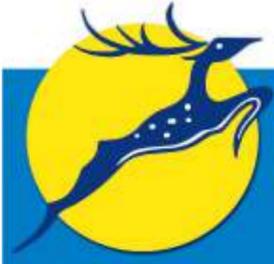


**ANALYSIS 7**  
CAN DOCTORAL DEGREES  
MAKE BETTER TEACHERS?

**MONEY 8**  
SENSEX TANKS 764 PTS,  
NIFTY SINKS BELOW 17,200

**SPORTS 12**  
MAYANK MAKES STATEMENT  
WITH 100 AS INDIA SCORE 221/4

HYDERABAD, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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**KETIKA WANTS  
TO SHOW  
DIVERSITY IN  
HER ACTING**

Page 11

## ONLY FULLY-VACCINATED ALLOWED IN KARNATAKA MALLS, THEATRES

People won't be allowed inside malls and theatres in Karnataka unless they are fully vaccinated. Karnataka today issued a fresh set of guidelines to combat the spread of Omicron in the state a day after the Centre confirmed the detection of India's first cases of the new variant from the state. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai chaired a high-level meeting Friday with officials over the new variant that has triggered a global alarm. Karnataka Revenue Secretary R Ashok, who attended the meeting, said that no one will be allowed to enter malls and cinema halls in the state unless fully vaccinated.

## ACTOR KANGANA'S CAR STOPPED IN PUNJAB BY FARMERS SEEKING APOLOGY

Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut's car was stopped in Punjab's Kiratpur Sahib on Friday by protesters demanding an apology for her statements against farmers who had been campaigning against the centre's controversial farm laws that were finally repealed this week. An ardent supporter of the ruling BJP, Ms Ranaut had thrown her weight behind the laws, frequently calling the thousands of farmers camped out on the borders of Delhi for over a year, terrorists, Khalistanis and "anti-social elements".

## OMICRON PATIENT 'ESCAPED', K'TAKA TRACKING 10 MISSING PASSENGERS

One of the two persons found positive for Omicron in Karnataka "escaped" after taking a Covid negative certificate from a private lab, the state government said today. The state is also trying to track down 10 people who reportedly went missing from the airport. "By tonight all 10 people who have reportedly gone missing should be traced and they should be tested. Travelers will not be allowed to leave the airport until their report is out," Karnataka Revenue Minister R Ashok said after a top level meeting on Omicron. A 66-year-old South African national found to be Omicron-infected "fled", the minister said.

## PAKISTAN AGREES TO LET INDIA TRANSPORT WHEAT, DRUGS TO AFGHANISTAN

Pakistan on Friday agreed to let India transport 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat and life-saving drugs as humanitarian assistance for the people of Afghanistan on Afghan trucks through the Wagah border crossing, after a row erupted between the two countries over the modalities of transportation. On Thursday, India said that discussions with Pakistan are going on to finalise the modalities for the transportation of its aid to Afghanistan through Pakistani soil and insisted that no conditionalities should be attached for sending the humanitarian assistance.

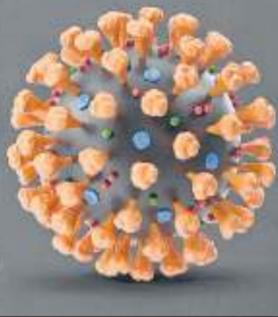
# OMICRON severity likely to be low, says Union health ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has urged people to 'vaccinate, vaccinate, vaccinate' in response to widespread and growing concern after India reported its first cases of the Omicron Covid strain. The government also said "the severity of the disease is anticipated to be low" because of the fast pace of vaccination and a measure of natural immunity acquired after exposure to the Delta variant.

In a brief statement released Friday, the government said "... given its (the Omicron strain) characteristics it is likely to spread to more countries, including India", underlining expectations that more cases of the new strain will be detected in the country over the next few days and weeks. "Omicron cases are increasingly being reported from countries outside of South Africa and, given its

*The government also said "the severity of the disease is anticipated to be low" because of the fast pace of vaccination and a measure of natural immunity acquired after exposure to the Delta variant.*



### Consider booster shot for 40 plus: Centre

A consortium of 28 laboratories to monitor genomic variations in coronavirus has recommended the Centre to consider COVID-19 booster dose for those who are 40 years and older. "Vaccination of all remaining unvaccinated at-risk people and consideration of a booster dose for those 40 years of age and over, first targeting the most high-risk and high-exposure may be considered, since low levels of neutralising antibodies from current vaccines are unlikely to be sufficient to neutralise Omicron, although risk of severe disease is still likely to be reduced," INSACOG said in its weekly bulletin.

characteristics, (the variant) is likely to spread to more countries, including India... (but) given the fast pace of vaccination in India, and high exposure to Delta (as evi-

denced by high seropositivity), the severity of the disease is anticipated to be low," the government's FAQ said.

# WHO says 'delta' strategy should work for Omicron too

PNS ■ MANILA

Measures used to counter the delta variant should remain the foundation for fighting the coronavirus pandemic, even in the face of the new omicron version of the virus, World Health Organisation officials said Friday, while acknowledging that the travel restrictions imposed by some countries may buy time.

While about three dozen countries worldwide have reported omicron infections, including India on Thursday, the numbers so far are small outside of South Africa, which is facing a rapid rise in COVID-19 cases and where the new variant may be becoming dominant.

Still, much remains unclear about omicron, including whether it is more contagious, as some health authorities suspect, whether it makes people more seriously ill, or whether it can evade vaccine protection.



Border control can delay the virus coming in and buy time. But every country and every community must prepare for new surges in cases," Dr. Takeshi Kasai, the WHO regional director for the Western Pacific, told reporters Friday.

Border control can delay the virus coming in and buy time. But every country and every community must prepare for new surges in cases," Dr. Takeshi Kasai, the WHO regional director for the Western Pacific, told reporters Friday during a virtual news conference from the Philippines. The positive news in all of this is that none of the information we have currently about omicron suggests we need to change the directions of our response."

That means continuing to push for higher vaccination rates, abiding by social-distancing guidelines, and wearing masks, among other measures, said WHO Regional Emergency Director Dr. Babatunde Olowokure.

He added that health systems must ensure we are treating the right patients in the right place at the right time, and so therefore ensuring that ICU beds are available, particularly for those who need them.

Kasai warned: We cannot be complacent.

# Omicron fears spark interest in booster shots

**TS seeks booster dose for healthcare, frontline and persons from high-risk groups**  
**Harish suggests reduction in time gap between doses**

NAVEENA GHANATE  
■ HYDERABAD



Amidst focused efforts to achieve 100 per cent inoculation against Covid-19 in Telangana, growing fears over the Omicron variant have sparked among people a lot of interest in booster dose.

Interestingly, this is happening though a majority of the population is yet to take the second dose. Still, queries about ways to get the booster dose have gained traction.

This being so, Health Minister T Harish Rao on Friday approached the Central government for providing booster shots to healthcare, frontline workers as well as persons

from high-risk groups.

Official sources in the Health Department said that many people were requesting that booster dose be given unofficially at least. Such requests are coming from people who had been vaccinated, more so from those who have taken the second dose in the sixth month and beyond. These calls have increased over the past one week.

**'National labs focused on upscaling genome surveillance'**  
Page-2

## Shilpa cries during police questioning

**Actor Harsha files complaint against her**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Actor Harsha, who acted in the film 'Sehari', a film produced by Shilpa Chowdhary, has filed a complaint against her on Friday.

He claimed that he had given Rs 3 crore to Shilpa Chowdhary as a loan and that she has not returned it. The police have registered a case against Shilpa Chowdhary based on the complaint.

Shilpa Chowdhary is now in police custody. The cops are inquiring about the complaints and the whereabouts of the money paid by the complainants. Shilpa was questioned by the police from 11 am to 5 pm on Friday. Sources said she cried during the questioning by the police. There are rumours that she sent the funds to Dubai.

Harsha acted in 'Sehari', the movie produced by Shilpa Chowdhary.

# 13 more intl passengers test positive

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Thirteen more travellers from "at-risk" countries tested positive for Covid-19 on arrival at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport on Thursday and Friday. Of the 219 persons screened on Friday, nine tested positive for Covid-19. Four persons tested positive on Thursday.

These travelers are from the UK, Singapore, Canada and America. Their samples have been sent for genome sequencing to ascertain if they have the new variant, Omicron, which has been classified as 'variant of concern' by the World Health Organization. If



the variant is not Omicron, they will be sent for home isolation.

## 19 more girls test positive for virus

**PNS ■ PATANCHERU:** Nineteen more students of the Mahatma Gandhi Jyotirao Phule BC Welfare Residential School for girls in Indresam village tested positive for Covid-19 on Friday. Just on Thursday 25 students of the school had tested positive for the virus. On Friday, the medical authorities conducted tests on 584 students of the school, leading to 19 of them testing positive for the virus.

# Uppal Bhagayath fetches Rs474.61 cr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Real estate is booming in Hyderabad, considering that the Uppal Bhagayath auction fetched Rs 474.61 crore for a total 39 plots that went under the hammer at an e-auction.

The e-auction of 16 plots, spread over 65,247 sq.yds in the Uppal Bhagayath Layout, fetched Rs333 crores on Day2 of the auction on Friday.

The auction was held by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) on the online platform managed by Union government enterprise MSTC Limited.

Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar said that average bid realised on Day2 was Rs.51,037 per sq.yd

On Day2, as against the upset price of Rs 35,000, the maximum bid was Rs72,000 per square yard, and the lowest was Rs 36,000 per square yard.

The auction was held in two sessions on Friday, with a total of 16 plots going under hammer. In the morning session, the maximum bid was Rs 67,000 per square yard, and the lowest was Rs 43,000 per square yard. The average bid realised was Rs.51,366 per sq.yd.

# North coastal Andhra braces up for cyclone 'Jawad'

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Eleven teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and three of the SDRF (State Disaster Response Force) have been positioned in the three north coastal Andhra districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam on Friday as the deep depression in Bay of Bengal turned into a cyclone 'Jawad'.

Also, six Coast Guard teams and 10 Marine police teams have been kept ready for emergency operations, according to Chief Secretary Sameer Sharma.

Though the storm is headed towards Odisha and likely to cross the coast near Puri, official machinery in the north coastal Andhra dis-



tribts has remained on alert as moderate to very heavy rainfall with wind speed up to 80-90 kmph gusting to 100 kmph is expected.

On Saturday, heavy to extremely heavy rainfall is forecast at isolated places in north coastal

# Centre will not procure parboiled rice from Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food, Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal, made it clear on Friday that the Centre will not purchase parboiled rice from Telangana.

He said the Centre had made it clear in advance that it will not purchase parboiled rice in future. The Centre had mentioned it clearly in the MoU signed between the State and Centre. But the TRS is creating ruckus in the House about rice purchases, he said.

Piyush Goyal recalled that the TRS Government had sent a letter on October 4 stating that it will not



send parboiled rice in future. But it is now creating pandemonium in the House demanding that the Centre should purchase parboiled rice again and again.

"I don't understand why the TRS is politicising the paddy issue.

Central representatives went to Telangana for physical verification of paddy cultivation area. The Telangana Government is not maintaining paddy calculations properly. Procurement of paddy is not new to the Centre. It is a continuous process since many years. The Centre is extending maximum support to Telangana," he said.

Replying to TRS MPs in the Rajya Sabha on TRS Parliamentary Party Leader Dr K. Keshava Rao's question whether the Centre will procure parboiled rice or not, Piyush made it clear that the Centre will purchase paddy as per the MoU between the Centre and the State.

# KTR seeks natl status for Kaleshwaram or Palamuru projects

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ruling TRS working president and Telangana IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to accord 'national project' status for either Kaleshwaram or Palamuru project in the state.

In a tweet, KTR appealed to the PM that Chief Minister K Chandrababai Naidu had requested several times to grant national project status for either the Kaleshwaram project or the Palamuru lift irrigation project.

**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham: Kartik & Krishna Paksha  
Tithi : Amavasya 13:12  
Nakshatram : Anuradha 10:47  
Rahukalam : 9:21 am - 10:43 am  
Yamagandam : 1:29 pm - 2:51 pm  
Varjyam : 3:41 pm - 5:05 pm  
Gulika : 6:35 am - 7:58 am  
Amritakalam : 12:05 am - 1:29 am  
Abhijit Muhurtham : 11:44 am - 12:28 pm  
**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
Forecast: PARTLY CLOUDY  
Temp: 28/18  
Humidity: 68%  
Sunrise: 06:31 AM  
Sunset: 05:40 PM  
Updated: DECEMBER 03, 2021 5:00 PM

# 'National labs focused on upscaling genome surveillance'

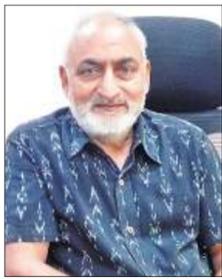
NAVEENA GHANATE  
HYDERABAD

A consortium of national laboratories, spread across four city clusters of Bengaluru, Hyderabad, New Delhi and Pune and performing genomic surveillance of coronavirus, is in the process of upscaling the work as part of the national efforts led by Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, said Dr. Rakesh Mishra, director of CCMB.

The National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) confirmed the first two cases of

the Omicron variant in Bangalore on Thursday. NCBS is part of the consortium of national laboratories performing genomic surveillance across the four city clusters. The consortium was established four months ago with support from The Rockefeller Foundation's Pandemic Prevention Institute, and is led by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad.

The consortium intensified its sequencing efforts after the World Health Organization declared Omicron as a 'Variant of Concern'. Such an intensified effort enabled the Bangalore team at the NCBS,



a member laboratory of INSACOG, in collaboration with Strand Life Sciences and the Bruhat Bengaluru

Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), to detect, rapidly sequence, and verify the existence of the Omicron variant in samples from two COVID-19 infected individuals. They hope this would aid in a rapid response to contain the spread of the new variants of concern.

Prof. Satyajit Mayor from NCBS conveyed the information to local and national authorities, and the Indian government released a statement on December 2 -- all within four days of receiving the samples. Both SARS-CoV-2 genomes have also been uploaded to the global repository for SARS-CoV-2

sequences, GISAID, so that they could be publicly available to the scientific community.

Dr. Rakesh Mishra said: 'The consortium is continuously monitoring the situation in all the four cities and has upscaled its efforts to sequence as many samples as possible'. Apart from the CCMB and the NCBS, the consortium includes CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology - IGIB in New Delhi and the Pune Knowledge Cluster, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune and CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory in Pune.



## Ministers inaugurate Basthi Dawakhana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

MA&UD Minister K T Rama Rao inaugurated a Basthi Dawakhana at Shaikpet in Hyderabad. OP consultation, tele-consultation, basic lab diagnosis, treatment of simple

illnesses and immunisation are the services offered here. Medical Health Minister Harish Rao inaugurated the Basthi Dawakhana at Old Bowenpally.

Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav inaugurated the Basti

Dawakhana in the Chandrakiran area of Goshamahal.

A total of 32 Basthi Dawakhana were inaugurated on Friday in GHMC area. The Basthi Dawakhana cater to the urban poor by providing primary healthcare services free.

## Tension as followers of TRS MLA, TRS ZP chief clash

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The destruction of a foundation stone by some unidentified persons created tension for some time at Peddemul in Tandur Assembly constituency in Vikarabad district on Friday with followers of local MLA Pilot Rohit Reddy and Vikarabad district ZP Chairperson Sunitha Mahender Reddy jostling each other.

The incident exposed the differences between the TRS leaders public.

The local leaders had erected the foundation stone for a shopping complex, which was constructed with ZP general funds, near the Parishat Office in Peddemul mandal headquarters knowing that Vikarabad ZP Chairperson Sunitha Mahender Reddy is

going to open it on Friday. However, some unidentified persons came on a two-wheeler and destroyed the foundation stone on Friday morning.

Coming to know that some people had destroyed the foundation stone, the followers of both Pilot Rohit Reddy and Sunitha Mahender Reddy reached the spot.

Tempers rose and the followers of both leaders manhandled each other. The police reached the spot and controlled the mob.

It is learnt that the officials didn't inform MLA Pilot Rohit Reddy about the opening of the shopping complex as per protocol. The destruction of the foundation stone is due to the differences between the MLA and ZP Chairperson, it is learnt.

## K'taka sitting pretty between TRS & BJP

- TRS wants BJP to give national status to Kaleshwaram project a la the Upper Bhadra project in Karnataka
- BJP wants TRS to emulate Karnataka's ways of cultivation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Karnataka has taken the centre-stage in the politics of Telangana, where a game of one-upmanship is on between the saffron party and the pink party.

The latest is Telangana Rashtra Samiti wants what the Bharatiya Janata Party gave to Karnataka, while the saffron party wants the pink party to implement the Karnataka model. TRS wants BJP to give national status to the Kaleshwaram project a la the Upper Bhadra project in Karnataka. BJP wants TRS to emulate Karnataka's ways of cultivation.

On Friday, Minister K T Rama Rao appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi:

"Polavaram in AP & Upper Bhadra in Karnataka are being recognised as national projects; kindly ensure that the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project Kaleshwaram or the Palamuru project are considered with equal importance".

This tweet comes a day after Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai called on Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi and urged the Centre to declare the Upper Bhadra Project a national project. The Chief Minister said that a high-powered steering committee formed for implementation of national projects would take up the proposal at its next meeting on December 6. KTR requested

the Prime Minister to direct the high-powered steering committee to take up Telangana projects on the same day.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday suggested that Telangana and other states should emulate the Karnataka model. "Karnataka has come up with an excellent programme called 'Fruits', under which they map the entire state. Boys and girls go and take photographs physically and estimate the output to get the accurate figures," the Union Minister said.

Karnataka has developed a software application called Farmer Registration & Unified Beneficiary Information System - FRUITS - under which land and other details are captured.

## Centre will...

Continued from page 1

He said that he spoke to Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao also regarding this and made it clear that the Centre has been increasing the procurement of rice every year across the nation and in the same manner the Centre had increased the quantity of rice purchased from Telangana.

He said that the Centre has procured 51.9 lakh tonnes of paddy in 2018-19, 74.5 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 and 94.5 lakh tonnes in 2020-21.

Not satisfied with the answer, TRS Rajya Sabha Member KR Suresh Reddy asked the Centre to tell clearly how much parboiled rice it will purchase in Rabi as farmers are getting ready to cultivate paddy in Rabi.

If the Centre mentions the quantity it can be informed to farmers, Suresh Reddy said. He said that Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy from Telangana is stating that the Centre will procure the entire paddy produced in Rabi, but the Centre is saying differently.

Then Piyush Goyal said that the Telangana Government gave only 32.66 lakh tonnes although it assured that it will give 50 lakh tonnes of paddy in Kharif. He said that he is requesting the Telangana Government to stick to the MoU. There is a difference between the estimations of Telangana and reality, he said.

The Karnataka model Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System (FRUITS) is good for paddy procurement. He asked all states to follow Karnataka's FRUITS in procuring food grains.



## Spl CS opens BoM's corporate finance branch

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Special Chief Secretary Rajat Kumar inaugurated Bank of Maharashtra's state-of-the-art corporate finance branch at Sultan bazaar here on Friday in the presence of A.B. Vijayakumar, Executive Director of the Bank of Maharashtra, Pune. With this, BoM now has a total of 38 branches in Telangana State.

Rajat Kumar said that Bank of Maharashtra had sizeable exposure to the Government of Telangana's projects and the new CFB branch would cater to the needs of Govt-guaranteed advances in the future as well. He outlined Telangana State's progress on the irrigation front since 2016, including increase in the extent of irrigated land, as per the vision

statement of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and the "Maa Telangana, koti ekarala magani" initiative.

On the occasion, the Chief Guest, along with ED Vijayakumar, handed over papers relating to sanction of ₹100 crore to new client. As on date, the business level of CFB branch is ₹3200 crores which is slated to increase to ₹5000 crores by 31.03.2022.

Executive Director, BoM said: "We are delighted to open a new CFB branch exclusively for Government accounts and corporate accounts. BoM intends to spread across Telangana state by opening at least one branch per district. As of now, BoM has 38 branches in 17 districts and intends to open 9 more branches in next 4 months."

## Omicron severity likely to be low, says...

Continued from page 1

"There is no evidence to suggest existing vaccines do not work on Omicron... vaccine protection is also by antibodies as well as cellular immunity... Hence, vaccines are expected to still offer protection against severe disease and, vaccination with the available vaccines is crucial," the FAQ said.

Existing tests will pick up signs of Covid infection but they cannot offer definitive proof of Omicron.

Covid tests "detect specific genes in the virus, such as 'spike' (S), 'enveloped' (E) and 'nucleocapsid' (N) to confirm presence". In the Omicron strain, the

## Consider booster shot for 40 above: Centre

Continued from page 1

Short for Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium, INSACOG checks variations in coronavirus across the nation to help understand how it spreads and evolves, and to suggest the best possible public health response. "Genomic surveillance will be critical for early detection of the presence of this variant (Omicron) to enable necessary public health measures. Monitoring travel to and from known affected areas, and contact-tracing of COVID-19 cases with an epidemiological link to the affected areas has been implemented along with increased testing (with sequencing of confirmed cases)," the consortium said in its bulletin. The US and Britain have already cleared booster shots for some age groups. Top American infectious diseases specialist Anthony Fauci stressed that fully vaccinated adults should seek a booster when eligible to give themselves the best possible protection.

S gene is heavily mutated and so "some of the primers may lead to

results indicating absence of the S gene" and this, in relation to

other markers, "could be used as a diagnostic feature" to identify the new variant, the government said.

"...for final confirmation of the Omicron variant, genomic sequencing is required," the government warned, echoing cautionary notes on this matter from the WHO.

This caution is also because the S gene is also missing in the Alpha variant. The Omicron variant was first reported from South Africa last week.

It has a reported 50 mutations (compared to Delta), of which 30+ are on the spike protein, which is the target of most current vaccines and is what the virus uses to access to the body's cells.

## KTR seeks natl...

"While Polavaram in AP & Upper Bhadra in Karnataka are being recognised as National projects, kindly ensure that the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project Kaleshwaram Or Palamuru project are considered with equal importance," Rama Rao, son of the Chief Minister, said.

He requested Modi to direct a high-powered steering committee to take up Telangana projects on December 6.

## WHO says 'delta' strategy...

Continued from page 1

WHO has previously urged against border closures, noting they often have limited effect and can cause major disruptions. Officials in southern Africa, where the omicron variant was first identified, have decried restrictions on travelers from the region, saying they are being punished for alerting the world to the mutant strain.

Scientists are working furiously to learn more about

omicron, which has been designated a variant of concern because of the number of mutations and because early information suggests it may be more transmissible than other variants, Kasai said.

A few countries in Western Pacific region are facing surges that began before omicron was identified, though COVID-19 cases and deaths in many others have decreased or plateaued, Kasai said. But that could change.

## Shilpa cries...

Continued from page 1

She had close ties with Harsha and had asked him for Rs 3 crore for investment in the real estate business. Believing her, Harsha said he had paid Rs 3 crore to her. After coming to know about the cases against Shilpa Chowdhary, he conducted enquiries and came to know that she had not invested in any real estate project.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹207
Without Skin	₹227
Broiler at Farm	₹112

EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	435
VIJAYAWADA	463
VISAKHAPATNAM	402
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹4.35

## North coastal...

Continued from page 1

Focus on prevention of human loss and relief measures wherever required, he told the Collectors. He asked the officials to inspect the condition of tank bunds and reservoirs and carry out emergency repairs at weak spots. The Chief Secretary said 46,322 tonnes of rice, 1,018 tonnes of dal, 391 tonnes of sugar and 41,032 litres of edible oil have been dispatched to the north coastal districts.

## Uppal Bhagayath...

Continued from page 1

In the second session, held from 2 pm to 5 pm, the maximum bid was Rs 72,000 per square yard, and the lowest was Rs 36,000 per square yard. The average bid realised was Rs.50,321 per sq.yd.

## 'High command will take a call on working...

Continued from page 1

Jagga mentioned that as of now there was no friendship between the TRS and the Congress. The Congress was in fact fighting with the TRS, he observed. Describing the Congress party as 'mother', Jagga Reddy remarked that anybody could come and it (party) would adore even those who had hid the party; it would also feed them if they were hungry. Jagga Reddy said that the Congress party did not need the good offices of political strategist Prashanth Kishor. Kishor had been speaking against

Rahul Gandhi without having knowledge. He suggested that Kishor should visit the Gandhi Bhavan to know "how many Prashanth Kishors are there"... "Every Congress leader is one Prashanth Kishore," he observed.

Jagga said that the TRS party feared the Congress party, which had 230 votes in the local bodies' quota MLC elections in Medak district; and hence, it had been lodging complaints with the Election Commission. Jagga Reddy sought to know why the TRS party had sent 300 public representatives to north India.

## 13 more intl passengers...

Continued from page 1

A total of 12 people from "at-risk" countries have tested positive for Covid-19 since stricter norms for international passengers came into effect. None of them showed Covid-19-like symptoms. All these Covid positive travellers have been admitted to the TIMS Hospital, where a dedicated ward has been set up for isolating and treating such patients.

Incidentally, a 36-year-old woman who had come to the city from London was initially stated to have tested negative, but later it turned out that she had tested Covid-19 positive. The woman, resident of Ridge Towers near Ganesh Nagar in Qutubullapur Circle, had undergone Covid diagnostic tests at the Shamshabad Airport. The airport staff had sent her home, saying the results were

## 19 more girls...

These students are now being treated under isolation. The health authorities and the brass of residential schools are monitoring the situation and health condition of the affected students.

negative. After a while, the staff examined the reports and found that the woman had tested positive. They then alerted the Jeedimeta Police.

The police immediately informed the woman as well as the working committee of the Ridge Towers Association. After explaining the situation, the police shifted the lady to TIMS. Her samples were sent for genome sequencing analysis after tests and it was found that she tested positive.

## Cong leaders working together now, says VH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao has said that Congress leaders are working together now under the leadership of the new TPCC Chief A. Revanth Reddy although the Telangana Congress has a reputation for 'internal bickering'.

He said that the Congress is fighting for farmers and is demanding that the state government should procure paddy immediately.

On Friday, VH submitted a memorandum to the Vikarabad Collector regarding the misappropriation of the Rythu Beema of woman farmer Chandramma by someone who had submitted documents stating that Chandramma had died although she was alive in the Puttappahad village of Kulkacharla mandal in Vikarabad district.

VH also met Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy and submitted the memorandum to her too.

## Omicron fears spark...

Continued from page 1

Sources said: "Studies have said that antibodies are wearing off after 6 months. Many of them have taken antibody test and are showing the results asking us to administer a booster dose. Additionally, the medical community itself is emphasising to take booster dose".

A decision on the booster dose and jabs for children will be taken on the basis of scientific advice, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told Parliament on Friday.

Mandaviya's statement comes a day after Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genome Sequencing Consortium (INSACOG) suggested that a booster dose be given to those aged above 40 years with high risk.

The INSACOG, in its advisory on Thursday, recommended that boosters (or

third doses) "be considered" for those aged above 40 years.

Amid Omicron concerns, Karnataka has suggested booster dose for health care workers.

The nationwide Covid vaccination drive was launched on January 16 and the beneficiaries in the first phase included healthcare workers and senior citizens.

However, states are awaiting guidelines from the Center. Recently Director of Public Health Dr G Srinivasa Rao said: "The minimum gap for a booster dose should be at least 6 months after administering both doses."

It may be mentioned here that timely administration of the vaccine is six months, according to the FDA in the USA.

The Central government is designing guidelines on booster dose. After they frame them, we will inform people about our policy for booster dose," he said.



'I will work hard for National Commission for Physically Challenged'

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**  
State Planning Commission Vice Chairman Boinapalli Vinod Kumar has declared that he will work hard for the Centre to set up the national commission for the physically challenged. Flagging the ninth awareness walk organised by the Akhila Bharata Divyangula Hakkula Vedula here on Friday in connection with World Disabled Day, he claimed that he raised his voice in parliament for the rights of the physically challenged during his tenure as MP. Recently, he said, he had written to the Union Minister for Social Justice underlining the need for establishing a national commission for the Physically Challenged on the lines of the national commission for the SCs and STs. Two days ago, the minister replied that he would keep his suggestion in his mind. He suggested the state of Telangana set up a state-level commission. However, he said that a resolution is required to be adopted for the purpose. The national commission would act as a means for the physically challenged to achieve their rights. The commission would extend necessary legal help to them. He appealed to the differently-abled to give up their feeling of insecurity and shine their best in all spheres of activity.

Peacock Festival celebrated at KBR National Park

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Hundreds of schoolchildren took part in the Peacock Festival celebrated at the KBR National Park on Friday to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the park. The Centre had notified KBR Park spread over 360 acres and home to several species of flora and fauna a national park on December 3, 1998. Every year the Forest Department celebrates the Peacock Festival on December 3 as there are many peacocks in the national park. Peacocks with their magnificent plumes delight visitors, especially during the mornings. The Forest Department has put in place special measures to protect them. As part of the Peacock Festival, the Forest Department conducts special programmes to sensitise children on forests and wild animals. Children took part in the celebrations adhering to the Covid-19 protocol. Members of the Friends of Snakes conducted several snake shows to enlighten the children on the way snakes behave. Forest Department officials conducted drawing competitions and cultural programmes and gave prizes to the winners during the Peacock Festival. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests R. Sobha, who attended the peacock festival as chief guest, called upon children to act as environmental ambassadors and told them that humans can survive only if biodiversity is conserved. The government is developing 109 urban forest parks to create awareness among the public about the environment, she said and asked school teachers to sensitise children on the environment and conservation of animal species.



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PCCF (Admin) Swargam Srinivas, Additional PCCFs Sidhdhanand, Vinay Kumar, AK Sinha, Hyderabad Chief Conservator MJ Akbar, DFO Jaji, OSD Sankarant, Forest Range Officer Anuradha and other officials and Forest officials took part in the programme. Teachers and students of various schools, representatives of various civil society organisations, the KBR Park Walkers' Association and others attended the programme.



Total solar eclipse today

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The Planetary Society's India Director, N. Raghunandan Kumar, said that the fourth and last eclipse of 2021 will occur on Saturday. This eclipse of the Sun will be a total solar eclipse. The eclipse will be visible in Antarctica, extreme South Africa, extreme South Australia, the South Atlantic Ocean, and the Southern Indian Ocean. The eclipse will not be visible in India. As per Indian Standard Time, the eclipse will occur from 10.59 am to 3.07 pm on December 4, 2021. The greatest phase of the eclipse will be when the maximum part of the Sun will be covered by the Moon at 1:04 pm. As this is a total solar eclipse, observers in Antarctica will witness the entire disk of the Sun getting covered for one minute 57 seconds at the time of totality, that is, at 1:04 pm. At some places in the southern hemisphere, people will witness the eclipse only partially, either at the beginning or the end of the eclipse. The timings and visibility of the eclipse and the percentage of the Sun covered by the Moon are dependent on the location of the observer. On December 4, the path of the Moon's umbral shadow begins its journey in the southern ocean at about 500 km southeast of Falkland Islands, crosses the Antarctic continent, South Australia, and ends at sunset in the Southern Ocean. As India is nowhere near or in the path of the shadow of the Moon, the eclipse will not be visible here. The last solar eclipse which was visible from India occurred on June 21, 2020, which was an annular solar eclipse. This was visible during some phases of the eclipse. The next solar eclipse visible from India will occur on October 25, 2022, which would be a partial solar eclipse. Solar eclipses are one of the interesting celestial events visible from Earth. If weather permits the total solar eclipse visible from the Union Glacier in Antarctica will be streamed on YouTube and on the NASA website <https://www.nasa.gov/nasalive>. The streaming will start at 12 pm IST and will end at 2:07 pm IST on December 4, 2021. The live streaming is being supervised by Theo Boris and Christian Lockwood who are part of the JM Pasachoff Antarctic Expedition.

Mohamood Ali, Danam inaugurate urban clinics

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

As part of the GHMC's exercise to open 32 urban clinics across twin cities, Home Minister Mohamood Ali on Friday inaugurated an urban clinic at Kasaratta in the

Puranapal area of the old city. Charminar MLA Mumtaz Khan was also present on the occasion. Similarly, MLA Danam Nagender inaugurated another urban clinic at Gurubrahma Nagar on Road No. 10 in the Banjara Hills area.

As part of its exercise to set up over 350 urban health clinics in GHMC limits to provide corporate-level health facilities at the rate of one health clinic for every population of 5000-10,000, the GHMC established 258 health clinics, which includes 32 inaugurated on Friday.

DRR of Yadadri sewage, stormwater project soon

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Yadadri sewage and stormwater project is likely to be ready within a month. HMWSSB officials met NCPE Infrastructure India Limited representatives which won the tender to prepare the DPR. They direct-

ed them to complete the DPR and plans for the construction of a sewage and stormwater system and STPs for an area of 12 sq. km within the Yadadri Municipality and to submit it within a month. The Water Board had recently issued a notification for a DPR. NCPE Infrastructure India Limited won the tender. The company has experience in designing a Rs 400 crore fresh water and sewage master plan in Ujjain Temple City. Dr Satyana rayana, Project Director, Sridhar Babu and representatives of NCPE participated in the programme. It may be mentioned here that Chief Minister KCR had taken the initiative to renovate the

Yadadri Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple. It is against this backdrop that HMWSSB was tasked with the job to design and commission a special action plan for the establishment of a comprehensive underground drainage and stormwater drainage system in Yadadri Temple and Municipality.

'Withdraw GO-68, stop harassing shopkeepers'

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

The GHMC is harassing shopkeepers using G.O. 68/2020 and is collecting huge penalties, TPCC secretary Mohammed Saleem said on Friday. He said that the G.O. 68 is another burden on Hyderabad's traders, apart from Property Tax, Wealth Tax, Professional Tax, GST, Income tax, Provident Fund, and ESI. Saleem said that the TRS Government introduced a new tax under G.O. 68 for displaying name boards, signboards, and glow signboards on shops. It is ridiculous that the government has imposed a new tax in the name of advertisements, despite the fact that shopkeepers are paying many other taxes. During this pandemic when all businesses are struggling for survival the government without understanding the pain of the people has imposed the advertisement tax for displaying name boards on business premises, he said. Saleem said that it is an

additional burden on small traders, which ultimately will be passed on to the common man and it is ridiculous to think how customers can recognise a shop without a name board on its premises. This is another way of collecting tax to divert funds for elections by the TRS which is quite evident from the recently held Huzurabad by-elections and earlier in Dubbak and Nagarjunasagar, where crores were spent. The TPCC secretary demanded that the Chief Minister and Municipal Minister KT Rama Rao should reply to the people, where the funds will be used and under which head of the account or whether any new scheme is going to be funded with this new



tax. When all development projects are funded using the property taxes collected by the GHMC, where is the need to impose a new tax, he asked. Both the Centre and the TRS government are squeezing commoners to help their crony capitalists so that they can fund them in fighting elections, he said. Saleem said Congress has been demanding that KCR and KTR should withdraw G.O. Ms.68 immediately and stop harassing the shopkeepers of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. He said that otherwise, Congress would launch a mass protest against the G.O. A Public Interest Litigation would also be filed in court if G.O.No. 68 is not withdrawn, Saleem warned.

Covid positive woman who fled airport found in Qutubullahpur, sent to TIMS

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

A woman covid-19 positive tourist who arrived here from abroad on Friday gave jitters to the police by escaping from the airport. When she landed at the Shamshabad Airport, the authorities tested her for Covid-19 and she tested positive for the virus. But before the airport authorities could take her to the hospital, she left the airport. At last, the airport authorities identified her address with the help of her passport and alerted the Jeedimetla Police. The medical and health authorities and the police reached her house, but she disappeared from there. At last, she was found at Qutubullahpur by the police. She was immediately rushed to TIMS. Her parents were also sent to isolation.



COMFORT UNDER A TREE

Comfortable seating arenas were set up around trees surrounded by grating at Tank Bund by HMDA. It is made of IGBC-certified wood composite rafters on a weathering steel framework. These have become quite popular resting spots. Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar has requested Hyderabadis to suggest trees where such seating is needed so that the authorities could arrange for it.

KCR to decide on constitution of TRS city committee

**MAARTHISUBRAHMANYAM ■ HYDERABAD**

Unable to choose between the constitution of a Greater Hyderabad TRS Committee and a Hyderabad District TRS Committee, the TRS leaders put the ball in party supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao's court. Since a long, the capital city has no TRS committee. Having completed organisational polls recently, the TRS leadership is not able to decide whether to have a Greater Hyderabad Committee or a Hyderabad District Committee. In fact, most of the Assembly seats in the state capital were won by the TRS barring one seat held by Raja Singh of the BJP, and some seats in the Old City were won by MIM.



In spite of it, the TRS City Committee has no office of its own. Party activists were unable to digest it. In the early days of the TRS, the City Committee held its meetings in the house of Konda Lakshman Babuji.

Later, M. Sudarsan Rao, K. Padma Rao, Dasoju Sravan, Kattela Srinivas Yadav, and Mynampalli Hanmanta Rao served as TRS city unit presidents. When Sudarsan was the president, the city committee used to meet at the MLA

Quarters. During the time of Padma Rao, the government showed land in Himayat Nagar, but for reasons best known to the authorities, it did not materialise. When Ale Narendra was in the TRS, the party ran its activities from MLA Quarters. The party grew to win a majority of the MLA seats in the city from just two corporator seats in the beginning. It is surprising to note that not a single president of the TRS City Committee focussed on acquiring an office. Now, the TRS leadership has concentrated on the constitution of the city-level committee. Working in this direction, TRS Working President KTR and General Secretary and MP Kesava Rao held a meeting with important lead-

ers of the city at Jalavihar in November. An exercise to gather the opinion of leaders was conducted to decide whether the party should have the Greater Hyderabad Committee or the Hyderabad District Committee. Some favored constitution of the GHMC level committee, while some others wanted the Hyderabad District Level Committee depending on whichever option is convenient for them. While Deputy Speaker K. Padma Rao suggested to KTR the constitution of a GHMC level committee, Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivasa Yadav suggested a district-level committee. Talasani wanted a Hyderabad District Committee as the Greater Hyderabad Committee would have juris-

diction over Ranga Reddy district too. As there was no unanimity among the TRS leaders, KTR and KK wound up the meeting saying that the matter would be referred to KCR. Bringing to the fore a via media approach, several MLAs and party seniors suggested constitution of Lok Sabha Parliamentary Committees to avoid controversy. They suggested that the TRS should constitute parliamentary-level committees on the lines of committees set up by the BJP and the TDP. Moreover, it would give opportunities for many TRS leaders too. In that event, the TRS would be able to form Hyderabad and Secunderabad parliamentary constituency committees. Now, the ball is in KCR's court

Woman blackmails minor boy for gold and cash

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

In what appears to be a case of honey trapping a minor boy, a 33-year-old woman seduced her nephew and got the act of love-making videographed and black-mailed the 14-year-old boy to give her gold ornaments of his mother and cash. Otherwise, she threatened to leak the video. On the basis of a complaint lodged by the boy's mother, the Jubilee Hills Police registered a case under the POCSO Act. According to the complaint, a 34-year-old woman living in Salar Jung Colony in Tollychowki recently shifted her residence to Gayatri Hills two months ago

along with her family. At the time of shifting the family, she noticed that some of her ornaments went missing. She questioned her son persistently. The boy replied to her that he gave some of her ornaments to his aunt who lives in Bangalore. He told her that his aunt used to visit him at his school very often. She used to visit him sexually at a lodge near Charminar. A person called Irfan videographed the whole act of love-making. The duo threatened him to leak the videos on social media. So, he was forced to give her 20 tolas of gold ornaments and Rs 6 lakh in cash.



# Micro-level plan needed to meet vaccination target:CS

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar on Friday said that the balance of 15 lakh

doses of the vaccine should be administered in undivided Mahabubnagar district by December-end.

Reviewing the progress of the vaccination against Covid with the district collectors, additional collectors, and health officials, municipal commissioners, DPOs of undivided Mahabubnagar district here, he asked the officials to prepare a micro-level plan to meet the target.

He asked them to visit the villages and stay put there, if necessary, and ensure that the PHCs, sub-centers, falling short of meeting the vaccination targets, reach the set targets for the vaccination. He asked them to involve elected people's representatives and



submit the daily progress to the media.

On the directions from the CM, he has been touring the districts to review the progress. A Cabinet Sub-Committee has been constituted to suggest ways and means meet the threat of new variant Omicron.

He said that the state government wants 100 percent vaccination across the state by December-end and asked the officials to appoint special officers in mandalas to meet the target.

Health sub-center wise report giving particulars like

the number of villages, the number of people receiving the first dose and the number of people receiving second dose and other relevant details.

He sought the constitution of mobilization teams to motivate the people to receive the vaccine and the vaccination teams separately.

Panchayat secretaries, VROs Anganwadi activists, ASHA workers should be entrusted with the task at the village level. In the same fashion, the vaccination drive should be implemented in urban areas with a special focus on PHCs, sub-centers lagging behind in meeting the targets.

Till Christmas, every official should focus on the daily progress of the vaccination. The vaccination centers should work from 8 am to 8 pm, he said stating that there is no shortage of vaccines in the state.

Besides meeting the set targets, he wanted the officials to target those who turned 18 years under the vaccination programme.

He asked them to ensure that administering 24-lakh vaccines target should be completed in the district under any circumstances. By December-end, the balance of 15 lakh doses should be administered. Mahabubnagar District Collector S Venkat Rao, Nagarkurnool District Collector Puday Kumar, Gadwal District Collector Valluru Kranti, Wanaparthy District Collector Shaik Yasmin Basha, Narayanapeta District Collector Harichandana apprised the Chief Secretary of the progress of vaccination in their respective districts.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary went around a photo exhibition arranged by the information department.

# Promote institutional deliveries in Govt hospitals

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALAPALLY

Collector Bhavesh Misra inspected the Mother and Child Welfare Centre at the district headquarters government hospital as a prelude to the visit of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) representatives and inspected the medical equipment procured in the hospital with PFC's help.

During his visit on Friday the Collector spoke to lactating mothers and enquired about the way deliveries are conducted in the hospital and the facilities being provided to them.

He presented KCR kits to lactating mothers. He asked the expectant mothers to undergo deliveries in government hospitals as the poor would not be able to afford the high cost of private hospitals.

The Collector directed DMHO Dr Sriram to ensure that more institutional deliveries



are conducted in government hospitals.

He asked the doctors, ANMs, and supervisors in charge of immunization should discharge their duties in such a way so that there is 100 percent vaccination in the district by month-end.

The Collector inspected the nutrition rehabilitation center being constructed on the hos-

pital's premises and asked officials to ensure its early completion. He inspected the site for the new district headquarters hospital to be built near the 1000 Singareni Quarters.

DMHO Dr. Sriram, DCHS Dr. Tirupati, district in-charge welfare officer K. Samuel, Bhupalapally tahsildar Iqbal and others were present

# 'Give up inferiority complex, scale new heights' ZPP Chief

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

ZP Chairperson P Padmavati has said that there is no height that cannot be conquered by physically challenged if they put their best foot forward setting aside their inferiority complex if any. She greeted the physically challenged in the district on the occasion of World Disabled Day on Friday. She felt that there is no need for the physically challenged to undergo depression since the state government is encouraging them in all fields of activity. Taking part in a programme held here on the occasion as the chief guest, she said the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has taken all measures to ensure equal rights to the differently-abled on a par with others and to enable them to lead a life of dignity and security. She vowed to take the problems of the physically challenged to the

notice of the government to get them resolved.

Nagarkurnool municipal chairman Kalpana Bhaskar Goud explained benefits to the physically challenged under various schemes and advised them to pursue higher education. District president of the physically challenged Rajasekhar expressed concern over the problems of the physically challenged getting unresolved especially the construction of ramps in the Government Hospital here. He sought a 5 percent quota for the physically challenged in government jobs.

Government Vigilance Monitoring Committee member K Niranjan, Social Welfare department official Venkata Lakshmi and others spoke. Vivekananda Welfare Association president Ramakrishna and others took part in the event.

# Come out of your farmhouse to know farmers' problems, Sharmila tells KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

YSRTP President Sharmila on Friday dared Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to come out of his farmhouse to know first-hand about the problems of farmers, who have been waiting on the roads with their paddy piled up.

At least 10 farmers have died waiting endlessly for the government to procure their paddy. Two more farmers died on Friday, she said. How many more farmers should die like this, she asked.

The CM should feel ashamed to have declared that the TRS Government made farmers millionaires and that farmers are roaming in cars. She said the TRS Government instead of making farmers millionaires is sending them to their maker in heaven.



# 'Ensure confidence in disabled people'

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Speaking on the occasion of International Day of Disabled Persons, District Collector Jitesh V Patil called for extending a helping hand to such people to instill confidence in them. Stressing that it is a social responsibility of every citizen to help people with disabilities, the Collector said that the government employees have more responsibility in this regard by resolving their problems without delay. The people who are otherwise abled should confidently over-

come their disabilities and progress in self-employment and go forward with self-confidence the Collector said assuring that the government will stand by them in the path of their development. Saying that he is ready to solve the problems of the disabled people the Collector stated that those who have the ability should try to achieve their goals. The Additional Collector who spoke on the occasion said that the government would provide 150 working days to the people with disabilities.

# Wine shop near a temple!

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Devotees are protesting against allowing illegal wine shops near Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Temple, Ramagiri in Nalgonda town. A devotee named Merugu Gopinath on Friday to the concerned authorities concerned. He alleged that they were trying to build a new shop on the premises of a dilapidated building near the temple without any permission to start a wine shop there. It was alleged that the dilapidated house number was being used for the construction of a new wine shop permit. The temple has a tradition of holding the wedding of Seetha Rama outside, as well as having a 30-feet tall idol of Anjaneya Swamy and a large number of women who come to the temple day and night for darshan during the Dhanurmasa, and the wine shop is likely to cause trouble for women. In view of all this, he demanded authorities to cancel the permission of the wine shop.

# Land grabbers won't be spared: DC

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

The District Collector Narayana Reddy, who had been en route while visiting the Govt Lands, severely warned that legal action would be initiated against those who involve in the act of selling or buying the govt lands. The Collector said that on the basis of a reliable source of information, it had come to his notice that certain illegal sellings and buyings and encroachments were going on at certain areas covering 12,13, 14 at Dharmapuri Hills, Arsapally, and Sarangapur Divisions in Nizamabad. He ordered officers to identify the govt Lands within 10 days from the date of issuing notices.

He also reiterated that certain illegal activities were being taken up by a few unidentified persons duly involved in blastings, levellings, and gravel used for housing constructions and such activities are punishable under Criminal Cases.

The Collector Narayana Reddy also passed instructions to the RDOs to collect Details of the Govt Lands within 10 days and Notice Boards be displayed and if any illegalities are found that be dismantled immediately.

As the Govt is keen on providing Double Bed Rooms, the logistics were to be made ready in near future so as to benefit the Poorer Sections. Therefore, the Govt Lands be protected under intensive care. He said, appealing the people not to involve in any such kind of encroachments, buying or selling, and deliberate involvement in illegalities might lead to booking under anti-lawful and PD Act be imposed.

Speaking about the importance of the vaccine, the Collector ordered the officials, political parties, representatives to extend their cooperation and coordination to see that the Vaccination is completed within 10 days and awareness be inculcated in view of the New Variant OMICRON in taking preventions as early as possible.

# 'Jaggareddy inducing voters'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS leaders Srinivas Reddy and Bharat called on Chief Electoral Officer Sashank Goel on Friday at Buddha Bhavan and lodged a complaint with him against Congress MLA Jaggareddy accusing him of inducing the MPTCs and ZPTCs in the MLC elections. They alleged that Jaggareddy called up the MPTCs and ZPTCs offering inducements to them if they help Congress win MLC elections. Srinivas Reddy said that some parties have taken winning the MLC elections as a very serious matter and offered inducements to the voters. They have been leaving no stone unturned to win the seat at any cost.

Bharat alleged that Jaggareddy is circulating the paid news to the effect that he will give Rs 50,000 as advance and give Rs 2 lakh to each MPTC and ZPTC after the MLC elections.

# Teach a lesson to BJP, Congress Don't walk into their trap, Seri tells farmers

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Medak MLC and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's political secretary Seri Subhash Reddy has appealed to the farmers not to walk into the trap set by the Opposition parties and it is time for them to teach a bitter lesson to the BJP and Congress. Addressing media in his agricultural farm at Kuchannapalli in Havelighanpur on Friday, Subhash Reddy, who cultivated maize, sunflower, black gram, pumpkin, jute, and cotton crops in his farm advised the farmers to raise crops alternative to paddy during rabi acting as per the advice of the CM.

The BJP and Congress have been speaking without having even the slightest knowledge and misleading the people, he said adding that the people would not believe them. On one hand,



the BJP ministers made it clear in Parliament that it would not lift rabi paddy, but on the other, the BJP leaders in the state have been encouraging the farmers to raise paddy, he said.

As day temperatures in Telangana would cross 40 degrees Celsius, the percentage of broken rice would be very high. Therefore, the center would have to procure par-

boiled rice, he reasoned. If Kharif paddy is milled, for every quintal of paddy milled the rice output would range between 60 to 85 kg, while milling of rabi paddy would yield only 30-40 kg of rice for every quintal of paddy milled.

The opposition parties have been shooting their mouth exhibiting the lack of even the most basic knowledge, he remarked.

# Farmers stage protest over delay in paddy purchase

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALAPALLY

Vexed with inordinate delay in paddy procurement, farmers on Friday staged rasta roko on Kataram-Manthani road near Regulagudem paddy procurement center to lodge their severe protest affecting the movement of the vehicular traffic on either side of the road. They raised slogans demanding the state government to start procurement of paddy immediately. The farmers alleged that they have been facing so many problems to selling paddy, which was not the case with them earlier. They directed their ire on the state and central governments for their style of functioning and not procuring the paddy from them.

The farmers said that they have been waiting for more



than 20 days awaiting the government to procure the paddy.

Some of the protesters made bonfire of their paddy on the road, while some others lodged a half-naked protests. The farmers have expressed

anguish over the delay in weighing their paddy at the procurement centers in spite of the quality of the paddy is good. During the past month, the farmers have demonstrated peacefully, but no official paid attention to their prob-

lems. Kataram Tahsildar Srinivasa Rao, Kataram sub-inspector Srinivas, Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society CEO Satish rushed to the dharna site to pacify the protesting farmers. But, the farmers made it clear to them that they would not relent unless the officers start weighing the paddy. They demanded the immediate presence of a district collector or joint collector.

The irate farmers relented and withdrew their stir on the assurance given to them by Tahsildar Srinivasa Rao and Single-window manager Satish to the effect of procuring paddy from Saturday onwards.

Farmers' association leader Gudipati Ramesh Reddy and farmers from various villages took part in the protest. Kataram SI was also present.

# Finance Commission praised urban clinics: Harish Rao

PNS ■ MEDCHAL MALKAJGIRI

Health Minister T. Harish Rao inaugurated an urban clinic at the Santiniketan Community Hall in Old Bowenpally in the Kukatapally Assembly constituency here on Friday.

Harish Rao said that the 15th Finance Commission had praised the urban clinics started by Telangana. He said that 32 urban health clinics were started on Friday alone in addition to the existing 226 clinics. It is a proud movement for the State, he added.

Harish said that starting another 92 urban clinics is on the cards. Of the 92, at least 72 will be opened soon. In all, 60.18 lakh people used the services of



urban clinics in the twin cities. These clinics con-

ducted 57 types of diagnostic tests free of cost for

over 11.60 lakh people, he added.

Since Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao wants super-specialty hospitals in the four corners of the city, the Minister said that he is going to lay the foundation stone for four super specialty hospitals with a total bed strength of 1,000 shortly. These hospitals will be located at Yerragadda, Alwal, Gachchi Bowli and Gaddi Annaram.

Later, Harish flagged off a mobile vaccination facility to administer the Covid-19 vaccine.

Local MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao, family welfare commissioner Vakati Karuna, collector Harish, corporator Narsimha Yadav, district medical and health department officials, and others attended the function.

# 'Get the first dose at least now'

PNS ■ MULUGU

District Collector Krishna Aditya has said that the district administration will soon take measures for disbursement of the compensation Rs 50,000 payable to next of those who succumbed to Covid-19. He appealed to the people who have not so far received the first dose of the vaccine to cooperate with the door-to-door health team and village-level task force team to get themselves vaccinated.

Addressing media here on Friday, he appealed to those who have received the first dose to take the second dose without fail. He appealed to authorities to motivate those who have not received the vaccine so that they will receive the vaccine. He desired that the



district should be 100 percent vaccinated as it enters 2022. He said that the paddy is being procured at all 170 procurement centers.

Weighing machines, gunny bags, moisturizer meters, tarpaulins have been kept ready. He asked the farmers not to be disheartened as the government will definitely procure paddy, whatever quantity they bring it to the procurement centers.

He said that the tenders

have been finalised for the execution of various works for the Medaram festival. Thanks to the initiative of the Woman and Child Welfare Minister Satyavathi Rathod. The execution of works is going on at a rapid pace, he added. Tenders have been granted to execute works worth Rs 40.50 crore. The irrigation department's works are underway near Jampanna Vagu. Measures have been initiated to accomplish all works by January 15, one month prior to the commencement of the festival. He appealed to the devotees to visit Medaram and invoke the blessings of the forest deities. On the Omicron variant, he appealed to the people to take precautions suggested by health departments. He appealed to all to wear masks without fail.

INDIA CORNER

Women officers appointed on board major warships: Navy chief

Women officers have been appointed on board major warships of the Indian Navy, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar said on Friday. Officials said around 28 women officers have been deployed so far in 15 major warships of the Indian Navy and the number is going to go up soon. Addressing a press conference ahead of Navy Day, Admiral Kumar said the Navy is fully prepared to induct and absorb women across a wide spectrum of roles and responsibilities in the force. "In consonance with the government of India's objective to empower women, we have taken measures towards providing additional opportunities for women officers in the Navy. Women officers have been appointed on board almost all major warships," he said. He said the modalities for downstream training of women as cadet entry at the National Defence Academy are being worked out.



PM Modi to address rally in Doon today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to kickstart the poll campaign for the upcoming Uttarakhand assembly elections by addressing a rally here on Saturday. The Prime Minister will reach Dehradun's Parade Ground, the rally venue at 12.30 pm, Pradesh BJP general secretary Kuldeep Kumar said. Soon after his arrival, he will inaugurate seven developmental projects and lay foundation stones of 11 others, all totalling worth over Rs 18,000 crore after which he will start his address around 1 pm. Major projects to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi include the 120-MW Vyasi hydroelectricity project and a 38-km long stretch of all-weather Chardham road project between Devprayag and Shrikot on NH-58. Besides, he will also inaugurate the widened 33-km stretch between Brahmapuri and Kaudiyala on the Rishikesh-Badrinath national highway which is also part of the all-weather road project.



CEO office writes to Delhi Police over fake news on voters

The Delhi CEO office has written to the city police authorities over a "fake news item" related to voting being circulated on WhatsApp platform, and urged them to file an FIR and probe the matter. According to the letter dated December 2, in the news item, it has been "falsely reported that the Election Commission of India has directed to deduct Rs 350 from bank account" of a person who does not vote. The news item, being circulated, has already been clarified as "fake" by a spokesperson of the poll body, according to the letter. "The Commission has directed that the matter be investigated and an FIR be registered against perpetrators and entities under the relevant laws," reads the letter addressed to Deputy Commissioner of Police, Election Cell. "It is therefore, requested that an FIR be registered today itself and an enquiry report of investigation in the matter be sent this office by 3-12-2021 for onward transmission to the Election Commission of India," it said.



Maha: Three held for stealing valuables worth over Rs 15 lakh

PNS ■ PALGHAR

Three Nepalese nationals have been arrested for allegedly breaking into a house and stealing valuables worth over Rs 15 lakh in Vasai town of Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said on Friday.

The accused were in the process of escaping to Nepal after the theft, but the Vasai police nabbed them after a long chase, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Vasai) Sanjay Patil said. The theft took place at a house in Babola Naka in Vasai on November 28, the official said.

The occupants of the house were away, when the trio allegedly broke into the house and decamped with gold and silver jewellery and cash worth Rs 15.2 lakh, he said.

Opposition, BJP face-off on Parliament premises

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday mounted counter-protests outside Parliament where 12 suspended opposition members of Rajya Sabha were on a sit-in demonstration against the action on them.

There were some tense moments as BJP members, carrying placards, marched towards the opposition members near the Gandhi statue in Parliament premises to condemn their "undemocratic actions" inside the House.

"We are here to highlight the duplicity of the opposition parties," BJP member G V L Narsimha Rao said.

The issue also figured in both houses of Parliament when opposition leaders complained about "hooting" by BJP members to the presiding officers.



In Rajya Sabha, RJD MP Manoj Jha said BJP members "gategashed" the site in Parliament complex where the 12 suspended members were staging a demonstration.

In Lok Sabha, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury claimed the BJP members hooted the opposition members near the Gandhi statue. Minister of State for

the statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar within Parliament premises raising slogans to save democracy.

The 12 opposition MPs were suspended from the Rajya Sabha on Monday for the entire Winter Session of Parliament for their "unruly" conduct in the previous session in August. The Opposition has termed the suspension as "undemocratic and in violation of all the Rules of Procedure" of the Upper House.

The suspended MPs include six from the Congress, two each from the Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena, and one each from the CPI and CPI(M). They have been holding day-long protests in front of the Gandhi statue inside the Parliament complex and have decided to continue to do so every day till their suspension is revoked.

Deep depression intensifies into Cyclone 'Jawad'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A deep depression in the Bay of Bengal has intensified into cyclonic storm 'Jawad', the India Meteorological Department said on Friday.

The cyclonic storm is likely to reach the west-central Bay of Bengal off the coast of north Andhra Pradesh and Odisha by Saturday morning, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said.

Thereafter, it is likely to recurve north-northeastwards, move along the coast of Odisha and adjoining Andhra Pradesh and touch the coast around Puri by December 5 noon, according to the weather department.

The name of the cyclone -- 'Jawad' -- has been proposed by Saudi Arabia. A low-pressure area had developed over the Andaman Sea on November 30. It intensified into a depression on



December 2 and further into a deep depression on Friday morning. It turned into a cyclone on Friday noon, the IMD DG said.

Very heavy rainfall is likely to start in north coastal Andhra Pradesh and south coastal Odisha by Friday evening. The intensity of rainfall is likely to increase on Saturday, he said.

A red colour warning has been issued for Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam,

Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts for Saturday. The red colour warning has also been issued for the Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur districts of Odisha.

The IMD has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over West Bengal on Saturday and Sunday, and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura on Sunday and Monday.

'Missionaries converting tribals more dangerous than Naxals'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Christian missionaries who are converting innocent tribals in Chhattisgarh through luring and intimidation are "more dangerous than Naxals", a BJP MP said on Friday.

Raising the issue of religious conversion in Chhattisgarh during the 'Zero Hour' in Lok Sabha, BJP's Raigarh MP Gomati Sai said the matter raised by her was not just related to religious conversion but also to the internal security of the country. Referring to a communication by Sukma SP to his subordinates over the activities of the Christian missionaries, she said it clearly shows the dangerous situation pertaining to conversion prevailing in Bastar and Chhattisgarh at large. Thanking Home Minister



Amit Shah for his efforts to bring down the violent activities in Bastar, Sai said that due to the pressure exerted by central forces, the Naxals are on the backfoot.

"But, the Christian missionaries who are converting innocent tribals in Chhattisgarh through luring and intimidation are more dangerous than these Naxals," she said. The BJP MP also said work

is also going to build prayer houses in the ravines of Chhattisgarh.

"I come from Jashpur in Chhattisgarh which has been suffering due to religious conversion since years," she said.

Sai also hailed former BJP MP Dilip Singh Judeo for his "fight against religious conversion" and said he brought back lakhs of families who had left Hinduism to their religion through "mission ghar wapsi".

She demanded that the religious conversion being "carried out by missionaries" should be immediately stopped and a strong law be put in place against so that people do not indulge in such activities.

Meanwhile, also during 'Zero Hour', Parvesh Verma, BJP MP from West Delhi, raised the issue of exorbitant

water and electricity bills being handed to people in Delhi with the Kejriwal government claiming that water and electricity was being given to people for free.

He also showed a bundle of papers and said these were bills of water and electricity with some of them going into lakhs of rupees.

Verma alleged that this was a "scam" in which on one hand the Delhi government was claiming that electricity and water had been made free and on the other bills worth lakhs were being slapped on people. He sought a probe into the matter.

Also during question hour, TMC MP Nusrat Jahan Ruhi raised the issue of disinvestment of "profit-making" PSUs by the government.

Cyclone 'Jawad': NDRF earmarks 64 NDRF teams

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has earmarked a total of 64 teams to tackle the situation arising out of the impending cyclonic storm 'Jawad' that is expected to affect the states of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal this weekend, a senior officer said on Friday.

NDRF Director General (DG) Atul Karwal told reporters during an official briefing here that while 46 teams have been deployed or pre-positioned in the vulnerable states, 18 teams have been



kept in reserve.

According to the deployment map shared by the DG during the press conference, out of the 46 teams, 19 are based in West Bengal, 17 in

Odisha, 19 in Andhra Pradesh apart from seven in Tamil Nadu and two in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

All teams have been made available as desired by the various state governments and they will be deployed in consultation with local authorities, the NDRF DG said.

A single NDRF team has about 30 personnel who are equipped with pole cutters, electric saws to clear uprooted trees, inflatable boats and some other relief and rescue gadgets.

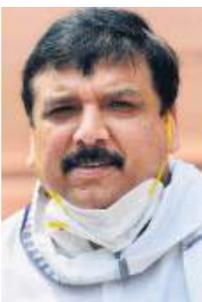
"We are confident of taking care of the situation in the best possible manner," Karwal said.

Antilia bomb scare case: Bookie Naresh Gaur moves Bombay HC

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Cricket bookie Naresh Gaur arrested in the Antilia bomb scare case has approached the Bombay High Court challenging a special court's order last month granting him bail, which was later stayed for 25 days.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested Gaur in March this year, accusing him of being involved in the Antilia bomb scare case and in the killing of businessman Mansukh Hiran. On November 20, a special NIA court granted him bail after observing that prima facie, he did not seem to be aware of the conspiracy.



Hry gov't orders closure of schools

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government has ordered closure of all schools in Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonapat, and Jhajjar districts adjoining Delhi due to air pollution.

The government also ordered a ban on all construction activities in the National Capital Region (NCR), except non-polluting activities such as plumbing, interior decoration, electrical work and carpentry.

In view of the "deteriorating air quality" in Delhi-NCR, "all schools in four NCR districts of Haryana adjoining Delhi, that is Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonapat and Jhajjar, shall remain closed till further orders," said the order issued by the additional chief secretary of the

state's Environment and Climate Change Department.

The Delhi government had on Thursday announced the closure of all schools in the national capital till further orders because of an increase in the air pollution levels.

According to the Haryana government order dated December 2, "There shall also be a complete ban on all construction activities, except the non-polluting activities like plumbing works, interior decoration, electrical work and carpentry and those activities exclusively permitted by Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) for NCR and adjoining areas and it shall be strictly implemented in all 14 NCR districts of Haryana till further orders."

Govt actively working to empower persons with disabilities: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday appreciated the stellar achievements and contributions of persons with disabilities to India's progress.

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Modi said their life journey, courage and determination are very motivating.

He tweeted, "The Government of India is actively working to further strengthen infrastructure that empowers persons with disabilities. The emphasis remains on equality, accessibility and opportunity."

Punjab Ex-DGP Virk, industrialist join BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Punjab assembly polls, several prominent people from the state, including former director general of police (DGP) Sarbdeep Singh Virk, joined the BJP here on Friday. Union minister and the BJP's in-charge for Punjab Gajendra Singh Shekhawat welcomed them into the party and said their induction will further strengthen the organisation in the state.

Virk, former chairman of Punjab cooperative bank Avtar Singh Zira, industrialist Harcharan Singh Ranauta and former SAD leader Sarabjit Singh Makkar were among those who joined the BJP.

BJP gov't has left behind British in terms of atrocities: Akhilesh

PNS ■ JHANSI (UP)

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday alleged that the BJP's policy is "kill and rule" and its government has left behind the British in terms of atrocities on people.

Yadav, who is on a three-day visit to the Bundelkhand region, said that every section of the society is troubled under the BJP rule.

"This government has left behind the British in terms of atrocities. Farmers are crushed to death by vehicles for opposing the government and no concrete action has been taken in the (Lakhimpur Kheri) matter so far. Those who oppose are being put in jail. Their policy is 'maro aur raj karo' (kill and rule)," he told a press conference here.

Tributes, protest mark 37th anniversary Bhopal gas tragedy

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel led the state in paying tributes to the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy, termed as the world's worst industrial disaster, on its 37th anniversary here on Friday.

Patel and several religious leaders offered prayers to the departed souls and observed a two-minute silence in remembrance of the victims at Barkatullah Bhawan here.

The leak of methyl isocyanate, a toxic gas, from the pesticide plant of Union Carbide on the intervening night of December



2 and 3, 1984, had killed over 3,000 people and left 1.02 lakh others affected at that time. Meanwhile, a number of survivors of the tragedy, led by a group of NGOs, gathered near

Bhopal Talkies and took out a march to the now defunct Union Carbide factory, where they held a protest to highlight the demand of medical care, among other things. During the march, the protesters carried placards that read - 'Why are more than 500 women widowed by the Bhopal gas disaster being denied their pension that was promised by (MP) CM?' and 'Why has MP government failed to provide employment to any gas victims or their children while it was sitting on (Rs) 85 crore or \$ 11.6 million amount of money for last 10 years?'

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
**REVENUE (LAND ACQUISITION) DEPARTMENT**  
**FORM-VI**  
**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION**  
 (See Sub-rule (1) of rule-19 and Section-11(1) of the Act-30/2013)  
 Gazette No. 07/2021 Dt: 23.11.2021  
 Collector Pro. No. 51/632/2021 Dt: 23.11.2021  
 Revenue Divisional Officer, Nirmal Lr.No. LA/252/2021-3 Dt: 13.10.2021

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/District Collector, Nirmal that a total of (0.04) acres of land specified in the "Schedule" below situated in the limits of Kistanak Tanda H/O Ilkoyal (V) of Pempti (M) of Nirmal District is required for public purpose, to wit, for construction of Mission Bhagiratha pump house of the "Social Impact Assessment" study U/s 6 of the Act is exempted.

SCHEDULE						
Sr. No.	Sl. No.	Type of Title	Area Under Acquisition (In acres)	Pastadar Name as per Palnari	Name of the Successor / Employer	Extent Details of Structure, Trees, etc.
1	24	Lavani Patta	0.04	Guglavath Vikram Naik S/o Kistanak S/o Kistanak	Guglavath Vikram Naik S/o Kistanak	0.04 No

This notification is made in 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)", to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector & Revenue Divisional Officer, Nirmal on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize the Revenue Divisional Officer, Nirmal and his staff and workmen to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act.

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

Objections to the acquisition, if any may be filed by the person interested within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provide U/s 15 of the Act before District Collector.

Revenue Divisional Officer/Nirmal Additional Collector/Nirmal District Collector Nirmal  
 DIPR R. O. No: 899/LA/PP/Adv/Pub/2021-22



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## What's next?

The world's scientific community needs to pool all its resources to avoid another Delta-like chaos

The Omicron variant has brought back the pandemic scare, but the world appears not to have learnt its lessons from the previous waves and lockdowns. The world has seen the Delta variant wreak havoc and Omicron is only beginning to bloom. Next to nothing is known about its capacity to infect and ease of transmission. Yet, a global approach to fighting it is conspicuously absent. South Africa did not waste time informing the world about the detection of patients infected with the Omicron variant. In no time, and without waiting to verify if the new variant really originated from there, the country, and several other African nations, were subjected to travel restrictions by the US, European Union, the UK and a large part of Asia. The variant has now been detected in 30 countries in all and the list is growing. Nobody has any idea if the cases are spreading from somewhere or originating from everywhere. The samples have been sent for genome sequencing and the results will take time coming. The Americans do not know how the variant was detected in California or why the UK reported 32 cases. Of the two cases in India, one is about a patient without any travel history. How is that possible? Unless the world's scientific community pools its resources for a coordinated testing and tracing programme, there is going to be chaos just like during the time of Delta. More than impulsive travel restrictions, the focus is expected to be on intensive testing and tracing.



The second issue where a global understanding is urgently needed is vaccination and vaccine supply. The rich nations and the better among the developing countries are facing the problem of people refusing to vaccinate either because of complacency or issues of privacy. Such people constitute a definite risk to the rest of the population insofar as the transmission is concerned. It is time there is a global debate on making vaccination legally mandatory. If complacency impedes the vaccination process in advanced nations, the lack of vaccines is slowing down the process in the poorest nations of the world, particularly in Africa. Incidentally, India has already cleared all vaccine orders placed by COVAX for supply to African countries, but that alone is not enough. South Africa, along with India, is at the forefront of the global campaign for a proposed temporary waiver of intellectual property rights on COVID-19-related pharmaceuticals. The US has supported the proposal, but the pharmaceuticals and the EU and the UK are not ready. Instead, they want to supply their vaccines – a costly proposition for the poor countries. They also have export restrictions that impede access to vaccine inputs, contribute to uncertainty on delivery timeframes by suppliers, impact clinical trials and impede the movement of samples from global clinical trials to centralized testing sites. Yet, the pharmaceuticals are unmoved. This has led to discrimination between vaccinated and unvaccinated people that the world has to set right fast.

The glamour which they exhibit accelerates their fame and 'star' becomes their pseudonym. Celebrity endorsement of advertisements make a great impact. However, quite often the endorsements given by celebrities for a particular product are unscrupulous and unreliable as these promoters hardly use the products being endorsed. A few years ago, the issue of misleading endorsement had cropped up in India, when Maggi noodles were temporarily banned after the food regulator revealed that it contained an excessive amount of lead. Marketers use celebrity endorsements to make advertisements believable and to enhance consumer recognition of the brand name. Celebrity endorsements as of now have become the most effective marketing tool in advertisements, which can exert a greater influence on consumers' attitudes and buying intention. The millennial generation, especially the college students, are the viable purchasers and brand loyalists. There is a great effect of celebrity-brand congruence and publicity on consumers' choice and buying behaviour. Fans of celebrities quite often seek to imitate or follow the style of their choice celebrities to improve their self-image and self-esteem. As such, they become crazy to purchase the product endorsed by them. Celebrities cause great influence on the endorsed product. However, for creating such a big influence upon the sale of the endorsed product, they charge heavy amounts from the manufacturers/ businesses. Some celebrities charge up to ₹5.5 crore a day to endorse brands. Several celebrities have also endorsed the co-ownership endorsement model by taking an equity stake in the product brand company. Another form of arrangement is a royalty agreement where the celebrity leases a brand to another company, which is in manufacturing and distribution. The law of demand states that other factors being constant (ceteris paribus), price and quantity demanded of any good and service are inversely related to each other. When the price of a product increases, the demand for the same product decreases, then increases as the prices fall. However, this rule is changed when not bothering the demand or price of a product endorsed by the favourite celebrity, the consumer out of celebrity influence finds himself forced to buy the product. Leaving aside the questions of false and misleading advertisements and celebrities' endorsing a product or service without using, experiencing and having knowledge of the product endorsed, the question arises from the principle of reasonableness as well as accounting procedures that the heavy amount paid to celebrities by manufacturer for endorsement in any form is made through business expenses, which ultimately falls on the neck of the consumers. The phenomenon of marketers' sensitising, informing customers about their product/service may be fair enough through reasonable modes but why the intervention of celebrities for recommending a product? How can it be in the consumer's interest, when the choice of the consumer is not the demand of the product but the psychological influence of the endorser? More so, what is the rationale, rule or criteria of celebrities charging heavy amount as fees for endorsement in a most arbitrary, discriminatory, fanciful and unjustified manner? Who decides the quantum of fees and on what measure or basis? The endorser has been let loose to charge any amount of fees from manufacturers arbitrarily with no legal control. The question arises whether the heavy cost of endorsement falling upon the neck of the consumer is a consumer rights issue? If yes, then the central authority is empowered to protect, promote and enforce the rights of consumers as a class and prevent violation of consumer rights and unfair trade practices under the CP Act, 2019. The Authority is also empowered to undertake and promote research in the field of consumer rights. It is, therefore, essential to establish that endorsement practice is unfair and prejudicial to consumers interests or rights. (The writer is a legal journalist and an author. The views expressed are personal.)

## PICTALK



Indian Navy personnel display their skills during the Navy Week at the Gateway of India, in Mumbai

# Celebrity influence to sell products fair?



HASAN KHURSHID

Celebrity endorsements have become an effective marketing tool which can exert greater influence on consumers' attitudes and buying intention

The term 'Hero' denotes a person who is admired for his courage, outstanding achievements or noble qualities. It is generally associated with a war hero. The hero is a character who, in the face of danger, combats adversity through feats of ingenuity, courage or strength. The hero is a role model, looked by others as an example to be imitated. According to Cambridge dictionary, 'hero worship' is a feeling of extreme admiration for someone, imagining that they have qualities or abilities that are better than anyone else's. The concept of hero narratives fulfil important cognitive and emotional needs, including the need for wisdom, meaning, hope, inspiration and growth. The framework called the Heroic Leadership Dynamic (HLD) is to explain how need based heroism shifts overtime from our initial attraction to heroes to later retention or repudiation of heroes. Central to HLD is the idea that hero narratives fulfil both epistemic and energising functions. To energise us, heroes promote moral elevation, heal psychic wounds, inspire psychological growth and exude charisma.



years ago, the issue of misleading endorsement had cropped up in India, when Maggi noodles were temporarily banned after the food regulator revealed that it contained an excessive amount of lead. Marketers use celebrity endorsements to make advertisements believable and to enhance consumer recognition of the brand name. Celebrity endorsements as of now have become the most effective marketing tool in advertisements, which can exert a greater influence on consumers' attitudes and buying intention. The millennial generation, especially the college students, are the viable purchasers and brand loyalists. There is a great effect of celebrity-brand congruence and publicity on consumers' choice and buying behaviour. Fans of celebrities quite often seek to imitate or follow the style of their choice celebrities to improve their self-image and self-esteem. As such, they become crazy to purchase the product endorsed by them. Celebrities cause great influence on the endorsed product. However, for creating such a big influence upon the sale of the endorsed product, they charge heavy amounts from the manufacturers/ businesses. Some celebrities charge up to ₹5.5 crore a day to endorse brands. Several celebrities have also endorsed the co-ownership endorsement model by taking an equity stake in the product brand company. Another form of arrangement is a royalty agreement where the celebrity leases a brand to another company, which is in manufacturing and distribution. The law of demand states that other factors being constant (ceteris paribus), price and quantity demanded of any good and service are inversely related to each other. When the price of a product increases, the demand for the same product decreases, then increases as the prices fall. However, this rule is changed when not bothering the demand or price of a product endorsed by the favourite celebrity, the consumer out of celebrity influence finds himself forced to buy the product. Leaving aside the questions of false and misleading advertisements and celebrities' endorsing a product or service without using, experiencing and having knowledge of the product endorsed, the question arises from the principle of reasonableness as well as accounting procedures that the heavy amount paid to celebrities by manufacturer for endorsement in any form is made through business expenses, which ultimately falls on the neck of the consumers. The phenomenon of marketers' sensitising, informing customers about their product/service may be fair enough through reasonable modes but why the intervention of celebrities for recommending a product? How can it be in the consumer's interest, when the choice of the consumer is not the demand of the product but the psychological influence of the endorser? More so, what is the rationale, rule or criteria of celebrities charging heavy amount as fees for endorsement in a most arbitrary, discriminatory, fanciful and unjustified manner? Who decides the quantum of fees and on what measure or basis? The endorser has been let loose to charge any amount of fees from manufacturers arbitrarily with no legal control. The question arises whether the heavy cost of endorsement falling upon the neck of the consumer is a consumer rights issue? If yes, then the central authority is empowered to protect, promote and enforce the rights of consumers as a class and prevent violation of consumer rights and unfair trade practices under the CP Act, 2019. The Authority is also empowered to undertake and promote research in the field of consumer rights. It is, therefore, essential to establish that endorsement practice is unfair and prejudicial to consumers interests or rights. (The writer is a legal journalist and an author. The views expressed are personal.)

However, gone are the days when 'hero worship' provided the elevation of the human spirit. Today, the concept of role model has shifted from personalities of heroic deeds to film actors, singers, musicians, models, cricketers and other sportspersons, wrestlers and the likes who are simply the professionals in their respective fields but have somehow gained fame and public support. They have no visible role to elevate the human spirits but still, through the vehicle of media resources, have successfully reached to target the impressionable minds, mostly the teenagers to blindly follow them as their role models worthy of veneration. The glamour which they exhibit accelerates their fame and 'star' becomes their pseudonym. Celebrity endorsement of advertisements make a great impact. However, quite often the endorsements given by celebrities for a particular product are unscrupulous and unreliable as these promoters hardly use the products being endorsed. A few years ago, the issue of misleading endorsement had cropped up in India, when Maggi noodles were temporarily banned after the food regulator revealed that it contained an excessive amount of lead. Marketers use celebrity endorsements to make advertisements believable and to enhance consumer recognition of the brand name. Celebrity endorsements as of now have become the most effective marketing tool in advertisements, which can exert a greater influence on consumers' attitudes and buying intention. The millennial generation, especially the college students, are the viable purchasers and brand loyalists. There is a great effect of celebrity-brand congruence and publicity on consumers' choice and buying behaviour. Fans of celebrities quite often seek to imitate or follow the style of their choice celebrities to improve their self-image and self-esteem. As such, they become crazy to purchase the product endorsed by them. Celebrities cause great influence on the endorsed product. However, for creating such a big influence upon the sale of the endorsed product, they charge heavy amounts from the manufacturers/ businesses. Some celebrities charge up to ₹5.5 crore a day to endorse brands. Several celebrities have also endorsed the co-ownership endorsement model by taking an equity stake in the product brand company. Another form of arrangement is a royalty agreement where the celebrity leases a brand to another company, which is in manufacturing and distribution. The law of demand states that other factors being constant (ceteris paribus), price and quantity demanded of any good and service are inversely related to each other. When the price of a product increases, the demand for the same product decreases, then increases as the prices fall. However, this rule is changed when not bothering the demand or price of a product endorsed by the favourite celebrity, the consumer out of celebrity influence finds himself forced to buy the product. Leaving aside the questions of false and misleading advertisements and celebrities' endorsing a product or service without using, experiencing and having knowledge of the product endorsed, the question arises from the principle of reasonableness as well as accounting procedures that the heavy amount paid to celebrities by manufacturer for endorsement in any form is made through business expenses, which ultimately falls on the neck of the consumers. The phenomenon of marketers' sensitising, informing customers about their product/service may be fair enough through reasonable modes but why the intervention of celebrities for recommending a product? How can it be in the consumer's interest, when the choice of the consumer is not the demand of the product but the psychological influence of the endorser? More so, what is the rationale, rule or criteria of celebrities charging heavy amount as fees for endorsement in a most arbitrary, discriminatory, fanciful and unjustified manner? Who decides the quantum of fees and on what measure or basis? The endorser has been let loose to charge any amount of fees from manufacturers arbitrarily with no legal control. The question arises whether the heavy cost of endorsement falling upon the neck of the consumer is a consumer rights issue? If yes, then the central authority is empowered to protect, promote and enforce the rights of consumers as a class and prevent violation of consumer rights and unfair trade practices under the CP Act, 2019. The Authority is also empowered to undertake and promote research in the field of consumer rights. It is, therefore, essential to establish that endorsement practice is unfair and prejudicial to consumers interests or rights. (The writer is a legal journalist and an author. The views expressed are personal.)



THE QUESTION ARISES WHETHER THE HEAVY COST OF ENDORSEMENT FALLING UPON THE NECK OF THE CONSUMER IS A CONSUMER RIGHTS ISSUE? IF YES, THEN THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY IS EMPOWERED TO ENFORCE FAIR TRADE PRACTICES

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DELHI'S AIR POLLUTION AND PAKISTAN

Sir — The air pollution in Delhi and adjoining regions is so severe that it is a life-and-death issue; it has serious health implications. The consequences will be very grave if nothing is done to improve the quality of air. When the Supreme Court was hearing the case related to air pollution in Delhi, the Uttar Pradesh Government made the bizarre claim that the smog in Delhi was caused by Pakistan. But for the nightmarish situation in Delhi due to the air pollution, we could have thought that it was comic relief provided by the Yogi Adityanath Government.

The UP Government stretched logic to the limit when it deduced that the toxic air was blowing from Pakistan to cause smog in Delhi, perhaps in a vain bid to pull the wool over our eyes. The 'indictment' of Pakistan as 'the guilty party' prompted Chief Justice NV Ramana to ask in a sarcastic vein if the UP Government wanted the country's top court to ban industries in Pakistan and added, for good measure, that it has no jurisdiction over the neighbouring country. It is absurd to say that Pakistan is responsible for the smog in Delhi; it is common knowledge that emissions from vehicles and industries, road dust, construction activities, garbage burning, stubble burning etc are the major causes for the high levels of pollution. G David Milton | Maruthancode

### E-LEARNING CAN'T COMPARE WITH SCHOOLS

Sir — I tend to disagree with the fact that online classes would enhance the quality of education. On the contrary, students have been facing a lot of issues due to the forced switch over to e-learning from the conventional system of classroom learning. The mandatory shift to online classes has greatly impacted the disadvantaged students living in rural India. Students can easily lose track of their studies in online education, as there are no face-to-face lectures. Until and unless you keep yourself motivated, it takes a long time to complete a course through e-learning. Though it is imperative to maintain the engagement of students during the lockdown, e-learning cannot be smooth and it cannot make up for the academic loss suffered by the students. The most crucial part of a student's life is to learn good communication skills, discipline, social interaction and an optimistic attitude. These qualities can only be achieved when there is a live student-teacher interaction. The most nostalgic part of everyone's life is their school life, which obviously cannot happen in e-learning. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

A DIVIDED OPPOSITION IS GIFT FOR THE BJP Sir — The TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee declared political war against the ruling BJP and has been trying to stitch alliances with other like minded parties nationwide to that effect. To prove others her credentials as the unchallenged candidate for the leadership position in Opposition camp against PM Modi, she is belittling the role of other potential players, especially the Congress.

## Indian athlete makes a long jump



India's former athlete Anju Bobby George barely needs an introduction. She has won the Woman of the Year Award by World Athletics for grooming talent and encouraging young girls in India to take up sports and fight for gender equality. Anju has made India proud by winning such a prestigious award. She dedicated her whole life to the development of women's sports in the country. The 2003 World Championships bronze medalist in long jump has inspired Indian women to play, learn and grow in sports and bring back laurels for the country. She is truly an inspiration to the women of this country who wish to translate their talent and hard work to success. We must appreciate her for her exceptional contributions in bringing gender-equality in sports. She has worked hard to promote the importance of women's sports and is a deserving recipient of such an honour. And now, her responsibility has increased and she will continue to show the path to aspiring Indian women sports enthusiasts. Indian women have tremendous talent and will power and if given the right atmosphere, their performance would go up significantly. Lately, Indian women proved the same at the Tokyo Paralympics. We need guides who can refine and mould the raw talent of this nation. And mentors like Anju Bobby George and others can fill this vacuum by bestowing youths with the right inspiration and guidance. Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

lockdown, e-learning cannot be smooth and it cannot make up for the academic loss suffered by the students. The most crucial part of a student's life is to learn good communication skills, discipline, social interaction and an optimistic attitude. These qualities can only be achieved when there is a live student-teacher interaction. The most nostalgic part of everyone's life is their school life, which obviously cannot happen in e-learning. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Her political strategist Prashant Kishor has criticised what's been going on in the Congress party. The other day, she questioned the very existence of the UPA. Though her comments are correct to some extent, the context and timing is not right. The BJP is very strong on the national front with some advantages on its side. To defeat it at hustings, there should be a strong alliance of regional and national parties. For that each potential alliance partner should act as the best team member, build a cohesive team, minding the ultimate goal and leave personal agendas to the back burner. The Congress party with its national presence cannot be left out in an anti-BJP camp. The divisions in the Opposition camp will certainly help the BJP continue its winning streak. DVG Sankararao | Vizianagaram

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

We are going to install 1.40 lakh CCTV cameras in phase two of the project in Delhi.



Arvind Kejriwal — Delhi Chief Minister

The US knows that Putin is putting in place the capability to invade Ukraine in the near future if he desires.

US Secretary of State — Antony Blinken

While putting on 15 kgs for Mimi was a challenge, losing those kilos wasn't easy either.



Actor — Kriti Sanon

I am delighted to see that the Kerala Government took the initiative to host the senior women's nationals this year.

Former Indian footballer — Bemben Devi

The PM said that he made a mistake and apologised to the nation. As a result of that mistake, 700 people have died.



Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi

## Saboteurs

Event managers make our events their own, but some aren't really doing a good turn to anybody

Just a few days back, we wrote in these very columns about the hardships the event managers face, and have faced especially during the lockdown days, but how they are still around with their bubbly spirit and zest to spread smiles, joy and happiness amongst us on our special days. No doubt that this class remains largely unnoticed and unacknowledged, and there were therefore several thank-you messages. But what also emerged was the other side of these performers; it seems they perform not just on stage but there are other arenas, too, before, during and after the booking. There has been more than one instance in the past that a female event manager cut short the duration of her promised appearance at a show because she wanted to spend more time in private with the accompanying DJ. The loss was entirely the host's since he had paid her in advance and now there was neither the stage hostess nor the music player around. Without making much song and dance about this affair, one just prefers to keep things in the right perspective.



The same lady, it now emerges, after apologising and patching things up with her husband, has again taken the high road to merriment. Causing it to occasion with her professional services, or even otherwise, she is learnt in the circles to have a dinner partner in Mumbai's Fort area (when both the parties stay at Mulund and Ghatkopar, and he is no SoBo boy), open to any obvious eye. Nothing illegal about it, only that both of them got acquainted during a trip to their guruji's ashram in Paramdham, Deolali, where this sort of tethering is looked down upon. So it appears to be a vicious pond where things happen to denigrate morality, truth, and societal standards while the garb is to promote happiness, gaiety and joy unto others. But, as it transpires from this case study, these people aren't really doing a good turn to anybody around them, certainly not their families or society at large. The crux here is: There's nothing *naitik* about the whole scheme of things, there is no *Mera Naam Joker* angle here, no sacrifice, only the sensory benefits to accrue from the façade of a smiling demeanour. As 'Ghazal King' Jagjit Singh said, *sarakti jaye hai rukh se naqab, ahista ahista*.



## FIRST COLUMN NOBODY IS SAFE UNTIL EVERYBODY IS SAFE

A year after the first vaccines became available, only six per cent of Africans are fully vaccinated



GWYNNE DYER

The new Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus was discovered by scientists in South Africa and Botswana, the only countries in southern Africa that have the skills and resources to detect a new variant. On November 23, scientists in Botswana uploaded 99 Sars-CoV-2 genome sequences to the Wellcome Sanger Institute in the United Kingdom, which has operated as a clearing house for more than a million such sequences from dozens of countries since March 2020. They noted that three of the genomes seemed different from the usual Delta variant. On the same day a separate team in South Africa uploaded the genomes of seven COVID samples with the same suspicious mutations in the spike protein that the virus uses to infect human cells. Within hours, scientists everywhere could study those genomes on the web, and in 72 hours the WHO declared that we have a fifth 'variant of concern' on our hands. Whereupon the rich countries of the global north instantly slammed their gates shut against travelers from South Africa and nine other



countries in the same region. It's not even clear that this is where the variant first emerged, but never mind all that. Prof Tulio de Oliveira, the Durban-based scientist leading the effort to understand the new variant, pointed out that South Africa has been "very transparent with scientific information...The world should provide support to South Africa and Africa and not discriminate or isolate it." Fat chance. By Sunday South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa was warning that the travel ban "is not informed by science, nor will it be effective in preventing the spread of this variant."

The only thing the prohibition on travel will do is to further damage the economies of the affected countries and undermine their ability to respond to and recover from the pandemic. "Where to start? Perhaps with the fact that there is no country called 'Africa'. For example, there is actually no shortage of vaccines in South Africa, a semi-developed country where the main problem is vaccine reluctance. Internet access is high and mistrust of authority is even higher, so only 27 per cent of South Africans are fully vaccinated. The risk of new variants emerging still exists even in rich countries where the Covid virus continues to circulate widely. In most African countries, and in the poorest Asian countries as well, the risk is very high and will remain so, because they just can't get enough vaccines. A year after the first vaccines became available, only 6 per cent of Africans are fully vaccinated. Twelve billion vaccine doses will have been produced in the world by the end of this month (December), which is more than enough for every human being over 18 years old. But the rationing is mainly done by price, so school-children are being vaccinated and adults are getting a third jab in the wealthy countries, while several billion adults have not yet had their first jab in the global south. And in the meantime, they are also punishing the economies of the poor by imposing knee-jerk travel bans on an entire region of Africa on suspicion of harbouring the Omicron virus — even though we all know that it has already been confirmed in Europe and Asia, and is doubtless present in the Americas too. The right move, even at this late date, is to focus all the world's energies on getting vaccines into the poorest countries: 'nobody is safe until everybody is safe'. Omicron looks like it may be a big problem, and there could be even bigger ones behind it.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

# Can doctoral degrees make better teachers?



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

Michael Faraday did an apprenticeship, and had no degree; Charles Darwin had an 'ordinary' degree in theology and James Joule had no degree at all

It is often said that the quality of higher education in a country rests on the hands of the number of PhDs holder produced by her. With this objective, policymakers of higher education give more impetus to increase the number of doctoral degree holders every year. Even during the accreditation process of UGC- NAAC more thrust is given to the number of PhD holders in an institution. The UGC is also supporting teachers through faculty improvement programs to pursue PhD. Even those who do not have any interest in research also do PhD for the sake of promotions. Does a greater number of PhD holders improve the academic or research culture of a country? Do such people do any good for the academic system?

A debate was triggered earlier this month when Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that making a PhD degree mandatory for the post of assistant professor at universities is "not favourable" in the current education system.

If we analyze the quality of an average PhD holder from a state university or private university, we get a dismal picture of our higher education (with few exceptions). There are many who even do not know how to state a research problem or how to cite references properly. Quality in higher education cannot be attributed to the degree one holds. If the number of PhDs and high impact factor publications is the scale for measuring quality, our country would have produced hundreds of Nobel Laureates and we would have solved many of the problems afflicting our society.

In history we find many eminent scientists without a PhD degree or even a good academic degree. Michael Faraday did an apprenticeship, and had no degree; Charles Darwin, had an 'ordinary' degree in theology; and James Joule, had no degree at all. John Walker, who won the Copley Medal and the Nobel Prize, got a third-class honours degree; and Admiral Henry Jackson, who invented radio communication between ships, did not have a degree either.

In one of the studies published in The Biologist, it is reported that 10 per cent of the distinguished scientists who were listed in the prestigious Fellows of the Royal Society (FRS) never had degrees. Our own great scientist and teacher Sir C V Raman did not have a research degree. Clearly, degrees or grades are not a reliable indicator of the research or academic ability and potential of a candidate. Using degree scores alone would have prevented many world-famous scientists from building successful careers if they had lived today.

Considering the facts from history, the statement of the Union Education Minister is a welcome step for people who value knowledge and wisdom above certificates or degrees.

In higher education what is needed is the transformation of the students to equip them to solve the problems faced by soci-



IF WE ANALYSE THE QUALITY OF AN AVERAGE PhD HOLDER FROM A STATE OR PRIVATE UNIVERSITY, WE GET A DISMAL PICTURE OF OUR HIGHER EDUCATION (WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS). THERE ARE MANY WHO EVEN DO NOT KNOW HOW TO STATE A RESEARCH PROBLEM OR HOW TO CITE REFERENCES PROPERLY. QUALITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION CANNOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE DEGREE ONE HOLDS

(The writer is a science communicator and columnist. The views expressed are personal.)



ety and also to mold them into citizens having good values. Unfortunately, today's education fails to impart these. Academic transformation can be achieved only by updating the latest developments in the subject. Regrettably, most of our teachers are not interested in updating the subject. The students are fed with information of the 70s or 80s or 90s that these teachers learned during their college days and they ask students to write the same for university examinations. Teachers of this group do not even students to refer to standard books.

Many teachers who have taken doctoral degrees have the feeling that they have climbed Mount Everest and they do not need to learn further. They even have a feeling that they should be focused only on MSc and PhD classes as they are superior. Many do not engage themselves with BSc and MSc classes citing workload mentioned in UGC rules, which gives weightage to teachers who are engaged in research. In many affiliated colleges having research centers, BSc and MSc students get less focus from this group of teachers. In university centers the situation is so pathetic that many are not interested even in taking classes, their only focus is research. In many university centers, theory and practical sessions for post-graduate students are carried out by research scholars.

Of course, in science education, research and teaching are two sides of the same coin and we cannot

neglect either one. The attention of teachers is needed for molding undergraduate students as they are fresh and need the assistance of teachers. The students who come for MSc and PhD are people who usually have already a clear set of objectives.

Value-based education can be provided only if a teacher has some connection with society. Most of the present-day college teachers feel they are an elite class. A teacher having more degrees and honors becomes totally excluded from society. During earlier days students had good role models among their teachers. But in today's world even a teacher's life is corrupted with the dismal state of society. Most of the present-day teachers do not like to correct students; they only fulfill their duty as a lecturer providing one hour lecture or giving a test and teacher-student relationship ends just there.

To be a good teacher one needs to be a good student. Only a good student can excel as a teacher. To be a good student means always opening your eyes and ears to the learning process. A good teacher need not be one who holds a PhD degree. The reason in most cases is that once a person is awarded a PhD degree, he feels that his learning process is complete and becomes egotistic. They feel that they are superior superhuman beings and nobody should question them. This creates a negative impact on the academic culture of our students. In science education, this atti-

tude will destroy the questioning nature of students.

To be a good teacher is more difficult than securing a PhD degree. A good teacher should be able to understand the academic level of each student and accordingly deliver the content. It is really more challenging than doing a value lab experiment. In higher education what we lack today is the presence of a good teacher. Only a good teacher can instill scientific creativity in students.

There are many passionate researchers among our school teachers who do not have a post-graduate degree, but still are better researchers compared to PhD holders. We have to tap the resources of such great teachers. But the so-called scientific community will not accept them as they do not have a PhD. The Government should provide opportunities for such teachers to showcase their talents. We need to promote them with an award equivalent to Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize given to researchers. Solutions to problems affecting the community can be solved only if we tap the intellectual ability of so-called non-scientific people who lack a PhD. It is the undue importance we give to the PhD degree that harms the productivity in science. Science should be respected looking at the work one does, not by one's degree. In higher education what we need is good teachers who enlighten our youngsters and create a strong intellectual pool for the country.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

THERE IS NO UPA IN INDIA ANYMORE. ONLY THE UNITY OF REGIONAL PARTIES CAN DEFEAT THE BJP IN THE 2024 ELECTIONS.  
—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER  
MAMATA BANERJEE



IT CAN BE POLITICAL OPPORTUNISM FOR MAMATA BANERJEE. BUT, FOR US, FIGHTING THE RSS-BJP LINE IS AN ARTICLE OF FAITH.  
—CONGRESS LEADER  
RANDEEP SURJEWALA

# Delhi's response to air pollution needs a rethinking

The Delhi-NCR's plan to mitigate air pollution requires better-timed measures with actions being more 'pre-emptive' rather than 'reactive'

The COVID-19 pandemic was an unexpected disruption but air pollution remains the national capital's chronic crisis which recurs on a yearly basis. Year after year, it is a familiar story — farm fires meet firecrackers in November, Delhi-NCR and the Indo-Gangetic plain choke and the annual blame game starts. After a two-month-uproar, come February, everyone moves on.

In 2017, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was introduced specifically to combat winter air pollution in Delhi. However, the primary issue is that the GRAP measures are reactive and linked to higher levels of measured PM 2.5 and PM 10 concentrations. As a result, the appropriate response measures targeting



TANUSHREE GANGULY MILAN GEORGE JACOB

(Tanushree Ganguly is a Programme Lead and Milan George Jacob is a Communications Specialist at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water. The views expressed are personal.)

sources are usually activated too late. For instance, actions such as private vehicle restrictions, construction bans and school closures kick in only when the fine particulate matter (PM2.5) levels of 300 ug/m3 — 20-times the World Health Organisation's safe limit — persist for at least 48 hours.

Hot mix plants, stone crushers and brick kiln operations are required to be shut only when air quality crosses the severe mark (250 ug/m3). In 2021, Delhi is better equipped with an early warning system that gives a three-day pollution forecast and a dedicated Decision Support System (DSS) developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology that pin-points sources of pollution. However,



these systems are not in sync with the GRAP.

Delhi-NCR's action plan to tackle air pollution requires a fundamental rethink. More measures need to be 'pre-emptive' rather than 'reactive' as we propose in this four-point plan.

First, the threshold for declaring a public health emergency and restricting highly polluting activities like industrial operations, vehicular movement, and construction has to be brought down from 48 hours of PM2.5 concentrations at 'severe' level (>300

ug/m3). The threshold should be improved to 'very poor' (PM2.5 > 121 ug/m3) in the next three years and eventually to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards limit of 60 ug/m3 if Delhi-NCR is to ensure clean air round the year. Public messaging should be stepped up at the threshold and citizens should be encouraged to limit their outdoor movements. The messaging should also include air quality forecasts so that citizens can plan activities accordingly. Similar to COVID-19, lockdowns should be acceptable even in the case of chronic crises like air pollution, the long-term impacts of which are much worse.

Secondly, the response measures in the GRAP should be triggered by the early warn-

ing system and in sync with the forecasted source contributions. This means that if 'severe' air quality is forecast for the next two days and the primary contributor is to be local vehicular emissions, then vehicular restrictions should be imposed in the city. For a system that is driven by forecasts, continuous validation of the forecasts becomes equally important. Also, efforts should be made to ensure that the forecasting system captures and reflects on-ground conditions and episodic contributors. Thirdly, the NCR and states of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh should have a common winter response plan, which should be notified under the Commission of Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas Act, 2021.

For instance, a survey from last winter found that power plants and industries accounted for 15 per cent of Delhi's winter particulate concentrations. However, there are no coal-fired power plants within Delhi's jurisdiction. Equally, states in the region resort to using some of their most inefficient plants to fulfill their power needs, on account of perverse incentives that keep efficient plants moth-balled. Therefore, one component of the regional plan must be to ensure that all large-scale industries around NCR comply with minimum efficiency and emission standards.

Fourthly, create a fund that pools resources from the environment damages compensation paid by industries and the green cess paid by

commercial vehicles entering Delhi. Such a fund can compensate the weakest of those affected by air pollution, especially during economic shutdowns. It can provide a safety net to informal sector workers like construction labourers and micro and small enterprises. Further, the fund can also be used to accelerate clean energy transition for Delhi NCR's urban poor, thereby reducing household emissions.

Air pollution is certainly not insurmountable. Look at the examples of London, Los Angeles, and even Beijing for inspiration. These cities have successfully improved the quality of air and thereby, quality of life. With a recalibrated approach to solving for clean air, Delhi too can add itself to the list.

Govt proposes to have national retail trade policy: Parkash

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government proposes to have a national retail trade policy for creating a conducive environment to streamline the growth of all formats of such trade, and stakeholder consultations are being held for that, Parliament was informed on Friday.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash in a written reply to a query in the Rajya Sabha said a conducive environment can be created by simplifying rules and regulations.

"The government proposes to have a national retail trade policy for creating a conducive environment for streamlining growth of all formats of retail trade, including by simplifying rules and regulations."

"Stakeholder consultations are being held," he said.

Sensex tanks 764 pts, Nifty sinks below 17,200

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex plunged 765 points on Friday, dragged by losses in index-heavyweights Reliance Industries, HDFC twins and Kotak Bank, after India reported its first case of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

The Centre on Thursday said two cases of Omicron have been detected in Karnataka. Both the patients are men, aged 66 and 46 years, with mild symptoms. Severe symptoms have not been noted, an official said.

The 30-share BSE index ended 764.83 points or 1.31 per cent lower at 57,696.46. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty tanked 204.95 points or 1.18 per cent to 17,196.70.

PowerGrid was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding over 4 per cent, followed by Reliance Industries, Asian Paints, Kotak Bank, Tech Mahindra and Bharti Airtel.



On the other hand, L&T, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel and UltraTech Cement were among the gainers. According to Gaurav Garg, Head of Research, Capitalvia Global Research, traders are concerned with the uncertainty surrounding the Omicron variant.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo ended with gains, while Hong Kong was in the red. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a positive note in mid-session deals. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude surged 2.38 per cent to USD 71.32 per barrel.

L&T, Kemroc ink pact for distribution of products

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Friday said it has entered into a pact with Kemroc, a global manufacturer of attachments for excavators and backhoe loaders, to distribute the latter's cutting-edge products in India.

The agreement covers Kemroc-developed special attachments, including its patented EK series of chain cutters. These chain cutters are a game-changer in rock trenching and are well accepted across the world, including India.

"Larsen & Toubro...and Kemroc, a global manufacturer of attachments for excavators and backhoe loaders, have entered into a distribution agreement that will facilitate Kemroc products to be distributed and promoted in the Indian market by L&T," the company said in a statement.

'Integrated infra, coordinated efforts in line with PM Gati Shaktis'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce and industry ministry on Friday said integrated infrastructure and coordinated efforts in line with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan will help in augmenting coal production in the country.

The issue was discussed during a meeting, organised under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, to review the mission of Coal India Ltd to produce one billion tonnes of coal by 2025-26. In October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a Rs 100-lakh crore national master plan (NMP) for multi-modal connectivity that aims to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy.

Coal remains the primary domestic fuel for India as well as the single largest commodity transported across the country, the ministry said in a statement.

"In line with PM Gati Shakti, the development of integrated infrastructure with



coordinated efforts by all infrastructure ministries lies at the heart of further augmentation of coal production and evacuation capacity through multi-modal connectivity," it said.

As discussed in the meeting, rail remains the dominant evacuation mode for coal with an aim to expand its modal share from 64 per cent to 75 per cent by FY 2030.

To cater to the increased coal dispatch in Chhattisgarh and Odisha, 14 railway infrastructure projects are under implementation in line with

Gati Shakti principles. It said that the Ministry of Railways has developed the Freight Operations Information System to monitor the movement of freight trains that also calculates freight and other charges.

A similar facility called the Port Community System (PCS) has been developed by the Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways to provide a platform for secure exchange of information between government agencies, terminal operators and traders.

MONEY MATTERS

Rupee falls 14 paise to 75.16 against US\$ on new COVID variant worries

The rupee on Friday slipped 14 paise to close at 75.16 (provisional) against the US dollar, tracking massive sell-offs in domestic equities amid growing worries over the new COVID variant. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 74.98 and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.95 and a low of 75.18 against the US dollar in a highly volatile trading session.



The local unit finally settled at 75.16 a dollar, down 14 paise over its previous close. The rupee on Thursday settled at 75.02 against the US dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.06 per cent up at 96.21. The rupee has been under pressure over the last few trading sessions as the detection of the new coronavirus variant Omicron reignited growth concerns and hurt risk appetite. Besides, unabated foreign fund outflows weighed on investor sentiments, traders said. Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 909.71 crore, as per exchange data.

Gold prices decline by Rs 196; silver tanks Rs 146



Gold in the national capital on Friday dipped Rs 196 to Rs 46,581 per 10 gram in line with fall in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 46,777 per 10 gram.

Silver also declined Rs 146 to Rs 59,878 per kilogram from Rs 60,024 per kilogram in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,767 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.30 per ounce. "Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX were trading down at USD 1,767 per ounce on Friday," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel.

Govt advises NDDB to bring its subsidiaries under RTI Act

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has been advised to bring all its subsidiaries, including Mother Dairy, under the RTI Act, 2005, the government said on Friday. In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala said the NDDB has been advised "to extend the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 in Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Pvt. Ltd (MDFVPL) and other subsidiary companies in the interest of transparency, accountability and to increase the trust of consumers".



Mother Dairy is one of the leading milk suppliers in the country. It sells more than 30 lakh litres of milk per day in the Delhi-NCR market. In reply, the NDDB has stated that the decision regarding applicability of RTI Act, 2005 is sub-judice in the case of MDFVPL, the minister said.

Microtek plans to invest Rs 500 crore to boost products



Power appliance maker Microtek is planning to invest Rs 500 crore to boost its electric product business over the next one year, a senior company official said on Friday. The company will primarily make investments in research and development and ramping up the manufacturing of its products.

"We have crossed Rs 250 crore revenue. We are targeting to cross Rs 400 crore revenue and invest Rs 500 crore in the next one year," Microtek International Deputy Managing Director Saurabh Gupta said. As per industry estimates, the domestic electrical equipment market is expected to grow at an annual rate of 12 per cent to reach around 5.4 lakh crore by 2025, he added. "So, there is an immense potential in the market, which Microtek as an Indian company is very keen to tap," Gupta said. The company at present is engaged in the manufacturing of power in verters, solar solutions, electric vehicle chargers, wires and cables etc.

RBI new norms likely to increase NBFCs bad loans by one-third

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The recent clarification by the Reserve Bank of India on non-performing advances (NPA) may increase non-banking financial companies' (NBFC) bad loans by one-third, says a report.

Last month, the RBI had provided clarification on income recognition asset classification and provisioning (IRAC) norms for banks, NBFCs and All-India Financial Institutions.

The clarification included classification of special mention account (SMA) and NPA on a day-end position basis and upgrade from an NPA to standard category only after clearance of all outstanding overdues.

"The RBI's clarification on non-performing advances (NPAs) accounting is likely to increase NPAs by around one-third for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)," domestic rating agency India Ratings and Research said in a report on Friday.

However, the impact on provisioning could be modest,



given NBFCs are using Indian Accounting Standards (IND-AS) and generally for higher rated NBFCs, provision policy is more conservative than IRAC requirements.

The report said the RBI circular also calls for daily stamping of accounts to count the number of days they are overdue instead of a monthly or quarterly stamping.

This again would result in higher headline numbers for NBFCs," it said.

NBFC borrowers, typically where there is cash collection, pay their overdues generally with some delays. Accounts can get into NPA category

just for a day's delay in paying the instalments and once it gets categorised as NPA it will not be able to become standard unless all the arrears are cleared, the report said.

"So, in other words, accounts would get categorised as NPAs at a faster pace and would remain sticky in that category for a longer period of time. Both these accounting treatments would result in higher headline numbers for NBFCs," it said.

It may so happen that NBFCs would disclose NPA numbers as per IRAC norms and stage 3 numbers as per Ind-As separately in their disclosures, the agency said.

'Singapore fits into India's reform process'

PNS ■ SINGAPORE

Singapore fits very much into what India will do in the next 30 years as part of the ongoing reform process and building on the past three decades of liberalisation, acclaimed economist and Principal Economic Advisor to the Indian government Sanjeev Sanyal has said.

Speaking at an event organised by a Singapore-based think tank on Thursday, Sanyal said India and its States have a lot to learn from Singapore's development programmes, especially in infrastructure, municipal management, waste and water management, as well as energy conservation.

"All of these are issues which India, at different scales of urban systems, requires to do," he said at the Seventh Lecture on 'After The Pandemic: India's Reforms and Renewal' organised by the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) and the Indian High Commission here. The event was held virtually on Thursday.

Responding to a question



on Singapore's relevance to reforms and redevelopment in India, Sanyal said: "It fits very much into what we are going to be doing for the next 30 years of reforms", particularly in the delivery of services.

"This is a journey (of India) in which Singapore has a lot to do," he said, pointing out the expected developments and implementations of projects by India over the next 30 years as part of the ongoing reform process and building on the past three decades of liberalisation that was started in 1991.

Describing Singapore as an excellent example of development, he said, "We have a lot to learn from Singapore."

Over 200 FPOs given credit guarantee cover

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has extended credit guarantee cover of Rs 67.91 crore to more than 200 farmer producer organisations (FPOs) in the last seven years, Parliament was informed on Friday.

In 2013-14 fiscal, the government through Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) had created the 100 crore Credit Guarantee Fund to finance the project load of FPOs.

"Till date, 202 farmer producer companies (also called FPOs) have been extended credit guarantee cover amounting to Rs 67.91 crore," Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

The minister further said the Centre has created a credit guarantee cover with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as part of the central scheme that aims to establish and promote 10,000 FPOs across the country.

Since 2011-12 to date, Tomar said SFAC has promoted 1,340 FPOs and mobilised 9.83 lakh farmers as member beneficiaries.

Further, NABARD has promoted 5,758 FPOs by mobilising 15.95 lakh farmers as members, he added.

UAE agrees to buy French warplanes after Macron visits Gulf

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

France says the United Arab Emirates has purchased 80 French-made Rafale warplanes for 16 billion euros.

There was no immediate confirmation of the deal from Emirati officials. The French Defense Ministry described the deal as France's largest-ever weapons contract for export. French President Emmanuel Macron is in the Emirates on the first stop of his two-day visit to the Gulf.

Macron's two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia comes a month before France assumes the rotating European Union presidency — and ahead of the French 2022 presidential election where Macron is expected to seek a second term.

Returning from the Gulf with a contract to sell French fighter jets to the Emiratis, a deal that Paris and Abu Dhabi have discussed for almost a decade, would boost France's defense industry after the collapse of a \$66 billion con-



tract for Australia to buy 12 French submarines.

And the red carpet treatment Macron can expect from Gulf political heavyweights would present France as the EU powerhouse in the Gulf and Middle East since Britain's exit from the bloc.

"Macron stands out among European Union leaders with his willingness to be in the spotlight, to drive the foreign policy and push things ahead," said Silvia Colombo, an expert on EU-Gulf

relations at the International Affairs Institute in Rome.

But, primarily, Macron is pursuing French business interests, Colombo said. "He has a very clear idea that he has to go where the business community wants to be, where France can make economic gains."

Macron's keen interest in forging personal relationships with leaders like Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, and his counterpart in

Saudi Arabia, Mohamed bin Salman Al Saud, makes him a welcome guest. Both Gulf leaders value a degree of pragmatism when discussing democracy and human rights — issues on which their countries have been heavy criticized by rights groups and European lawmakers — while pursuing business opportunities.

France has deep ties to the United Arab Emirates, a federation of seven sheikdoms on the Arabian Peninsula, particularly since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. The UAE opened a French naval base in 2009 at Abu Dhabi's Port Zayed. French warplanes and personnel are also stationed at Al-Dhafra Air Base, a major facility outside the Emirati capital of Abu Dhabi that's also home to several thousand American troops.

Months after Macron was elected in 2017, he traveled to the UAE to inaugurate Louvre Abu Dhabi, built under a \$1.2 billion agreement to share the name and art of the world-famous museum in Paris.

TVS Emerald announces new finance scheme

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Emerald Haven Realty Ltd (TVS Emerald), the real estate division of TVS Group, on Friday announced the rolling out of new finance scheme for its project TVS Emerald Atrium to home-buyers.

The gated apartment project is part of 18-acre community development 'TVS Emerald Green Acres' coming up in neighbouring Perungalathur.

According to a statement from the company, TVS Emerald rolled out the limited period finance scheme 10:85:5 scheme which allows home-buyers payment flexibility as they need not take up a

home loan until two years. An aspiring home-buyer needs to pay 10 per cent as booking charge and 85 per cent of payment after two years on completion of flooring of the purchased unit. The balance 5 per cent can be payable during the possession of the apartment, the statement said.

The scheme can be availed till December 15, the company said. "We are delighted at the strong, positive response to our new project TVS Emerald Atrium. To fast-track the project and also offer home-buyers a unique value proposition, we have launched a limited period scheme 10-85-5 scheme," president of TVS Emerald Sriram Iyer said.

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**NT No. & Date: 26/07/21/Alwal Circle GHMC/2021-22. Dt: 03.12.2021**

**Name of the work:** Supply & installation of super low star deluxe portable mobile toilets and VVIP mobile toilets in RP Nagar of Bellaram on the occasion of soam visit for Hon'ble President of India to Hyderabad, Alwal circle, GHMC. **Estimated Amount Rs. in Lakhs: 16.42** **Start Date & Time:** 03.12.2021 @ 04.00 P.M. **Last Date & Time for receipt of Bid: 06.12.2021 @ 04.30 P.M.** **Name & Address of EE:** Executive Engineer, Alwal Circle-27, GHMC. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ [www.eprocurement.gov.in](http://www.eprocurement.gov.in)

**R.O. No. : 16400-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22 Executive Engineer, Alwal Circle-27, GHMC.**

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**STRATEGIC NALA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

**Engg-GHMC-SNDP-SE/HL&WBMC - Tenders are invited for the following work**

**1) Tender Notice Number & Date:** 21/SE/HL&WBMC/2021-22. Dt: 04.12.2021. **Name of the Work:** Engg-SNDP-Remodelling of Existing Drains and Construction of New Drains from Modukula Kunta to Kotha Cheruvu in Kukatpally Zone of GHMC under package (IV)(b) of Strategic Nala Development Programme. **Estimated Contract Value:** Rs. 1448.36 Lakhs. **2) 22/SE/HL&WBMC/2021-22. Dt: 04.12.2021. Engg-SNDP - Remodelling of Existing Drains and Construction of New Drains from Eria Cheruvu to NH 65 in Serilingampally Zone of GHMC under Package (X)(b) of Strategic Nala Development Programme. Rs. 1139.43 Lakhs. 3. 23/SE/HL&WBMC/2021-22. Dt: 04.12.2021. Engg-SNDP-Remodelling of Existing Drains and Construction of New Drains from Kothamani Kunta to Gurrum Cheruvu in Jalapally Municipality under Package (XII)(b) of Strategic Nala Development Programme. Rs. 765.46 Lakhs. **Total Rs. 3353.25 Lakhs.****

**\*Note:** For the downloading and last date of submission of tenders and other details please visit [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in)

**Superintending Engineer, HL&WBMC Circle, Hyderabad. Mobile No. 9989930605**

**R.O. No. : 16300-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22**

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**

**REVENUE (LAND ACQUISITION) DEPARTMENT**

**FORM-VI**

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION**

(See Sub-rule (1) of rule-19 And Section -11(1) of the Act-30/2013)

**Gazette No. 88/2021**  **Dt: 23.11.2021**

**Collector Proc.No.51/632/2021-1**  **Dt: 23.11.2021**

**Revenue Divisional Officer, Nirmal Lr.No.LA/252/2021-6**  **Dt:13.10.2021**

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/District Collector, Nirmal that a total of (0.05) acres of land specified in the 'Schedule' below situated in the limits of the domdari (v) of Pembri (M) of Nirmal District is required for public purpose, to wit, for construction of Mission Bhagiratha pump house of the 'Social Impact Assessment' study U/s 6 of the Act is exempted.

SCHEDULE							
Sl. No.	Area (in acres)	Willage: domdari Pembri District: Nirmal	Pattadar Name as per Pahani	Name of the Successor / Enjoyer	Extent	Details of Structures, Trees etc.	
1	11	Patta	0.05	Rodda Narsiah S/o Anaku	Rodda Narsiah S/o Anaku	0.05	None

This notification is made 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)", to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector & Revenue Divisional Office, Nirmal on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize the Revenue Divisional Officer, Nirmal and his staff and workmen to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act.

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

Objections to the acquisition, if any may be filed by the person interested within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provide U/s 15of the Act before District Collector.

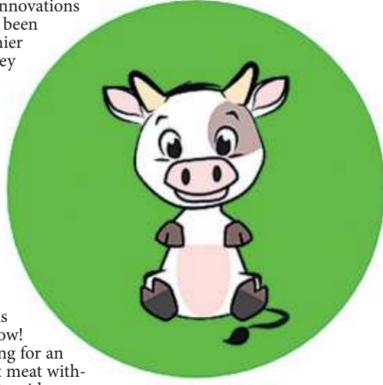
Revenue Divisional Officer/Nirmal Additional Collector/Nirmal District Collector/Nirmal

**DIPR R.O. No: 888/LA/PP/Adv/Pub/2021-22**

SHIKHA DUGGAL

**T**his love affair with veganism is increasing day by day. So much so that Hyderabad city will be having its first ever vegan expo market! Wondering what it is? It is no less than a flea market but a marketplace or an exhibition full of cruelty-free products and cuisine. The trajectory of veganism has reached its zenith now. Seattle returnee Rupa Obulreddigari, who also owns Alt Mart, a plant-based start-up, is one of the organisers for this one-of-its-kind event for vegans. In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer* ahead of the event, the organiser tells, "The pandemic puts this concept into even greater focus and it will not just be a passionate place for only vegans but also an

through lots of innovations and people have been looking at healthier options when they eat out. As per research, more and more people are choosing a healthier and vegan lifestyle and are looking for healthy alternatives for meat substitutes. Meatless meat, the meat that tastes like meat is the new order now! People are looking for an alternative to eat meat without any guilt. It is said that 79% of millen-



from Hyderabad on one platform to explain what veganism is exactly and to also spread awareness about the killing of animals. Our daily relishes will be simply available in the form of vegan vigor, such as a vegan ice-cream or vegan 'mysore pak' or vegan donuts. At the event, the non-vegetarians can liberally explore how a vegan lifestyle goes basically. With personal experience, I know there is so much buzz around it already in the city. We definitely want the locals to experience this to understand how compassionate we can be in terms of our food choices towards animals and planet as well." According to reports, at least 50 billion chickens are killed for

just one year, plant-based meat went from something very few Americans had heard of to something that 40 per cent have tried. The USA and Singapore are advanced markets in this. And space is changing rapidly. While there is so much happening in the west, unfortunately, Hyderabad, the city of nawabs, never had an opportunity to witness such a marketplace. That is why this event is planned. She continued, "Many vegan cafes are coming up in Hyderabad also now still we have a long way to go in veganism. I was fascinated to know of minute vegan communities here as soon as I moved back from Seattle to this city. Veganism is also on the rise for health reasons too! A series of surveys and findings reveal that eating quality plant-based food lowers the risk of death by 30%. And a plant-based diet reduces the risk of death from heart

## VEGAN FIRST

nials at least outside India have tried alternative proteins. Alternative plant foods, meat products, innovations in seafood, even in pet foods all are future now. The maiden vegan market will bring

vegan and conscious businesses together to put forth a splendid cruelty-free assortment. All this will be seen in the vegan expo too being held at Phoenix Arena in Hi-Tech City this Sunday. The organiser continues, "It made complete sense to get all the vegan brands

food. There is even more large livestock that are taken to slaughter houses & almost impossible to count the creatures which are pulled out of seas! All at the cost of the environment. Nearly 20% of the world population is vegetarian now. In

disease by 40%." Lastly, Rupa has finally realised the importance of veganism even in her life and is always on the look-out for healthy options after the pandemic.

### HYDERABOND



It will be largely a place for those who believe in a more compassionate world, which is animal, health and planet friendly. I am collaborating with Enya, which is another women-led vegan startup. In a personal conversation with the founder of the dairy alternative, it struck us how we must ensure the rise of veganism in Hyderabad city too. It is one of a kind vegan expo that is never held here! Some of the highlights include an open-air ambience, all-day vegan cafe and it is a pet-friendly event. The pet adoption booth will be hosted by People for Animals. The city's upcoming artists will enthrall the visitors with live music too."

— RUPA OBULREDDIGARI,



## IT'S A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN!

K RAMYA SREE

**F**rom swiping right to raising funds, to establishing a multi-million dollar company, this entrepreneur duo is giving us the major business and couple goals.

In conversation with *The Pioneer*, the couple shares their love story that led to building their empire in the entrepreneur world.

It was the beginning of 2018 when the couple — Rahul and Pallavi — swiped each other right. "For a fact, I was the first one Pallavi took 20 seconds to decide whether to Swipe Right or Left and then did it right saying "Shaadi thode hi karni hai". This was the very beginning of us getting to know each other. Right from the beginning, we weren't the normal duo who would ask about what you like and dislike and like find ways to hang out or just text all the time and ask to meet up. When we swiped each other right and it was a "Match" it was a very humble beginning," shares Rahul on how he met his better half.

The couple says they started to get positive vibes from each other from the very first day they started to chat with each other. Pallavi comes from a Finance and Accounting background and Rahul was a Business Analytics back then. They say they were quite happy with what they had got but there was always a spark to do something more, something out of the box and they could just feel it in their conversations.

The couple who used to share tons of information on the startup world and how to start a business finally went on to set up a platform called GetWork on stealth mode. "I got to know Pallavi was working on her own travel-based start-up named "Muskurahatein" and I was so excited to finally meet someone in a strange city who understood the pains of being a solo founder. We just got along so good helping each other to grow," shares Rahul.

He further adds about his entrepreneurial, "For me, GetWork was my life and Muskurahatein was for Pallavi, both of our Startups were in Stealth mode and then later in 2018 I switched to full-time at GetWork while Pallavi pursued entrepreneurship along with her Job, it was for the first time that Pallavi recommended us to one of her

work-clients for some freelance work. This was the first time that we met, over a business proposal. And that was the beginning of an amazing relationship where we used to take out time after office, discuss ideas, put together flyers, makeup google ads, and WordPress website. We both were so supportive of each other and were exploring more than just love. It was the beginning of a firm relationship fuelled by a dream to achieve something bigger than us. We were strangers a year back and now we both were building great stuff and helping each other get closer to our dreams."

The best decision the couple ever made was to work together.

"For a solo founder, finding the right partner, in business and in life, is always as important as the start-up itself. And I found that in Pallavi. She helped in keeping me sane through all these years and now was the time when we put all the pieces together as a strong couple to build the multi-million-dollar business together. It is a dream-like love story that we live every day where we wake up every day as two entrepreneurs in a huge start-up ecosystem to build the Empire that we had always imagined on our vision board. We raised 2 rounds of funding and manage a team of 40+ team members with a client-base of more than 1500+ and we're just getting started," he adds.

Who said, you cannot find the perfect life partner? Who said, the soulmates do not exist?

For Rahul, finding a perfect life partner is more than just love and the fairy-tales that take you to be soulmates for lives. It's the dream, it's the vision, it's the grit and power to do something big-



## HD makeup is the makeup you need

time when the concept of HD Makeup or rather a High definition Makeup came into existence. This kind of makeup usually gives a flawless and natural, non-cakey look.

### Insight on HD makeup

**M**akeup is all about enhancing your beautiful and god-gifted features using tools like makeup brushes, eyeshadows, and lipstick. Makeup even helps you cover your flaws and makes you feel absolutely confident about yourself. We're all very familiar with the word 'Makeup'. However, the word HD Makeup is something most people do not know about.

The entry of high-definition cameras posed a threat to all the makeup artists since the lenses in high-definition cameras captured and recognised the presence of wrinkles, blemishes, and scars effortlessly. This is exactly the

The only difference between regular and HD makeup is the products used. The products used while doing HD makeup are high-end and the products used are lighter in texture and give better coverage which is generally preferred for the camera. The makeup also blends in seamlessly eliminating the scars that tend to be visible when regular makeup is done. This kind of makeup doesn't look unnatural or fake either.

### This is how professionals do it...

The HD makeup is done using brushes and blending sponges which are designed in a way that scatters light falling on the skin, which in turn gives a smooth and soft look. The key here is to blend the products perfectly well to get that natural, even-textured, and



flawless-looking skin.

### It's recommended because...

HD makeup is beneficial because it helps hide all the flaws visible on your skin and gives you that natural, non-dramatic look. It is usually preferred by professional models and actors because of the results it tends to offer. Honestly, who wouldn't want to have perfect-looking, naturally glowing skin after doing their makeup, right? That glow will be very evident even in pictures since the makeup looks and feels absolutely smooth. You end up having a blemish-free-looking face.

### Here are some product recommendations

- To get that ultra-smooth texture and the perfect finish, try the 'Make Up For Ever' Ultra HD foundation.
- For the ultimate professional and uniform application of the products try the 'TEMPTU Air Perfect Canvas Starter Kit'.

(The author, Pooja Sethiya, is an International Makeup-Artist)



# what's brewing?



Jyothi Reddy



Vishnu Manchu



Shigtha



Talasani Srinivas Yadav



Pratani Ramakrishna Goud and Gururaju



Rashmi Thekar

PARTY

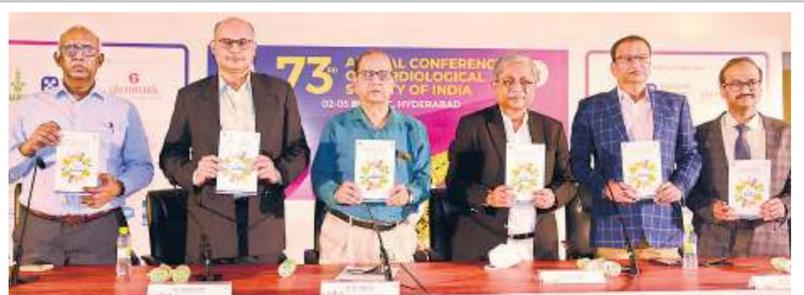
Photos by SV Chary

## Alaya shares importance of acting in her life

**A**laya F who made her promising debut with Jawaani Janeman alongside Saif, has been making headlines for her perfect craft. The young actress burst onto the scene with her award winning performance and aced her acting skills in the film. Alaya rose to fame in a short span of time and now has a huge lineup of films in her canvas, including Ekta Kapoor's *U-Turn*, *Freddy* alongside Kartik Aaryan and Anurag Kashyap's untitled next.

Just recently, Alaya mentioned the importance of acting in her life, said, "For me, everything is always about learning and growing. As long as I'm enjoying the learning, I'm very happy. It's the same as acting for me in a lot of ways; it's all about following your instincts, learning from it, refining it, and developing better instincts to put into practice the next time. It's a lot of trial and error, but I see myself feeling more confident and self-assured each time. That's the best feeling! I'm so grateful that I get to have so many different roles in one lifetime. I'm even more grateful that I get to pick up so many skills along the way to

refine and grow from and grow into every day." Alaya, as the breakout star of *Jawaani Janeman* not only won over both audiences and critics with her easy-going charm, but also excelled at hitting the right emotional keys. Having won Debutante of the Year award with the film, the actress has been becoming the face of brands, making it to the magazine covers and signing for exciting projects. Netizens are eagerly waiting to see Alaya's versatility in her upcoming films.



The 73rd Annual Conference of the Cardiological Society of India is being held at the HICC till the 7th of December. More than 1000 cardiologists, scientists and healthcare professionals deliberate on modern advancements in heart care.

Hyderabad-based model Preetham Kalyan won Mr. Super model of India 2021 pageant recently in Goa. As many as 120 contestants from over 20 cities participated in the contest, eventually the title was bagged by the Hyderabad.



### A 'MAA'GICAL DAY

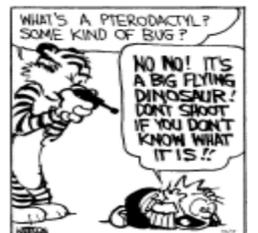
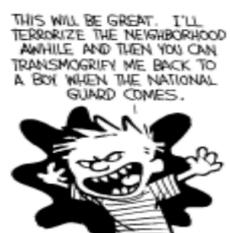
The Telangana Film Chamber of Commerce held the MAA *Pramaana Siveekaram* ceremony at Prasad Labs. Present at the event were Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Jyothi Reddy and of course, Manchu Vishnu, among many others.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



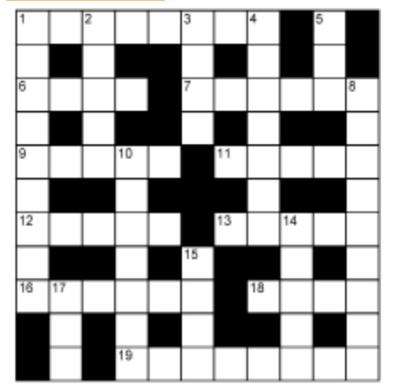
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### NANCY



### SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

**Rules**

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

### ACROSS

- A large animal
- Poultry product
- Shriek
- A teacher, usually for one pupil at a time
- Train tracks
- Follows an order
- Car engine
- Very easy to do
- A young sheep
- A building material that sets hard

### DOWN

- These are held when people choose their government
- The number in an octet
- As well
- Big whirlwind
- A drink
- Very unhappy
- World sports games held every four years
- Buy and sell
- Observed
- Unwell

**SOLUTION**

F	C	A	S	M
M	O	T	O	R
E	D	H	A	C
D	I	R	T	E
U	E	T	L	A
A	T	E	I	T
T	I	G	H	T
I	R	I	O	K
O	V	E	R	S
N	W	K	D	S

### GINGER MEGGS





# Bringing real life to reel with *Gamanam*

K RAMYA SREE

**W**ith *Gamanam*, an anthology film, starring Shriya Saran, Nithya Menon, Priyanka Jawalkar — Srujana Rao will be introduced to the Telugu cinema as a director. The film, produced by Ramesh Karutoori, Venki Pushadapu, and Gnana Shekar V.S under the KRIA FILM CORP and KALI Productions banners, is making the right noise in the industry, which is gearing up for a theatrical release on December 10.

“The story of this film covers all the events I have been watching since I was a child. There was a pond in my village when I was a child, which

turned into a playground. After that came the buildings. I have been witnessing many such incidents. Initially, I had a different story, but I wanted to make a film that will make a difference. I wanted to show the life circle that exists from birth to death, which led to *Gamanam*,” said director Srujana Rao speaking to the media ahead of the release.

The debutant director feels it's an actor who can bring character to life. Srujana who is also the writer of the film didn't pen any lines keeping in mind the cast of the film. It's only after the entire script was ready, that these top actors came on board. “I did not even know that Shriya was my Kamala until I met her. After narrating half the story, in the back of my head, I fixed that

she should be my Kamala. When the story was over, Shriya had tears rolling down her cheeks as she was strongly touched by the story. Same with Nithya Menon, she gave her nod immediately after the story was pitched to her,” said the director.

Initially, Srujana wanted to make this a small-budget film, but as time passed by it turned out to be a bigger project than she thought.

Apparently, the producers were shocked to hear

that the director wanted Ilayaraja to compose music for the film.

“I asked the producers to arrange for a meeting with Ilayaraja. When I met the music maestro, I felt like I was looking at a God. When I was narrating the film's story, he said,

‘Hey! stop. Take a photo of me and the director, we are going to do a film together’. I was shocked,” she said on how Ilayaraja joined this project.



## Adivi ‘Majors’ to eye B’wood projects

**A**ctor Adivi Sesh, who has been in the limelight for his upcoming movie *Major*, has reportedly signed a couple of interesting stories.

With his first pan-India movie, the biographical drama — *Major* set to hit the screens on February 11, 2022, he has got much attention from all over.

It is reported that Adivi Sesh, even before his pan-India movie *Major* hits the screens, has been offered to act in a couple of interesting ventures. Among the offers Adivi Sesh has in his kitty, reports believe, there are two Hindi movies.

The *Goodachari* actor also hinted at his Bollywood appearance, as he spoke to the media recently.

“I have zeroed a couple of Hindi movies, which will be made official only after *Major* gets released at the theaters,” Adivi Sesh said.



*Major* will have a simultaneous

release in Hindi and all South Indian languages. Sesh has prepared his team to kick-start promotions for *Major*, as the release date is nearing. Being it the biography of 26/11 Martyr — Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, Sesh has done adequate research before stepping into the shoes of a fighter.

“*Major*’ features Saiee Manjrekar, Prakash Raj, Revathi, and Sobhita Dhulipala in the other pivotal roles. Directed by Sashi Kiran Tikka, *Major* is bankrolled by Sony Pictures, GMB Entertainment, and A+S Movies jointly.

# Ketika wants to show diversity in her acting

K RAMYA SREE

**L**akshya starring Naga Shaurya, directed by Santosh Jagarlapudi, will open in theatres on December 10. The film stars Romantic girl Ketika

Sharma as its leading lady. This is the second release the actress is having in the year.

The actress was approached with the story of *Lakshya* during her last day of *Romantic*'s shoot. Ketika feels happy she was offered roles even before her first project was completed.

Taking us through her character in *Lakshya*, Ketika shares, “The role played in the *Romantic* film has nothing to do with the character played in *Lakshya*. I did this film because I wanted to show the diversity in

my acting. I played the role of Rita in *Lakshya*. She does as she pleases. I look like the girl-next-door. This movie has all kinds

of emotions. My character is emotional.”

Ketika also shares that she took away many lessons from Naga Shaurya. She considers Shaurya as an actor with immense dedication.

The actress who is a state-level swimmer, shares, “I like sports. My mother is a national-level swimmer. I look for-

ward to a swimming-based movie.” “I am more like Rita in real life, except for the fact that I do not think much about marriage like Rita in real life. People like me are hard to bear. It's hard to keep up with the people who do what comes to mind,” laughs the actress, who also learned archery for this film.

“Santosh has a lot of clarity. He knew exactly what he wanted. We are very confident about the movie's outcome,” adds Ketika, who also sang a song in *Romantic*. She is also in plans to dub for her characters in future projects.

Ketika is presently busy with her third film alongside Vaishnav Tej, whose title is yet to be revealed. The film is said to be a family entertainer.



## Upasana celebrates sister's pre-wedding bash at Prajwala Foundation



**I**f there is one thing that life teaches us is that happiness means nothing unless shared with people. Then there are those that feel grateful because they have enough to share. For Anushpala Kamineni, Vice President, Apollo Brands, and Armaan Ebrahim, professional racing driver and co-founder of X1 Racing League, and their families this joy is indescribable.

The more empathy they show, the more they believe they evolve as human beings. Wellness and social impact entrepreneur, Upasana Kamineni Konidela shared her sister Anushpala's wedding festivities at the Hyderabad-based non-profit - Prajwala Foundation. She

organized food and festive clothing for 350 present inmates aged between 3 years and 45 years. Since 2018, Upasana has made it a yearly commitment to foster care and positivity for these girls. Run by Sunitha Krishnan, the 26 years old, Prajwala Foundation is a pioneering anti-trafficking organisation that has rescued over 24,000 women and girls. Upasana takes her family's legacy forward, who unconditionally and lovingly work towards healthier humanity through their philanthropic ventures.

## Varun Tej's *Ghani* likely to get postponed

**T**elugu actor Varun Tej is all set to allure the audience with his upcoming movie titled *Ghani*. However, there is a buzz that the release of the sports drama, which is supposed to hit the screens during the third week of December, has been postponed.

Now that the makers of *Ghani* are plotting for a postponement, sources believe the movie would hit the screens in March 2022. *Ghani*, which is supposed to clash with Nani's *Shyam Singha Roy* on December 24, is said to be postponed due to obvious reasons.

It is reported that the makers of *Ghani* and *Shyam Singha Roy* have come to a consensus in order to avoid the clash in theatres. As both the

movies deserve to get enough attention from the audience, analysts, who had a brief discussion with the makers, indicated that solo releases would favour the movies with a good amount of attention, as well as box-office collections.

So, the makers of *Ghani* seem to have backed off, postponing the movie release, to avoid a box-office clash.

With this, Nani's *Shyam Singha Roy* gets a clear line, as it's going to be a solo release for the film. The fresh release date of *Ghani* is yet to be finalised by the makers.



# Mayank makes statement with 100 as India score 221/4

➤ **MAYANK AGARWAL** scored his maiden century against New Zealand in the seventh innings of fourth Test match by making an unbeaten 120 runs off 246 balls with 14 fours and four sixes on the opening day of the second Test match at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on Friday (December 3). The 30-year-old from Bangalore, scored all four centuries, including two double hundreds, in nine innings of seven Test matches at home.

➤ **CHETESHWAR PUJARA** became the seventh Indian top order batter (1-4) to receive 10 or more ducks in Tests. The right hand batter's 10th duck came in the 150th innings of 89th Test match while batting in top order. It was also his first duck in 22 innings of 12 Test matches against New Zealand.

➤ **VIRAT KOHLI** received his maiden duck in 20 innings of 11 Test matches against New Zealand. Overall, it was his 14th duck in 163rd innings of 97th Test match.

FAISEL FEATURES

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Under pressure to prove his worth, Mayank Agarwal made the best statement possible with a superb hundred as India recovered from a sudden top-order collapse to reach 221 for 4 in two extended opening day sessions against New Zealand in the second Test here on Friday.

Agarwal (120 batting, 246 balls), who is all but certain to sit out once Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul come back during the next series (if South Africa then away, if West Indies then home), added to a happy headache for coach Rahul Dravid, on a day when vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane had to be "dropped" because of a hamstring niggle.

Worse, Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli failed to trouble the scorers and it was a hundred that came under pressure with India being 80 for 3 and 160 for 4 at different stages of the game.

Had the Indian team management been forced to play Rahane, the axe was likely to fall on Agarwal and it's never a great feeling to go out there in such a situation.

He was jittery to begin with as a streaky boundary through slips came early on but once he marched down the track to loft

Ajaz Patel (29-10-73-4) for a straight six, his nerves had all but vanished. The boundaries --- 14 in all and four sixes, all off Patel showed his class as he got his fourth hundred in Tests.

In fact, Patel, who was by far the best New Zealand bowler in view, having reduced India from 80 for no loss to 80 for three, did look pedestrian in front of Agarwal at times.

When an airborne Agarwal punched the air after a square driven boundary off part-time seamer Daryl Mitchell, one could sense that pressure weighing a thousand tonnes must have come off his chest.

Agarwal was the first choice opener during the England series but before the first game, he got hit on the head and KL Rahul coming in his place, grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

With Rohit also having his best overseas series as Test opener, Agarwal was confined to the reserves.

He could again be back in the reserves but he made a statement of intent with his strokeplay as he dominated the 80-run fourth wicket stand with Shreyas Iyer (18).

Along with another reserve player in Wriddhiman Saha (25 batting, 53 balls), Agarwal added

another 61 runs before the close of play.

New Zealand had erred in not playing Neil Wagner on a track where there was a lot of bounce on offer.

If Agarwal showed discretion, the same couldn't be said about Shubman Gill (44, 71 balls), who was dazzling till he was around in their 80-run opening stand before Patel snuffed him out.

Gill looked fluent before paying for his impetuosity which led to a mini collapse.

Mumbai-born left-arm spinner Patel also picked up Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli in quick succession with both failing to trouble the scorers. Patel became the second Mumbai-born cricketer after legendary England captain Douglas Jardine to play against India in his city of birth.

He altered the length cleverly and the extra bounce, which is always a speciality of Wankhede, helped him immensely.

He had Gill on the mat when he lighted one to entice him to come out and the ball turned and jumped with keeper Tom Blundell making a hash of a stumping.

However, the very

next ball saw him shorten the length as Gill tried jabbing at it and it turned enough to take the outside edge into Ross Taylor's palms.

Pujara's confidence has hit nadir after too many failures and he survived a DRS appeal from New Zealand before he jumped down the track to york himself. Patel, very wisely, fired one with an angle straight into his toes and what happened with Pujara often happens with out-of-form batters.

For skipper Kohli, it was a delivery that straightened after pitching as the Indian skipper tried to play a forward defensive stroke. Straight umpire Anil Chaudhary gave him out and Kohli immediately asked for a review.

The replay was inconclusive on whether it hit the bat first or pad and as per rule, TV umpire Virender Sharma went with his on-field colleague, leaving Kohli absolutely livid.

He had a word with leg umpire Nitin Menon and was seen expressing his displeasure.

The TV cameras then caught him standing in the dressing room balcony, visibly upset with the decision, which was a touch and go one.



India vs New Zealand DAY 1

## Scoreboard

**INDIA 1st INNINGS:**

Mayank Agarwal batting	120
Shubman Gill c Taylor b Patel	44
Cheteshwar Pujara b Patel	0
Virat Kohli lbw b Patel	0
Shreyas Iyer c Tom Blundell b Ajaz Patel	18
Wriddhiman Saha batting	25

Extras: (b-9, lb-5) 14

Total: 221/4 in 70 overs

Fall of wickets: 80-1, 80-2, 80-3, 160-4

**Bowling (New Zealand):**

Tim Southee	15-5-29-0
Kyle Jamieson	9-2-30-0
Ajaz Patel	29-10-73-4
William Somerville	8-0-46-0
Rachin Ravindra	4-0-20-0
Daryl Mitchell	5-3-9-0

## MOST DUCK BY INDIAN TOP ORDER (1-4) IN TESTS

PLAYER	M	I	N.O	RUNS	AVG	H.S	100	50	0
Virender Sehwag	98	169	6	8129	49.87	319	22	29	15
Pankaj Roy	43	79	4	2442	32.56	173	5	9	14
Dilip Vengsarkar	99	151	16	5533	40.98	166	15	26	14
Virat Kohli	80	126	7	6348	53.34	254*	23	18	12
Sunil Gavaskar	120	204	13	9843	51.53	236*	34	42	11
Sachin Tendulkar	179	276	27	13507	54.24	248*	44	58	11
Cheteshwar Pujara	89	150	9	6486	46.00	206*	18	31	10

FAISEL FEATURES

## Rahul bhai told me to make it 'big': Mayank

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mayank Agarwal knows that he might be confined to the sidelines once KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma are back in the mix but what has helped him stay focussed is words of wisdom from coach Rahul Dravid, who told him to control what's in his domain.

Agarwal, who has been in and out of the squad in recent times, scored a fine 120 under pressure on the opening day of the second Test before which he watched legendary Sunil Gavaskar's batting videos and slightly changed his stance.

"When I was picked, Rahul bhai spoke to me. He asked me to control what is in my hands and said, 'go out there and give it your best,'" Agarwal said at the end of the day's play.

"He had told me 'When you get set, make it big'. I am happy to have capitalised on the start that I had. But that message was very clear from Rahul bhai, that I should make it count," he added.

The Bangalore based opener lamented that it was his misfortune that he got hit on the head during a net session in England and then

there was nothing in his hands.

"It was unfortunate for me to not have played in England, I got hit and there's nothing much I could do about that. I accepted it and continued to work hard and work on my process and my game."

Gavaskar on the day during his commentary session spoke about how he had advised Agarwal to reduce his pronounced back-lift into a shorter one and the opener said that as of now, he is trying to ape the iconic former India captain's side-on stance.

"He told me that I should consider keeping the bat a bit low initially in my innings. I have a tendency to hold it high. I couldn't make that adjustment in this short period of time. When he was saying that, I noticed his shoulder position and basically picked up that I need to be more side on."

On the day, he hit four sixes off left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel, who was New Zealand's best bowler by a distance with four wickets to his name. He said it was a "conscious decision".

"He was bowling exceedingly well. But each time anything was in our half (our arc), the plan was to be a bit more attacking.



Anything that came a little towards us in length, we were going to go for it.

"He had that phase when he tied us down, so it was a conscious decision to make it count when we could or each time he bowled it in our spot," he explained.

For Agarwal, this innings was more about "grit and determination" and he was prepared to look ugly as long as he got results. "That is something I have thought about, but this innings was more about grit and determination, just to stick with the plan, be disciplined. I know I didn't look good sometimes but I got the job done," he said.

India hasn't still reached a commanding score and Agarwal reckoned that the first session on Saturday will be crucial. "How we start is crucial, the focus is that. The first session we want to play it out, the wicket is going to get harder and harder to bat on."

## Afghanistan will face pressure from ICC over women's cricket: Ramiz

PTI ■ LONDON

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja has said that the ICC will put pressure on Afghanistan to clarify its position on the ban of women's cricket after the Taliban took control of the government in Kabul. Raja is part of an International Cricket Council working group reviewing the state of the game in Afghanistan.

"Pressure will be put on Afghanistan. I'm sure they will have to decide in the next six months how they deal with the ICC," Raja told Stumped on the BBC World Service.

It is an ICC requirement for full members to also have a national women's team, besides the men's side. But the return to Taliban rule has led to the prospect of women being forbidden to play cricket in Afghanistan. "Like everybody else, we are giving them time. They are in a difficult situation," said Raja. Afghanistan is one of 12 full members of the ICC. Afghanistan's men took part in the T20 World Cup that was played in the UAE and Oman in October and November.

## Sri Lanka completes test series sweep vs West Indies

AP ■ GALLE

Spinners Ramesh Mendis and Lasith Embuldeniya took five wickets each to propel Sri Lanka to a crushing 164-run win over West Indies in the second test Friday and a 2-0 series sweep.

Chasing 297 to win, the West Indies reached 65-2 in the second innings at lunch on the fifth day but the tourists were bowled out for 132 in the third session. They lost their last eight wickets for 40 runs.

Embuldeniya had best figures of 5-35 while Mendis recorded 5-66, and collected 11 wickets in the match.

Sri Lanka was still batting when play started on the final day and they declared their second innings on 345-9 in the morning session.

Sri Lanka had scored 204 in its first innings and the West Indies made 253, taking a 49-run lead.

Dhananjaya de Silva was unbeaten on 155 and his overnight partner Embuldeniya was out for 39 bowled by Jason Holder.

De Silva faced 262 balls and hit two sixes and 11



boundaries in scoring his eighth test century.

Left-arm spinner Veerasammy Permaul had the best bowling figures of 3-106 while offspinner Roston Chase took two wickets.

West Indies lost its first second-innings wicket with the total on 15 when captain Kraigg Brathwaite (6) was trapped lbw by Mendis.

Then Nkrumah Bonner joined Jermaine Blackwood

and the pair added 50 runs for the second wicket before Blackwood (36) was caught by de Silva off Embuldeniya in the last ball before lunch break.

When Mendis had Shai Hope (16) caught by Lakmal, West Indies' score stood at 92-3, but it triggered the late collapse.

Bonner top scored for the West Indies with 44.

Sri Lanka won the first test at the same venue by 187 runs.



## Axelsen, Tzu Ying named BWF Male and Female Player of the Year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen and Tokyo Games silver medallist Tai Tzu Ying were named the BWF Male and Female Player of the Year respectively in recognition of their stellar runs this season.

It was the first season-ending award in this category for both Axelsen and Tai Tzu Ying -- the All England champions of 2020.

All eight winners were honoured in a virtual broadcast on Friday.

Axelsen was rewarded for his extraordinary run starting from the Barcelona Spain Masters in February 2020.

The Dane made 10 finals in 11 individual tournaments, winning seven of those, including gold at the Tokyo Games. "This means a lot to

me," said Axelsen in a release. "Thank you to my team, my coaches, my friends, my family, my competitors."

This year has been really eventful. A few downs, but a lot of ups, with the Olympics being the biggest win, a dream coming true. This award gives me a lot of motivation to work harder."

Tai Tzu Ying won the All England 2020 and then struck a rich vein of form at the three-tournament Asian Leg in January 2021, making all three finals, and clinching the BWF World Tour Finals 2020.

The Chinese Taipei player then made the final of the Tokyo Olympics, going down in a thrilling match to China's Chen Yu Fei.

"It's a pity I can't be in Indonesia for the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals," said the world No.1.

## Medvedev puts Russia back in Davis Cup semifinals

AP ■ MADRID

Daniil Medvedev maintained his perfect record at the Davis Cup Finals to put Russia into the last four.

Medvedev defeated Mikael Ymer 6-4, 6-4 Thursday to give Russia an insurmountable 2-0 lead over Sweden in the quarterfinals of the revamped team event.

Andrey Rublev earlier outlasted Elias Ymer, Mikael's older brother, in a 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (3) win at the Madrid Arena. With Russia having secured the win after the two singles matches, the doubles match was-



n't played.

Russia will face Germany in the semifinals on Saturday. Serbia and top-ranked Novak Djokovic will face Croatia in the other semifinal on Friday.

It was the third consecutive straight-set victory for the second-ranked Medvedev after group-stage wins over Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta and Ecuador's Emilio Gomez.

Medvedev broke serve twice in the first set and three times in the second against No. 94 Mikael Ymer, Sweden's top-ranked player.

## Argentina end France's dream run to book final berth in Junior Hockey WC

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR



Former champions Argentina ended France's

dream run in the FIH Junior Men's Junior Hockey World Cup by registering a hard-fought 3-1 win in penalty

shoot-out of the first semifinal at the Kalinga Stadium here on Friday.

The display from both teams was not worthy of a semi-final but 2005 champions Argentina kept their composure in the shoot-out after the regulation 60 minutes ended goalless.

In the penalty shoot-out, Lucio Mendez, Bautista Capurro and Franco Agostini scored for Argentina while only skipper Timothee Clement found the target for France.

The match ended on a bad note as tempers flared after Lucas Montecot missed

France's fourth attempt, resulting in almost fistcuffs but officials of both teams and on-field umpires rushed quickly to handle the situation.

The first semifinal turned out to be a sedate affair, at least in the first two quarters as both the teams failed to create any clear cut chances from field play. Argentina were by far the better side on display and attacked French goal on quite a few occasions.

The South Americans secured two penalty corners inside the first 10 minutes but, on both occasions, France goalkeeper Guillaume de Vaulcelles denied the opposition.

## Qualified for semis, Sindhu loses final group match



PTI ■ BALI

Already Assured of a semifinal berth at the BWF World Tour Finals, India's P V Sindhu on Friday suffered a three-game defeat to top seed Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand in her third and final group A women's singles match here on Friday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medalist, couldn't apply enough pressure on the world no. 10 Chochuwong to go down fighting 12-21 21-19 14-21 in a match that lasted an hour and 11 minutes.

This was Sindhu's third loss to the 2016 world junior champion Chochuwong in seven meetings.

Sindhu thus finished in the second position in group A, behind Chochuwong and her opponent of the semifinal stage will be decided in a draw later in the day.

Earlier, Kidambi Srikanth

bowled out of the season-ending tournament after losing to second seeded Malaysian Lee Zii Jia 19-21 14-21 in 37 minutes in his third and final group B match.

It was Srikanth's second loss to the world no. 8 Malaysian, who had defeated the Indian at Hylo Open in straight games.

Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy too ended their campaign though they eked out a hard-fought 21-19 9-21 21-14 win over England's Chloe Birch and Lauren Smith in the inconsequential third and final group match.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, was quite erratic and couldn't control the rallies against Chochuwong, who rode on her quality of strokes to stay a step ahead.

In the first game, Sindhu erred in her lengths early on as Chochuwong led 5-3. The Indian managed to collect a few points but she never looked in control.

Chochuwong took the initiative and kept things under her control, leading 11-6 at the interval.

The Thai player got rewarded for her angled and crisp returns, while Sindhu lacked consistency as Chochuwong took 17-9 lead.