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HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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SATYADEV WAS SOLD BY SKYLAB DIRECTOR'S CLARITY OF THOUGHT

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TRS MPs at Oppn meeting signal shift in KCR stance

To counter BJP growth in State, pink party attends meeting called by Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS Parliamentary Party leader K Keshava Rao and Nama Nageswara Rao attending a meeting of leaders of opposition parties chaired by Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi has left experienced political analysts scratching their heads, trying to figure out the reason behind TRS supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao's changing his political perspective.



TRS Parliamentary Party leader and Secretary General K. Keshava Rao sits besides Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the meeting of Opposition leaders in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Interestingly, the YSR Congress Party stayed away from this meeting. The casual observer would see Tuesday's political development as a signal that the TRS supremo's bitterness against the BJP has intensified and his view of the Congress has become more positive.

ambitions pops up.

However, for someone who tries to understand KCR's political moves, the question of his plans for the Federal Front and his nation-

There is no doubt that the Huzurabad Assembly by-election result has brought a lot of change in the TRS supremo. After the result, he has become a bitter enemy of the BJP at both the State and national level. To corner the Union govern-

ment in Parliament, the TRS has joined hands with the Congress, its main rival back home. This is a major departure for the TRS, which till now has been publicly neutral towards both the BJP and Congress, with a 'soft corner' for the saffron party.

believe that he would intensify his efforts towards the formation of the Federal Front to defeat the BJP in the next Lok Sabha elections. But Tuesday's political move in Delhi has left many befuddled.

There is no doubt that the BJP is gradually making inroads in Telangana. After Dubbaka and Huzurnagar Assembly by-elections, some BJP-backed candidates are giving a tough fight to the TRS in one or two places in the ongoing MLC elections. The BJP has concentrated on Adilabad and Karimnagar MLC seats to defeat the TRS, despite the pink party having complete majority.

This is believed to be causing some anxiety to the TRS leadership, if the comments made by KCR over MLC elections during the media conference on Monday are any indication.

Legendary lyricist Sirivennela no more

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

The Telugu film industry plunged into gloom on Tuesday with the passing away of a legend - renowned lyricist and Padma Shri awardee Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry.

The lyricist breathed his last while battling pneumonia at KIMS Hospital in Secunderabad. He was 66 and is survived by his wife and two sons. The news left the entire industry shocked and messages and condolences

poured in as fans came to grips with the demise of the legendary writer. Chembolu Seetharama Sastry, better known by his screen name Sirivennela

Seetharama Sastry, was a lyricist and poet. Holding a record of writing lyrics for over 3,000 songs till 2020, Sastry is known for his philosophical approach in his songs.



Only 55% of lungs were functional

About six years ago, Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry was diagnosed with cancer and half of his lung was removed. This was followed by a bypass surgery. About a week ago, the other lung was infected with cancer and half of it was also removed. Following this procedure, he did fine for two days. However, he was brought to KIMS hospitals for advanced treatment and he recovered well. Precautary was also performed. KIMS MD Dr Bhaskar Rao who treated Sastry explained to the media the possible causes of death. He said, "While 45% of the lungs were removed, the remaining 55% were infected. Oxygenation was not proper, so he was put on ECMO support. He was on ECMO support for the past five days. With such a critical case history of cancer, post-bypass surgery, being overweight, his kidney was damaged and infection spread throughout the body which led to his demise at 4:07 pm."

Saddened by the passing away of the outstanding Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry. His poetic brilliance and versatility could be seen in several of his works. He made many efforts to popularise Telugu. Condolences to his family and friends. Om Shanti.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

I was saddened to learn that Sirivennela Sitaramasastry was no more. Shastrigari's entry into the music field breathed a sigh of relief at a time when the lyrics of Telugu film themed songs were declining. He has enriched the Telugu film literature with songs. My tribute to the Sitaramasastry and my sympathy to family members, relatives, friends and millions of fans.

- Chief Justice of India NV Ramana

Seetharama Sastry who could provide lyrics to any musical tune had enthralled both the scholars and common man alike and won their hearts. With his death, Seetharama Sastry had created a void in the film world and a great loss to fans of Telugu film and literature. I convey my condolences to members of the bereaved family.

- TS Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao

Sirivennela is the pinnacle of values in the world of Telugu film songs. His expression through words is immortal. His sudden death is a great loss to the Telugu people as a whole. Wishing peace to the soul of Sirivennela Sitaramasastry. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family members

- AP Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy

Saddened to know about demise of legendary Telugu lyricist Sirivennela Sitarama Sastry garu. Deep condolences to his family & fans

- TS Governor Dr Tamsilsai Sounderrajan

Men too not safe from sexual predators P 3

#MeToo at Gandhi Bhavan? Woman leader is alleged victim

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Congress leaders were in a tizzy on Tuesday after rumours began doing rounds that two senior leaders demanded sexual favours from a woman leader "if she wanted position in the party".

According to sources, the two senior leaders asked the woman leader sexual favours.

The sources said that these two senior leaders had asked some women leaders to accompany them to Huzurabad and take part in the by-poll campaign. The sources said that these senior leaders misbehaved with the women leaders.

Power tariff hike on the anvil in TS as Discoms report revenue gap

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With both the Discoms in Telangana reporting Rs 21,552 crore revenue gap for 2021-22 and 2022-23, a power tariff hike appears more or less a certainty.

On Tuesday, Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission (TSERC) directed the TS Discoms to file the tariff proposals immediately to allow it to proceed with the petitions.

The TSERC, which received the Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) filings, noted that they were not accompanied with Filings of Tariff Proposals (FPT) as per the provisions of the regulations.

TSERC Chairman T. Sriranga Rao announced that though the State government was releasing timely tariff subsidies and infusion of considerable equity to the TS



Discoms, the Discoms were still facing financial stress.

He said, "In spite of all the problems, TS Discoms are supplying 24x7 reliable and quality power to all the categories of consumers, including the agriculture sector. In order to bridge the revenue gap and

strengthen the financial position of the TS Discoms there is a need to enhance the retail supply tariff."

In a media release, the TSERC Chairman said, "After formation of the State, due to the government's industry-friendly policy and prestigious agriculture and multipurpose lift irrigation projects, there is a considerable growth in electricity demand and per capita power consumption."

The release said that "There was no increase in electricity tariff in the Telangana State for the past couple of years even though there is a steep increase in the input costs such as clean energy cess, freight charges, etc. of thermal power stations, which is the main source to meet the electricity demand of the State".

Cyclonic storm likely to hit Odisha, Andhra coasts on Saturday morning: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BHUBANESWAR

A cyclonic storm is likely to hit the coasts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha on Saturday morning, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

It said a low pressure lay over south Thailand and its neighbourhood at 8.30 am, which is likely to emerge into the Andaman Sea during the next 12 hours.

Centre rakes in Rs 3.7 L-cr from fuel in FY21, States get just Rs 20K-crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union government's mop-up from excise duty levied on petrol and diesel more than doubled to Rs 3.72 lakh-crore in 2020-21, out of which States were given less than Rs 20,000 crore, the Rajya Sabha was told on Tuesday.

In a written reply to a question, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary stated that collection from levy of Central Excise duty on petrol and diesel increased from Rs 1.78 lakh-crore in 2019-20 to Rs 3.72 lakh-crore in 2020-21 (April 2020 to March 2021).

TS deploys 10 teams at RGIA to screen passengers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The State health department has deployed 10 teams at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad to screen passengers from outside the country.

On Monday 41 passengers, including 14 from Europe, 22 from the United Kingdom and two from Singapore who landed at the RGIA were tested and found to be negative.

Director of Public Health Dr G Srinivasa Rao said that their RT-PCR test results were negative and they were asked to proceed for home isolation.



The DPH said, "From tonight, all passengers who disembark at the RGIA from 12 at-risk countries will have to undergo RT-PCR tests. They have to wait till they receive

No case of Covid Omicron variant in India so far: Health Minister

New Delhi: Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya today said that no cases of new COVID-19 variant 'Omicron' have been reported in the country, so far. "No case of COVID-19 variant Omicron has been reported in India so far," Mr Mandaviya said in Rajya Sabha during Question Hour today. Owing to the information received on the virus, the minister said that an advisory has been issued in this regard. "We are immediately checking suspicious cases and conducting genome sequencing. We have learnt a lot during the COVID crisis. Today, we have a lot of resources and laboratories. We can manage any situation," the minister said.

results. Those who test positive will be sent to TIMS. Two floors at TIMS building in Gachibowli have been kept ready for isolating passengers who test positive for Covid."

The DPH said that random tests will be conducted on 5 percent of the passengers from other countries.

India's GDP clocks 8.4% growth in Q2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian economy remained on track to post the fastest growth among major economies this year as its GDP expanded by a better-than-expected 8.4 percent in the July-September quarter to cross pre-pandemic levels.

The GDP growth in the second quarter of the current fiscal (2021-22) was slower than the 20.1 percent expansion in the previous quarter -- which largely reflected a bounce back from last year's crash -- but was better than the contraction of 7.4 percent in July-September 2020, official data released on Tuesday showed.

With economic activities returning back to

normalcy post the second wave of pandemic earlier this year, this is the fourth consecutive quarter of positive growth after a two-quarter contraction witnessed last year.

The Q2 FY22 GDP print reflects a healthy recovery in private consumption expenditure driven by unlocking of the economy, the declining intensity of the pandemic and the significant progress on vaccination.



UPTO 6 HOURS' WAIT AT DELHI AIRPORT IN NEW RULES FOR OMICRON

Flyers from countries where Omicron has been found may be stuck at the Delhi airport for up to six hours while they wait for their RT-PCR tests, sources said today. Testing at airports in India has been made essential for travelers from more than 14 at-risk nations where the Omicron variant has been detected. Covid test results will take between four to six hours - for each passenger - to be released, say sources. The company handling RT-PCR tests can process 400-500 tests an hour, the sources say, adding that efforts are being made to ramp up testing facilities.

BARBADOS DITCHES BRITISH QUEEN AS HEAD OF STATE, BECOMES A REPUBLIC

Barbados ditched Britain's Queen Elizabeth as head of state, forging a new republic on Tuesday with its first-ever president and severing its last remaining colonial bonds nearly 400 years after the first English ships arrived at the Caribbean island. At the stroke of midnight, the new republic was born to the cheers of hundreds of people lining Chamberlain Bridge in the capital, Bridgetown. A 21 gun salute fired as the national anthem of Barbados was played over a crowded Heroes Square. Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, stood somberly as Queen Elizabeth's royal standard was lowered.

INDIAN TALENT HAILED AS PARAG AGRAWAL, 37, NAMED TWITTER CEO

Twitter's new CEO Parag Agrawal, 37, joins a growing club of Indians heading global tech giants. Almost all prominent tech companies are headed by Indians, especially IIT alums. Agrawal, an IIT Bombay graduate, would take over after Jack Dorsey. One of the first to put it out was Stripe CEO Patrick Collison. "Google, Microsoft, Adobe, IBM, Palo Alto Networks, and now Twitter run by CEOs who grew up in India. Wonderful to watch the amazing success of Indians in the tech world and a good reminder of the opportunity America offers to immigrants. (Congrats, @paragala!)" Collison tweeted.

CENTRE EXTENDS DOOR-TO-DOOR COVID VACCINE CAMPAIGN TILL DECEMBER 31

The door-to-door Covid-19 vaccination campaign 'Har Ghar Dastak' has been extended till December 31 with a focus on 100 percent first dose coverage and completing the backlog of second dose vaccination, the Centre said on Tuesday. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan chaired a high-level virtual meeting with States and UTs to review Covid public health response measures and preparedness amid cases of potentially more contagious Omicron variant. Noting the critical role of vaccination as a powerful defence against Covid, the campaign has been extended till December 31, the Ministry said.

TRS, BJP cross swords over paddy

K VENKATESHWARLU
HYDERABAD

The rice war is going on between the TRS and the BJP. The BJP leaders countered Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao saying that the BJP will see how KCR would refuse to procure paddy during Rabi.

They also alleged that KCR held a Cabinet meeting on Monday to decide what sort of foul language should be used at his press meet.

The BJP leaders said the Chief Minister is indulging in rice smuggling by bringing rice from Karnataka and other states and selling it to FCI after recycling it.

They alleged that KCR has been encouraging physical attacks as per the directions of political strategist PK.

Addressing the media at New Delhi on Tuesday along with Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind, Telangana BJP chief Bhandi Sanjay Kumar criticised the Chief Minister for using foul language against Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy.



He asked KCR to change his language and warned that KCR will not be able to stomach it if BJP leaders spoke in the same manner.

He said that KCR had become mad after his New Delhi trip. He asked whether KCR will hand over his farmhouse if someone places a knife on his neck.

Sanjay asked KCR why the paddy issue exists only in Telangana. He said that Kishan Reddy had made it clear that the Centre will purchase raw rice.

The BJP will ask how KCR will close procurement centres in Rabi. He demanded that the state government should procure paddy during Rabi like in Kharif.

Sanjay asked KCR to tell farmers what to cultivate in Rabi as he had said that farmers should not cultivate paddy. He reiterated that the Centre will take the responsibility of purchasing raw rice in Rabi and hence the State has to procure paddy during Rabi.

He asked KCR to tell where the BJP had carried out mur-

ders. He alleged that farmers, unemployed youth, Intermediate students and RTC employees had committed suicide during KCR's rule.

Sanjay alleged that KCR had been stooping low as his madness had reached its peak. There is a need to censor KCR's language and TV channels have to stop live telecasts of the CM.

He urged television channels to use a 'beep sound' when KCR uses foul language or else the BJP will file cases against the channels.

He said that Kishan Reddy spoke decently. The BJP will not tolerate if KCR uses foul language against the Union Minister.

Sanjay said that the Centre has stated that it will purchase paddy but KCR has been stating that he will not procure paddy and that he will close paddy procurement centres.

Sanjay asked KCR whether he will hand over Telangana to Pakistan or Bangladesh if someone places a knife on his neck.

"There is a huge difference in physical verification reports in Warangal district. There is a difference between cultivated area and production. The TRS Government is recycling old rice. The Centre will do an acid test this time and the secret of the state government and millers will come out. TRS is raising the paddy issue for the sake of millers. There are five types of seeds to solve the boiled rice problem. The state has to supply those five types of paddy seeds to farmers as the Centre is ready to purchase it. Why is KCR not supplying those five types of paddy seeds to farmers," he asked.

Revanth asks KCR to quit even as TRS MPs cosy up to Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS MPs on Tuesday gave a shock to Telangana Congress leaders, particularly TPCC chief A. Revanth Reddy by participating in a meeting convened by Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi on the second day of the winter session of Parliament. TRS MPs not only participated in the meeting but TRS Parliamentary Party leader and TRS Secretary General K. Keshava Rao opted to sit right next to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. This was the first time that TRS MPs participated in a meeting of opposition parties after the formation of Telangana. Later, KK told the media that the TRS just gave an impression that it is against the BJP and had only supported the Centre for passing useful Bills. TRS MPs had voted against the farm laws, KK reminded.

However, Revanth Reddy accused the TRS MPs of sabotaging the efforts of the opposition parties, including the Congress, to get the government to agree to a debate on the repeal of the three farm laws by



coming to the rescue of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP Government by stalling proceedings.

Revanth Reddy said that the opposition wanted a discussion on Minimum Support Price, cases registered against farmers and compensation for the families of farmers who died during the protest.

He said that the Congress and other opposition parties would have forced the BJP Government to apologise for the deaths of around 750 farmers and to compensate their

families. He said the opposition would have forced the Centre to withdraw all cases registered against farmers. But the TRS MPs, as part of their joint strategy with the BJP, stalled the House facilitating the passing of the Bill to repeal the farm laws.

Revanth said that if the TRS was sincere, then why did it not issue a Whip asking all its MPs to be present in the House on Monday.

He pointed out that three of the nine TRS MPs - Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, Maloth Kavitha and P. Dayakar - were absent when the BJP Government introduced the Bill to repeal the farm laws. The remaining MPs took a picture in the House to mislead the people that they were fighting for the farmers.

The TPCC chief alleged that the KCR family has acquired more wealth than the late Nizam of Hyderabad. "KCR will never dare to question the anti-farmer policies of Modi. He is actively supporting the BJP to surrender the interests of farmers before Ambani and Adani," Revanth alleged.

CM using filthy language due to insecurity: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy said that it is shameful on the part of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to use uncleaned language.

Kishan threw a challenge at KCR saying that he is ready for a debate on the paddy issue at the Martyrs' Statue. But KCR should not use filthy language, he added.

Addressing a press meet at New Delhi on Tuesday, Kishan said that he didn't call a press meet to criticise KCR.

He said that he only trying to infuse confidence among farmers while speaking to the Union Agriculture Minister. The Union Agriculture Minister had assured that they will purchase existing boiled rice, Kishan said.

He said that he was not afraid of KCR as he too was born in the Telangana gadda. KCR used filthy language for more than an hour due to

his insecurity and the feeling that the TRS government may fall.

Kishan said that KCR might not have been interested in him becoming a Union Minister. He said that he was born in a farmer's family and had participated in the Telangana movement.

He alleged that TRS leaders never asked for his cooperation although he was a Union Minister. KCR has not given an appointment to me so far, Kishan said.

Kishan said that he didn't feel any pain although KCR used the word 'Randa'. He said that he is leaving use of the word 'Randa' to KCR's wisdom and made it clear that he will not stoop to KCR's level.

"The people see everything. I didn't know KCR was angry at me. But KCR is certainly afraid," he said.

He said that he had strived hard to get the Telangana Bill passed in Parliament by speaking to BJP leaders.

Centre seeks names of farmer leaders for panel on MSP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To constitute a committee for discussion on MSP and other issues, the Centre has sought five names from the Samyukt Kisan Morcha and it will be decided by the umbrella body of farmer unions in its December 4 meeting, farmer leader Darshan Pal said on Tuesday.

The move comes a day after both Houses of Parliament passed a Bill to repeal the three contentious farm laws against which farmers have been protesting for a year.

"Today, the Centre has asked for five names from SKM for the committee that will deliberate on the issue of MSP for crops. We have not yet decided on the names. We will do so in our December 4 meeting," Pal said.

'People ready to send KCR packing'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party state senior leader Gudur Narayana Reddy on Tuesday made it clear that the electoral ploys of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao would not work anymore and people are ready to send him packing.

Narayana Reddy strongly condemned the comments made by the Chief Minister against Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy at a press conference held on Monday. He said that the words being used by the CM were indecent and vulgar and uncalled for. "How would it be if the same language is used by the common people against you?" he wanted to know.

In a media statement, he criticized the way the Chief Minister has spoken in the press conference. He said that



the people are vexed with the ruling of KCR who has been hoodwinking them in the past seven years and they are ready to vote him out of power whenever elections take place. If the rhetoric of the Chief Minister in the past two weeks was any indication he is ready to go for the elections anytime next year, he said.

He said that whenever the

Chief Minister senses danger to his position, he wakes from the slumber and begins to play mind games and indulges in empty rhetoric. The CM tries to divert the attention of the people from the burning issues, threats to his party and tries to exploit it.

"For instance he has raised the issue of Krishna water to the South Telangana region in the past. Then he toyed with the Andhra employee's issue. Now he brought up the Paddy issue to divert the attention of the people from the threats being faced by the Telangana Rashtra Samithi," Narayana Reddy said.

He said that with the defeat in Huzurabad by poll, the Chief Minister has sensed threat to his position and started to raise the political heat in the state.

Cyclonic storm likely...

Continued from page 1

"Thereafter, it is likely to move west-northwestwards and concentrate into a depression over southeast and adjoining east-central Bay of Bengal by December 2 and intensify into a cyclonic storm over the central parts of the Bay of Bengal during the subsequent 24 hours," an IMD statement said.

It is then likely to move northwestwards, intensify further and reach north Andhra Pradesh-Odisha coasts around Saturday morning.

The Met office predicted "heavy to very heavy rainfall and extremely heavy rainfall" at isolated places over coastal Odisha and "heavy to very heavy" rain at isolated places over adjoining interior districts of the state, coastal districts of West Bengal and north coastal

Andhra Pradesh.

"It is likely that the northeastern states also experience enhanced rainfall activity on December 5-6, with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall owing to the likely northeastward movement of the remnant of the system during the same period," the IMD said.

Elaborating on the system's movement in Odisha and its impact, IMD DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said, Though it will be near the Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coast on December 4 morning, it will not make landfall immediately. The system will gradually move in north-north east direction.

A clear picture on the rainfall activity, wind speed and landfall will be available only after the Lopar (low pressure area) turns into a depression, he said.

TRS attends Oppn meeting...

Continued from page 1

He said, "In politics, winning and losing is natural; TRS has already won 13 MLC seats, if we lose one or two in the ongoing elections we wouldn't be bothered." Since the party, at least on paper, is poised to sweep the Council polls, TRS leaders are confused whether KCR's comment was a slip of

the tongue or whether there is some hidden meaning to it.

This apart, it is clear that the TRS supremo has concluded that maintaining a soft corner towards the BJP will be detrimental to its future prospects, to the extent of hurting it in the next Assembly elections. Indications are that KCR believes intensifying his attacks on the BJP at both the State and national levels would

remove all doubts among the TRS cadre and also boost their morale. It can also be safely surmised that KCR has realised that the BJP poses far more danger to the TRS than the Congress.

"Going by Tuesday's developments in Delhi, there would be no surprise if the TRS and Congress announce an alliance for the next Lok Sabha elections," said a senior politician.

#MeToo at...

Continued from page 1

Some women leaders in the party, on condition of anonymity, confirmed the allegation of misbehaviour to The Pioneer. They said that all they desired was to serve the party and thrive. They said that they were confident of success in the Congress as it is led by Sonia Gandhi, a woman. "We are working sincerely for the sake of the party. All we want is that we are not harassed," the woman leaders said.

They said that the Congress as a party does not belong to these two senior leaders who perhaps think that they can do as they wish and misbehave with whom they wish.

TS deploys 10 teams at RGIA to...

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Till now nobody from at risk countries tested positive at the Hyderabad airport. The 12 'at risk' countries include the UK, South Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Hong Kong and Israel.

The positive samples will be sent to CMD, CDFD and Gandhi Hospital for genome sequencing to identify the variant. The DPH clarified that ICMR stated that Rapid Antigen Test and RT PCR can detect the new variant Omicron and that the genome sequencing results can be received in three days.

Since November 11, Covid

No case of Covid Omicron variant in India so far

He further assured that all necessary precautions are being taken to stop the virus from entering the country. Earlier this month, the World Health Organisation (WHO) named the new COVID-19 variant B.1.1.529, which has been detected in South Africa, as 'Omicron' and cautioned countries of the new variant.

tests have been conducted on 1,570 passengers at the airport. Of these, only 13 were reportedly fully vaccinated while the remaining were partially vaccinated. Urging people not to fall prey to rumours, the DPH said, "The new variant is not detected in our State or country. Speaking about vaccinations, DPH said that only 46 percent of the population has taken both the doses. DPH said,

FASAL BIMA CLAIMS

Centre blames TS for pending Rs 951 crore

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday said that claims amounting to Rs 951.21 crore under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for previous seasons are pending 'due to non-payment of State government's share in premium subsidy of Rs 468.55 crore'.

Responding to a question

raised by TPCC president and MP A Revanth Reddy in the Lok Sabha, Tomar said, "Government of India is regularly persuading the Telangana government through meetings, written communications etc. to pay its share in premium subsidy so that the claims of eligible farmers can be settled by the insurance companies concerned."

He said that nearly 10 lakh farmers had applied for the

insurance scheme in Telangana in 2019-20. While the gross premium is Rs 880.8 crore, so far no claims were paid to the farmers in the State for 2019-20.

Nearly 8 lakh farmers had applied for the insurance scheme in Telangana in 2018-19. While the gross premium is Rs 587.4 crore, so far, claims worth Rs 148.9 crore were paid in the State for 2018-19.

Likewise, nearly 11 lakh

farmers were insured in Telangana in 2017-18. While the gross premium is Rs 670.4 crore, so far, claims worth Rs 648.5 crore were paid to the farmers in the State for 2017-18, the Lok Sabha was told.

Similarly, nearly 9.7 lakh farmers were insured in 2016-17. While the gross premium is Rs 279.9 crore, so far, claims worth Rs 179.6 crore were paid for 2016-17.

In 2020-21, no farmers were insured from Telangana as per the data tabled in the Parliament on Tuesday.

PMFBY has been made voluntary for all farmers with effect from kharif-2020. Therefore, farmers are free to insure their crops as per their risk perception provided the crops and area is notified by the State government / UT administration concerned.

Legendary lyricist...

Continued from page 1

Sastry penned the most meaningful and soulful songs for the movie titled 'Sirivennela', one of the classics of Telugu cinema. The film brought him instant fame and critical appreciation from all over and he became 'Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry'.

Sastry wrote lyrics for many songs in films like 'Swayam Krushi', 'Swarna Kamalam', 'Samsaram Oka Chadarangam', and 'Pelli Chesu Choodu' and was regarded as one of the finest writers of Telugu cinema.

Born on May 20, 1955, the lyricist received 11 Nandi Awards and four Filmfare (South) Awards for his contribution to the entertainment industry.

He was bestowed the Padma Shri for his contributions to the field of arts and aesthetics. The industry and its fans recalled his invaluable and unparalleled contribution to Telugu cinema saying that it shall forever remain etched in the hearts of the people.

Sastry's recent hit song was 'Samaja Varagamana' in the Allu Arjun-starrer 'Ala Vaikaunthapurramloo'.

Centre rakes in Rs 3.7 L-cr...

Continued from page 1

The increase in the collection was mainly on account of rise in the incidence of taxation on fuels.

Total excise duty on petrol was Rs 19.98 per litre in 2019 and Rs 15.83 a litre on diesel. The government raised excise duty twice last year to Rs 32.98 per litre on petrol and to Rs 31.83 on diesel.

The duty was moderated to Rs 32.90 a litre on petrol and Rs 31.80 on diesel in the budget this year. And it was cut by Rs 5 a litre on petrol and Rs 10 per litre on diesel this month after retail prices jumped to record high across the country.

"The total amount of tax devolved to state governments from the corpus collected under the central excise duty in FY 2020-21 was Rs 19,972 crore," Chaudhary said.

While the total incidence of excise on petrol currently is Rs 27.90 a litre and that on diesel

is Rs 21.80, states are entitled to get a share only from the basic excise duty.

Out of the total incidence of taxation, the basic excise duty on petrol is Rs 1.40 a litre. On top of this, special additional excise duty is levied of Rs 11 and a road and infrastructure cess of Rs 13 a litre. A Rs 2.50 agriculture infrastructure and development cess is levied on top of this. Similarly, on diesel, the basic excise duty is Rs 1.80 a litre. Rs 8 per litre each is charged as special additional excise duty and road and infrastructure cess while a Rs 4 per litre agriculture infrastructure and development cess is also levied.

"Devolution to State governments is made out of the basic excise duty component on the basis of the formula prescribed by the Finance Commission from time to time. At present, the rate of basic excise duty is Rs 1.40 per litre on petrol and Rs 1.80 per litre on diesel," he said.

Power tariff hike on the anvil...

Continued from page 1

The Commission has received the ARR filings from TS Discoms for FY 2022-23. These filings contain details on operational, financial performance; sales forecast; load forecast; power procurement plan for the ensuing Financial Year, expenditure projections, revenue projections, including revenue from cross subsidy and additional surcharge; estimated cost of service for various consumer categories and revenue gap.

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RTC to acquire only non-A/C electric buses under FAME II

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Under the Centre's subsidy scheme titled Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles-2 (FAME-2), the TSRTC wants to acquire only non-air-conditioned electric buses for operation to various districts.

A meeting of RTC officials, headed by MD Sajjanar, took a decision regarding this and the MD proposed to the government to acquire only non-A/C buses.

The RTC is worried over the multiplication of losses if A/C buses are allotted to the State under FAME-2. The RTC is inclined only to acquire electric buses as it is deterred by the rising costs of diesel.

Under FAME-1, the Centre allotted 40 A/C electric buses, which the RTC is operating to the city airport. But these buses are running up losses.

The Centre is implementing the FAME scheme to promote electric buses and is also sub-



sidising them.

The cost of an electric bus is Rs 3 crore. Sensing that the RTC would not be able to buy the electric buses due to the huge cost, the Centre wants to encourage private parties to buy these buses and give them on hire to the TSRTC. The Centre is offering them a subsidy of Rs 1 crore on each bus.

The TSRTC did not opt for electric buses when the Centre allotted 324 buses under

FAME-2 towards the end of last year. Meanwhile, the scheme expired. However, recently the Centre extended the scheme till 2024.

Pressure was mounted on the RTC to take the buses allotted. However, the RTC is firm on accepting only non-A/C buses.

The TSRTC's air-conditioned buses have only 40 per cent occupancy due to high fare. So people are not patro-

nising them. The RTC wants to operate non-A/C buses to districts. If air-conditioned buses are allotted they cannot be operated to districts but would have to be operated as long-distance services. The RTC is now awaiting the decision of the State government.

In fact, 40 A/C electric buses are being operated to the city airport and the RTC is losing Rs 80 lakh per month. In April, these services earned Rs 90 lakh but expenses came to Rs 1.75 crore.

Due to lockdown restrictions in May and June this year, the frequencies of operation of the buses were low. These buses earned Rs 1 crore in August and operational costs touched Rs 1.30 crore. In September, the bus services earned Rs 1 crore against an operational cost of Rs 1.80 crore. In October, the revenue from these bus services was Rs 1.30 crore but the expenditure was Rs 2.10 crore.

FB user booked for posting CM's morphed picture

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A case was registered on Tuesday at the Jubilee Hills Police Station against a Facebook user for posting a morphed picture of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao along with offensive comments. The post shows the CM is dead and the word 'RIP' was written on it.

Facebook user Krishna Reddy posted the morphed photo of KCR portraying him as dead. Jubilee Hills Police registered the case against him and asked Facebook to provide technical details.

Police said the suspect posted it on November 23 and it went viral. Due to the trolls, it was deleted after a few hours. Following a complaint, police registered a case under Section 469 and 505 (1) (b) of IPC and launched an investigation.

The complainant's details were not revealed by the police. This is the fourth case of posting KCR's morphed pictures. The other cases occurred in September 2014, December 2020 and June 2021.



Cyb cops bust gang of 7 making fake vehicle RCs, Aadhaar cards

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Officials of the Special Operation Team (SOT), Shamshabad on Tuesday, busted a gang of seven making fake vehicle registration certificate and Aadhaar cards.

The officials seized 1,200 fake RCs and 29 stamps from the arrested persons identified as Sathish, 32, Jhangeer Basha, 50, Chandrasekar, 44, Ganesh, 29, Ramesh, 36, and Sampath.

"Most of the people purchase vehicles availing loans from financial companies. When they are unable to pay the loan, the finance companies seize the vehicles and at times, do not recover the original RCs. The seized vehicles

will then be sold to a third party agency by giving a no objection certificate (NOC). The third party then sells the same vehicle and the new owners, approach the RTA office for reissue of RC," said Stephen Raveendra, Cyberabad Police Commissioner.

As per the process at RTA, officials take back the old original RC from the previous vehicle owners and after verifying with Aadhaar, issues a new RC. "Instead of getting the old RC and Aadhaar from previous owners, the third party vehicle sellers collude with RTA agents and submit a duplicate RC and Aadhaar in the process of re-issue on the name of the new vehicle owner," added the official.

Hussain and Sampath steal original RCs from RTA offices and sell them to Basha at Rs 200 per card, who then sells it to Sathish at Rs 300 per card. Sathish then prepares fake RCs and Aadhaars with Ganesh's help by using previous owner details given by Chandrasekar.

Using nail polish remover, he erases the previous owner's details and then prints the new data. Sathish then sells the RCs for Rs 700 to 900 per card to Chandrasekar. Ramesh collects the RCs from Ganesh, erases the data and reprints RC on DTP. Later, Chandrasekar and Ramesh meet with Basha and Ramesh, who are RTA agents, cheat RTA officials and get new RCs.

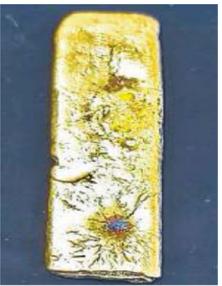
Gold worth Rs 23L seized at RGIA

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Officials of the Hyderabad Customs at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Shamshabad on Tuesday seized gold in paste form worth Rs 23.33 lakh.

Customs officials said that the passenger who arrived from Guwahati by flight 6E187, had concealed the gold weighing 472.8 grams, in paste form and hid it inside the flight seat pockets. Efforts are on to track down the passenger, said officials.

The seizure comes a day after officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) arrested a man and seized gold worth over Rs 1 crore. The accused was working in a private firm providing catering



services to an airline company and was part of a larger gang involved in a racket that smuggled gold and other contraband into the country. Officials are investigating if Tuesday's gold seizure is also a part of the racket.

The DRI found that as per the instructions from the handlers, the accused was picking up gold concealed in the aircraft at the time of loading or unloading food trays. He was picking up the contraband from flights arriving from Gulf countries.

The DRI found that as per the instructions from the handlers, the accused was picking up gold concealed in the aircraft at the time of loading or unloading food trays. He was picking up the contraband from flights arriving from Gulf countries.

2 burglars involved in 27 cases arrested

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad Police on Tuesday, arrested two interstate house burglars, detected 27 cases they were involved in and recovered 1 kg gold ornaments and 7 kg silver, all worth Rs 55 lakh from their possession.

The arrested persons have been identified as Mohsin, 42, a native of Bidar and Shanker Chowhan, 40, a resident of Zaheerabad. Chowhan took his 6-year-old son on his two-wheeler while committing property offences to avoid raising suspicion while moving around, said the police.

Mohsin was involved in 39 property offences from the year 2003 to 2015. He was detained under the PD Act in 2015 and released in 2016. After being released, he again began burglary offences in

2017, this time, using Shaik Mahmood's help.

Officials identified 24 cases in Cyberabad and four in Sangareddy district from 2017 to 2021, that Mohsin was involved in.

The Miyapur Police were able to identify the accused with the help of technical evidence. Two teams were deployed to trace the accused, who was eventually apprehended. The RC Puram police apprehended Shanker Chowhan, who was involved in 11 cases from the year 2018 to 2019 in the limits of Sangareddy and Cyberabad.

He was arrested by the Chandanagar Police and detained under the PD Act in 2020 and again released in the same year. After his release, he again was involved in three property offences.



MVI gets 3 yrs RI in DA case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The ACB court has sentenced a Motor Vehicle (MV) inspector to undergo three years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and a fine of Rs 2,000 on Tuesday in a disproportionate assets case.

A disproportionate assets case was registered against him on October 29, 2002 by the ACB against Mahender Singh, a Motor Vehicle Inspector at Malakpet. The court ordered that Mahender has to undergo simple imprisonment of two months along with the rigorous imprisonment of three years. The court also ordered that the property seized worth Rs 30 lakh should be confiscated.

Man found murdered in car at Trimulgherry

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 50-year-old man was murdered and the body left in a car at Trimulgherry on Monday, police said on Tuesday.

According to the police, the man was identified as Vijay Bhaskar Reddy, a realtor from Alwal. Local residents had found the car parked in an open ground at Trimulgherry on Monday night and alerted the police, who on inspection found the body on the front seat of the car.

"There is an injury on the head and we suspect he could have been hit on the head resulting in his death," police officials said.

Relatives told the police

that Bhaskar Reddy had left his house on Monday morning reportedly with Rs 10 lakh saying he was going to the registration office on some work. "It is not clear why he came to the spot," the ACP said. The police learnt that Bhaskar Reddy was having some disputes with one Abraham and Narendar over a property at Alwal.

"The case is being investigated from all angles," the ACP said, adding that footage from CCTV cameras in the area was being examined while phone conversations of the victim too were being checked. One person was reportedly detained for questioning in connection with the murder.

Teen gets 20 yrs in jail in POCSCO and SC ST case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A local court on Tuesday, convicted a youngster accused in a rape, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) and SC/ST Atrocities case to undergo 20 years rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on him.

In 2017, the accused person, 19-year-old Odde Pochaiiah, a resident of Turkayamjal village, had enticed a 16-year-old girl in the name of love and frequently sexually assaulted her.

When the victim complained of stomach pain, her parents admitted her to a hospital where they learned that she was seven months pregnant. Based on the parent's complaint, the police registered a case and arrested Pochaiiah.

During the trial, the court has sentenced Pochaiiah to undergo 20 years rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on the convict.



No plans to sell RTC lands: Sajjanar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) managing director VC Sajjanar has made it clear that the corporation has no plans to sell lands and close bus depots.

He said that the news on TSRTC planning to sell lands and closing down some bus depots is a grapevine. But, there is a need to increase bus fares and the government will take a decision soon, Sajjanar added.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Sajjanar said that the shifting of buses and staff from one depot to another is due to various reasons. But there are no plans to sell TSRTC lands and depots.

He said that people are now opting for RTC buses now. The revenue and occupation ratio of TSRTC is increasing due to



the decisions of the management. The Corporation has revived bus services on 1,359 routes. DMs and RMs are conducting surveys wherever buses are needed. The occupancy ratio is less at some places, but it is sufficient in other places, he said.

Sajjanar said the RTC will

run special buses to Jogulamba from Saturday as devotees had demanded buses from Hyderabad to Jogulamba. He said that a decision has not yet been taken for constructing the Hunger Place Complex at CBS due to financial problems.

On Tuesday, Sajjanar terminated the contract of a shop at

MGBS for selling things at prices higher than MRP. He made it clear that he will take action against any shop if he receives complaints three times. He said that 4,057 people had donated blood at the TSRTC's Mega Blood Donation Camp.

TSRTC Chairman Bajireddy Goverdhan inaugurated the Mega Blood Donation Camp at the Jubilee Bus Station.

Bajireddy said that blood donation is a noble initiative launched by the TSRTC management and hailed the Prahari Trust and Indian Red Cross Society. The Chairman presented certificates to blood donors.

The TSRTC organised the Mega Blood Donation Camp to help Thalassemia patients, cancer patients, expecting mothers and road accident victims, he said.

Moving car catches fire at Sec'bad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A car caught fire on the road near the Secundrabad Parade Grounds on Tuesday. No casualties were reported. The reason for the fire was not found.

The police suspect that it could be a case of a short circuit in the electrical wiring of the vehicle.

Police said a car bearing the registration number AP 10 AU 7470 caught fire suddenly. Seeing the smoke, the driver got out. Passing two-wheeler riders called up the police.

The police reached the spot immediately and controlled the fire. Meanwhile, the panicky driver had fled.

Gopalpuram Inspector



(Traffic) B Sai Eshwar Goud said, "We got a call from a person and we rushed there. We informed the fire service and controlled the fire. The driver

had fled by that time. The vehicle is a Wagon R car and it was 15 to 20 years old. We think the fire occurred due to an electrical short circuit."

Men too not safe from sexual predators

G RAVI KIRAN ■ HYDERABAD

Of late, not just women, but men too are forced to be alert about sexual predators.

In fact, the situation is such that even a man travelling alone late in the night should be very careful.

The increasing number of cases in which men have sexually attacked other men or boys indicate the threat facing men. To put it simply, men are also becoming victims of sexual

violence by men. Until now, mostly only women needed protection from sexual predators in the form of men. Now, the situation has changed. On November 24, in Parsigutta, a man lured a 13-year-old boy with chocolate and then molested him. Earlier, also many such cases have been registered where minor boys were victims of molestation by men.

Recently, the owner of Sandhya Convention Centre, Sridhar Reddy, was arrested for

cheating and blackmailing in the construction and real estate business.

After his arrest, surprisingly a man who worked as a driver for him filed a complaint saying that he was subjected to sexual attack by Sridhar Reddy. He said that Sridhar Reddy had threatened him with a knife and molested him. A rave party busted at Vivek Nagar in Kukatpally on Sunday had 44 persons comprising mostly gay and a few straight men. The police came to know that it was

a LGBT party. The news was met with shock by certain sections of the public which prefer to be more traditional in their views.

"LGBT culture is more evident after homosexuality was legalised. Some men lose their inhibitions after getting drunk. Videos freely available on the Internet work as catalysts for this. Just like some men sexually attack women, homosexuals attack men and boys," psychiatrist Dr M Venu Gopal said.

Man held for 'harassment'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Officials of the Rachakonda Cyber crime police on Tuesday, arrested a man who was harassing women by sending them lewd messages through social media.

The arrested person has been identified as Deepak, 41, a daily wage worker from Panagal in Nalgonda.

Deepak, an alcohol and porn addict, decided to make WhatsApp video calls to random numbers and once he confirms that the recipient is a female, begins making frequent video calls and harasses them, said the police.

During one such attempt, he video called the complainant and began abusing her demanding sexual favours. When the victim blocked his number, he damaged his phone and disposed of the SIM card to avoid detection.

T'gana police develop software for profiling of drug traffickers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Police have developed a software, DOPAMS (Drug Offenders Profiling, Analysis & Monitoring System), to identify drug peddlers.

The police released the software on Tuesday for all police units in the state. Now the police can search for a drug offender using this software. They can match the fingerprints and photos of suspects using the software.

This software is very useful to the police to solve NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) cases. The police said the software will be used to break drug trafficking by drug peddlers. Data about drug offenders arrested or absconding is stored in the database and there is detailed profiling of drug offenders.

Using the software, the police can store all details of drug offenders like mode of crime, hiding places and relat-

ed links. DOPAMS enables investigating officers to build, update and search the profiles of all known drug offenders. It helps them to identify habitual offenders involved in multiple crimes and identify offenders based on the area of their operation and the kind of drugs they deal with.

DOPAMS also enables to identify the hot spots of drug peddling, cultivation and supply, track drug offenders and allows state-level monitoring of NDPS cases.

Works on Basaveswara and Sangameswara LI schemes soon

Chief Minister KCR will start the works shortly: Harish Rao

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Finance Minister T Harish Rao on Tuesday said that Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu would launch the Rs 4400-crore Basaveswara and Sangameswara LI Scheme works shortly. The Minister toured Narayanakhet on Tuesday and felt that Congress and the BJP leaders have been making a fuss out of the paddy procurement. He asked those who try to make an issue out of it to compare the paddy procurement centres set up now with those during the Congress regime in undivided AP before criticising the government.

In Sangareddy district, paddy procurement was over by 70 percent through 157 procurement centers. The BJP



and Congress have forfeited their moral right to speak on paddy procurement. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy has been lying through his teeth on the paddy procurement in Telangana.

While Union Minister Piyush Goyal takes one stand on the issue, Kishan Reddy

takes another stand, he said demanding the Centre to address a letter to the state government on its stand.

Because of the Centre's stand, the state government is not able to procure the damp paddy, he said describing Chief Minister KCR as "Rytu Bandhavudu." The govern-

ment has plans to provide drinking water and irrigation water facility, which Congress failed to provide in spite of ruling the state for 70 years. The farmers of Narayanakhet get Rs 200 crore under Rytu Bandhu, he said.

Water would be lifted irrigated from Singuru Project to provide irrigation facility to Sangareddy district.

The Minister later inspected Area Hospital at Narayanakhet and enquired the patients whether they receive medical services and other amenities. He inspected the blood bank, oxygen plant, and X-Ray plants in the hospital. He asked the doctors to make use of all these amenities and provide better treatment facilities for emergency care patients.

Panchayat secretary in ACB net

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Rangapuram Panchayat Secretary Ramaswamy was caught red-handed by the



Ramaswamy

ACB officials while demanding and accepting Rs 6000 from a person to change the house which was in the name of his mother to his name, Sinkella Ramulu, a resident of Rangapuram, approached Ramaswamy to get the house which was in the name of his mother to that of his name. The Panchayat secretary demanded him to pay Rs 6000 to entertain the mutation. Unable to pay the amount, he approached the ACB officials, who trapped the panchayat secretary. The ACB officials arrested him and questioned.

Paddy in rabi will affect crop diversity, says DC

PNS ■ MEDCHAL MALKAJGIRI

District Collector Harish on Tuesday said that cultivation of paddy on a large scale in Kharif posed problems in procurement and marketing of paddy putting pressure on the farmers. Cultivation of paddy in rabi would affect crop diversity.

Therefore, he asked the officials to sensitise farmers to switch over to crops alternative to paddy in rabi. Crop diversity would mean growing those crops that have high nutritional values, high yielding, and those that improve soil fertility, he said.

In a meeting with agriculture department officials, he said that following crop diversity plan would effect favorable changes in crop pattern besides achieving ecological balance. Laying emphasis on the production of pulses, oilseeds, he



said that there is a huge gap between production and demand. Hence, he asked agriculture department officials to impress the farmers to switch over to the cultivation of these crops. The agriculture department authorities should clearly explain to farmers the benefits due to growing alternative crops vis-à-vis cultivation of paddy by undertaking field trips and visiting villages

and taking steps for the cultivation of alternative crops. Besides, they should explain to the farmers the government policies and encourage them to grow commercial crops like groundnut, red gram, black gram, and green gram. Additional Collectors Narsimha Reddy, Johnson, district agriculture officer Mary Rekha and others took part in the programme.

Don't cultivate paddy, Collector advises farmers

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The District Collector Prashanth Jeevan Patil appealed to the farmers not to cultivate paddy in Yasangi and that there should be no paddy purchasing centers and that the farmers should take note of this and cultivate alternative crops instead of paddy.

On Tuesday, the district collector inspected the PACS rice buying center at Arjalabhavi in Nalgonda town and inspected the grain purchases, and spoke to the farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that the Central Food Corporation of India (FCI) has made it clear that it wants to purchase boiled rice in Yasangi and advised the



farmers to focus on cultivating alternative crops that are profitable and have a good price in the market instead of rice.

He said awareness was being created at the village level for farmers through the Department of Agriculture. That there will be no purchase of paddy grain through paddy buying centers in Yasangi, During the monsoon season,

the district has so far procured one lakh 50 thousand metric tonnes of grain from 22,333 farmers through 239 paddy procurement centers in the district and deposited Rs 84 crore in the farmers' accounts.

The District Collector also said that the district administration was vigilant and was taking all measures to this effect.

'Get registered as voters'

PNS ■ MULUGU

As part of the SVEEP schedule issued by the state Election Commission a voter registration programme a special camp was conducted in government junior and degree college on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion SVEEP district nodal official Devraj asked the students who would be completing 18 years of age on 1-1-2021 to register themselves as voters. He advised them for registering as a voter the students have to submit an SSC memo and Aadhar card and fill Farm-6 to get themselves registered as voters. He explained to them the importance of voters in a democracy.

Despite Omicron, TRS, Cong resort to camp politics

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Camp politics by TRS and Congress to keep their vote bank intact are going on in undivided Medak district even as the threat of a new variant of Coronavirus - Omicron - is staring on the face of the state. In fact, the variant has knocked at the doors of neighboring Karnataka and Maharashtra. It may be recalled that the second wave of the Coronavirus has left the undivided Medak district devastated.

The medical fraternity has been advising people to take precautions like wearing masks and observing physical distance. In spite of all this, the TRS has shifted its elected people's representatives from undivided Medak district who have the right to vote in the

local bodies' constituency elections to the Upper House to an undisclosed place in other states.

People are negligent to wear masks and observe physical distance thinking that the Covid has subsided. At a time, the elected people's representatives should educate the people on observing precautions. But, they have been taken to an undisclosed place, many observe and question the rationality of practising camp politics at this hour.

To prevent splitting of its votes by the TRS, former deputy CM Damodara Raja Narsimha and MLA Jagareddy have been working hard and intensified meetings with Congress-elected representatives in Medak and Siddipet districts. They are drawing up plans to ensure that all those



Peoples representatives being shifted to a camp on Tuesday. are elected on Congress ticket would vote for the Congress official candidate. Moreover,

they are also holding out bait to catch the disgruntled elements in the TRS.

Since the BJP candidate is not in the race, Congress has stepped up efforts to win the BJP elected people's representatives too.

There were no instances of Jagga Reddy, lone MLA from undivided Medak district undertaking field visits during the past three years, some critics in Congress said adding that he would have taken steps to strengthen the party in the district.

Had Jagga Reddy been accessible to the party workers and second-rung leaders, the situation would have been more conducive for the congress in the MLC polls, according to a discussion going on among Congress activists.

Vote for my wife: Jagga

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC working president and Sangareddy MLA T Jagga Reddy has urged the local bodies quota MLC elections voters from TRS and BJP to cast their votes along with the voters from Congress party to his wife and Sangareddy DCC president Nirmala as she is in the fray from Medak district. He said that 230 Congress votes will come anyway. He reiterated that he will tender resignation to his party position in case his wife gets less than 230 votes. He said that he fielded his wife in the elections to protect the Congress party cadre and to prevent the TRS party candidate's victory unopposed. He asked the 1027 local bodies, voters, to cast their vote for the Congress party candidate as the TRS government has the habit of forgetting its own assurances of giving funds to the local bodies. He also said that he



fielded Congress party candidates to provide respect to local bodies and public representatives. He said that Finance Minister T Harish Rao shifted the MPTCs and ZPTCs to camps already. Exuding confidence that the Congress party will come to power in the 2023 elections, Jagga Reddy said that the Congress government will give funds to the MPTCs and ZPTCs after coming to power, however, the Congress party will not seek votes by taking an oath. "We have confidence that Niramal will win these elections from Medak", he said.

Centre assures release of funds for the blind school

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Nalgonda Blind school organizer Ponugoti Chokka Rao said that the concerned departmental officials have agreed to release the funds to the Blind school for the financial year of 2020-21 by the central government. He met officials of various concerned departments in Delhi on Monday and Tuesday about the release of funds. He was accompanied by P. Madhusudan Reddy met Rajya Sabha member Suresh Reddy, Central Social Justice Empowerment Minister Dr. Veerendrakumar, and departmental concern superiors, and petitions have been submitted for the immediate release of funds for the 2020-21 financial year grant from the Central Government. Chokka Rao said that we also met Union



Minister G. Kishan Reddy and blind school organizer Chokka Rao with Central Minister Kishan Reddy. tion of Gail building at Nalgonda.



Blind school organizer Chokka Rao with Central Minister Kishan Reddy. The Pioneer carried a story highlighting fund crunch encountered by the blind school organizer Chokka Rao. This is the photo capture of the story.

'Execute projects without delay'

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

District Collector S Venkata Rao has asked the officials to step up the pace of the works of various irrigation projects. He was addressing the irrigation projects' engineering officials and the revenue officials through a video conference from Collectorate on Tuesday. Referring to Kolsagar project land acquisition works, he sought information from them on the gravity canal and left canal land acquisition work. He also told them to step up the pace of the Palamuru-Rangareddy LI Scheme works. Speaking to Tahsildars, he directed them to upload the applications received from Podu farmers to grant them title without any delay.

'Acquire balance of lands for Gouravelli'

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

District Collector M Hanumanta Rao has directed revenue officials to complete the balance of 272 acres of land acquisition for Gouravelli Reservoir and speed up the project-related works. He was addressing a meeting here on Tuesday with revenue and engineering officials. Akkannapet Tahsildar Venu Gopal told the District Collector that out of the 3870 acres for the project only 272 acres are yet to be acquired. That too, 19 acres out of 172 acres have already been acquired. Replying to it, the District Collector asked the officials to extend R and R benefits to the eligible as per the laws. Once the benefits are handed over to beneficiaries, measures to vacate the displaced

persons affected villages should be taken up. He appealed to the displaced persons to vacate their villages soon after receiving their compensation cheques as the government is offering them better compensation. Later, he spoke to Doulatabad Tahsildar about land acquisition for Upparapalli. He questioned him about the reason for the delay in distributing the cheques among the beneficiaries even after passing the award. He directed him to take the urgent distribution of cheques among the beneficiaries. Irrigation ENC Sankar, Additional district collector Muzammil Khan, district revenue officer B Chennaiah, project executive engineer Ramulu, deputy executive engineer Karunasri, Prasant, and others took part in the meeting.

Residential schools should strive to improve standards

Complete Ekalavya School building in 15 days: DC

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

District Collector P Uday Kumar on Tuesday asked the contractor to complete the Ekalavya residential school, which is under construction at Gundala village of Veldanda Mandal on a 10-acre site at a cost of Rs 12 crore, in 15 days and make it ready for starting classes there. Taking up the issue with officials concerned in a review meeting held in his official chambers, he said the government sanctioned Ekalavya Residential School for the educational development of tribal students and to bring in socio-economic changes in



their lives. He enquired the contractor and the officials about the progress. Since 240 students from classes six to nine are receiving their classes in Jadcherla in Mahabubnagar district, he asked the contractor to increase the speed in execution of the residential schools. Enquiring the progress of the

classes in the school from the principal, he asked them to devise a curriculum that increases the educational standards of the students. He also sought details about teaching methods adopted in the school to teach the curriculum. Because of the Covid-19, the educational standards of students dropped over the past two years. Therefore, he asked the principals to devise the curriculum on the lines of the Delhi government and conduct classes to teach the curriculum.

He asked the ANMs to pay attention to the health of the students. He asked the region-

al coordinator to inspect schools in their jurisdiction, while appealing to one all to strive for the development of Ekalavya Residential Schools.

District Collector said that he would soon hold a meeting with principals of residential schools under the jurisdiction of the tribal welfare department. Tribal Welfare Deputy Director Nagarajuna Rao, Ekalavya school principal Saraswati, Tribal Welfare divisional engineering Venkateswar Singh, vice-principal Venkata Narayana, and contractor Venkateswarlu and others took part in the meeting.

A fake RTO service gang busted

10 members arrested, laptops seized

PNS ■ WARANGAL

A ten-member fake RTO services gang was busted and all of them were arrested on Tuesday. Police revealed that the gang has been issuing fake vehicles registration, licenses, and insurance certificates in the Warangal and said that they have seized Rs 4.46 lakhs, three laptops, two computers, four printers, five two-wheelers, and 433 registration, license from their possession.

Mills Colony, Intezargunj police, and Task Force staff raided their offices and seized duplicate rubber stamps, fake documents of insurance from them. The arrested were Md Safi SD Jahangir, P Rajesh, V Nikhil, M Raju, BN Shiva Kumar, A Rajesh, G Srikanth, K Raju Kumar, and B Suman. Speaking to the media, Warangal Police Commissioner Dr. Tarun Joshi said that the ten-member gang, working as agents of RTO at Warangal, habituated

to easy earning money and started bogus registration of Insurance and driving licenses. They created several apps using software and started insurance renewals for those who are approaching them. The gang members simply change the android QR code and scan the numbers printed on their fake certificates. They are using private insurance companies' certificates and collecting huge amounts from the people.

In the recent past, one of the vehicle owners was shown his insurance renewal certificate during the police vehicle checking and was shocked to know that the certificate was fake. He lodged a complaint with the Task Force, Mills colony, and Intezargunj police stations. Task Force DCP Vaibhav Raghunath Gaikwad, and staff started an investigation and arrested the fake RTO gang. Joshi stated that about Rs 90 lakh they extorted from the 10000 vehicular and investigation is going on.

55 centers to be set up to procure paddy: Collector

PNS ■ MULUGU

District Collector Krishna Aditya has said that 155 paddy procurement centers will be set up in the district to procure paddy harvested in 1.10 lakh acres by 56,847 farmers. In a statement on Monday, he said that paddy cleaners, moisture meters, electronic weighing machines have been set up. Paddy with moisture content up to 17 percent is being procured. The transactions are being recorded in tabs. He advised the farmers to raise alternative crops to paddy in rabi. He wanted the agriculture officials to sensitise farmers in this regard.

He later proceeded to Yeturu Nagaram ITDA as he is also the project officer of the ITDA. In a meeting with officials, he asked them to ensure that the procured paddy should be sent to rice mills only after assessing wastage and moisture content for the benefit of the farmers.

He asked the Mandal agriculture officers to monitor the procurement of paddy daily



Distcollector Krishna Adithya speaking to the irrigation officials in a meeting.

with the help of WhatsApp taking into consideration data like paddy procurement centers set up last year, how many farmers cultivated paddy, the number of tokens issued last year, and so on. He asked the elected people's representatives to hold awareness meetings with farmers to explain to them that the government is not going to procure paddy at any cost next year. Later, the district collector released a poster belonging to agriculture departments and also some booklets.

Collector and District Level Sand Committee Chairman Krishna Aditya has asked the TS Mineral Development Corporation and irrigation officials to prepare comprehensive reports on various aspects of sand quarrying. Chairing the meeting of the

committee at the Collectorate here on Tuesday, he said that 69 applications have been received seeking permits for sand extraction. A DLSC meeting would be held to conduct a joint survey on the applications and also in respect of 88 applications received for the issue of Patta lands. He said that action would be taken on Girijan Women's Society to set up sand quarries after discussing it with officials concerned and basing on their report.

He asked the officials not to hold grama sabhas in Wajedu and Venkatapuram under the Panchayat Act as the election code of conduct is in force there. In places where there is no poll code, he asked the officials to hold grama sabhas for quarrying of land in patta lands.

INDIA CORNER

Vinod Dua remains 'extremely critical and fragile', says daughter

The condition of veteran journalist Vinod Dua continues to be "extremely critical and fragile", his daughter and actor-comic Mallika Dua said on Tuesday. The 67-year-old journalist, a pioneer in Hindi broadcast journalism with stints in Doodarshan and NDTV, was last night moved to the Intensive Care Unit of Apollo Hospital on the advice of doctors here. He was moved to the Apollo Hospital ICU last night where he can be cared for better. He remains extremely critical and fragile. He has been a fighter his entire life. Uncompromising and relentless. His family is the same when it comes to him," Mallika Dua wrote on her Instagram Story. Meanwhile, sources at the hospital said, he was "in a sick condition but stable." Vinod Dua, who was hospitalised with Covid earlier this year, lost his wife, radiologist Padmavati 'Chinna' Dua, to the virus in June.



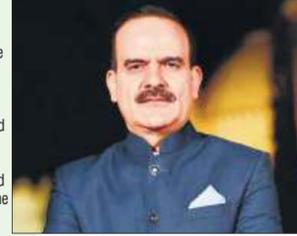
Kangana Ranaut files FIR, alleges threats over posts on farmer protests

Actor Kangana Ranaut on Tuesday said that she has filed an FIR after allegedly receiving threats over her posts on farmers' protests. Ranaut, who has been constantly critical and sometimes incendiary against the farmers' movement, posted a lengthy statement in Hindi on Instagram. The actor alleged that she has been "constantly receiving" threats from "disruptive forces" over her recent posts. "I am getting constant threats from disruptive forces on this very post of mine. One man from Bathinda openly threatened to kill me. I am not afraid of these type of threats. I will continue to speak against those who conspire against the country and terrorist forces, be it Naxalites killing innocent jawans, tukde tukde gangs or terrorists sitting abroad dreaming of forming Khalistan," Ranaut said. Along with the post, the actor shared a photo from her recent trip to Amritsar's Golden Temple.



Extortion cases: Param Bir Singh appears before CID for 2nd day

Former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh appeared before the Maharashtra Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for the second consecutive day on Tuesday to record his statement in connection with two extortion cases against him which are being probed by the agency. Singh, who is currently Director General (DG) Home Guards, arrived at the CID's office in Konkan Bhawan building at Belapur in neighbouring Navi Mumbai at 3.10 pm in a private SUV. Earlier in the day, Singh went to a court here in connection with a case against him and from there, he had went to the DG Home Guard office in south Mumbai. The CID is investigating the extortion cases registered against Singh at the Marine Drive police station in south Mumbai and Kopri police station in adjoining Thane city. The agency had earlier arrested police inspectors Nandkumar Gopale and Asha Korke in connection with the Marine Drive case.



Oppn walkout after Chair refuses to revoke suspension of 12 MPs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of Congress and other opposition party on Tuesday staged a walkout from Rajya Sabha after Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu justified the suspension of 12 MPs for the entire winter session of Parliament, saying they haven't shown any remorse for their act of sacrilege of the House in the previous session in August.

"Motion (for suspension of the 12 opposition MPs) was moved, it was approved, action is taken, it is final," Venkaiah Naidu said as he rejected an appeal by the Leader of the Opposition and senior Congress leader M Mallikarjun Kharge to revoke the suspension.

Venkaiah Naidu said he was not considering Kharge's appeal as the suspended MPs have not shown any remorse, but on the contrary, justified their acts.

"You try to mislead the House, you disturb the House, you ransacked the table, you also threw papers on the chair and also some of them have got on to the table and then you are giving me lessons. This is not the way," he said.

"I don't think the appeal of the Leader of the Opposition is worth considering. I am not considering it at all," he added.

Raising the issue when the House met for the day, Kharge said the motion for suspension moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi was in gross violation of the rules and action was taken in the current winter session of Parliament for alleged "unruly" conduct in the last session.

Also, the rules require the chair to name the members before a motion of suspension is



Lok Sabha adjourns for day amid opposition protests

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha proceedings were disrupted for the second day in the ongoing Winter session as protests by opposition parties over farmer issues lead to repeated adjournments on Tuesday. Soon after a new member took oath and the Question Hour began, members of the TRS trooped into the Well demanding a law on Minimum Support Price (MSP) as well as compensation for the families of farmers who lost their lives during the agitation against the farm laws.

moved, which did not happen when the 12 MPs were suspended on a government motion on November 29, he said, adding that the chair had on Monday not even allowed him to raise of point of order, which according to the well-settled conventions of Rajya Sabha is always permitted.

Appealing to the members to go back to their seats, Speaker Om Birla said they should discuss issues during the Question Hour and that their conduct was not sending out the right message. TRS members shouted slogans and displayed placards standing in the Well of the House while other Opposition members, including from the Congress and Left parties, sought to raise certain issues from their seats. Later, members of the Congress, NCP, Left parties and DMK walked out of the House alleging that the government was suppressing the voice of the

Opposition. However, Trinamool Congress members neither joined the protests nor walked out. A visibly anguished Birla lamented that proceedings were being disrupted when important questions were being answered. It is not right, the Speaker repeatedly asserted but as the din continued, he adjourned the proceedings till 2 PM. As the House reconvened, members of the opposition again started their protest. In less than two minutes, A Raja, who was in the Chair, adjourned the House till 3 PM.

A member named by the chair has to withdraw from the proceedings of the House. Six of the suspended MPs are from the Congress, two each from Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena, and one each from CPI and CPM. Venkaiah Naidu also rejected

Kharge's contentions of action being taken on deeds done in the last session, saying the Rajya Sabha is a "continuing institution" and the Chairman of the House is empowered to suspend members for unruly conduct under rules 256, 259, 266 and other residuary powers.

No case of Omicron variant reported in India so far: Govt tells Parliament

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has so far not reported any case of the new COVID-19 variant Omicron, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya informed Parliament on Tuesday, underlining that the government has taken measures to ensure that it does not reach the country. The Centre has issued an advisory after looking at developments globally and is keeping a close watch on ports, he said, adding genome sequencing of suspected cases is being done.

During Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha, the minister said, "Omicron variant has been found in 14 countries now. It is being studied here although it has not been reported in India." Stressing that there is a need to take all precautions, the minister said, "We have learnt a lot during the pandemic. We have resources and labs to check. At present, no Omicron variant has been reported in India and all measures have been taken to ensure this variant does not reach the country, he said. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified Omicron as a 'variant of concern'.

According to the Minister, the COVID-19 situation is under control in India at present but the country is not free from this disease and Covid-appropriate behaviour should be followed.

BJP took advantage of 'weak' NC to scrap Article 370 in J&K: Omar

PNS ■ JAMMU

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah Tuesday said the BJP-led central government was able to abrogate Article 370 after his party was rendered weak after the 2014 elections with PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Syed declining his offer of unconditional support and stitching an alliance with those who do not have "good intentions" towards Jammu and Kashmir.

Omar asked the people to support the National Conference and make it further strong to help "reverse the changes which were forced on the people of Jammu and Kashmir" on August 5, 2019 with the abrogation of the Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two union territories.

In a reference to Lt Governor Manoj Sinha's statement that his administration is working for the welfare of all the people of the union terri-

tory, and not just a select few, Omar said, "I do not see it happening. What we see is that this government is only for the benefit of BJP and a few leaders of some Kashmir-based parties."

Addressing a public meeting at Chatroo in Jammu, Omar said, "We have started a fight for Jammu and Kashmir and its people following the changes which were forced on us - the changes which were possible because the National Conference was weak. If we have not lost the (assembly) seats in 2014 elections and formed the government, neither would they have removed Article 370 or Article 35A nor taken away land transferred to the people under Roshni Act

or given jobs and contractors to outsiders," the former chief minister said.

He said the BJP-led central government took advantage of the "weak position" of the NC and snatched what was given to the people of J&K by the Constitution.

"I had foreseen such a situation and went to extend unconditional outside support for forming the government. I told him that the path he is going to treat (by forming the government with BJP) will be a disaster for J&K and we will not be able to save ourselves," he said, adding "I told him that I have no greed for power as I have just completed six years as chief minister and desist from bringing those to power who do not have good intentions for J&K."



Same sex couples seek live streaming

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Tuesday directed the Centre to respond to a plea by LGBTQ couples who are seeking live streaming of proceedings on a batch of petitions to recognise same-sex marriages under the special, Hindu and foreign marriage laws on the ground that the matter is of great national and Constitutional importance.

The high court also issued notices on three more fresh petitions by same-sex couples seeking recognition of their marriages, taking the total number of such pleas to eight.

A bench of Chief Justice D

N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh granted time to the Centre's counsel to take instructions on the matter and file replies on the three fresh petitions and the application for live streaming of proceedings. It listed the matter for further hearing on February 3. The court was hearing a batch of petitions filed by several same-sex couples, seeking a declaration recognising their marriages under the special, Hindu and foreign marriage laws.

Out of the three fresh petitions, the petitioners in two pleas were represented through senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi.

8.3 lakh Covid cases treated under Ayushman Bharat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Approximately 8.3 lakh hospital admissions were authorised for the treatment of COVID-19 under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY) in the last two years, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Tuesday. "This is with respect to transactions recorded on the NHA (National Health Authority) IT platform as well as the information shared by states, using their own IT systems," Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar said in a written reply to a question in the House.



Out of these 8.3 lakh, approximately 4.7 lakh have been authorised in empanelled private hospitals under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY), she said.

Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country, therefore, urban-rural bifurcation is not maintained for the

beneficiaries, she stated. Public Health being a state subject, response to the COVID-19 pandemic is primarily directed by state governments, she said, adding the National Health Authority has been providing necessary support to states and UTs for ensuring free COVID-19 testing and treatment to all eligible beneficiaries under ABPMJAY.

When COVID-19 pandemic started, initially existing treatment packages were used for providing Covid-related treatment. Later, special packages were introduced, she explained.

Over 37k hectares okayed for tree plantation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 37,000 hectares of land has been approved for tree plantation under National Afforestation Programme (NAP), the Centre's scheme for the development of forest areas, the Environment Ministry informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey said the ministry has been making constant efforts to increase forest and tree cover and has taken several initiatives towards tree plantation activities in the country.

In response to a query in the House, he said 37,110 hectares of land has been approved in the last three years under the NAP.

The Environment Ministry



has approved the merger of NAP into Green India Mission (GIM) and accordingly financial allocation for both the schemes is provided under one budgetary head so that the overall efforts are augmented,

Choubey said. "The budget allocation for the merged scheme has increased from Rs 160 crore in the year 2020-21 to Rs 220 crore during the year 2021-22," he said. "Afforestation programmes

under various Centrally sponsored schemes of the ministry such as National Afforestation Programme and National Mission for a Green India are implemented with a participatory approach," Choubey said. The Lower House was told that the funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority are used for forest and wildlife management related activities including compensatory afforestation. Elaborating on other steps being taken by the government to increase tree plantation in the country, the minister said the ministry promotes tree plantation as a people's movement through School Nursery Yojana and Nagar Van Yojana.

The Ministry of Environment has been imple-

menting the NAP scheme since 2000-01 for ecological restoration of degraded forests and to develop the forest resources with peoples' participation with a focus on improvement in livelihoods of the forest-fringe communities, especially the poor.

NAP aimed at supporting and accelerating the ongoing process of devolving forest conservation, protection, management and development functions to the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level.

The scheme was implemented by a three-tier institutional setup through the State Forest Development Agency at the state level, Forest Development Agency at the forest division level and JFMCs at the village level.

Govt 'looking at' SEC nudge on Covaxin for 2-18 age group

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid Subject Expert Committee's recommendations on granting emergency use authorisation to Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for the 2-18 age group are being examined and additional information has been sought, Rajya Sabha was informed Tuesday. Responding to a question on whether the government is considering Covaxin for children under 12, Union Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar said in a written reply the interim phase 2/3 clinical trial data on healthy volunteers aged 2 to 18 years submitted by Bharat Biotech was deliberated upon in the meeting of SEC on August 26 and October 11.

"The committee recommended for grant of market authorization for age group of 2 to 18 years for restricted use in emergency situation subject to various conditions.

This recommendation is being examined and additional information has been requested at the level of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)," Pawar said.

The CDSCO has also approved COVID-19 vaccine (ZyCoV-D) of Cadila Healthcare for restricted use in emergency situation in the age group 12 years and above, she added.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Revenue (LA) Department FORM - C NOTIFICATION

(Under Section-11 of the Act where 10 A Exemption is given) (See rule 6/12) Gazette No.: GHMC-212 Dated: 16.11.2021 No. A/184/2021 Dated: 15.11.2021

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana Special Collector (L.A.) & Commissioner GHMC, Hyderabad that a total of 740.74 Sq. Yards of land is required in Talab Chanchalam (V), Channarayana (M), Hyderabad District for public purpose, namely for proposed 40'-0" wide Road from Dabberpeta Police Station to Nagaboli.

Therefore, it is Notified that for the above said project in Talab Chanchalam (V), Channarayana (M), Hyderabad District land measuring more or less of 740.74 Sq. Yards of Standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition:

Sl. No.	Pheasias No.	Type of Title Land	Area acqisition in Sq. Yds.	Name	Boundaries										
					North	South	East	West	North	South	East	West	North	South	
1	17-7-995/A	-	27.90	ABBAS ALI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	17-7-995/B	-	46.75	MD SHAIKH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	17-7-995/C	-	46.32	SARDAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	17-7-997/1	-	26.96	SVEEDA ASMA MD. ALI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	17-7-994	-	48.20	JABBAR KHAN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	17-7-993	-	54.02	KANEZ FATHIMA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	17-7-992	-	61.59	FAREED UDDIN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	17-7-999 & 993	-	62.86	MD. FATEH ALAM KHAN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	17-7-997	-	17.51	MD. SALEEM H.NO. 17-7-997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	17-7-997/1	-	32.11	ABDUL SATTAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	17-7-997/2	-	50.92	IBBI ROKIYA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	17-7-940	-	60.03	MD. KADEER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	17-7-941	-	4.82	SYED ASEEMA FATIMA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	17-7-938 & 939	-	19.07	SYED SHAH MAHMMED QUADRI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	17-7-936	-	29.01	ADIL AHMED	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	17-7-936	-	29.12	MUKHTAR AHMED	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	17-7-935	-	36.46	MD. SHARAFUDDIN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Open Land	-	20.72	OPEN LAND	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	17-7-930 & 931	-	32.26	FAHEEM SULTANA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	17-7-929	-	38.11	HABIB KHAN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total					740.74										

This Notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30 of 2013), as amended by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Act, 2015 (Act No. 21 of 2015) to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Special Collector (L.A.) & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Special Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officer I.A., Special Deputy Collector, Land Acquisition, GHMC, Hyderabad and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section-12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11 (4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land (i.e. sale, purchase, etc., or create any encumbrance on such land from the date of publication of this Notification without prior approval of the Special Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, and claims from all the persons interested / affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 90 (ninety) days from the date of publication of this Notification as provided under Section 15 of the Act before Special Collector / Authorized officer.

Sd/- Special Collector (L.A.) & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad.

Sd/- Special Deputy Collector (FAC), LA, GHMC, Hyderabad.

DPR No. 862/LA/PP-Advt/Agency/2021-22



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Family man

It is high time men start participating in a rational conversation about family planning

Not even one among ten men uses condoms in India. Hardly any men go for sterilisation. In contrast, sterilisation is the preferred contraception method among women. Around four in ten women undergo sterilisation. These are some of the revelations of the National Family Health Survey-5 that examines male and female attitudes to safe sex and avoiding pregnancy in India. Women prefer sterilisation over other methods of contraception like pills, injectables and intrauterine devices. In 23 States and Union Territories of the country, condom use is less than 10 per cent. Uttarakhnad has the highest condom use at 25.6 per cent. The only silver lining is the use of condoms has gone up by around four per cent since the last health survey. The onus of avoiding pregnancy still falls on women in India. They go through the biological process of bearing a child and giving birth and on top of it are made responsible for 'family planning'. Male engagement in family planning is extremely limited and dismaying. Given the low condom usage and a negligible number of vasectomies done, men seem to be simply unwilling to share the responsibility of family planning. In rural areas, where lack of education is still glaring and women are unemployed, they often come forward to get sterilised arguing that a vasectomy can weaken their men, the family's only breadwinners.



Unfortunately, the public health campaigns on family planning engage more with women than men. In both rural and urban India, men often refuse sterilisation, even though it is safe and simple, because of misconception that it affects their virility. Similarly, their ideas of patriarchy and pleasure make them forego the use of condoms. Both men and women are even today ignorant about the need to use contraception, seeing it merely as a tool to avoid pregnancy rather than for delaying or spacing children. The only way to change these perceptions is through interactive national campaigns that make men reassess their attitudes. The Government has to play a proactive role to make men return to the contraception conversation. Memories do not fade easily and people are aware of the dark days of the Emergency when in 1976, about 6.2 million men were forcibly sterilised, around 2,000 died in botched up operations, and police action against protesting victims led to many more deaths. The family planning programme has never been holistic, wavering, in phases, between sterilisation and contraception, birth control and population control, sterilisation of men and sterilisation of women, or linking large families with national instability. In 21st century India, permanent sterilisation can no longer shape the family planning programme. It is not about population explosion either as the total fertility rate has dropped to 2.0 in 2019-2021, compared with 2.2 in 2015-2016. It is about making men and women participate in a rational conversation about planning their families rather than promoting a bureaucratic agenda to control the population.

PICTALK



Artist creates a sand sculpture on the eve of the World AIDS Day at Puri beach, Odisha

Democracy would continue to thrive



PRAFULL GORADIA

An autocracy survives when there is no alternative. In a well functioning democracy, this is usually not a problem as a vacuum seldom occurs

Aspersions are being cast in the media that democracy is on decline. Those ignorant of history can only say so. Today, Europe is prima facie democratic; at least to the extent of holding elections. Before WWII, there were mostly autocracies, for example, Germany, Italy and Spain. For most of the 19th century and earlier, democracy was an Anglo-Saxon monopoly. It was inaugurated by England in 1215 with the signing of the Magna Carta or Great Charter by King John at Runnymede in Surrey. All citizens obtained concessions and this was the beginning of the rule of law. Most of the noblemen were present at the signing at Runnymede in the county of Surrey. It began the tradition of the enforcement of the rule of law, which became a big pillar of democracy. All are equal before the law and all are to be treated justly.

The English noblemen had virtually forced the Magna Carta for King John to sign or else his endeavour would have to avoid his signature. Who is normally willing to give up power? Had the noblemen not been gradual and tactful, the King would probably not have signed the carta and there could have been a civil war. Simple measures like the Church shall have full freedom, London city will be free to levy the taxes it used to earlier. All merchants could leave and return to England without harassment or taxation. Mild and acceptable measures were the beginning of modern democracy.

From the early centuries to the end of World War II was a long era of autocracy in most parts of the universe. In Europe, religion usually provided the ideology and monarchs came and went. China was a centralised empire for 22 centuries uninterrupted. India had Muslim monarchs, emperors or otherwise, Europe was dominated by Holy Roman Emperor backed by the Roman Catholic Church based in the Vatican; the Eastern Church was at the back of the Russian Czars. Africa was waking up while South America was



an island with a local king until Spain and Portugal conquered them. Where was democracy? In England and later Great Britain with Canada, Australia and other colonies followed suit when they became independent. So did the USA after 1776.

England, its culture and leaders usually thought about what is fair. Whereas other good cultures were guided by what is right as prescribed by their religion. Yet others were conveniently guided by what is possible, by might or right. Had it been otherwise, King Henry VIII would not have survived on the throne after leaving the Vatican Church merely for annulling his marriage to Catherine of Aragon and marrying Anne Boleyn. The independent Church of England has thereafter followed what suited the interests of England not the presumed wishes of God.

Germany tried democracy called the Weimar Republic between 1920 and 1931 but failed. By May 1945, Adolf Hitler's regime was roundly defeated. Thereafter, Konrad Adenauer came to power with his Christian Democratic Party; a democratic Government has ruled thereafter. France was ruled by Napoleon III until 1870 when

he was defeated by Germany, led by Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. Italy was not a democratic country until after 1945. Eastwards onwards, there was a variety of autocracies.

India has performed admirably, especially because we started in 1947 with a low rate of literacy. Incidentally, Nehru was a democrat, moreover, he kept winning all the elections until he lived. So did Indira Gandhi in 1972 and 1980 and Rajiv Gandhi in 1985. Except for two years between 1977 and 1979, the dynasty ruled India. The great advantage of democracy is the synergy it produces. Freedom lands enthusiasm to people and the work willing. Compulsion, which often results from autocracy, semiparalyses. As Prime Minister Modi said that India was able to achieve 100 crore vaccinations within some months because it was everybody's effort, the results of synergy are amazing.

Another reason for the success of democracy is the very size of the country where a takeover by civilians or by soldiers would find it extremely difficult to capture power and hold it. Additionally, the country is so diverse in the language and culture of the people that a

unity amongst people to capture and retain power is difficult.

An autocracy usually survives when there is no alternative. In a reasonably well functioning democracy, this is usually not a problem as a vacuum seldom occurs. The nature and temperament of the people is important. Here, the credit must go to the Hindu faith which makes people believe in their Karma. To an extent, this makes the people individualistic who seldom want to unite to knock out another group. This is unlike Islam which prefers rule by *jamhuriyat* or consensus under a monarch. The contrast between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh tells the story of different temperaments. The contrast between Islamic countries and the rest of the world is interesting. Wherever there is monarchy the people are happy if they are Muslim. The concept begins with the Caliph who is supposed to be the spiritual and temporal head of Sunni Islam. The world of Muslims is meant to be one or pan-Islamic.

The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.



ANOTHER REASON FOR THE SUCCESS OF DEMOCRACY IS THE VERY SIZE OF THE COUNTRY WHERE A TAKEOVER BY CIVILIANS OR SOLDIERS WOULD FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO CAPTURE POWER AND HOLD IT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TEST CRICKET IS THE BEST THRILLER

Sir — The true beauty of Test cricket was witnessed after many years, when New Zealand rearguard snatched a thrilling draw in the first Test match against India. Debutant Rachin Ravindra and tailender Ajaz Patel braved the wicked last-session pitch to defy India's three accomplished spinners Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin at Kanpur's Green Park. The last-wicket Kiwi batters managed to survive the final 52 balls to deny India for 40 minutes when the umpires finally decided it was too dark to play on. Interestingly, after the drawn Test, the two teams ended up getting four World Test Championship points each.

Cricket lovers were surprised about India's delayed declaration on the fourth day. Though the Man of the Match Shreyas Iyer explains that there wasn't much happening on the wicket and India needed a competitive total, maybe around 275-280; which is not digestible to many. Whatsoever, this Test should be remembered fondly as India fielded with a depleted squad, with several frontline players either rested or recuperating. The match proved why this format of cricket is called 'Test' and that 'Test cricket 'ka koi jawab nahi'.

Bidyt Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

COVID NORMS ARE FOR LEADERS, TOO

Sir — The Maharashtra Government has issued new guidelines with regard to the new variant of Coronavirus. However, the way Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's daughter's wedding in Mumbai and Maharashtra minister Gulabrao Patil's son's wedding in Jalgaon took place in the presence of a large crowd, it raises doubts on the credibility of the Government. There is public outrage about this. But there is no one to take action on it. There is no one to question the wrongdoers because they are the Government. How is the framework of rules not the same for the leaders and the public? Clearly, if your own Government is in power then who is going to take action against you? No one would dare to do that.

Jayesh Rane | Mumbai

Need to look back to move ahead



India is a divine tree that stands tall and offers shade to people of all races, gives fruits of wisdom, teaches ethics and morality and has a culture that is as vast as the history of humankind itself. But sadly, the tree is falling apart and we are just not able to see it. If one was to notice, India is a colourful country that offers traditional yet ultra-modern solutions to even the most complicated problems. Traditionally, our food is such that it nourishes and heals our mind and body and not just fills the stom-

ach. Our traditional music is therapeutic. Today, Raga therapy is used to heal the mind and body as Ragas can calm the nerves. At the same time, they are mighty enough to evoke fire or rain, when performed correctly, of course.

We are blindly running towards the 'western culture' which is not tuned for Indian bodies. The western culture is based on materialistic factors while the Indian culture is based on spirituality. We need to understand that spirituality does not mean religion or rituals; it simply means being aware of your mind, body and soul. Indeed we have to adopt certain modern practices to develop economically and otherwise, but we must not forget our roots. If we start living an Ayurveda-inspired lifestyle, many of our health problems wouldn't even arise. The idea is not to put on a *dhoti* and head to the mountains, but to use the wisdom of those who have already been there and contribute to the betterment of humanity.

Manish Kumar | New Delhi

Those who do not follow the instructions issued in a democracy have no moral right to preach to anyone. It does not suit them. The leaders and Government officials present in the celebrations defy the guidelines that they themselves imposed. This is totally unfair on part of the State Government. They should either roll back the guidelines issued by them if they cannot follow themselves.

The Uttar Pradesh Government has failed to conduct the State-sponsored exams time and again and it reflects the ineptitude and level of corruption deeply entrenched in State machinery which also exposes the racketeering nexus. The Government can't shy away from its responsibilities with false assurance every time such rackets are busted. It's really shameful that State exams are losing credibility day by day. However, what's more disgraceful is that no strict action has been taken by the authorities even after taking massive hits on reputation.

Janga B Sunuwar | Bagrakote

STATE GOVT FAILED THE EXAM, AGAIN

Sir — The Uttar Pradesh TET question paper leak scandal has crushed the hopes of candidates who aspired to become teachers in Government's schools. At a time when Government jobs are scarce and private jobs have enough insecurity, aspirants work hard to get Government jobs for stability in life. But faults on part of the State Government are bent on hijacking the exam by leaking

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Contagion

To stop Omicron from becoming another Delta, vaccines and protocols become utmost important

The unending restrictions are back again as the newest and potentially the most contagious strain of the Coronavirus — Omicron — has caused panic across countries and made them cautious about resuming international travel. While a bunch of countries have detected cases of Omicron, rest have their fingers crossed. The Government has, therefore, issued new guidelines and identified about a dozen "at risk" countries — the UK, South Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Hong Kong, Israel and entire Europe. This comes as a disappointment both to the economy and citizens as international travel was restarted just a few days ago after a hiatus of 20 months. Now passengers travelling from "at risk" countries will have to provide their travel history for the last 14 days and undergo an RT-PCR test on arrival. The findings on the new variant are not much but are enough to arouse fears of a possible third wave which was seemingly avoided.



Meanwhile, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said that "no case of Omicron has been found in India so far", however, Omicron could possibly have entered the Indian borders already. India recorded 6,990 new COVID-19 cases,

the lowest in 551 days, on Tuesday; but now is not the time to relax. In fact, the discovery of the mysterious new strain gives all reasons to worry and, more importantly, to follow the protocols that have been successfully dodged so far. In light of the new variant, the Government has extended COVID-19 measures till December 31. Therefore, while scientists figure out Omicron's risk and transmissibility, the public should refrain from heedless travel and diligently follow COVID appropriate behaviour. In order to stop Omicron from becoming another Delta, which wreaked sheer havoc during the second wave, people must realise the danger. However, there are certain factors that can make things go south pretty quickly: our careless tendency towards COVID-19, this being the high time for weddings and festivities and, of course, only about 40 per cent of the population being fully inoculated so far. Therefore, vaccination becomes of utmost importance and the unvaccinated have a good reason to shed hesitancy and get jabbed. The mistake of taking it lightly caused heavy losses last time and whether we allow it to happen again depends significantly on our behaviour.

SOUND BITE

Narendra Modi ji, you are not a sympathiser of farmers, you are a sympathiser of votes.

Congress general secretary — Priyanka Gandhi

If a social media company lets you say something with a mask on, we'll hold it to account.

Australian Prime Minister — Scott Morrison

I have always spoken against those who go against the country and will continue to speak against them.

Actor — Kangana Ranaut

It's great to see the young guys come through and perform straightaway on debut.

Team India head coach — Rahul Dravid

The inauguration of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Gorakhpur will be done next month.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister — Yogi Adityanath



FIRST COLUMN POLITICALLY, WOMEN CANNOT BE IGNORED

The Indian subcontinent bests the west when it comes to primacy of women in politics



NILOFAR SUHRAWARDY

The patriarchal trend where males get more opportunities to make it to the top is visible even in the most progressive, liberal, and even so-called democratic societies. Ironically, politics is one field where the women of the Indian subcontinent seem to have broken the glass ceiling, more boldly than even in the west. The United States still has to boast of having a lady as its President. India has had women as President as well as Prime Minister. Women have been politically dominant in similar key positions in Pakistan, Bangladesh and also in Sri Lanka. Of course, the United Kingdom, Germany and New Zealand stand out as few countries where women have got opportunities to head their respective governments. Be it Margaret Thatcher from the UK, Angela Merkel (Germany) or Jacinda Ardern (New Zealand), there is no denying that the strong stamp of their distinct personalities could not have been ignored. Their rise could not have been possible without the backing of their parties. However, political charisma linked with their personalities is not solely dependent on their parties but has to do with their individual personalities. The possibility exists that Indira Gandhi may not have joined politics if she was not Jawaharlal Nehru's daughter. Initially, she was viewed



as a "puppet," "dumb-doll" and/or a totally weak politician. But her entry into politics and later her role as Prime Minister led her to be known as the Iron Lady. Incidentally, Sonia Gandhi refrained from picking up political reins immediately after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. She decided to head the Congress only when intra-party worsened. Her political credentials were untested but she succeeded in helping the Congress-led coalition remain in power for two consecutive terms. She is now the natural "high command" of the party. Priyanka Vadra's entry into politics seemed natural. Initially only her smiles and the crowds attracted by her hit media headlines. But her current moves are scripting a different tale. The reference is to her "broomstick-policy" in the aftermath of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that gave her credibility as a politician. The political rise of Mamata Banerjee, Mayawati and the late Jayalalithaa is quite similar. Their initial entry was backed either by their party and/or specific politicians in their domains. Subsequently, however, each moved on to successfully establish their own identities quite successfully. While Mamata rose from the ranks of Congress, she parted company to form Trinamool Congress in 1998. She led the party to oust Left bloc from West Bengal and head the government since 2011. The two names are inseparable — Mamata and TMC. So is the case of Mayawati and Bahujan Samaj Party. The same can be said about Jayalalithaa and AIADMK. Interestingly, the most vocal and eloquent voice of TMC in Lok Sabha is also a woman, Mahua Moitra. Women's political empowerment extends to other parts of the subcontinent. In Bangladesh the two lady prime ministers, Begum Khaleda Zia (1991-96 and 2001-2006) and Sheikh Hasina (1996-2001 and from 2006) have compelled acknowledgement of the importance given to women's leadership. Pakistan had late Benazir Bhutto as Prime Minister from 1988-90 and 1993-96. Sri Lanka gave the world its first woman Prime Minister in 1960 — Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Politically speaking, in the Indian sub-continent, women have carved a distinct niche of their own without being tagged as puppets or as pawns of their parties. Compared to their limited significance in most parts of world, they take the lead here. Against this backdrop, perhaps Priyanka's political message of encouraging entry of more women into politics should not be dismissed as mere rhetoric. (The write is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

Battle to become the aam aadmi of Punjab



AMITABH SHUKLA

Rejecting the so-called 'Delhi model', the Punjab CM said that the State is witnessing the 'Channi model' which stands for equal opportunities for all

Which party is the true custodian of the *aam aadmi* (common man) image in Punjab? The million rupee question is playing out in the election campaign as two of the contesting parties-ruling Congress and its challenger Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are insisting that they are the "real" representatives of the common man, ones battling for the plebeian and have the interest of this section paramount in their scheme of things.

With Charanjit Singh Channi, the self-proclaimed common man from a lower middle class family, who had once sold crackers for Diwali on a cot outside his tent house and was also working full time in the tent business of his father, becoming the chief minister taking over from Amarinder Singh of Patiala royal family, known in political circles as Maharaja, politics has taken a 360 degree turn in the state and the one facing the heat is the original party named on common man-Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Not surprisingly, during his election campaign in the state, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said that he had reasons to believe that he has imitators in Punjab and a "fake Kejriwal" is roaming around, making same promises, asking people to know the fake from the real. Kejriwal was referring to Channi as the fake copy though he did not mention anyone by name in his speech.

Ever since he became the chief minister, Channi has been cultivating the image of the *aam aadmi* with a missionary zeal. He has been stopping at roadside 'dhabas' regularly to have tea with commoners, dancing bhangra to drum beats on the stage at functions, participating in wedding ceremonies and giving 'shagun' to couples, getting photographed with auto-rickshaw drivers, meeting workers, farmers and so on. This has clearly rattled AAP to an extent as it believes that Channi's new image could be problematic to its poll prospects in the state and spoil its dream to come to power.

Sample this: "These days a *nakli* Kejriwal is roaming in Punjab. Whatever I promise, he announces it the next day but doesn't implement it. Beware of him. Only *asli* Kejriwal can fulfill what he promises." And more, "In the entire country, only one man, Kejriwal, can bring down your electricity bill to zero. So, beware of that fake Kejriwal," said AAP's national convener, referring to Channi and his promise to bring down power rates by ₹3 across all categories of consumers.

Interestingly, both Kejriwal and Channi were in Ludhiana the same day to sell their USP of common man in the industrial city. Hours before Kejriwal was scheduled to meet the auto and taxi drivers, Channi made a surprise halt at an auto-rickshaw stand to listen to the



EVER SINCE CHANNI BECAME THE CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB, HE HAS BEEN CULTIVATING THE IMAGE OF AN AAM AADMI WITH A MISSIONARY ZEAL. THIS HAS RATTLED THE AAP TO AN EXTENT AS IT BELIEVES THAT CHANNI'S NEW IMAGE COULD BE PROBLEMATIC TO ITS POLL PROSPECTS IN THE STATE AND SPOIL ITS DREAM TO COME TO POWER

(The writer is Senior Resident Editor, The Pioneer, Chandigarh. The views expressed are personal.)



problems of the drivers and got himself clicked with them while sipping tea. This was too much for Kejriwal who was quick to retort, pointing out that he had a pre-scheduled meeting and when the 'nakli Kejriwal' came to know about this, he reached the auto-rickshaw owners' office. "Still, I think fear is good. He may do something out of fear of the real Kejriwal, but he cannot do, because he is 'nakli'," said Kejriwal.

So this *asli-nakli* (real-fake) war of words continued with Kejriwal attacking the Punjab CM for imitating him (Delhi CM) on promises on electricity tariff. Kejriwal went on to add that former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had also imitated the Delhi Government and declared free bus service for women. But it was incomplete because Captain Amarinder had provided free travel to women only in government buses.

Channi was quick to retort and trained his guns at the AAP supremo, emphasizing that the Delhi Model of Arvind Kejriwal is nothing more than a 'bundle of lies'. "The Punjab government has already taken several path-breaking initiatives to benefit the masses whereas Kejriwal and his company are just making promises for them. I can never be a duplicate of Kejriwal as I can't be as treacherous and cunning as he is," the Punjab CM said. That went slightly off the mark and enraged the AAP leaders who retorted back in

the same coin the next day in their statements.

Rejecting the so-called Delhi Model or the Kejriwal model, the Punjab CM said that the State is witnessing "Channi Model" which stands for equal opportunities for all. "Channi model is in unison with the teachings of the Great Sikh Gurus who have shown us the way of equality and brotherhood. This model is being implemented in the State for its progress and prosperity of its people...and this model will be there till I am in this office," the first Dalit chief minister of the state emphasized in one of his election speeches.

To further consolidate his image of *aam aadmi*, Channi spent the night at the same Gurdwara, Shaheed Baba Tega Singh at village Chand Purana (Moga) where he had stayed during his cycle yatra in 2016. His spin doctors were quick to point out, "departing from convention, the chief minister chose the Gurdwara sahib for stay at night instead of any hotel, rest house or palatial house of party leader".

Left behind in the race to project him as the *aam aadmi*, SAD President Sukhbir Singh Badal too is trying to catch up with his two *aam aadmi* rivals-Kejriwal and Channi. He is obliging the selfie-seeking youths and is happily posing for them and hunting for space in the social media to project this image. The image of the common man is difficult to stick with the Badal family as they are considered

as tycoons, having business interests in several sectors, including hospitality, transport, cable and entertainment, etc. However, there is no harm in flowing with the political wind, a SAD supporter says on why the party chief should also project the image of the common man.

While Amarinder Singh kept mostly to his residence and farm house in his second term of office and remained cut off from the people, Channi is doing the opposite. He never lets go of any opportunity to consolidate his assiduously cultivated *aam aadmi* image and his political advisors say that this is playing out well with the electorate who for the first time in over two decades, have seen a different political persona as the head of the state.

Parkash Singh Badal was a five-term CM, Amarinder Singh held the post for nine and a half years and both of them together occupied almost a quarter of a century at the helm. While Badal believed in distributing largesse through his Sangat Darshan scheme, Amarinder was largely cut off from grassroots, instead depending on his support and advisors to reach out to the people. So, this image of both Channi and Kejriwal is like a breath of fresh air for many in the poll-bound state.

Not surprisingly, there is a fierce competition to emerge as the real champion of the common man and that has become the USP of the election campaign so far.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THERE'S NO POINT IN RAISING ARTICLE 370 IN PARLIAMENT. OUR DEMAND IS RESTORATION OF STATEHOOD AND ELECTIONS IN J&K. —SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER GHULAM NABI AZAD



ARTICLE 370 IS A LEGACY OF THE CONGRESS. IF THE CONGRESS IS NOT READY TO SAVE ITS OWN LEGACY, HOW CAN IT SAVE OTHERS'? —FORMER J&K CHIEF MINISTER OMAR ABDULLAH

Impact of greenhouse gasses and deforestation on climate

Trees can absorb four tons of CO2 over the course of 40 years. A forest is considered a carbon sink if it absorbs more carbon than it emits

India is the world's third largest producer of renewable energy and the third largest consumer of electricity. As the country advances, the per capita consumption of electricity is likely to rise sharply. Consumption of coal, gas and crude oil is also expected to increase. At present, solar and wind produce less than 13 per cent of the total energy consumed and the rest comes from coal, petroleum, nuclear, etc. Burning of coal, natural gas, and oil to generate electricity and heat is the leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions globally.

Would it be possible to generate all the electricity we need without emitting additional greenhouse gases? India emits 83 per cent of greenhouse gases.



BKP SINHA

(The writer is a former IFS officer. The views expressed are personal.)

Additionally, India's population growth will intensify the demand for food, which in turn will necessitate more urea and irrigation, and using the Haber-Bosch process to produce urea will exacerbate greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, it is necessary to switch to less CO2-intensive energy. The developed nations like the US and Western Europe have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through appropriate measures and specific innovations because their research and development budgets are relatively large for this purpose. Obtaining carbon-free electricity will be a huge challenge for India because to achieve zero emissions, all of our electricity must come from non-emitting sources. Solar, wind,



hydroelectric, biomass, and geothermal power can provide energy without causing global warming.

While natural gas plants are running, they need to purchase fuel and the price of fossil fuels does not reflect the cost of climate change in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. Solar and wind energy are intermittent sources. The maximum conversion capacity of solar energy is only 33 per cent. They cannot generate electricity 24 hours a day, so their storage and generation costs

should also be considered. Batteries used in off-grid solar systems can be charged during the day and used during the night. It is a reasonable solution for using solar power throughout the day, but it is also quite expensive due to the costs associated with the battery and its life, which will determine how much it adds to the electricity bill and the public exchequer.

Solar power generation is significantly less in winter than in summer. Solar power and wind energy generation is totally dependent on natural circumstances. Even in bright sunshine and strong winds, production will always be less than the installed capacity due to intermittent shutdowns caused by maintenance. To collect as much sunlight as

possible, we need a large number of solar panels that take up a lot of space, and some roofs are not big enough to accommodate them, so space is also an issue. Location is also increasingly important in solar energy. Our installation needs to be increased many times compared to the current one.

Even though nuclear power could be a solution, it is risky and capital intensive.

The main reason why zero-carbon electricity is so expensive is intermittency. Because of this, the state is aiming to generate more renewable electricity by combining solar and wind power with other options like gas-powered plants, which is a necessity for cities and towns. It can be argued that the grid -a single connected network is

the solution, but in practice, this is not feasible, at least in the near future.

To use renewable energy more efficiently and generate carbon-free energy, we must invest more in research and development. Furthermore, issues such as widespread poverty alleviation, education, health, clean drinking water, water for sanitation and job creation require more money to be diverted to address these issues, which in turn can adversely affect investment in research and development. Even if we take into account the government's efforts towards clean energy, new innovations will be required to remove its impediments. Diffusion of innovations requires R&D expertise and also a long period of persua-

sion, decision-making, and implementation that will take a considerable amount of time.

Therefore, conservation, afforestation and sustainable forestry practices are also the most efficient and cost-effective ways to combat carbon emissions.

Trees can absorb four tons of CO2 over the course of 40 years. A forest is considered a carbon sink if it absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it emits. Photosynthesis absorbs carbon from the atmosphere. It is then deposited in forest biomass (such as trunks, branches, roots and leaves), in dead organic matter (litter), and in soil and microorganisms. This process of carbon absorption and deposition is known as carbon sequestration.

Majority of Indians comfortable with automation at homes, shopping

PNS ■ MUMBAI

With automation and AI being widely adopted across many sectors at varying levels of visibility to consumers, a report has revealed that most urban Indians are comfortable with them in their homes and for online shopping.

On a personal level, urban Indians are more comfortable with automation in their homes, for online shopping and in manufacturing but prefer more human-led approaches in areas such as education, medical consultation, and government policies, according to a report.

A third of urban Indians interviewed feel that the impact of AI on society will be "more positive than negative", but when compared to those who claim to be well-informed about the technology, the number increases from 32% to 50%, which suggests that knowledge and positive outlook are correlated to a great extent, the report said.

New Bill on cryptocurrency after Cabinet approval: Nirmala in RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government will soon bring in a new Bill on cryptocurrency after it is approved by the Union Cabinet, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday in the Rajya Sabha.

A Bill on Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency for introduction in the Lok Sabha has been included in the Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, as part of the government business expected to be taken up during the ongoing winter session.

The Bill seeks to create a facilitative framework for the creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the ongoing winter session of Parliament. It also seeks to prohibit all private cryptocurrencies in India, however, it allows for certain exceptions to promote the underlying technology of cryptocurrency and its uses.

Replying to a series of ques-



tions in the Rajya Sabha, Sitharaman said, "This Bill, once the Cabinet clears, will come into the house".

The government had also listed a similar Bill for the last Parliament session (monsoon) but it was not taken up.

"The earlier attempt was definitely to come up with a Bill that the house can consider. But, later, because rapidly a lot of things had to come into play, we had started working on a new Bill. This is the Bill that is now being proposed," she said adding that there was a "genuine attempt" to bring the Bill even during the monsoon session.

The minister informed the house that the proposed legislation is likely to be introduced soon.

On asked if the government proposes to ban misleading advertisements in media, she said the guidelines of Advertising Standards Council of India are being studied and their regulations are also being looked into "so that we can

take, if necessary, some kind of position or a decision to see how we can handle it".

The minister also said cryptocurrencies are unregulated in India and the government does not collect data on transactions in cryptocurrency.

Sitharaman also said the government, RBI and Sebi have been cautioning people about the cryptocurrencies that could be a "high risk" area and "more can be done" to create awareness.

A study was conducted by the government through a research firm on "Virtual Currencies: An Analysis of the Legal Framework and Recommendations for Regulation" in July 2017. Thereafter, the government constituted an interministerial committee (IMC) in November 2017 under the chairmanship of the secretary (economic affairs) to study the issues related to virtual currencies and propose specific action to be taken in this matter.

Rs 26,697 cr lying in dormant accounts of banks, says FinMin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As much as Rs 26,697 crore was lying in dormant accounts of banks, including cooperative banks, as on December 31, 2020, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

This money is lying in nearly 9 crore accounts which have not been operated for 10 years.

As per information received from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as on December 31, 2020, the total number of such accounts in Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) was 8,13,34,849 and the amount of deposits in such accounts was Rs 24,356 crore, Sitharaman said in a reply.

Similarly, she said, the number of accounts not operated for more than 10 years and the amount in such accounts with Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) was 77,03,819 and Rs 2,341 crore, respectively, as on December 31, 2020.

"The number of deposit accounts (i.e. public deposits matured but remaining

unclaimed for 7 years including the year in which they have matured) and the amount in such accounts with Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) was 64 and Rs 0.71 crore, respectively as on March 31, 2021," she said.

As per the instructions issued by the RBI to banks vide their Master Circular on "Customer Service in Banks", banks are required to make an annual review of accounts in which there are no operations for more than one year, and may approach the customers and inform them in writing that there has been no operation in their accounts and ascertain the reasons for the same.

"Banks have also been advised to consider launching a special drive for finding the whereabouts of the customers/legal heirs in respect of accounts which have become inoperative, i.e., where there are no transactions in the account over a period of two years," she said. Further, she said, banks are required to dis-

play the list of unclaimed deposits/ inoperative accounts which are inactive/ inoperative for ten years or more on their respective websites, with the list containing the names and addresses of the account holder(s) in respect of unclaimed deposits/ inoperative accounts.

As regards action taken on deposits in such accounts, she said, pursuant to the amendment to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and insertion of Section 26A in the said Act, the RBI has framed the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF) Scheme, 2014.

"The DEAF is utilised for promotion of depositors' interests and for such other purposes which may be necessary for promotion of depositors' interest as may be specified by the RBI. In case of demand from a customer whose deposit had been transferred to the DEAF, banks are required to repay the customer, along with interest if any, and lodge a claim for refund from the DEAF," she said.

MONEY MATTERS

Hyd's electric ride-sharing startup Hala Mobility opened

Hala launches its User application for customers to make their rides, rentals, charging stations, or service booking. Hala is currently offering a single-seater e-bike within closed campuses of the city. Hyderabad | 30th November 2021: Hala Mobility, a startup incubated at T-hub under the lab32 project cohort 6, launched its user application today. The launch was done by Principal Secretary to ITE&C Department, Shri. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, and other prominent ecosystem leaders Mahankali Srinivas Rao, CEO of T-Hub Hyderabad, Ajit Rangnekar, Director General of Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad, and Dr. Shanta Thoutam, Chief Innovation Officer at Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC). At the launch, Hala showcased its inhouse made keyless smart app and the first booking was made by Principal Secretary to ITE&C Department, Shri. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
E-Procurement Tender Notice
Open Bids are invited through e-Tendering from the Eligible Local Bidders for REPLACING / OVERHAULING OF SICK 33/11 KV POWER TRANSFORMERS AT DIFFERENT MARKS AND VARIOUS CAPACITIES AVAILABLE AT VARIOUS SUBSTATIONS AND SITES OF TSSPOCL ON RATE CONTRACT. The Bid document will be made available from 01.12.2021 from 11.00 Hrs and the last date for submission of Bid is 21.12.2021 by 12.00 Hrs. Further details of Bid Specification may be browsed from Website of TSSPOCL: www.tsspo.com & www.telangana.gov.in Phone: 040-23431012; 040-23431380; 040-23431486

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
E-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification-17/21-22)
Tenders are invited from eligible contractors for 1) Sp.No. 15/21-22 - (1* Extension) Reconstruction/Replacement of 33KV and 11KV bus bars and indoor switchgear/breakers at under constructed 33/11KV SS Feeder, Properties at Basaravolu Division. Last dt for updating of bid: 07.12.2021 at 15:00hrs. Hard Copies Submission Dt: 08.12.2021 by 12.00 pm. 2) Sp.No. 16/21-22 - Laying of under ground cable by shifting of existing 33KV and 11KV lines & lines passing through the alignment of the road from DFR service road to GAR into bin building at Kojipet. Bid start dt: 01.12.2021 at 15:00hrs. Last dt for updating of bid: 15.12.2021 at 15:00hrs. Hard Copies Submission Dt: 16.12.2021 by 12.00 pm. Note: Any further information in this regard can be obtained on website www.tsspo.com / www.telangana.gov.in

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NOTIFICATION
Notification No. GHMC/PO-02/GMHC/2021-22, dt. 30-11-2021
Name of the work: In principle Stage-I approval, for diversion of 6.3477 Ha of Forest land in Kothaguda Forest blocks of Chikla Range, has been accorded by Govt. of Telangana vide G.O. No. 89, 95547 (Pw-1) dt. 01.06.2021 for laying of 132KV line by erecting 3 nos of towers under existing line for shifting of line falling in the alignment of proposed multi level flower crossing Banaraj Garden junction, Kothaguda Junction and Kanapet Junctions as part of SRSP. Name & Address of the officer: Sd/- D. Kishore, Executive Engineer (PO-02-I), GHMC, 894906776. Address of the officer concerned: Sd/- Kishore, Executive Engineer (Project Division-West Zone-I), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Band Road, Hyderabad.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Revenue (LA) Department
FORM - C
NOTIFICATION
(Under Section-11 of the Act where 10 A Exemption is given) (See rule 6/12)
Gazette No.: GHMC-176 Dated: 04.09.2021
No. AA/18/1 2021 Dated: 01.06.2021

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana Special Collector (L.A.), & Commissioner GHMC, that a total of 1464.92 Sq.Yds land is required in the Narayana Village, Amberpet Mandal, Hyderabad District for public purpose namely proposed junction improvement at YMCA Narayana Village Junction.

Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project in Narayana Village, Amberpet Mandal, Hyderabad District land measuring more or less 1464.92 Sq.Yds of Standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Area in Sq.Yds	Name of person interested	South	North	East	West	North West	North East	South West	South East	Area in Sq.Yds
1	3-5-170/16	96.46	Shanon Jith Singh									
2		20.45										
3		79.92										
4	3-5-1930A/1	10.64	Abbas Begum									
5		25.33										
6	3-5-1930B	141.49										
7	3-4-557	48.14										
8		421.49										
9	3-5-187/1	24.92	Varsh Vardhan									
10		13.16	Kishan Reddy (M.P)									
11	3-5-187/A	19.81	Chandra Shekar									
12		84.81										
13		38.46										
14		11.44										
15		137.88										
16	3-4-447/48	196.03										
17		33.56										
18	3-4-448/2	31.43	Quadr Kohar Rao									
19	3-4-448/2/1	55.09	V. Mahender Reddy									
TOTAL		1464.92										

This Notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No.35/2013), as amended by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Special Collector & Commissioner, GHMC, Hyderabad on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Special Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officer i.e. Special Deputy Collector, Land Acquisition, GHMC, Hyderabad and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section - 12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11 (4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale / purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such Notification without prior approval of the Special Collector.

Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all the persons interested / affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may be filed by the person interested in the land within 90 (ninty) days from the date of publication of this Notification as provided under Section 15 of the Act before Special Collector / Authorized officer.

Sd/- Special Collector (L.A.), GHMC, Hyderabad.
Sd/- Special Deputy Collector (L.A.), GHMC, Hyderabad.
DIPR No. 872/LA/PP-Advt/Agency/2021-22

Centre committed to compensate states for 5 yrs for revenue loss: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is committed to compensate states for five years for the revenue loss due to GST implementation as provided in the statute, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday.

The GST Constitutional Amendment Act provides for the centre compensating the state for five years for loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of the goods and services tax (GST) and during the transition period, the states' revenue is protected at 14 per cent per annum over the base year revenue of 2015-16, she said.

"The central government is committed for GST compensation to States/UTs for 5 years as per the Constitutional provision," Sitharaman said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

She was replying to a question on whether the government is aware of the fact that the projected 14 per cent growth rate of revenue is not attained by any state and, if so, whether the government intends to provide the GST compensation after 2022.

GST, which subsumed indirect taxes like excise duty, service tax and VAT, was rolled



out from July 1, 2017. The five year period for compensation ends in June 2022.

After the 45th GST Council meeting, chaired by the Union Finance Minister and comprising state finance ministers, on September 17, the Centre had said that the regime of paying GST compensation to the states for revenue shortfall will end in June next year.

However, the compensation cess, levied on luxury and demerit goods, will continue to be collected till March 2026, to repay the borrowings that were done in 2020-21, and 2021-22 fiscal years to compensate states for GST revenue loss.

In a reply to a separate question, Sitharaman said Rs 37,134 crore and Rs 14,664 crore worth GST compensation is yet to be released to

states for 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years respectively.

Under the GST law, states are compensated for any loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of GST for five years till June 2022. The compensation amount to be paid from the compensation fund which is arrived at by levying cess on top of the highest tax slab on luxury, demerit and sin goods. GST compensation for financial years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 has already been paid to the states.

Since collections in the compensation fund are falling short of requirement, for 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years the centre has borrowed funds worth Rs 1.10 lakh crore and Rs 1.59 lakh crore respectively and passed it on to the states as back-to-back loans.

Sebi to auction realty firm's properties to recover money

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday said it will auction four properties of Ravi Kiran Realty India Ltd and its promoters on December 16 to recover investors' money.

These properties located in West Bengal will be auctioned at a reserve price totalling Rs 3.22 crore, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a notice.

Inviting bids for the sale of these properties, Sebi said the auction will be conducted through online mode.

The regulator has asked the



intending bidders to make their own independent enquiries regarding the measurement, nature, type, classifications, encumbrances, litigations, attachments and liabilities of the properties put on auction.

CIL to infuse Rs 19K-cr to strengthen rail infra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Coal India Ltd on Tuesday said it will invest an estimated Rs 19,650 crore to strengthen its rail infrastructure.

The move will increase coal evacuation capacity of the PSU through rail mode by an additional 330 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) by FY2023-24 when the production is expected to scale up significantly.

The upcoming projects, some of which are already operational, would help CIL despatch increased volumes of coal through rail, above the existing capacity, from its greenfield and brownfield min-



ing areas, Coal India (CIL) said in a statement.

The coal mining behemoth is constructing three important railway lines from its own

Additionally, the company has forged four rail joint ventures with Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha at a capital outlay of Rs 11,656 crore which would help move 160 MTPA of coal.

Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL), Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) and South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) are subsidiaries of CIL.

"These rail infra projects would boost our evacuation. It is important to have a robust coal transport mechanism in place to cope up with increased volumes of production in the ensuing years. We are laying the groundwork for it," the company said.

Tariff hikes, moratorium on govt dues to help telcos invest more aggressively in 5G tech

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The announced tariff hikes by the telcos could boost their operating profits by at least 40 per cent and coupled with the moratorium on government dues, will help them invest more aggressively into 5G technology, says a report.

Tariff hikes to lift the EBITDA, or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization, of telcos by 40 per cent and along with the moratorium on government dues, this will support 5G investments and credit profiles, Crisil said in a note on Tuesday.

Airtel and Vodafone Idea have announced up to 25 per cent hike in their prepaid plans tariffs to improve financials, while Reliance Jio has



announced up to 21 per cent hike in mobile services tariffs from December 1.

The agency sees an estimated 20 per cent improvement in the Average Revenue Per Unit (ARPU) of the telcos, driven by the twin tailwinds of recent tariff hikes and ongoing customer upgrades, and expects this to lift their oper-

ating profit to Rs 1 lakh crore in fiscal 2023.

Improving bottomline along with the moratorium on government dues will provide telecom companies room to invest an estimated Rs 1.5-1.8 lakh crore for 5G services over the current and next fiscal years, apart from improving their return on capital employed, it

Cargill acquires edible oil refinery in Andhra

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

2021 - To better serve its oil customers in the country, Cargill has acquired an edible oil refinery located in Nellore, State of Andhra Pradesh, India. Cargill's US\$35 million investment to acquire and upgrade the facility will significantly expand its edible oil production capacity and footprint in southern India and strengthen its existing supply chain to meet growing customer demand. The facility is expected to be fully operational by May 2022.

Highlighting the significance of this acquisition, Piyush Patnaik, managing director of Cargill's edible oil business in India, said, "We have driven significant growth

of our edible oils business in India over the last few years. This acquisition propels our expansion, specifically in southern India, and demonstrates our commitment to India and our customers in the country."

The newly acquired refinery gives Cargill the capability to supply refined palm oil, palm olein, vanaspati (hydrogenated vegetable oil) and sunflower oil, which accounts for nearly two-thirds of the country's sunflower oil consumption and is currently being underserved.

This facility also allows Cargill to produce and package its own edible oil brands for retailers and to better serve bakery and foodservice customers in the region.

K RAMYA SREE

You are living your life to the fullest when you do what you love. It's been a childhood dream for 21-year-old Anfal to be a motorcycle racer. Hailing from Thrissur, Kerala, Anfal Akdhar has been practicing on the tracks since 2019. The 21-year-old has weathered the story and is now the youngest racer in the 18 finalists of the Continental GT Cup.

A probable source for what we are passionate about may come from what we were exposed to during our childhood. Many simple things such as sketching, music, collecting action figures or airplane models that we did when we were young evolve to become what we are passionate about when we are adults. True to these words, Anfal was exposed to riding since his childhood days. Cut to present, he is now a passionate rider turning tables.

"I have been passionate about riding motorcycles since childhood. My mentor, my grandfather, taught me to ride a motorcycle. The first motorcycle that I rode was a Hero Honda CD100 when I was 13 years old," says Anfal, adding, "At my first track in 2019, my coach Mohammed Shafin noticed my riding skills and he told me that I can make a great future out of this sport. I was lucky enough to receive special training from him where he didn't only enhance my skills but also motivated me. I think that's the time when I realised that racing is and will always be my calling."

RACING LIKE A PRO



Racing has fundamentally brought a lot of changes to Anfal. He says racing gave him a new perspective in life and boosted his confidence to overcome any situation. "Though motorsports is a risky sport, I've always been very passionate about it. My goal in life is to become one of the most

successful racers in the world. Racing has pushed me to take risks in life and as it rightly said without risk there is no progress. Had I not been a racer, I would have pursued my studies and worked hard for a good future," shares the young rider, who just graduated from Nehru Arts and Science College,

Coimbatore. Anfal, an ardent movie lover, says racing is an expensive sport and it's difficult to handle the expenses. He says he tries to give his best in every race so that he can plan for his next races with the prize money he wins in every competition. Sharing his experience with the Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup and racing the GT-R650, he says, "It was a pretty good experience with the Royal Enfield team and racing on the GT-R650, the team has done an amazing job with the motorcycle as well as they are handling the event very nicely. There is good sync between riders and the Royal Enfield team, wherein they are working in line with riders



requirements, and that personally makes me feel great."

The youngster is quite excited about his first national championship. "2021 is my debut year in racing and it's the first time I'm participating in the Indian National motorcycle racing championship. At present, I have finished 3 rounds and 6 races and I got 2 wins and 3 podiums.

I'm currently leading the championship with god's grace, and I am hoping for the best for the next 2 rounds," concludes Anfal, whose goal is to compete in international championships.



AIDS & Infertility: THERE IS HOPE!

About 80% of people infected with AIDS are of reproductive age. That's quite shocking and it's important to know that HIV/AIDS can cause infertility issues in both men and women. But this need not put an end to the parenthood desires of HIV-infected individuals, as antiretroviral therapy and advanced fertility treatments can bring the joy of children in their lives. Though ethical reasons and the safety of the child remains a high priority in these couples, they need not give up their desire to have a biological child, says Dr Vasundara Jagannathan, clinical head and fertility specialist at Oasis Fertility Centre.

sperm concentration, and sperm count are observed in men who are HIV-positive as per a report by WHO.

HIV-infected men are more likely to have erectile and ejaculatory dysfunction, diminished libido, impotence, oligospermia, teratozoospermia



NCBI). The doctor says advanced fertility treatments can enable HIV couples to achieve parenthood.

"Antiretroviral therapy can help to reduce the viral load in HIV-infected individuals. The risk of transmission in serodiscordant couples (one partner is HIV infected and the other is uninfected) can be reduced by safe sexual practices, self insemination (in the case where in female partner is uninfected), sperm washing, IUI, IVF, or ICSI (in the case where in male partner is infected). PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) is another treatment approach that can prevent the transmission of infection to the female partner. The chances of vertical transmission (transmission from mother to child) are high during vaginal delivery and breastfeeding. This can be mitigated through elective cesarean and avoiding breastfeeding. Pre-conception counseling is very critical for HIV couples to understand the several treatment possibilities, risks, precautions, and possible outcomes before planning for pregnancy," shares Dr Vasundara.

AIDS doesn't necessarily put away your reproductive desires! There is hope.



Smart, effective strategies for robust job search

In this new age the way to look for a job has changed dramatically and age-old methods will not be effective anymore. Today for every job there are an average of over 200 candidates who apply and only 2% of these applicants i.e. just 4 out of the 200 candidates may actually be contacted and interviewed. Getting noticed by recruiters and being called for an interview is getting more and more difficult. To counter this situation the successful job seekers use a combination of job search strategies that range from developing an online brand, ensuring a strong social media presence, targeting companies and creating customised job applications that help them stand out in today's super competitive and network-driven job market. You will need to find out the right combination of strategies that best apply to your situation and your job search. Below are some job search strategies that will surely help you power your job search and be more successful in your search for your next job.

the beginning of your job search you must reflect on what your interests are and what skills you bring to the table. You must then match your strengths, work experience and background to the jobs you are applying for. You must ensure that the jobs you apply are a fit for you rather than applying to any job that "sounds" right. Narrowing your search will actually help you get a better response to your applications.

Target companies and industries that are hiring

Another strategy that gets results for job seekers is when they target specific companies or industries that are actively hiring. It is a fact that

many times companies put up a Job Opening only to build their talent pipeline or meet people to know what candidates are thinking rather than actually hiring them. Figure out which or your target companies are actively hiring and apply for jobs in those companies only to get better responses to your applications.

Customise your applications

Most job seekers end up sending the same application or resume to multiple jobs. This is a sure way to guarantee a rejection from the companies you applied for. If you are serious about getting a job you must customise your application and resume for every job. Sending the same resume or application to multiple job opportunities is a big "NO" and a sure way of getting rejected right at the beginning of your job search.

Leverage your network :

Networking is the most effective and impactful way of

finding a job quickly. Did you know 80% of the jobs by companies are never advertised and these jobs are filled through refer-



ences or through networking. Make a conscious effort to connect with people who are influencers, decision makers and recruiters either online or offline. Build your network and leverage it when looking for a job. This is the most effective job search strategy ever. Remember when it comes to networking your network is equal to your net worth! you never know which contact may be able to help you in your job search or connect you with someone who can actually even offer you a job!

Build a strong online brand to get noticed by employers

In this age having a

strong online presence and brand is critical to your job search. Did you know that 40% of recruiters admit to having actually rejected applicants who do not have an online presence or are not active online.

Absence of an online presence may raise doubts about your "digital" capability or your ability to be adaptable to the new age. So develop, build and guard your online presence and brand to get noticed by employers and recruiters.

Leverage the digital medium to stay ahead of the pack

In this new age where job seekers use a combination of social media and job portals to search for jobs. You must find a way to ensure you are at top of your job search effort.

A simple but effective strategy is to set up google alerts for jobs that are best suited for you. You can also set up news alerts for your target companies to ensure that you are one step ahead of the other job applicants by getting to know when these companies release new jobs or are planning to expand their operations which in turn would mean hiring more people.

It is really a simple strategy but 90% of the job seekers just don't use it at all. So leverage the digital medium and

setup google alerts to get a leg up in your job search!

Prepare for your job interview

Once contacted and called for an interview, a critical job search strategy is to prepare for the job interview. Ensure you research the company, know the job description and deliverables and have a clear idea of how you can contribute in the job. Nothing trumps preparing for a job interview. Preparation is the key to success in getting that dream job and is a must for your job search strategy.

Have a communication plan and follow up effectively

An important part of the job search strategy that every candidates must ensure is build an ability to clearly communicate throughout the job search. Be clear about how and what you will communicate during the different stages of recruitment and ensure you follow up in the right manner as a part of your job search strategy! Candidates who communicate clearly and follow up effectively with companies and recruiters have a 30% better chance of getting the job offer. So ensure you have a clear communication plan and effectively follow up with recruiters to ensure they find you a great candidate to be hired.

So there you are, the above are strategies you can employ to be more successful in your job search use them wisely and I can't wait to hear your success stories! All the best!

(The writer, Swati Hirey, is the founder of Job Boosts & CEO Source Solutions Inc)



what's brewing?



Shilpa Reddy



Aadarsh and Gulnar Virk



Indraneel Gupta and Vishal C



Anushka and Divya



Ashi



Asmita



Harsh



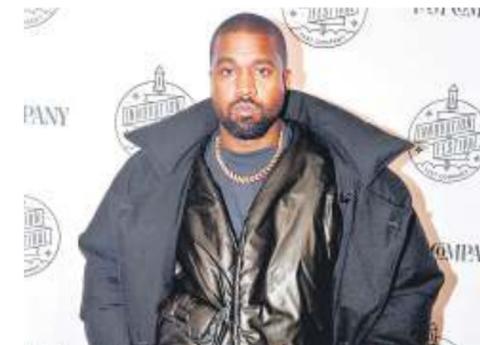
Parat

MIRROR MIRROR

Porti, a personalised fitness device in the form of a 'smart mirror', was launched in Hyderabad. Founders Indraneel Gupta and Vishal Chandapeta, played host to celebs and business stalwarts like Shilpa Reddy, Aadarsh Balakrishna and Gulnar Virk.



Shepreneurs of the city come together for a meeting focusing on branding and networking. Founders of Women Business Cult, Anika Khara and Deepika Maheshwari, also took this opportunity to launch a Pan-India network of women entrepreneurs.



Rapper Kanye West's car breaks auction records

Rapper Kanye West's old car broke records while up for auction in Wyoming. The rapper's motor made history after his 2019 F-150 Raptor sold for \$86,900, including the \$10 buyer premium, which made it the most expensive Raptor ever sold, at a sale at Musser Bros. Auctions that included a total of seven vehicles previously owned by the 44-year-old star.

Harold Musser, the owner of the auction house, told TMZ the sale generated a staggering \$434,780, and attracted 137,000 views and more than 800 bids, making it their biggest ever auction.

As well as the record-breaking Raptor, a 2017 Ford F-250 sold for \$43,250, while the lowest amount was paid for a 2016 Ford F-250, which attracted 84 bids before going for \$39,250.

Another 2019 Raptor, which had a slightly higher mileage, went for \$72,515, while a 2018 raptor sold for exactly \$1,000 less. Two 2020 Ford Expeditions went for \$62,250 and \$67,000 to complete the sale.

The cars were previously sold by the 21-time Grammy Award winner to the local Ford dealership in Cody, the city where West, who has officially changed his name to Ye, has a ranch, which is currently on the market for \$11 million — who then put them up for auction.

Along with the ranch, the 'Gold Digger' rapper also has listed his \$57 million Malibu mansion for sale. This comes after he and his wife Kim Kardashian West separated earlier this year.

Despite splitting from his wife, West has vowed to win back the reality star, who has recently been romantically linked with Pete Davidson.

PARTY

Photos by SV Chary

FUN

ARCHIE



GARFIELD



NANCY



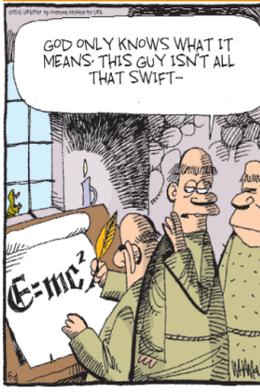
GINGER MEGGS



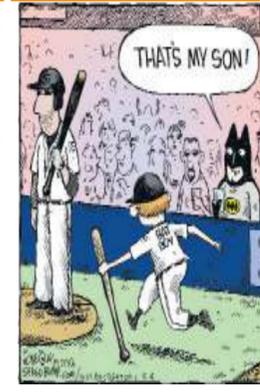
CALVIN AND HOBBS



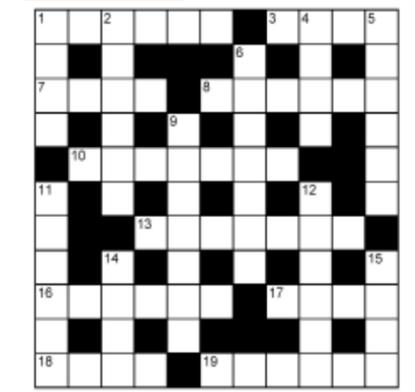
REALITY CHECK



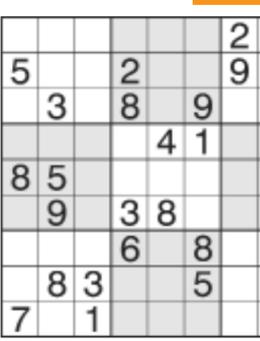
SPEED BUMP



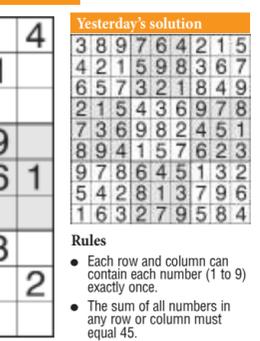
CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

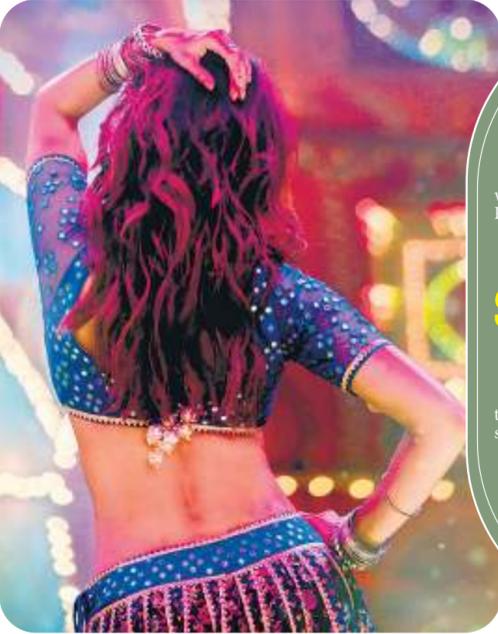
- Baking instructions
- Factual
- Play this with two sticks
- Rub to a shine
- Young hen
- Fake document
- Extra-intelligent person
- Finished
- Playthings
- Almost

DOWN

- Travel by horse
- Captured
- Water from the sky
- Breathe out
- From another country
- A sea creature with many arms
- Aeroplane trip
- Motorist
- Jealousy
- Large group of soldiers

SOLUTION

S	T	A	R	B	O	A	R	D
S	W	E	A	T	Y	O	H	T
T	E	S	T	E	S	C	A	N
R	E	S	T	S	T	I	D	O
R	E	N	E	N	C	E	R	T
T	I	C	K	E	N	B	L	O
C	E	P	T	E	R	E	N	
H	A	L	E	S	P	L	A	S
F	O	R	T	U	N	A	T	E



The makers of *Pushpa*, on Monday, teased fans with Samantha's partial look from the sets of the special song she is performing for the film. This song will be Samantha's first ever dance number. The makers tweeted: "A Rocking Number with Icon Star Allu Arjun and Samantha Ruth Prabhu being shot in a gigantic set, Get ready

Gigantic set for Sam's special song in *Pushpa*

to witness the 'Sizzling Song of The Year' soon."

In the poster, Samantha is dressed in blue skirt. The special song is being choreographed by Ganesh Acharya and it is touted to be a fast-paced song.

Helmed by Sukumar, *Pushpa: The Rise*, based on real-life incidents, will release in theatres on December 17.



K RAMYA SREE

Satyadev was sold by *Skylab* director's clarity of thought

I am generally a very funny guy. But my face and body structure made me take up intense roles all this while." This is what Satyadev had to say in a one-liner on why he chose *Skylab*, a comedy-based, at a time when he is being regarded as an intense performer.

Skylab is all set to hit the screens on December 4. A film directed by debutant Vishvak Khanderao and produced by Prithvi and Nithya Menon. The comedy film is a period drama set in the backdrop of Bandilingampally village in Karimnagar of Telangana state.

For the first time, Satyadev will be seen in a full-time comedy film, and the actor is all happy playing Dr Anand in *Skylab*, "a humorous, fun-filled and quirky-author-backed role".

"Whenever I played an intense character, my family and friends wondered why I was doing it, as they know how funny I am in real life," says Satyadev.

About the film, the actor shares, "*Skylab* has situational comedy. This is a beautiful comedy film about the incidents that happen between the hero of the film and some villagers and the *Skylab*. The film is set in the backdrop of 1970s. Apart from fun, this film will talk about seriousness in life with a philosophical touch. This film caters to all classes."

Set in Karimnagar during 1970's means the film also has authentic language Telangana dialect, that the actors need to follow. How did Satyadev, a native of Vizag, cope up with the dialect? He answers, "I didn't find it difficult as I knew bits of pieces of Telangana slang. I didn't struggle to pull off the funny sequences either because Anand's role itself is funny. Moreover, since we performed with the sync sound shooting live on the locations; which needs no dubbing, I was even more relieved about maintaining the authentic Telangana slang in the film."

Skylab also stars Nithya Menon as a journalist named Gowri, but there is no love track in this film. In fact, the actor shares he did no scene with Nithya Menon in the film, while they only interacted with each other off-screen.

Meanwhile, when asked the actor what made him choose a comedy

film, Satyadev credits his director's clarity of thoughts. "Vivek Athreya told me to listen to the story. Director Vishvak Khanderao came to me with a suitcase to narrate the story. He had prepared a lot of data and information before explaining the script with many newspaper clippings and more. The storyboarding was done meticulously. He was crystal clear about the subject. I loved the clarity of thought in Vishvak. I was sold by it," says Satyadev, adding, "During the pandemic, I asked Vishvak if we should do a simple film. But the director was determined to make *Skylab* first. He wanted to deliver the project before he does something else."

The actor is very confident about the film's success because no one has done a film on *Skylab* so far, a real-life incident.

For this film, the actor had to shave off his beard and hair which otherwise he would never do. "I

want to do different genres. I am also doing a love story, a political thriller, and many more in the pipeline. I am happy I am able to do something different with every project. My role in *Godfather* too will be different about which I cannot talk now," shares an elated Satyadev, who is happy to have two theatrical releases during Covid times, one of which was a big success already.



After making her debut opposite Hrithik Roshan in Ashutosh Gowariker's *Mohenjo-Daro*,

Pooja Hegde took the pan-India approach and worked in various regional film industries.

The actress always wanted to be recognised as an Indian actor rather than an actor limited to just one particular industry.

Talking about being a part of different film industries across India, Pooja said, "God has been really kind to have given me the opportunity to showcase my talent in different film industries and be given so much love by the audience. I always wanted to be known as an Indian actor and not let the barrier of language restrict my work. The idea is to do good work, work hard and prove your credibility."

Revealing as to how she progresses from one project to another, the actress said, "The big question that an actor always has

Pooja Hegde:
The idea is to do good work, prove your credibility

to face is 'what next?'. One has to go by their instinct, give their 100 per cent and leave the rest up to the Almighty. I have been doing that ever since I started my acting career."

She also praised Ahan Shetty for she feels he is a promising talent, she said, "Ahan's debut is certainly one of the most significant and talked-about ones in Bollywood over the last few years. With his tall demeanour, rich baritone and machismo, Ahan looks like a perfect

hero on the big screen and has an arresting screen presence."

"Ahan's raw and intense avatar in *Tadap* is being appreciated a lot and I'm sure Ahan will not just prove his mettle as an actor, but also win audiences' hearts. Ahan has a promising bright future and he will go a long, long way," she added.

Pooja will soon be seen in Bollywood with *Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali* and *Cirkus*, the multi-lingual *Radheshyam* and Kollywood film *Beast*.

Raashi looks like an angel in *Pakka Commercial* teaser

Raashi Khanna who has her hands full for next two years is currently busy shooting for *Pakka Commercial*, starring Gopichand. The film, directed by Maruthi and produced by UV Creations and GA2 Pictures,

also has Sathyaraj, Rao Ramesh and Anasuya Bharadwaj in crucial roles. On Monday, the actress celebrated her birthday. The makers of *Pakka Commercial* took to twitter to share a teaser where the actress looks like an angel.

The actress

seems to play a pakka commercial role in this film, while Gopichand will be seen as a lawyer in this Maruthi's magnum opus.

The shooting of the film went on floors in the first week of March has Jakes Bejoy as the music composer.



Lavanya signs action-comedy film

Lavanya Tripathi, who was last seen in *Chavi Kaburu Challaga*, has signed an action and comedy film, directed by *Mattu Vadalaru* fame Ritesh Rana. According to the latest update, the yet-to-be titled film was officially launched on Monday with a puja. The first shot was directed by Koratala Siva.

Nareesh Agastya, Vennela Kishore, Satya, and Gundu Sudarshan will be playing important roles in the film. Kala Bhairava is rendering

the tunes and Suresh Sarangam is handling the cinematography. The movie will be bankrolled by Clap entertainment in association with Mythri Movie Makers.

Speaking on the occasion, Lavanya Tripathi said, "I have been working on my comic quotient, and timing, apart from body language for my role. It has been a great experience and I am looking forward to start the shoot." The actress will be undergoing a makeover looks-wise too.



Balayya's talk show sets new OTT record

Telugu star Nandamuri Balakrishna's maiden celebrity talk show on Aha has set a record as *Unstoppable With NBK* has clocked over 4 million video plays on the OTT platform.

An official statement from Aha Video said Balakrishna's talk show *Unstoppable With NBK* has seen over 4 million video plays.

As per the reports, this number is said to be the highest tally for any talk show in the Telugu OTT space. The curtain riser episode of the talk show had Manchu Mohan Babu as the guest, who was accompanied by Manchu Vishnu Vardhan Babu and Manchu Lakshmi Prasanna.

Nani had appeared to chat with Balakrishna on the second episode. Both episodes struck a chord with the OTT audience.

Messeven

Argentine legend wins his record extending 7th Ballon d'Or award

AP ■ PARIS

Lionel Messi admitted winning the Copa America with Argentina might have been the determining factor in him claiming the men's Ballon d'Or prize for the seventh time after a turbulent year, as Spain's Alexia Putellas took the women's award.

Now 34, Messi pipped much-fancied rivals like Robert Lewandowski and Karim Benzema to take the award in a glittering ceremony on Monday in Paris, the city he now calls home after leaving boyhood club Barcelona for Paris Saint-Germain in August.

Despite his tearful goodbye from Barcelona and his relatively underwhelming start to life in France, the jury of journalists from around the world rewarded him in particular for captaining Argentina to their first major international title since 1993.

"Two years ago I thought I was coming into my final years but here I am again back here," said Messi, who won the last edition of the Ballon d'Or in 2019 before last year's awards were cancelled due to the pandemic.

Messi also won in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and in 2015.

"People were starting to ask me when I was going to retire but now I am here in Paris and I am very happy," he said at the Chatelet Theatre in central Paris, where he was joined by his wife Antonella Rocuzzo and their three children.

"I don't know how many more years I have left but I hope there will be many because I am really enjoying myself this year.

"What I achieved with Argentina was a dream come true. I think I won this trophy thanks to what we did at the Copa America, so I dedicate it to my teammates."

Argentina beat Brazil 1-0 in the final in Rio de Janeiro as Messi won a major title with his country for the first time. He also scored 38 goals in 48 games in his final season with Barcelona and won the Copa del Rey.

Lewandowski second

However Messi has played just 11 times and scored four goals for PSG since joining the French club and there was a feeling that this year might see a different winner.

Poland striker Lewandowski would have been a shoe-in in 2020, when he scored 45 goals in 37 games for Bayern, only for the awards to be cancelled.

He ended last season with a remarkable 41 Bundesliga goals but had to settle for second place in the voting for the

KEY NUMBERS

53 Robert Lewandowski has scored 53 goals across all comps for FC Bayern in 2021; the most among all players in the big five European leagues. Lewandowski has averaged a goal every 67 minutes in this period, which is 42 minutes fewer than Lionel Messi (109).

7 Lionel Messi, now seven-times winner of the Ballon d'Or, was involved in nine goals for Argentina in the Copa América 2021 (four goals + five assists), the most of any player in the tournament.

41 Alexia Putellas has been directly involved in 41 goals in the Primera Iberdrola in 2021 (22 goals and 19 assists), more than any other player in the competition.

Ballon d'Or, which is organised by France Football magazine and voted for by a panel of journalists from around the world.

Lewandowski instead was given a consolation prize for the year's best goal-scorer and received glowing praise from Messi.

"I wanted to say to Robert that it was an honour to go up against him. He deserved to win it last year," Messi said.

Midfielder Jorginho, who won the Champions League with Chelsea and Euro 2020 with Italy, came third, followed by Real Madrid's Karim Benzema and another Chelsea player, N'Golo Kante.

Five-time winner Cristiano Ronaldo came sixth. He was absent from the ceremony.

Between them, Messi and Ronaldo have won 12 of the last 13 editions of

the Ballon d'Or with the exception coming in 2018 when Luka Modric claimed the prize.

Putellas succeeds Rapinoe
This is just the third year that a



PSG's Gianluigi Donnarumma poses for photo after winning Yashin Ballon d'Or Trophy as best goalkeeper



Barcelona player Alexia Putellas, left, holds the Women's Ballon d'Or trophy; Pedri holds 2021 Kopa Ballon d'Or for best young player



Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski holds the 2021 Ballon d'Or trophy for striker of the year

women's Ballon d'Or has been awarded, with Putellas following in the footsteps of Norway's Ada Hegerberg, winner in 2018, and the United States' 2019 World Cup superstar Megan Rapinoe.

Spain international Putellas, 27, captained Barcelona to victory in this year's Champions

League, scoring a penalty in the final as her side hammered Chelsea 4-0.

She also won a Spanish league and cup double with Barca, the club she joined as a teenager in 2012 and who are fast becoming the dominant force in the women's game.

Her Barcelona and Spain teammate Jennifer Hermoso was second, with Sam Kerr of Chelsea and Australia coming in third.

TOP 10 MEN'S PLAYERS (2021)			
Rank	Player	Team(s)	Points
1	Lionel Messi	Argentina, Barcelona, PSG	613
2	Robert Lewandowski	Poland, Bayern Munich	580
3	Jorginho	Italy, Chelsea	460
4	Karim Benzema	France, Real Madrid	239
5	N'Golo Kanté	France, Chelsea	186
6	Cristiano Ronaldo	Portugal, Juventus, Man Utd	178
7	Mohamed Salah	Égypt, Liverpool	121
8	Kevin De Bruyne	Belgium, Man City	73
9	Kylian Mbappé	France, Paris-SG	58
10	Gianluigi Donnarumma	Italy, AC Milan, PSG	36

ALL-TIME BALLON D'OR LEADERBOARD			
Player	Winner	2nd place	3rd place
Lionel Messi	7 (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021)	5 (2008, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017)	1 (2007)
Cristiano Ronaldo	5 (2008, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017)	6 (2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2018)	1 (2019)
Michel Platini	3 (1983, 1984, 1985)	—	2 (1977, 1980)
Johan Cruyff	3 (1971, 1973, 1974)	—	1 (1975)
Marco van Basten	3 (1988, 1989, 1992)	—	—
Franz Beckenbauer	2 (1972, 1976)	2 (1974, 1975)	1 (1966)
Ronaldo	2 (1997, 2002)	1 (1996)	1 (1998)
Alfredo Di Stéfano	2 (1957, 1959)	1 (1956)	—

We did it together bro: Ravindra to Patel

PTI ■ KANPUR

New Zealand's Indian-origin spinner Rachin Ravindra, who played a pivotal role in helping his side draw the first Test against India, said he was quite nervous about how the game would pan out as far as his bowling was concerned.

The 22-year-old Ravindra, in the company of Indian-born Ajaz Patel (2 off 23 balls), held a 91-ball vigil that yielded 18 runs for him to save the match for his side which was nine down in pursuit of 284 on the final day here.

Patel, who was born in Mumbai, played for the first time in the country of his birth. He also picked up three wickets in the game even though Ravindra went wicket-less.

The 33-year-old Patel interviewed Ravindra for the New Zealand cricket team's official Twitter handle and recalled his own Test debut.

"I remember my my first Test match, I was really nervous, and my hands were shaking when I first got the ball. How was it for you?" Patel asked.



Ravindra candidly admitted to having nerves of his own.

"I felt a bit nervous bowling wise. We were about four down in first innings when I was next, so definitely felt a few butterflies (that time), but I think after a few balls, I did what I do. Luckily it ended up okay," said Wellington-based player.

Ravindra has already a lot of attention for his Indian roots and his first name which is inspired by Indian greats Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. The youngster said he enjoyed playing in front of Indian fans.

"Being able to play in India in front of crazy fans. Glad to have done that. My mum and

dad have been such big influences on my career. I am sure that they are proud," said Ravindra.

"We did it together bro," he said, sharing a smile with Patel.

Later, in another video posted by New Zealand Cricket, Ravindra said the partnership with Patel was unforgettable.

"I think I was actually alright in the end, I knew my process, my training, and I backed myself to do it. You are kind of pretty focussed, taking in the crowd, you know, how loud they were... It was quite nerve-wracking. I guess we (he and Patel) somehow managed our nerves together.

West Indies 69-1 after dismissing Sri Lanka for 204 on Day 2

AP ■ GALLE

West Indies made a steady start in reaching 69-1 after bowling out Sri Lanka for 204 before rain forced an early end to day two of the second cricket test on Tuesday.

Left-arm spinners Veerasammy Permaul and Jomel Warrican combined for nine Sri Lanka wickets with career-best performances.

When play was called, West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite was on 22 and Nkrumah Bonner on 1. The tourists trailed Sri Lanka by 135 runs with nine wickets in hand.

Permaul, in his first test in more than five years, snared 5-35 to register his first five-wicket haul.

Warrican took 4-50, also a career best.

The pair ensured they reversed a good Sri Lanka start which featured a 106-run opening partnership. The last nine wickets went for 98 runs.

Sri Lanka resumed on 113-1, and Pathum Nissanka and Oshada Fernando added 26 more runs to the total before Permaul struck in the seventh over of the day. Fernando tried to play a cut shot close to his body and was caught behind by Joshua da Silva for 18.

Permaul took two wickets in one over, trapping Nissanka lbw for 73 to end an innings that lasted 148 deliveries and contained a six and five boundaries. Two deliveries later, he had Dhananjaya de Silva caught behind on 2.

Charith Asalanka, playing his first test, scored 10 before becoming Permaul's next wicket, caught by Bonner.

Pakistan beats Bangladesh by 8 wickets in 1st cricket test

AP ■ CHATTOGRAM



struck.

Shafique followed his first-innings half-century to reach 73 before Mehidy (1-59) trapped him lbw.

Seven overs later, left-arm spinner Taijul Islam (1-89) had Abid out lbw, baffling him with a sharp turn to make Pakistan 171-2.

Azhar Ali then combined with captain Babar Azam to complete the inevitable, hitting consecutive boundaries off Mehidy to finish off the game. Azhar was unbeaten on 24 and Azam was not out on 13.

Liton Das' maiden test century helped Bangladesh post 330 in its first innings, then Taijul Islam claimed 7-116 to bowl out Pakistan for 286 — giving the hosts a 44-run first innings lead.

South Africa tour on as of now: BCCI treasurer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

BCCI treasurer Arun Dhimal on Tuesday said India's tour of South Africa remains on schedule provided the situation doesn't aggravate in the rainbow nation after a new COVID-19 variant was detected there.

India play the final Test against New Zealand in Mumbai and are scheduled to depart to Johannesburg from there on December 8 or 9 on a chartered flight. Dhimal expressed confidence the bio-bubble environment created by South Africa will keep the players safe. The first Test will be played in Johannesburg from December 17. "We stand with them (as they deal with this threat), the only thing is we won't compromise on players' safety. As of now we have a chartered flight going to Johannesburg as scheduled and players will be in a bio bubble," Dhimal told PTI.

On the possible change of venues within South Africa to deal with the threat, Dhimal said: "We are in constant touch with the Cricket South Africa (CSA) officials.

"Whatever best we can do to not compromise the series we will try and do but if situation aggravates and if it compromises our players' safety and health, we will see.

"In the end, whatever is the Government of India advisory, we will abide by that," Dhimal told PTI. Countries around the world have already pressed the panic button and imposed travel bans from South Africa but India has not done that. However, South Africa is among the "at risk" countries as per the revised guidelines of the Indian Government.

Sindhu leads India's campaign at World Tour Finals

PTI ■ BALI

PV Sindhu will look to ensure that her consistent run yields a title, while all eyes will also be on the fast-rising Lakshya Sen and the men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty as they make their debut at the BWF World Tour Finals beginning here on Wednesday.

It will be the best ever representation for India at the year-end tournament with as many as seven of them qualifying for the



USD 1,50,000 event.

Save for mixed doubles, the Indians compete in all other categories with Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, who made the cut after the completion of the Indonesia Open last week, set to represent the country in the women's doubles event.

The only Indian to win the prestigious title in 2018, reigning world champion Sindhu was a finalist at the event the year before and she will look for another good outing when she opens her campaign against

top seed Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand in group A.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medalist, has been consistent with three semifinal finishes in the last three events and is likely to make it to the knockout stage.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad is expected to finish among the top two in the group as she has a good record against the other two opponents -- Denmark's Line Christophersen and Germany's Yvonne Li. Srikanth, only the fourth player ever to

win four Super Series titles in a year, has looked in good touch in the last few events with semifinal finishes at Indonesia Masters and Hylo Open.

The former world No.1 had reached the knockout stage of the year-ending event in 2014 and he will look to relive those moments when he begins his campaign against Malaysia's second seed Lee Zii Jia in group B which also comprises France's Toma Junior Popov and Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.