

ANALYSIS 7
SHOULD INDIA BE WARY
OF A RADICAL B'DESH?**MONEY 8**
SENSEX, NIFTY SOAR TO 2-WEEK HIGHS
ON GAINS IN INFOSYS, RIL**SPORTS 12**
WADE & STONIS BRING BACK
MEMORIES OF HUSSEY

HYDERABAD, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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NATYAM FAME
ROHIT BEHAL AT
HIS CHARMING
BEST

Page 11

**NOROVIRUS CONFIRMED IN KERALA,
GOVERNMENT ISSUES GUIDELINES**

With Norovirus, an animal-borne disease transmitted through contaminated water and food getting confirmed in Kerala's Wayanad district, Health Minister Veena George on Friday asked people to be vigilant and issued guidelines for the same. The Health Minister directed to intensify preventive activities and to spread awareness about the disease. She has also issued an order in the district asking people to be vigilant. The Kerala health department, in a meeting headed by George, assessed the situation in Wayanad today.

**PREPARE FOR EMERGENCY SITUATION,
SAYS PCB AS DELHI'S SMOG WORSENS**

The centre's pollution control board on Friday ordered states and local bodies to be in "complete readiness" for emergency measures to tackle New Delhi's worsening smog conditions due to a drop in temperature and wind speeds. A thick haze of toxic smog hung over Delhi, exacerbated by a spike in the burning of crop waste in surrounding farmlands. It reduced visibility and the Air Quality Index (AQI) hit 470 on a scale of 500, according to the pollution control board. This level of pollution means the air will affect healthy people and seriously impact those with existing diseases.

**RAILWAYS TO DROP 'SPECIAL TRAIN'
TAG, REVERT TO PRE-COVID FARES**

Under pressure from passengers over hike in fares, the Railways on Friday issued an order to discontinue the 'special' tag for mail and express trains and revert to pre-pandemic ticket prices with immediate effect. Since the Coronavirus-triggered lockdown was eased, the Railways has been running only special trains. It started with long-distance trains and now, even short-distance passenger services are being run as special trains with "slightly higher fares" to "discourage people from avoidable travels". Ticket prices of special trains and holiday special trains are marginally higher.

**SHASTRI: VIRAT KOHLI MIGHT GIVE UP
CAPTAINCY TO FOCUS ON HIS BATTING**

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri says Virat Kohli might give up captaincy in other formats after doing so in the T20 version to deal with the intense pressure associated with the job, especially in COVID times. Shastri's tenure with the Indian team ended with an early exit from T20 World Cup. Kohli, who has taken rest for the T20 series and one Test against New Zealand to recover bubble fatigue in COVID times, has relinquished captaincy in the shortest format after the showpiece event. Shastri was asked about Kohli giving up captaincy in other formats to manage his workload better.

TRS takes the wind out of BJP sails with protests over paddy

Ruling party looks to break BJP by-poll win momentum

ML MELLY MAITREY
■ HYDERABAD

Hoping to take the wind out of the sails of the BJP and break the momentum the saffron party has gained from its Huzurabad by-election victory, leaders and activists of the ruling TRS on Friday hit the streets across the State to stage dharnas against the Centre's refusal to purchase boiled rice in Yasangi season.

During the course of their protests, TRS leaders made it a point to remind the people that the dharna organised by the BJP a day earlier on Thursday against the alleged slow pace of procurement of Kharif paddy did not get expected response from the farmers.

"This was because the State government opened over 3,500 paddy procurement centres and procurement was on," Minister Gangula Kamalakara and others pointed out.

The TRS leaders said that the response of farmers to dharnas called by the ruling party was proof that farmers are more worried about paddy to be cultivated in the Yasangi season.



TRS working president KT Rama Rao claps along with farmer leaders during a protest against the Centre demanding an assurance on Yasangi paddy procurement, at Siricilla on Friday.

CUSS WORDS, INSULTS RULE THE DAY

Lashing out at State BJP President Bandi Sanjay whom he called 'Thondi' (liar) Sanjay, Minister KT Rama Rao on Friday said while the BJP at the national level did not want farmers to cultivate paddy in Yasangi, its State unit president asked them to cultivate paddy. "One wondered how people could send such a 'foolish and insane person' to Parliament," KTR said. KTR was not alone in going ballistic against the BJP and other political opponents of the BJP. Friday's dharnas led by TRS top leaders were marked by the intemperate language used, especially against BJP leaders.

**Protests to continue
till Centre procures
Yasangi paddy: TRS**

Leading a massive dharna against Centre's refusal to procure paddy to be cultivated in Yasangi in Siricilla district on Friday, TRS working president KT Rama Rao said the protests were to protect interests of farmers and would continue till the Union government relents. Going ballistic against the Central government and BJP leaders, KTR reminded that TRS forced the UPA government to concede Telangana and now it would take on the BJP government for paddy procurement and for farmers' welfare. He said it was Centre's constitutional responsibility to procure food grains for food security while the States procured paddy through its network on behalf of the FCI. "Centre should speak to States and direct what crops to be cultivated in each State rather than leaving them high and dry," KTR said.

**DRAMA NOT DHARNA
Congress pokes
its head in
TRS-BJP fight**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Accusing both the TRS and BJP of enacting dramas to divert the attention of the people, the Telangana Congress demanded to know from the State and Union governments whether the US or Pakistan would procure paddy from the farmers if its two rivals were busy staging dharnas.

"Their dharnas are nothing but dramas to avoid responsibility. If it was genuinely sincere about farmer welfare, the TRS government should lead an all-party delegation to New Delhi to hold talks with the Centre on Yasangi paddy procurement," CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said.

TRS keeps TS sentiment alive with protests

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

It's becoming increasingly clear with each passing day that the TRS does not want the memories of the Telangana agitation to fade.

To ensure that the embers of the Telangana agitation remain smouldering, its leaders utilise every opportunity to remind the people that it was the pink party in gen-

eral, and its supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao in particular, who forced the then Union government to concede to a separate State.

With the Huzurabad by-poll loss jarring the party's complacency, the reminders have gained in frequency, and TRS leader after leader is making sure to mention the agitation at every given opportunity. There is no doubt that the TRS

has reaped rewards for leading the Telangana movement with its back-to-back Assembly election victories. Obviously, the party wants to remain in power for as long as it can. To do so, it must ensure that people do not forget that KCR was the flag-bearer of the Telangana movement.

TRIBUNAL ROW

Harish says TS moved SC as Centre did not act

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rejecting Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat's charge that the delay in constitution of new tribunal was due to Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's decision to approach Supreme Court, Minister T Harish Rao said that the State government was forced to move the apex court after waiting for over a year for the Centre to act. Harish Rao recalled that the State had lodged a complaint with the then

Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharathi under Section 3 of Inter-State River Water Disputes Act for re-allocation of Krishna Waters on July 14, 2014, 42 days after the formation of Telangana.

He said that as the Centre did not act on the complaint even after the TS government pursued it for one year and as per Section 4 of Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, if the complaint filed under Section 3 was not resolved within one year, then a tribunal will have to be constituted.

**10 publications vouch
for Covaxin's efficacy**

P:3

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

Telangana is among the seven States that have achieved the target set by the Ministry of Finance on capital expenditure up to the second quarter of 2021-22.

As an incentive, the State was granted permission by the Department of Expenditure on Friday to borrow an additional amount of Rs 5,392 crore.

Greater role for police on the border: Doval

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Besides maintaining law and order, police forces have a greater role in border management spanning over 15,000 km covering Pakistan, China and Myanmar and Bangladesh with which India has security related issues, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said on Friday.

Speaking at the passing out parade of the 73rd batch of IPS probationers at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) here, Doval said India's sovereignty goes as far as the last police station's jurisdiction from the coastal areas to the border areas. Along with 132 Indian IPS



National Security Advisor Ajit Doval presents the Martyr KS Vyas Trophy for Internal Security and Public Order and Field Crafts & Tactics to Darpan Ahluwalia on Friday.

trainees, 17 trainees from Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal too passed out from the academy after 46

weeks of training. Four of these IPS officials will be allocated to Telangana and five

to Andhra Pradesh.

IPS ALLOCATED TO TELANGANA:

- Patil Kantilal Subhash from Maharashtra
- Sirisetty Sankeerth from Telangana
- Pooja Gupta from Delhi
- Paritosh Pankaj from Bihar

IPS ALLOCATED TO ANDHRA PRADESH:

- Jagadish Adahalli from Karnataka
- Shafkat Amna from Bihar
- Sunil Sharon from Haryana
- Rahul Meena from Rajasthan
- Dheeraj Kunuballi from Andhra Pradesh

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**RBI RETAIL DIRECT SCHEME
Individuals can now
directly buy T-bills,
G-Secs from market**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Individuals can now directly purchase treasury bills, dated securities, sovereign gold bonds (SGB) and state development loans (SDLs) from primary as well as secondary markets, thanks to the RBI Retail Direct Scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

As per the scheme, retail investors (individuals) will have the facility to open an online Retail Direct Gilt Account (RDG Account) with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

These accounts can be linked to their savings bank accounts.

The RDG Accounts of individuals can be used to participate in the issuance of government securities and secondary market operations through the screen-based NDS-OM.

The other States that too have met the target are Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Punjab and Rajasthan.

As per the Ministry of Finance, these seven States have been granted permission by the Department of Expenditure to borrow an additional amount of Rs 16,691 crore as an incentive. The additional open market borrowing permission issued is equivalent

Where is 'friendly policing' for the poor, Dalits, tribals in Telangana?

G RAVI KIRAN
■ HYDERABAD

Is the Telangana Police Department's much-touted 'friendly policing' limited to mere speeches and in some cases, white-collar criminals who steal crores and celebrities who commit crimes and not for the poor, Dalits and tribals?

While the answer may be an emphatic 'no', considering the fact that by and large the police department plays fair, three recent incidents have triggered a heated debate on policing in Telangana.

There was definitely no friendly policing for the victims, who either died or were injured seriously. Surprisingly, the CCTV cameras in police stations connected to all these incidents were "not working" at the time of the atrocity.

Not surprisingly, the friends and family of these victims say that friendly policing is limited only to press meets and in the speeches of top police officials.



CPI leader K Narayana consoles tribal farmer Veera Sekhar, who was allegedly tortured by police on Wednesday at the Atmakur Police Station in Suryapet district.

Tribal torture case: S-I transferred P:2

They say that white collar criminals involved in scams worth crores, or celebrities caught committing a crime, will first get notices as per procedure and then

manage to get bail immediately as per the legal Sections registered against them by the police.

'Arrest Kangana, withdraw Padma Shri': Opposition

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Actor Kangana Ranaut's Padma Shri should be withdrawn and she should be charged with sedition, several political parties have said in a snowballing controversy over her comment that India won true independence in 2014 - when Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power - and the 1947 Independence was "bheekh" or charity.

"The Padma Award given to Ms. Ranaut should be withdrawn immediately. Before giving such awards, mental psychological evaluation should be done so that in future such persons do not disrespect the nation and its heroes," Anand Sharma, Congress leader, said on Twitter, tagging President Ram Nath Kovind.

Calling Kangana Ranaut's comments shameful and shocking, Mr Sharma accused her of insulting Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal



Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, besides belittling the sacrifices of freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad.

The Congress has called the comments "treason".

TS meets target, gets nod to mobilise Rs 5,392 crore more

to 0.5% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

"Additional financial resources thus made available will help the States in pushing their capital expenditure further," the release said.

To become eligible for incremental borrowing, States were required to achieve at least 15 percent of the target set for 2021-22 by the end of first quarter of 2021-22, 45 percent by the end of second quarter, 70 percent by the end

of third quarter and 100 percent by March 31, 2022.

Earlier, after the first round of review undertaken in September 2021, additional borrowing permission of Rs 15,721 crore were issued to 11 States for meeting the target for capital expenditure set for the first quarter of 2021-22. Thus, after two rounds of review of capital expenditure, a total additional borrowing permission of Rs 32,412 crore has been issued to States.

NIA says 7 Maoists plotted to wage war against govt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The NIA on Friday filed a chargesheet against seven members of the outlawed CPI(Maoist) for their alleged involvement in a criminal conspiracy to wage war against the democratically-elected government by preparing to carry out terrorist acts, an official said.

The chargesheet has been filed before a special court here under sections of the IPC, UAPA and the Explosive Substances Act against the four arrested and three absconding accused, the NIA said.

Muthu Nagaraju, 37, Kommara-jula Kanukaiah, 31 and Sura Saraiah,

36, of Telangana have been named in the chargesheet, he said.

Madvi Hidma of Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, the self-styled commander of the 1st Battalion People's Liberation Guerrilla Army of the CPI (Maoist), has also been booked along with Koyyada Sambaiah, 49, a Telangana State Committee Member and Secretary of the Badraddi Kothagudem-East Godavari Divisional Committee of the CPI (Maoist), Madakam Kosi, 26, of Telangana and self-styled commander of Cherla Area Committee (Dalam) and Vallepu Swamy, 43, of Telangana.

The case was registered in February in Telangana, the NIA said.

TODAY**ALMANAC****Month & Paksham:**

Kartik & Shukla Paksha

Tithi : Dashami 29:47

Nakshatram : Shalabhisha 15:25

Time to Avoid : Time to Avoid

(Bad time to start any important work)

Rahukalam : 9:11 am - 10:36 am**Yamagandam :** 1:24 pm - 2:48 pm**Variyam :** 10:06 pm - 11:47 pm**Gulika :** 6:23 am - 7:47 am**Good Time :** (to start any important work)**Amritakalam :** 8:03 am - 9:41 am**Abhijit Muhurtham :** 11:37 am - 12:22 pm**HYDERABAD
WEATHER**

Forecast: Thunderstorm

Temp: 29

Humidity: 46%

Sunrise: 6:19 am

Sunset: 05:40 pm

Current Weather Conditions

Updated NOVEMBER 12, 2021 5:00 PM

Tribal torture case: S-I transferred

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A police officer in Telangana's Suryapet district was transferred on Friday after he allegedly tortured a tribal in custody. Suryapet district SP S. Rajendra Pasad sent sub-inspector M Lingaiah of Atmakur (S) police station to Vacancy Reserve (VR).

The SP also directed Suryapet DSP Mohan Kumar to conduct an inquiry into the incident and submit a report at the earliest. The action came after allegations that Lingaiah tortured a 23-year-old tribal farmer who was arrested on suspicion of theft.

G Veera Shekar's relatives had on Thursday staged a protest in front of the police station demanding justice. They alleged that Veera Shekar lost consciousness after he was mercilessly beaten up by the SI. He was picked by police on Wednesday from his field in connection with a theft reported at Eluru village a few days ago. Veera Shekar's family members said three policemen took him to the police station.

Though his elder brother and another relative also reached the police station

demanding papers relating to the case, the police asked them to leave, saying the same will be provided later.

Late on Wednesday night, one of Veera Shekar's neighbours received a call from the police station asking them to take him home. When his family members went to the police station, he was found unconscious.

Police said he was sick but when he regained consciousness he told the family members that he was beaten up. He alleged that the policemen stretched his hands and legs after pinning him against a wall and beat him with belts and sticks.

The next day, the tribal farmer's relatives and other residents brought him to the police station and staged 'dharna' demanding action against policemen who tortured him. The police later shifted him to the government hospital at Suryapet.

Police, however, denied the use of third-degree methods. They said Veera Shekar was picked up for questioning after an accused in a theft case named him. Police said since he was weak and not well, he was sent back home.

Congress braces for Munugode by-poll?

□ Palvai Sravanthi Reddy be be given the ticket if Rajagopal quits

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress high command has launched an exercise to find an alternative candidate in Munugode in case of a by-poll due to Congress MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy quitting the party and resigning his MLA seat.

Sources said the Congress has identified Palvai Sravanthi Reddy as its candidate. Palvai Sravanthi Reddy is the daughter of former MLA, MLC and Rajya Sabha member, the late Palvai Goverdhan Reddy.

It is learnt that the Congress started efforts to pick a candidate keeping the Huzurabad by-poll experience in view. It doesn't want to face the embarrassment it faced in Huzurabad as the Congress candidate Balmoor Venkat Narsing Rao got just 3,014 votes.

The party's senior leaders alleged that the party had

received a severe blow in Huzurabad due to the delay in selecting a candidate as the candidate was a non-local.

The Congress has started efforts to identify a candidate and has picked Palvai Sravanthi Reddy to avoid such an embarrassment, it is learnt.

The party may announce the candidate's name immediately if Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy quits.

It may be recalled that Palvai Sravanthi Reddy contested as an Independent in the 2014 Assembly elections as the Congress had allocated Munugode to the CPI.

The Congress suspended Sravanthi Reddy from the party for contesting as an Independent in 2014 along with 16 other Congress leaders who also contested as rebel candidates.

Later, the Congress withdrew her suspension. But she didn't get the Congress ticket even in 2018 as the party

gave it to senior leader Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, who defeated TRS candidate Kusukuntla Prabhakar Reddy.

In fact, Rajagopal Reddy started saying after the June 2019 elections that the BJP is the only alternative in the State.

After former Minister Eatala Rajender's victory, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy started thinking seriously on resigning his MLA seat and Congress membership to join the BJP and contest as the BJP candidate in Munugode.

Before Huzurabad elections, Rajagopal Reddy threw a challenge at Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to implement the Dalit Bandhu scheme in Munugode like in Huzurabad.

Rajagopal Reddy said that he will resign his MLA seat and would not contest again if he could develop Munugode with an investment of Rs 2,000 crore.

TRS will win if elections are held now in TS, says survey

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A survey by the organisation, Ground Report, has said that the TRS will win elections with 65 to 70 (6 MIM seats) in Telangana if elections are held now.

The Congress will get 35-40 seats and the BJP will win 12-14 seats. Others will get one or none.

The report said that The Ground Report @janta poll survey stated in its tweet that if elections are held now the TRS will win Telangana again, but TPCC chief and Malkajgiri

MP A. Revanth Reddy is the most popular CM face.

It also said the Congress will win Punjab with a landslide and that the BJP will win in Uttar Pradesh.

The Congress will face a tough fight in Uttarakhand and Goa, and although the BJP has an edge in Manipur there will be a hung Assembly there.

In the CM survey, Revanth Reddy came first with 44 per cent of the votes, KCR came second with 42 per cent and Bandi Sanjay third with 6-7 per cent. Others had 5-6 per cent votes.

The tweet of The Ground

Report@janta_poll is "Telangana opinion poll TRS: 65-70 (AIMIM 6), INC: 35-40, BJP: 12-14 Others: 0-1, popular CM face Revanth Reddy: 44%, KCR: 42% Bandi Sanjay: 6-7%, and others: 5-6.

If elections are held now the TRS is all set to win Telangana, but Revanth Reddy is the most popular CM face.

Conclusion of our opinion poll in election-bound states: Punjab: INC (landslide), UP: BJP, UK: Congress (tough fight), Goa: Congress (tough fight), Manipur: hung (BJP has edge)."

Man held for misbehaving with 4-yr-old

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A labourer was arrested by the Chatrinaka Police here on Friday for allegedly misbehaving with a 4-year-old girl at Kranthinagar in the Kandikal Gate area.

The accused person identified as Narsing, 32, tried to lure the girl with chocolates and biscuits when she was playing with other children near her home, said the police.

The girl, who was scared after seeing Narsing's behaviour ran towards her mother and complained about the ordeal. The mother of the victim nabbed the suspect with the help of residents, who roughed him up and handed him over to the Chatrinaka Police.

The police officials arrested him and filed a POCSO case against him, said Syed Abdul Khadar Jilani, inspector of Chatrinaka PS.

Cops seize books on Maoist leader, register case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The police raided a printing press in Amberpet on Friday, where a book about the life of Maoist leader Rama Krishna was being printed.

The police arrested one Rama Krishna Reddy, the owner of the press, Navya Printers, and a case was registered against him.

Getting information that banned literature of Maoists was being printed at Navya Printers in Amberpet, the police raided the press. They found that a book on the life of Maoist leader Rama Krishna was being printed and its binding was going on.

The police seized around 1,000 books and the printed material which was awaiting binding was also seized.

East Zone DCP Ramesh Reddy led the raid and checked all the material printed there. They recovered the records kept at the press to check material printed earlier.

ACP Venkata Ramana said, "We received information about the printing of banned literature at Navya Printers. We raided the press and found books about the life of Maoist leader Rama Krishna. There is no proper record about the printing of books. The book had banned Maoist literature. The owner of the printing press is printing banned literature for some organisations affiliated to Maoists."

The wife of Rama Krishna Reddy, Sandhya, who is also an activist said, "RK's wife Sirisha asked us to print the book in the name of Sayudha Kanti Swapnam. She gave us the content in a pen drive. We were printing the book as per her request."

TRS takes the wind out of BJP sails...

Continued from page 1

"The Centre is not giving clarity that it would procure Yasangi paddy while the State government advised the farmers to go for alternative crops," they said.

The situation looked dicey for the TRS government with farmers unhappy over the advice of State government to go for alternative crops in Yasangi till the time Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay made a tactical error by exhorting the farmers to cultivate paddy in Yasangi too and that his party would compel the State to keep its word that it would buy every grain from the farmers.

The provocative statements of Bandi Sanjay gave a handle to Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, who utilised the opportunity to call for State-wide dharnas in every constituency and district headquarters on Friday to force the Centre to purchase paddy. KCR also demanded the State BJP leaders to prevail upon its Central leaders to purchase Yasangi paddy from Telangana too as it promised to do in Punjab.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy who joined the issue from Delhi in the war of words between the Chief Minister KCR and State BJP president Bandi Sanjay too failed to give clarity to the TRS government's demand whether Centre would procure Yasangi paddy or not.

It was perhaps this reason that Friday's dharnas called by the Chief Minister evoked a better response than what the TRS had hoped for.

TRS Working President KT Rama Rao went ballistic in Siricilla where he led the maha dharna with thousands of farmers while Minister Harish Rao led the protest in Siddipet, Agriculture Minister Niranjan Reddy in Wanaparthy, Civil Supplies Minister Gangula

Cuss words, insults rule the day

Continued from page 1

"Did Prime Minister Modi and Union Minister Piyush Goyal assure to purchase paddy and did the Telangana government refuse to procure it?" KTR sought to know from Bandi Sanjay. Telangana government created many facilities for farmers including Rythu Vedikas in which Bandi Sanjay took shelter during his padayatras, he said. KTR said that while the BJP-led Union government was selling away 'everything', it refused to buy paddy from farmers.

He said under the BJP rule, the Global Hunger Index report brought out by an Europe-based agency ranked India at 101 out of 116 countries while Nepal and Bangladesh were ranked 76 and Pakistan 92. "What did Congress and BJP governments do in the last 75 years with all the resources at their disposal. Telangana Chief Minister KCR achieved miracles in mere seven years?" KTR said.

MINISTER VEMULA PRASHANTH REDDY CALLS JAGAN A BEGGAR

The unparliamentary language used by TRS MLAs, Ministers and even ZPTC members went viral in the social media. Minister Prashanth Reddy made strong remarks against AP government and its Chief Minister evoking a strong counter from AP Minister Permi Nani. Speaking at a dharna in Nizamabad, Prashanth Reddy said that Andhra leaders said that Telangana people would be in dire straits if Telangana State was formed. "However under the able leadership of Chief Minister KCR, we are enjoying our own income which used to be taken away by Andhra people in the combined State. Now our money is not going to Andhra and those people are now begging from others. Jagan is also in begging mode and depending on Centre even for daily administrative expenditure. Without loans, AP

cannot be administered. Under the pressure from the Centre, meters were being fixed to agricultural pumpsets in AP," he said. In an immediate counter to Prashanth Reddy's remarks, Permi Nani said that one would know how many loans Telangana had taken if one were to check with the banks. "Jagan has an open and consistent policy and unlike KCR, he has no dual standards – say one thing openly and another thing in private," Permi Nani said. Nani wondered what Telangana rulers were doing for loans and KCR must be going frequently to Delhi to bargain for funds and join the Union government. "KCR is an expert in boasting outside and prostrating before BJP leaders in private. Jagan would not stoop to such levels and he would always maintain his dignity," the AP Minister said.

RASAMAYI BALAKISHAN RESORTS TO ABUSE OF BANDI SANJAY

In another instance, Manakonduru MLA Rasamayi Balakishan made controversial remarks during a dharna programme at Manakonduru on Friday. His remarks were recorded and posted on social media. Abusing Bandi Sanjay, Rasamayi Balakishan termed the BJP leader as 'faithful pet' of Narendra Modi. The BJP leader did not have common sense that farmers could not be dictated what to cultivate in their lands in Yasangi. Farmers would cultivate whatever they would want, he asserted. People in the North and Modi would not know about rice as they are wheat eaters and the BJP rulers have no basic understanding about agriculture, he said.

ZPTC MEMBER'S CONTROVERSIAL REMARK

The most controversial comment came from TRS Kathalapur mandal ZPTC member Nagabhumaiah, who during the dharna on Friday, said if Centre did not do justice to Telangana farmers by purchasing Yasangi paddy, then Telangana should be made a separate country. His remarks posted on twitter were condemned and some netizens demanded stern action against him.

paddy in their fields and it was the only crop which would be purchased at the MSP.

In other areas TRS MPs, MLAs, MLCs and other local bodies' representatives participated in the dharnas protesting the Centre's reluctance to buy boiled rice in Yasangi. In the Yasangi season, because of rising temperatures, paddy would give better yield to millers only if it was processed to produce boiled rice.

Cong pokes...

Continued from page 1

He alleged that it was not proper for the TRS government to stage dharnas as the state government is supposed to procure food grains.

Addressing the media at the Assembly media point on Friday, Bhatti wondered: "Who will purchase paddy if the TRS and the BJP stage dharnas on the roads? Will the US or Pakistan procure the paddy if the parties ruling the State and at the Centre stage dharnas on the roads. Both the TRS and the BJP are mocking democracy."

Bhatti said that both the TRS and the BJP had taken back the state and the nation 20 years back. "Both hatched a conspiracy to hand over agriculture to corporates and as part of it, both are enacting dramas," he said.

Kisan Congress vice-president M Kodanda Reddy said the Centre has to procure the grains produced by State farmers at any cost.

He said that the Centre had set up the Food Corporation of India (FCI) 56 years ago. The Congress introduced the Food Security Act during the UPA government. FCI used to support people when the nation faced food scarcity, he said.

TRS keeps TS sentiment alive...

Continued from page 1

On Friday, Minister KT Rama Rao said that the fighting spirit witnessed during Telangana movement was visible in the dharnas and the Chief Minister's speeches. KTR in particular has been repeating that a large number of people were restless and wanted to get onto the roads and refresh agitation days. He also said that the Chief Minister's words reminded them of the Telangana movement.

Likewise, Minister Vemula Prashant Reddy on Friday said "During the days of Telangana movement, Andhra leaders used to comment that if the separate Telangana State is formed, people of Telangana would have to beg on streets for money."

Today, it is Jagan who is running from pillar to post and going to the Centre begging for money to run his government."

It may be mentioned here that in 2001, when the TRS was launched, there was just

a hazy memory of the 1969 Telangana agitation, and those who did remember the first agitation had already given up on the Telangana cause.

TRS seems to have realised that seven years down the line, a similar situation would come up where the movement could be relegated to just memories and nostalgia.

In the 2018 elections, the Telangana Congress made a major tactical blunder by allying with the TDR, seen in Telangana as a "Andhra Party". This gave the impression that KCR was the only genuine Telanganaita.

Many believe that in 2018, KCR used the opportunity to instil fear among the common man that Naidu will impact the administration in Telangana if the Congress was voted to power.

Now that all Telangana Congress and BJP leaders being locals, it is all the more important for the ruling party to remind the people that the separate Telangana movement was spearheaded by KCR and the TRS.

‘Arrest Kangana...

Continued from page 1

Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik controversially suggested the actor had made the comments under the influence of drugs. 'Looks like Kangana Ranaut took a heavy dose of Malana Cream (a variety of hashish) before making such a statement,' the minister remarked.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹207
Without Skin	₹227
Broiler at Farm	₹112
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	434
VIJAYAWADA	382
VISAKHAPATNAM	402
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹4.34

Protests to continue till Centre procures Yasangi paddy: TRS

Continued from page 1

"If required, it should take measures to export food grains with coordination of States as States could not export rice to other countries on their own," KTR said.

Acknowledging the spontaneous support of farmers to the TRS dharnas, he said that the fighting spirit witnessed during Telangana movement was visible in the dharnas being staged today.

KTR said Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar gave priority to agriculture right from the moment the State came into being and revived agriculture in a big way by taking several farmer-friendly measures.

"Quality 24x7 power, timely supply of quality seeds and fertilisers, revival of tanks under Mission Kakatiya, completion of mega Kaleswaram lift irrigation project to bring Godavari waters to drought-prone areas of Telangana, Rythu Bandhu investment assistance scheme etc. have helped increase the extent of land under cultivation in seven years," the Minister said. He reminded that the TS government's Rythu Bandhu

was copied by Centre and 11 other States and Rythu Bima assured ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh within a week to the family of farmers in case of death. "Such schemes were implemented nowhere else in the world. Under the administration of KCR, State recorded impressive yields of paddy and by procuring three crore tonnes of paddy, Telangana exceeded Punjab. Even educated youth were now inclined towards agriculture," KTR said.

"The biggest multi-stage lift irrigation scheme of Kaleswaram was completed in a record time of three-and-a-half years and Godavari waters could be brought to the barren lands in the State to irrigate lakhs of acres. Farmers should recall the achievements of the last seven years," the Minister said.

Addressing the dharna in Siddipet, Harish Rao called upon farmers to tweet Prime Minister Narendra Modi for purchase of boiled rice. He said the governments over the last 70 years had been purchasing boiled rice and the BJP government should explain why it would not purchase it now.

Harish Rao said Friday's dharnas were only a beginning and more such protests would be staged if paddy was not purchased in Yasangi.

Where is ‘friendly policing’ for the poor, Dalits...

Continued from page 1

But, a Dalit woman or an innocent tribal farmer will be arrested without any notice and they can be interrogated at the station without any FIR even if the charge is a theft of a few thousands. This is the state of affairs in Telangana.

"Only suspensions, what about criminal procedures against the police personnel who killed Mariamma," the High Court had asked the Advocate General two days back.

Mariamma, a 44-year-old poor Dalit woman, died due to alleged torture by the Addagudur police in Yadadri district.

The police had brought Mariamma, her son Uday Kiran and a friend to the police station on June 15 in connection with a complaint by a pastor regard-

ing a theft at his home. On June 18, she collapsed at the police station and died.

The police said that she had died due to a heart stroke because of ill health. After a judicial probe, a second post-mortem was done and it was found that there were wounds on the body of Mariamma, a clear attempt to hide the truth.

Last Wednesday night, a tribal farmer named Veera Sekhar was brought to the Atmakur Police Station in Suryapet District. A complaint had been given that motors were stolen from the fields.

The Atmakur police handed him over to the family on Thursday midnight. While handing over, he was unconscious, and there was froth in his mouth, his family said.

Veera Sekhar of Ramoji Thanda informed his family that he was beaten up and forced to

drink urine by the police. He was later taken to hospital.

The police say that his name was mentioned by another accused Banothu Naveen during the inquiry. Many property offences were registered, in which Veera Sekhar's involvement was suspected, they stated. His family members believe that the police are trying to name the victim in multiple theft cases to cover up their crime. In another case, one Odanti Bhimaboya, was brought to the police station after arresting him for playing cards by the Kamareddy police on Wednesday.

He was allegedly beaten severely by the police. He was shifted to the hospital and later to Hyderabad where he died while undergoing treatment. He is also a tribal of Bichkund village. His wife alleged that doctors reported that blood clots

had formed in his body due to severe injuries. In contrast, the accused were treated with kid's gloves by the police for the same crime at Begumpet.

In all the three incidents, there are allegations that the police violated rules and procedures while questioning the victims. Nor was any procedure followed when they were arrested or questioned.

Not surprisingly, wherever the police are accused of dealing with the poor and violating rules, CCTV footage is not available and the CCTV cameras never seem to function.

In the Mariamma case, the CCTV cameras were not functioning. In the case of Atmakuru of Suryapet, where a tribal farmer was beaten brutally by the police, only two CCTV cameras were in working condition, but the two were not functioning.



By next year, our lives will return to normal: AIG chief

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

Though Covid will remain, it will become endemic like the common cold and by next year, our lives will come back to normal, said AIG Hospitals Chairman and founder D Nageshwar Reddy.

Speaking at the Public Health Innovations Conclave (PHIC) Expo-2021—an exclusive expo on Public Health that started at Hitec on Friday, Dr Reddy said that he was optimistic about the future.

“What we saw during the peak of the pandemic was different. In some cases, entire families were wiped out. Doctors themselves didn’t know how to deal with it. We were frightened. It was like a soldier going to war without weapons. To add to it, WHO predictions were like our weather predictions,” he said. AIG Hospitals treated 30,000 Covid patients in the last two years, he added.



Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Founder AIG Hospitals seen addressing the participants at the inaugural session of PHIC-2021

Covid is not a tragedy, but it is a teacher, it taught us many lessons, he said.

The second edition of the three-day PHIC will conclude on November 14. It’s a first of its kind in India, featuring innovation, technology and best practices in public health to deal with “Life after Pandemic”.

It has 75 stalls and is organised by Hitec in asso-

ciation with the Infection Control Academy of India.

Dr Anuj Sharma, WHO Country Officer, said “We were making recommendations on a ship under construction we were moving in.”

He added: “Initially, our recommendations went wrong. But you see, WHO doesn’t make any recommendations on its own. We

do so based on the recommendations of experts. When something is new and evolving, there are chances of errors.”

Antimicrobial Resistance may be the new pandemic which is building up, said Dr Sharma. He listed “3Ws and 2Vs” for safer living – Wear Mask; Watch Distance and Wash Hands and Vaccination and Ventilation. Dr K Shankar, Director of Preventive Medicine, Government of Telangana said all government hospitals in the State are equipped with oxygen pipelines. Vaccines will not protect from the virus but protect from death. By 2022 January, we will have a normal life, he said.

Krishna Yedula of SCSC-Society for Cyberabad Security Council termed PHIC-2021 as a congregation of innovative minds. The conclave makes sense for Facilities Management Professionals and HRs working IT offices to give them the confidence to call back their staff to offices.



21-yr-old girl jumps off Hyd Metro station

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 21-year-old student allegedly jumped from the second floor of the Ameerpet Metro station on Friday evening.

After sustaining grave injuries, she was rushed to a private hospital by the employees of Hyderabad Metro Rail.

The woman was identified as Md Heena, a resident of Tolichowki, said the police, adding that the motive behind her alleged jumping will be ascertained once she regains consciousness at the hospital. A case was booked and an investigation was launched by the SR Nagar, who confirmed that her condition is said to be critical.

The SR Nagar police are investigating the case.

Civic body completes 55 of 89 road widening works in 5 years

■ GHMC managed to acquire 1,805 properties

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

During the past five years, work on 55 of the 89 roads taken up for widening have been completed in the city for which 1,805 properties have been acquired.

Under Strategic Road Development Programme (SRDP), as many as 1,100 properties, 192 under missing / slip roads projects and another 511 properties were acquired for general road widening projects, said the GHMC on Friday.

In a media statement, GHMC Commissioner Lokesh Kumar said that property owners are preferring to part with their land by opting for TDR certificates in lieu of cash compensation, since the demand for issue and utilisation of TDR has increased rapidly with the urbanisation growth.

GHMC has issued 864 TDRs covering a total area of 350 acres. Of the TDRs issued, as many as 553 were for road widening works, 128 for SRDP works, 77 for beautification of tanks or FTL, 49 for missing or



link roads and 41 for nala widening works. Lokesh Kumar said, “The process of acquisition of properties for the road widening works in GHMC is applauded as one of the best practices all over the nation.

Acquisition of properties through the new Land Acquisition Act is one of the biggest tasks in view of the increased compensation values, but with the new initiatives of the Telangana Government like introduction of the new TDR policy in the State has given a great strength in acquiring the properties with minimum bur-

den on the exchequer.” It may be mentioned here that Government of Telangana has designated Commissioner, GHMC as Special Collector, Land Acquisition, for GHMC area in 2020.

As per GHMC, acquisition of properties for SRDP works at Chanchalguda-Saidabad- IS Sadan Road, Shastripuram Road, Aramghar to Zoo Park is under progress.

The progress of acquisition of properties is being reviewed by the Commissioner every Tuesday with all the wings of GHMC.

Man poses as CID official, harasses 30-yr-old woman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyber Crime unit of the Rachakonda Police on Thursday launched an investigation after a woman was harassed over calls and texts from a man who claimed to be an official of the CID.

According to the police, the 30-year-old victim from Ibrahimpatnam area first received a text over WhatsApp saying that the man, claiming to be a senior official at the CID, saw her at a function, liked her and wanted to be with her. Soon the man start-

ed harassing her with explicit photos and even began video calling her. During one such call, the man was wearing a police uniform. Seeing the man in the uniform, the woman then approached the police and lodged a complaint.

The Rachakonda Police suspect the man to be a stalker living in the vicinity of the victim. The harasser could have got the victim’s number while asking around and then began harassing her, said S Harinath, ACP, adding that a detailed investigation has begun.

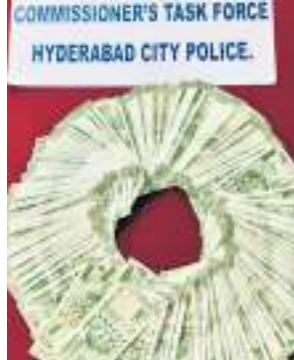
Cricket betting racket busted, 1 held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner’s Task Force (South Zone) team, Hyderabad, and the Golconda Police busted a cricket betting racket and nabbed a person who had allegedly provided an online web application for punters to participate in cricket betting by collecting money.

Police officials seized cash worth Rs 1,50,000 and Rs 3,92,000 in their bank accounts was frozen.

The accused identified as Mohammed Azghar, 36), a resident of Tolichowki is also engaged in steel business. Baazigar and Pratyush, who



were also part of the betting racket are absconding, police said.

Azghar had purchased an



online application named “Fairbook.io” from Baazigar, a native of Dubai, on commission basis.

He also operated a website for carrying on online cricket betting with punters in Hyderabad and other States.

Later, Fairbook.io was handed over to another bookie named Pratyush, who belongs to Gujarat, on commission basis. Pratyush continued the online cricket betting, police said.

Azghar had been monitoring daily transactions in the cricket betting racket with Pratyush. The money involved in the transactions was being managed through online accounts via Google Pay, Phone Pay, bank accounts etc., police said.

Two held for murder of five-year-old child

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Panjagutta Police on Friday apprehended two persons in Karnataka for their alleged involvement in the murder of a five-year-old girl. The body of the girl was found at Panjagutta on November 4.

The step-mother of the victim is one among the two accused persons arrested by the police.

She has murdered the girl with the help of her paramour, to hide the woman’s illicit affair.

The police officials are investigating to find out whether the accused persons had murdered the girl in Hyderabad or brought the body from Bengaluru after murdering her there.

The CCTV camera footage indicated that the suspects toured the city with the body of the girl to find a place to dump it, said the police adding that they had finally threw the body at a shop in the Dwarakapuri Colony of Panjagutta on the night of November 3.

ADE of TSSPDCL lands in ACB net

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An Assistant Divisional Engineer (ADE) of Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TSSPDCL) at Ibrahimbagh, Charan Singh, was arrested by the ACB sleuths on Friday.

He was caught while allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 30,000 from an electrical contractor L Ravi Kumar, when the latter had approached Charan Singh to get approval for two official works. One was fixing a transformer at Secretariat Colony, Manikonda, and the other was shifting of a line in Manikonda. The suspect demanded Rs 30,000 to approve the two estimations, ACB said.

Ravi Kumar approached the ACB and they directed him to give currency on which a chemical had been sprayed. The complainant gave the money at the ADE’s office. The ACB team raided the spot and checked the currency taken by Charan Singh, the suspect.

Charan Singh was arrested and produced before ACB court.

TS HC reserves orders on liquor shop licence quota

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Friday reserved its orders on a writ petition seeking to declare GO 87 and GO 98 pertaining to caste-based reservations for allotment of liquor shop licences as illegal and arbitrary.

The two GOs mandated that reservations of 15 percent, 10 percent and 5 percent be implemented for Goud caste, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively in allotment of liquor shop licences. On Wednesday, Justice K. Lakshman had asked



the government to file written instructions and he heard the arguments on Friday.

Vasireddy Ravikanth and Nandiyala Prabhakar had filed the petitions seeking interim suspension of the GOs.

The existing licences to run liquor shops would expire by November 18, 2021, the petitioners informed the court.

RTC chairman warns drivers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The chairman of TSRTC Bajireddy Goverdhan has taken serious note of accidents and has asked the drivers of TSRTC’s hired buses to undergo training at the TSRTC staff training colleges in Hyderabad and Warangal to improve their driving skills.

In a statement on Friday, Goverdhan said that the TSRTC will not hesitate to levy huge penalties and will not hesitate to cancel the agreements with the owners of hired private buses if they do not mend their ways.

42 kg weed seized at Sec’bad station

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Railway Police seized 42 kilos of marijuana from a man at the Secunderabad Railway Station during surprise checks against drugs and apprehended him on Thursday.

The arrested person has been identified as Khaga Behera, 40, a fisherman by profession from Ganjam in Odisha. Police officials said that he was transporting dry ganja from Ichapuram in Andhra Pradesh to Mumbai.

On Wednesday, he went to Ichapuram and travelled by Konark Express train up to Visakhapatnam. After taking the consignment, he reached

Secunderabad Railway Station, but as he saw cops checking his train, he got down and escaped from police.

Late on Thursday night, he returned to the station to board a train to Mumbai, but as no trains were available, he decided to travel the next day. While leaving the station through the foot over bridge, police officials apprehended him and detained him for questioning.

Three luggage bags with 42 kg of marijuana were seized from his possession.

The police booked a case under the NDPS Act and have launched an investigation.

Three peddlers arrested

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad Police on Thursday arrested three persons found in possession of ganja and seized contraband weighing 5.5 kg from their possession. Officials also booked 58 E-petty cases against persons found smoking in public places and consuming gutka.

Meanwhile, the Excise Police of Medak jailed a habitual drug peddler for breaching his bond. “The drug peddler, Amarsingh, a resident of

Sangareddy, was bound over before the executive magistrate for one year for good behavior. However, he was again caught for selling ganja. As per the terms, he was directed to pay an amount of Rs 2,00,000 for breach of bond. On failure to pay the said amount the accused Amarsingh has been sent to jail for a period of one year by the Executive Magistrate, Sangareddy,” said KAB Sastry, DCP of Prohibition and Excise, Medak division.

Man murders friend over Rs 2,000

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A man was murdered by his friend at Musheerabad late on Thursday night. Preliminary investigation revealed that the two had a brawl over a financial issue, said the police.

The victim was identified as Sonu, 27. According to the police, Sonu, a native of Uttar Pradesh, moved to Hyderabad six years ago

in search of livelihood and was eking a living by working as a carpenter.

During the investigation, police learnt that Sonu borrowed a hand loan of Rs 2,000 from Altaf Khan, who works at a mutton shop in Musheerabad. Even after repeated requests to repay, Sonu kept postponing the payback.

On Thursday night, while the duo were drinking, an argument

ensued over the issue. As the argument grew heated, Khan took a butcher’s knife from his shop and hacked Sonu on the neck. Due to the deep cut sustained, Sonu bled to death.

The Musheerabad police registered a murder case and are investigating.

Police reportedly took Khan into custody and sent the body for post mortem examination.

10 publications vouch for Covaxin’s efficacy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

More than 10 publications in the name of Covaxin, all in reputed and international journals vouch for the safety and efficacy of our indigenous vaccine.

Covaxin has been found to be 77.8 per cent effective, according to the safety and efficacy analysis data from Phase III clinical trials peer reviewed and published in reputed medical journal The Lancet.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech said the Lancet peer-review confirms the efficacy analysis which demonstrates Covaxin to be effective against Covid-19. The vaccine maker Covaxin is the only Covid-19 vaccine to have demonstrated efficacy data from phase III clinical trials against the Delta variant at 65.2 per cent. “The efficacy analysis demonstrates Covaxin to be 77.8 per cent effective against symptomatic Covid-19, through evaluation of 130 confirmed cases, with 24 observed in the vaccine

PRECLINICAL TRIALS	CLINICAL TRIALS	NEUTRALIZATION OF VARIANTS
 Humor Efficacy Study Nature Communications Preclinical Safety and Immunogenicity	 Phase 2 Phase 2 Phase 1	 Alpha (B.1.1.7) Beta (B.1.617.2) Gamma (P.2) Delta (B.1.617.2)

group versus 106 in the placebo group,” the company said.

The efficacy analysis also demonstrates Covaxin to be 93.4 per cent effective against severe symptomatic Covid.

“Safety analysis demonstrates adverse events reported were similar to placebo, with 12 per cent of subjects experiencing commonly known side effects and less than 0.5 per cent of subjects experiencing

serious adverse events,” it said.

The efficacy data also shows 63.6 per cent protection against asymptomatic Covid-19, 65.2 per cent protection against the SARS-CoV-2, B.1.617.2 Delta and 70.8 per cent protection against all variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Covaxin was developed under a partnership with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute

of Virology, with Bharat Biotech receiving the SARS-COV-2 strains through this collaboration.

Bharat Biotech had established an ongoing collaboration with ViroVax since 2019, through the Indo-US Vaccine Action Program, to develop and evaluate IMDG, a novel TLR7/8 agonist molecule, which is formulated as part of the adjuvant in Covaxin. The Adjuvant Program of the US NIAID has supported ViroVax since 2009.

“The peer-review of Covaxin phase III clinical trial data in The Lancet, an authoritative voice in global medicine validates our commitment to data transparency and meeting the stringent peer-review standards of world leading medical journals,” said Krishna Ella, CMD of Bharat Biotech. He said the data from their product development and clinical trials have been published in 10 peer-reviewed journals, making Covaxin one of the most highly published Covid vaccines in the world.

తెలుగు మీడియాలో కొత్తవారికి అవకాశం

త్వరలో ప్రారంభమయ్యే శాటిలైట్ న్యూస్ ఛానల్ / డిజిటల్ వేదికలో పనిచేయటానికి ఉత్సాహపంతులైన యువత యువకులు కావాలి.

డిగ్రీ పదిని వుండి తెలుగు భాష మీద పట్టు, ఇంగ్లీష్ పరిజ్ఞానంతో బాటు సామాజిక స్పృహ, ప్రజా సమస్యల పట్ల అవగాహన, మీడియా ద్వారా సమాజానికి సేవ చేయవచ్చునన్న ఆలోచనా ధోరణి ఉన్నవారిని ఆహ్వానిస్తున్నాం!

రిపోర్టింగ్, యాంకరింగ్, ప్రింట్ రైటింగ్, ప్రొడక్షన్, వీడియో ఎడిటింగ్

తదితర విభాగాలలో పనిచేయాలనుకునే వారికి స్టైపెండ్ తో కూడిన శిక్షణ ఉంటుంది. విజయవంతంగా శిక్షణ పూర్తిచేసుకున్నవారు పూర్తికాలపు ఉద్యోగులవుతారు.

దరఖాస్తు విధానం

మీ ఫోటోతో కూడిన ఉయోదేశితోతాము ఈ పుస్తక పట్ల మీ ఆసక్తి, నిరసనలకు మీకున్న అభిప్రాయ ఒక ౪4 పైజు చీల్చేలో, ప్రజలు మెచ్చేలో ఒక నవ్వో ఛనలో ఎలా ఉంటుందో మీరు అనుకుంటున్నారో ఇంతో చీల్చేలో మీ చేతిరికతతో రిపొండుంట్.

20.11.2021లోగా మీ దరఖాస్తు మెయిల్ చేయాల్సిన వివరసామా

ascendasbroadcasting@gmail.com

Why discrimination against TS?

❑ State leaders lambast Centre ❑ Demands its policy clarity on paddy issue

PNS ■ WANAPARTHI

Organizing a huge dharna in Wanaparthy, the ruling TRS leaders accused the Central government of discriminating against Telangana and exposed its duplicity with regard to paddy purchases.

They alleged that the Centre was favoring Punjab by buying paddy and denying the same for Telangana, adding that it should immediately announce its policy on the paddy purchase issue.

The Agriculture Minister Niranjan Reddy and other leaders of the party participated in the dharna which saw an outrage against the Union government's discrimination against the State.

The leaders said that under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao the farmers of the state were a fruitful life after a long period but due to the decisions of the Centre their situation had worsened.

They said that the State government was implementing innovative schemes which were seen nowhere in the country and that the State was ahead of all the other states in all respects. "The Centre has the constitutional obligation to come to the rescue of the states by buying paddy/rice through Food Corporation of India.

It should also buy the corps



Accusing the Centre of discriminating against the State with regard to paddy purchase, the ruling TRS has organized protest dharnas in all districts and also warned it of intensifying the protests if it fails to come forward to the rescue of the farmers. The dharnas were addressed by Ministers and MLAs targetting the Union government to change its stance.

which do not get MSP and distribute them through ration shops to the needy. They also alleged that instead of encouraging fast-developing Telangana state Prime Minister Narendra Modi was acting against it.

Saying that Telangana has surpassed Punjab in the production of paddy by reaching to 3crore tonnes while Punjab stood at 2crore tonnes, the Centre should come forward and help the state by buying paddy.

PNS, Nalgonda: The dharna was held under the auspices of ruling party MLAs and leaders in 12 constituencies in the combined Nalgonda district following a call by TRS chief KCR to hold dharnas in constituency centers to protest the central government's discrimination in grain procurement.

A dharna was held in Suryapeta under the supervision of State Energy Minister G. Jagadish Reddy on Friday. They demand the central gov-

Will bend the Centre

PNS ■ MEDAK

The TRS MLAs Par madevendra Reddy and Madan Seshu said on Friday that they would do justice to the farmers of the state by bending the necks of the Central government. Speaking in a protest dharna held here against the Union government's anti-farmer laws, the MLAs have demanded that the Centre had the responsibility to purchase paddy/rice being produced by the farmers of the state. A number of TRS leaders and activists have participated in the dharna held at Medak and Narsapur. "The Union government has the obligation to buy paddy being produced in the State. It should order the FCI to take steps to buy the same from the state. They also

warned that If the Central government fails in this regard they will obstruct the BJP leaders everywhere in the State. Strongly criticizing the Central government's attitude in this respect, the TRS MLAs said that they would bring pressure on the Union government and make it to buy paddy from the state. Stating that their agitation and protest dharnas would continue until justice was meted out to the suffering farmers, the leaders added that the Centre was trying to evade accountability in this regard and that it would never be tolerated. They also alleged that the Union government was discriminating against the State and favoring some states. They advised the Centre to shun anti-farmer policies and work for their benefit and come forward to buy the paddy.

ernment to purchase Yasangi paddy otherwise we will block the BJP leaders houses.

should purchase Paddy..

In response to the call given by the Ruling Party, TRS in the State staged Dharna today as a part of State-wide Dharna held at Velpoor X Roads, protested the indifferent attitude of the Central Govt in taking steps to Procure Paddy by opening the

Purchase Centers across Telangana.

Addressing the massive turnout at the Velpoor X Roads, Vemula Prashanth Reddy said the BJP Govt at the center proved itself as an anti farmers regime, but on the other hand, TRS Govt is implementing pro-farmer Policies by giving away 24 Hours Free Electricity.

Highway construction will accelerate village development

Complete land survey forthwith, Collector orders officials

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALA PALLY

The District Collector Bhavesh Misra has ordered the officials to speed up the land acquisition for Manchiryal-Hanumakonda green fields national highway and asked them to take steps to complete the process without any further delay.

He said that with the construction of the highway the surrounding villages would be developed immensely. Addressing a meeting of officials, he said that the highway completion would not only reduce the travel time between Manchiryal-Hanumakonda and also save a lot of petrol and diesel. Linking both will also accel-



ate the progress and development of the surrounding villages and increase income for the people.

He stated that land would have to be acquired in the purview of 14 villages and steps should be taken to identify the lands to be acquired.

Ordering the officials to complete the land survey forthwith and submit him a detailed report, he said that a mark should be made for every 100meters distance and a joint survey should also be conducted in the areas by forest and revenue officials.

People didn't make KCR CM to stage dharnas, slams BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP MP from Nizamabad, Dharmapuri Arvind, has alleged in a tweet on Friday that people didn't make TRS Chief K. Chandrasekhara Rao the Chief Minister to stage dharnas.

He said the Chief Minister is now stating that he will take up dharnas, forgetting the fact that he removed the Dharna Chowk at Indira Park.

Alleging that KCR and his daughter have a history of attacking farmers he stated that Telangana has been suffering a lot due to the laziness of the Chief Minister and demanded his resignation if he was not able to rule the State. He stressed that the Chief Minister should stage a dharna only after apologizing to the farmers of Khammam,

Nizamabad, and Ma hsubnagar.

"The Telangana Thalli statue has the maize symbol, but the Chief Minister is not encouraging maize cultivation. He even went on to ask the farmers not to cultivate maize in spite of the fact that the Centre has come forward to procure maize" he said.

Arvind said that KCR has stated that he would stage a dharna to make the Centre procure non-superfine rice asking that whether KCR or his son or his daughter ever ate non-superfine rice." Who will eat non-superfine variety rice in the state" he questioned KCR.

He alleged that KCR has been misleading the people by falsifying the fact he himself encouraged the farmers to cultivate paddy.

Code in force, surrender personal weapons: SP

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

As the election code for MLC elections has been in force in the State, those who have personal weapons for self-protection should surrender them immediately to the nearest police stations, the Sangareddy SP Ramana issued orders on Friday. With the issuance of election notification, the code has been in vogue he said adding that the surrendered would be given back to them as and when the code was lifted and the normal situation



was restored. However, he clarified that the weapons given to banks and other organizations need not have to be surrendered to the police.

‘Shuttler’s Flick’, a journey into Pullela’s life unveiled

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pullela Gopichand released his autobiography Shuttler's Flick: Making Every Match Count published by Simon & Schuster India and co-authored with Priya Kumar. The event was curated Stories by Meraqee and Rajat Book Corner.

KT Rama Rao, honorable Minister for Municipal Administration & Urban Development, Industries & Commerce, and Information Technology of Telangana unveiled the book along with Jayesh Ranjan, Principal



Secretary of the Industries & Commerce and Professor Madan Pillutla, Dean, ISB; Shobhita Narayan from Simon & Schuster India,

Mohit Batra from Rajat Book Corner and Praveen Agarwal, Stories by Meraqee.

Through the kaleidoscope of Pullela Gopichand's life

story and the fateful knee injury on 25th January 1994, which was a career-threatening setback, the discussion focused on the comeback of

Pullela Gopichand and his journey into building the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy. Professor Madan Pillutla further delved into how to build a legacy and an institution.

In Shuttler's Flick, we get a glimpse of Pullela Gopichand's life before he became a world-famous champion along with his insights and philosophy as a coach at present. The book is interspersed with sections from his wife, parents, and students. Written unlike an autobiography, the book is divided into chapters each focusing on an

aspect of his life. The end of each chapter carries a few key takeaways from the book. 'But the return is not always easy, especially when the world has moved on without you when the people who were rooting for you have now found other heroes to support.' When Pullela Gopichand had to undergo a risky arthroscopic surgery, chances of his full recovery were not great. His return to the badminton court seemed a far-fetched dream. The odds were stacked against him. Then, in 1998, he won the bronze in the Commonwealth games.

Stop dharnas, buy paddy!

Farmers accuse the parties of politics, Want immediate purchase of paddy

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALA PALLY

Reacting to the politics around the paddy issue and protests on it, the farmers asked the ruling TRS and Union government to stop deceiving them and immediately start purchasing paddy.

They alleged that both the parties resorted to politics over the issue by deceiving them and conducting false dharnas. They unitedly demanded that the purchase of paddy should be taken unconditionally and said that justice should be done to them without any procrastination. "What we want is justice. Our paddy should be purchased without any delay. We don't believe both parties conducting dharnas on the issue. We have fed up with false promises and dharnas."



The farmers said in a dharna organized here with the support of the Congress party.

They accused TRS and BJP of cheating them without solving the problem of purchasing the paddy they cultivated by undergoing so many hardships. "It is ridiculous to that both the parties accusing

each other without coming to the rescue of us. Their fight is over political benefit.

Out fight is for survival. By blaming each other for the situation, the ruling parties at the Centre and in the State have been ignoring us" the agitating farmers said expressing their pain over

political turn to the issue. Even after weeks of taking the paddy to the purchasing centers, it is still laying with no one coming forward to look into the issue, they said adding that at every stage they have been facing hardships and outright deception and exploitation.

Landslide hits train services

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Train services were affected due to boulder fall on the tracks between Chimidipalli-Borrughalu stations in Kottavalasa-Kirandul line and subsequent damage of overhead equipment. Railway authorities rushed to the site and restoration works were carried out on a war-footing. The services were restored later. However, 08516 Visakhapatnam-Kirandul special train was short-terminated at Araku due to late running. Train 08516 Visakhapatnam-Kirandul special train leaving Visakhapatnam was short-terminated at Araku and it will return from Araku to Visakhapatnam as train 08515 special. Similarly, train 08515 Kirandul-Visakhapatnam special leaving Kirandul will be short-terminated at Koraput and will return as train 08516 from Koraput to Kirandul.

Harish says TS moved SC as Centre did not...

Continued from page 1

"Our Chief Minister personally gave the complaint then. That showed KCR's concern and commitment for the new State. But it's November, 2021 today. Had the Centre taken a decision in the last seven years, the Telangana would not have had any problem. KCR only said the problem was pending for the last seven years," Harish Rao told reporters at Siddipet on Friday.

As the Centre did not take the decision, the State had to approach the Supreme Court to protect the interest of the State, he recalled. Had only the Centre constituted a tribunal even then, the case in SC would have become null and void.

"The Telangana government has no personal dispute with the Centre or Shekhawat. However, the Centre should take im-

mediate decision on constituting a new Tribunal for re-allocation of Krishna water between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh or give new terms of reference to the existing Brijesh Kumar Tribunal," Harish Rao said.

He emphasised that there was no hurdle in the way of the Centre taking a decision on a new Tribunal, considering the fact that the Telangana government had withdrawn its petition from the Supreme Court.

"Telangana State is not getting its fair share in Krishna waters and Andhra Pradesh was diverting Krishna waters illegally to Penna basin," Harish Rao said. To enable Telangana to get its share in Krishna waters, a new tribunal should be constituted without further delay, he said.

Harish Rao said that Telangana was not making any unreasonable demands and

only seeking its Constitutional right for fair share in Krishna waters.

Harish Rao said that they had no doubt about Shekhawat's sincerity though the Union Minister apparently had taken KCR's remarks about seven year delay personally. The Union Minister had given assurance for early approval to Godavari projects as there were no disputes. "We hope to get approval for Godavari projects soon and Telangana's dispute is only related to Krishna waters. As AP was taking water illegally to Penna basin, areas in Krishna basin of Telangana were deprived of Krishna water," he said. Harish Rao said as part of undivided AP, Telangana region had lost its rightful share of water and now after formation of Telangana State, KCR had been trying for protection of rights of Telangana State.

PNS ■ MULUGU.

In order to conserve, protect and preserve the forests and also to prevent grabbing of them, the Podu land titles issue has been taken up, said the Collector Krishna Aditya here on Friday adding that applications for the Podu lands would be taken on a war footing in the district.

He also announced that so far 7844 applications have been taken from various areas in the district and appealed to all to cooperate with the government in the resolution of the Podu lands issue and submit the applications as per the norms issued by the government.

He also warned that if no one should take up Podu cultivation afresh, and if it comes to his notice action would be taken against them under Forest Act.



In a review meeting on Friday, District Collector ordered the officials to take up the Patta land applications immediately and resolve them without any delay. Speaking in the meeting of the officials of various departments, the Collector said that out of 262 applications for Patta lands and other issues, only 151 were approved and 111 applications were still pending for decisions.

He ordered the officials to submit him a report specifying where the applications were still pending. He also asked them to submit reports on a re-survey of 23 Patta land applications.

Angered at the changes made in the reports given by the Irrigation department officials, and personally observed all the reports submitted to him so far.

The Collector ordered the officials to come with complete reports on sand issues and advised that immediate resolution of them would provide water to thousands of acres of land for cultivation. He also advised officials to follow the rules pertaining to mining permissions and at the same time warned the mining societies that would be blocked if they form mining without permissions.

All parties should be permitted for dharnas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) Chief Prof M Kodandaram has demanded the police to give permission to all political parties to stage dharna at Dharna Chowk at Indira Park as everybody has the right to stage dharnas in a democracy.

He questioned the police as to how they gave permission to TRS to stage a dharna at Indira Park as the police didn't give permission when TJS asked for permission showing silly reasons. He also demanded the police, who are not giving permission anywhere in the state to stage dharna, to tell as to how they gave permission to TRS at Indira Park.

Kodandaram said that he is happy as the police gave permission to the TRS party to stage dharna at Dharna Chowk at Indira Park and demanded that the parties should be given permission to stage dharnas at the Chowk and asked permission to TJS to stage dharna at Indira Park.

He alleged that the state and central governments are playing games with the lives of the farmers. He demanded the state and central governments to give clarity as to why they are not procuring paddy in the state.

Congress is ready to fight for farmers

❑ TRS and BJP hand in glove: Sitakka

PNS ■ MULUGU.

Concentrating on the need to propel a digital membership programme, the Congress party has taken up the membership drive so as to increase the supporters base.

The Mulugu MLA Sithakka on Friday asked the district and Mandal leaders of the party to take forward the membership drive as decided by the party leadership. Addressing an awareness meeting of the party at Govindarao pet here on Friday she said that the party leaders need to have an understanding of the digital membership concept.

Advising the party activists to take steps to increase the party membership in every polling center in the Mulugu constituency.

She stressed and asked the leaders to enroll more than a hundred members in every polling center.

She also stated that if anything unexpected happens to the members who have enrolled themselves by paying Rs 35, an insurance amount of 2lakh will be given to their family members.

Taking the meeting as a chance, she ridiculed the dharna being undertaken by the



ruling TRS against the Union government's anti-farmer policies and also its denial to buy paddy from the State. She also commented that both TRS and BJP enacting a political drama as both the parties hand in glove with each other saying that the TRS fights BJP in the State and supports the party at the Centre.

She assured that if the Centre and the state do not come forward to buy paddy from the farmers, the Congress party would come to their rescue by undertaking dharnas

INDIA CORNER

BJP govt in MP will get Khurshid's controversial book banned: Mishra

The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh is contemplating banning in the state, senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid's book in which he has compared Hindutva to radical jihadist groups like ISIS and Boko Haram, after taking legal opinion on the matter, said Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Friday. The minister also hit out at Khurshid over the book on the Ayodhya verdict, titled 'Sunrise Over Ayodhya: Nationhood in Our Times', which was released on Wednesday Talking to reporters in Bhopal, Mishra said, "We will take the opinion of legal experts on the book and get it banned in Madhya Pradesh. Mishra criticised Khurshid over the controversial content of the book and accused the former Union minister of targeting Hindutva and attempting to divide the majority community "These people do not leave any opportunity to target Hindutva and divide Hindus on caste lines.



Money laundering: PMLA court extends Deshmukh's ED custody till Nov 15

A special PMLA court here on Friday extended the ED custody of former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh till November 15 in connection with a multi-crore money laundering case. He was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) early last week. A special holiday court on November 6 had sent the 71-year-old NCP leader to judicial custody after rejecting the ED's plea seeking extension of his remand. However, a day later, the Bombay High Court set aside the lower court's order and sent Deshmukh in ED remand till November 12. On Friday, the former minister was produced before special PMLA court judge H S Sathbhaj, who extended his custody till November 15.



Top Maoist leader carrying bounty of Rs 1 cr arrested by Jharkhand police

Top Maoist leader Prashant Bose alias Kishan Da, who was carrying a bounty of Rs 1 crore on his head, has been arrested in Jharkhand along with his wife Sheela Marandi, a senior police officer said on Friday. Marandi is also a member of the CPI(Maoist). Bose, wanted in several criminal cases, is a senior leader of the outfit's central committee. He is also the secretary of the CPI (Maoist) eastern regional bureau. According to the officer, the police, acting on intelligence inputs, arrested the duo. Bose, who hails from West Bengal, was in charge of Maoist activities in several states including Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, and was believed to have been operating from Saranda forests, the officer added.



Congress ideology vibrant but overshadowed by BJP: Rahul

PNS ■ WARDHA

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said his party's ideology is like a "beautiful jewel" with an unending power inside it, but it has been overshadowed by the BJP, and maintained Hindu and Hindutva are different concepts.

If crystalized, the Congress ideology which is alive and vibrant will envelope that of the BJP-RSS, he said and emphasised on strengthening his party's ideas within the organisation and spreading them across the country.

Gandhi was addressing online a four-day 'AICC orientation programme' organised at Sevagram Ashram in Wardha. Congress representatives from across the states are participating in the programme.

He said, "We have to accept that there are two ideologies in India - the Congress ideology and the RSS ideology. We have to accept the BJP-RSS has spread hatred in today's India."

The former Congress president said there has been 'complete capture' of the media by the saffron outfit.

"The BJP has overshadowed the loving, affectionate and nationalistic ideology of the



Congress party. Our ideology is alive and vibrant, but it has been overshadowed by the BJP," said the Lok Sabha MP from Wayanad in Kerala.

"It has been overshadowed partly because of complete capture of the media and complete capture of the Indian nation. It has also been overshadowed as we have not propagated our ideology among our own people aggressively," said Gandhi. Gandhi observed that Hindutva and Hinduism are two different concepts.

"These are the types of things we need to explore and understand and develop a group of people...100,200,300,500 people who deeply understand these differences, who can apply these differences to issues, behaviour, to action.

Govt does not have strategy on China: Rahul Gandhi

New delhi:Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday alleged that the country's national security is "unpardonably compromised" as the government does not have a strategy on China.

He cited a news report where the External Affairs Ministry and the Chief of Defence Staff had a different take on the China border issue.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Bipin Rawat on Thursday said the controversy about the Chinese coming into the Indian territory and building a new village is "not true", and that the villages were well within the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC). He also asserted that China has not transgressed the Indian "perception" of the LAC. In its recent report, the US Department of Defence said China built a large village inside disputed territory between its Tibet Autonomous Region and India's Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern sector of the LAC. Earlier in an official reaction to the US report, the External Affairs

Ministry said India has neither accepted China's "illegal occupation of its territory nor any unjustified Chinese claims". While taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "56-inch chest" remarks, Gandhi said on Twitter, "Our national security is unpardonably compromised because GOI has no strategy and Mr 56" is scared". "My thoughts are with the soldiers, risking their lives to guard our borders while GOI churns out lies," he further alleged. In the run up to the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, Modi had said it takes a 56-inch chest to convert Uttar Pradesh into Gujarat in terms of development.

Attacking the government over the issue, Congress leader P Chidambaram said it is time Defence Minister Rajnath Singh drew a line in his ministry and asked the CDS to remain "well within his side of the LAC". "MEA said that China is in 'illegal occupation' of Indian territory and India will not accept 'unjustified Chinese claims'.

Pilot meets Sonia Gandhi amid Cabinet reshuffle buzz

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Friday met party chief Sonia Gandhi amid speculation over Cabinet reshuffle and organisation rejig in Rajasthan.

His meeting came a day after Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot met Gandhi here and the two leaders are learnt to have discussed the political situation as well as the impending cabinet reshuffle in the state.

Speaking with reporters after meeting Gandhi, Pilot said, "Whatever the Congress party wants me to do, I am more than happy to do. In the last 20 years, whatever job has been assigned, I have done it diligently and now also whatever the party decides, what role I have...I am happy to do it." "I am happy Mrs Gandhi took feedback from all of us. I think at the right time, AICC general secretary Mr (Ajay) Maken will take an appropriate decision viz-a-viz Rajasthan," the former deputy chief minister said.

A major reshuffle is on the cards in Rajasthan in the next few days and various modalities are being worked out by adopting the "one man, one post" formula while considering appointments in the cabinet, according to sources.

Clear stand on monitoring of SIT probe, SC tells UP govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Friday granted time till November 15 to the Uttar Pradesh government for apprising its stand on the suggestion that a former judge of a "different high court" should monitor the state SIT probe on day-to-day basis in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in which eight people including four farmers were killed on October 3.

"Would your Lordships give me time till Monday? I have almost got it done. We are working something out," senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the UP government, told the bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana.

"List on Monday," said the bench which, also comprised justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, according to the request.

The apex court, on November 8, had expressed dissatisfaction over the probe and suggested that to infuse "independence, impartiality and fairness" in the ongoing investigation, a former judge of a "different high court" should monitor it on day-to-day basis.

The bench had also said that it has no confidence and does not want the one-member judicial commission appointed by

LAKHIMPUR



the state to continue probe into the case.

Retired Allahabad High Court judge Justice Pradeep Kumar Srivastava was named by the state government to enquire into the eruption of violence on Tikononia-Banbirpur road in Lakhimpur Kheri district.

The state government was asked to inform about its stand on the suggestion of monitoring of probe by a former judge of a different high court.

"We, somehow or the other, are not confident and we do want any judicial commission appointed by your state government to continue," the bench had said.

Observing that the investigation was not going the way it expected, the bench had red flagged some of the issues pertaining to the SIT probe conducted so far and said: "prima

facie it appears that one particular accused (in the farmers' mowing down case) is sought to be given benefit" by securing or procuring evidence from witnesses in the subsequent case related to the lynching of political activists by the farmers' mob."

It was also very critical of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of state police for seizing the mobile of Ashish Mishra, one of the arrested 13 accused, and rest of the phones belonged to the witnesses to the alleged mowing down of the farmers.

"We have seen the status report. There is nothing in the status report except to say that some more witnesses have been examined. We granted 10 days time. Laboratory reports have not come. No, no, no...it is not going the way we expected," it had said.

Woman kidnapped, forced to bear child

PNS ■ UJJAIN

A 21-year-old woman from neighbouring Maharashtra was allegedly held captive, raped and forced to bear a child by a couple in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain city, police said on Friday.

The police on Thursday arrested Rajpal Singh (38), a former deputy sarpanch of Kath Baroda village, for allegedly holding the woman captive for 16 months, raping her and forcing her to bear a child, Superintendent of Police (SP) Satyendra Shukla said.

The matter came to light after the woman, a resident of Nagpur, was found at Dewas Gate bus stand, where Singh had dumped her in an unconscious state on November 6, the official said.

On regaining consciousness, the victim informed the police about her ordeal on Thursday,

he said.

Singh had allegedly purchased the victim with the help of a woman and brought her to Ujjain 16 months ago, the official said.

In cahoots with his wife Chandrakanta (26), Singh allegedly held the victim captive and raped her for a child, as the couple had lost their two children, the SP said.

After the victim gave birth to a baby on October 25, Singh dumped her at the bus stand on November 6, he said.

Apart from the couple, the police have also registered a case against Singh's relative Virendra, Krishna Pal and one Arjun, who acted as a tout, under sections 370 (human trafficking) 376 (rape), 376 A (persistent vegetative state to victim), 377 (unnatural sex), 365 (kidnapping) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC, Shukla said.

Data Protection Bill needs to be cleared soon: Rawat

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 12 (PTI) Chief of Defense Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat on Friday said the Data Protection Bill, tabled in 2019 in Parliament, needs to get cleared at the earliest as data theft has become a common crime in the virtual world.

Rawat, while inaugurating the 14th edition of 'c0c0n', an annual Hacking and Cyber Security Briefing, organised by Kerala Police, said there was a need to synergise the efforts of cyber security experts of various government departments in order to "secure our digital assets".

The CDS said India doesn't have a dedicated cyber security law and there was a need for a framework for managing virtual space at national level.

"There is a need for a framework for managing virtual

space at national level. Multiple government agencies deal with cyber security. Our defence services have cyber experts and state police have cyber cells. There is a need to synergise the efforts of these experts working with different government ministries and other private sector entities towards a common goal of effectively securing our digital assets," Rawat said.

In his virtual address, Rawat said the rise of digital payments have significantly increased complex cyber crimes and the IT Act 2000, which was amended in 2008 needs to be updated further putting in place cyber security standards in line with the nature of information and assets.



"Data protection is yet another crucial issue that we need to look at. Most nations have data protection laws. The Data Protection Bill tabled in 2019 is yet to reach finality.

We need to work together to get it cleared at the earliest as data theft has become a common crime in the virtual world," he said.

Rawat noted that according to estimates, cyber crimes in India during the global pandemic have gone up by almost 500 per cent.

"Cyber criminals take advantage of security vulnerabilities to steal data, generate profits and cause disruption. Hence cyber security is now not just the purview of few IT professionals but of each and every individual of the team," he said.

All set for annual pilgrimage to Sabarimala

PNS ■ PATHANAMTHITTA

Doors of the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa shrine will be opened next week for the two-month long annual pilgrimage season during which 30,000 devotees per day will be allowed to have darshan through a virtual queue system, officials said here on Friday.

The pilgrimage will commence on November 16.

The sanctum sanctorum of the temple will be opened at 5 PM on November 15 in the presence of chief priest (Tantri) Kandararu Mahesh Mohanararu by outgoing priest V K Jayaraj Potti.

Appointment ceremony of the newly selected priests (mel-santis) of Lord Ayyappa and Malikappuram temples in the hills will be held later in the evening.

The pilgrimage will be held strictly adhering to COVID-19 protocol with authorities insisting that two doses covid vaccination certificate or RT-



PCR negative certificate taken within 72 hours is mandatory for visiting the hill shrine.

The devotees should also produce original Aadhaar cards, a TDB official said here.

The base camp will be at Nilackal. There will be a spot virtual queue booking facility at Nilackal.

No parking for vehicles will be allowed in Pampa. However, Pampa snanam

(bathing in river pampa) will be allowed. Pilgrims will not be allowed to stay in Pampa and Sannidhanam.

Those who complete darshan should leave the premises.

Trekking to the temple will be allowed only through the Swami Ayyappan Road.

The ghee being brought by the pilgrims in coconuts for Neyyabhishekam will be col-

lected by the TDB staff through special counters and sanctified ghee will be returned to the pilgrims through special counters of the Devaswom.

Arrangements have been made for the pilgrims to purchase prasadam while returning to Pampa after having darshan.

The 41-day Mandala puja festival will conclude on

December 26.

The temple will be opened again on December 30 for the Makaravilakku pilgrimage. The Makaravilakku is on January 14, 2022, and the temple will be closed on January 20, 2022.

Police have strengthened the security for ensuring a smooth Sabarimala pilgrimage season.

State police chief Anil Kant said plans have been made to provide strict security in and around Sabarimala in connection with this year's Mandala-Makaravilakku festival.

Crime Branch ADGP S Sreejith will be the Chief Police Coordinator for security arrangements. Southern Region IG Harshita Attalloori is the Joint Police Coordinator.

Armed Police Battalion DIG P Prakash and Thiruvananthapuram Range DIG Cory Sanjay Kumar Gurudin are the additional police coordinators.

Scribes, activists call for stricter laws on environment protection

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A two-day virtual training programme on environmental management for media personnel concluded at the Central Academy for State Forest Service here on Friday with veteran journalist Ramesh Menon calling for a greater degree of sensitivity on the part of policy makers to environmental issues such as climate change. "India is talking much about climate change but doing little about it," Menon, who was awarded the Ram Nath Goenka Award for environmental journalism in 2006, said during the valedictory session of the programme.

He said sustainable development was the only way out and that development and environmental conservation must go hand-in-hand.

Earlier, the speakers under-



lined the need for stricter provisions in the Forest Conservation Act to ensure a higher degree of compliance. Saving forest land from its use for non-forest activities is the fundamental purpose of the Forest Conservation Act, and it needs to be made stricter through proposed amendments, environmental lawyer Ritwik Dutta said.

Dutta, a former secretary of the National Green Tribunal Bar Association, said it is deplorable that several states in India, including Bihar and Jharkhand, still do not have a policy defining forest land.

He also expressed concern over India's poor ranking in environmental management. India stands 186th among 189 countries in the list.

Overshadowed

As India remains busy with COVID vaccines, the measles programme receives little attention

One hopes the hurry to administer COVID-19 vaccination doses to the adult population has not adversely impacted the routine infant immunisation programmes in the country, especially the measles vaccination campaign. The WHO says more than 22 million infants globally, including India, may have missed the first dose of the measles vaccine – Measles-Containing Vaccine 1 (MCV1). The WHO findings were published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It says 24 measles vaccination campaigns in 23 countries were postponed last year because of the COVID-19 lockdown. The “10 countries with the highest numbers of infants not receiving MCV1 were Nigeria (3.3 million), India (2.6 million), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1.5 million), Ethiopia (1.4 million), Indonesia (1.1 million), Pakistan (1.0 million), Angola (0.7 million), the Philippines (0.6 million), Brazil (0.6 million) and Afghanistan (0.4 million); accounting for nearly two thirds (59 per cent) of the global total”. There was a global resurgence in measles incidence between 2017-2019 but that was followed by a decline in 2020 when the pandemic lockdown was in place. With the entire medical infrastructure geared towards tackling the COVID-19 infection, attention was diverted from other essential medical campaigns, including the immunisation campaigns. The WHO calculates apart from the 22-odd million infants, at least “93 million persons did not receive MCV because of COVID-19-related postponements”. With



the lockdown in place, most centres were closed down, there was a problem carrying out the campaign at the village level. Subsequently, the country was busy with the anti-virus vaccination and the measles programme perhaps got little attention.

It is time the Government and the NGOs running the measles and other infant immunisation campaigns ramp up their efforts to give MCV1 doses to children. Measles surveillance has to be taken up once again so that the measles surveillance sensitivity indicators are readily available. Considering the gap in measles immunisation, a national survey is called for to assess any immediate risk for measles transmission and outbreaks in the country. The survey needs to be followed up by case-based surveillance to document immunity gaps. If there are any outbreaks, they should be the opportunity to look for weaknesses in the renewed immunisation campaigns. Most of the infants who missed the first measles dose may have turned two by now; whether they also need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 is another issue. If there is a debate in the medical profession about whether all children need COVID-19 vaccination, it has not yet become part of public discourse. Any vaccination as such is mandatory and problems such as hesitancy, complacency or campaign delays should be resolved at the earliest.



Visitors flock to the Indonesia International Auto Show, in Tangerang

AP

Strike a chord

A Panchavadyam maestro in Kerala is teaching percussion skills globally, even inside prisons

The inmates of Kerala's three Central prisons at Thiruvananthapuram, Vayalar and Kannur are passionately honing their musical skills these days. These skills are not ordinary but the prowess to play timila, maddalam and idakka which along with ilathalam and kompu are the constituents of Panchavadyam, the age-old temple art form in the State. Church and temple festivals are not complete without Panchavadyam, besides caparisoned elephants who raise their trunks and sway their ears in synchronisation with the rhythm of the drums. Prakashan Pazhambalacode (53), a leading Panchavadyam exponent who is the disciple of legendary Pallavoor Appu Marar, is making waves across the globe by imparting online training to hundreds of percussion students. Prakashan, who was trained in the conventional gurukula style of learning, is not sure of moulding legendary artists through online classes but he has opened new vistas for Panchavadyam's popularity. Prakashan taught the art of percussion playing to convicts of crimes ranging from murder to burglary to cheating. These prisoners now don't find time to brood over the past or plot to execute illegal activities. Their schedule is hectic with percussion training and daily chores in prison, according to Prakashan, who has transformed many hardcore criminals into percussion artists of repute. “He has done a great job and I fully



endorse it,” says Alexander Jacob, former director general of prisons, Kerala.

Thiruvanchur Radhakrishnan, former Home Minister during whose reign Prakashan launched the percussion therapy, waxes eloquent about the maestro. Overjoyed by what Prakashan has achieved, Justice VR Krishna Iyer, a former Supreme Court judge, wrote: “Prakash goes to prisons and prisoners, mesmerised by his chenda (drum), become rhythmic artists. They no longer remain criminals but turn into excellent chenda players. People become criminals when their mind is idle and their soul has no place for art. But once life's melody hits them, its rhythmic grandeur changes vicious minds into creative artists of exquisite talent.” This more than sums up the kind of work Prakashan has done for the convicts and for the society. He makes the idakka sing. As soon as the convicts finish their chores, they come together to spruce up their rhythmic skills and sounds like tha... dhi... thom... pierce the surroundings rather than the curses and abuses of yore!

Can the Taliban weed out their drug trade?



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Afghanistan produces 90 per cent of the world's illicit opium. In 2020, opium poppy was grown on some 224,000 hectares, one of the highest levels of cultivation in the country

According to a recent Associated Press report, the Taliban, who now rule Afghanistan uncontested, have set their sights on stamping out narcotics addiction, even if by force. It describes the Taliban fighters scouring the streets of Kabul, locating drug addicts, and bringing them to de-addiction facilities. The report quotes Qari Ghafoor, the lead patrol officer in a raid the AP covered, as saying, “This is just the beginning, later we will go after the farmers, and we will punish them according to Sharia law.” This is in keeping with Vanda Felbab-Brown's statement in her article, *Pipe dreams: The Taliban and drugs from the 1990s into its new regime*, that after toppling the Ashraf Ghani Government in August this year, the Taliban had announced their intention to rid Afghanistan of drugs. She had added that interlocutors had mentioned the same objective in conversations with her in the winter of 2019.

The matter is important. Afghanistan produces 90 per cent of the world's illicit opium. In 2020, opium poppy was grown on some 224,000 hectares, one of the highest levels of cultivation in the country. Will the Taliban actually crack down? For an answer, one has to look at the history of their links with poppy cultivation and drug production and trafficking. As Felbab-Brown points out, their original impulse was to ban it as they considered drug production to be anti-Islamic. They did so as they moved out in late 1994 and early 1995 from Kandahar in the West to Helmand Valley, Afghanistan's main poppy growing region. This reduced the area under poppy cultivation by half because farmers feared reprisal from the Taliban and wheat prices were booming.

By 1996, the Taliban, in a new approach, began taxing farmers and traffickers and protecting the latter. Its position now was such that the cultivation and trade of cannabis was forbidden, as was the manufacture of heroin and consumption of opiates. Production and trade



of opium was not. Poppy production continued to increase. The total production of opium, 200 tonnes in 1980, rose to 1,600 tonnes in 1990, and 3,400 tonnes in 1994, and then, according to the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction's report, “Counter-narcotics: Lessons from the US Experience in Afghanistan” (June, 2018), almost doubled from 2,248 tonnes in 1996 to 4,565 tonnes in 1999.

A dramatic *volte face* followed. On July 28, 2000, Taliban supreme Mullah Omar, banned the cultivation and trafficking of opium and repeated the announcement in October. Perhaps the intention was to build bridges with the US and the West after the 1999 UN Security Council Resolution 1267 had imposed severe sanctions against them. They might also have wanted the move to drive up global prices steeply and sell their inventory at a higher profit. Whatever the reason, it led to the most successful poppy eradication programme in Afghanistan's history. According to the records of the US military, poppy farming declined by 99 per cent in Taliban-controlled areas, eliminating almost three-fourths of the world's



DRUG MONEY
PLAYED AN
IMPORTANT ROLE
IN THE TALIBAN'S
RISE TO POWER
AND SOME OF ITS
LEADERS HAVE
BEEN PERSONALLY
ON THE TAKE

heroin supply. This, however, alienated the farmers, who had become attracted to poppy cultivation because of its profitability and relative ease. According to many, they consequently supported the US-led invasion launched on October 7, 2001, and ousted the Taliban from power.

The Taliban learnt their lesson. Instead of trying to curb the cultivation of poppy and the production of drugs, they chose to profit from both during their post-defeat strategy drive for power. In her paper “How Opium Profits the Taliban”, Gretchen Peters estimated that in 2008, the Taliban had collected \$50 million as Ushr and \$125 million by taxing drug laboratories producing heroin and morphine base. She adds, “The Taliban rakes in as much as \$250 million more every year providing armed protection for drug shipments moving through their control zones. They also receive tens of millions of dollars' worth of material supplies, including vehicles, food, and satellite phones.”

Later, in a 2012 report, the UN Security Council's Taliban Sanctions Monitoring Committee cited the Afghan Government's estimate that the Taliban earned approxi-

mately \$100 million from the illicit narcotics trade that year. Subsequently, according to Jonathan Landay's report “Profits and poppy, Afghanistan's illegal drug trade a boon for Taliban”, (Reuters, August 15, 2021), UN officials have said that the Taliban are likely to have earned more than \$400 million between 2018 and 2019 from the drug trade. A May 2021 US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan (SIGAR) report quoted a US official estimating that the Taliban derive up to 60 per cent of their annual revenue from illicit narcotics.

Drug money played an important role in the Taliban's rise to power and some of its leaders have been personally on the take. Would they give it up? Would they not try to use drug money to finance factional violence among themselves if these break out? Will they risk a revolt by farmers at a time when the Islamic State of Khorasan has launched a fierce offensive against them? To all appearances their current anti-drug posture is to gain international recognition as well as aid they need badly.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KANGANA'S GOT A FOUL MOUTH

Sir — Many eyebrows were raised when the name of the controversial actor Kangana Ranaut was announced as a recipient of the prestigious Padma Shree award and murmurs were heard that she has been selected for the award only because of her proximity to the ruling dispensation at the Centre. Proving the hunch of the people, it is reported that Kangana has now come out with a statement denigrating the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters with her declaration that the nation attained freedom from the British by begging. She has gone a step further to prove her sycophancy by stating that our nation attained real freedom only in 2014 after the BJP came into power.

This is an atrocious outburst which tantamount to anti-national sloganeering and sedition. This is what happens when sycophants like Kangana are decorated with such great national awards in recognition of their political leanings rather than on their real merit. The President should immediately take back the Padma award conferred on her. This could only bring back the honour and lustre attached to this prestigious award and give solace to the other deserving recipients.

Tharcus S Fernando | Chennai

PETTY POLITICS DOES NO GOOD

Sir — Anything that can go wrong will go wrong at the worst possible time, the caste and religion will not come to the rescue. We must have basic education and follow the rules of the law rather than blaming the Government all the time. The best part of good governance under the PM is that the country suffers neither inertia, nor ignorance, nor incompetence, nor dishonesty. Consequently, good governance during the last seven years has yielded a changed mindset of people within the country and globally about how governance is conducted amid probity and transparency. It is time to carry on good governance rather than think about divisive forces cropping up with a crying voice for nothing.

We enjoy all the benefits of the Indian

Aussies make it to the finals



The T20 World Cup final is going to be a Trans-Tasman affair! The showdown slated for this Sunday at Dubai International Stadium comes as quite an antithesis to public deliberations and speculations on the chances of the teams competing even before the championship had commenced. While Kane Williamson's team hardly earned a mention as favourites, the Australian side made it to the semi-finals by the skin of their teeth. Yet the clinical pre-

Government but play the blame game for nothing. All I want to say is that if you love oxygen so much then inhale it all you want, but do not drag the PM into it. India's population today is nearly four times what it was in 1947. The root cause of this disappointment is the same as always: unwarranted expectations. If you go to a cow, you will get milk, urine, or dung. But if you go to a cow and expect Dalgona coffee, whose fault is it — yours or the cow's?

MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

SUICIDE OR MURDER?

Sir — The custodial death of the 22-year-old Altaf in Uttar Pradesh highlights police brutality and lawlessness in the State; it is also symptomatic of the treatment (it verges on persecution) meted out to the country's principal religious minority, the Muslims in today's India. The police's version that Altaf committed suicide falls flat in the face of the fact that one cannot com-

mit suicide by hanging from a 2.5 foot tap holder inside a toilet. The victim's father stated that he heard Altaf's voice ‘sounded like he was being tortured’ and was asking for help. The victim's mother stated that the police threatened to slit her son's throat if he did not tell the truth when they picked him from the house.

It is true that members of one religious community alone are not victims of police brutality resulting in custodial deaths. But the religious angle sometimes emboldens the police to torture Muslims in custody with impunity. Tragic incidents like Altaf's custodial death which no civilised society can countenance, call for humanising the police and rulers like Yogi Adityanath. Humanity should prevail over everything else.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The talk about there being different factions in the Congress is in the media. Actually, all of us are working together.



Congress leader
—Sachin Pilot



Afghanistan is on the brink of catastrophe...the international community should provide assistance on an emergency basis.

Pakistan Foreign Minister
—Shah Mahmood Qureshi

What's a story without a few twists? Govinda Naam Mera, a package of entertainment for you, is coming to cinemas.



Filmmaker
—Kanan Johar



Hasan Ali has won many matches for Pakistan. Players drop catches but Ali is a fighter and I will back him.

Pakistan skipper
—Babar Azam

The Chinese have not transgressed anywhere on our perception of the LAC and are well within their side of the LAC.



Chief of Defence Staff
—General Bipin Rawat

FIRST COLUMN

COP26: A MIXED BAG OF PROMISES AND PLEDGES

There's a fifty-fifty chance that the warming will be limited to 1.8°C if the promises are kept



GWYNNE DYER

It's not too early to assess the success or failure of COP26, the climate summit that began in Glasgow on 31 October. The first week, while the heads of state are there, is when all the big promises are announced; the second week is devoted to haggling over the details of the deals. So, we already know that it hasn't been an absolute failure. Forty-six countries (not including China, Japan, India, Mexico or Australia) have promised to phase out coal power by the 2030s "or as soon as possible thereafter". The world's biggest and third biggest emitters of carbon dioxide, China and India, pledged to achieve 'Net Zero' emissions by 2060 and 2070 respectively, although the runaway train may have left the station by then. (Most countries' Net Zero commitments are for 2050.) Only 12 years late, the rich countries said that in another couple of years they will finally keep their promise to provide \$100 billion a year to poor countries so they too can play their part in cutting emissions. And more than one hundred leaders agreed to end deforestation by 2030.



It isn't great, but it's better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick, and the International Energy Agency calculates that if all the promises and pledges are kept in full and on time, there is a fifty-fifty chance that the warming will be limited to 1.8°C higher average global temperature. That's well north of the declared target of +1.5°C, and too close for comfort to the 'never exceed under any circumstances' level of +2.0°C. However, the commitments in place before the conference were practically guaranteed to result in an eventual rise of 2.7°C, so it's a better result than most people had expected. That's the good news. Here's the bad news. 'Nature', one of the world's most respected scientific journals, did an anonymous survey of the 233 climate scientists who wrote the massive 'Sixth Assessment Report', which provided the science to which this conference is responding. Sixty per cent of them said that they expect the world to warm by at least 3°C by the end of the century. Only 20 per cent of the scientists said they expect nations to limit global warming to +2°C. A mere 4 per cent said they thought the world might actually manage to stop the warming at +1.5 °C. And 82 per cent of the scientists who replied said they expected to see catastrophic impacts of climate change in their lifetime. I'm not in the least surprised by these responses, because for the past year I've been interviewing climate scientists for a new book and television mini-series I'm working on. They try to stay positive, and they work very hard. There has been an extraordinary expansion in our understanding of how climate has worked in the deep past and how it works right now. There is a cascade of new technologies for making carbon-neutral energy sources, decarbonising the food system, even taking carbon dioxide and methane back out of the air. But they also remember that on no previous occasion have all the promises and pledges made at these conferences been kept in full and on time. And they know that more than half the 'anthropogenic' carbon dioxide that the human race has put into the air has been emitted SINCE we all learned that we were causing dangerous warming in 1990. I wouldn't even buy a used car from this species, let alone trust them with a planet. So the scientists, and the rest of us too, walk a fine line between hope and despair, with occasional bursts of silent rage. But that is the human condition. (Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

Should India be wary of a radical B'desh?

All secular forces of the region, primarily India, must rally behind a beleaguered Bangladesh and help it fight the alien agenda



RAMI N DESAI

JAIDEEP SAIKIA

The existence of a radical Bangladesh in India's eastern flank-aided and abetted by the global Salafi movement-has always been a matter of great concern for India. Indeed, the lower extremities of Assam and the demographic jungles of the area have been a virtual "gateway" for Islamists from the erstwhile East Pakistan to travel to the economic hubs of the rest of India where-alongside the rabid fighters from Pakistan and thereabouts-they have been perpetrating terror in India. Indeed, one of the reasons why the Islamists inside Assam have not been engaging the security forces is because they do not want to attract their attention.

Furthermore, the crucial midpoint that Bangladesh stations itself between the Islamist hotspots of South Asia and South East Asia makes it both an ideal staging ground as well as a pullback area for Islamists of various hues. Therefore, it would not be altogether implausible to fathom that tanzeems, such as Jemaah Islamiyah of Indonesia and Lashkar-e-Toiba from Pakistan, have sought and found sanctuary in Bangladesh. However, while (as aforesaid) the primary reason could well be attributed to its strategic location and the existence of sufficient marshes and warrens in the country to house Islamists of all hues, the primary reason continues to be the fact that there is a huge constituency in the land of Bangabandhu that owes allegiance to the practitioners of puritanical Islam. Bangladesh, therefore, showcases itself as a unique case where geography, religion and socio-political dilemma meet to bewilder.

Bangladesh — despite the fact that it was formed on the basis of Bengali nationalism (jettisoning the commonality of religion that had linked it to Pakistan in 1947) — is not (in the opinion of the authors) a homogenous entity. In reality, there are two Bangladeshs. One is devoted to Bengali culture, language and the ethos that is the hallmark of Bengali-hood. Religion is not paramount for this group and indeed it is this group that seeks to keep the pennant of secularism alive. On the hand, the other formation identifies itself with the Islamic world and finds comfort in the "transformative moment" that Islam is passing through. The leadership of this group—which is rabidly anti-Indian—is divided, but is joining forces in order to keep secular Bangladesh's influence to a minimum.

The barrack politics of 1975 gave rise to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. It is this party that heads the non-fundamentalist faction, and uses religion only as a means to achieve its political ends. The other factions in the non-secular configuration are fundamentalist and believe in Nizam-e-Mustafa. Parties such as Jamaat-e-Islami, Islamic Oikya Jote that is made up the razzakars and the pro-Pakistani groupings during the anti-Bengali pogroms of the pre-liberation days are the primary con-



THE PAKISTANISATION OF THE POLITY OF BANGLADESH IS THE PRIMAL THREAT TO INDIA. WHILE PAKISTANISATION DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN ISLAMISATION, THE BITTER TRUTH IS THAT FORCES OF PURITAN ISLAM ASCERTAIN THAT THE TWO ARE BECOMING INTERCHANGEABLE

(Rami N Desai is an anthropologist and conflict analyst. Jaideep Saikia is a bestselling author and conflict analyst. The views expressed are personal.)



stituents of this formation. Of late, other groups such as the Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh have joined their ranks.

The Pakistanisation of the polity of Bangladesh is the primal threat to India, and stealth Pakistanis abound in the Bangladesh armed forces and intelligence services. While Pakistanisation does not necessarily mean Islamisation, the bitter truth is that forces of puritan Islam are ascertaining that the two are becoming interchangeable. Apart from the various aspects by which Bangladesh has subverted the security of the North East-aid to ULFA, NDFB, ATTE, NLFT, NSCN (IM) and the Islamists-the threat from Bangladesh in the future would be the 'Talibanisation' that its anti-India agenda in tandem with the ISI is constructing for the North East.

As aforesaid, the demographic jungles of the lower Assam districts are already providing a concrete entry point for the Islamists of Afghanistan, Pakistan and South East Asia. As a matter of fact, with the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan,

Islamists in the entire subcontinent received a shot in the arm and if reports are to be believed, the coming together of the al-Qaeda, Islamic State of Khorasan Province in their new found safe haven in the Af-Pak region has become a rallying point for the radicals from Kabul to Khulna.

In a recent news report paraphrasing the Chief Minister of Assam, it was stated that 'a substantial number of youths from one particular religious community are missing and it is apprehended that at least some of them have joined terrorist outfits'. Efforts, therefore, seem to be on to radicalise the youth of the state. Dar-ul-Aman, by most accounts, is within arm's reach for the proponents of Waliyah-e-Hind (Guardians of Hindustan).

But geostrategic bafflement of the sort that the return of the Taliban has achieved has not dissuaded many in Bangladesh from continuing to battle the forces of radicalisation. Indeed, it remains committed to the lofty ideals of Bengali nationalism that liberated it from the clutches of an exploitative

western wing. As a matter of fact, despite the support it received from the anti-liberationist forces and presently from the wave of radicalisation, the majority in Bangladesh continues to be determined to defend the standards that have sought to negate Islam in its extreme form.

However, the waxing and waning character of an impetuous celestial body such as the moon is not only naturally ordained, but would invariably resurface at the slightest pretext. The fact that the present dispensation of Sheikh Hasina has sought to subdue radical Islam may not quite help it to completely eclipse the puritanical strain in Islam.

All secular forces of the region, primarily India, must rally behind a beleaguered Bangladesh and aid it fight the alien agenda. A course correction exercise, therefore, needs to be undertaken by India in order to thwart the multi-front war that is being readied by the adversary against its ally. Posterity would, otherwise, have only India to blame for what it would term as insouciance.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IF YOU ARE A HINDU THEN WHY DO YOU NEED HINDUTVA? WHY DO YOU NEED THIS NEW NAME?
—CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



THE CONGRESS IS ATTACKING HINDUTVA. IT IS RAHUL GANDHI WHO HAS TAUGHT OTHERS TO MAKE STATEMENTS AGAINST HINDUISM.
—BJP SPOKESPERSON SAMBIT PATRA

Do all children need the COVID-19 vaccine?

If a new variant emerges that causes moderate to severe disease in children, we may have to vaccinate healthy children

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has recommended for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Covaxin among children aged 2-18. In order to ensure safety of children in schools, the DCGI is having high level discussions so that the vaccine could be introduced after thorough inspection as part of the National Vaccination Programme. The statement of Dr NK Arora, Chairman of National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NTAGI), that children with comorbidities will be prioritized to receive the vaccine "immediately and healthy children can be immunized subsequently" generates confidence amongst all the stakeholders.



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

Earlier, in August, 2021, the DCGI had granted an emergency use approval for Zydus Cadila's DNA vaccine for use in adults and children aged 12 years and above.

The impact of the pandemic on the education of children can be gauged from the fact that almost 24 million children are at the risk of not returning to school next year due to the economic fallout of Covid-19, according to the policy brief released by the United Nations. More than 1.6 billion learners across the world have been affected by the disruption of the education system, but the pandemic has also served to exacerbate existing disparities, with vulnerable populations in low-income countries including India taking a harder and



longer hit. For example, during the second quarter of 2020, 86 per cent of children at the primary level have been effectively out of school in poor countries, compared to just 20 per cent in highly developed countries.

However, opinions of experts are divided on various issues related to vaccination of children, "Whether there is a need of Covid-19 vaccination for children?". Speaking at a seminar, Dr Soumya

Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, WHO, said "Children have the same percentage of antibody exposure that adults have. We had shut schools saying children should not be exposed to the virus, but there has been community exposure since they have been doing other activities. Children have been going to malls, playing outside, and are around their families. Making a case for reopening schools is vastly different from children getting a Covid-19 vaccine, while one discusses the continuation of life as it is lived, the other is a deeply ethical question".

Commenting on the value of Covid-19 vaccines for children, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, says that considering that children under the age of

18 form a large proportion of the population, i.e., 32 per cent globally, ensuring protection for them is a move towards pandemic control. Protection is urgently needed when the disease risk is high. However, for children, there is relatively low risk of disease, it added.

Another relevant question is, "Are vaccines needed for healthy children and adolescent, especially since Covaxin supply is still limited and millions of adults are yet to be vaccinated?" According to Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, Physician-epidemiologist and vaccine expert, "At present, the healthy children in India do not need vaccination. India has reached a stage where there is more Covid-19 vaccine supply than demand. However, just because a coun-

try has more availability, it should not start vaccinating children. At the same time, that does not mean healthy children would never need Covid-19 vaccines. They may, in future. For example, if a new variant emerges that causes moderate to severe disease in children at a rate higher than at present, then we may have to vaccinate healthy children. Considering the available evidence, I don't think India should consider vaccinating any child younger than 12 years before early next year", he added.

Dr Satyajit Rath, formerly with the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, however, have a different point of view: "Vaccines are certainly needed for everyone. I do not think that guesses

about the proportions of people in various groups already infected/vaccinated, which depend on sero-surveys, are well founded. Many if not most of the sero-surveys have been modest in size, yet we are assuming that they correctly reflect reality."

In India, the parents are anxious and worried about the well-being of their children. They do not want to take any chances and most of them would welcome vaccination of their wards to be on the safe side. However, they need to understand that no country in the world had rolled out vaccines for any subgroup of children without data being thoroughly examined and reviewed by the experts. We should also go by the advice of the experts.

Sensex, Nifty soar to 2-week highs on gains in Infosys, RIL

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Stock market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty rallied to a two-week high on Friday on heavy buying in index majors Infosys, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries after three days of losses and a positive trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex spurted by 767 points or 1.28 per cent to close at 60,686.69 points with 25 of its stocks ending with gains.

The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange jumped by 229.15 points or 1.28 per cent to settle at 18,102.75, the highest closing level since October 27. Gains in IT, realty and energy stocks helped indices break three-day losing run.

Tech Mahindra was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising around 4 per cent, followed by HDFC, Infosys, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints and Bajaj Finance. On the other hand, Bajaj Auto, Tata Steel and Axis Bank were among the lag-



gards. "The momentum which was lost during the week was regained as inflation worries started fading with investors shifting their focus to good quarterly earnings, economic recovery and strong domestic macro data points," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

All sectoral indices ended with gains. BSE tech, IT, telecom, realty, power rose up to 2.03 per cent. Broader midcap

and smallcap indices rose up to 0.57 per cent.

During the week, Sensex surged 619.07 points or 1.03 per cent, while Nifty advanced 185.95 points or 1.03 per cent.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking, said, "Markets recovered sharply and posted gains of over a per cent, taking a breather after the recent dip. Positive global cues led to a gap up but profit taking trimmed the

gains in the initial hours."

In the next week, Mishra said, markets will first react to macro data in early trade on Monday. As the result season is almost behind us, the focus will shift back to global markets for cues. At the same time, traction in primary markets will keep investors busy.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended with gains. Major indices in Europe were trading on a positive note in mid-session deals.

Asian share prices advanced on Friday after Wall Street benchmarks managed to close mostly higher on the previous day. European shares were largely muted on Friday continuing to search for direction as global investors assess recent high inflation prints and corporate earnings, but were on course to mark their sixth straight weekly gains. Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said,

Nirmala to meet CMs, state FMs on Monday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will on Monday meet chief ministers and state finance ministers to discuss measures to attract private investments to help boost the economy.

Speaking to reporters, Finance Secretary T V Somanathan said the meeting comes in the backdrop of strong economic recovery post the two COVID waves, and the central government has made a big push in Capex. "India is becoming an attractive destination for investment... there is a positive sentiment from the private sector," he said, adding geopolitical developments are also in favour of India. Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said the discussion during the meeting will focus on easing norms on land and water use for attracting private investments.

The purpose of this meeting is to use this juncture not only to push growth from the Centre but also at the states level.

'Insolvency proceedings can be initiated against discoms'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ministry of Power has affirmed that insolvency proceedings can be initiated against state-owned electricity distribution as well as generation firms in case of default of payment by the creditors.

The ministry clarified its stand in a letter written to Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, earlier this month.

The clarification came in reference to a case filed by Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Company (TANGEDCO) against CIRP (Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process) proceedings initiated by South India Corporation Pvt Ltd in High Court of Madras.

"As far as state-owned (power) distribution and generation company like TANGEDCO is concerned, it is clear that it a government company as defined under section 2 (45) of the Companies Act and would fall under Insolvency Code (IBC)," the ministry said in the letter. The ministry also stated



that TANGEDCO cannot be categorised as a government body formed by way of a statute for performing sovereign government function.

In fact, it is a government company formed under Companies Act 2013 and very much under the ambit of IBC as per Section 3(7) of the Insolvency Code, it stated.

Therefore, a state-owned power distribution company can be taken to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under the IBC for default in payment.

A power sector expert said CIRP can be initiated against any state-owned discom but

they generally make payment of the default amount before admission of the case in NCLT.

The outstanding dues of discoms have been a perennial issue plaguing the power sector for decades. According to the PRAAPTI portal, the outstanding dues of power distribution firms are to the tune of Rs 1,21,830 lakh crore in November 2021 which includes overdues of Rs 99,385 crore.

The dues become overdue after non-payment for 45 days or more.

Generally power gencons charge penal rate of interest on overdues from discoms.

Money Matters

Vodafone Idea's loss narrows to Rs 7,145 cr in Sept quarter

Debtridden telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) on Friday reported narrowing of consolidated loss to Rs 7,144.6 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. The company had posted a loss of Rs 7,218.2 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Its consolidated revenue during July-September 2021 fell about 13 per cent to Rs 9,406.4 crore, compared with Rs 10,791.2 crore in the year-ago period. VIL's total gross debt (excluding lease liabilities and including interest accrued but not due) as of September 30, 2021, stood at Rs 1,94,780 crore.

Bajaj Electricals Q2 profit up 17.8 pc to Rs 62.55 cr

Bajaj Electricals Ltd on Friday reported a growth of 17.77 per cent in its consolidated net profit at Rs 62.55 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2021. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 53.11 crore during the July-September quarter of the previous fiscal. Its total revenue from operations was up 6.92 per cent to Rs 1,302.02 crore during the quarter under review, as against Rs 1,217.71 crore in the period of the previous fiscal.

Govt eases claim settlement process under IEPFA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has simplified the claim settlement process under the IEPFA, including allowing self-attestation of documents instead of the current requirement of notarisation.

IEPFA, which comes under the administrative control of the corporate affairs ministry, has been set up for administration of investor funds under the companies law. The authority has the mandate to promote investor education and protection, refund unclaimed shares, dividends and other amounts that have been transferred to it to the rightful claimants.

The claim settlement process has been further simplified through the rationalisation of various requirements under the IEPFA Rules, 2016. For claimants, the requirement of advance receipt has been waived off and the requirement of succession certificate/ probate of will/ will has been relaxed up to Rs 5 lakh, both for physical and demat shares.

RBI: Ombudsman scheme to provide cost-free redress

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021, will provide cost-free redress of customer complaints involving deficiency in services rendered by entities regulated by the RBI, if not resolved to the satisfaction of the customers within 30 days by banks, NBFCs, and payment system operators.

The Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021 was launched on Friday in virtual mode by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Scheme integrates the existing three Ombudsman schemes of RBI -- the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006; the Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies, 2018; and the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, 2019.

In addition to integrating the three existing schemes, it also includes non-scheduled primary cooperative banks with a deposit size of Rs 50 crore and above.



A centralised receipt and processing centre has been set up at RBI, Chandigarh for receipt and initial processing of physical and email complaints in any language.

The Scheme adopts 'One Nation One Ombudsman' approach by making the RBI Ombudsman mechanism jurisdiction neutral, the RBI said in a statement.

"The Scheme, framed by the RBI... will provide cost-free redress of customer complaints involving deficiency in services rendered by enti-

ties regulated by RBI, if not resolved to the satisfaction of the customers or not replied within a period of 30 days by the regulated entity," it said.

A complaint could be filed electronic or physical mode as well as online through portal designed for the purpose.

The integration will help customers as they now do not need to identify under which scheme to file complaint. It has also done away with the jurisdiction of each ombudsman office.

UK, EU meet as gloom grows over trade feud

PNS ■ LONDON

Top U.K. and European Union officials are meeting Friday to try to resolve their intractable Northern Ireland trade spat, with alarm growing in Europe that Britain plans to suspend parts of the legally binding divorce agreement between the two sides.

That would trigger EU retaliation and could spiral into a trade war between the 27-nation bloc and its increasingly estranged former member. The two sides' top Brexit officials — David Frost for Britain and Maros Sefcovic for the EU — are meeting in London after four weeks of negotiations failed to bridge gaps over Northern Ireland trade.

The U.K. has threatened to trigger an emergency break clause in the deal that lets either side suspend the agreement in extreme circumstances. That would bring legal action from the EU, and potentially damaging economic sanctions. Frost warned Wednesday that the emergency clause, Article 16, "will



be our only option" if there is no breakthrough in the talks.

"There is more to do and I will certainly not give up on this process unless and until it is abundantly clear that nothing more can be done," he told members of Parliament's upper chamber, the House of Lords.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Procurement Notice
No. 26/EE/DIV-19/SLP/GHMC/2021-22 Dated: 12-11-2021
NT No. 26/EE/DIV-19/SLP/GHMC/2021-22, Number of works: 2 Nos. civil works. Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs) Rs. 18.40. Start Date/Download End Date & Time 12.11.2021 @ 3.00 PM, 15.11.2021 Upto 3.00 PM only. Name & Address of the Officer: Executive Engineer, Division-19, GHMC, Sri U. Raj Kumar 99635-50954. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @https://www.telangana.gov.in
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DIV-19, (SLP2), GHMC, YOUSUFGUDA, HYDERABAD
II. O. No. : 17894-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22

TELANGANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL OFFICE - I: SANGAREDDY
5-1-28, Shantinagar, Sangareddy - 502 001
Ph.No.08455-297799, 276795 Email: ee-mdk1-tspcb@telangana.gov.in
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION
In accordance with the EIA Notification No. S.O. 1533, dated 14th September 2006 of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, it is to notify that M/s. Rocksand Minerals (P) Ltd has proposed quarry for mining of Stone & Metal in an area of 15.00 Ha. at Sy. No. 157, Bathole (V), Kandi (M), Sangareddy District of Telangana State and it is also proposed to have an Environmental Public Hearing / Public Consultation for the project, as the proposed project require prior Environmental Clearance as per 1(a) of the schedule to EIA Notification, 2006 i.e., Mining of minerals.
The details of the project are as given below:
1) Name of the Company, Address of Reg. office with Telephone No. M/s. Rocksand Minerals (P) Ltd, #203, Vijaya Enclave, Plot No. 32, Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad-500073. Phone: 9849034347. E-mail: rocksandho@gmail.com
2) Project Location: Sy. No. 157, Bathole (V), Kandi (M), Sangareddy District of Telangana State. Extent of Area: 15.00 Ha
3) Name of the authorized person to be contacted with address and Phone number Sri. P. Purnachand, Managing Director, # 203, Vijaya Enclave, Plot No. 32, Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad - 500073. Phone: 9849034347. E-mail: rocksandho@gmail.com
4) Name of the Project consultant/ Environmental Consultant Sri E. Shyam Sundar, M/s. Sri Sai Manasa Nature Tech Pvt. Ltd., Plot No.74/A, Flat No. 102, Central Bank Building, Kajay Nagar, Hyderabad - 500036. Phone: 040-23816333. Mobile: 9391116139. Email: ssmtpl@gmail.com
5) Capital cost of the project Rs. 60.0 Lakhs
6) Line of activity/Project capacity Quarry for mining of Stone & Metal. (Open cast semi mechanized mining of Stone & Metal -6,07,917.52 m³/annum). Extent of Area: 15.00 Ha
7) Date / Time / Venue of Public Hearing Date: 16.12.2021 (Thursday) at 11.00 AM Venue: Near proposed project site of M/s. Rocksand Minerals (P) Ltd located at Sy. No. 157, Bathole (V), Kandi (M), Sangareddy District of Telangana State.
8) Places of availability of executive summary (Telugu & English) & Draft EIA/ EMP report of proposed project are kept open for Public:
1. O/o The Collector & District Magistrate @ Sangareddy District.
2. O/o The Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Sangareddy District.
3. O/o The General Manager, District Industries Centre, Sangareddy District.
4. O/o The Member Secretary, Telangana State Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Bhavan, A-3, Industrial Estate, Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad - 500018.
5. O/o The Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Telangana State Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office, H. No. 25-35/11, 2nd Floor, Tulsi Reddy Complex, R.C. Puram, Sangareddy District.
6. O/o The Environmental Engineer, Telangana State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office-I, H. No. 5-1-28, Shantinagar, Sangareddy - 502 001, Sangareddy District.
7. O/o The Ministry of Environmental, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office (SEZ), 1st & 2nd Floor, Handloom Export Promotion Council, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 34.
8. O/o The Principal Secretary, Dept. of Environment, Forest, Science & Technology, Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad.
9. O/o The Tashikhar, Kandi (M), Sangareddy District.
10. O/o The Panchayat Secretary, Grampanchayat, Bathole (V), Kandi (M), Sangareddy District.
11. The executive summary (Telugu & English) & Draft EIA/ EMP report is also displayed in TSPCB website @ tspcb.cgg.gov.in.
Suggestions, views, comments and objections of the public on Environmental issues, if any, are invited on the above project within 30 days from the date of publication of the notification from all persons including bonafide residents, environmental groups, others located at project site (sites of displacement / sites likely to be affected). All the above persons can also submit written suggestions to the undersigned of the Telangana State Pollution Control Board or through e-mail: ee-mdk1-tspcb@telangana.gov.in. The interested persons can take part in the proceedings of the Public Hearing on the date and venue specified above.
Place: Sangareddy
Date: 11.11.2021
Sd/-
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
TELANGANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
REGIONAL OFFICE - I, SANGAREDDY,
SANGAREDDY DISTRICT
R.O. No. : 2320-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 Date: 12-11-2021

Motherson Sumi posts 76 pc fall in net profit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Auto components major Motherson Sumi Systems Ltd (MSSL) on Friday reported a 76 per cent decline in consolidated net profit from continuing operations at Rs 93.04 crore in the second quarter ended September, hit by global automotive supply chain disruptions.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit from continuing operations at Rs 387.93 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, MSSL said in a regulatory filing.

'Come together to honour '15 Paris Agreement'

PNS ■ GLASGOW

The world needs to join hands to honour the commitments made under the 2015 Paris Agreement and take immediate steps towards adaptation, making climate finance available for the developing world, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said on Friday.

Yadav, who is representing India at the 26th UN climate conference COP 26 at Glasgow, wrote in his blog that, the wealthy nations that reaped the benefits of early industrialisation by burning fossil fuels and growing their economies for centuries must accommodate the concerns and needs of the economies that need to make the switch to clean and green energy.



"As we move towards wrapping this very crucial climate summit, the world needs to come together to honour the commitments made under the 2015 Paris Agreement and take immediate steps towards adaptation and making climate finance available for the

developing world to make the crucial transitions – socially and economically to offset climate change," he wrote in his blog 'COP Diary'.

The minister said that India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has made it clear that it is ready to walk the extra mile in combating climate change but has also reminded the developed world that they have historically precipitated the current crisis and have progressed at the cost of the global environment.

"No nation, no matter how big or small, can save the planet alone. In a spirit of cooperation, India has asked the world to do its bit, leading by example in meeting all its environmental obligations – globally and nationally," he said.

The minister said that there is growing public demand for climate action and to align economic recovery with long-term sustainability and climate goals.

"Given the renewed interest in collective action, COP26 offers a unique opportunity to enhance ambitions and reiterate the global commitment to combat climate change," he said, adding that the world must start acting together on the four issues- Temperature, Mitigation, Finance and Responsibility.

"It is time the world unites to honour the commitments made under the Paris Agreement, which set a goal to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels."

Warner Bros. hotel opens in Abu Dhabi

PNS ■ ABU DHABI

Miral, Abu Dhabi's leading curator of magnetic experiences in collaboration with Warner Bros., home to one of the most well-known and successful collections of brands and characters in the world, announced The WB™ Abu Dhabi, located on Abu Dhabi's Yas Island, the first ever Warner Bros. themed hotel, part of Curio Collection by Hilton, has officially opened its doors to guests. The hotel allows guests to see their favorite stories and characters brought to life through unique hospitality experiences that only the rich history and storied legacy of Warner Bros. could offer.

HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of Miral, said: "This is yet another great moment for us, with The WB™ Abu Dhabi hotel opening on Yas Island, further positioning it as a top global destination for



leisure, entertainment and business. We are very proud of our long-standing partnership with both Warner Bros. Themed Entertainment and Hilton, bringing world firsts and global hospitality offerings and experiences to Abu Dhabi."

Featuring over 400 curated images and film and TV props, guests at the world's first Warner Bros. hotel will be treated to a journey of discovery through film and television,

enjoying Warner Bros.' rich history and library of timeless productions at every touchpoint from arrival to check-out. While dining in one of five restaurants on the property, you can listen as the piano from "Westworld," the hit HBO science fiction TV show, plays a familiar tune. Visitors can stroll through the lobby or admire 360-degree city and sea views alongside their favorite props and costumes from

Warner Bros. films and TV shows. Kids and families can ring up one of their favorite Looney Tunes characters for a room service treat brought to them by the Wascally Wabbit, Bugs Bunny himself.

Pam Lifford, President of WarnerMedia Global Brands and Experiences said: "Our dream has come true with the grand opening to the first ever Warner Bros. branded hotel. Our incredible partners at Miral and Hilton, have helped us make this vision a reality for our fans around the world. We always strive to be fan focused and have developed an exceptional hospitality experience for them to further connect with the iconic Warner Bros. brands, franchises, and characters they know and love. Guests visiting Warner Bros. World right next door will have the ultimate encore to their park experience by relaxing and treating themselves to a stay at The WB Abu Dhabi.

Hindalco sees multifold jump in profit after tax

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hindalco Industries Ltd, the Aditya Birla Group's metal flagship firm, on Friday reported a multifold jump in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to Rs 3,417 crore for the quarter ended September 30.

The results were driven by an exceptional performance by Novelis and India business, supported by favourable macros, strategic product mix, higher volumes and stability in operations. The company had posted a consolidated PAT of Rs 387 crore in the year-ago period, Hindalco Industries said in a filing to the BSE.

Its revenue from operations in July-September 2021 increased to Rs 47,665 crore as compared with Rs 31,237 crore in the year-ago period, the filing said.



'MORE TO HYD THAN THE CHARMINAR, TANK BUND'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

In this week's 'Hyderabad' column, we have the curator of the city's most happening event — Sunday Funday — being held every Sunday at Tank Bund, Rakhi Kankaria. She, who is the founder of Rachnoutsav Events, has been pioneering in the field of the event industry since 1996 and is unbeatable to date.

In a freehearted conversation with *The Pioneer*, Rakhi, a Chennai-born, shares, "In 1996, nobody knew what event management was. My first opportunity came through ITC Kakatiya. I did not have a marketing team, yet I have established my events academy in the city that everyone knows of."

Wanting to be winners of local minds and hearts, Rakhi Kankaria specialises in setting up government, social and corporate events for Hyderabad city! Deeply inclined towards encouraging the budding event managers from across the city, Rakhi

has worked across the world and not just in India. "Hyderabad is the best city to work in. It has a fantastic combination of North and Western India. If there's flamboyance, so there is a commitment too. You got to find your own space here, weave your own niche," she adds. She also mentions how Chennai wasn't as

flamboyant as Hyderabad. "They are centered only around *band-baja* and *pujaris*, but who is making the style statement there?" she questions and continues, "The last time one read about a splendid wedding in Chennai is very long ago, however, many Hyderabad weddings have gone viral for what they do. Chennai doesn't have an appropriate wedding market, but Hyderabad does."

Whenever someone strikes the name of this city, the only thing that comes to her mind is that this city is the land of opportuni-

ties that one is looking for. Hyderabad displays the fantastic combination of the government's acceptance and the native's enthusiasm at the right place. Looking at where she's today is what she considers to be her fondest memory here.

The only

our city, however, I have more ideas for it. We can start this at two other locations too, touch a little bit of the Secunderabad area for more audiences. Hyderabad is not just Charminar and Tank Bund, it's also Kukatpally and

Telangana Chamber of the event industry, founder of a national body for events — I am a part of a jury and that's my success story," concludes Rakhi with her head held high with pride.



Secunderabad." "Thirty years in

Hyderabad and I am unstoppable. I got to be the president of

thing that she disapproves of is the lack of opportunities for local event management companies in the city, whereas International event companies get to host the biggest events.

Seconding her statement, Rakhi further explains, "Nurture your own talent in the city and in the country. If you can strike a deal of more than 20 crores with Wizcraft for Ayodha celebrations, I would appreciate it if our state government also helps us raise more budget for the 'Sunday-Funday' event. It's an experiment to boost the cultural heritage of



Eat sensibly

People with cancer need extra nutrition. DR VINEET TALWAR tells you how nutrition has a major role to play in recovery from cancer and even post treatment

Nutrition has a major role to play in recovery from cancer and even post treatment. An estimated 80 per cent of advanced cancer patients suffer from malnutrition causing adverse effects on body functions and treatment outcomes.

Frequent malnutrition in cancer patients could be because of any of the four reasons including decreased dietary intake, increase in the body's diet requirements but not consuming enough, loss of nutrients or impaired digestion (due to radiation/ chemotherapy induced enteritis etc.)

People with cancer need extra nutrition. For instance, calories required per day for a healthy individual is 1800 while a patient with cancer needs approx. 2200 calories per day. However, nutrition in cancer patients is so compromised that an estimated 20 per cent of people with cancer may die from the effects of malnutrition rather than cancer itself.

There is a need for proper planning and counselling of nutrition since cancer treatments could lead to loss

of desire to eat, constipation,



changes in smell, nausea, vomiting etc. He advised to take small frequent meals of home cooked food and drink plenty of fluids to negate side-effects of chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

There are several myths regarding nutrition for cancer patients and those who have conquered cancer. Drinking red juices like pomegranate and beetroot alone doesn't lead to an increase in haemoglobin count.

There is another myth that starvation would deprive a growing tumour of nutrition and therefore help in treatment of cancer. Research has shown that starvation does not increase survival but could be detrimental due to high nutritional needs during and after therapy.

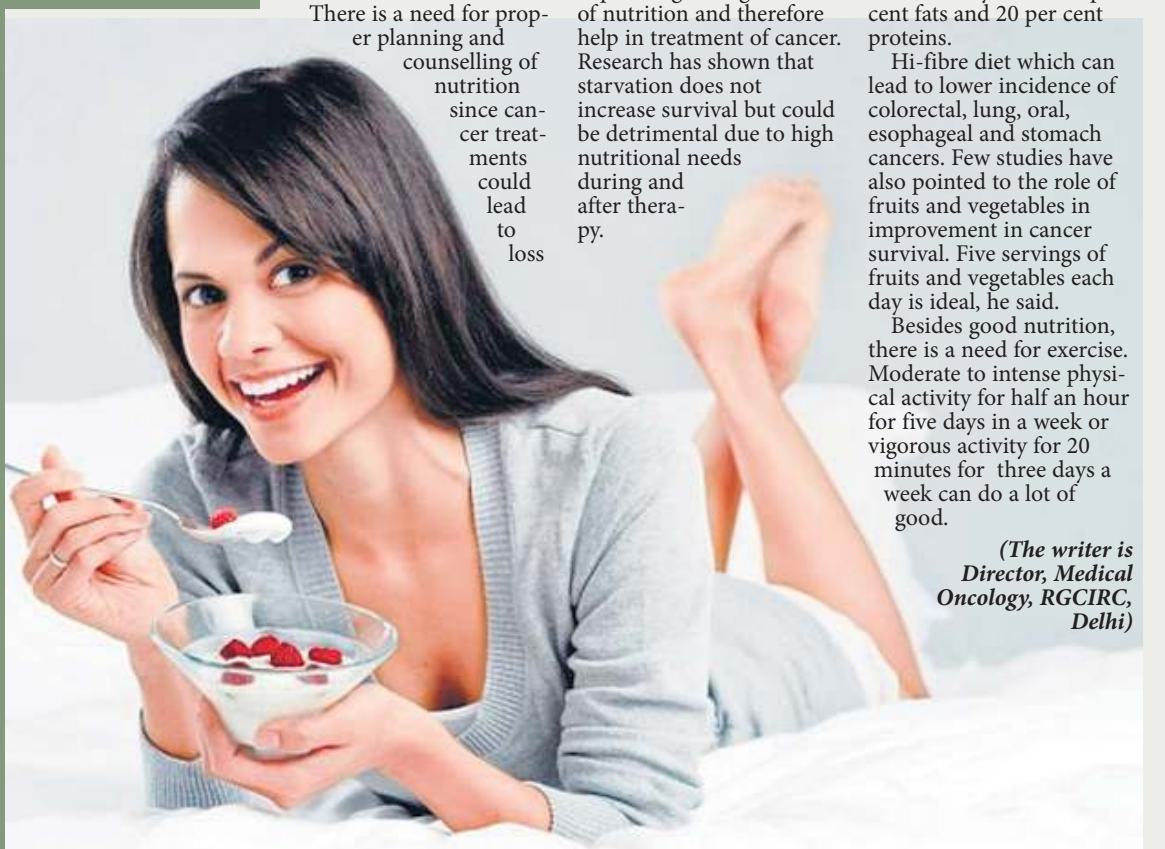
Cancer patients and conquerors should steer clear of all the claims about super foods/ dietary supplements and food related advice populated on the social media. Indian diet, besides being healthy, is also a healthy diet with a wealth of all kinds of nutrition required including turmeric, salt, micro nutrients, garam masala, a mixture of different spices each with unique properties and antioxidants.

A general thumb rule is to eat food with 40 per cent carbohydrates, 40 per cent fats and 20 per cent proteins.

Hi-fibre diet which can lead to lower incidence of colorectal, lung, oral, esophageal and stomach cancers. Few studies have also pointed to the role of fruits and vegetables in improvement in cancer survival. Five servings of fruits and vegetables each day is ideal, he said.

Besides good nutrition, there is a need for exercise. Moderate to intense physical activity for half an hour for five days in a week or vigorous activity for 20 minutes for three days a week can do a lot of good.

(The writer is Director, Medical Oncology, RGCIRC, Delhi)



Diversify your child's toy box

Every parent war child to their heritage and culture. Then why is it that children, especially in metro cities, seem to have such an affinity towards western culture over their own? Well, the answer could lie in your child's toy box — it is possibly filled with Spiderman, Doremon, Pokemon, Barbie, Avengers, Disney, etc.

How many Indian-themed characters or toys can you find in your child's collection? When a child grows up on a diet of Western characters, it is but natural they would be influenced by them.

This is the trend that Meghna, the founder of Indic Bricks, spotted when she would spend time with her young nephews or students. And she wondered how could we make Indian heritage more fun, cool and exciting for children, so they are attracted to learn more about it? That is the question Meghna's company MakersLoft is trying to answer through Indic Bricks — you can call them the new building blocks of Indian culture and heritage.

According to Meghna, Indic Bricks actively engages children in Indian heritage through building blocks toys. For example, while assembling a Ganesha



murti a child is naturally inclined to be intrigued about his 4 arms and would want to learn more about his superpowers through our stories. Or a child could build a small-scale model of the Kailasha temple and learn about the incredible architecture found in Indian monuments.

"What is special about Indic Bricks is that it not only helps engage children with their roots, but it also develops their creativity, spatial skills, focus, and persistence," says Meghna. Their first product Ganesha set has been launched just in time for Diwali and can be bought

online from www.makersloft.in/ganesha.

They have many more exciting sets planned — Bal Krishna, Hanuman, Ramayana storytelling set, of Indian monuments, and many more. The toy market in India is

booming — currently estimated at \$1 billion, and has the potential to double itself by 2025, according to a FICCI-KPMG report. Indic

Bricks is positioned at the convergence of do-it-yourself and

know-your-roots, both toy market segments with huge potential in India.

Dwayne Johnson reveals why he urinates in water bottle at the gym

Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson addressed his old comments about urinating in water bottles while working out.

In a new interview with *Esquire*, the actor shared the reason behind his eyebrows-raising habit, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I do pee in my water bottles but let me give context to that," the *Red Notice* star said.

"It's not a water bottle that I've actually purchased solely for water that you wash and



clean when you're done using it. These are just bot-

tles that I'm no longer using. Usually the gyms that I workout in don't have a bathroom because they're the iron paradise. They're just hot, sweaty and dirty," he added.

The *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* star also shared that he has to relieve himself quite often because he likes to remain "pretty hydrated" throughout the day.

"I break out the bottle," he said.

Johnson first talked about him relieving himself in bottles in a 2017 Instagram video.

At the time, the former professional wrestler said that he did it because he "doesn't have time" to stop for a bathroom break.

In the interview, Johnson also touched the topic of his allegedly over-the-top cheat meals.

"I do really have cheat days. They're not just for Instagram," he explained. "I bring new meaning to the term gluttony. I'm pretty disciplined throughout the week in terms of my working out, in terms of my diet and when Sunday rolls around, it's time to go to town."



Drushyam 2
to premiere on Nov 25

On Friday, Amazon Prime video announced the global premier of *Drushyam 2*, along with a trailer that showed Venkatesh and Meena in the aftermath of the events in the first movie.

In the trailer, the police are seen discussing how a murder case has been haunting them for six years, with no proof whatsoever. As the trailer goes on, the makers have compiled some powerful scenes to build up the tension. Being a sequel to the commercial blockbuster *Drushyam*, the movie stars Venkatesh, who plays the role that Mohan Lal essayed in the Malayalam original. Actress Meena plays Venkatesh's wife in the movie, while Kruthika, Esther Anil, Sampath Raj, and Poorna are to appear in important roles.

Directed by Jeethu Joseph, *Drushyam 2* is produced by D. Suresh Babu, Rajkumar Sethupathy, and Antony Perumbavoor of Suresh Productions, Rajkumar Theatres, and Max Movies. After a lot of ambiguity, the makers announced the OTT release of this movie, which was supposed to get a theatrical release.



Natyam fame Rohit Behal at his charming best

SHIKHA DUGGAL

After gaining resounding popularity from the large-scale dance movie called *Natyam* in Tollywood, the lead actor Rohit Behal hailing from Mumbai is now all set for his second Tolly line-up titled *Prathyardhi* opposite splitsvilian and Telugu actress Akshata Sonwane.

There is news recently that his debut movie has also been selected for an international film festival, not expecting this sort of fame coming his way although he is not that affluent in the Telugu language, he still is so hopeful to do his next in the industry.

In order to know more about his deep journey in the Telugu cinema, *The Pioneer* called up Rohit. In a telephonic conversation with us, the actor shares in detail, "The environment post the success of *Natyam* has been great, despite the lockdown pushing the release, the sensation that the movie turned out to be was unexpected. And, then to hear that it has been selected for a film festival was another moment of celebration for me as a debut actor. I got so many messages and people were tagging me while in the theatres though it was an off-beat cinema, the commercial nick wasn't touched upon and yet it did well."

The actor feels overwhelmed that the artistic film did well for him!

Looking to keep his grounds firm in this industry, he has no gigantic expectations and instead is devoting more of his time to learning

Telugu lan-

guage. It's important for me to know more about the Telugu culture so that I can give them the best, he feels.

Talking about his upcoming movie, which is a crime thriller, where Rohit seems to play a character of a mechanic who is stuck between a murder mystery and no one knows who the killer is — we'll see this movie ending with a high action courtroom drama. He shares, "I signed this movie much before *Natyam* went on floors. It was unexpected. None of the southern audiences knew me then. Now, this is a mass movie. From a simple-looking dancer in my previous film to portraying a raw character of a mechanic in *Prathyardhi*, I tried turning the tables for myself."

He also did a bike chasing sequence in the film, which was the best part for him along with a fight sequence inside an apartment. "*Natyam* didn't have those, so this was a new experience. My character speaks very little and he is mourning the loss of his girlfriend," he adds. The makers tried establishing the relationship between him and actress Akshata in the form of a flashback sequence. So he says he had to be at his charming best for the flashback sequence and then switch to an unrefined character for the rest of the film. The film doesn't have many songs, it just has one item number where the lead actor will be seen having his usual drink. Taking his inspiration from Nani's character in *V*, Rohit could adjust himself to the basics of *Prathyardhi*. "I could see Nani's character coming off as very negative on-screen however as the film progresses we get to know the reasons behind it. I could relate to it for my upcoming movie. There was so much suspense and twists! I look up to Nani," he says.

While shooting for the movie in Hyderabad, he got to explore a lot. There was no food-joint that he wasn't taken to in the Old City and now he is so familiar with all the nooks and corners that he is well-versed to take any guest on a city tour, he mentions to us in a funny tone. A trained background dancer himself in various disciplines, he had all the reasons to gel well with dancing pioneer Sandhya Raju on the sets! "When I first saw her work, I was mesmerised. I just shut my laptop screen and complimented her then and there. Her eyes are so expressive! Though we belonged to two different areas, our connection with dance made it seamless for us to converse on sets," Rohit concludes.

Extremely happy to see good response to *Kurup*: Shobitha



Dulquer was acting on the set after the shooting started."

Likening her role in a movie with salt, she explains that for her, the length of the role doesn't matter: "I will see if my role is of due importance or not. This means that the role should be like salt rather than curry leaves. No matter how much curry you make, there is no taste if there is no salt. So I will decide on the importance of my role."

The *Made in Heaven* star says that in the beginning of her film career, she was very particular about what roles she should do, but she learnt a lot in the industry, and now picks roles that have a good story and which can entertain viewers. "I wanted to act in any genre of film if the story was to appeal to the audience. Now I am choosing such movies. I read the script many times no matter what role I choose. I do homework to understand my role completely and get absorbed in it. I have done a lot of homework for this film as well. If you look at my role in the film, you will understand my hard work."

She talks about how the movie with a good script will always be a hit. "Despite Srinath, the director, being in a series of flops, the script for *Kurup* was compelling. That's why I agreed to the film. I am confident that the Telugu audience will love me more with this film. It is great luck to get praise from the audience. The film was completed two years ago. We were afraid of releasing it on OTT, but now it is a pleasure to release such a large number of languages."

About her upcoming projects, after *Kurup* and *Major*, she is doing *Ponniyan Selvan* with Maniyantham. It will also be released in Telugu. *Made in Heaven* season 2 is also in the works, along with the Hindi film *Sitara*. "I also completed shooting for my first Hollywood film. Many of the films I have acted in are now ready for release. I'm looking forward to them," she concludes.

SHREYA SRIKONDA

Kollywood young star hero Dulquer Salmaan's self-produced film *Kurup* hit big

screens yesterday in multiple languages. The film directed by Srinath Rajendran, starring Vizag-native Shobhita Dhulipala, has opened to fairly positive reviews. Post the success of the film, an elated Shobitha interacted with the media about the film, Tollywood projects, amongst others.

"Though I was born and raised in a traditional Telugu family, my film career started in Mumbai. So the starting point for my journey is Bollywood. I don't have any boundaries in mind. I have to like the story of which language I want to make a film in. But I don't care that this is not in my language. If my role in the film

impresses me, I am ready to do it in any language," shares Shobitha who does not believe that opportunities in the Telugu film industry are exclusive to actors who come from other states.

"I do not believe that in the Telugu industry, opportunities are not given to people and chances are given to those who come from outside. It is true that heroines of other languages are coming in Telugu. But I don't say there are no opportunities for Telugu people. I'm getting more opportunities here than outside. And actresses in other languages would say the same," explains the actress.

She reveals that she didn't know Dulquer Salmaan was her co-star! "Director Srinath came to Mumbai and narrated the script of *Kurup*. Though I already knew that the film was being produced by Dulquer Salmaan, I didn't know that he was acting in this. I liked the story and said okay. I then came to know that

Nithiin's *Macherla Niyajakavargam* locks release date

After a long break from action-packed movies, actor Nithiin is back with an exciting new role for his fans! The shooting for *Macherla Niyajakavargam* is fully underway, and the makers have revealed April 29, 2022 as the release date. Directed by MS Raja Shekhara Reddy, the movie is produced by Sudhakar Reddy and Nikitha Reddy on Sreshth Movies in association with Aditya Movies & Entertainments and is currently being shot in Hyderabad.

The poster for the movie shows Nithiin with an intense look and a fiery background. What promises to be a heavy action packed entertainer, the role of the leading lady has been filled by the Uppena fame actress Krithi Shetty. Summer is definitely a big season for film releases and *Macherla Niyajakavargam* will capitalize on long holidays. Director MS Raja Shekhar Reddy has prepared a powerful script to

present Nithiin in a never seen before action role in the film. The movie also boasts of a stellar cast and will have leading craftsmen working for it.

Mahati Swara Sagar collaborates with Nithiin for the third time, after *Bheeshma* and *Maestro*. Prasad Murella cranks the camera, while Mamidala Thirupathi provides dialogues and Sahi Suresh is the art director. Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao is the editor. The title and motion poster, which were released a couple of months ago, piqued many's interest and have the actors ardent fans waiting for more info.



NAVEEN CHANDRA AS AADI

Naveen Chandra joins the *Ghani* team in a role by the name of 'Aadi'. The actor was previously seen in *Mosagallu* and

Ardha Satabdam. The makers are getting ready to release the movie in December in theatres. A sports drama film written and helmed by Kiran Korrapati, *Ghani* is jointly pro-

duced by Sidhu Mudda and Allu Bobby under the banners of Renaissance Pictures and Allu Bobby Company. The film is presented by Allu Aravind.

The movie has Varun Tej and Saiee Manjrekar in the lead roles. The supporting cast includes Upendra, Suniel Shetty, Jagapathi Babu, and Naveen Chand

Wade & Stoinis bring back memories of Hussey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

For the second day running, a seemingly doomed chase proved anything but as Australia matched New Zealand in getting home with an over to spare thanks to some spectacular late hitting against Pakistan.

While the parallels with the Black Caps' victory over England are obvious, this game also brought back memories of the only previous ICC Men's T20 World Cup semi-finals played by these two teams.

Rewind 11 years and Pakistan looked to be on their way to a third straight final when they piled up 191 for six batting first and then reduced Australia to 144 for seven in the 18th over.

In 2010 in the West Indies, it was Michael Hussey who almost singlehandedly swung the game, with six sixes in his 24-ball 60.

A player at the peak of his powers, he was able to do something that few thought possible at the time, the sort of destructive knock that has become more commonplace as the format has developed.

Still, Hussey was regard-



ed as arguably the best white-ball finisher in the game at the time.

If someone was going to turn a game like that, it was probably him. His three max-imums off Saeed Ajmal were matched by Matthew Wade in

Dubai, who went one better by getting three in a row off Shaheen Shah Afridi to seal a stunning chase of 177.

Wade was a more unlikely hero than Hussey.

Not that he is not a capa-ble batter, but he had only ever

topped 30 on one occasion in a chase in T20Is, and that came when opening.

He did not have anywhere near the pedigree of Hussey when it came to finishing. In fact, it was his batting partner Marcus Stoinis who seemed

the more likely match-winner, and for Wade, the all-rounder was the man who turned the game when he took 13 off Haris Rauf in the 17th over including a six and a four.

That brought the required rate down to just over 12 an over from the last three, the sort of numbers that have become easily attainable, particularly with the rapport between the batters that Wade and Stoinis possess.

They did just that, Stoinis finishing unbeaten on 40 and Wade a blistering 41 from just 17 deliveries.

Asked about how the pair have become such good finishers, Wade explained: "It's confidence, confidence in your ability to finish the game. To be able to bat with Marcus has been awesome, I've played a lot of cricket with him at Victoria early on in his career so I've seen him grow into the cricketer he is today.

"I know if I can hang with him for four or five overs, he's going to find the boundary, he's too big and strong not to. The reason that he and I worked well towards the back end is that we know each other's game so much.

Courtesy: ICC

Rahane to lead India in 1st Test; all-format stars rested

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane will lead India in the first Test against New Zealand before regular skipper Virat Kohli returns for the second match even as some all-format bigwigs got complete rest from the assignment in line with the BCCI's workload management of players.

Newly appointed T20 captain and regular opener Rohit Sharma, wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, and pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami have all been rested from the two matches in Kanpur (November 25 to 29), and Mumbai (December 3 to 7).

"Virat Kohli will join the squad for the second Test and will lead the team," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer made a comeback in the Test squad along with off-spinner Jayant Yadav. The Test series will be preceded by a three-match T20 series beginning November 17 in Jaipur. Kohli will not be a part of the T20 series after opting to take a break.

One of the notable absentees from the Test side was Hanuma Vihari, who has been dropped from the 16-member squad (will be 17 in next Test).

Vihari, it is learnt, is being added to the India A squad for the tour of South Africa where he will get three matches to stake a claim in the main squad which will start its series in the last week of December.

"We are sending Vihari to South Africa for the A series and his performance in the three 'A Test' matches will be monitored,"



a senior BCCI functionary confirmed the development to PTI.

According to sources close to the selection committee, Vihari's current form, and not past record, has been taken into account while selecting the Test squad. Vihari, in his last six first-class innings for county team Warwickshire, produced scores of 32, 52, 8, 0, 24, and 43 not out. In the recent Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, his output across four innings read 26, 7, 57 and 4.

Conway out of WC final and India tour

PTI ■ DUBAI

New Zealand wicketkeeper batter Devon Conway was on Thursday ruled out of the T20 World Cup final and the subsequent tour of India after injuring his right-hand in frustration following his dismissal in the semifinal against England.

Conway had made a valuable 46 in New Zealand's successful chase of 167 on Wednesday.

"Conway sustained the injury when he struck his bat immediately after being dismissed in semifinal win over



England in Abu Dhabi - with an X-ray today confirming a break to his right hand fifth Metacarpal," said New Zealand Cricket in a statement.

New Zealand face Australia in the final on Sunday.

Head coach Gary Stead said Conway was understandably devastated.

"He's absolutely gutted to be ruled out like this at this time. Devon is hugely passionate about playing for the BLACK-CAPS and no one is more disappointed at the moment than he is - so we're really trying to rally around him.

"It looked a pretty innocuous reactionary incident on the field, but the blow obviously caught the bat between the glove padding and while it's not the smartest thing he's done there's certainly an element of bad luck in the injury.

"Due to the timelines we won't be bringing in a replacement player for this World Cup or next week's T20 series against India, but are working through our options for the Test series later this month," said Stead.

The India tour begins with the opening T20 in Jaipur on November

Gambhir slams Warner for double-bounced hit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India opener Gautam Gambhir has slammed Australian batter David Warner for hitting a double-bounced delivery off Mohammed Hafeez for a six during their T20 World Cup semifinal win over Pakistan, saying it was a "pathetic display of spirit of the game".

In the eighth over of Australia's run chase, the first ball from Hafeez slipped out of his hand and bounced twice. Warner moved outside leg and swung it over deep mid-wicket for a six.

From the subsequent no ball, Warner got two more runs. Thanks to that six,



Australia got 13 runs from that over. Australia chased down the 177-run target with five wickets and one over to spare.

"What an absolutely pathetic display of spirit of the game by a Warner! #Shameful What say @ashwinravi99?" Gambhir tweeted trying to

imply that Warner should have left the delivery as its had slipped out of Hafeez's hand.

However, no cricketing law calls for such a delivery to be considered dead.

Senior India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who was criticised in the past for running out Jos Buttler at the non-striker's end after he backed up too early and issuing a warning to Aaron Finch in the IPL, commented on Gambhir's tweet after it was described as a "bad take" in replies.

"His point is that if this is right, that was right. If that was wrong, this is wrong too. Fair assessment?" tweeted Ashwin.

HASAN'S DROPPED CATCH WAS TURNING POINT

BABAR SAYS PLAYERS CAN DROP CATCHES



PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan captain Babar Azam sought to make amends for his comment that Hasan Ali's dropped catch of Matthew Wade was the turning point of their T20 World Cup semifinals defeat to Australia, saying players dropping catches was part of game and the costly mistake was not the reason for his team's ouster.

After Pakistan suffered a five-wicket defeat, courtesy Wade's sensational three consecutive sixes off Shaheen Shah Afridi in the 19th over, Babar had said at the post-match presentation that the scenario of the match could have been different had the catch been taken.

At the post-match press conference, he repeated some of what he said but insisted that dropping catches was part of the game and he and the team would back Ali to the hilt.

"On the day, catches were dropped and because of that the match changed. Had the catch not been dropped, the scenario would have been different. But this is part of the game and the more we learn from our mistakes the better," he said.

When a reporter asked if he now

realised that Ali's form was not good throughout the tournament and his dropped catch was the reason for Pakistan's ouster from the tournament, he said, "I don't feel like that."

"He is our main bowler and has won many matches for Pakistan. Players do drop catches sometimes."

Babar, who was one of the stand-out performers among batters in the tournament, said Ali is "a bit down" but "fighting out" and the team will support him.

"He is fighting it out and I will keep backing him. Every player cannot perform in every game. Some individuals who are having a good day try to make the most of it and come up with good performances," he said.

"Yes, he is a bit down. We will keep backing him and giving him confidence. People will say a lot of things, but we are behind him," he added.

Besides the costly dropped catch, Ali was also off colour with the ball as he leaked 44 runs from his four overs without any wicket.

But Babar refused to entertain any suggestion that Ali should not have been in the team.

Hayden: Rizwan was hospitalised night before WC semi

PTI ■ DUBAI

Battling lung infection a day before the T20 World Cup semifinal, Pakistan opener Mohammad Rizwan came out of hospital like a "warrior" to score his third fifty of the tournament, albeit in a losing cause against Australia in the second semifinal here on Thursday.

Ahead of the match there were concerns about Rizwan's availability for the match as he was down with flu, and Pakistan batting consultant Matthew Hayden later confirmed that the wicketkeeper batter, in fact, had to be hospitalised for a night due to a "lung condition".

"Mohammad Rizwan was in hospital a night ago suffering with some sort of lung condition. This is a warrior. He's been brilliant through the campaign and he has great courage," Hayden said.

India vs Aus to open WCC at 2022 Commonwealth Games

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

India will face Australia in the opening match when women's cricket makes its debut at the 2022 Commonwealth Games on July 29 while the final will be played on August 7, the event organisers announced on Friday.

Women's cricket is making its debut at the Commonwealth Games with the T20 format. The last time cricket was played in the multi-sporting showpiece was in the 1998 edition in Kuala Lumpur.

"The women's cricket T20 competition will be held at the Edgbaston Stadium from the 29 July, with the bronze and gold medal matches taking place on 7 August," said the ECB in a statement.



The first match on the schedule will see Australia take on India in the early session on July 29 followed by Pakistan playing Barbados, who were recently confirmed as the team from the West Indies that will take part in the competition.

Other highlights on the schedule include India against Pakistan on July 31. Australia will also take on Pakistan on

August 3.

Hosts England will be in action for the first time on July 30, when they will take on the winner of a qualifying tournament which is due to take place at the start of 2022.

They will then play South Africa in the early session on August 2, followed by a third match against New Zealand in the evening session on August 4.

Brazil beats Colombia 1-0, qualify for Qatar World Cup

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Brazil is celebrating as the first South American team to qualify for the World Cup in Qatar — with several matches in hand and more than a year before the tournament begins in Qatar.

South American soccer body CONMEBOL says Brazil as the first team of the region to qualify, with 11 wins in 12 matches. The latest came Thursday night in Sao Paulo, with Lucas Paqueta scoring the only goal in the 72nd minute in a 1-0 win over Colombia.

The Seleção is 18 points ahead of fourth-place Chile, which can add only 15 points from its five remaining matches.

The top four teams in South America earn direct entry to the World Cup.



"This is the result of great work we started way back," Paqueta said after the match in Sao Paulo which provided few opportunities for both teams.

"I cried of happiness (after scoring) because of this moment I am living at the national team and at my club Lyon. This came from a lot of joy, joy for this work well done," Paqueta added.

Hamilton sees steep challenge against Verstappen in Brazil

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Lewis Hamilton is running out of time in his quest to win a fifth straight Formula One title, and the Brazilian Grand Prix offers the British driver little hope of catching leader Max Verstappen.

The seven-time champion from Mercedes trails his Red Bull rival by 19 points heading into Sunday's race, the fourth-to-last event of the season.

"I would imagine it's as steep as it can be," Hamilton said Thursday about the challenge of catching the Dutchman at Interlagos.

Verstappen won in Brazil two years ago, while last year's race was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. The Dutchman also won last weekend in Mexico and Red Bull is only one point behind Mercedes in the constructors' championship.

"Their pace was phenom-



enal in the last race. They have had a strong car all year. They have had the strongest car actually, you can tell," Hamilton said.

"Last time here (in Brazil) they were incredibly strong. We are anticipating again that they will be very hard to beat this weekend."

The traditionally unpredictable weather at the Sao Paulo track could have an effect on the race, though local

weather forecasts say the rain is not expected to last into the weekend. Both Hamilton and Verstappen are good in wet conditions, but results can be unpredictable.

Hamilton also said he has had difficulties with his car because of recent changes.

"This year we have had our wings clipped. It has definitely been harder from an operational sense to maximize the car," Hamilton said.

Olympic quota winners may have to appear in trials

PTI ■ GONDA (UTTAR PRADESH)

In a major policy change, the Wrestling Federation of India on Friday decided that if it deems required, then it will ask the quota winning wrestlers to appear in trials before finalising the Indian team for next Olympics, a move which has irked the top athletes.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) held its AGM in Gonda and in another major decision, it passed the resolution that no state will be allowed to field more than one team at the Nationals, something that will hurt Haryana the most.

Till recently, WFI had let the quota winners keep place for the Olympics but it feels this move will keep top wrestlers "on their toes".

Sarita stamps authority in tough 59kg event

PTI ■ GONDA

At tactically superior Sarita Mor bagged the 59kg title with a commanding victory over comeback-girl Geeta Phogat on a day when established names such as Divya Kakran and Sakshi Malik bit the dust at the National Wrestling Championship here on Friday.

The 59kg category was one of the toughest in the women's competition with three World Championships medallists in the fray for the title.

Sarita entered the event fresh from her World bronze medal-winning performance while struggling but strong Pooja Dhanda (2018 World bronze winner) needed to get back his old touch.

Making it a tougher bracket was 2012 World bronze winner Geeta, who returned to

competitive wrestling after three years following maternity break.

Sarita dominated all her matches en route the title clash as only Pooja Dhanda tested her. She won two matches by fall and one by technical superiority.

As it was anticipated, 26-year-old Sarita and 32-year Geeta entered the final in which the Railways wrestler emerged champion with a 8-0 scoreline.

Sarita was sharp, had more power in her moves in the final against Geeta, who conceded that she let her rival call the shots.

Sarita was aggressive from the beginning while Geeta remained defensive which hurt her chances. Sarita kept tightening her grip in the match, building her lead with move after move.