

ANALYSIS 7
VILLAGE SECRETARIATS OF
AP: DOORSTEP WELFAREMONEY 8
GDP LIKELY TO GROW
MORE THAN 9.5% IN '22: REPORTSPORTS 12
PV SINDHU GETS FIRST ROUND
BYE IN WORLD C'SHIPS

HYDERABAD, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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SEERAT KAPOOR
GROOVES TO
BADSHAH'S
PARTY ANTHEM

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BILL CANCELLING 3 FARM LAWS GETS
PRESIDENTIAL SIGN-OFF

President Ram Nath Kovind has signed a bill to cancel three controversial farm laws, against which farmers - especially from Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh - have been protesting for a year. The bill to cancel the three farm laws was passed in record time in both houses of parliament on the first day of the winter session on Monday. The farm laws repeal bill was passed in Lok Sabha within four minutes amid opposition demands for a discussion. In Rajya Sabha, it was passed after a short discussion.

'WHAT IS UPA? THERE IS NO UPA':
BENGAL CM MAMATA BANERJEE

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee -- seen as making a beeline for the political space occupied by the Congress -- today indicated that she is visualising a fresh opposition line-up for the next general elections. And this, she made clear, is being done because the Congress is not fighting against 'the ongoing fascism'. "What is UPA? There is no UPA," Banerjee declared after her meeting with Nationalist Congress chief Sharad Pawar in Mumbai this afternoon. Mr Pawar, who was a key interlocutor of the opposition ahead of the 2019 contest, spelled it out: "Template for 2024".

6 PASSENGERS FROM 'AT-RISK' COUNTRIES
TESTED COVID POSITIVE: MAHARASHTRA

Six international passengers arriving from 'at risk' countries - which include those that have confirmed cases of the highly transmissible Omicron strain - have tested Covid positive, the Maharashtra Health Department said Wednesday morning. All six are either asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic and their samples have been sent for genome sequencing, the Health Department said. Contact tracing for all six passengers is underway. Three of the six have been traced to the Mumbai, Kalyan-Dombivli and Meera-Bhayandar areas, with the fourth traced to Pune. Two others - arrivals from Nigeria - have been traced to Pimpri-Chinchwad.

INDIA'S NOVEMBER COVID COUNT
LOWEST SINCE MAY, 2020

With over 3.1 lakh fresh coronavirus cases, November saw the lowest number of people contracting the viral disease in the country since May last year. The monthly tally of fresh Covid cases registered a decline for the sixth time in a row in November. The number of daily cases peaked on May 6, when the country registered 4,14,188 Covid cases in a span of 24 hours. On Wednesday, the number of active cases of the infection was recorded below one lakh in the country after 547 days. The daily rise in the number of new coronavirus cases has been below 20,000 for 54 straight days and less than 50,000 daily new cases have been reported for 156 consecutive days now.

Nothing to worry about
Omicron: Cabinet panelNAVEENA GHANATE
HYDERABAD

The State Cabinet Sub-Committee formed to contain the spread of Coronavirus has directed all the District Collectors to take special action to ensure that the target of administering two doses of Covid vaccine is achieved 100 per cent by the end of December.

The collectors have been asked to coordinate with various departments, including Panchayat, Municipal, Education and Health, to reach the target.

On Wednesday, Health Minister Harish Rao chaired a meeting, along with Minister K T Rama Rao and Sabita Indra Reddy, wherein District Collectors, District Medical and Health Officers and other departmental officials were briefed on steps to be taken for control of Omicron variant along with Covid vaccination. The Ministers appealed to peo-



Health Minister Harish Rao chaired a meeting, along with Minister KT Rama Rao and Sabita Indra Reddy, on Wednesday to brief officials on the steps to be taken for control of Omicron.

ple not to worry about the Omicron variant now. They asked people to take care by following Covid norms scrupulously.

Speaking on the occasion, the Ministers said that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had comprehensively discussed the Omicron

variant and vaccination district-wise at a recent Cabinet meeting. In addition to the vaccine, the only way to prevent Omicron was for people to wear the correct mask and adhere to Covid protocol.

DGP visits
border areas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Director General of Police Mahendar Reddy visited some of the areas bordering Odisha state on Wednesday in connection with the ongoing multi-state operations to curb left wing extremism.

Over the past four days, Telangana, Odisha and Chhattisgarh police forces have been combing the forests for getting Maoists.

Four days back, they arrested three Maoists of Chhattisgarh and found posters of the People's Liberation Guerilla Army's (PLGA) anniversary celebrations. The police then started combing the forests.

DGP Mahendar Reddy went there in connection with these developments.

He said that the Telangana police had controlled Maoists successfully.

Recently, in Chhattisgarh Maoists damaged railway tracks.

Centre claims its paddy policy is clear

No confusion among states on procurement across the country

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Seeking to clarify its position on paddy procurement in the view of the Centre-state row, the Union government said on Wednesday: "There is no confusion among States regarding rice procurement policy of the Government of India. The interests of farmers are always protected by the Government of India as outreach and volume of procurement has been increasing over years, thereby percolating the benefit of MSP to large number of farmers".

The pace of procurement had been increasing continuously in comparison to the pace of production, indicating increased outreach of Minimum Support Price operations to farmers.

The Centre told Members of Parliament that the target for Rabi crop was decided before the onset

AP, Odisha & Chhattisgarh too asked
Center to take parboiled rice

Part from Telangana, the Union Government has received representations from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh to procure boiled rice. Over the last couple of years, Telangana has sent at least eight representations to the Center over the issue of parboiled rice procurement, as per a reply given in the Lok Sabha. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister wrote to the Center in April 2021 about procuring parboiled rice. In the letter dated 26-04-2021, AP urged the Center to accept boiled rice through FCI in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh during Rabi 2020-21. The Center, responding to AP on May27, 2021, agreed for delivery of 4 LMT of the surplus CMR (custom milled rice) in the form of parboiled rice to FCI against Rabi crop of KMS 2020-21 and remaining surplus CMR in the form of raw rice.



of the season. The Center said: "Increase or decrease of procurement estimate is decided on the basis of estimated production, marketable surplus and agricultural crop pattern".

The Center acknowledged that

Telangana CM had a written letter to the Prime Minister to enhance rice procurement target beyond 40 lakh tonnes during the ongoing Kharif season to 90 lakh tonnes from Telangana as had been done in the case of Punjab.

No provisions for
more KVKs, JNVs
in TS: Centre

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The creation of additional districts in Telangana State has not really helped in getting more Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas or Krishi Vigyan Kendras for the state.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has been making a strong pitch for additional Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in TS.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday said that the actual sanction and opening of new JNVs depended on the availability of funds and approval by the competent authority.

Responding to a question raised by K.R. Suresh Reddy, Pradhan said: "Opening of new JNVs is a continuous process, which depends on the willingness of the concerned State Government/UT administration to make available requisite suitable land free of cost for construction of the permanent building and making available required temporary building, free of rent, to run the Vidyalaya till the permanent building is constructed".

The Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages opening of one Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in each district of the State. All the districts (as on 31st May, 2014) of the States/UTs, which have accepted the scheme, have been covered under this scheme.

TSRTC justifies 'inevitable' hike in ticket prices

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has submitted a proposal to the state government for increase in bus fares.

TSRTC has proposed a hike of 25 paise/km for ordinary and Palle velugu and 30 paise/km for other services.

Ahead of finalizing its proposal for fare hike, the management of the corporation conducted a survey and found that barring just 4%, most of those surveyed felt that

'Most people not bothered about increase in fares'



V.C. Sajjanar, VC & MD TSRTC, addressing media persons on Wednesday in the presence of Transport Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar, TSRTC Chairman Bajireddy Govardhan and officials.

hike in fares". Just 4.3% of the people surveyed had concerns about

the imminent hike. The rest could understand the problem of the corporation.

RTC needs 6.80 lakh litres of diesel every day to run its fleet. Diesel prices have gone up by 27.5% since the last fare hike in December 2019. Moreover, 95% of the revenues of TSRTC come only from sale of tickets. So, the corporation has submitted to the state government a proposal for fare hike, the corporation authorities reasoned.

Govt puts off resumption
of international flights

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday decided not to resume scheduled international flights from December 15, less than a week after announcing the decision in the wake of rising concerns over the COVID variant Omicron.

Aviation watchdog DGCA said the effective date for resumption of scheduled commercial international passenger services will be

notified in due course. Scheduled international flights remain suspended since March 23, 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The latest move also comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 27 asked officials to review the plans for easing international travel restrictions amid concerns over Omicron.

TS spending over
Rs 50 crore
annually on AIDS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Health Minister Harish Rao said on Wednesday that the state government was spending over Rs 50 crore per annum on AIDS control, treatment and awareness drives. Harish Rao participated in a programme organized on the occasion of World AIDS Day at Erragadda Chest Hospital.

December 1 is observed as AIDS Day to create awareness among people.

The Minister said awareness drives had helped in bringing down deaths due to AIDS and urged people not to discriminate AIDS victims. The prevalence of AIDS in the state had come down, he said.

Omicron scare
puts off
Sunday-Funday

P:3

Did cops help Sridhar Rao vanish?

Cash award strangely announced by Sanathnagar PS raises questions

G RAVI KIRAN
HYDERABAD

Even as realtor Sridhar Rao, against whom cases have been booked in six police stations, has been absconding after getting bail, the TS Police authorities have complicated matters with one of the police stations announcing a cash reward for information leading to his arrest and a DCP going on

record "it is not correct procedure".

The public notice given by the Sanathnagar Police on the cash reward (amount not specified) has led to hushed discussions in Cyberabad Police Circles. For, there are cases against Sridhar in six police stations.



Although many of them are in Madhapur circle, the proclamation was given by the Sanathnagar PS. Primarily it raises a question: Have the police accepted that they are unable to catch the absconding Sridhar Rao?

DIFFERENT STROKES

Can anti-BJP KCR and anti-Cong Jagan get along well?

SNCN ACHARYULU
HYDERABAD

Differing perspectives of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on the churn in national politics may strike a discordant note in their mutual ties. It could even lead to a widening of the perceived gap between the Chief Ministers of the Telugu states on inter-state issues.

The sudden change in KCR's attitude towards BJP may affect the

relations between the Telugu states. Until recently the Telugu Chief Ministers had tried their best to maintain cordial relations with the Union government as well as the BJP's top guns Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, though they were fighting with BJP at the state level. But now KCR has become a bitter enemy to BJP at the national level also. As for Jagan, the Congress has been a bitter enemy from the beginning.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Kartik & Krishna Paksha

Tithi : Trayodashi 20:26

Nakshatram : Swati 16:27

Rahukalam : 1:28 pm - 2:51 pm

Yamagandam : 6:34 am - 7:57 am

Varjyam : 9:25 pm - 10:50 pm

Gulika : 9:20 am - 10:42 am

Amritakalam : 8:30 am - 9:57 am

Abhijit Muhurtham : 11:43 am - 12:27 pm

HYDERABAD
WEATHER

Forecast: PARTLY CLOUDY

Temp: 27 °C

Humidity: 68%

Sunrise: 06:30 AM

Sunset: 05:40 PM

Updated DECEMBER 01, 2021 5:00 PM

No provisions...

Continued from page 1

Similarly, in out of 31 districts in Telangana State, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have been established in 16 districts and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that presently there was no provision for opening more KVKs in Telangana State. He said that so far 727 KVKs had been established and there was a provision of establishing 18 more KVKs in the country.

KVKs are playing a proactive role in transferring new technology at the field level with beneficial impacts.

NDA is No Data Available...

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The Ministry's shocking reply was that it had no record on the matter and hence the question of providing financial assistance did not arise.

Hyd man becomes first dwarf to get driving licence in India

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Tyron Lannister once said, "I am guilty of a far more monstrous crime, I am guilty of being a dwarf!" It must be noted that a dwarf may be small by size by not by their strength, proves Gattipally Shivalal, the first dwarf in the country to obtain a driving licence.

The 42-year-old, Shivalal, a resident of Kukatapally who is only three feet tall, felt the need to be self-independent as he was unable to bear the consequences of having to travel in public transport.

Shivalal depended on public transport to commute as he was unable to drive. He used public transport and cabs, where people would pass nasty comments on his height, which made him uncomfortable and



pushed him to learn to drive a vehicle.

His intentions to learn driving became stronger when he

came across a video of a dwarf man driving a car, in the United States (US).

Shivalal travelled all the way

to the US to understand its mechanics.

Convinced that driving was possible for him, Shivalal returned to the city and contacted a man who custom-made cars in Hyderabad.

Shivalal now teaches his wife to drive a car and plans to open a special driving school in the city to help more dwarf people become independent. His automatic vehicle, without gears, has been approved by the government of Telangana.

Shivalal who holds a record in the Telugu Book of Records, Limca Book of records had a special request to the state government.

"I would like to request the state government to lend some support so that many can like me can learn to drive and become independent," Shivalal said.

Nothing to worry about Omicron: Cabinet panel

Continued from page 1

The Ministers said that Telangana was ahead of many other states in the country in the vaccination process. The State Panchayati Raj said that vaccination was being carried out expeditiously with the full cooperation of the municipal departments. He directed the district collectors to prepare an action plan by habitations, wards, sub-centers, municipalities and zones to achieve 100 per cent vaccination targets by December in coordination with government departments.

Minister KT Rama Rao directed the district collectors to work out a plan and execute the vaccination process to completion in a mission mode. State Medical Health Minister T. Harish Rao said that the government was taking special care to develop facilities at the field level in the Medical and Health Department.

As part of this, the District Collectors were directed to allocate suitable facilities and land for the upgrading of area hospitals, radiology labs, pathology labs, RT-PCR cen-

ters, construction of new medical college buildings and setting up of extra beds in allied hospitals on a war-footing. It was suggested that these matters be discussed immediately with the authorities concerned.

District Collectors have been advised to be vigilant against false propaganda on social media. Officials were directed to ensure that the confusion among people with rumors coming on Coronavirus be cleared and proper information and suggestions given to people from time to time.

The Cabinet sub-committee said information should be provided to the public on the hospital beds available in the districts, along with the picture at the state level.

Medical and health officials have been directed to reactivate the command and control center, which was set up at the state level earlier to provide proper information and guidance to people, and operate on a 24/7 basis.

On the occasion, State Education Minister Sabita Indra Reddy said that all precautions were being taken for the prevention of Covid in

schools, colleges and hostels. Authorities had been advised to set up vaccination camps in educational institutions where necessary and achieve 100 per cent of the targets. She said 90 per cent of vaccinations were done with regard to teaching and non-teaching staff working in schools.

Minister of State for Excise and Tourism V. Srinivas Goud(from Mahabubnagar) Somesh Kumar, Chief Secretary to Government, Arvind Kumar, Special Principal Secretary, Municipal Department, Panchayati Raj, Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Secretary, Rural Development, Rizvi, Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Naveen Mittal, Secretary, Department of Education, Satyanarayana, Commissioner / Director, Municipal Department, GHMC Commissioner Lokesh Kumar, Inter Board Secretary Omar Jaleel, Panchayati Raj Commissioner A. Sarath, Director of Public Health Dr. G. Srinivas Rao, DME Dr. Ramesh Reddy, C.M. OSD Dr. Gangadhar and other officials participated in the video conference.

Centre claims its paddy policy is clear

Continued from page 1

Minister of State for Agriculture Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti replied: "The target set for paddy (in terms of rice) procurement by the Government of India for central pool during 2021-22 (Kharif Crop) is 521.89 LMT. Target for Rabi crop is decided before the onset of Rabi season".

In a written reply, MoS said that during Rabi season of KMS 2020-21, a record 61.87 LMT of rice had been procured by the Telangana State Government/its agencies against the target of 55.00 LMT of rice fixed in consultation with the State Government. The MoS said: "The surplus rice offered by the State government is accepted by FCI under the central pool stock".

Sadhvi said that at the States' Food Secretaries meeting held on 17August2021, procurement estimate of 40 LMT of

AP, Odisha & Chhattisgarh too...

Continued from page 1

Odisha sent three letters. Chief Minister of Odisha, on 10 October 2021, urged the Center to take maximum parboiled rice up to 10 LMT during KMS 2021-22, which should be in form of fortified rice. The Centre approved only 50% of this request and conveyed approval for delivery of 5 LMT of parboiled fortified rice to FCI in Odisha during KMS 2021-22 and remaining surplus GMR in the form of raw rice. Chhattisgarh wrote five letters to the Center regarding procurement of parboiled rice. The State Government of Chhattisgarh, in September2021, requested the Centre to accept 23 LMT of parboiled rice and 24 LMT of raw rice through FCI during KMS 2021-22. The state government was allowed procurement of 61.65 LMT of rice during KMS 2021-22, in October2021 and it was made clear that only raw rice will be accepted by FCI as surplus during KMS 2021-22.

KMS	AP	TS
2018-19	48.06 LMT	51.90 LMT
2019-20	55.33 LMT	74.54 LMT
2020-21	56.67 LMT	94.53 LMT

rice for the Telangana State was fixed by the Government of India in consultation with the State Government and the Food Corporation of India

(FCI), considering the estimated production, marketable surplus and agricultural crop pattern.

The Center had procured

more paddy from TS than from Andhra over the past three years. It shared the details of paddy (in terms of rice) procured under the central pool in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana by state agencies in coordination with the FCI during the last three years. Both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are DCP (decentralized procurement system) states, wherein procurement is undertaken by State Govt. through its agencies.

In a reply about debt of FCI, the Center said that the Government of India was aware of all the debt obligations relating to FCI. As per the Center, "In the current financial year, FCI has received subsidy of Rs. 1,25,200 cr till October and the current debt obligation of FCI as on 31.10.2021 is Rs. 46,173 cr. The regular allotment under the budgeted food subsidy is released to FCI by GOI from time to time".

Nov GST mop-up at Rs 1.31 lakh crore...

Continued from page 1

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of November 2021 is Rs 1,31,526 crore of which CGST is Rs 23,978 crore, SGST is Rs 31,127 crore, IGST is Rs 66,815 crore (including Rs 32,165 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 9,606 crore (including Rs 653 crore collected on import of goods)," the statement said. CGST refers to Central Goods and Services Tax, SGST (State Goods and Services Tax) and IGST (Integrated Goods and Services Tax).

The revenues for the month of November 2021, are 25 per cent higher than close to Rs 1.05 lakh crore Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in November 2020, and 27 per cent higher over November 2019 revenues.

"The GST revenues for November 2021 have been the second highest ever since introduction of GST, second only to that in April 2021, which related to year-end revenues and higher than last month's collection, which also included the impact of returns required to be filed quarterly. This is very much in line with the trend in economic recovery," the ministry said.



In October 2021, the revenues were at Rs 1,30,127 crore, while in April 2021 it was the highest at Rs 1,39,708 crore.

The recent trend of high GST revenues has been a result of various policy and administrative measures that have been taken in the past to improve compliance. GST, which subsumed a host of indirect taxes like excise duty, service tax, VAT, was rolled out on July 1, 2017.

A large number of initiatives undertaken in the last one year like, enhancement of system capacity, nudging non-filers after last date of filing of returns, auto-population of returns, blocking of e-way bills and passing of input tax credit for non-filers has led to consistent improvement in the filing of returns over the last few months, the ministry added.



Tirumala ghat road caves in following landslides; closed

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

A ghat road leading to famous Sri Venkateswara temple atop Tirumala hills was shut down on Wednesday after landslides damaged the road at three places, officials said.

Huge boulders rolled on to the road late Tuesday night damaging the vital link and bringing the movement of vehicular traffic to a halt.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) officials swung into action to stop the vehicles and deployed earth movers to clear the debris. The

officials were surveying the damage and were working out plans to take up repairs.

All vehicles on the up road were stopped in view of the damage to the roads. As an alternative, the vehicles were being allowed in batches through the down ghat road.

This is the second time in less than a month that ghat road witnessed landslides. Following heavy rains that triggered landslides, the ghat roads were closed on November 11 and were reopened only on November 20. The heavy downpour and gusty winds

had resulted in boulders rolling down on ghat roads. Trees also uprooted and fell on the roads that connect the famous hill shrine with Tirupati.

Protection wall on the first ghat road was damaged due to landslides at four places while there were 13 landslides on the second ghat road.

The heavy rains had also damaged both footpaths (Alipiri and Srivari Mettu), forcing the authorities to close them. The rains had also led to inundation of Vaikuntham queue complexes and four main streets.

Can anti-BJP KCR and anti-Congress...

Continued from page 1

KCR has directed MPs belonging to his party to fight with the Union government in Parliament. He has told the MPs to bring pressure on the Union government regardless of which party is waging a fight with the central government in Parliament. He has asked them to go to the podium to bring pressure on the Centre. It is a different matter whether the other parties opposing the Centre in Parliament would benefit if the TRS joins hands with them should the demands in question be state-specific.

Although KCR is opposing the BJP bitterly, Jagan continues to maintain cordial relations with the Centre, but for some recent hiccups. In Andhra Pradesh, politically Jagan has no threat from BJP or Congress. But in Telangana, KCR is deemed to be facing threat politically from BJP and Congress.

After the previous Assembly elections in Telangana, Congress has not strengthened, though BJP has been gradually strengthening its position. BJP's growth in Telangana will be politically more disconcerting to TRS than a somewhat toned up Congress. Given recent overtures, if KCR continues to strongly oppose BJP at the

national level while cozying up to Congress, he may lose the support of Jagan with regard to the proposed Federal Front.

In the sharing of waters and state-level institutions, differences had cropped up affecting ties between the Chief Ministers of Telugu States. Following the launch of a political party by Jagan's sister YS Sharmila in Telangana, there were some more differences between the Telugu Chief Ministers.

All told, differing perspectives of KCR and Jagan on politics at the nation level may contribute to widening of simmering differences between them on inter-state issues.

Six cases detected after screening 3K passengers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Six Covid cases were reported on Wednesday after screening 3,476 passengers of 11 flights that arrived in India from "at-risk" countries and the samples have been sent for genomic sequencing, the Health Ministry said amid concerns over the 'Omicron' variant of coronavirus.

The Centre's revised guidelines for international travellers

came into effect on Wednesday. The fresh guidelines have been issued because of the new SARS-Cov-2 variant which has been designated as a variant of concern (VOC) by the World Health Organisation.

Eleven flights from "at-risk" countries landed at India's various airports, except Lucknow, from midnight to 4 pm on Wednesday carrying 3,476 passengers.

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Omicron scare puts off Sunday-Funday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Authorities have cancelled Sunday-Funday event at Hyderabad's Tank Bund as a precautionary measure in view of Omicron, the new variant of Covid-19 reported in few countries.

Arvind Kumar, special chief secretary, urban development, government of Telangana, announced on Wednesday that there will be no Sunday-Funday on December 5.

"In view of the uncertainties regarding Omicron coronavirus variant & as a matter of abundant precaution, the Sunday-Funday event shall not be held this Sunday i.e. Dec 5," tweeted the official.

"However, the Tank Bund will be vehicle-free as usual on Sunday," he added.

This is the first public event to be cancelled by authorities in Telangana ever since the



emergence of Omicron in South Africa and some other countries, sparking fears of a new wave of the pandemic.

Though no case of Omicron has been reported yet in Telangana or any other part of the country, the health author-

ities have sounded an alert.

Stepping up surveillance at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here, the health department started screening all passengers arriving from 12 'at-risk' countries from Wednesday.

Tank Bund, the most popular hangout place on the banks of Hussain Sagar lake in the heart of Hyderabad, has been witnessing carnival every Sunday evening for the last three months. Following suggestions from citizens, minis-

ter for municipal administration and urban development K.T. Rama Rao had directed the officials in August to make Tank Bund traffic free during evening hours every Sunday so that people can enjoy the evening on the banks of the picturesque lake.

The programme was launched on August 29 and it became an instant hit as a large number of families started thronging the landmark.

Later, on the advice of the minister, activities like arts, crafts and music were added.

On the request of Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, the authorities started a similar programme at historic Charminar in the old city from October 17. Cultural, arts and crafts activities are being conducted as part of the event named 'Ek shaam Charminar ke naam' between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Sundays.

Green channel created for first lung transplant at NIMS in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The first lung transplant surgery at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) was carried out on Wednesday when donor lungs from a brain dead 47-year-old daily wage earner, were transported through a green channel in the early hours from Medicovert Hospitals, Madhapur to NIMS Punjagutta.

Thanks to the green channel created by the city and traffic police, the donor lungs were transported in an ambulance from Madhapur to Punjagutta, covering 11 km distance in 11 minutes. The ambulance left Medicovert Hospitals at 7.40 am and reached NIMS at around 7.51 am.

The recipient of the donor lungs at NIMS is a 19-year-old



young girl whose lungs were infected after recovering from Covid, according to Jeevandan organ donation officials.

The brain-dead donor is 47-year-old daily wage earner A Susheela, a resident of Tadbun, Secunderabad. On November 27, Susheela was hit by a two-wheeler while crossing the Bowenpally main road.

The injured woman was rushed to a local hospital and later shifted to Medicovert Hospitals Madhapur for better treatment. With her health condition not improving, the doctors declared her as brain dead. Her relatives decided to donate her organs, as part of the Jeevandan initiative, officials said.



Infra company dupes bank of Rs 8.15 cr; CBI files case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against realty firm Prithvi Ram Infra of Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Prithvi Ram Infra had borrowed Rs 8.15 crore from the Union Bank of India and diverted the funds. The firm cheated the bank by pledging properties which were owned by a third party.

The partners of the firm, Undavalli Raja Gopal and Boppudi Seshagiri Rao, took an overdraft of Rs 4 crore and a Letter of Credit for Rs 2 crore from the Union Bank of

India's Defense Colony branch in Hyderabad in October 2016.

In November 2018, the firm failed to pay back the money and became a non-performing asset. The bank found that the collateral pledged as security belonged to another party.

During the audit, it was found that the money granted as overdraft was transferred to two companies without invoices and bills.

The same was questioned by the bank in February 2019. The CBI registered a case against the firm for cheating the bank and swindling Rs 8.15 crore.



Relative held for murder of realtor Vijaya Bhaskar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Police on Wednesday arrested Thota Narendar Reddy, 44, for the murder of realtor of Thota Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, whose body was found in a car on Monday at Trimulgherry.

The accused Narendar, who is cousin of the deceased, is a real estate agent by profession and also works as a cab driver in Old Alwal. He was also arrested earlier in a cheating case in 2018.

The police recovered two country pistols with bullets and cash, all worth Rs 7,20,000.

As per the complaint given by Swapna, the wife of the deceased, Narendar called

Vijaya Bhaskar for a discussion regarding the sale of a plot. After that, his phone was switched off.

The deceased did not cooperate with Narendar during the discussions regarding the plot and also insulted Narendar, the police said. And hence, Narendar decided to eliminate Vijaya Bashkar.

As per the plan, Narendar purchased pistols from a person belonging to Madhya Pradesh for Rs 30,000.

He called his Vijaya Bhaskar for a property registration with cash and shot Vijaya Bhaskar from the back in a car, police said. The police traced the signals of Narendar's phone and arrested him, the Commissioner said.

Civic body to install more traffic signals by Dec end

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) will install Adoptive Traffic Signal Control (ATSC) and Pelican (Pedestrian) systems in various parts of the city to regulate movement of vehicles in the light of increasing vehicles on city roads. The traffic signals are useful to prevent road accidents.

In addition to 221 traffic signals, the ATSP system will ensure installation of another 155 signals and another 98 will be installed through Pelican (Pedestrian) Systems.

Private agency will be entrusted with the task of designing the traffic signals, supply, testing, operation,



installation survey and maintenance.

The police department will identify where the traffic signals should be installed and recommend it to the GHMC. Acting on their suggestions, the GHMC will ensure traffic signals are installed.

The installation of the signals should be ready by December-end. Private agency is responsible for the maintenance of the signals for three years.

The signals will be linked to the traffic command and control centre.

Woman CA creates 200 shell firms

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A woman Chartered Accountant (CA) created 200 shell companies with the same address in Bengaluru and cheated several individuals, including some from Hyderabad through fake apps. The police officials are searching for the suspect.

Recently, a person was con-

tacted by a cybercriminal who asked him to invest in a scheme through an app. He tracked the money and found that it had doubled in real-time.

Then he started investing more by borrowing funds from his friends. But, later he was unable to withdraw it and the app also disappeared. He complained to the cybercrime police about it.

The cybercrime police inquired about the bank accounts linked to the app. Then they found an address in which the company was registered. The amounts were transferred to the account of that company.

The police reached the address in Bengaluru. Then they came to know that 200 shell companies had been reg-

Telangana traffic police collect Rs 366 cr as fines in 18 months

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana traffic police have collected Rs 366.08 crore as fines for traffic offences from across the State, says information gathered through a Right to Information (RTI) request.

The Telangana traffic police collected the money between April 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021, according to information provided by the police for the RTI application filed by one Amjad Khan.

The police department collected Rs 208 crore in fines from April 2020, to March 2021, demonstrating that the State made the most out of the Covid-19 lockdown last year.

In fact, many people had complained about the exorbitant fines for traffic offences.

After the Covid-19 outbreak last year, the police vigorously implemented the lockdown



seizing the vehicles of individuals who were out for no valid reason.

According to RTI information obtained from the Telangana traffic police, the authorities collected Rs 158.33 crore between April 2021, and September 2021.

During the same period, the Cyberabad police collected the maximum fines totaling Rs 53.26 crore.

Similarly, between April and

September this year, the Hyderabad traffic police collected Rs 35 crore as penalties, placing them second in the country.

With a collection of just Rs 30.36 crore, the Jayashankar Bhupalpally district collected the lowest traffic fines.

Cyberabad and Hyderabad have the highest number of traffic violations resulting in large amounts of money being collected by the traffic police.

Lyricist Sirivennela's mortal remains consigned to flames

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The mortal remains of veteran Telugu film lyricist 'Sirivennela' Sitarama Sastry were consigned to flames here on Wednesday after a number of film personalities and political leaders paid homage to him.

Sastry died due to lung cancer-related complications at a private hospital here on Tuesday. The body was kept at the film chambers here before being taken to the 'Mahaprasthanam' crematorium at Jubilee Hills.

Sastry's son lit the funeral pyre in a traditional ceremony at the crematorium. Top Telugu actors, including Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna, Pawan Kalyan, Allu Arjun, Mahesh Babu, renowned director S S Rajamouli and others paid tributes to the departed lyricist.



Telangana Finance Minister T Harish Rao, Andhra Pradesh Information Minister Perni Nani and balladeer Gaddar also paid their last respects to Sastry.

"This is a great loss to the Telugu film industry. The loss cannot be replaced by anyone. I have lost a great friend. Literature-wise, he is the last legend in the film industry," Chiranjeevi told reporters.

He came to be known as 'Sirivennela' Sitarama Sastry though his surname is Chembolu.

AK Rao died by suicide, claim Bangaluru police

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Bengaluru Police have said that AK Rao, the father of singer Harini, had committed suicide and that there is no evidence indicating that it was a murder.

The police officials, who initially said it was a murder, changed their stance and revealed that the autopsy report had stated that due to bleeding from the wounds AK Rao went into shock and died.

But the police version has raised many questions. AK Rao's family is alleging that somebody murdered him and that there was no reason for him to commit suicide.

First, the police stated that a suicide note was found and in that Rao had stated that was pressure on him for the money involved in a deal involving a loan of Rs 150 crore.

Later, the police said the wounds were inflicted with a knife and whether AK Rao himself inflicted it or somebody else did it had to be investigated.

Finally, the police said that injuries were found on the neck and hands. They said that he may have fallen on the railway track. The police called the persons involved with the Rs 150 crore loan and inquired with them.

UoH releases advisory amid Omicron fear

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Amid fear of the Omicron Covid variant, the University of Hyderabad Task Force warned students from putting their guards down within the campus.

In a Covid advisory, the UoH stated that it cannot afford a super spreader event that will again affect academic and research activities. "It is alarming that many stakeholders seem to have discontinued Covid behaviour on the campus. Also alarming is that the campus seems to have returned to working as if during pre-Covid times."

Dynamic patrolling system for crime control: Hyd CP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

City Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar said the Hyderabad City Police were following a dynamic patrolling system to control crime and bring a sense of security among citizens.

"The foundation of the patrolling system in the city is

the 251 Blue Colt bikes and 123 patrol vehicles moving around designated jurisdictions. The routes are changed regularly after studying the crime pattern in the area," he said.

On the monitoring of patrol vehicles, the Commissioner said personnel from the police headquarters monitor the movement of the vehicles.

Cardiologists to discuss detection of heart ailments with AI

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

More than 1,000 cardiologists, scientists, engineers and healthcare professionals will participate in the 73rd annual conference of the Cardiological Society of India (CSI), beginning here on December 2.

The conference, which will continue till December 5 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre, will deliberate on modern advancements in heart care including integration of Artificial Intelligence to detect heart ailments, well in advance.

The CSI is constantly developing means to detect potential heart risks in advance among people, and this will help reduce the danger among the younger pop-



ulation, said Dr P S Banerjee, Scientific Chairperson, CSI 2021.

He noted that CSI is always at the forefront in assessing newer challenges before heart specialists and in adapting latest technological and scientific practices to overcome them. The advent of Covid-19 forced cardiologists to evolve better with their approach to

treating heart patients infected with the virus.

He pointed out that the Covid-19 pandemic has challenged global health care to up the standards, and cardiologists were among those doctors who were pitted against the most challenging scenarios in these times of great distress. In addition to the novel coronavirus, the world in

recent years is witnessing a rise in the instances of young and healthy people falling victims to heart attacks, leading to sudden deaths.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning is taking the world by storm. The Cardiological Society of India, along with scientists and engineers will be working towards developing 'Deep

Neural Networks'; and achieving the target of accurately predicting heart risks in advance by the year 2030. CSI will also work with the Government of India and its Health Ministry, and provide necessary inputs to reaching the goal efficiently," added Dr Rajendra Kumar Jain, Organising Secretary of the conference.

A total of 89 sessions will be organised to deliberate on various advancements in the field of heart care. Close to 350 faculty members from within India and overseas will attend these sessions physically and virtually.

In addition to the delegates attending physically, it is estimated that nearly 10,000 participants will follow the proceedings online from around the world.

Shilpa cheated Sudheer Babu's wife of Rs 2.9 cr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Priyadarshini, wife of actor Sudheer Babu, was allegedly cheated of Rs 2.9 crore by Shilpa Chowdary.

She had complained a day ago at the Narsingi Police Station, but her identity was revealed only on Wednesday. Three cases have been registered at Narsingi Police Station against Shilpa now.

Priyadarshini said that Shilpa Chowdary used to organise kitty parties to strike up friendships and then she had cheated her.

She said she had given the money for investment in a film named 'Sehari', produced by Shilpa Chowdary and was promised a 12.5 per

cent cut in profits.

But Priyadarshini cancelled the deal and asked Shilpa to return the money. But Shilpa did not give back the money.

Meanwhile, proceedings are on regarding the bail petition of Shilpa Chowdary. The court postponed hearing on it to Thursday. The police have also filed a petition seeking seven days custody of Shilpa. Both the petitions are being heard by the same judge.

"We have received many complaints. We are going to take her into custody and will retrieve details," the Deputy Commissioner of Police of Madhapur, M Venkateswarlu said.

Woman, minor girl end lives in two incidents

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A woman and a minor girl committed suicide in two different incidents in Gachibowli.

Shatabdi, 28, hanged herself in her flat. Neighbours detected a bad smell and informed the security guards of the apartment complex. They opened the door and found Shatabdi dead. In the other incident, Deepthi Roy, 17, who was studying Inter second year, hanged herself at her home in Indranagar, Gachibowli. Her parents had gone out at that time.

The parents said that she had been depressed for a long time.

Achieve 100% vaccination in 15 days

Excise Minister Srinivas Goud asks officials to take steps to reach the target

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Minister for Excise Dr. V Srinivas Goud has directed the medical and health authorities to achieve 100 percent vaccination against Covid-19 in Mahabubnagar and Narayanpet districts in 15 days. Addressing the officials of the two districts here on Wednesday, he asked the people of the

two districts to get vaccinated against the pandemic to save their lives as vaccination is the only form of protection from the virus. He told them that the vaccine is being administered free of cost under the aegis of the state government. He asked the district collectors to give wide publicity to this and issue orders appointing a special



Excise Minister Srinivas Goud speaking in a meeting on vaccination with officials.

officer to each Mandal for the purpose.

Using the municipal vehicles, garbage collection autorickshaws, special vehicles should be used to create awareness among the people, he said asking the authorities to involve the SHG groups women, and

MEPMA groups in the exercise. Mahabubnagar District Collector S Venkata Rao, Narayanpet District Collector Hari Chandana, local bodies additional collector Tejas Nandlal Pawar, additional collector revenue K Sitarama Rao and other officials took part.

Minister praises ‘Raitanna’

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

The troubles and hardship that farmers undergo from purchasing seeds to ultimately getting the produce has been well depicted by R Narayanamurthy in his movie, said. Excise Minister Srinivas Goud here on Wednesday after watching the movie “Raitanna”. The movie has also highlighted the problems that farmers encounter for getting their produce to markets and the desperation they face to get a remunerative price for it, the minister said. The aspect of natural calamities has also

been well presented in the movie which plays a significant role in the financial well being of the farmers, the minister said adding “If there are rains as expected the farmers will get good yield and if there are unnatural rains and calamities his hopes will be shattered and slips into the debt trap” All this has been strikingly presented in the movie as if it is happening in our very presence, said the minister. Had the recently repealed farm law been implemented, the condition of farmers in the country would have become very pathetic he said.

No mid-day meals for students in 50 Govt schools in Medak dist?

P ANAND KUMAR
PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Mid-day meals programme apparently suspended in about 50 of the total 905 government schools in Medak district, according to some teachers and mid-day workers. Students were seen eating break-fast brought from homes or biscuits or Kurkure to fulfill their hunger in the absence of a mid-day meals facility.

However, the teachers and government officials appear to have paid no attention to it. As a result, students of these schools have been facing many difficulties. Mid-day meals workers are not coming forward to cook food in the schools due to the government not clearing their bills so far,



and mid-day meals workers. In Narsapur Mandal, eight schools and eight more in Sivvampet Mandal, five schools in Chegunta Mandal, two schools in Narsingi Mandal, eight in Ramayampet, and two in Nizampet Mandal are some of the government schools where the workers remained absent from themselves in reporting for duties. Mid-day meals in charge for the district Naveen said that arrangements are being made to provide mid-day meals in all schools.

Meanwhile, parents said that the problem surfaced owing to a lack of coordination among the officials of the Medak district. Therefore, they sought suitable remedial measures to provide mid-day meals for all students.

not being able to afford the vegetables due to rising costs, and the discrepancy between the charges quoted by the government and the market prices, according to teachers



SP's surprise visit to IKP center

PNS ■ NALGONDA

District SP AV Ranganath on Wednesday conducted a surprise inspection of the Arjalabavi IKP Center in Nalgonda outskirts.

On this occasion, he talked to the farmers and asked them about the difficulties and problems they were facing and learned about the process of buying. In addition, he inspected several rice mills and reviewed the situation and spoke with millers, lorry drivers, and rice mills staff.

Keep tabs on criminals, rowdy-sheeters: CP

PNS ■ WARANGAL

City Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi on Wednesday asked the police officials to keep tabs on activities of old criminals and rowdy-sheeters. In a review meeting with police officials at the commissionerate, he took stock of the progress of the cases registered in the central zone and the number of arrests effected, progress in investigation case-wise, recovery of goods, pending cases before various courts. Every police official should strive hard to keep drugs away from the reach of the youth. Each and every SHO should take steps to make their police station areas free from ganja and invoke the PD Act against the peddlers and smugglers of ganja.

The officials should keep an eye on ganja sales and consumption. As part of the visible policing, police should constantly patrol the areas, he said. Also, the police officials should prevent road accidents, analyse the causes for the same



and put in place measures to prevent road accidents, he said. The police station officials should visit the crime scene and inspect the spot when accidents occur. The police officials should ensure that all persons should follow traffic regulations.

On the missing person cases, the officials should show initiative to solve the cases. The missing persons should be traced and reunited with families. The police should adopt standard operating procedures during the investigation to

gather evidence for submission in court. Evidence gathered should be conclusive to prove the offense of the accused in courts, he told the police officers.

In addition to rein in the crime rate, the police should sensitise people on the installation of CCTV cameras, which play a key role in establishing crimes, he said. Central zone DCP Pushpa Reddy, ACPs Jitender Reddy, Srinivas, Girikumar, Babu Rao, inspectors, and SIs took part in the programme.

Prevent encroachment of forest lands: Collector



PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

District Collector Jitesh V Patil has called upon revenue, forest, and police authorities to work with coordination to prevent encroachment of forest lands.

Addressing forest, revenue, and police officials through video conference held here on Wednesday from collectorate, he asked them to identify the eligible Podu farmers for grant of the title deeds village wise. He asked them to identify the Podu farmers who attacked government officials earlier and bind them over in front of Tahsildar. He advised the officers of the three departments to conduct a joint survey and identify lands belonging to the respective departments.

He warned of suspending implementation of welfare

schemes to encroachers of government lands. He asked the officials to head for the village where forest lands were under encroachment in groups of 20 persons. District SP Sweta asked the forest officials to identify suspects who encroached forest lands. In all, 24 cases of attacks on forest officials were registered from 2018 to 2021 (up to Nov). In all, 84 persons took part, she said offering to extend security to forest authorities. She asked the forest officials to take the escort of the local police in case of any tip-off about the encroachment of forest lands.

Additional Collector local bodies Venkatesh Dhore, in charge district additional collector Venkata Madhava Rao, district forest officer Nikhita, forest and revenue officials took part in the programme.



Farmers' welfare KCR's motto: Gutta

PNS ■ NALGONDA

MLC Gutta Sukhender Reddy said that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao has taken a number of steps for the welfare of farmers and he pioneered many schemes for them. He was speaking at a press conference in Nalgonda on Wednesday. He blamed the BJP for the farmers' plight in procuring grain.

He said 50 percent of rabi grain was still in FCI warehouses and the central government should set up railway wagons and move the grain immediately.

He demanded that the

Center make a clear statement in Parliament on the procurement of grain. He urged voters to vote for TRS party local bodies MLC candidate Koti Reddy and which MLC elections to be held on the December 10th. He alleged that the honorarium for all the representatives of local bodies in the state has been increased drastically more than in the past, but the central government is weakening the local bodies. Miryalaguda MLA Nallamotu Bhaskar Rao, ZP chairman Banda Narendar Reddy, and ZP floor leader Pasham Ram Reddy also participated in the press meet.

Sensitise people on AIDS eradication

Minister Rathod advocates no discrimination

PNS ■ MULUGU

Minister for Woman and Child Welfare Satyavati Rathod on Wednesday advocated showing no discrimination against those who tested positive for HIV and called upon the people to show affection towards the AIDS patients.

Speaking after flagging off the AIDS rally at district headquarters government hospital here in connection with observing December 1 as World AIDS Day, she said that the state government has stocked all government hospitals with antiretroviral medicines for the benefit of HIV patients. The rally wound its way through the main thoroughfares of the town. The participants of the rally raised slogans urging the Medical and Health Department to sensitise people on AIDS eradication. They also raised slogans, “Let us eradicate inequalities and stamp out AIDS from



society.” The Minister appealed to authorities to sensitise people on precautions to be adopted at bus stations and important junctions through the distribution of handbills. Earlier, the I and PR department arranged an awareness programme on AIDS by singing of songs by cultural troupes.

Besides medical and health department personnel, students, ASHA workers took part in the rally giving rise to

slogans “Let us keep at bay the HIV virus and end venereal diseases.” District Medical and Health Officer A Appayya, AIDS Medical Officer Ravinder, medical superintendent Dr. Jagadish, Dr. Shyam, people's representatives, Mulugu Mandal TRS president Badam Praveen, MPP Gandrakota Sridevi Sudheer, ZPTC Sakthinala Bhavani, government officers, and others took part in the rally.



Students told to excel in sports besides academics

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

District civil judge M Santosh Kumar has advised students to show excellence not only in academics but also in sports and games.

He was addressing a gathering here on Wednesday in connection with awarding prizes to winners of the volleyball tournament organised under the aegis of the Siddipet Government degree college committee of the PDSU. He awarded medals and prizes to

the winners on the occasion. He said that sports would provide necessary amusement to the students.

College principal Ch Prasad, vice-principal Dr. K Hussain, Assistant professors Dr. Gopala Sudarsanam, Dr. Ayodhya Reddy, Nirmal, Venkat Reddy, PDSU district secretary Srikanth, senior advocate Babu Rao, PDSU leaders Vidyantathi, Mahesh, Augustine, Sandeep, Tejaswini, and others were present in the programme.

Wife kills husband for not being punctual to panchayat! Hits him with a stick on the head and he dies

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

In a shocking incident a wife killed her husband in a fit of anger for not being punctual to a dispute resolution meeting. The ghastly incident took place in the Uppunutala Mandal.

A 57-year-old man died on the spot on Tuesday when his spouse, angry at him for not turning out at a panchayat to resolve the family dispute at the appointed time, hit him with a stick on his head. He was identified as Eerya Naik of Lattipur village of Uppunutala Mandal.

According to reports, there was marital discord between Eerya Naik's son and daughter-in-law. The elders in the family tried hard to convince the couple to live together. But the daughter-in-law left the fami-



ly to live with her parents and efforts to bring her back to her in-laws' place failed.

In the process, Eerya Naik's wife arranged a counseling session at Kalwakurthy in the presence of the elders. Eerya Naik, who left for the neighboring village on some urgent work returned late angering his

spouse Daalwi, who unable to control her anger hit her husband on the head with a stick putting him to death on the spot.

CI Anudeep, SI Ramesh Azmeera registered a case against her on the basis of a complaint lodged with the police by the deceased's sister.



Car falls into road-side well

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

A car veered off the road and fell into a roadside well in Dubbaka mandal of the district on Wednesday. The number of casualties can be ascertained only after salvaging the ill-fated car. According to eyewitness accounts of Chittapur residents and sheep grazers, car lost balance and fell into the well between Chittapur and Bhoompalli village. Police and fire brigade persons rushed to the accident spot and took steps to salvage the car from the well as the last reports came in. The depth of the well is put at between 30

and 45 feet. Dubbaka MLA rushed to the accident spot immediately and supervised relief and rescue operations. The police are not responding on the incident.

After six hours of rigorous efforts, the officials could bring out the dead bodies of Prashant, his mother Lakshmi hailing from Nandigama village. Unfortunately, the swimmer Narsimhulu, hailing from Yenagurthi, died while he was bringing out the dead bodies from the well. It is said that the accident occurred as the car was proceeding to Nandaram of Husnabad Mandal to attend a function in a relative house.

‘Past mistakes should not recur’

Tribal Welfare Minister tells officials on Medaram arrangements

PNS ■ MULUGU

Tribal Welfare Minister Satyavati Rathod on Wednesday visited Medaram and had darshan of forest deities Sammakka and Sarakka along with other elected people's representatives. She took stock of the arrangements for the festival and wanted officials to make arrangements taking into consideration the past experiences. Later reviewing arrangements with officials, she recalled that an overhead electric wire got snapped up last time during the festival in spite of making good arrangements and she wanted the electricity department to ensure such mistakes did not recur this time. She called for creating permanent facilities for devotees to earn their appreciation. Zilla Parishad



Chairperson Kusma Jagadish, local MLA D Anasuya, District Collector Krishna Aditya, an additional collector I Tripathi, and others accompanied her to Medaram. She gave directions to officials on arrangements at bathing ghats, dress changing rooms, measures to prevent accidents at Jampanna Vagu while taking bath. She thanked Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao for releas-

ing Rs 75 crore to make arrangements. Budgetary allocations have been made this time to make permanent arrangements for the festival, unlike the predecessor regimes that ruled undivided AP. She asked health department officials to sensitise people to visit Medaram wearing masks without fail. She asked the RTC to provide suitable transport facilities.

Mulugu MLA Anasuya alias Sitakka insisted on adherence to quality standards while executing the festival-related works. She called for completing the development of roads by the time the festival begins. She felt that arrangements should be made for disbursement of the prasaadam of deity – jaggery, turmeric and kumum. Kusuma Jagadish asked the authorities to execute

the works qualitatively rendering justice to every paisa released by the government and calling for implementing the works on a permanent basis.

District Collector assured the minister to complete all the festival-related works by the first week of January. ZP vice-chairperson Bade Naga Jyoti, some ZP members, ATMA chairman D Ramanaiah, sarpanch of Medaram village Babu Rao, Tribal Welfare CE Sankar, Medaram temple executive officer Rajender, R, and B SP Nagender Rao, EE Venkatesh, panchayat SC E Joga Reddy, RWS SE Ramachandram, irrigation SE Venkateswarlu, ITDA MPO Vasanta Rao, EE Hemalata, Tadwai Tahsildar Srinivas, Rytu Samanvaya Samiti coordinator, and others were present.



Residents protest against liquor shop

Police take women, students into custody

PNS ■ GODAVARIKHANI

Residents of Jyotinagar in the 11th Division of Godavari Khani on Wednesday protested against starting of a wine shop in the division-leading to police taking some women and students into custody as the locals, including some women and students,

did not allow the van carrying liquor stocks to proceed further in Jyoti Nagar. They picketed the van and raised slogans against starting wine shops near places of the workshop, Ambedkar Library, homes, and against disturbing the peace in the area. They demanded the officials to intervene and close the shop in Jyoti Nagar.

INDIA CORNER

CBI takes over probe into intimidation case involving IPS officer P Sivanandi

The CBI has taken over investigation into an intimidation case allegedly involving IPS officer P Sivanandi in Tamil Nadu, officials said on Wednesday. The agency, on the directives of the Supreme Court on September 29 confirming a Madras High Court order in this regard, re-registered an FIR of the state according to the procedure. It is alleged that on April 1, 2015, complainant D Pandiraj was returning from Chennai Police commissioner's office when one Ganapathy along with 10 others, at the instance of the then inspector general Sivanandi, blocked his vehicle, threatened to kill him and asked him to withdraw the complaint, the FIR said. The Madras High Court transferred the case to the CB-CID from the local police on July 24, 2015, observing that it was a textbook case demonstrating the 'evil effects' of an unholy nexus between a serving senior police officer, lawyers, businessmen and goondas.



Int'l passengers subject to random COVID sampling can leave airport

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on Wednesday said only two per cent of the passengers coming from countries that are not in the 'at-risk' list will be subject to random sampling for coronavirus and such passengers will be permitted to leave the airport after giving the samples. Amid mounting concerns over the new COVID variant Omicron, stricter norms for international passengers came into effect from Tuesday midnight and all passengers coming from 'at-risk' countries have to compulsorily undergo COVID test, among other requirements. Issuing a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), the ministry said that travellers undergoing random sampling may give the sample and be allowed to leave. "Now, the random sampling would be limited to 2 per cent as per latest MoHFW (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) guidelines and it would be on self-paid basis.



MP: Six killed, 25 injured as passenger bus collides with truck

Six persons were killed and 25 others injured, five of them seriously, when a passenger bus carrying them collided with a truck in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday, a police official said. The accident occurred around noon near Narkhed village on Multai-Prabhatpattan road, some 65 kms from the district headquarters. "A private passenger bus travelling from Prabhatpattan to Multai collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction. Both the vehicles overturned after the collision," Multai police station in-charge Sunil Lata said. Six persons, including the driver of the bus, died on the spot, while around 25 passengers were injured, five of them seriously. Those five grievously-injured passengers were rushed to Warud town in neighbouring Maharashtra for the treatment, he said.



Rajya Sabha adjourned for the day amidst Opposition protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The proceedings of the Rajya Sabha were adjourned for the day on Wednesday amid unrelenting protests by opposition members over the issue of suspension of 12 MPs.

When the House assembled at 3 pm following an adjournment post-lunch, the opposition members again started their protest inside the Well and continued their sloganeering.

The members did not allow Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who was moving The Dam Safety Bill, 2019 for consideration in the House, to complete his speech.

Bhubaneswar Kalita, who was presiding the proceedings of the Upper House, persuaded the opposition members to return to their seats and allow



the minister to complete his speech.

As soon as the House resumed in the afternoon, Deputy Chairman Harivansh, who was in the chair, asked Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to move the bill.

He also assured the agitating members that Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge would be allowed to

speak on the suspension of 12 members of the House, once they return to their seats.

"Whatever is happening is not good. You have to maintain decorum," said Kalita, adding "It is not sending good signals to the public. You are not allowing him, the minister is in the middle of his speech."

However, the opposition members continued their protest and Kalita adjourned

the house for day.

Earlier, when the house met at 2 pm, Deputy Chairman Harivansh, who was in the chair, asked Shekhawat to move The Dam Safety Bill for consideration in the House.

The minister moved the motion for consideration of the bill by the House and thereafter, the deputy chairman asked him to speak on the bill.

In the meantime, Kharge asked the deputy chairman to allow him to speak on the suspension of members of the House.

However, Harivansh did not allow him to raise the matter, and said he can speak on the bill.

As the minster started his speech on the bill, opposition members started raising slogans and demanded that Kharge be allowed to speak on the issue of suspension of

members.

Harivansh requested the opposition members not to come into the Well and to go back to their seats.

He also told some members that photography in the House was not allowed when they tried to click pictures with their phones. When opposition members refused to relent, the deputy chairman adjourned the House till 3 pm.

The Upper House was first adjourned soon after it met for the day and then again at noon till 2 pm, after opposition members created an uproar seeking revocation of the suspension of the MPs.

When the House met earlier, placard-carrying opposition MPs trooped into the Well of the House and shouted slogans against the suspension.

‘Anti-BJP parties should come together’

PNS ■ MUMBAI

NCP president Sharad Pawar on Wednesday made a fresh pitch for the unity of opposition parties to take on the BJP after meeting West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee here.

Banerjee, notably, made a cryptic remark that there was "no UPA" now.

The Trinamool Congress supremo paid a visit to Pawar on Wednesday after meeting Shiv Sena leaders the day before.

"All those opposed to the BJP are welcome to join us. There is no question of excluding anyone," Pawar told reporters when asked if an alliance without Congress was on the cards.

"We discussed the prevailing situation and the need for all like-minded parties to come together



and provide a strong alternative to the BJP," the NCP chief said.

"Leadership is not an issue at this point. We need to unitedly work against the BJP," he added.

When asked if she wanted Pawar to be the chairperson of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA), Banerjee said, "Three is no UPA now."

‘Maha order on int'l passengers against Centre's guidelines’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the Maharashtra government revised the guidelines on quarantine for international passengers in view of concerns over the Omicron variant, the Centre on Wednesday asked the state to align its order with the SOPs issued by the Union Health Ministry.

Maharashtra has mandated seven-day institutional quarantine for travellers arriving in the state from 'at-risk' countries under the guidelines issued by the State Disaster Management Authority on Tuesday night.

Such passengers will also undergo-PCR test on the second, fourth and seventh day of arrival. If found to be COVID-19 positive, the passenger will be shifted to a hospital. In case the test is negative, the passenger will still have to undergo seven-day home quarantine. Union Health Secretary

Rajesh Bhushan, in a letter, said that the order issued by the Maharashtra government is in divergence with the COVID-19 SoPs and guidelines issued by Union Health Ministry for international passengers.

"I would, therefore, urge you to align the orders issued by the state with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, Government of India, so that uniform implementation of the guidelines may be ensured across all states and UTs.

"I would also advise that such modified orders of the state government are given wide publicity to obviate any inconvenience to travellers," he said in the letter addressed to Pradeep Kumar Vyas, Additional Chief Secretary of the state's Department of Health & Family Welfare.

Under the new guidelines

issued by the Union Health Ministry on November 28, passengers originating or transiting from at-risk countries will have to undergo-PCR testing post-arrival and will be required to wait for the results at the airport before leaving or taking a connecting flight.

Travellers from countries excluding those countries at risk will be allowed to leave the airport and shall self-monitor their health for 14 days post-arrival but five percent of the total flight passengers shall undergo post-arrival testing at random at the airport on arrival.

However, according to the Maharashtra government guidelines, passengers from other than 'at-risk' countries will have to undergo a compulsory-PCR test at the airport.

Even if found negative, they will have to undergo 14-day home quarantine.

‘No material to show larger conspiracy in 2002 riots’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There was no material to substantiate claims of any larger conspiracy in the 2002 Gujarat riots and the idea behind alleging that the violence was state-sponsored is to keep the "pot boiling" which showed "sinister signs", the Special Investigation Team (SIT) told the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

The SIT told a bench head-

ed by Justice A M Khanwilkar that complaint filed by Zakia Jafri alleging larger conspiracy in the riots was not converted into an FIR and the apex court had asked the SIT to look into it and act in accordance with law.

Zakia Jafri, the wife of slain Congress leader Ehsan Jafri who was killed at Gulberg Society in Ahmedabad on February 28, 2002, during the violence, has challenged the

SIT's clean chit to 64 people including Narendra Modi, the then Gujarat chief minister during the riots.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for SIT, told the bench that a protest petition of around 1,200 pages was filed by Zakia Jafri and it was said that the same be treated as a complaint.

"Now, after 20 years, treat this as a complaint. Why? You want to keep this as a boiling

pot or what? This also shows sinister signs, to keep this as a pot boiling. Why would anybody keep the pot boiling? Because there is something else," Rohatgi told the bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar.

"That is why it is saying state sponsored, look at this, look at that, look at higher echelons. Because the idea is to keep the pot boiling," he told the bench.

He argued that the top court had asked the SIT to look into Zakia Jafri's complaint as it had recognised the "pain of a widow".

He said Teesta Setalvad, who is petitioner number two in the plea filed by Zakia Jafri in the apex court, had joined the proceedings when it was before the high court.

"And in fact, your lordships will get material, that several people came to the SIT with prepared statements.

‘No specific data on attacks on journalists’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain specific data with respect to attacks on journalists, the government has informed the Rajya Sabha, underlining that it had issued an advisory to state governments in 2017 to strictly enforce the law to ensure the safety and security of media-persons.

Responding to a question, Minister of State for Rajya Sabha Nityanand Rai said 'police' and 'public order' are state subjects under the seventh schedule of the Constitution. The state governments are



responsible for prevention, detection and investigation of crimes and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies, he said.

"The National Crime Records Bureau does not maintain specific data with respect to attacks on journalists," he said.

He said the ministry of home affairs has issued advisories to states and Union Territories from time to time to maintain law and order and ensure that any person who takes law into his/her own hand is punished promptly as per law.

"An advisory specifically on safety of journalists was issued to the states/UTs on October 20, 2017 requesting them to strictly enforce the law to ensure the safety and security of mediapersons," he said.

He said the central government attaches highest importance to the safety and security of all residents of the country including journalists.

Stop 'injustice' towards job seekers in Railways: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday extended his support to those seeking jobs in the Railways and called for stopping the "injustice" towards them.

In a tweet, he also claimed there are now "no jobs" in the Railways. "Earlier a job in the Railways was an honour, today there are no jobs in the Railways. Soon, the Railways will no longer be what it was earlier.

645 heavy rainfall, 168 very heavy rainfall events in Nov

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country saw 645 events of heavy rainfall and 168 events of very heavy rainfall in November, the highest in the month in five years, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

Peninsular India reported most of the extremely heavy to very heavy rainfall events which claimed 44 lives in Andhra Pradesh, 16 in Tamil Nadu, 15 in Karnataka and three in Kerala.

The IMD said India recorded 11 extremely heavy rainfall (more than 204.5 mm) events this November, equalling the number reported last year. The country reported zero, four and one event of extremely heavy rainfall in November in 2019, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

The country saw 645 events of heavy rainfall (64.5 mm to 115.5 mm) and 168 events of very heavy rainfall (115.6 mm to 204.5 mm) in November, the highest in the last five years, according to the IMD's data.

To put things in perspective,



the number of heavy rainfall events this November was more than the total such events in the last four years -- 247 in 2020; 116 in 2019; 135 in 2018 and 139 in 2017.

The Met office also said peninsular India gauged 160 per cent more rainfall -- 232.7 mm against the average of 89.5 mm -- in November, the highest in the month since 1901.

The country as a whole received 56.5 mm of rainfall against the normal of 30.5 mm -- an excess of 85.4 per cent -- in November.

Five low-pressure systems in November this year against the average of 2.4 is the reason

behind the copious rainfall in peninsular India this time, officials said.

Peninsular India comprises five meteorological subdivisions -- Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikkal; coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam; Rayalaseema; Kerala and Mahe, and South Interior Karnataka.

The IMD said the region is most likely to see above-normal rainfall (more than 132 per cent of the long period average) in December.

Based on the data of the 1961-2010 period, the long period average of rainfall in peninsular India in December is 44.54 mm.

VAT cut, petrol to be cheaper by Rs 8 per litre in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Wednesday decided to reduce VAT on petrol, bringing down the price of the fuel in the city by about Rs 8 per litre, a move Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said will give relief to Delhiites from inflation.

The petrol and diesel prices in Delhi have now become cheaper than other cities in the National Capital Region (NCR), Kejriwal said.

The price of petrol after the reduction in VAT will go down from the current rate of Rs 103 per litre to Rs 95 per litre. The change will come into effect from Wednesday midnight, the officials said.

According to a Delhi government statement, the city's



Indian economy in strong position: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing GDP growth figures and other economic indicators, the BJP asserted on Wednesday that the decisions taken by Narendra Modi-led government following the Covid-19 pandemic have been paying off, and India is emerging as a bright spot in the global economy.

Prime Minister Modi has shown "extraordinary" leadership in extraordinary times, BJP spokesperson Syed Zafar Islam said in reference to the pandemic.

COVID-19 adversely affected economies around the world, including India, he said, praising the way Modi handled the crisis and initiated policy measures to "convert the adversity into an opportunity".

Dip in terrorist incidents in JK after nixing of Article 370

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir during a period of 841 days after Article 370 was revoked dipped to 496 from the 843 cases reported in a same span of time prior to the abrogation, the government informed Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said during April 16, 2017 to August 04, 2019, 843 terrorist incidents were reported in Jammu and Kashmir in which 86 civilians and 78 army personnel were killed.

During the period August 05, 2019 to November 22, 2021 (841 days after the abrogation), 496 terrorists incidents have been reported from Jammu and Kashmir in which 79 civilians and 45 army personnel have been killed, he said.



NORTHEN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED

CIN No. U40119T820005000304116

TENDER NOTICE No.11/21-22 OF JAGTIAL DIVISION

The Sealed Tenders are invited by the undersigned from the registered and valid contractors of TSNPDCL for various works in Operation, Jagtial as per terms & conditions prescribed in detail tender Schedule.

The details such as cost of tender schedule, date of sale of tender schedule eligibility criteria etc. can be had from TSNPDCL website www.tsnpdcl.in.

Self-Divisional Engineer Elad.,
Operation, TSNPDCL, Jagtial

SHORT TENDER NOTICE No. 02/ 2021-22 OF SE/ OP/KMR

WITH SPECIFICATION No.01/2021-22

Sealed tenders are invited from TSNPDCL registered contractors for various works on Operation Circle, Kamareddy. The details of the work can be obtained from our website www.tsnpdcl.in.

Self-Superintending Engineer
Operation Circle, Kamareddy

SHORT TENDER NOTICE No 08/2021-22OF SE /OP/ NML

WITH SPECIFICATION No 01/2021-22 to 02/2021-22

Sealed tenders are invited from TSNPDCL registered contractors for various works in Operation Circle, Nirmal. The details of the work can be obtained from our website www.tsnpdcl.in.

Self-Superintending Engineer
Operation Circle, Nirmal

Short Tender Notice No.02 of CGM /Projects/ SE/Civil/ NPDCU/ WGL/D.No.829/21-22, Dt.25.11.2021

Short Tender Notice No.03 of CGM/Proj/SE/ Civil/ NPDCU/ WGL/ D.No.833/21-22, Dt.26.11.2021

Sl No.	Spec No.	Name of the work	Estimated Contract Value.
I.	02/21-22	i) Construction of MRT office Shed (50x30') at Bhupallipat Town	Rs.32.50 lakhs
II.		Construction of section/sub-division office buildings at 3311 KVSS at	
2	03/21-22	i) Gandhari in Kamareddy Circle	Rs.11.33 lakhs
3	06/21-22	ii) Domakonda in Kamareddy circle.	Rs.13.28 lakhs
4	04/21-22	iii) Nusthalapur in Karimnagar Circle	Rs.11.38 lakhs
5	05/21-22	iv) Thallada in Khammam Circle	Rs.11.56 lakhs

For further details regarding detailed tender notification, specifications and digital certificate please visit www.tsnpdcl.in and www.Tender.Telangana.gov.in.

Self-Chief General Manager/Projects
NPDCU/Warangal

R.O. No. : 2375-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2021-22 Date: 01-12-2021

FIRST COLUMN

FASHION DESIGN AND E-LEARNING

Aspiring designers can learn and show their creations in a web-friendly format



ARCHANA SURANA

While the world is struggling with a health pandemic, an economic depression, and a global social justice movement, Bill Cunningham's quote — "Fashion is the armour to survive the reality of everyday life" — became the inspiration to the fashion and design fraternity. From adjusting to the new normal to navigating through it and bringing creativity to reality, the fashion industry has set trends yet again. In the modern world, creativity has never been just about classroom learning. Now, with the 'anything anywhere' approach of the digital world, fashion design learning has stepped into a transformative revolution. When FHCM's couture week 2020 went digital, the fashion industry was in awe. FHCM stands for Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode that brings together fashion brands that foster creation and international development. However, with Gucci partnering with the art auction house Christie's on NFT video "ARIA", the industry realised that we had just scratched the surface of technology. Fashion design institutes have taken the pandemic as an opportunity to innovate old-fashioned teaching methods and adapt to the fast-moving digital world. Being a stu-



dent-centric process enables the learner to customise the procedures and processes based on her needs. With digital platforms for aspiring designers to learn and show their creations in a web-friendly format and accelerated personalisation in digital tools to customise one's virtual studio, it has never been a better time to flow along with creativity. The importance of exploring global perspectives through international fashion shows, exhibitions, webinars that reflect the global context in fashion education and industry cannot be emphasised enough. The design education colleges have been quick on the uptake and started organising virtual events and platform during the lockdown in 2020 where they allow the students to showcase their learnings and creations. These institutes also use social media platform like Facebook Live where students presented their work online.

The field of technology is growing every day and therefore, it is impacting education, teaching and learning processes with its innovative solutions and sustainable methods. Increasing use of technologies like AI, IoT and AoIT is helping effectively in saving costs, time and energy in the education sector especially the creative fields. In 2020, due to the pandemic, all the education institutes introduced many innovative ways of teaching and learning in order to maintain the quality of education and content material. According to InTech report 2017, design learning needs digital or online learning to have a progressive future. There is a great need for active interaction between humans and technology through activities using creative intelligence for a bright future of designing field. Even if we were in a digital utopia with digital equity and no technical glitches, to imagine learning fashion design virtually is difficult. From the touch of the fabric to the aesthetics and design, physical interaction is as essential as the field itself. Paris Fashion Week's physical return to the runway, including industry heavy weights from Chanel and Hermes to Louis Vuitton and Yves Saint Laurent, proves that fashion cannot survive without it being inferred by the senses. Rethinking decades-old teaching models requires a more finely tuned equilibrium between physical and digital education to work successfully. Combining face-to-face lectures with technology may give rise to blended learning, increasing students' learning potential. Need of the hour is for institutes to become omnichannel and build an efficient e-learning model and for the fashion fraternity to come together as a community and use technology as a venue for Sustainable Fashion Culture.

(The writer is Founder and Director, ARCH College of Design & Business. The views expressed are personal.)

Village secretariats of AP: Doorstep welfare

Impressed by the idea of taking governance to doorsteps; Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and some other States have evinced interest to adopt similar systems



AMAR DEVULAPALLI

A game-changer initiative in Andhra Pradesh Government's unique grass root administration and a brain child of young Chief Minister, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the concept of Village/ward Secretariat - door-step services to ensure welfare programmes reach the beneficiary — is gaining the attention of international agencies, the Union Government and a number of states.

Aimed at revamping and improving the delivery of government services, the largest of its kind in India, the setup involved hiring 389,000 volunteers to ensure that government benefits-ration cards, pension accounts and other welfare schemes-are made available in the rural areas as also in the wards in towns.

The Village Secretariat and Ward Secretariat (VWS) Department was created to manage the operations. The volunteers who are key in the new set up are being paid a monthly remuneration of ₹5000 and they are always available in the area to provide government benefits that are listed under various schemes at the door step of the beneficiary.

On average, there is one volunteer for every 70-100 households, tasked with doorstep-delivery of government services and ensuring that beneficiaries are identified and mapped for proactive service delivery. To ensure that services improve, issues relating to the delivery of food, social and health security benefits are to be addressed within specified time frames, with a team of 200 call-centre executives to track and monitor service delivery requests and notify relevant secretariats about impending deadlines. It all started on October 2, 2019 when the Chief Minister launched the flagship programme of his government. As a preamble to the new concept, he recruited village secretaries who would head the village secretariats. The idea came to him during his 'padayatra' before the 2019 general elections when villagers complained how they are going around offices and officials for benefits of welfare programmes and how they are denied them on account of lack of funds.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti Sanitation has acknowledged the services being offered to the people at their doorstep through the new system. National Jal Jeevan Mission under the Ministry which brings out a monthly e-book, Jal Jeevan Samvad, highlighted the village/ward secretariat system in AP and pointed out: "This is a unique experiment in itself and furthers the spirit of the 73rd Constitution Amendment, 1992 and in line with 'Sarkar Aapke Dwar' - administration at your doorstep. Now by setting up of village secretariat, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken a concrete step towards administrative transparency and accountability to provide better services to the people at their door step".

The special story in the magazine also



THE VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE KEY IN THE NEW SET-UP ARE BEING PAID A MONTHLY REMUNERATION OF ₹5000 AND ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE IN THE AREA TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT SERVICES THAT ARE LISTED UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES AT THE DOORSTEP OF THE BENEFICIARY. ON AVERAGE, THERE IS ONE VOLUNTEER FOR EVERY 70-100 HOUSEHOLDS

(The writer is Advisor, National Media and Inter State Affairs, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)



mentioned that out of various services for the people, around 318 services have started reaching villagers through the village secretariat system. The beneficial effects of government schemes are clearly visible in the villages.

UNICEF, which has identified the potential strength of the village secretariat system, associated itself with the grass root network to continue its awareness campaign among children as mothers about nutrition food. A special cell with three representatives has been created by UNICEF attached to the State level Head office of village/ward secretariat. Besides, the Institution has also appointed district coordinators to take the task.

Impressed by the idea of taking governance to the people's doorsteps, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and some other states have evinced interest to adopt similar systems. Ministerial and Official representatives from these states are planning to visit AP soon to have the first-hand experience of the functioning of the setup.

As a matter of fact, the then Chief Minister of united AP Chandrababu Naidu too launched the village secretariat concept in 2002. But there is no comparison between the two since the present setup is well thought over and target-oriented, supported by a digital road map to ensure doorstep deliveries of benefits.

While Naidu had to introduce the village secretariat in view of World Bank guidelines in the name of reforms, the current CM made it happen in real terms and

people are getting total benefits from the new system.

Between the first and third of every month, the present government disburses ₹1,420.5 crore worth of pensions to 6.1 million beneficiaries under the YSR Pension Kanuka. They are delivered to beneficiaries wherever they might be, even those displaced from their homes. For transparent, well-targeted delivery of benefits, the state relies on biometric identification. A call centre with toll-free number 1902 has been set up to enable the people to register their grievances and also obtain feedback on the welfare schemes.

In all, a strong contingent of 1,34,694 village ward secretariat staff along with dedicated gram volunteers numbering 2,47,344 extend 540 services under 35 departments. Fact sheets reveal that while 3,31,57,081 service requests were registered till the end of October last, 3,29,70,051 services have been delivered.

Specific time frames are fixed for delivery. While Pension card, rice cards are to be handed over within 21 days, eligible applicants should get Arogyasri cards in 20 days and the deadline for getting house site pattas is 90 days.

A study paper on the village administration in Andhra Pradesh published in The Indian Journal of Political Science in its quarterly publication in 2006 clearly mentioned the 'outcome' of the reforms in Panchayat Raj introduced by Chandrababu Naidu.

The paper originally submitted by its author D.Ravinder at an International conference on "State,

Civil Society and Citizens: Revisiting the Relationship" held in Osmania University in February, 2004, concluded that "it (the system) introduces babudom at the local level". The study paper highlighting the lacunae said with the onset of World Bank led reforms processed under the regime of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh, "good governance" has become a catchy word. It is in this name that a number of reform processes were introduced in the state. One such important reform process at the grass roots level has been the introduction of "Village Secretariat" system.

The paper said this system instead of bringing good governance has become a bone of contention between hitherto existing departments, panchayat raj and revenue, and also between the elected representatives and government officials, i.e., between Sarpanch and the newly created position of "Village Secretary ". Thus, the process of good governance at the grass roots level unleashed new conflicts. The present paper makes an attempt to analyse the dynamics of these new reforms at the grass roots in Andhra Pradesh.

Quite contrary to the setup introduced during Chandrababu regime, the present village/ward secretariat system supported by village secretaries and a battery of village/ward volunteers day and night ensuring the targeted people get welfare programmes at their doorstep without spending a single pie and wasting time.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHICH IS THE MAIN PARTY, THE CONGRESS OR THE TMC? THE SESSION WILL BE OVER BEFORE THEY COME TO ANY DECISION.
—BJP NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
DILIP GHOSH



IT IS INSIGNIFICANT TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON DILIP GHOSH'S OBSERVATION. LET THEM THINK OVER THEIR DEFEAT IN THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.
—TMC LEADER
SOUGATA ROY

Role of universities in fostering entrepreneurship

Interdisciplinary approach and new teaching methodologies should be used to provide entrepreneurship experience to students in university settings

Entrepreneurship is extremely important for any economy, for its ability to make a significant impact on citizens and nations as a whole. Great entrepreneurs can change the way we live and work, by creating jobs and wealth, with changes varying between social impact to immense innovations. But can entrepreneurship be taught? The answer to this age-old debate is both yes and no. Since education is essential to enhance the thinking abilities and as entrepreneurship ecosystem is developed by the interplay of actors like universities, government and entrepreneurs themselves, universities become the hotbed of fostering the required entrepreneurial environment. An early introduction and expo-



HIMABINDU KOTA

(The writer is Associate Professor at Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

sure to entrepreneurship and innovation is more likely to sow the seeds of entrepreneurial careers for students at a future juncture. Cities which are ranked highly for their entrepreneurial activities also boast promoting entrepreneurial education and culture. To take an example, Silicon Valley is known for entrepreneurship and is also the home to more than 10 universities, including Stanford and UC Berkeley.

There are three ways in which universities can take advantage of their position to further entrepreneurship. As universities are places of higher education, attracting workforce who wants to lead a better life, they can transform themselves into breeding grounds for budding entrepre-



neurs. Recognizing the importance of entrepreneurship to the economic development and job creation, universities can impart entrepreneurial skills and knowledge by updating existing programs and developing new courses. Going forward, interdisciplinary approach and new teaching methodologies should be used to provide entrepreneurship experience to students in a controlled environment in the university setting. Creation of industry linkages to provide internships to students with

local companies will further enhance the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Secondly, universities can act as incubation centres to follow up and promote potential ideas by facilitating collaborations and incubation capacities not only to students from the area of business, innovation and entrepreneurship, but also from other areas like engineering, humanities, applied sciences and medicine. Provision of physical space to give wings to potential ideas and suitable support to raise funds at an early stage to transform these ideas into business models are their added advantages. of for the development of the business model. The faculty also play an important role in the incubators, as they are crucial resource for mentorship

and can channelize the energy of their students by providing proper guidance in research activities. However, not much can be achieved with research and publications of an idea, if it cannot be exploited for business opportunities.

Therefore, thirdly, the role of a university as a knowledge transferrer and as a bridge between academia and industry is noteworthy. Universities involved in applied research have large number of patents, articles and registered intellectual property rights, converging the joint efforts, experience and creativity of students and faculty. However, such research has to be commercialized as well, and here comes the role of universities as a conduit to industry linkages. By establishing connections with industry,

universities develop entrepreneurial ecosystems and provide students entrepreneurs with advice on aspects like licenses, consulting, and spin-offs. Entrepreneurship education in universities inspires students to start their own ventures. Several surveys have shown that a majority of students enrolled in an entrepreneurship course aspire to set up their own businesses. Through their studies, it is also found that entrepreneurship courses at universities have a profound impact on the students. Thus, entrepreneurship courses have a positive impact the students' founding abilities.

Entrepreneurs are assets to any nation as they contribute towards innovation, job creation, and enhanced standard of living and the best way to

promote entrepreneurship is to make people aware of it by educating them.

Entrepreneurship education can provide students with technical skills and managerial skills, but most importantly should cultivate entrepreneurial intent among them, which ultimately increases their tendency to start their own enterprise. The Indian higher education system has to step up and distinguish a general business management course from an entrepreneurship course to motivate, train and support budding entrepreneurs. The demand is for education programs which can expand their horizons in entrepreneurship by their unique and hands-on content and teaching techniques. Are the universities listening?

GDP likely to grow more than 9.5% in '22: Report

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) is likely to grow more than 9.5 per cent in fiscal 2021-22, an SBI research report-Econwrap said.

The economy grew at 8.4 per cent in the second quarter of the current fiscal, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Tuesday. The growth in the April-June quarter of this fiscal stood at 20.1 per cent.

In October's monetary policy review, the Reserve Bank of India had retained its projection for real GDP growth at 9.5 per cent in 2021-22, consisting of 7.9 per cent in Q2; 6.8 per cent in Q3; and 6.1 per cent in Q4 of 2021-22.

"We believe that the real GDP growth would now be higher than the RBI's estimate of 9.5 per cent, assuming the RBI growth numbers for Q3 and Q4 to be sacrosanct," the research report said.

The real GDP growth may



be near to 10 per cent, it added.

The report said the GDP grew by 8.4 per cent in Q2 FY22 on the back of double-digit growth in mining and quarrying, public administration, defence and other services. The real GVA increased by 8.5 per cent, a tad higher than the GDP growth.

In H1 FY21, the country exhibited a real GDP loss of Rs

11.4 lakh crore (on a year-on-year basis) due to complete lockdown in April-May and partial lockdown in June-September, it added.

The situation has improved in FY22, and in H1 FY22 the real gain was around Rs 8.2 lakh crore. "This indicates that real loss of Rs 3.2 lakh crore still needs to be recouped to reach the pre-pandemic level," the report said.

The sector-wise data indicates that trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting are still the most affected, and the real loss of Rs 2.6 lakh crore is still needed to be recouped in these sectors, it noted.

Overall, the economy is still operating at 95.6 per cent of the pre-pandemic level (with trade, hotels, transport, communication & services related to broadcasting still at 80 per cent) and should take one more quarter to recoup the losses.

In Q2 FY22, the FMCG sector reported top-line year-on-year growth of 11 per cent, while EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) and PAT grew by 4 per cent each.

However, rural markets, which showed good resilience thus far during the pandemic, have slowed in the last couple of months as suggested by some of the industry majors, according to the report.

Upstox allows IPO applications via WhatsApp

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Online brokerage Upstox on Wednesday said it will allow investors to invest in initial public offerings (IPOs) and open demat accounts through WhatsApp.

Also, the company aims to increase its customer base to 10 million by the end of FY2022 from 7 million currently, Upstox said in a statement.

It has grown its customer base by 1 million in October 2021 alone.

Upstox provides end-to-end support for IPO applications via WhatsApp, empowering customers by easing the process of account opening, it said.

The key highlight of the latest feature is that all investors, whether they are registered with Upstox or not, can now subscribe to any IPO without moving out of the WhatsApp chat window at any point during the application journey.

Benchmarks recoup losses amid global rebound; RIL, banks shine

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex rallied 620 points while the Nifty reclaimed the 17,100-level on Wednesday as investors piled into recently-battered banking, finance and energy counters amid a recovery in global equities despite lingering concerns over the Omicron coronavirus variant.

A sharp jump in the rupee and encouraging macroeconomic data further enthused domestic investors, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 619.92 points or 1.09 per cent to close at 57,684.79. Similarly, the NSE Nifty surged 183.70 points or 1.08 per cent to 17,166.90.

IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 5.73 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, SBI, Tech Mahindra, Maruti and Reliance Industries.

On the other hand, Dr Reddy's, UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma, Bharti Airtel, Titan and Kotak Bank were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.58 per cent.



"After the sharp sell-off in the global markets yesterday, Indian equities reversed course following recovery in global markets and strong domestic GDP data. India's Q2 GDP recorded a growth of 8.4 per cent as economic activity moved towards normalcy after the impact of the second wave.

"Though the Fed chair's comment on speeding up the pace of the bond-buying taper plan kept investors cautious

along with the concerns of Omicron, the global markets recovered sharply today," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

India's manufacturing sector activities gained further strength in November, and witnessed the strongest increase in production and sales since February on improving market conditions, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

MONEY MATTERS

BSNL has given Sept 2022 timeline for pan-India 4G



the first year from such rollout, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

NHAI borrowings jump over 2-fold to Rs 3.38 lakh cr

Total borrowings of state-owned National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have increased more than twofold to Rs 3,38,250 crore in three years to March 2021 compared to Rs 1,22,561 crore as of March 2018, Parliament was informed on

Wednesday. Replying to a written question in the Rajya Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said NHAI creates valuable road assets which are financially viable. Gadkari said that tolling of the completed public funded road assets and monetizing the assets through Toll/InvIT modes are major steps taken by the government to generate revenue for repayment of the loans and further construction by NHAI.

IPO rush continues; 10 firms line up public issues worth Rs 10K-cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The IPO lane will continue to be busy in December as 10 companies have lined up initial share-sale plans worth more than Rs 10,000 crore, merchant banking sources said on Wednesday.

Moreover, the initial public offerings of Star Health and Allied Insurance and Tega Industries are currently open for public subscription.

This comes after 10 firms successfully concluded their initial public offerings (IPOs) in November.

Among the companies that scheduled their IPOs in this month include RateGain Travel Technologies, travel and hospitality technology services provider, and Anand Rath Health Ltd, part of Mumbai-based financial services group Anand Rath.

RateGain's Rs 1,335-crore initial share-sale will open for public subscription during December 7-9, and the Rs 660-crore IPO of Anand Rath Health will open on December 2.

In addition, the companies that have firmed up their IPO plans are -- Global Health Ltd, which operates and manages hospitals under the



Medanta brand, pharmacy retail chain MedPlus Health Services and Healthium Meditech, merchant banking sources said.

Apart from these, Metro Brands, Shriram Properties, AGS Transact Technologies, Shri Bajrang Power and Ispat and VLCC Health Care may also float their public issues in the period under review, they added.

Investment bankers said these companies will raise more than Rs 10,000 crore collectively.

The companies are raising funds to support business expansion plans, to retire debt and for general corporate purposes.

Some of the IPOs are an offer for sale (OFS), where private equity players or the pro-

moter wants to cash out part of their holding.

Prateek Singh, founder and CEO of LearnApp.com, attributed the impressive pipeline to the bull run in the equity markets.

"The best time for any company to go for an IPO is during the Bull market, which is also the reason why many companies are going for a public listing at this time. Companies look to tap into the sentiment from the public markets at such opportune times and are highly successful," he said.

Further, initial share-sales are receiving tremendous applications from the investors and IPOs have been subscribing multifold times. This has pushed companies to raise funds through IPO.



Tata Power Solar gets LoA for Rs 945 cr project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power Solar has received letter of award (LoA) for a solar and battery storage project worth Rs 945 crore from Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI).

Under the SECI project, Tata Power Solar Systems Limited will build a 100 MW EPC (engineering procurement construction) solar project along with 120 MWh utility scale battery energy storage system (BESS), a company statement said.

According to statement, the total contract value of the

project is approximately Rs 945 crore. The project will be executed within 18 months.

The Utility Scale EPC order book of Tata Power Solar now stands at 4.4 GW (DC) capacity with an approximate value of Rs 9,000 crore (without GST), thereby strengthening its position as India's leading Solar EPC player, the company stated.

The SECI project sites are located in Chhattisgarh. The order scope includes engineering, design, supply, construction, erection, testing, O&M and commissioning of the projects.

Consumer durables makers revenue seen rising 20 per cent

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Driven by electrical appliances makers, the Rs 2 lakh-crore consumer durables sector is set to report a robust 20 per cent revenue growth this fiscal after a flatish run last fiscal, says a report. Revenues of electrical appliances makers are expected to grow twice as fast as white goods makers, forming 65 per cent of the sectoral revenues this fiscal (which traditionally is only 35 per cent of the sectoral revenue), Crisil said in a report on Wednesday.

Operating profitability will be a tad lower due to costlier inputs despite price hikes, though, the report said, adding credit profiles will be stable on healthy revenue accruals and low leverage.

The sector, which clocked Rs 2 lakh crore revenue last fiscal, includes consumer electricals (excluding mobile phones) and white goods. White goods include washing machines, televisions, refrigerators and air conditioners while consumer electricals include fans, kitchen and cooking appliances, and lighting products among others

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NIT No.: 58/EE-14/GHMC/DB/2021-22, Dated: 30.11.2021
Name of Work: Various works under Goshamahal Circle-14, GHMC.
Estimate Amount / ECV (Rs in lakhs): 106.84. Start Date/ Last date & time for receipts of Bids: 03.12.2021 @ 11.00 AM - 10.12.2021 @ 11.00 AM.
Name & Address Officer: Executive Engineer-14, GHMC 5th Floor Abids Parking Complex, Abids, Hyderabad-500004. For further details can be seen at e-procurement website www.tender.telangana.gov.in
R.O. No.: 18316-PP/CL/ADMT/1/2021-22 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DIVISION-14, GHMC

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEER, PIJ RANGAREDDY DISTRICT
Short Tender Notice
Short Tender Notice No. TCO/02/2021-22 Dtd: 29.11.2021
Total no of works (18). Out of this SWG Drain, Community halls, Mobile Bldg, Anganwadi Bldgs, DWACRA Bldg, OC Roads and other works under CDP, 15th FC, MPLADs and ZPGF grants in order signed with total estimated cost of Rs. 125.56 lakhs. Tender schedules can be had from Office of the District Panchayat Raj Engineer, PIJ Rangareddy, District from 29.11.2021 to 06.12.2021 upto 3.30 p.m and participate on 06.12.2021 upto 3.00 p.m from date of issue. Other details can be had from Office of the DPRE PIJ RRD District email ID espi@telangana.gov.in Office land line number 048-23232334.
R.O. No.: 383/DPCL/AGENCY/ADMT/1/2021-22 Dtd: 31-12-2021 Sd/- District Panchayat Raj Engineer, PIJ Rangareddy

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
REVENUE (LAND ACQUISITION) DEPARTMENT FORM-VI PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION
(See sub rule (1) of rule - 19 vide G.O.Ms.No. 50 Res (J&LA) Dt. 19.12.2014 & Section -11(1) of R&A Act - 38/2013)
COLLECTOR:- K.B. ASIFABAD No. 61/215/2017 Dated: 11.2021
RDO ASIFABAD No. 61/215/2017 Dated: 11.2021
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/ Collector, Asifabad that a total of 3.10 Ac/Gts of land of Ada village Asifabad Mandal as specified in the "Schedule" below situated in the limits of Ada village of Asifabad Mandal, K.B Asifabad District for public purpose of TDWSD (Mission Bhagiratha) for the CPWS Scheme to Asifabad and Other habitation in Asifabad Constituency for construction of Sump and Pump House for CPWS Scheme in Sy.No.139/11 to an extent of 3.10 Ac/Gts. in Ada village of Asifabad Mandal, Kumurambheem Asifabad Dist.
In exercise of the powers conferred under section 10-A, the State of Telangana issued G.O.Ms.No. 38 RWS&S Dept., dated 04.07.2018 exempting the application of Chapter-II & III of the LARR Act 2013 to the Mission Bhagiratha Scheme. Therefore, there is no requirement of following the procedure contemplated under Chapter II & III of the LARR Act 2013 of the present Land Acquisition which is meant for as detailed above which is part of CPWS Scheme.

AD STRACT	
1. ADA VILLAGE	3.10 Ac/Gts.
TOTAL EXTENT	3.10 Ac/Gts.
Hence, this notification is hereby given to all to whom it may concern in accordance with the provisions of Section 11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 [Act No.30/2013]. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, K.B. Asifabad, Revenue Divisional Officer, Asifabad and Tahsildar Office, Asifabad on any working day during the working hours. Under Section 12 of the said Act the Government of Telangana / Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is authorize, the Revenue Divisional Officer, Asifabad and their 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. Under section 11[4] of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of the 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 District Collector, K.B. Asifabad. Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the persons interested within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification on the issues as provided under section 15 (1) of the Act before the District Collector, K.B. Asifabad / LAO & Revenue Divisional Officer, Asifabad. Land Acquisition Officer Revenue Divisional officer, Asifabad Additional Collector, K.B. Asifabad District Collector, K.B. Asifabad DIPR R.O. No: 878/LA/PP/Advt/Pub/2021-22	

Sebi asks debenture trustees to disclose investors charter, pliant data on website

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has directed debenture trustees (DTs) to disclose investors charter and data on complaints they received on their websites.

The new guidelines will come into effect from January 1, 2022, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

To facilitate investor awareness about various activities where an investor has to deal with DTs for availing various services, Sebi has developed an investor charter for DTs, detailing the services provided to investors, timelines provided, rights and obligations of investors and grievance redressal mechanism.

In this regard, Sebi has asked all the registered DTs to take necessary steps to bring the investor charter to the notice of investors in non-



convertible debt securities by way of disseminating the charter on their websites and displaying the charter at prominent places in offices etc. Also, the Trustee Association of India (TAI) will disseminate the Investor Charter on its website.

Additionally, in a bid to bring transparency in the investor grievance redressal mechanism, Sebi asked DTs to disclose on their respective

websites, the data on complaints received against them or in respect of non-convertible debt securities issuances dealt by them and redressal thereof.

They will have to submit such data latest by the 7th of the succeeding month, the regulator said.

In addition, the regulator has also prescribed a format for disclosing data of complaints on their websites.

Rs 163 cr allocated to 41 incubators

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday said as on November 25 this year, Rs 163.30 crore has been allocated to 41 incubators selected so far under Startup India Seed Fund Scheme.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in a written reply to the Lok Sabha said Rs 945 crore has been sanctioned under the scheme for years starting from 2021-22.

"As of November 25, 2021, Rs 163.30 crore has been allo-



cated (committed) to 41 incubators selected so far under the scheme," he said.

He also said as of October 2021, Rs 2,291.29 crore has

been allocated by the ministry to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the implementing agency, under Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) Scheme.

A corpus of Rs 10,000 crore has been sanctioned under FFS Scheme, spread over 14th and 15th Finance Commission cycles.

In a separate reply, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash said in the last seven years (2014-21), India has received USD 440.27 billion foreign direct investment (FDI).

VE CV sales rise 10% to 4,085 units in Nov

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Eicher Motors Ltd on Wednesday said its joint venture with Volvo VECV posted a 10.1 per cent increase in total sales at 4,085 units in November 2021.

VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd (VECV), an unlisted subsidiary, had sold 3,710 units in the same month last year, Eicher Motors said in a regulatory filing.

Eicher trucks and busses sales grew 3.1 per cent to 3,184 units last month against 3,088 units in November 2020.

Exports of Eicher brand of commercial vehicles stood at 783 units, compared to 473 units in the year-ago month, a growth of 65.5 per cent, the company said. Sales of Volvo trucks and busses were down 20.8 per cent at 118 units last month as against 149 units in November 2020, it added.



Looking on the 'Bright Side'

SHREYA SRIKONDA

Mental illness is still a hush-hush topic in today's world. People still feel reluctant to acknowledge how real and common this issue is. Bringing in a fest with a special focus on mental health is The Bright Side foundation which started 'project Udaan'. Founder Swetha Desiraju talks about her dream, saying, "Growing up, I watched closely how mental illnesses can affect people. More than the illness itself, I've noticed how much the stigma of mental illness can affect a person. If someone close to you is admitted to a hospital due to mental illness, you have to lie to other people and cover up the reason why they're ill. I realised something has to be done about this. There had to be a change — it had to go from stigma to support."

Swetha, who is a psychologist by profession, started to meet people who shared her vision. She introduces the board of directors — a varied group of changemakers including a lecturer, a scientist, a community worker, psychol-

ogists, and a student of psychology as well. Together, they organised Udaan — a 'mental health festival', on November's last Sunday. It was an event that was one of the first-of-its-kind in Hyderabad. Focusing on the positive side of the discourse around mental health, the event saw powerful stage performances, painting stations, food stalls, games and was full of smiles.

The NGO is registered under the act of 2001, and since their formation last year, they've been busy with projects that Swetha describes as being "very close to their hearts".

"When we were brainstorming, we asked ourselves, 'What did we need the most when we were kids?' We realised that the answer was that we all needed someone who could help us navigate the emotional changes and guide us to make responsible choices — someone who could be the 'wind beneath our wings.' The foundation's project named 'Wind beneath the wings' aims to do just that for the adolescents of the country. They created a curriculum for school children for social and emotional learning. "Our goal is to tie up with the state governments and see schools



across the country adopt the curriculum and have children learning about social and emotional learning," says Swetha.

During the pandemic, they came up with 'Art therapy', a project that was a huge hit with young children. Understanding that children will not be able to grasp the concept of mental well-being, the Bright Side foundation

came up with exercises where a child can be creative while being taught how to manage their mental health. They would paint their palms with colour, and leave an imprint of it on paper. In the palm they write about their future, things they like to do, people they're grateful for — leading to a productive session where children are allowed to verbalise their emotions and take some

time to be grateful for things in their life. They plan to grow in other sectors as well. Bhavana Srirangam, a board-member, says that they're hoping to get into the healthcare sector, to provide sessions for those affected with fatal illnesses. "By being provided with training sessions, they will have more resilience, which in turn strengthens their treatment."

The foundation also has its own podcast (which is available on all platforms) called By your side by the Bright Side foundation, and it talks about relationships, companionship, and social well-being.

A special thing the foundation does, Swetha mentions, is how they provide free counselling for people. The main reason why people shy away from seeking the therapy they really need is how expensive it can get. By providing free counselling, the foundation allows those in need to at least start a dialogue with a qualified psychologist, and better understand their own health.

Board-member Nikitha Vattikuti talks about 5 years down the lane, they hope to be the wind beneath the wings for many children across every district through the govt of Telangana, and get national recognition to take the foundation to other states. "With teammates hailing from many professional sectors like healthcare, education, etc- we're hoping to grow in many aspects. 5 years down the line, I think we will be able to make a mark in many ways," says Nikitha.



Reduce vehicular pollution

"The dust and particulate material from vehicular pollution and smoke from stubble burning have caused smog-like conditions in Delhi and its nearby cities. The dangerous mix of pollutants in our air also increases the risk of respiratory diseases, much like smoking cigarette toxins does. For children who grow up in highly polluted cities like Delhi, Jalandhar, and other north Indian states the impact of this dangerous air can be catastrophic for their undeveloped lungs and respiratory systems. We have seen a significant spike in people reporting respiratory problems in such weather and environmental conditions. Common complaints include cough and breathlessness. It is well-known that the burning of stubble releases a toxic mixture of gases which include carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and even manganese and cadmium particles in the atmosphere. This means city residents are practically inhaling poisonous air, which is severely affecting their lung health."



Dr. Shubhang Aggarwal from NHS Hospital.

Children most affected

"The air quality has degraded beyond our control and the winter season in many parts of India is adding to the adverseness of the situation. The pollution caused around this time takes around 3-4 months to dissipate and therefore increases prolonged exposure to these gasses. Every individual is affected by bad air quality; the most badly affected are children. Children's ability to filter out or detoxify environmental agents and pollution is different. Also, in kids airway epithelium is more permeable than in adults, which makes them more vulnerable to diseases. For children who grow up in highly-polluted cities like Delhi and Gurugram, the impact of this dangerous air can be catastrophic on their undeveloped lungs and respiratory systems. No surprise, our pulmonary department will be overflowing with patients. I urge the people to save our environment by following all the guidelines to curb pollution."



Dr. Shuchin Bajaj from Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals.

Stop being mean and keep the air clean!

Clean air is a basic requirement for healthy living. Although pollution has been a longstanding subject of public debate, this National Pollution Prevention Day today, we will be making people aware of the things that we can do in order to prevent pollution and control the pollution of the world as per its theme. The National Health Portal of India data revealed that around 7 million people die every year due to air pollution. The data also reveals that nine out of 10 people globally do not have access to clean and safe air! There were some thought leaders, medical experts, and industry leaders in this space who wanted to address the issue of air pollution and how it's affecting our lifestyle in the long run, or how to overcome the problem and sustain.

Cycle for a friendly environment

"Pollution remains high in many parts of the country despite the implementation of all possible measures. Every day, vehicular emissions contribute to pollution in Indian cities. It is therefore important that people consider environmentally friendly options for transportation, such as cycling, to counteract the shrinking share of a healthy environment. There has been a tangible shift towards cycling due to limited mobility and activity options during the pandemic but we will need well-thought-out policies to maintain this momentum. While this will need some focused behavioral change by the consumer, the government should also do more to promote cycling such as creating more cycle lanes, reducing GST, and conducting awareness campaigns for it. Cycling is one of the safest and best forms of exercise and is very effective for people with diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, to mention a few. A cycle is also a quieter vehicle and more people adopting them may address the issue of noise pollution."



Pankaj M Munjal, Chairman, and Managing Director, HMC.

Lead a less consumptive, carbon and other pollutant-free lifestyle

"While pollution has been a subject of constant and animated public discussion for many years now, there is a need to shift the focus from outdoor to indoor pollution. With the governments on their part taking all possible measures to mitigate the impact on people, the common people too have a responsibility in this regard. In order to minimize the emissions from their day-to-day activities, they should not only educate themselves and others in the community on the exigent need of cutting down on indoor pollution but also try to lead a less consumptive and carbon and other pollutant-free lifestyle in their own lives as much as possible. In light of an unprecedented pandemic increasingly reshaping our lifestyles and mobility habits prompting more spending of time indoors coupled with the established connection between dirty pollutants and harmful pathogens, there is never a better time than now to give a war cry on indoor pollution."



Himanshu Agarwal, CEO, and Founder of Magneto CleanTech.



Spicing it up: Here's how millennial Indians are exploring intimacy

Pee Safe, a hygiene and wellness brand, recently carried out a pleasure survey among Indian audiences under its female sexual pleasure and wellness brand Domina. The survey was conducted across age groups and over 25,000 respondents from more than 200 cities identified the changes in sexual habits, opinions, and preferences during the pandemic. It also aimed to assess the sexual awareness and hygiene levels among audiences and has unraveled some surprising stats.

The survey revealed that about 57% of Indians don't use any form of contraception such as condoms. While having sex with their partner, 33% of the people in the sample size fantasized about someone else. The focus here is on raising awareness around the contraception options available even for women such as female condoms. They ensure safety and pleasure for women and there is an increasing acceptance of

such products as well.

A major indicator of the mindset change towards sexual pleasure is the fact that nearly 48% of the respondents either used sex toys or expressed interest in using them. The survey also found that 82% of the respondents masturbate more than once a month. People are not shying away from foreplay, mutual masturbation, or even watching porn with their partners. About 38% experienced heightened sexual activity in the pandemic period. These and other findings indicate that there is a greater emphasis on sexual pleasure and experimentation among Indians. Those without partners are exploring channels such as dating apps (nearly 36% of the respondents claimed that they've used dating apps).

Speaking about this, Vikas Bagaria, Founder, Pee Safe, says, "The pandemic has been an eye-opener when it comes to people's sexual preferences and usage of related products. There is experimentation, a

greater acceptance of sexual needs, and a need for pleasure in intimate relationships. This is gratifying for both men as well as women. However, there should be aware as well, which was also my primary reason for starting Pee Safe. I was a man in a sea of women-dominated categories and started out to change the narrative, break myths and speak out about taboos."

Adding further, Divya Sethi, Sexual Wellness Expert at Domina by Pee Safe, says, "There are multiple ways to enhance sexual pleasure including experimenting, foreplay and so on. Still, the O word continues to evade women often."

However, with female condoms available now, why should boys have all the fun! It is time for both men and women to discover the full joys of intimacy by using various products. With Domina, we want to start a dialogue around what physical intimacy means for women and give the power in their hands."

STRENGTHEN YOUR BACK

Since most of us are working for long hours in this WFH set-up, DR SHUBHANG AGGARWAL tells us how to take care of the spine



While working from home has many personal and professional benefits, it is also making you susceptible to spine-related issues due to your poor posture during work. Since most of us are working long hours in this new set-up, the uncomfortable chair and no break during the work hours all lead to back pain. Due to the space crunch in our homes, it's difficult to accommodate today's ergonomic office furniture. Therefore, one should be careful about their body posture while working from home. Ensure that none of the parts of the body are awkwardly bent or twisted. It's equally essential to move around periodically in order to promote circulation.

Posture

One needs to take care of their posture to relieve the stress from the elbows and neck. When we sit for a long time, our 'S' curve of the spine changes into 'C' curve, thereby putting more stress on your muscles, ligaments and tissues.

Adjust your seat

When you are working on a laptop, it's necessary to adjust your seat so that it can be comfortable for your eyes as well as your back. Your eyes should be lined up 3 inches below the top of your screen if using a desktop computer, or tilt your laptop screen back to 120 degrees. The screen should be at least an arm's length away. Make sure you're not sitting upright or hunching forward in your chair like a turtle. While sitting back in your chair, some of your body weight is being supported by the chair back and sit close enough to comfortably reach your keyboard and mouse.

Change your position frequently

Don't get immersed in your work. Take small breaks. Instead, try to get up every 45-50 minutes, even if it's just to walk around the room. Stand after every half an hour, stretch and move around for a minute or two to promote circulation and relax muscles. You can also walk to get a glass of water or make tea or coffee for yourself. But don't try to work for hours on end standing up. Standing for extended periods of time also increase the risks of varicose veins. Our body comprises 360 joints and they all need to move in order for the proper circulation of blood. Therefore, stretch breaks are important

Exercises for a stronger back

Exercise can help strengthen and support your back. A scheduled walk, every day for 30 minutes, can do a lot to strengthen your lower back and the muscles that support your spine. One needs to make exercise a priority. There are many great and effective home workouts that you can do with basic household items. These are just a few simple steps you can take to help relieve back pain. Remember that the more you can work in a neutral posture, and the more you can move around, the less the chance of any spinal injury. But, if you are still struggling with pain that interferes with your daily life, consider talking to a specialist.

The writer is Orthopaedic & Robotic Joint Replacement Surgeon and Director, NHS Hospital, Jalandhar

Quality oil for good health



Quality oil will cover all three main aspects of good health, diet, and nutrition. During the pandemic that started in 2020, the trend has been to have as many home-cooked meals as possible since most people have been at home. This has given rise to different trends of using traditional grains and legumes like millets in different ways. Most of us have also experimented with local and seasonal vegetables in some form or the other. This is indeed the best example of a balanced diet with carbohydrates, proteins, and lipids or oil.

That good oil will help you saute, bake and garnish well! There are no right or wrong oils for one, but a fine-quality one does exist. The best meals are those cooked with the freshest and top quality ingredients and this includes the oil used in cooking. Home cooking needs oil that assures purity and world-class quality. The oil needs to ensure that the taste of food cooked delights the whole family and stays fresher for longer. The oil that may start smoking or burning, is a big no-no. Choose the oils that don't harm the flavours or don't degrade the nutritional value of your meal! Choose the oil which is free from all of this like the Gold Drop refined oil.

The lighter the oil, the purer it is. Also, oil must be odour-free. Both these qualities are what it offers its consumers, and this purity level and consistency ensure great taste. Mitesh Lohiya, Director, Sales and Marketing tells *The Pioneer*, "With this oil, you can be assured of the best raw materials used. Along with our ultra-modern refining facilities and stringent testing, it has consistent quality and purity in every drop." The right cooking oil can be vital for protecting brain cells and reducing the risk of heart diseases.

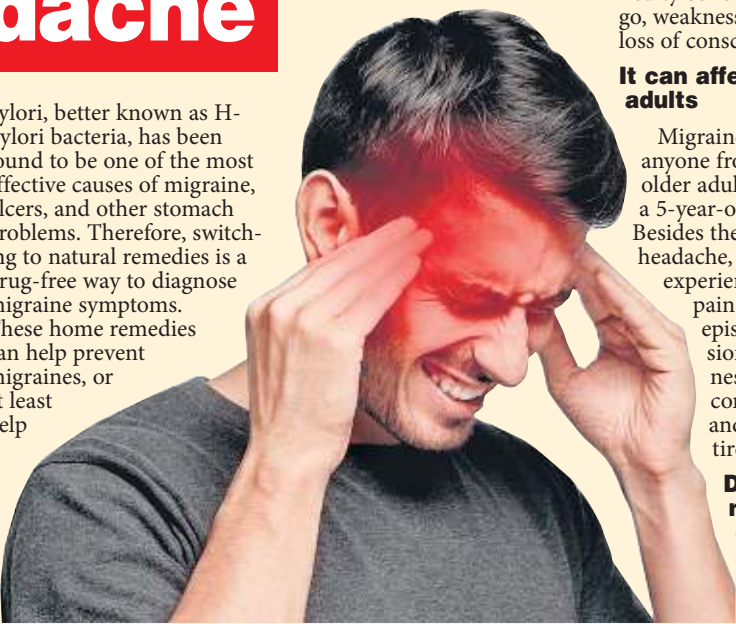
Migraine has become a common phenomenon with about one in seven people suffering from this condition globally. DR PRAVEEN JACOB shares myths and tells you how to fight it naturally

Decoding headache

Migraine, an excruciating headache coupled with nausea and sensitivity to light and sound, not only hampers your sleep cycle but also your quality of life. It has become quite a common phenomenon; with about one in seven people suffering from this condition globally. The condition makes you so helpless that you become ready to alleviate the excruciating pain. Medications can help manage pain, and antidepressants and beta blockers can help prevent recurrent episodes. However, all of these methods have potential side effects, including nausea, insomnia, high blood pressure, and heart attacks. Clinical studies have shown that home remedies provide more effective pain relief compared to conventional care.

Causes

If you have found out the root cause of your migraine then half of the battle is won. Dehydration, high blood pressure, tight muscles in the neck or shoulder, emotional stress, certain medications, supplements or reactions to other foods are some of the prominent causes of migration. Even *Helicobacter pylori*, better known as H-Pylori bacteria, has been found to be one of the most effective causes of migraine, ulcers, and other stomach problems. Therefore, switching to natural remedies is a drug-free way to diagnose migraine symptoms. These home remedies can help prevent migraines, or at least help



reduce their severity and duration.

Myths

They are like normal headaches

It is important to note that headaches are only one symptom of migraine. Along with the headache, migraines also cause nausea, sensitivity to light, difficulty concentrating, vertigo, weakness, vomiting and loss of consciousness.

It can affect only adults

Migraines can affect anyone from children to older adults. It can affect a 5-year-old child. Besides the excruciating headache, they can also experience abdominal pain, irritability, episodic confusion, severe dizziness, difficulty in concentration and extreme tiredness.

During migraine, only one side of the head pains

There is no set pattern for migraine headache. It can be either one-sided or they can involve the whole head, or even the back of the head or neck, and sometimes the face too. All the patients don't end up throwing up when they are hit with migraine.

Women are more prone to migraines

Women are three times more likely to have migraines, but men suffer from migraines too. While 18-20% of women suffer from migraine, 8-10% of men also suffer from migraines.

Natural Remedies

Keep yourself well hydrated

If you want to treat migraine without medication, you should drink loads of water or an electrolyte beverage. If you are opting for an electrolyte beverage then ensure that it doesn't have added sugar or colour in it. Excessive sugar can also aggravate headache. Taking a vitamin C drink is also a good option.

Perform yoga regularly

Studies have shown that yoga can be effective in controlling headaches. Yoga is an ancient discipline that promotes a holistic approach to pain management through a combination of breathing techniques and posture. These asanas and pranayama have no side effects. Exercising twice daily under the guidance of a certified trainer will reduce the severity of migraine pain and help prepare for future attacks.

An effective tactic

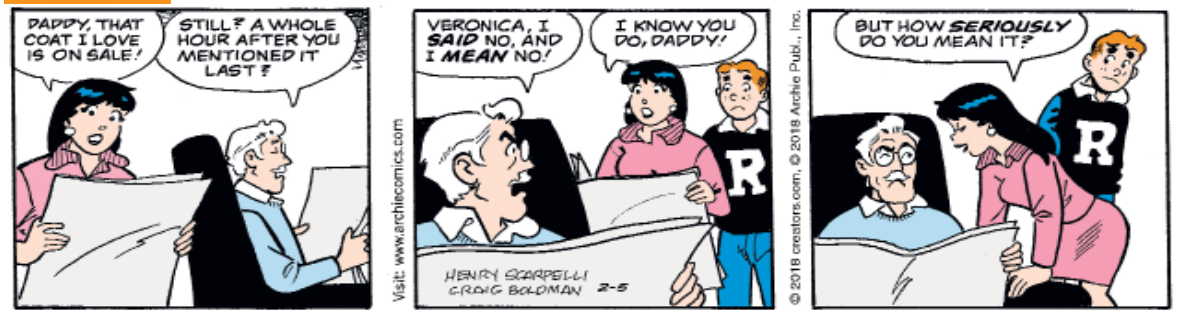
Contemplative meditation involves focusing on the present moment with a non-judgmental mind. This in some way helps to reduce stress, which is one of the most common causes of migraine. Techniques such as meditation and relaxation can sometimes soothe headaches.

Exercise


In order to reduce the frequency and intensity of migraine attacks, doing some physical activity regularly can help.

FUN


ARCHIE




CALVIN AND HOBBS




GARFIELD



REALITY CHECK




SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD

1	2		3	4	5
			6		
7			8		
			9		
11				12	
			13		
16			14		
				17	
18				19	

NANCY




SUDOKU

				2		4
5		2		9	1	
	3		8			
				4	1	
8	5					6
	9		3	8		
			6		8	3
	8	3			5	
7		1				2

Yesterday's solution

3	8	9	7	6	4	2	1	5
4	2	1	5	9	8	3	6	7
6	5	7	3	2	1	8	4	9
2	1	5	4	3	6	9	7	8
7	3	6	9	8	2	4	5	1
8	9	4	1	5	7	6	2	3
9	7	8	6	4	5	1	3	2
5	4	2	8	1	3	7	9	6
1	6	3	2	7	9	5	8	4

GINGER MEGGS



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

6 From another country

9 A sea creature with many arms

11 Aeroplane trip


12 Motorist


14 Jealousy


15 Large group of soldiers


SOLUTION


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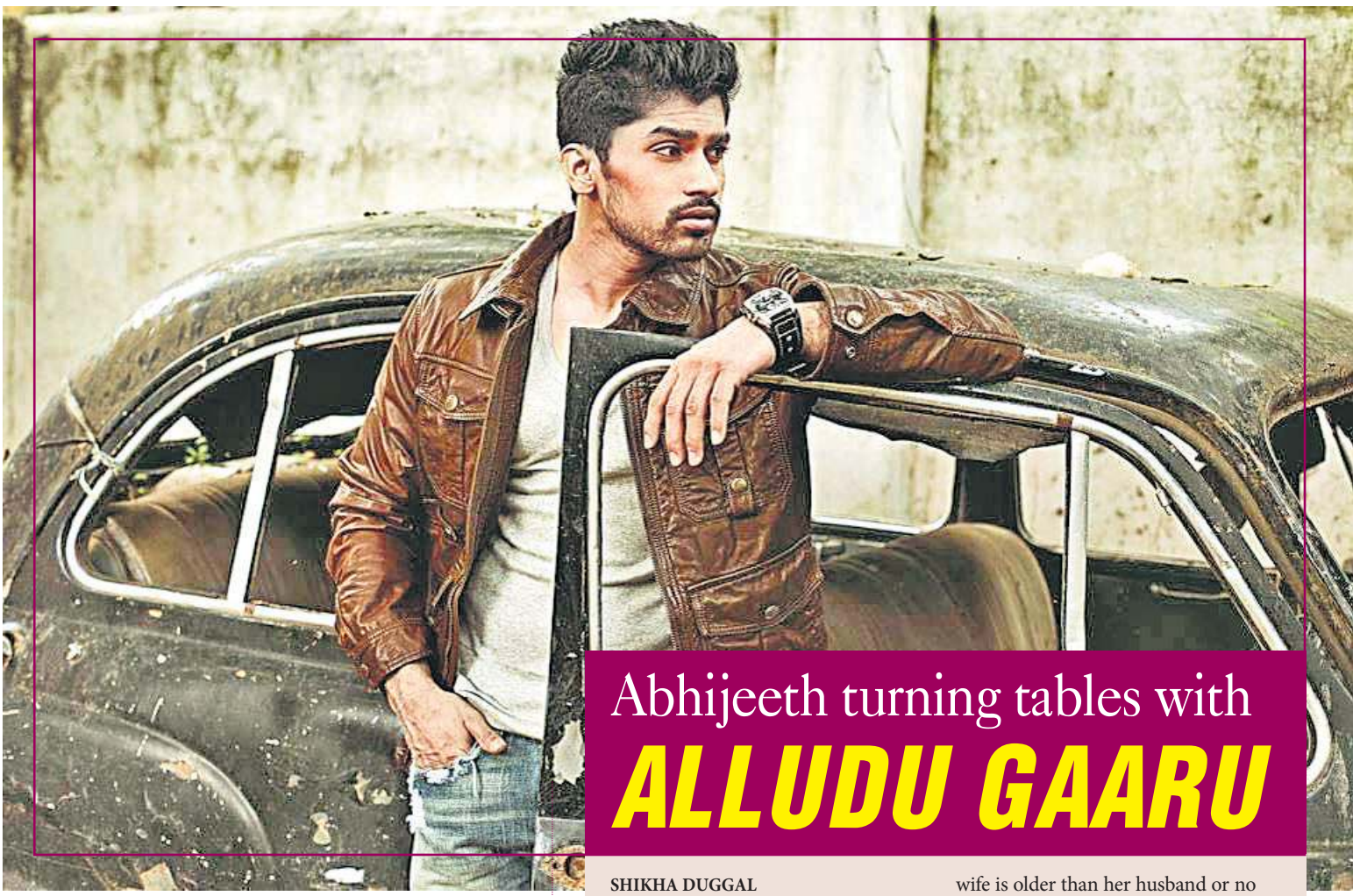






Kiran Abbavaram loses his brother in an accident

Actor Kiran Abbavaram who recently tasted success with *SR Kalyanamandapam* starring Priyanka Jawalkar, suffered a personal loss on Wednesday. The actor-writer lost his brother in a road accident on Wednesday. Kiran Abbavaram's brother Ramanjulu Reddy passed away in a road accident in Chennuru, Kadapa district on Wednesday. Ramanjulu Reddy was living in Sambepalle Mandal, Dudyala village in Andhra Pradesh. Condolences messages are coming from all quarters. Kiran Abbaram is making a name for himself making rapid strides in the industry after making his debut with *Raja Varu Rani Garu*. He has multiple projects like *Sammathame* and *Sebastian PC 524* and recently his film with Ramesh Kaduri. The project will be produced the film on Clap Entertainment and Naveen Yerneni and Ravi Shankar Yalamanchili of Mythri Movie Makers will be presenting the film.



Abhijeeth turning tables with ALLUDU GAARU

SHIKHA DUGGAL

The feel-good web series *Alludu Gaaru* has compelled many locals to ask a question: "why do only girls have to leave their house after marriage?" With the same idea, Dice Media announced its foray into regional content. The new series is a remake of the Hindi super hit family drama *What The Folks!* that has seen three successful seasons. Hyderabad-based Abhijeeth Poondla, the lead actor of the series, also questions the same as why this age-old custom can't be overturned. The actor in the show decides to reside in his wife's home. It is a coming-of-age story that revolves around the struggles of a newly-married son-in-law Ajay essayed by Abhijeeth Poondla, who is forced to stay alone with his over-caring in-laws in a conservative household for a few weeks. His bitter-sweet interactions with his in-laws to impress them add to the humor, which will make you laugh and feel sorry for him at the same time. Despite his initial reluctance, Ajay tries hard to meet their expectations and fit into the family, keeping his contrasting world views aside. While his struggles will tickle your funny bones without a doubt, you are sure to empathise with his plight. "With this show, we wanted the masses to treat their son-in-laws the same way as they do the daughters-in-law. It is sometimes okay to not place your son-in-law on an unmatched pedestal. There is no harm if the

wife is older than her husband or no harm if she is earning more than him. The whole process of judgment should stop in this society!", says the actor in conversation with *The Pioneer*.

The actor clarified that the team neither wanted to please the audiences nor offend them with the theme of the show, they told the plot through the eyes of the filmmaker. The actor knew it won't turn out to be offensive content online, he confirmed that it will be food for thought for many. Everyone must understand the story from a girl's perspective! He continues, "We didn't label it to be a feminist story, it is a new point of view one can look at. It was also about how *aaj ka mard* thinks about these cultural practices. I never pick roles so that they'll recalibrate my career in this industry. Instead, I must enjoy doing the role and hence I'll do it or else will turn down the offer."

This time he found the role to be more challenging than enjoyable, he thought he'll be carrying the show completely on his shoulders and therefore it was his responsibility to give it his best shot. He is happy that the show did well, and is glad to have worked with a wonderful cast and crew.

Narrating to us a real-life experience, where his family can be seen breaking stereotypes similarly in a marriage, he recounts, "We are a typical Telugu family but my older sister got married to a Punjabi man. My parents are extremely fond of my brother-in-law, so much so that they accept him as their own child. We respect him immensely but we haven't ever thought of placing him on any pedestals. All this makes me feel that yes, such a show like *Alladu Gaaru* is relevant."



Tollywood biggies postpone promotions after lyricist Sastry's death

Following the death of renowned lyricist Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry, the makers of Pawan Kalyan's *Bheemla Nayak* have altered their promotional schedules. The makers of Pawan Kalyan starrer *Bheemla Nayak* dropped their plans to release the song *Adavi Thalli Maata*, which was supposed to be out on Wednesday.

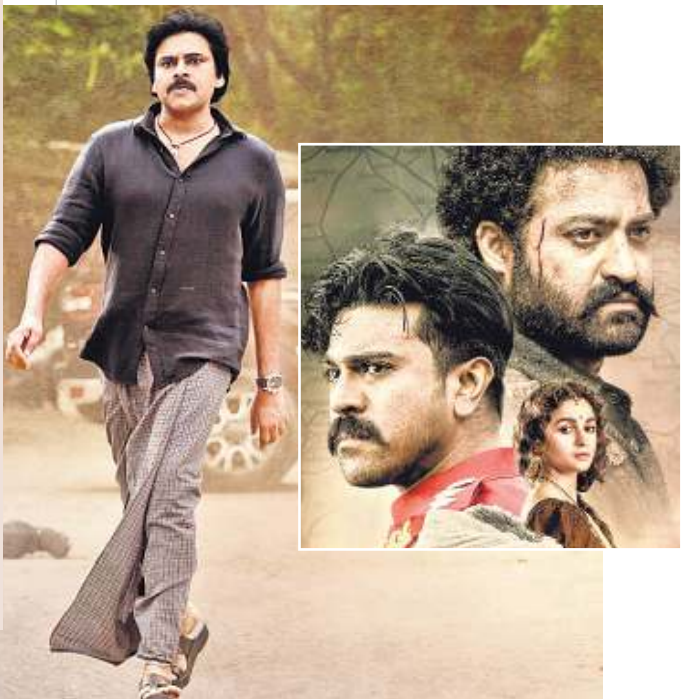
"Due to unforeseen circumstances, *#AdaviThalliMaata* song will not be coming out tomorrow," the production house said in a tweet.

Seetharama Sastry's contribution to cinema is unmatched. Trivikram Srinivas is one of the closest aides of the legendary writer Sirivennela. Hence, the makers have decided to postpone their song's release.

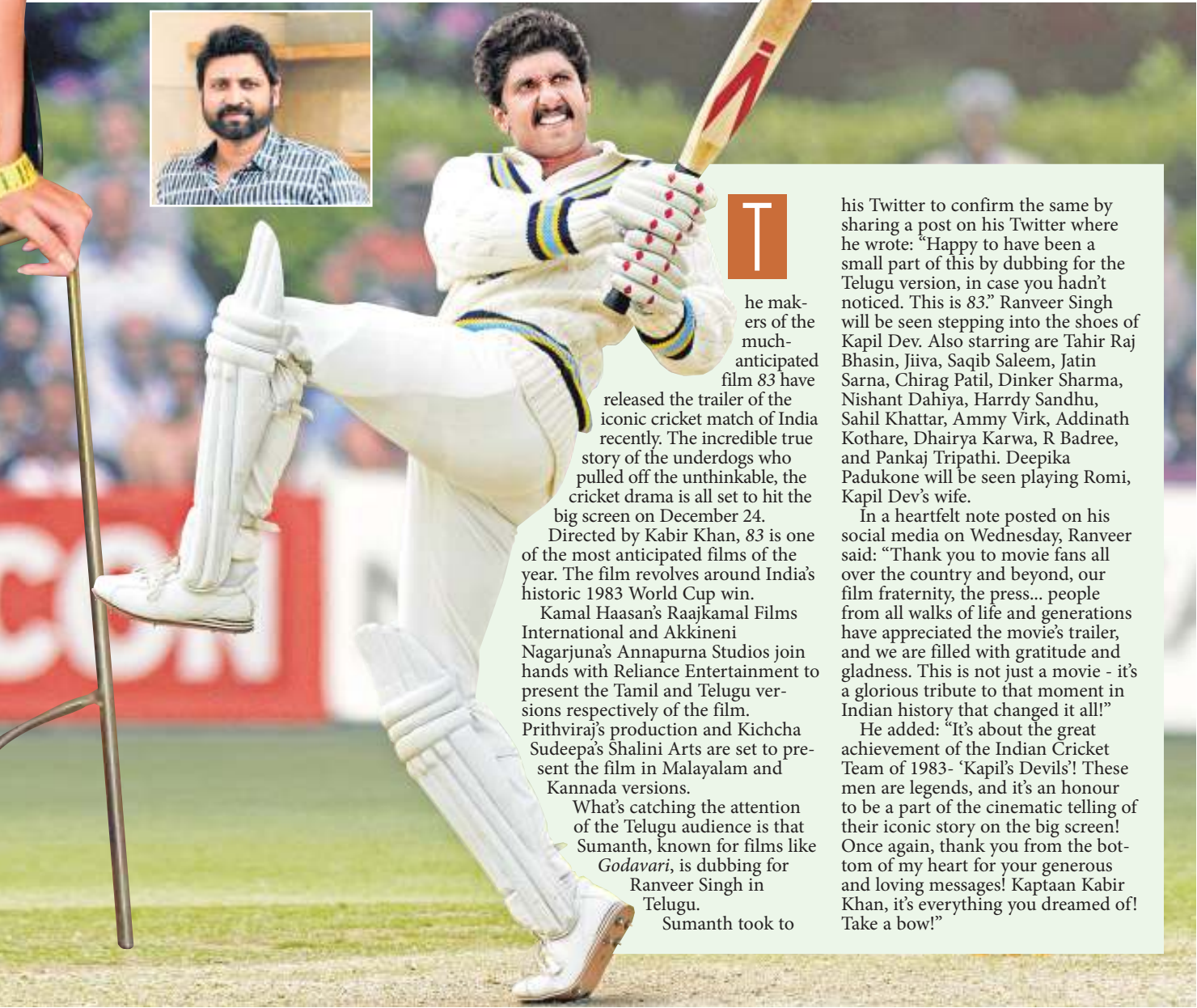
On the other hand, the makers of Ram Charan and NTR-starrer *RRR*, also took to their social media handles to announce the postponement of the theatrical trailer's release. The makers of *RRR* quote technical reasons behind the postponement. "Due to unforeseen circumstances, we aren't releasing the *#RRRTrailer* on December 3rd. We will announce the new date very soon," the makers wrote.

Meanwhile, the makers of *Bangarraju* too postponed the release of their second single from the film. Nagarjuna announced the same by sharing a post on his Twitter: "In respect to a great lyricist Sirivennela Seetharamasastry garu, *Bangarraju Naakosam* song teaser will be released on 2nd December 10.08 am instead of today."

RRR and *Bheemla Nayak* are scheduled to hit the screens for the Sankranti festival 2022. *RRR* is to hit theatres on January 7 while *Bheemla Nayak* is slated for release on January 12.



Sumanth turns dubbing artiste for 83



The makers of the much-anticipated film *83* have released the trailer of the iconic cricket match of India recently. The incredible true story of the underdogs who pulled off the unthinkable, the cricket drama is all set to hit the big screen on December 24. Directed by Kabir Khan, *83* is one of the most anticipated films of the year. The film revolves around India's historic 1983 World Cup win. Kamal Haasan's Raajkamal Films International and Akkineni Nagarjuna's Annapurna Studios join hands with Reliance Entertainment to present the Tamil and Telugu versions respectively of the film. Prithviraj's production and Kichcha Sudeepa's Shalini Arts are set to present the film in Malayalam and Kannada versions.

What's catching the attention of the Telugu audience is that Sumanth, known for films like *Godavari*, is dubbing for Ranveer Singh in Telugu.

Sumanth took to his Twitter to confirm the same by sharing a post on his Twitter where he wrote: "Happy to have been a small part of this by dubbing for the Telugu version, in case you hadn't noticed. This is 83! Ranveer Singh will be seen stepping into the shoes of Kapil Dev. Also starring are Tahir Raj Bhasin, Jiiva, Saqib Saleem, Jatin Sarna, Chirag Patil, Dinker Sharma, Nishant Dahiya, Ammy Virk, Addinath Kothare, Dhairya Karwa, R Badree, and Pankaj Tripathi. Deepika Padukone will be seen playing Romi, Kapil Dev's wife."

In a heartfelt note posted on his social media on Wednesday, Ranveer said: "Thank you to movie fans all over the country and beyond, our film fraternity, the press... people from all walks of life and generations have appreciated the movie's trailer, and we are filled with gratitude and gladness. This is not just a movie - it's a glorious tribute to that moment in Indian history that changed it all!"

He added: "It's about the great achievement of the Indian Cricket Team of 1983- 'Kapil's Devils!' These men are legends, and it's an honour to be a part of the cinematic telling of their iconic story on the big screen! Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous and loving messages! Kaptaan Kabir Khan, it's everything you dreamed of! Take a bow!"

Seerat Kapoor grooves to Badshah's Party Anthem

Actress Seerat Kapoor is all set to blaze fire in the coming days. Seerat made her acting debut in *Run Raja Run* in 2014. There was no looking back as she was seen in films like *Tigers*, *Columbus*, *Raju Gari Gadhi 2*, *Okka Kshanam*, *Touch Chesi Chudu* and more.

The actress is climbing the ladder of success with a hand full of projects — recently signing a film for Dil Raju's production house.

Currently, Badshah's new song *Jugnu* is on everyone's mind and has been grooved to on Instagram reels and stories. This time Badshah is coming up with his new party anthem for which he made the announcement recently. According to the sources, it is said that the beautiful actress Seerat Kapoor will be featured in Badshah's upcoming Party anthem *Song* which is said to be releasing this week.

Seerat Kapoor's fans are very much excited to see her in something new, as she will be seen showing off her best moves. The song is said to be very catchy and will make you dance on its every single beat.

On the work front, Seerat Kapoor is all set to make her Bollywood debut. She will be seen in *Maarich* alongside the veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah and the handsome Tusshar Kapoor, and is highly awaited by fans. The film is going to be produced under the banner of Tusshar Entertainments. The actress will be seen in Telugu film as a lead in Dil Raju's upcoming film. The actress was also spotted on the sets.



PTI ■ HUELVA (SPAIN)

Defending champion PV Sindhu has got a first round bye and faces the prospect of coming up against Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Tai Tzu Ying and former world number one Carolina Marin in the quarterfinals and semifinals respectively of the World Badminton Championships here. Sindhu, who won a bronze in the Tokyo Olympics, has been seeded sixth in the December 12-19 showpiece event. The world number seven Indian has seen a resurgence in form as she had reached semifinals in the last three tournaments she had played. Sindhu faces the winner of Martina Repiska of Slovenia and Ruselli Hartawan of Indonesia in the second round. If she clears the third round, Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu, who had beaten her in the Tokyo Olympics semifinals, will be awaiting her in the quarterfinals.

If she Sindhu gets past Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu, she could be up against Marin who had beaten her in the 2016 Rio



PV SINDHU GETS FIRST ROUND BYE IN WORLD C'SHIPS, TAI TZU IN LINE IN QUARTERS

Olympics summit clash.

Marin returns from injury straight into the World Championships and she will be

playing in an arena named after her. Tai Tzu has also taken sufficient rest as she hasn't played since winning silver at Tokyo 2020.

The other half of the women's singles has two players -- Akane Yamaguchi of Japan and An Seyoung of Korea -- who have

swept the prominent World Tour titles since the Olympics.

Nozomi Okuhara of Japan whom Sindhu had beaten in the

2019 final is also in the other half of the draw.

Tokyo Olympics champion Chen Yu Fei of China is not taking part like many other players from her country.

In men's singles, Kidambi Srikanth, seeded 12th, will open his campaign against local player Pablo Abian and has the prospect of facing compatriot B Sai Praneeth (seeded 14th) in the quarterfinals, if both are able to reach that stage.

Defending champion and top seed Kento Momota of Japan could be the man waiting for the Indians in the semifinals.

Young Lakshya Sen has also been drawn in the same half as his two senior compatriots and faces Max Weisskirchen of Germany in the opening round. He can be up against Momota in the quarterfinals if the Indian reaches there.

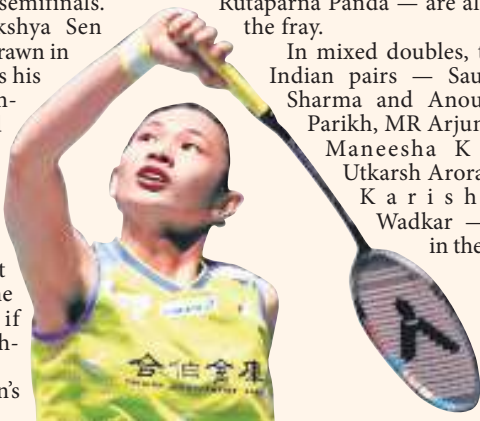
In the men's

doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have been seeded eighth and handed a first round bye. Three other Indian pairs -- Manu Attri and B Sumeth Reddy, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila, and Arun George and Sanyam Shukla are also in the fray.

In women's doubles, the pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will face the French duo of Delphine Delrue and Lea Palermo in the first round.

Two other Indian pairs — Pooja Dandu and Sanjana Santosh, and Maneesha K and Rutaparna Panda — are also in the fray.

In mixed doubles, three Indian pairs — Saurabh Sharma and Anoushka Parikh, MR Arjun and Maneesha K and Utkarsh Arora and K a r i s h m a Wadkar — are in the fray.



We are getting best possible preparation for World Cup: Mithali

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India are scheduled to play Only one series before the Women's World Cup early next year but ODI skipper Mithali Raj feels the team is getting the best preparation possible ahead of the mega event.

In the last nine months, India hosted South Africa before playing a three-match series in England and Australia. They lost all three series but made the mighty Australia work really hard for it and also ended their 26-match winning streak in the third ODI Down Under.

India will play World Cup hosts New Zealand before the ICC event in March-April.

"We have played three best teams since March and it has



given us good preparation. Players have played domestic cricket and also in the Women's Big Bash so they are getting game time which is the most

important thing.

"We are getting to play in New Zealand before World Cup which is also good," said Mithali after a partnership

between KFC and Indian Deaf Cricket Association was announced here on Wednesday.

India, who were unable to post 250 plus scores, did that twice in the Australia series and chased down 265 in the final ODI.

"When you play against a strong team in its backyard you try to give your best. Though we lost the series, the matches were very close. We scored 270 and chased 270 odd, if we can do that consistently we will be among the best sides in world cricket," said Mithali.

Middle-order batting needs improvement but Mithali said all departments must fire as a unit if they are to win the World Cup.

"We bat as a unit so you can't pinpoint one area. There

are times when top order failed and the others performed. As a unit if we look to post a good total then it will help. If we focus on one area like middle order then it becomes too much of a burden for that particular slot."

India finished runners-up in 2017 when not many expected them to but expectations will be high this time.

"There were not enough expectations back then. Now in 2021 players have got experience and got a lot of exposure with the T20 leagues. Overall we have young players but they have got enough exposure. It is just of matter of gelling well as a team.

"Every match will be different there. The quicker we read our opponents the better it will be for us," she added.

Andy Flower steps down from coaching role at Punjab Kings



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Assistant coach Andy Flower has parted ways with Punjab Kings and is expected to land a role in one of the new teams ahead of IPL 2022.

Former Zimbabwe captain Flower, who worked as a coach in England for more than a decade and guided the national team there, was hired for his maiden IPL stint ahead of the 2020

season.

"He sent his resignation to the team recently. It has been accepted.

There is a good chance that he goes to one of the new teams (Lucknow or Ahmedabad)," a BCCI official told PTI.

There is a good possibility that the 53-year-old is given a bigger role in his next IPL assignment.

Flower worked alongside head coach Anil Kumble for the past two seasons. The development comes at a time when K L Rahul, Punjab Kings skipper for the past two seasons, is expected to move to the Lucknow franchise.

Punjab wanted to retain Rahul but he did not want to stay.

It remains to be seen if Flower stays as head coach of CPL franchise Saint Lucia Kings, which is owned by same consortium that owns Punjab Kings. Saint Lucia finished runners-up in 2020 and 2021 season.

Injury-plagued Saina pulls out of World Championships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former world no.1 Saina Nehwal will miss the World Championships for the first time in her international career due to multiple injuries that have derailed her season.

The London Olympics bronze-medallist, who has won a silver and bronze besides eight quarterfinal finishes in the World Championships over the years, is recovering from a groin pull and knee injury.

The big event will be held in Huelva, Spain from December 12 to 19. "Saina had to withdraw from World Championship as she is still recovering from the groin and a knee injury. She

won't be able to regain fitness in time to play the tournament," Saina's husband and fellow shuttler Kashyap told PTI. Returning to action at the Thomas and Uber Cup Final in Aarhus, Denmark in October, Saina had to retire midway in the round-robin match against Spain's Clara Azurmendi due to a groin niggle. She played in Denmark but again withdrew midway into the second game of the first round match at French Open.

"She had a tough groin injury in Uber Cup. She was fine in Denmark but it didn't heal properly and again started paining when she was playing in French Open. It aggravated and became serious," said Kashyap. "She also had a



knee injury in France and had to pull out. She is doing her rehabilitation now. Hopefully, she will be able to get back to training from 10th or 15th of this month." In a stellar career, Saina has never missed the World Championships since making her debut in the 2006 edition. The 31-year-old from Hyderabad claimed the silver in 2015 when her rampaging run was stopped by Spain's Carolina Marin in the final. She also secured a bronze two years later at Glasgow, Scotland.

In 2018, Saina claimed her second individual gold medal at the Commonwealth Games and also helped the country win its first mixed team title in the quadrennial event.

'Golden Boy' Neeraj Chopra to launch PM's mission

New Delhi: Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra will visit Sankardham School in Ahmedabad on December 4 and launch Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mission to spread awareness about balanced diet, fitness and sports.

During his meeting with Tokyo Olympians at his residence on August 16, Modi had urged India's Olympians and Paralympians to visit 75 schools each by the 2023 Independence Day and spread awareness against malnutrition and also play a sport with schoolchild-

ren. On Wednesday, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur tweeted to say that javelin thrower Chopra will set in motion the PM's mission.

"PM Sh @narendramodi ji gave a call to our Olympians & Paralympians to visit schools and interact with students on the importance of 'santulit aahaar', fitness, sports & more. Starting Dec 4 @Neeraj_chopra1 will be at Sankardham School in Ahmedabad to launch this mission," Thakur wrote on his Twitter handle. **PTI**

Germany beats Britain in Davis Cup for 1st semi since 2007

AP ■ INNSBRUCK

Germany came from behind to upset Britain in the Davis Cup quarterfinals after Kevin Krawietz and Tim Pütz won the decisive doubles match.

The German pair defeated British teammates Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski 7-6 (10), 7-6 (5) after the best-of-three tie was level following the two singles.

Krawietz and Pütz saved four set points in the tiebreaker before taking the opening set and won the second tiebreaker after winning seven straight points from 5-0 down.

"This is an incredible team achievement," Krawietz said.



"We have a great atmosphere in the team from day one."

Daniel Evans had given Britain the lead by beating Peter Gojowczyk 6-2, 6-1, but Jan-

Lennard Struff pulled Germany even with the 10-time champion by beating Cameron Norrie 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-2.

Germany has won the Davis

Cup three times but not since 1993. In its first semifinal since 2007, Germany will meet either Sweden or the team from Russia on Saturday. Croatia will face either Serbia or Kazakhstan in the other semifinal.

"We have done everything to win," Struff said. "We hope our journey goes on and the next goal is to win the semifinal."

Britain was seeking its fourth semifinal berth in the last six editions of the tournament. It last won the event in 2015, and it had beaten Germany 2-0 when the teams also met in the quarterfinal two years ago.

"Everyone is gutted, this is a tough day to swallow," Britain

team captain Leon Smith said. "It could have gone either way, but it wasn't to be today. They gave their best effort but sometimes that is not enough, and Germany deserves to go through."

Struff said his win over Norrie was "one of the most important victories of my career. Cam Norrie is a real fighter. I started very well, went 4-1 up, but when you take so many risks, you can expect that more mistakes will come."

The 12th-ranked Norrie failed to serve out the opening set against Struff when leading 6-5, and the Briton missed two set points in the tiebreaker.

Hyderabad kick off December with Jamshedpur challenge



PTI ■ BAMBOLIM

Coming off a memorable victory over defending champions Mumbai City FC, Hyderabad FC will be raring to go when they take on in-form Jamshedpur FC in an Indian Super League game here on Thursday.

The game will be the first of six for Manolo Marquez's men in a hectic December, and inci-

dentally, all of them are scheduled to be played at the same venue.

Currently in fourth position, Owen Coyle's Red Miners are fresh from a 3-1 victory over FC Goa and will be high on confidence going into this game.

HFC head coach Marquez believes his team is ready for the game but also knows that it will not be an easy one for his side.

"For me, Owen Coyle's team are always tough to face. Last season, both games were very equal and ended in a draw," the coach said.

"This season, they have players who are comfortable playing different styles of football and are happy to play with more possession. They also have a similar squad from last season and for me, they will surely fight for the top-4," he added.

In attack, Jamshedpur have Nerijus Valskis and Jordan Murray, both of whom were on the scoresheet in the last game.

Liverpool primed to pile on misery for Everton

AP ■ LONDON

ENGLAND

Arriving with the best attack in the Premier League, Liverpool looks primed to pile on the misery for local rival Everton in the Merseyside derby at Goodison Park.

Everton hasn't won any of its last seven games and the pressure is increasing on manager Rafa Benitez, who is taking on his former club.

Meanwhile, Liverpool great Steve Gerrard could do his old club a big favor by leading Aston Villa, where he has recently taken over as manager, to a win over Manchester City, one of Liverpool's main title contenders. Second-place City is a point ahead of third-place Liverpool and a point behind Chelsea, which is also in action at Watford. Fourth-place West Ham is at home to Brighton, third-to-last Burnley looks for just its second win of the season in a trip to Wolverhampton, and Leicester travels to Southampton.



SPAIN

Spanish league leader Real Madrid can increase its advantage at the top when it hosts Athletic Bilbao

in a match postponed from the ninth round. Madrid is four points clear from both Atlético Madrid and Real Sociedad.

Madrid is unbeaten against Athletic in 12 league matches, with eight wins and four losses.

Eighth-place Athletic hasn't won in five consecutive league matches.

In the Copa del Rey, Sevilla plays at Córdoba, Real Sociedad visits Panadería Pulido and Real Betis plays at CFI Alicante.

ITALY

After losing back-to-back Serie A matches, AC Milan will try to get back on track in the league when it visits relegation-threatened Genoa.

Milan has slipped three points below league leader Napoli, which travels to Sassuolo.

Inter Milan will be looking to take advantage of any slip up from the top two and hosts lowly Spezia. The defending champion is third, four points below Napoli. Also fifth-placed Roma visits Bologna.

FRANCE

It's Super Wednesday in Ligue

1 with 10 games in the evening. Leader Paris Saint-Germain will miss an injured Neymar when it hosts third-placed Nice.

PSG will rely on Kylian Mbappe and Lionel Messi to crack the joint-tightest defense in the league. On a 13-game unbeaten run in all competitions, Rennes can consolidate second place against defending champion Lille.

Expect goals in that game as it features Lille's Jonathan David, the league's top scorer, and Rennes' Gaetan Laborde, the second most prolific scorer.

Marseille can make up ground in the race for Champions League spots with a win at mid-table Nantes.

Lyon will host Reims without spectators after the league sanctioned Lyon for incidents at home on Nov. 21 when Dimitri Payet was hit on the head by a bottle of water thrown from the stands in a game that was abandoned.

Six-time champions Germany, Argentina, France enter Junior Hockey WC semifinals

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Six-time champions Germany and Argentina earned hard-fought wins over Spain and Netherlands respectively, while France cruised past Malaysia to enter the semifinals of the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup here on Wednesday.

In the first quarterfinal of the day, Germany eked out a narrow 3-1 win over Spain in shoot-out after both the teams were locked at 2-2 in regulation time, before Argentina beat Netherlands 2-1.

In the third quarterfinal, the tournament's surprise package France beat Malaysia 4-0.

Germany took the lead from a penalty stroke through Christopher Kutter in the fifth minute but the lead was shortlived as Ignacio Abajo equalised for Spain from a penalty corner six minutes later.

After two barren quarters, it was Spain who shocked the Germans in

the 59th minute when Eduard de Ignacio-Simo scored a fine field goal to give his side the lead.

There was more drama in store as just at the stroke of the hooter, Germany secured a penalty corner and Masi Pfandt stepped up to take the match into shoot-out.

In the shoot-out, Paul Smith, Michel Struthoff and Hannes Muller found the back of the net, while Matteo Poljaric missed.

Spain were awful from the one-on-one situation as Abajo, Guillermo Fortunato and de Ignacio-Simo missed while only Gerard Clapes scored.

Germany are the most successful team in the history of the Junior World Cup having won the tournament six times.

The Germans won consecutive titles in 2009 and 2013 in New Delhi, which was their last crown. Germany secured the bronze medal in the last edition of the tournament in 2016 in Lucknow.