to India or Pakistan. What Devasher has done is to bring to light the palace coup staged in Kalat with the political script authored in the corridors of power in Lahore, New Delhi and London. It shocks us and further embarrasses as because it was another *faux pas* committed by Jawaharlal Nehru which resulted in Mohammed Ali Jinnah annexing Balochistan to Pakistan.

This backstabbing came within weeks of Jinnah issuing a statement declaring that "the Government of Pakistan recognises Kalat as an independent sovereign State, in treaty relations with British government with a status different from that of Indian States." Needless to tell, Jinnah's statement was issued immediately after a well publicised meeting the former had with the Khan of Kalat and his aides.

Jinnah was a visionary as well as an Islamic fundamentalist. As on date, "36 per cent of Pakistan's total current natural gas production, as also reserves of coal, gold, copper, silver, platinum, aluminium and uranium are in Balochistan. Reko Diq, Saindak, Sui and Chamalang produce a wealth of resources like copper, gold, natural gas, coal and other minerals. Reko Diq is a copper and gold mine in Chagai district with an estimated mineral resource of at least 54 billion pounds of copper and 41 million ounces of gold," writes Devasher. All these details establish the fact that Pakistan without Balochistan is a big zero. Jinnah and the subsequent rulers of Pakistan have made use of all games in the trick to keep the people of Balochistan in perpetual poverty, illiteracy and ignorance. This is what the Grand Old Party did in India too.

Devasher has revealed the details of



how the then Prime Minister Nehru rejected and refused the offer from the Khan of Kalat to merge with India. What the author has stated in pages 81 and 82 is sufficient to expose the then Prime Minister's inefficiency, failure to read the writing on the wall and his larger than life image hyped up by the media.

This book is a must read for all those who are interested in the history of the sub-continent, prior to and after the exit of the British rulers lest we are cheated by manipulated and distorted history. Balochistan is waiting for India. India's safety and security could be ensured only through the liberation of Balochistan and Tilak Devasher is an author who has to be taken seriously by our policy makers and those who want to excel in the game of diplomacy.

While reading the book, what crossed the mind was the football teams from Balochistan, namely Makran United and Makran Sports Club which used to figure in the Sait Nagjee Football Tournament which was held at Kozhikode in Kerala. They were favorites of Malabar's football lovers. Balochistan is loved by people who know about the country.

## NEW ARRIVALS

**KHANTASTIC: THE UNTOLD STORY OF BOLLYWOOD'S TRIO**  
Sanjukta Nandy Rupa, ₹295

Did Shah Rukh Khan reject *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*? Did Aamir Khan audition for *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*? Was Salman Khan's voice dubbed by another in *Maine Pyar Kiya*? Did Salman's and Aamir's film rejections give Shah Rukh Bollywood a platter? KHANTASTIC answers all these questions. Destiny binds together this charismatic trio. Three different, yet magnetic personalities—they form the three points of the invisible Bandra Triangle in Mumbai.

**NAKED**  
Papa CJ Westland, ₹499

Papa CJ is able to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. And then destroy it. Only to rise again like a phoenix. As Papa CJ lays bare his life, from the streets of Calcutta to the University of Oxford and stages across the world, you will bask in nostalgia, laugh your guts out, feel your heart ache, and find a new lens with which to look at your own life. A lens that allows you, like Papa CJ, to always see the positive. And of course, the funny.

**PAPER MOON**  
Rehana Munir HarperCollins India, ₹299

When her estranged father passes away, Fiza, fresh out of college, discovers that he has left her a tidy sum in the hope that she will open a bookshop... Overnight, Fiza's placid life is thrown into a whirl of decor decisions and book-buying sprees, unconventional staff and colourful patrons, small pleasures and little heartbreaks, as the store — Paper Moon — begins to take shape in a charming, old Bandra mansion...

In a refreshing departure from stereotypical portrayals of muslim women, their helplessness and ignorance, the book *Resilience: Stories of Muslim Women* explores the lives of 11 women who fought against all odds to shine, once they got the opportunity to study in a tiny adult education centre. The author, Shubha Menon, has documented life of girls and women of Nizamuddin Basti, Delhi, in a manner that makes the reader a partner in her adventure. The reader is taken through the winding *gullies*, narrow staircases and tottering houses, right into the homes of the girls.

The Seher Centre was an experiment in education started by social activist Shabnam Hashmi. At the time, Shabnam herself was a young girl studying in Russia. She was home for the summer holidays and went with a friend to Nizamuddin Basti to volunteer as a teacher for young girls. When it was time for her to go back to Russia, two of the girls begged her not to, as they had seen hope in their lives after she had started teaching them. Shabnam could not turn her back on the girls. She stayed back and started the Seher Education Centre. From 1980 to 1985, about 400 girls studied in the Centre. The book encompasses the stories of 11 girls whose stories unfold one by one.

The girls' stories are poignant and real. There is Farida, who started wearing a burqa at 9, got married at 12 and was a mother of two, divorced and abandoned by 16. Today, she runs a non-profit, teaching other young girls like her. Mussarrat, who was virtually a prisoner in her own home, forced to do domestic chores all day. She is now a health supervisor with the Aga Khan Foundation. And Parveen, who was turned away from the Gandhi residence because she

# Hope lives behind the veil

*Resilience* is an important book on Muslim women in contemporary India. It brings out stories untold. There are so many layers to examine, writes JAYSHREE M SUNDAR



couldn't write her name in the entrance register. Today she is a Sewa Dal worker and political voice for a political party. The stories of Syeda, Asma, Ishrat, Shahjahan, Najma and Ayesha also show the transformation that the Seher Centre brought about.

The writer recreates the tiny room where classes were held. We learn about the rivalry between the girls, their favourite teachers and how their thoughts are gradually changed, till from burqa-clad silent citizens they become agents of change in their own right. We also learn about the various forces at play in the *basti*, those that opposed girls education. There are the elders

of the *basti* who disapprove of girls going to school. There are the Pirzadas who want Shabnam to teach their kids exclusively because they do not want their children to share space with lowly '*Ghosis*'. There are opposing forces in the *basti* and old mores are at loggerheads with new thinking. The Shah Bano case is at the centre of this dichotomy. The author dwells upon the case at some length.

The writer has included conversations with eminent, educated Muslim women — Syeda Hameed, Warisha Farasat, Zarina Bhatti, Seema Mustafa, Noor Zaheer — who talk about the state of Muslim women in the country. These conversations

are a good counterpoint to the conversations with the Seher girls. The Markaz versus the Dargah is another contradiction of the *basti*. The Markaz propagates pristine orthodox Islam which is strident and austere. The author does not deride one practice at the cost of the other. Their parallel existence may occasionally clash but seldom becomes a major flare-up. The reader is gently led through this labyrinth of contradictions and incongruities which are both literary and figurative. A hidden world is revealed in easy flowing prose. What gives the book its unique flavour is the anecdotes and tales about the Nizamuddin Basti, the *dargah*, the *Auliya*, the



graves, monuments, etc. The book is full of interesting details that lend colour to the stories of the girls. It was not just the old and new that were clashing in the *basti*. There was Shabnam Hashmi herself, a communist-atheist, ultra-liberal rebel of sorts. She never wore a burqa and sported short hair and spectacles. Just the way she looked, raised the red flag for many in the *basti*. Subjects like sex, reproductive rights, gender parity, taboo for Basti dwellers, were freely discussed in the Seher Centre. Shabnam's total lack of fear against a menacing, threatening phalanx of Basti old men, guardians and gatekeepers of the

'*izzat*' of their women and girls, was cause for alarm. Girls, who were not allowed to uncover their heads in their own homes or sit on a chair in front of their elders, began to learn alphabet of rights. The Seher teachers who included Shabnam's mother and sister, were berated because of the fear that they would make the girls '*azad*' and '*la mazhab*'. Underlying this popular slogan verbiage was the larger fear that *Basti* women may begin to think and assert their rights.

This book brings out the unique world of the Nizamuddin Basti. One which you may not find on a map. Where, in the by lanes of crowded homes with limited means women broke out of the shackles of stereotypical roles and fearlessly fought their way to an education. Where women helped women. The book has interesting anecdotes about the ghosts that coexist with human beings there and the sounds of urdu, the music from the *dargah*, and the fragrance of *kebabs* which create the unique atmosphere of this area.

*Resilience* is an important book on Muslim women in contemporary India. There are so many layers to examine. And, Seher comes out as a unique experiment, which not only transformed all those women who studied there but their future generations.

The writer is a senior advertising professional and a visiting professor at B-schools



comes back to his village rejecting a big fat job offer. He now goes on to find a girl for his *mama* who happens to be Meera (Payal Rajput). Meanwhile, the *mama* tries to patch up Karthik and Harika (Raashi Khanna) who breaks up during their college days. However, while everything is going well, Karthik suddenly leaves. Why did he leave? What is Rama Narayana predicting and fearing? And how does Venkata Ratnam, also called Military Naidu, get to meet Karthik again is what shapes the rest of the movie.

The *Mama-alludu* bonding is well portrayed

**CAST:**  
Venkatesh, Akkineni Naga Chaitanya, Raashi Khanna, Payal Rajput, Prakash Raj, Nassar  
**DIRECTOR:** K.S. Ravindra aka Bobby  
**RATING:** 3 STARS

keeping up to the hype but at times feels like it is Venky's one-man show as he over-powers Chay in both performance and screen-time.

The film had the usual melodramatic plot that is predictable and a not so interesting love story that looks like it was added just to up the glamour quotient. The storyline seems outdated for the present generation. But as said earlier by the director, it takes you back to the time when people lived happily in villages and families bonded. Take this scene for instance where Karthik is asked to choose between his *mama* and Harika and he replies, "I would choose *mama* over my life". While it had its emotional content, somewhere down the line, it became too dramatic. But, despite all the drama, the *mama-alludu* bonding is sure to leave one

teary eyed by the end of the film. It could have left a better impact though, if it had invested in a better storyline.

Speaking of performances, Venkatesh was terrific as always, with an impeccable comic timing and amazing action scenes. One feels like this is the Venky from *Lakshmi*, with the kind of action scenes the director focussed on. Like in every other film, Venky manages to impress one and all. Chay has delivered his best performance so far. The off-screen bond the *mama-alludu* share was visible in the film. Chay manages to match the comic timing of Venkatesh and the first half was filled with comedy while the second half had more drama and action.

Raashi and Payal, though did not get much screen space, were presented glamorously and played justice to their roles.

Nevertheless, Prakash Raj who plays the role of an Army Major deserves a special mention for his acting. Rao Ramesh also justified his presence in the character given to him.

Speaking of music, it felt like a drab and did not go in sync with the rest of the movie. Better background score could've left a better impact on the audience. The music, helmed by Thaman, was average.

**VERDICT:**

The tried and tested formula, predictable plot might leave audience disinterested as they can predict what's going to happen next. However, the comic timing of Venky-Chay, their emotional connect and bond, leaves one seeking for more. The action, comedy, anger, love, is all well portrayed and the film is a one-time watch.

# VENKY MAMA: STAR CAST LET DOWN BY POOR STORYLINE

One of the most awaited films of Tollywood this year, has finally hit the screens. But could the film do justice to the hype it generated pre-release? **K RAMYA SREE** writes about the expectation vs reality scenario of the movie

**T**he storyline of *Venky Mama*, helmed by Bobby, is fairly straightforward and takes the audience on a rollercoaster ride of emotions. Rama Narayana (played by Nassar), father of Venkata

Ratnam (Venkatesh), is the head of the village who believes in astrology and destiny. He opposes Karthik's (Naga Chaitanya) parents' wedding as he predicts their death as soon as Karthik turns one. As predicted, Karthik loses his parents in a road accident. This is where

the actual plot begins. Venkata Ratnam now adopts Karthik and shuns his dream of becoming an Army personnel while also rejecting many marriage proposals for Karthik's good upbringing. After Karthik graduates from engineering college, he



# JUMANJI: The Next Level: Fun on the run

**T**he odd bunch is back again, in the oddest game you have known. *Jumanji: The Next Level* tries to deliver what worked once, with a bigger bang. Most of it should thrill the humongous hardcore fan base. The big action scenes and boisterous gags are all in place, and the climax ties up the adventure with trademark aplomb. A minimal storyline takes off a couple of years after the incidents of the 2017 film. Spencer, Bethany, Martha and Fridge are in college now. His friends aren't aware, but Spencer had kept the broken *Jumanji* video game, and he now gets it going after repairing it. Which means it is time for

of years ago. Like any smart sequel aimed at cashing in on the popularity of a franchise that's up and running, *The Next Level* tries to deliver what worked once, with a bigger bang. Most of it should thrill the humongous hardcore fan base. The big action scenes and boisterous gags are all in place, and the climax ties up the adventure with trademark aplomb. A minimal storyline takes off a couple of years after the incidents of the 2017 film. Spencer, Bethany, Martha and Fridge are in college now. His friends aren't aware, but Spencer had kept the broken *Jumanji* video game, and he now gets it going after repairing it. Which means it is time for

the gang to be sucked into the game again. What's more, Spencer's grandpa (Danny DeVito) and his buddy (Danny Glover) get pulled in, too. The world of *Jumanji* is unpredictably dangerous as ever but the twist here is that the human protagonists don't end up as the same gaming characters as they did in the last film. This leads to random humour. The CGI work and choreographed action sequences are nothing exceptional, but are sufficient to regale and also carry the plot forward. As always, the film is mainly enjoyable for its quirky mix of characters, along with a plot that runs thin but is nonetheless wacky and

never dull. *Jumanji: The Next Level* is fun on the run, aimed at pleasing the whole family, just right for the holiday season coming up. It continues to be a ride on the wild side. Will there be a next level beyond *The Next Level*? Hang around for the mid-credit scene at the end, and you'll know.

**CSAST:**  
Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart, Karen Gillan, Awkwafina; Nick Jonas;  
**DIRECTION:**  
Jake Kasdan;  
**RATING:**  
3 stars

# MARDAANI 2: Rani rocks in topical film

**S**ometimes, a film acquires added significance than it warrants, for the sheer timeliness and topicality of a societal ill that it highlights. *Mardaani 2* is such a film. An otherwise engaging cop-and-villain thriller gets a whole new dimension when the cop in question is the film's female protagonist, and the villain she chases is a juvenile psychotic serial rapist-killer. Beyond Rani Mukerji's resounding return and adequate dose of suspense that the film delivers, it aims at working as a chilling reminder of how crime against women continues unabated all around us. Coming in the wake of Hyderabad, Unnao, Baghat among several other such recent incidents, *Mardaani 2* tries opening up a necessary conversation. It would have succeeded wholly, had the film managed to find the right bal-

ance between crime thriller and social commentary. Instead, debutant director Gopi Puthran tends to reel under melodrama while imagining Rani's objective as protagonist Shivani Roy. After a while, Shivani seems more like a filmi messiah than a duty-bound cop. Puthran, who also wrote the first *Mardaani* for director Pradeep Sarkar, has crafted a film that roughly follows the template of the earlier film. While the first film highlighted trafficking of women, the sequel talks of rape and safety of women. Things get darker this time around, with the screenplay clearly influenced by the grizzly mood of numerous Hollywood films in the genre, including *Silence Of The Lambs* and *The Bone Collector*. The story is set in Kota, the Rajasthan town that is a hub of coaching classes for entrance aspirants. A psychotic criminal is on the prowl. He has been brutally

raping, torturing and murdering young women, and he reveals a narcissistic streak in the way he exhibits the corpses of his victims. He even dares Shivani to nab him before he picks his next victim by the end of the day. Rani as the no-nonsense Shivani Roy in the *Mardaani* films has surely carved a newfound niche that will let her stay significant, in a mainstream industry that is slowly learning to accord bigger roles to its actresses. The heroine in uniform would seem like a perfect subject in new-age Bollywood, where the priority lately has been on bankrolling female-centric projects. However, *Mardaani 2* does not make any attempt to explore the world of the victims. The film starts on a chilling note, but soon turns into formulaic suspense drama, where the rape-and-murder text is a mere, albeit taut, device to carry forward the cop-and-killer plot. The

narrative is simplistic enough to let supercop Shivani engage in a cat-and-mouse chase with the antagonist. Credibly, the villain of the piece is an enigma, imagined as a juvenile. The character reminds us how newspaper headlines regularly hit us with the cold revelation that most arrested rapists in India are aged in their twenties or lesser. Young TV actor Vishal Jethwa does a fine job, he leaves a sinister impact. A supporting cast of mostly unfamiliar faces works perfectly in complementing Rani's tailor-made, towering presence. While on Rani, if the *Mardaani* films are customised for her, she has perfected the act of mixing Shivani's aggressive attitude with the character's vulnerable streak. *Mardaani 2* counts for the way the film strives to leave a pertinent societal comment. Only, it could have done so with more imagination.



**CSAST:**  
Rani Mukerji, Vishal Jethwa, Shruti Bapna, Rajesh Sharma  
**DIRECTION:**  
Gopi Puthran  
**RATING:**  
3 stars



LETTING GO MEANS TO COME TO THE REALISATION THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE A PART OF YOUR HISTORY, BUT NOT A PART OF YOUR DESTINY  
— STEVE MARABOLI

**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**



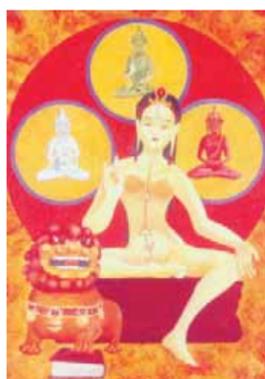
MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

You need to manage your stress level in order to stay in good health. Face your problems rather than avoid them. Those looking for spiritual healing, ensure you get adequate rest. Avoid temptations or addictions; otherwise you may face health hazards. Your dream job may come your way. Your accomplishments will make your peers look bad. That's mostly their problem, but don't be obnoxious about it. Some of you may attain a position where you can exert power and authority. Control your temper when dealing with subordinates at workplace. You may feel the negative vibes in the relationship as well. Conflict with near and dear ones is predicted. Think calmly and carefully about the person you are in a relationship with, before you react.

**Lucky number 9**  
**Lucky colour Black**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

You will witness a complete change in your health. Those suffering from serious ailments will be surprised by the unexpected changes such as improvement in their test results. A disciplined and controlled lifestyle is always welcome. Curb your craving for sweet and fried food. On the career front, be careful of the source you are making money with. An unfair deal to get quick success might put you in legal action. Be cautious, as this is the time when you can use your power in a negative way. On the relationship front, your love life seems to be going very well. Those who are committed, a strong relationship that is mutually supportive and beneficial will bring you happiness. Singles, this is a good time to meet new people.

**Lucky number 18**  
**Lucky colour Brown**  
**Lucky day Friday**



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

Health may cause worry this week. Those awaiting test results, need to stay calm as there is nothing much you can do. Relax, things are not as bad as you fear. You will experience a spiritual strength that will help you gain good health. Connect with deeper joy and love for living. It is advised you do breathing exercises and meditation now. On the work front, you may feel stagnated. You don't have to stay in a situation that is unhealthy for you. Those who wish to pursue higher studies and simultaneously work may go ahead. Love life looks promising. Singles, a new and very positive, romance is on the horizon. Just, don't get carried away. Keep your balance and perspective. Those in a committed relationship will enjoy a new level of understanding.

**Lucky number 22**  
**Lucky colour Red**  
**Lucky day Friday**



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

Confusion about a medical test/result is foreseen. Go for a second opinion. Any health changes are likely to take place slowly. This may be for the best, regardless of how fast you would like things to move. Take things one day at a time and note small changes. Professionally, you can win any situation with your skill and intelligence. Your logical and analytical skills will help you to overcome any difficulties. This is the right time to appear for an interview, or write a competitive exam. Your writing and communication skills could give you an extra edge over others. Relationship wise there could be explosive arguments with the near and dear ones. This is not the time to look for love as you may take wrong decisions. Existing relations could suffer due to misunderstanding.

**Lucky number 33**  
**Lucky colour White**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**



**VRIGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

Confront your dark side. This is a good time to explore your fears, limitations, and unhealthy attachments. Addictions and indulging in material pleasures in order to forget about your worries are foreseen. Be aware and avoid falling into any material traps. Career-wise, beginning of a project is indicated in which a great deal of creative energy will be invested. This is the time when you need emotional support to go forward in life. Try to meet your immediate demands at the workplace with maturity and sensitivity. On the love front, you may get hyper on small things with the people who matter to you. Your mind will empower your heart and emotions will take a back seat. Remember words speak louder than action.

**Lucky number 12**  
**Lucky colour Mustard**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

Stay grounded to do justice to your body this week. It is important you take rest and relax. Stay away from spicy and junk food. You may experience stress due to certain unavoidable factors. Stay calm and avoid anger or aggression. Release your frustration to express it rather than keep it to yourself. Professionally, you will find stability after a long time. Those who are looking for a job change, you need to disconnect yourself with the current company. People sitting for an interview or a competitive examination will be successful. Any pending work needs to be completed now. Relationship wise, this is a highly emotional time. Situations can instantly become heated or uncomfortable. Take a break if you need to. Don't hurry to end or to begin a relationship.

**Lucky number 15**  
**Lucky colour Purple**  
**Lucky day Wednesday**



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week your health regime will move to the next level and so will your maturity and intelligence. You will not think twice before spending money on health. Your views in terms of health are conventional and practical and will pay you rich dividends. On the career front, clear communication will bring changes in your work life. Travel to a foreign land on account of the job is likely. Your initiatives blend with your people skill. Explore and see where it takes you. Your finances will improve considerably and you may plan a deal in property. On the romantic front, this week you are all charged and lovable. Online love messages will revive your energy and passion. Singles may find a suitable partner or get marriage proposals.

**Lucky number 9**  
**Lucky colour Yellow**  
**Lucky day Thursday**



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

Those dealing with a health problem, need to look for treatments beyond your family doctor. What you need is a vacation or a change of environment. Focus on your dreams. You are likely to find spiritual answers that will help you a lot. On the career front, new opportunities will tempt you. New projects, deals or assignment could be signed this week. Those in business would be able to increase their networking and convert them into benefits. Securing a big deal is on the cards. At a personal level, new friendships or bonding is likely to turn into a loving relationship for you. An existing relationship will become more intense. If someone is interested in you, give him/her a chance. This relationship could be just what you are looking for.

**Lucky number 23**  
**Lucky colour Green**  
**Lucky day Sunday**



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week your health will be good. You are in the right place, doing the right thing. You are likely to achieve what you have wished for. The week holds new beginnings that naturally emerge out of the accomplished cycle. To balance your energies, avoid rich food and oversleep. Work life may not be very satisfactory. You may feel uncomfortable at your work place. Your seniors may feel that you are not putting your 100 per cent effort into a project or task. Your honest nature may fetch you a suspension or some kind of displeasure. Avoid any kind of investment or a new deal in business/property. Those in love may face conflict and difficult phase. However, a balanced approach will work in your favour.

**Lucky number 11**  
**Lucky colour Golden**  
**Lucky day Tuesday**



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

Your perseverance and hard work on the health front will bear results. Your self-confidence will draw people to you like a magnet. Those who are worried about health need to relax. Things are not as bad as you fear. There is an underlying, spiritual strength that will sustain your health. Career-wise good news is on the cards. You are likely to use your power and leadership for the benefit of others. Success in the project is foreseen. Those who are looking for a transfer, or job change, should approach an authoritative person to help you in your endeavour. On the love front, doubts about a relationship may nag you. This is the time to be very clear about what you want out of life and your relationships and accordingly, plan your actions.

**Lucky number 10**  
**Lucky colour Blue**  
**Lucky day Tuesday**



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

You will enjoy good health. This week there will be occasions when three generations of the family will get together. The youngsters may receive a gift in form ancestral property, it could be money or invaluable advice. On the career front, your insight and mental clarity will generate good results. This is a good time to act and achieve your target. Be alert as new opportunities will knock at the door. You are likely to get promoted. Draw upon your creativity and mental ability for making more money. In love life, relations will blossom and may materialise into marriage. You will feel at ease with your spouse/partner, and take important decisions with regard to your family. This is a good week for family reunions and to bask in the bliss of love and relations.

**Lucky number 5**  
**Lucky colour Dark Grey/ Grey**  
**Lucky day Saturday**



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

Change is inevitable. You will seek spiritual answers that have eluded you for some time. This week you will experience high energy and self-confidence. You may plan a vacation or time out in nature. Someone new and exciting will make a move in your direction. Be prepared for a surprise. Relax as everything is under control. Career-wise you will be exerting yourself for a job change. Those in arts fields could collaborate for the first time on a project that will give a boost to your career. Good opportunities are coming your way. Promote your ideas. Make sure to seek intelligent advice before accepting an invitation. Romance is likely to bloom this week. Extension in the family, the birth of child or news of conception is indicated.

**Lucky number 13**  
**Lucky colour Magenta**  
**Lucky day Monday**

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**ASTROTURF**  
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Correct your own weaknesses

It is in human nature to improve one's lot, which tempts one to look towards a better tomorrow. So, invariably we begin life with high hopes and aspirations. Accordingly, we set our dream destination. Dreams are necessary for reaching heights one is capable of, as they serve a focus to reach an objective. Since time immemorial the Moon fascinated and evoked man's curiosity, seen every day — yet unknown. A longing to know and understand it, led scientists to send man on the Moon. Yet, not everybody's dreams get fulfilled. Non-realisation often brings in frustrating experiences. Why? Are we so helplessly fated?

Not really, provided we optimally use our indwelling empowerment tools. Remember, we are all born carrying limitless potential, which if unfolded would know no limits. The paradox, however, is that major part of our mind-power remains untapped, as it remains clouded by lot of inherent limitations. Truth be told — ordinary mortals are hardly able to use five to seven percent of their mind power. The irony, however, is that even this, if judiciously used, can enable one to negotiate life with relative ease and comfort. Bear in mind; even people like

Einstein are said to have used just 10 to 14 percent of their mind-power to create history.

You need to strive to unfold your full potential. It may then spontaneously lead you through. You may then discriminate between 'What you want' and 'What is worth' before you take any call. Also, you would be able to put forward your best foot. So, the real challenge is to overcome limitations of our mind and expand its outreach. The way forward is to get into self-search mode. The process helps identify, acknowledge and then rise above the limitations of mind.

It is pertinent to note here that we seldom remain conscious about invoking one's most profound empowerment tool — *Buddhi* (the faculty of discriminate intelligence) — before jumping into action. Not to say anything about getting over the limitation of mind. And *Buddhi* won't come into play by itself. Consequently, we blindly submit ourselves to indwelling desire trends, coming as they may with karmic imprints carried over from the past. We neither try to figure out whether the desires pursued are worth it or not, nor do we care whether we are geared up for the



purpose. When we meet failure, either we try to shift the blame on others, or our destiny. Truth, however, remains that we do not strive sufficiently to unfold the immense power within. So said Swami Vivekananda: "The history of the world is the history of few men who had faith in themselves. Faith calls out divinity within. You can do anything. You fail because you have not sufficiently strived to unfold immense power within."

Here is the case of someone, who came asking the other day: "Sir, since last year, I am having a tough time both in terms of career as well as my personal life. I get lot of offers but at the last moment, they all fizzle out. I am afraid, those envious of me have been playing foul with my life. My wife is self-centric and is least bothered about my sensibilities and concerns. The worst is she discourages me from pursuing spirituality. When do you think the situation may change?"

Don't try to rationalise peculiar beliefs you carry, coming as it may with Jupiter ill-disposed off to Neptune. Before blaming others, better identify, acknowledge, and address your own fault lines, and things will change sooner than later. Look at your astrological

pointers. You are born in Aries *lagna*, with its lord Mars, erratic *Rahu* and the Sun firmly placed in *lagna bhava* itself. That makes you, impulsive, aggressive, arrogant, irritable, intolerant, and impatient. You wish to live in a demanding mode, expecting from all others to follow your dictates. You have the tendency to jump into action without applying proper forethought. If that would not be enough, both the luminaries, the Sun and Moon as well as Mercury, all locked in adverse formation to Uranus, makes you self-willed, tactless, eccentric, and opinionated. Mercury ill-disposed off to Saturn and Moon, brings in a rigid one-track mind, and makes you resentful of others. Moon placed adverse to Saturn brings in a negative mindset. Also, you would be jealous and over critical of others. Let me add here that the calling of spirituality is to first set the thought process right, which doesn't anyway reflect in your conduct. It means you are simply hallucinating over your illusionary perceptions.

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# THIS OFFICER SERVES IN LORD'S NAME



Front row daughter-in-law Keerthi, daughter Aparna, wife Sowmya back row LV Subramanyam with son Aditya

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary **LV Subramanyam**, whose is known for his integrity and devotion to Lord Venkateswara in a tête-à-tête with **Naveena Ghanate**, charts his journey from a village in Krishna district to becoming an IAS officer, getting embroiled in a CBI case, his undying love for music, and family as emotional prop, among many others

## Playful child

I was born in Maripalem village of Nagayalanka mandal in Krishna district and soon moved to Visakhapatnam. I am the eldest son in the family and have two siblings, younger brother and sister. My father served as Professor of English in Andhra University. The early part of my schooling was in Kotak Salesian School. Later I went to Vishaka Tutorial College for Matriculation and thereafter to Mrs A V N College for Intermediate. Subsequently I moved to Bengaluru and went to Sri Satya Sai College, where I did Bachelor of Arts course, and Bengaluru University, where I pursued my Master's in Political Science. As a child, I was always playful and grew up with increasing interest in sports and cultural activities. Although I was active in the classroom, I wasn't good in writing the exams. I used to be a



good singer and I continue singing to this day. (Carnatic vocalist) Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna is my all-time favorite and I invariably listen to him at least 2-3 days in a week.

## Father is role model

I have always admired my father LSR Krishna Shastry. He is my role model. He was very close to his students and they had great love for him. They would bring to him for review some of the poems written by them. For a young professor, correcting poems wouldn't give great pleasure; yet, he used to actively do it. My father took to music in a very serious way. He picked up the nuances very well and used to discuss subjects at length with accomplished classical performers.

## Dad's reply changed outlook

One incident changed the course of my life. I knew I wasn't doing well in academics. One of my father's classmates visited us soon after my Intermediate results were out. Luckily, I had just passed the exam. When I went to serve him some coffee, my father's friend said, "He must have done very well in Intermediate because he is your son. Naturally, your son must have done very well." I was petrified. I then looked at my father, wondering how he would respond. Without batting an eyelid, my father said, "It's alright, he is doing okay. Nothing great, but nothing to worry." At that time it occurred to me that if only I had done well in the exam, my father would have been proud of me and would have replied his friend differently. Somewhere something struck a chord; later on I started feeling that I should do better. I never looked back and from the time I joined Satya Sai College, I always got first class. Later I was topper in Bangalore University and even clinched a gold medal.

## Was aiming at become teacher

My choice was Economics; yet, in my BA second year, I didn't score good marks in the subject for some strange reason. So, I got into History and Political Science. Soon I started thinking about settling down as a lecturer in Whitefield College. For, our Political Science teacher, though a great individual, due to his Kannada background, could not teach us well. I picked Political Science and meanwhile became a teacher. I was aiming to get into teacher's position (laughs). The Principal offered me a job and I taught for about four months when there was a leave vacancy. I started teaching 3rd year students. Soon 2nd year students wanted me to take class on the Constitution. Later, even 1st year students wanted me to take class on the principles of Political Science. I got engaged in more and more classes, though I was only a part-time lecturer.

## Foresaw rise of TDP

I went to JNU and never imagined that my M Phil topic would become the talk of the town. By May 1982, N T Rama Rao had started Telugu Desam Party and made early foray into politics. In August 1982, the topic I chose was "TDP: Case study of regional political party". I was picked in Political Science Department; they wanted me to defend the topic, along with a synopsis of "Why TDP?" That is, a group of teachers sit there and they rip you apart (laughs). Their refrain was: "How can you talk about a party that started just 3 months ago?" I was well-prepared and argued with them. I told them how Andhras are very regional in their thinking and quite parochial. They love their culture strongly and language very intimately.

After long deliberations, senior professors agreed and said: "It's your fate; you are deciding on a topic like this, which may not be of importance at all and N T Rama Rao may just vanish". They were very critical of me. I registered my topic in the month of August. In November 1982, N T Rama Rao won a huge majority and formed the government. I became a kind of celebrity because they thought I foresaw the rise of TDP.

## IAS was father's dream

I wanted to do PhD from Andhra University. My father asked me to take the Civil Services examination. I somehow told him in a pessimistic manner that I would-

after 12 am in the night. Prior to that, the temple doors were closed symbolically at 2.45 am and reopened at 3 am. One of the priests expressed their anguish that the lamp is burning very bright close to the Lord. "When I touch the Lord, his body is steaming hot". He came out crying and said that we are not giving rest. Similarly, we revived the practice of *Pavritotsavam* in Govindrajawamy temple. We built temples in tribal areas upon the local people's requests in areas where conversions were going on. We took up a new project 'Srinivasa Kalyanam' and in a year we did 100 *kalyanams* to have more peace and happiness as there was lot of unrest in society.



LV Subramanyam with son-in-law Nikhil Raghavendra daughter Aparna, wife Sowmya

n't qualify for these exams and that I am not cut out for that. My father didn't like my response. He wanted me to become an IAS officer. I started preparing, only to realise my father's dream. I stood second in state (undi-

At Parvatipuram, I did a lot of work for health, education and horticulture departments. I built 50 check-dams and 300-400 wells we dug up in the upper reaches. I promoted education of tribals and made them teachers.

## Couldn't work in Delhi

Twice I considered going on Central deputation. Once when I tried to join as Joint Secretary, there was delay in the empanelment process. When the delay happened, I started developing alternative ideas. I then thought I must complete my job as EO TTD and then go to Delhi. I got an opportunity as EO in 2011. Soon after, I got embroiled in a CBI case. Even before I could look this way or that, seven years have passed by. I got

**Naxals thought I was a mad man**

In Mahbubnagar, we had many problems from naxalites. Then CM Channa Reddy gave permission for Naxalites to come overground and do activities like Praja Courts in villages. Then there was some confrontation with the naxalite groups. But, at that time the Naxalites felt that I was a mad guy who doesn't understand the philosophy. All along, I was sincere to my job. I started adult literacy programme "Akshara Kiranam". I used to go to villages and have night halts for conducting these programmes. Naxalites used to come there. people used to oppose them and tell them that the Collector was there to serve them.

stuck because of that. Even after the case was dropped in January 2018, I sent a letter to Government of India explaining how I couldn't go there. They started telling me that as I had not worked earlier in Delhi, it could be a problem. Then Cabinet Secretary told me: "Why you don't you become CS in your own state; that'll be vindication of the truth you have stood for." Then I stopped chasing Delhi.

## Gave 'rest' to Tirumala Balaji

The defining moments of my life came during my roles as EO of TTD for two years and chief of ITDA Parvatipuram for three years. As EO TTD, we revived some good practices. We initiated closing the doors

## CBI case filed on son's wedding day

On the day of my son's marriage, CBI filed a case on Emaar land deals. It came as a shock. My family was a little worried and anxious. They didn't lose confidence in me. At home, there was some kind of nagging pain. We got along well and moved



Wife Sowmya, daughter Aparna, son Aditya and daughter-in-law Keerthi

**QUICK BITES**

**Favourite food:** South Indian food, Andhra food with less spice  
**Favourite colour:** Blue  
**Holiday destination:** I didn't develop anything as such, most of the time my children complain that I end up going to pilgrimage and convert it into a 'holiday'  
**Languages you speak:** Telugu, English, Kannada and Hindi

**First thing you do when you wake up:** I am a traditional guy, I say my prayers and wish my family good luck  
**Addiction:** I love music, I can spend hours myself just listening to music  
**TV series you watched recently:** The Family Man  
**Genre of books you read:** Philosophy, sometimes general reading

**Are you emotional person:** I am a quiet, emotional person. I try to avoid such situations while at work.  
**Who buys you clothes:** My wife and these days even my daughter buys clothes  
**Compliment you get most often:** People say that I am always with a smile  
**What was the best advice given to you:** Several of my seniors told me 'Don't react, let it pass'  
**Describe yourself:** I choose to be humble  
**Define happiness:** It is a state of mind

**How often do you get angry:** Over a period of time, frequency has come down  
**When do you get angry:** Clash of expectations from somebody  
**Two things you could change about yourself:** I would've been more conscious of my daily exercise and have developed good computer knowledge.  
**Your strength:** I stick to fundamentals  
**Favourite politician:** Since we shouldn't talk of current politicians, I liked behavior of Kotla Vijayabhaskhar Reddy and Janardhan Reddy - simple, straight and objective